



Nynehead News



Volume 5

December 2006

Issue 4

E-mail: newsletter@nynehead.org

This issue includes important information about:

www.nynehead.org

See page three for more information



Local Witches attending a Coven at Nynehead Club's Halloween Party!

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Welcome to the December 2006 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	8 & 9
Birdwatching in Nynehead	14
Diary	20
Family Problems!	6
Footpath Liaison Officer	17
Garden Club	11
History Society	11
Izaak Cullen	7
Neighbourhood Watch	16

Item	Page
Nynehead Amateur Dramatic Society	12
Nynehead Club	13
Nynehead Court	5
Nynehead Pre-School	10
Nynehead.org	3
Parish Council Report	4
Police News	15
Useful Local Contacts	18 & 19

Contacting the Nynehead News:

Your production team are as follows:

Mike Briginshaw, (Editor) - Oakridge, Nynehead, TA21 0BZ Tel: 01823 461627

Allan Howe, (Printing) - Court Garden Farm, Nynehead, TA21 0BN Tel: 01823 666995

Peter Russell, (Advertising) - Ploughshare, East Nynehead, TA21 0DA Tel: 01823 461668

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Prime banners on front and rear covers - £20 each

Inside Pages

Quarter page	£5	Half Page	£15
Top banner	£10	Bottom banner	£10
Full page	£20	Minimum charge	£5

In the next edition all advertisers will be offered the opportunity of having their advertisements included in the business section of our website - www.nynehead.org - for an additional payment of £5 for 3 months.

For more information Contact Peter Russell 01823 461668

www.nynehead.org

With the Nynehead website settled into its new home at www.nynehead.org we have greater freedom to make it more interactive. In case that means nothing to you, rather than just looking at it in the same passive way as you look at TV, you can actively alter some of the website's content.

To that end there is an **EVENTS** page where anyone can 'advertise' a forthcoming event, be it a public one such as a meeting of the Garden Club or a private one such as a birthday party. To advertise an event you require no technical skill at all! - If you can type you can manage!

If you go to www.nynehead.org you will see a couple of links to the **EVENTS** page. The **EVENTS** page itself will always open at 'today's' date, and has both a graphic representation of a calendar and textual content.

You enter whatever text you want - e.g. "Charlie's birthday party 7.30 p.m. at 'My Place', Nynehead" - on the appropriate day of the calendar, say 1st Dec.

After clicking a couple of buttons, the graphic representation of 1st Dec will change to make it obvious there is something happening on that date. Anyone clicking on 1st Dec will then be able to see whatever text you - or anyone else - has entered for that date!

More than one event can be listed on any one date, and events [or non-events such as a period during which the club might be closed] lasting more than one day can also be listed.

If you make a mistake you can edit or delete what is on the **EVENTS** page but please **DO NOT** edit or delete anything you yourself have not posted!

We also hope that more use will be made of the website as a useful and interesting archive resource. One obvious example is that the local history society could include a

synopsis of each talk, or links to the speaker's own website or related material on other websites.

I suspect that in this day and age most such speakers will have much if not all their material already in digital form and it would thus be a simple [and free!] matter to archive it on www.nynehead.org

To this end there is now a **HISTORY** page. From that any number of other pages can in due course develop. To set the ball rolling I have put up a **GALLERY OF NOTABLES**.

Some aspects of Nynehead obviously merit, and have, their own separate sections, such as the canal, Nynehead Court and the church. The **HISTORY** page can accommodate all the miscellanea.

If you are unable to prepare material ready to go on a website, ask around as you'd be surprised at how many people can! And you can always try me via any of the links to **WEBMASTER** on www.nynehead.org

*Duncan Linklater,
Webmaster*

Editorial Comment:

As you can see, I've not been left with much space this time! Anyway, the articles by Duncan Linklater on this page combined with the Parish Council report of Alan Ketley cover most of my thoughts.

I would like to thank everyone for their contributions over the last year and in particular the other members of the production team for the many hours they have freely given.

I would also like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Mike

Parish Council Report.

The long awaited Government White Paper on Local Government reform indicated there could be wholesale reform of Parish and District Councils.

