



Nynehead News



Volume 4

December 2005

Issue 4

E-mail: newsletter@nynehead.plus.com

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Welcome to the December 2005 Edition of Nynehead News.

Our objective is to provide an information and communication service for all members of our community and act as a vehicle to enable Nynehead's residents to contribute their thoughts, experiences and ideas for the interest and benefit of all. The editors retain the discretionary right to reject material or comments considered to be directly or potentially inappropriate or offensive

Contents

Item	Page
All Saints Church	9
Beat News	17
Birding in Nynehead	14
Cricket Club	15
Diary	20
Environment Group	12
Footpath Liaison Officer	13
Garden Club	17
Guardian Angel	11
History Society	7

Item	Page
Jubilee Playing Fields	12
Nynehead club	16
Nynehead Court	5
Nynehead Primary School	8
Parish Council	4
Phil Bassett	11
Somerset Rural Youth Project	11
Somerset Waterscape	6
Toddlers & Pre-School	10
Too Light!	3
Useful Local Contacts	18 & 19

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For more information Contact Peter Russell 01823 461668

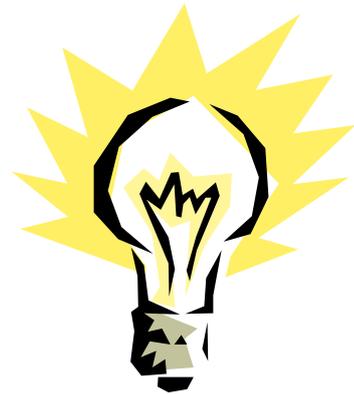
"To Light" or "Too Light" !

As we all know, living in Nynhead is generally a pleasant experience. However, and isn't there always a however, some things do tend to grate. Take the night sky for example. When one of my relations visited here recently he was amazed at our night sky. Stretching right across was the Milky Way; the Plough stood out clearly visible to the north and the occasional satellite moved gracefully from horizon to horizon. Living in London he had simply never seen anything like it.

But wait, what is that other glow in the sky? Another star system? Santa Clause on his rounds? No its security lights blazing out and polluting the night sky. Why? Do people think that the burglars are going to descend from above? They must do, after all most of the light they put out is going straight up into the night sky.

Let's ignore the fact that burglaries in Nynhead are almost unheard of; let's ignore the fact that over half of all burglaries occur in daylight anyway but please do let's stop causing this unnecessary pollution because that's what it is,

"LIGHT POLLUTION" !



You actually gain absolutely nothing from having a huge light stuck on the side of your house. By all means install a light sensor that detects movement; (do you know they are adjustable now so the local fox wont set them off any more), but please switch off that ridiculous search light you have installed.

Next time we have a dark clear moonless night just go out and gaze in awe and amazement at our night sky. Watch the satellites glide across, glimpse the shooting stars and ask yourself. do I really need that stupid light on the outside of my house?

Nighthawk.



Parish Council

The three months since the summer recess have been a busy time for the parish council. The first task was to find a replacement for Phil Bassett. Unfortunately no-one expressed an interest in being co-opted to the council despite advertisements and personal approaches by the other members. However at the last minute Allan Howe said he would be prepared to join the council, an offer that was gratefully accepted.

As everyone will know Nynehead has again been successful in the Village of the Year competition, winning the best small village category. Congratulations to Mervyn Hooper and his team, and all those who work hard to make Nynehead what it is. The award brought a prize of £200.

Increasingly we have to rely on funds from outside to achieve what we want for the village. In addition to the Village of the Year prize we have access to £400 from our county councillor's Community Budget. The council has asked the Memorial Hall Committee to come up with projects members felt that improvements to the hall would give widest benefit to the village.

The new road signs at the Hollow and elsewhere have at last appeared after a period of negotiations with Somerset Highways. They are intended to improve road safety and give pedestrians and cyclists more confidence in using village roads. We are waiting to hear when a 30 m.p.h. limit will be established in Higher Nynehead.

We are giving more attention to footpaths and Nynehead has been invited to be the 'guinea pig' for the county council's new Community Paths Partnership. This aims to develop the contribution of communities to the maintenance and improvement of rights of way. Volunteers could have a particularly important role and full training would be provided. Insurance will be a key issue to sort out. Details of the scheme will be circulated to members for a decision at the next meeting. Other good news is that a grant of £2500 has been offered under the county's Community Access Fund towards the footpath improvement at the Tone aqueduct.

Volunteers are going to be increasingly important in achieving what we want and the council is going to consider their role at the December meeting.

The December and January meetings are critical for the parish council. The December meeting will consider a draft budget for 2006-7 and then in January a decision will be made on the parish precept, money collected through the council tax.

Finally, as shown below, there is now a new opportunity for members of the public to discuss council matters at Parish Council meetings.

David Rabson
Clerk to the Council

As Nynehead Parishioners you are welcome to attend all meetings of your Parish Council.

Between now & your next Newsletter meetings will
be held on:

Monday 5th December
Monday 9th January
Monday 6th February
Monday 6th March

**All meetings are held at the Village Hall and
commence at 7.30 pm.**

The first ten minutes are devoted to the public to
express their comments, suggestions or complaints.

In addition and at the discretion of the chair,
contributions from the public may be invited during
the meeting providing they are constructive and
beneficial to the proceedings

In addition and at the end of each meeting, those
attending are again welcome to express their views.