In any event, we will probably be having Parish Council elections next year. Looking at our present council, it is, with all due respect, dominated but not exclusively run by males of a certain age and it would be more representative if we had a wider spread of parishioners. If you are, or might be, interested in serving on the council please give this some consideration. I would be delighted to explain what is involved as would your other councillors.

Communication has always been a problem for parish councils and we are lucky to have the Nynehead News as a vehicle to explain what we are doing. The Newsletter team have approached the council for support with the cost of printing. Looking at the options we have, one of the key decisions concerns whether or not the newsletter should be partly in colour as this is a lot more expensive than black and white.

We would welcome your comments as our job is to represent you. If you have any specific thoughts please do not hesitate to contact me or any other councillor on this matter.

Remember that if we didn't have the Nynehead News the council would probably have to produce something similar itself in order to communicate with the parish and this could only be done at a cost. Currently the newsletter is produced on voluntary basis and a huge amount of work goes into producing each edition!

We also received a request to support the Nynehead web site which is described in this newsletter under the heading of 'www.nynehead.org'. We are indebted to Duncan Linklater who has designed and run this award winning site for the parish. We have agreed to support the site for another year at a cost of £50 but are again

interested to hear just how useful you find this facility. Comments welcome again!

The council has been asked to prepare an emergency plan for the parish and Mike Briginshaw and I have agreed to take this on. It is tempting to regard things like this as a massive waste of time and effort but we feel that a simple plan can be drawn up so that if there were a disaster we would have a clear idea of what to do. The threat from flooding remains our most likely problem.

All the plan requires is that we have a team in place to organise things on behalf of the village should an emergency occur. The last thing we need in such a situation is to be running around trying to work out what to do.

For this purpose we would very much like to hear from anyone who has a specialist skill which we could call on. For example, we know that Ben Tingay is a trained chainsaw operator and is willing to have his name on our list. It would also be useful to know who has four wheel drive vehicles that could be used on behalf of the community. If you feel you can help we would like to hear from you!

In an emergency it is the most vulnerable people we have to worry about. Simple things such as the supply of medicines can be vital. We would welcome information on people who might need a helping hand. If we were to be isolated by flooding for several days, for example, we would like to be sure that everyone in our parish is looked after.

As you can see from the above the work of the parish council can be quite extensive and interesting. A view of the minutes, Nynehead website and notice boards, will show that we are involved in several other topics as well. So, if you have the time, please consider becoming a councillor next year.

Your parish needs you!

Alan Ketley, Chairman.

Nynehead Court

We have enjoyed a busy few months here at the Court, with lots of outings and events. It was lovely to see so many of you at our Jazz afternoon in August when we were blessed with fine weather. Also in August we enjoyed trips to Taunton Flower Show, to the spectacular "Spirit of the Horse" show at Taunton Racecourse and to the Fleet Air Arm museum at Yeovilton. Nynehead Flower Show was a highlight with two of our residents winning prizes in the handicraft section. We were pleased to join with the community to support the event and to admire the spectacular display provided by our gardeners here at the Court.

In September the NSCPG Plant Fair held in the gardens was a great success and we look forward to welcoming them again next year. We enjoyed trips to Budleigh Salterton, The West Somerset Railway and to Exmoor for a wildlife safari. Late in the month we raised £100 with our cream tea in support of the Children's Hospice South West, a very worthy cause.

Graham Brewer gave a very interesting talk on colour and musical entertainment was provided by Gary Allen with songs from the shows.

The Brewhouse theatre was the venue for a trip in October where we enjoyed a spirited performance of the Pirates of Penzance. The vintage gramophone was the subject of a talk by Philip Knighton who played us some interesting old recordings and Mary Thyne's Pig Tales were very entertaining. Music in October included a lovely afternoon with the ladies of the Wivvy Follies and Glen Johnson serenaded us with old time favourites.

Residents enjoyed holidays to Cornwall in September and The Isle of Wight in October making the most of the late summer weather.

Art and Craft

The Art and Crafters are busy making cards for the craft stall at our Christmas open day.

We are a happy band and would welcome new members, details from Julia at the Court.

Friends of Nynehead Court

The Friends continue to provide us with valued help and assistance. The shop, beautiful floral displays, drinks parties and sing-a-longs are much appreciated by us all.