Please note however, that as public question times
do not actually form part of the meeting, points
raised will not be minuted. This does not mean that
your councillors don't take them into account.
Indeed, they are treated as valued contributions
and are fully considered whenever possible.

***Remember, your Parish is all about you and
your neighbours. Your contributions are both
important and welcome.***



Nynehead Court



Life here at the Court is never dull and over the past few months we have enjoyed many outings and activities.

The south of Ireland was the destination for the holiday taken by a group of our residents in September. Very many thanks to Mike Briginshaw for stepping in at the last moment to drive the minibus. The residents enjoyed trips to the surrounding coast and countryside and to the Waterford Crystal factory.

Also in September our outings included a visit to Stembridge Tower Mill, followed by trips to Porthcawl and Weston Super Mare. Nynehead School joined us for a traditional Punch and Judy show and we enjoyed music from various artists including the Wellington Amateur Operatic Society. They performed 'In an English Country Garden'; a program of songs and poems, and their gifts of flower posies for the residents was a lovely thought.

Our visit to Exeter Cathedral in October proved most enjoyable. The cathedral is a wonderful building and we marvelled at the design and architecture, whilst appreciating the peaceful atmosphere. The weather was lovely for our trip on the West Somerset Railway and for our outing to Stable Cottage at Triscombe for afternoon tea. Musical entertainment in October was provided, in part, by The Good Times Theatre Company with an afternoon of music hall songs and banter. We also enjoyed the piano playing of Mr. Davidson, Malcolm Gregory at the organ, and Janet Watson played for our regular sing along. Live Music Now! provided us with a delightful flute and piano recital.

Our afternoon talks have been well supported and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Dolls houses, teaching in Taiwan, and guide dog training are some of the diverse topics we covered in October. In November talks on the history of Punch and Judy and the work of the Canal Trust have proved very interesting and informative, and in December we look forward to welcoming Clem Prior for his talk on traditional barge painting.

We have an extensive program of entertainment here at the Court. Everyone is welcome to come along and join us. Sheets listing all of our monthly activities are available on request.



The Golf Buggy Appeal

Our fund raising efforts have come to fruition and thanks to a generous final donation from the family of a former resident; we have been able to buy the golf buggy. The lovely summer has enabled us to make full use of our new transport with many trips around the garden. Many thanks to everyone who has supported our fund raising efforts.

Art and Craft Group

The group continues to meet regularly tackling many different mediums. A welcome visit from Ann McLaren for an afternoon of embroidery was much enjoyed. Ann and her colleague brought some examples of their machine embroidery for us to see and we were all amazed by the intricate designs. We look forward to seeing her again soon.

The Friends of Nynehead Court

The Friends of Nynehead Court, formerly the Nynehead Court Support Group, continue to provide valued help and assistance. Their substantial donation to the Buggy Fund, following the very successful concert which they organised in Nynehead Church, was very much appreciated. Special thanks to Janet Watson and Sheila Rabson for all their hard work.

The coffee morning organised by the Friends in October raised £500 for St. Margaret's Somerset Hospice.

The shop, the beautiful floral displays, sing alongs and drinks parties all combine to enhance life here at the Court. We thank them all for their continued support and hope that the newly named Friends continue with the established success of the Support Group.

We are always happy to welcome new members, just contact Julia at the Court for details.

Christmas Open Day

Our Christmas Open Day this year is on Saturday 10th December from 11am to 6pm. The Neroche Hand Bell Ringers join us at 11.30am, a buffet lunch will be served from 12.30pm to 2pm, and The Tudor Dance Group will be performing at 2.30pm.

We will round the day off with carols around the Christmas tree at 5pm.

We look forward to seeing you at what promises to be a very festive day.

Julia Mirylees

Somerset Waterscape



Canal aqueduct over the River Tone



River Tone, The three arch bridge

A £25 million scheme to harness the hidden potential of the waterways of Somerset was unveiled at a meeting held in Taunton on 21st of November. The scheme could include re-instatement of the Grand Western Canal with footpath and cycle way between Taunton and Wellington. The current proposals to preserve the decaying structures of historic the Nynehead parkland could also benefit from this imaginative proposal.

The Somerset Waterways Development Trust, in partnership with Taunton Deane Borough Council and other District Councils, the Vision for Taunton, Somerset County Council and other interested parties are planning to submit an application to the BIG lottery 'Living Landmarks' programme by January 2006 for the 'Somerset Waterscape' project which includes proposals to link the Tone and Parrett river systems and the Bridgwater and Taunton Canal using a variety of environmentally friendly enhancement projects.

The meeting was well attended and lots of good ideas were put forward including schemes to improve wildlife habitats, provision for water sports, cycling and walking and increasing the boating possibilities of the area.

The scheme offers the possibility for some 30 miles of navigable waterway which would provide great opportunities for those who wish to take them. There would be potential for mariners, possibly a boat yard, and the

servicing of the tourist industry which would protect existing jobs and generate new employment. The area around Nynehead and Wellington would benefit from the increased trade and the long talked about alternative routes to Taunton would automatically follow.

Ideas presented at the meeting are being evaluated and a small sub committee has been set up to co ordinate proposals and prepare the initial application which is ten sides of A4 detailing in principle what is hoped to be achieved. Detailed project plans are not required at this stage but the scheme needs to be imaginative and address ten clearly defined project assessment questions built very much around partnership working and community engagement.

The decision of the programme committee to either award a development grant or reject the application will be known by May 2006. If this stage one application is successful the partnership will move onto the stage two application, closing date 31st Jan 2007. The bids are highly competitive and the list of successful applicants will be made public sometime in July 2007 with grant payment beginning in August 2007.

Full details of the Big Lottery Living Landmarks scheme can be found on the web.

Denis Dodd

Nynehead History Society

Our 35th winter season of talks has started well with excellent attendance and several new members. Our first meeting in October was generally agreed to be one of the best ever. Steve Membery of the County Council's archaeology team gave an absorbing talk on this summer's excavations on the site of Taunton's mediaeval priory. A first class speaker Steve told us how the excavations were carried out and how they revealed the history of the priory. In addition we learnt a great deal about how the 21st century archaeologist works and the use of up-to-date methods, including the high-tech equipment at the Musgrove Park hospital.

With the bi-centenary of the birth of the great engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel approaching it was inevitable that we recognised this important anniversary on our programme. Brunel was of course responsible for the Bristol to Exeter railway to achieve which involved him in tough negotiations with Edward Ayshford Sanford. At our November meeting Richard Fox of Wellington gave a talk, in his inimitable way, on the 'things you might not know' about IKB. We will hear more about Brunel and Nynehead in the coming months.

On Tuesday 18 October the Nynehead Memorial Hall was again abuzz. In 2004 the County Record Office purchased the archives of the Sanford family of Nynehead Court and set up a project to recatalogue them and make them more accessible. The project was supported by the Local History Society. An afternoon and evening of celebrations was held to mark the end of the project.

The event started with an hour of activities for the pupils of the village school who had been working with members of the project team on what it was like to be at school in the nineteenth century. The adults present all stood to attention when Hilary Binding, playing the role of the school teacher, told the children that if they wanted to be Victorian children they should behave as such, and stop talking, stand up straight and look to the front! This was followed by an exhibition of documents and other items from the archives, some of them of national importance, and tours of the church and Nynehead Court. The evening saw a series of talks about the archives, ending with a short selection of music that the Sanfords might well have heard in the late 17th century.

Everyone agreed that it had been an outstanding success, both for the Record Office but also as a village event, with just over 200 people attending (including 30 school children and 94 at the evening event). A typical comment was: 'I most enjoyed the whole buzz of the community coming together for the day - from school kids to grandmas! Fascinating talks and music and displays.' Our visitors greatly appreciated what the hall has to offer, including the new projector screen which was used for the first time.

David Rabson

The Residents of Nynehead Court

**Warmly invite you to their
Christmas Open Day**

**Saturday 10th December
11am – 6pm**

11.30 - The Neroche Handbell Ringers

12.30 - 2.00pm - Buffet Lunch

2.30pm - The Tudor Dance Group

5.00pm - Carols around the Christmas tree

**Please come and join us in
Celebrating the festive season**



News from Nynehead C of E Primary School

This is a double edition as the summer report got lost in the ether, so please excuse that some of the news is old.

It is pleasing to report that our numbers are holding up and that we started September in a healthy position. Despite recent reporting in local papers which said our numbers were due to fall considerably our projected numbers show that the school should maintain its present level of pupils.

2004-2005 was a very busy year we have sung to the Court, invited the Nynehead Under 5's to a bunny nibble, held concerts, shared services as well as running several joint initiatives with Oake and Bradford School. In addition, we worked with the Somerset Archive Office on materials about the Sanford family. This work formed part of a very successful exhibition earlier this term. Our Harvest festival was marked by the incredible generosity of the pupils and parents and was a truly traditional experience.

Buildings

Our new railings and safer entrance were completed during the summer holidays. We are also currently having the pupil toilets refurbished. A bid for new play equipment through the Playground Partnership Scheme sponsored by Woolworths was very successful. The children were very active in designing this area and put together a three year phased plan. This plan was submitted in July and we have been awarded £5000 to revamp our playground.

Trips

KS1 and Years 3&4 went to @Bristol early in the summer term while the Year 5 & 6 went to London for three days. It was a packed itinerary which included; the Natural History Museum, National Gallery, Downing Street, London Eye, Tower of London, Tower Bridge, The Lion King and the Science Museum. One of the highlights of the trip was meeting Cherie Blair. The children were wonderfully behaved and a great time was had by all.

This term we have been to Stourhead for a Greek day and this will be followed up with a visit by an archaeologist who will bring Greek artefacts for the children.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year

Lastly
A big plug-



**Do join us for our joint
Christmas production and
Fair.**

**All Welcome
Thursday 15th Dec 6pm at
the Village Hall**

**£3 entry to include the
show, and festive
refreshments.**

**This will be followed by a
few craft stalls and a
raffle**

**Tickets from the School in
advance 01823 662021 -
on sale from December 1st.**

*Angela Lewis
Head Teacher*

All Saints Church, Nynehead



Church Services

November	6 th .	13 th .	20 th .	27 th .	
	10.30	10.45	10.45	10.45	
December	4 th .	11 th .	18 th .	25 th	
	10.30	10.45	10.45	10.45	
January	1 st .	8 th .	15 th .	22 nd .	29 th .
	10.30	10.45	10.45	9.15*	10.45
February	5 th .	12 th .	19 th .	26 th .	
	10.30	10.45	10.45	10.45	

*Jan.22th.Joint Service Langford Budville.