Christmas Celebrations

This year our Christmas Open Day is on Saturday the 9th December with seasonal entertainment and a buffet lunch. Another date for your diary is Sunday 17th December when Wellington Town Band will be giving a Christmas concert here at the Court. We hope you will be able to join us to celebrate the festive season and take this opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful and happy New Year.

Julia Mirylees



SO YOU THINK YOU HAVE FAMILY PROBLEMS!

Whilst on holiday in Salalah, Oman, I asked my friend Ahmed why he did not move his family from Muscat, 600 miles away, so that they could be with him. "You have already been alone for 4 years, isn't it about time you had some family comforts during the long nights and weekends?". "Allan my old friend I will tell you what happened when I decided to do just that."

Here is Ahmed Jans story.

Two years ago most of the Omani Officers that were transferred from the north, were single, or like me decided to leave their families in Muscat. As a result all 6 houses in the Head Quarters compound were empty. With the Khareef (monsoon rains) due in a couple of months I thought how nice it would be for my wife and children to come south from the perpetual heat and sun in the north. They would enjoy a holiday in the rains and mists, and the wet and damp, and eat picnics and catch colds whilst sitting on wet rocks with their husband and father.

So in the middle of the 3 month rainy season I met them off the coach from Muscat and laughed when I saw the pleasant surprise showing on their faces as they stepped into the water swilling on the ground all around them. My laughter suddenly ceased, and turned to horror, when I saw following my family were 2 of my sisters-in-law with all

their children and the Mother-in-law. They too wanted to enjoy the rain and mists. That night there were 33 family members in the house of two sitting rooms and three bedrooms.

For the next few days I was forever shopping for the food and numerous other items that 33 people require, or visiting the stores for blankets, bedding, knives and spoons etc., you name it I had to get it.

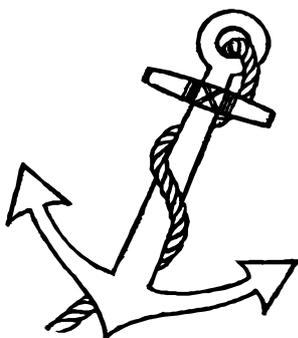
After a few days when I was beginning to get on top of things, one of my brothers rang and asked, "What did I have against his children, why had I not invited them to Salalah and the rain?"

"Send them down on the bus I said", thinking to myself what difference would another 4 kids make? "I cannot send them", he said, "I do not have any money". So, Allan I had to pay for the doubtful benefit of increasing my household to 37.

I am afraid it all got too much for me, and I went to live in a small bachelor's accommodation on my own and besides the fact I kept supplying food I left them to their own devices.

I ask you, 4 women and 33 children, so now you know why I am alone in Salalah.

Allan Howe



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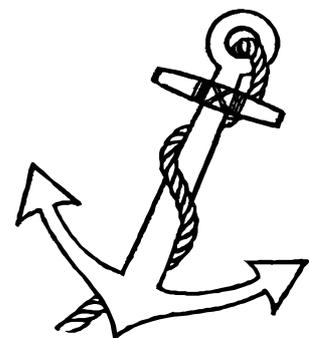
Real People

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Baby Izaak Cullen

(Born 6th September 2006. Weight 9 pounds 11 ounces after a few false alarms)



This is just a small token of our gratitude to all of you that displayed so much in terms of generosity and kindness following the birth of baby Izaak. (I would like to point out – if anyone got the spelling wrong I wouldn't worry too much, his own father did, it was a good job I realised before I had a tattoo with his name on it)

It was quite overwhelming having so many people congratulate us verbally and through the astronomical amount of cards and gifts that we received. It would be fitting to name everyone; however I won't in case I accidentally miss anyone out. However I must mention one gift that was duly returned and substituted for a can of lager. (Darren you can keep the England Hat – come on the Jocks)

Having only spent a few years in this part of the country and only 2 and half years in Nynnehead it is at times like these that illustrate that there is still a huge community spirit and one that the people of Nynnehead should be proud of. (A contributing factor for winning the village of the year prize back to back) Sally, Izaak, the girls and I couldn't possibly thank you enough. If I haven't already done so, I owe each and every one of you a drink to celebrate the birth of our son. So if you're ever up the club and I am in there remind me. My wife would probably quote, "when aren't you up there". My reply is, "just keeping up with the community spirit".