SPECIAL SERVICES.

Saturday, Dec.24th. 2.30 p.m.
Marriage between Christian Boyd and Abigail Buckley.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS.

All Saints Church.

Sunday Dec.18th. 4.00 p.m - Rev.Josie.

Village Hall.Mon.19th at 7.30 p.m

Short Family Service. - Rev.Josie.

Music. Rachael Vest.

Singing by the Village Carollers.

Wine and Mince pies afterwards.

Nynehead Court.

Weds. Dec. 21st. - 7.00p.m. Singing by the Village Carollers, and anyone who sings.

Around the Village.

The Village Carollers, and anyone who can stand the cold. Time and date later.

LICENSING.

Reverend Margaret (Margi) Campbell, future Vicar of W.Buckland, Bradford, Nynehead, Langford Budville and Runnington, is to be licensed in St. Johns Church, at 7p.m. on Monday Jan. 16th. by the Bishop of Bath and Wells. Invitations to the entire Village are enclosed.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

It is with sorrow and regrets we announce that the Sunday school is no longer an institution of our church after 14 years of magnificent effort and love from our friend and fellow Christian Muriel Kodritch. There are no longer parents in the village who wish their children to attend Sunday school. **But, if you could lend your child/children to JESUS on the second and fourth Sunday of the month please ring Muriel (661609). Especially as it is Christmas.**

Bell Restoration Project.

We have started a project to get the church bells ringing once more after 15 years, they could not be rung at the wedding of Gary Sparkes and Mary in 1989. The Church Wardens have just had a meeting with the Church architect and the bell hangers. Things are looking good; all we need now is money, effort and prayers.

Bell Ringers.

When the above project is completed we hope to have a team of bell ringers for the first time in over 30 years. The Wellington bellringers and Langford Budville have agreed to train a team for our bells. If you have or would like to be a bell ringer and are over 12 years old please give a call to one of the churchwardens.

GO ON GIVE A RING.

The History of our Church.

We have been publishing 'The History of All Saints Church, Nynehead' for about a year. "The Wellington Bookshop" is selling copies for us at no cost to the church. Any money raised is going towards the 'The Bell Restoration fund'. Further copies are available in the church.

Pastoral Matters.

Rev. Josie Harrison. Tel. 669525

Preb. Colin Randall. Tel. 662248

General Matters.

Church Wardens.

Michael Harding. Tel. 662940

Allan Howe. Tel. 666995

Betty Sparks (secy.) Tel. 660407

Tony Lock. Tel. 461214

Allan Howe.

Nynehead Toddlers & Pre-School



This half term is perhaps one of the most exciting for both Toddlers and Pre-School and with Christmas on the horizon there will be plenty of sparkle!

Nynehead Toddlers has grown considerably over the past few months and it is fantastic to see so many people attending. We would like to extend a big welcome to all our new children, Mums, Dads, Childminders and Grandparents. Children have already started to prepare for Christmas by baking biscuits, making miniature Christmas trees and learning Christmas songs – unlike many of us parents who haven't started our Christmas shopping yet!

Nynehead Toddlers is every Wednesday (Term time only) 9.30am – 12 noon, Nynehead Village Hall.

Nynehead Pre-School has recently welcomed two new members of staff. Maria Sines has been appointed as Pre-School Leader and Sally Cullum as Pre-School Assistant. Maria has 17 years experience in caring for children as well as three children of her own. Sally will work alongside Kathryn Flind.

Earlier this year Judith Stacey decided to leave the Pre-School. Judith has been involved in the pre-school from an early stage. Jo Miller, one of our Committee members who helped start the pre-school, has also moved to France with her family. We would like to take this opportunity to thank both of them and wish them good luck for the future.

This term the theme for the Pre-School is colour. Children have been bringing in toys, photos and pictures as well as searching for colours on walks through the village. The colours for the final week are (not surprisingly!) Gold and Silver and a Christmas Party is being held for all pre-school children and their siblings.

Nynehead Pre-School raised £250 for Children in Need. Parents and friends were asked to guess the name of the Bear and make a donation to the Appeal. The name of the bear was sealed in an envelope which was opened at a special Children in Need ceremony. The correct guess was Nigel. Nigel the Bear will now become Nynehead Pre-School's holiday bear. Children will be asked to take the bear with them on their holidays and take a picture of them and the bear to show the other children at Pre-School.

Nynehead Pre-School is for children aged between 2 and 5 years. Its hours are Tuesday 9am – 1pm, Thursday 9am-1pm and 12noon – 4pm (all day session available) and Friday 9am – 1pm. Sessions are flexible.

New! One morning a week Nynehead Pre-School will be running special sessions for 2 year olds. For further information contact Dawn Netley Tel. 01823 666895

Wellington Parent Support Group supports parents of children with special/additional educational needs. We meet on the last Wednesday of each month (except school holidays) at The Adult Learning and Leisure Centre, Corams Lane, Wellington. TA21 8LL. 7-9pm. Sometimes we have speakers, information evenings (e.g dyslexia, dyspraxia, memory skills, brain gym) or just a friendly chat. Our aim is to inform, encourage and support parents allowing them to grow in strength and knowledge so that they are better equipped to give the best possible help to their children.

For more information phone Louise on 01823 665460

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More of the Guardian Angel

The Monsoon rains (Khareef in arabia) that had arrived in Southern Oman in July was coming to an end, we were well into September, this year had been wetter than usual, the Arab visitors from the gulf states had been more numerous, and so the streams of 4 w.d. vehicles were longer and appeared to be slower driving through the mist and rain. It was the last day of my working week and as usual I had been in the desert carrying out my routine checks and was now looking forward to a relaxing weekend and getting more and more edgy stuck behind another long stream of holidaymakers.

Through the rain and mist I recognised a landmark and realised we were approaching a sharp bend at the bottom of a steep hill. The road levelled out on the bend before straightening and dropping steeply once again to a blind bend around a cliff face. This was the road where I nearly hit a lorry in the last guardian angel story, and if you remember it was built on the edge of a ravine (a wadhi), where a river had once run down to the sea. Because of this there was usually a breeze blowing up the wadhi to the hill and as a result the next half a mile was the only stretch of road in ten miles where there was good visibility. I was most likely the only driver in the queue of vehicles that knew this, so I made ready to push my foot down on the accelerator as soon as I reached the straight steep hill around the bend.

Surprise, surprise I was able to make a dash for it and left the holidaymakers gazing at the clear sky, not knowing they would be enveloped in the mist again at the bottom of the hill. Although there was no mist, the road surface was wet from the water run off from the cliff, so the road was quite slippery if the brakes were needed.

There are no fences or hedges on the Omani jabals, so cattle, the same colour as red Devons and the size of Jersey cows are free to roam. Despite the lack of fences the land areas belong to individual Dubali tribes, so the cattle is herded in at night and is inclined to stay together when grazing in the day. This particular herd, numbering about 50 cows had decided to change grazing and was wandering up the road to the bend that I was approaching blind from the other side. I rounded the bend and was faced by a wall of red cows, of course the brakes did not stop me and I slid helplessly forward. Just before I hit anything the wall split into two parts along its whole length except for

the last cow which my bumper knocked, it moo'd with fright and ran off.

A Guardian Angel would you say.

Allan Howe

Phil Bassett

Jane Bassett and family wish to express their sincere thanks to everyone who attended Phil's funeral and all who gave flowers and donations to the British Heart Foundation.

Special thanks to those who worked so hard to make the gathering at the Hall afterwards such a memorable event.

Nynehead is a very special community and Jane will always treasure the words expressed and help given to her following her sad loss.

Jane Bassett

Somerset Rural Youth Project

We have been working in the village for 18 months with over 20 young people aged between 8 and 17. We currently meet every Tuesday between 6.30pm and 8.00pm alternating the weeks between the Juniors (Under 11's), and the Seniors (Over 11's).

Unfortunately we will have to leave the village in March 2006.

To ensure our work continues in the village we are hoping to set up a regular Youth Club night for the young people.

We will be looking for adult volunteers to help run the club in the future. Training can be made available so if you are interested and willing to help, please ring Peter Giles on 01823 257219 or Mobile 07986685963.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Environment Group.

As most people will have heard we have been awarded a grant of £2500 towards the cost of upgrading the footpath between the sewage works and the proposed Nature Reserve at the aqueduct. We will be consulting closely with the county footpath people so that we get the best possible job.

Many people will also have seen that a presentation was made to the Council regarding the use of footpath volunteers in Nynehead. Technically of course landowners are responsible for the upkeep of footpaths but the County recognises that this rarely works in practice. Given that they are responsible for several thousand miles of paths within the county they feel that any help they can get is going to be worthwhile. There is simply no way that they could afford to monitor and upkeep the whole network themselves. This being the case they are keen to see if local volunteers could help and Nynehead looks as though it could be used as a 'guinea pig' to see if this is a viable idea.

The Council will be discussing the idea at their next meeting in December.

Key to the success of the reserve will be a proper management plan. As everyone in the business recognises a reserve cannot be simply left to nature entirely as the result would be trees and scrub with very little else. A proper management plan will ensure that the area is maintained in the best possible condition for all types of wildlife, birds, mammals, and insects. To this end we have been in discussion with various people in the village who have some expertise to contribute. In addition we are trying to involve some outside people who do this kind of work for the Deane. Anyone who feels they could contribute is of course most welcome to contact us. In this case the more the merrier!

*Alan Ketley.
Chairman*



Nynehead Jubilee Playing Fields

The Annual Duck Race took place on Saturday 17th September at 2.30pm at Hornshay Weir.

We had good weather and a good turn out on the river bank, with commentary from Nick Hollingsworth.

The Races were sponsored by the following:-

Race 1	Television Research Partnership
Race 2	Anchor Inn - Hillfarrance
Race 3	Tim Potter Butchers
Race 4	Nynehead Club
Race 5	Blackdown MOT Centre
Race 6	Foxes Farm Services
Race 7	Nynehead Books
Race 8	White Horse Inn – Bradford on Tone
Race 9	Formula Cars
Race 10	Discount Tile Warehouse
Final	Hardacres Builders Nynehead Fruit Abacus Construction



We would like to thank all the sponsors for their support, and a big thank you to the Darby family for the use of the venue.

The winners of the Races were:-

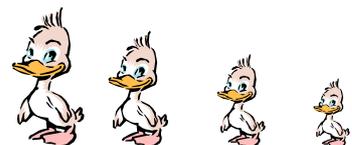
Race 1	R Needs
Race 2	S Stamp
Race 3	Mr Hawkins
Race 4	D Bruford
Race 5	K Hunt
Race 6	F Wills
Race 7	M Hellings
Race 8	S Perry
Race 9	J Cullen
Race 10	M Britton
Final	E Raybould



We have recently received a grant from Viridor credits, which we have used to purchase new flat swings and safety surface. The swings will be installed in March 2006 and we are looking for a new home for the existing blue swings.