(I incidentally – The Cullen family will cease to expand especially in Nynnehead, I have been asked by my good lady to book an appointment with the knife surgeon if you know what I mean – aaarrrrggggghhhh) On a serious note Mother and Baby are both doing wonderfully and thank you once again.

A proud husband, and father to 3 beautiful children.

Many Thanks

Kev

P.S May the Cullen Family take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and expect to see you all at the club for a Karaoke New Year's Party.

Many many thanks!

Thank you to ALL the villagers who kindly attended my exhibition "*The Trick Inside*" at the Nynnehead Club in September. There were also visitors from many other parts of the UK & Europe.

I will cherish the memory of the interesting discussions about the works on show. These conversations are always my favourite part of any exhibition !

- *Cards are always available at my studio.*
- *There are still a few of the calendars left if you are quick!*
- *Thursdays and Fridays are the best times to call in!*
- *The season's compliments to everyone.*

Alastair Riley.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, NYNEHEAD

Church Services:

On the first Sunday in the month the church service is held in Nynehead Court at 10-30am when the usual church congregation share the service with the residents of the Court and the service is followed by coffee. This is a short service of Morning Prayer with hymns and is open to anyone to attend.

On all other Sundays the service is held in church at 10-45am with the exception of the 5th Sunday when there is a Joint Team Service held at one of the churches in the team. These services are Parish Communion services, however, one does not need to be confirmed, as the majority of the service is relevant to everyone.

Pastoral matters: Please contact Rev. Margi Campbell tel. 669446

Other matters of a general nature: either Michael Harding - Churchwarden tel. 662940 or Allan Howe - Churchwarden tel. 666995

FEAST OF CAROLS

THURSDAY 14TH. DECEMBER

IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7 p.m.

Enjoy seasonal refreshments, and mince pies and sausage rolls from the Court as well as singing 'Hark the Herald Angels', 'Joy to the World', 'While Shepherds', etc. etc.

Christmas Services:

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER:

CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE 4-00PM

SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER:

PARISH COMMUNION AT 10-00AM

CHRISTMAS DAY:

CHRISTMAS COMMUNION AT 9-30AM

SUNDAY 31ST DECEMBER:

UNITED SERVICE AT LANGFORD BUDVILLE
10-00AM

A Christmas message from Revd. Margi Campbell

'The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light' Isaiah - prophet C8 BC

After the appearance of cards and decorations - the first clear signs of the approach of Christmas are the Christmas lights on streets and in shops in the darkening days of winter - the sparkle lifts spirits and brightens the dullness of long evenings. And through the centuries, the symbolism of light to represent hope has grown - our ancestors had festivals of light in the middle of winter to drive the darkness away just as the more recent promise of a

'light at the end of the tunnel' offers the anticipation of better times.

With all that goes on around us - it is only too easy to end up caught in the ever-increasing spiral of darkness that pervades so many areas of our world.... Isaiah, speaking nearly 3000 years ago, was under threat from warring neighbouring countries - just as we live in uncertain times.

But amidst all that happens around us - the twinkling lights of Christmas speak of a real hope that God offers a different way to be, the chance to change our lives and our world to a place of justice for all people, peace and mutual care and to live in an eternity of these perfected.

The light at the end of our tunnel is offered by Jesus - born to lead us out of our dark days - born to bring songs to our silence and hopes out of our fears. Just as the shining lights lift our winter days - so the light of God can bring an end to the darkness of our world and lift our spirits to bright joy.

So may you have a truly blessed Christmas, may the light born into our world in Jesus brighten your hearts and every Christmas light remind us of the hope there is with God.

*O little town of Bethlehem how still we see
thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent
stars go by.
Yet in thy dark street shineth the everlasting
light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in
thee tonight.
Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)*

Margi Campbell.

Christmas Charity Giving: Following the donation of our Harvest Gifts to the Taunton Women's Refuge we have decided to make a collection of new or nearly new toys and books for the children who will be spending Christmas in the refuge. Any donations will be gratefully received by Cynthia Lock (tel. 461214).