If any one is interested please contact Ben Tingay or Dave Raybould before February 2006.

*Ben Tingay
Chairman*



Footpath Liaison Officer

Encouragement and Coercion for Landowners

In the last edition of Nynehead News I reported on the new Single Payment Scheme (SPS) for landowners and how it might have a positive affect on footpath maintenance. However my attempts to find out how members of the public can provide information to the Rural Payment Agency (RPA) have, so far, been unsuccessful.

In seeking information via the phone, I started at the top of a list of "Useful contacts" produced by the RPA and DEFRA. Not one was able to help; in fact they all advised me to phone someone else on the list and I ended up being advised to contact the first one I had phoned. Subsequently, two letters to the RPA have gone unanswered. All this in a system that, apparently, has been in effect since the beginning of the year

Heywood Farm diversion.

I have been in contact with TDBC about the lack of progress on implementing this diversion to the benefit both the landowner and walkers. TDBC tell me they are actively pursuing the project which involves the erection of gates, steps and signposts.

Canal Path Stile

The stile at the east end of the canal path, where it passes into the field next to Perry's Farm, has now been replaced by a kissing gate, making the entire length of the canal from there to Wellington sewage works stile free.

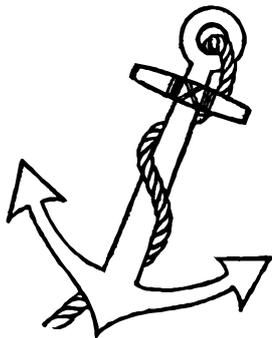
Footpath Volunteer Group

Somerset County Council have chosen Nynehead to be a guinea pig in their project to help parishes create footpath volunteer groups. SCC is keen to resolve the thorny issue of insurance, which can inhibit the activities members of the public are allowed to carry, out, and to provide support for training and education in footpath maintenance. Four SCC rights of way staff attended the November parish council meeting and gave a presentation on how they see the project developing.

Summary

As you can see there are several initiatives underway to improve access to the countryside in and around Nynehead. With only a little more involvement from all participants, the rights of way could be an even bigger asset to the village.

Colin Spackman



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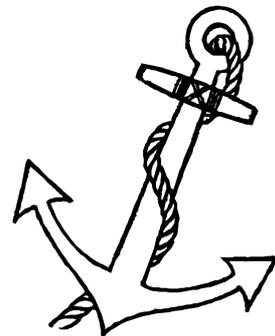
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Birding in Nynehead

I have been extremely busy lately, so have been unable to make as many forays into the local countryside as I would like. However, as the colder weather finally rears its head - frost is forecast as I write - I shall make more effort to check up on the creatures that share their homes with us in our village!

Late October and early November are quiet times of the bird watching year inland. The summer birds have long gone - although there were still a few house martins in our village in mid-October - and the change over into winterland is still in the very early stages. The winter thrushes about which I wrote a bit last time are now around. If you see large, colourful and very active feeding thrush-like birds they may well be fieldfares. Whilst smaller thrush-like friends of theirs are the redwings. There were plenty of the latter in Higher Nynehead by the start of November. A few of the much scarcer coal tits have also recently arrived on the bird feeders to share the fare with the blue and great tits. Coal tits are smaller even than blue tits and "buzz" around your bird feeder like large bees or moths. They have black and white striped heads and are generally considered to be very pretty birds indeed. They prefer conifer trees if they can find them and some have nested in our village in tall conifers in past years. Other winter things to watch out for are flocks of smaller birds feeding on the fields. These large groups of passerines [the small perching birds] are usually either chaffinches or linnets but Nynehead often has smaller flocks of skylark in winter and the occasional meadow pipits. The fields behind our playing field also have a pair of very fine stonechats at the moment.

Most interesting to me at this time of the year is the fate of the humble house sparrow. I say 'humble' because it is a bird about which little is written and much is assumed. In fact, its numbers have decreased many fold in only ten years and it is possible that it may be heading the way of its cousin the tree sparrow. This was common in my youth but now occurs in only isolated small colonies spread around the UK. The last ones I saw were in Rutland!

The house sparrow does WELL in Nynehead - hurrah! Indeed, the latest edition of "Somerset Birds"* which reports annually on the status of birds within our county for the preceding year states that: 'populations seem stable' and goes on to mention winter house sparrow flocks of 120 in Keinton Mandeville, 110 near Crewkerne

and 100 at Nynehead! The latter relates to the flock I saw outside Nynehead Club in the hedges on November 1st 2004. That flock is still living in the hedge by the Club, with another flock down the lane to the sewage farm. A further decent flock is in the hedges by the entrance lane to Lift Cottage in East Nynehead. There are 30-40 too by the barns at Hornshay, no doubt attracted to an easy food source and smaller groups on the lane towards Block House farm as well. Duly encouraged by Nynehead's healthy supply of house sparrows Lynn & I began an experiment in 2004 to reduce the number of peanut feeders we have for birds and to replace these with seed feeders in an attempt to help the house sparrow situation. There are several in the excellent thick hedges of the front gardens in Blackdown View itself - hence the daily visit from the aptly named sparrow hawk! In just one year we have enjoyed watching a feeding party of 4-9 birds increase to something like 55 at the moment of writing. House sparrows are active birds, great fun to watch as they queue to feed, to squabble or to drink in the bowl provided. They mingle with greenfinches and tolerate them and can be dreadful time wasters at the kitchen window! The only negative point is the cost of the seed they devour! Don't take my word for it, though maybe you could try something similar too!?