Heritage Weekend: There were conducted tours of the church again this year during the Heritage Weekend in early September and a very large number of visitors visited the church. This year the numbers were even greater because there was a National gardening event taking place in the grounds of Nynehead Court on the Saturday.

Wellington in Bloom: We received the shield for the Best Kept Churchyard this year and this was purely due to the tremendous efforts of Michael Harding who looks after the grounds.

Harvest Festival: This was held at the end of September and was well attended. As has been the practice for several years the harvest gifts were given to the Taunton Women's Refuge which provides accommodation for women and children who have suffered various family traumas. Besides the gifts from the congregation and the school, this year Nynehead Court also provided a wonderful display of flowers and vegetables.

Harvest Supper: Once again this year this was organised by members of the church and some 60 people sat down to a very enjoyable meal which was followed by entertainment provided by the vicar and her husband.

Building progress: We are awaiting the return of the five bells which have been re-tuned and hopefully further progress will be able to continue once they rejoin the tenor bell which is at present sitting at the back of the church.. Unfortunately we are still several thousand pounds short in the fund raising but it is hoped that we will be able to secure some further grants so that the work can be completed.

Unfortunately we have discovered that urgent work needs to be carried out on the Bell Openings in the tower as some of the Ham Stone is splitting and there is a danger that the falling stone could penetrate the roof.

Tony Lock
Tel 461214

Post Christmas Thought

If the three wise men had been women, they would have:

- Consulted a map,
- Arrived on time,
- Helped with the birth,
- Brought more sensible presents
- Made a casserole.

(And ruined the Nativity Play!)

Nancy Douglas

Nynehead Pre-School



As the wet weather sets in Nynehead Under 5's have been donning their wellies and getting out and about around Nynehead! Leading the walks is our new Pre-School leader Dawn Netley. Dawn has considerable experience in childcare and has been Chair of Nynehead Under 5s so we are delighted that she has decided to take on this role.

There have also been some other staff changes. Sally Cullen is on maternity leave so Liz Burge has joined us as Pre-School Assistant. Carolyn Palmer has recently been appointed as Lunchtime Supervisor and Diane Acton is undertaking some supply work with us.

Since our AGM we have also been joined by some new committee members and we are extremely grateful for their support. Louisa Raybould has now become Chair.

The Pre-School continues to flourish as it is now open Tuesday 9am - 1pm, Thursday 9am-1pm and 1pm - 4pm (all day session available). A special session aimed at children aged from 2 years old (although it is open to all children) is held on Friday 9.30am - 12 noon. Sessions are flexible

Thanks to the hard work of our staff we are now considering opening another session on a Monday morning, subject to the agreement of the Village Hall.

For further information about the Pre-School please contact:

Dawn Netley Tel. 666895 or

Louisa Raybould Tel. 669727.

Nynehead Toddlers

Nynehead Toddlers is held on Wednesday 9.30am - 12noon (term time only) and is for mums-to-be, carers, babies and toddlers. We offer a wide range of activities including; painting, puzzles, dressing up, craft activities, baby toys, bikes, construction, storytime, snacktime and music all for £1.50 per session.

As ever we are trying to raise money to buy extra equipment for Pre-School and Toddlers. This term we are selling Christmas cards with snowflakes designed by the children. A pack of 5 cards is £2.50 and can be purchased from Louisa Raybould Tel. 669727.

We are also hoping to arrange a Quiz Night for the beginning of December at Nynehead Club so please watch the notice boards for details.

Louisa Raybould

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Nynehead Garden Club

Programme for 2007

All Meetings are held in the Village Hall on Mondays at 7.30pm unless otherwise listed below. June and July meetings are outdoor visits.

15 January	'Landscaping & Building from a Landscapers Viewpoint'
12 February	AGM
12 March	'Plants and Witchcraft'
16 April	'Introduction to Hydroponics' - Display/talk/demo
21 May	'In Search of Alpines'
11 June	VISIT - Holbrook Garden, Sampford Peverell - Meet 7pm at Village Hall
9 July	VISIT - 'Desert to Jungle Nurseries', Henlade - Meet 7pm at Village Hall
18 August (SATURDAY)	4 th Annual Flower Show - Opens at 2pm
8 September (SATURDAY)	NSCCPG Plant Hunters Fair at Nynehead Court
10 September	'South-West Carnivorous Plants' - Display/talk/demo
8 October	'Cacti and Succulents' - Talk/Display
12 November	'Colour & Interest in the Winter Garden'
10 December	Christmas Party