*www.somersetbirds.net

Alastair Riley
Amateur ornithologist

A message for Nynehead Club.

I should like to thank the management of the Club for allowing me to hang a small representative sample of some of my silkscreen prints. 20% of any sale will pass to the Club Committee via Mervyn Hooper. Although I have no exhibitions planned in the area until 2006 - details of which I will advertise properly in due course - visitors are always welcome to call at the workshop if they wish to see works or cards. I am usually there from Wednesday to Friday.

Alastair Riley

Nynehead Cricket Club

Fresh from their end of season dinner 'over the border' in Oake, the Committee of Nynehead CC are already looking ahead to season 2006. There is something new to report this time.

Youth Cricket XI

Nynehead are hoping to start a cricket team for young boys and girls in Years 6,7 & 8 next season (that's ages 10-13 approx). There will be coaching at the ground and we intend to provide that expensive commodity - cricket kit!

If you are interested please register your initial interest by leaving your details (or those of your son or daughter) with Nynehead CC Secretary Alastair Riley.

This can be done by letter - to
The Farthings,
7, Blackdown View,
Nynehead;

By phone - 66 36 99 or by e-mail:
alastair.riley@which.net.

Alastair will then collate these and the Club will begin to plan for its first ever Youth XI !

Merry Christmas to all from the Cricket Club and many thanks for your support through the year.

Alastair Riley



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Nynehead Club

The modernisation of the club continues with the club purchasing new chairs and curtains in the New Year. We have also installed a cooling system on the beer- just right for this time of year. The No Smoking at the bar policy is working well.

We are currently organising the construction of a disabled ramp at the rear of the club.

We have recently supported Children in Need by raffling Pudsey Bear. £45 was raised and Pudsey was won by Zoe Eglin. Thank you all for your support.

On Saturday 17th December at 8 pm we will be holding our annual Christmas Party- fancy dress optional. Please bring a plate of food.

Over the Christmas period we will be open as follows:

Saturday 24th December, Christmas Eve from 8.30pm.

Monday 26th December, Boxing Day, from midday onwards.

Thursday 29th December from 8.30pm

Friday 30th December from 8.30pm.

Saturday 31st December, New Years Eve, from 8.30pm onwards.

Please look out for the Club Carol Singers around Christmas - all donations will go towards CLIC and The Children's Hospice South West.

For all the romantics out there we will be holding a Valentines party on 18th February 2006.

Watch the board for dates of forthcoming skittle evenings and other events.

Our opening times continue to be Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 8.30pm until 11pm. We hope that you will be able to come along and enjoy a quiet drink, and maybe play a game of pool or darts.

New members are always welcome and subscriptions remain at £2 per year. Please note that subscriptions are due for renewal in the New Year.

We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

*Mervyn Hooper
Chairman*

Nynehead Club

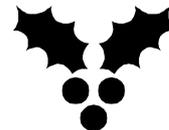


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Wileliscombe & Milverton Police Beat News

Following on from last month, crime in the Wiveliscombe area, apart from a serious sexual assault, where a male has been arrested, was low.

The nature of the crimes consisted of damage and theft from cars in Golden Hill and to a car in the croft way car park.

One of these appears to be an opportunist crime, the other two targeted by the same person.

Please think about what you leave on display when leaving vehicles unattended.

The Milverton area has been fairly quiet. One development has been a garage broken into in Langford Budville and a motorcycle stolen.

Although our quad bike/trailer/caravan thieves have not been around it would appear that we have a travelling burglar, possibly, two, travelling around West Somerset. Up to now we have few details.

As always, Jo and myself can be contacted at Wellington police station or on the web.

mark.jones@avonandsomerset.police.uk
joanne.jeffery@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Telephone numbers.
Mark 07717700659
Jo 07717700661

Mark Jones

Nynehead Garden Club.

The Garden Club is coming to the end of its second successful year. The programme has ranged from a recent Plant Propagation Master Class to the Ecology of Exmoor, and next years programme looks even better. Our secretary, Jill Prior, has managed to obtain the services of some first class speakers, including Mike Burgess of Secret Seeds, Roger Sutton, speaking about butterflies and a possible 'fungus foray' under the auspices of Ted Pitman. The full programme will be available in the new year.

Also available in the New Year will be the Show Schedule and entry form, ready for our third annual flower show on **August 19th**. Plans are afoot to make this show even more successful than last year.

THE next big event is of course our Christmas 'Do' which will be held on December 12th at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. All members and their partners are welcome. Thanks to the efforts of our membership secretary, Joan Lock, we actually have thirty-six paid up members this year. Ann Howe is coordinating food and there will be wine and beer available as well as soft drinks. The raffle is being organised by Nancy Douglas and is certain to reach its usual formidable standard; David Manners will be producing another batch of devious photographs for you to identify and there will be some interesting horticultural items to identify. Remember that the Garden Club Christmas 'Do' is a Cliff Richard free zone!

Please don't forget our AGM, which will take place on Monday, 16th January at 7.30pm.

Alan Ketley, Chairman

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Useful Local Contacts

All Saints Church

Allan Howe	666995	email	howe@howe.eclipse.co.uk
Michael Harding	662940		

Grand Western Canal Trust

Denis & Jenny Dodd	661653	email	denis.dodd@btinternet.com
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Jubilee Playing Fields

Ben Tingay (Chairman)	669828	Mobile	07971 496665
David Raybould (Secretary)	669727	email	daraybould@btopenworld.com

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators

Jenny Dodd	661653	email	doddy@talk21.com
Lu Hawkins	461781	email	luhawkins@dollings.fsnet.co.uk
Allan Howe	666995	email	howe@howe.eclipse.co.uk
Duncan Linklater	461637	email	duncan@desognlink.co.uk
Peter McLaren	461949	email	paam@ninehides.fsnet.co.uk
Robert Needs	662620	email	angieneeds@beeb.net
Alec Reynolds	663323		
Chris Watson	662740		

Nynehead Amateur Dramatic Society (NADS)

Alison Ellis	664248		
Mervyn Hooper	461518		

Nynehead News

Allan Howe - Chairman	666995	email	howe@howe.eclipse.co.uk
Duncan Linklater - Secretary	461637	email	duncan@designlink.co.uk
Mike Briginshaw - Treasurer	461627	email	mike@nynehead.plus.com

Nynehead Cricket Club

Keith Haslam	461667		
Alastair Riley (Sec)	663699		

Nynehead Garden Club & Environmental Group

Alan Ketley	666249	email	alan.ketley@homecall.co.uk
Jill Prior	660164	email	rogerandjill@eclipse.co.uk

Nynehead History Society

David Rabson	666609	email	rabsons@btinternet.com
Tony Lock	461214		

Nynehead Club

Mervyn Hooper - Chairman	461518		
Zoe Eglin - Secretary	660757	email	zoeeglin@kinvara21.fsnet.co.uk
Dennis Galpin - Treasurer	665879		

Useful Local Contacts

Nynehead Memorial Hall

Gary Sparks (Chairman) 663745
Louise Hobbs (Treasurer) 669828
John Sparks (Booking Secretary) 662107

Nynehead School

Angela Lewis - (Head Teacher) 662021 email alewis1@educ.somerset.gov.uk
Carole Darby - (Chair of Governors) 663166 email caroledarby306@hotmail.com

Friends of Nynehead School

Mary Sparks 663745

Parish Council:

David Rabson (Clerk) 666609 email rabsons@btinternet.com
Alan Ketley - Chairman 666249 email alan.ketley@homecall.co.uk
Mike Briginshaw - Vice Chairman 461627 email bmike1@onetel.com
Mervyn Hooper 461518
Gary Sparks 663745

County Councillor:

Caroline Smeaton 412830 email csmeaton@somerset.gov.uk

District Councillor:

Clifford Bishop 400400 email cllr.c.bishop@tauntondeane.gov.uk

POLICE

Wellington Station 363262
Wellington Fax 660396
Taunton Station 337911
PC Mark Jones - Voice Mail 01823 363287 then 70733
PC Mark Jones - Mobile 0771 7700 659 email markj.jones@avonandsomerset.police.uk
PC Joanne Jeffery 0771 7700 6611 email joanne.jeffery@avonandsomerset.police.uk

POLICE - Crimestoppers

To give anonymous information 0800 555 111

Pre-school and Toddler group (Under 5s)

Dawn Netley 666895
Louise Wimbourne - 665460
(Wellington Parent Support Group)

Rural Youth Project

Dawn Netley 666895

Diary: - 4th December 2005 to 4th March 2006



Dec - 5	Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 7.30 pm
Dec - 9	History Society – ‘Two Brick Houses’ – Village Hall 7.45 pm
Dec - 10	Nynehead Court Christmas Open Day – 11.00 am to 6.00 pm
Dec - 12	Nynehead Garden Club Christmas ‘Do’ - 7.30 pm in the Village Hall
Dec - 15	Nynehead School Christmas Fair – Village Hall – 6.00 pm
Dec - 17	Nynehead Club Christmas Party – 8 pm at the Club
Dec - 18	Christmas Carols at All Saints Church – 4 pm
Dec - 19	Village Hall Christmas Carols – 7.30 pm
Dec - 19	Nynehead School Christmas Carols – 2.30 pm
Dec - 21	Nynehead Court – Christmas Carols – 7.00 pm – all welcome!
Dec - 23	All Saints Church – Decorating the Church for Christmas – 10.00 am
Jan - 9	Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 7.30 pm
Jan - 13	History Society – new Year Party – 7.30 pm
Jan - 16	Nynehead Garden Club – Annual General Meeting – 7.30 pm
Feb - 6	Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 7.30 pm
Feb - 10	History Society – ‘ A Somerset sheep stealer’ – Village Hall 7.45 pm
Feb - 18	Copy Deadline for March Edition of Nynehead News
Mar - 4	Distribution date for March Edition of Nynehead News
Mar - 6	Parish Council Meeting – Village Hall – 7.30 pm
Mar - 10	History Society – ‘Iron Workings on Exmoor’ – Village Hall – 7.45 pm



The picture of “The Nynehead Rivera” that was on the front cover of the September edition was taken from the Three Arch Bridge, facing upstream. The beach is about 200 yards away on the North bank



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