David Manners

History Society

We are well into our 35th winter season of talks on the history of Nynehead and its surroundings. The speaker at our first meeting in October was John Nash, well-known for his contributions to the Wellington Weekly News. His memories of the town in the nineteen fifties stimulated much discussion and sharing of reminiscences. He was followed in November by Yvette Staelens talking about the singers of Somerset who provided the songs collected by Cecil Sharp a century ago. Audience participation was again the order of the day, those present joining Yvette in a Somerset version of 'Dashing away with the smoothing iron'.

For the rest of the winter we have the usual variety of topics to suit all interests. In December Sue Berry of the Somerset Record office will talk about health and housing in nineteenth century Taunton and will dispel rumours that they were the 'good old days'. At our party in January radio specialist Philip Knighton will entertain us with 'A light-hearted history of recorded sound' with examples from his own collection of recordings, while in February Rivers Barry will give us an insight into how our language has developed over the centuries.

In March we will hear about one of Chard's heroes, James Gillingham, a pioneer of medical photography and artificial limbs (I am told there will be examples!) and in April Estelle Gilbert, the County's specialist in the history of textiles and fashion, will talk about textiles in Somerset.

The season ends in May with the return of Bob Croft, the County Archaeologist. He will bring us up-to-date on archaeology over the last year or so, including the excavations at the Maundown Water Treatment works which featured in the local papers.

Everyone is welcome. Details of the programme are on the diary page.

David Rabson.

Nynehead Amateur Dramatic
Society

Thank you to everyone who came to our murder mystery play, 'Deadlier Still', in October. I hope you enjoyed the play and the fish & chips during the interval.

Next autumn, we thought we might do something different, perhaps a ghost story or a comedy. What do you think ?

Our 2007 pantomime, 'Dick Whittington', is in the early planning stages and we will begin rehearsals in January.

All performances commence at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall and the dates are:

Wednesday 21st March (dress rehearsal),
Thursday 22nd March,
Friday 23rd March
Saturday 24th March

So don't forget to put these dates and times in your new 2007 diary !

If anyone wants to know more about NADS please just give me a ring - 666166.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Rosemary Lea
Honorary Secretary

Nynehead Club



Are you new to the village?
Why not come to
Nynehead Club
– beside the Village Hall -
for a night out?

No Smoking Rule in the bar area
Annual subscription still only £2.00
Opening Hours continue to be:
Thursday, Friday, Saturday
8.30 pm to 11.00 pm

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Nynehead Club

Since the last edition of the newsletter the club has held several events and has bought a table tennis table so if you fancy a game or two come along and have a go.

28th October brought the fancy dress Halloween Disco which was enjoyed by all. Thank you to Ann and Allan Howe for the pumpkin. The judges had a difficult time to choose between all the entrants in the fancy dress competition, but the winners of the fancy dress competition were - best child Jessica Cullen and the best adult Guy Burt.

We also held 2 skittle evenings, the first one being the on 23rd September and the second on 11th November. Again these were well attended and enjoyed- enjoyed so much that we have visitors come up from Cornwall especially for these nights. Thanks must go to Hilary for organising the supper for both of these nights.

Looking towards the Christmas period we will be holding our Christmas Party on Saturday 16th December starting at 8pm. Fancy Dress is optional. Please bring a plate of food. We will be drawing our Christmas and Turkey Raffles on this night so make sure that you have bought your tickets which are available at the club now.

The Club Carol Singers will be doing the rounds again this Christmas - all donations will be going to children's charities as in previous years.

Our annual party to see the New Year in will be on Sunday 31st December 2006 starting at 8pm.

Future events for the New Year include a skittle night on Saturday 20th January 2007 and a Valentines Disco on 10th February 2007.

Please watch the notice board for dates of other forthcoming skittle evenings and 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, darts or ping pong.

New members are always welcome and subscriptions remain at £2 per Calendar year. A quick reminder that 2007 membership is due in January.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the club to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Sarah Hooper
Social Secretary



Best Adult
Guy Burt



Best Child
Jessica Cullen

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Unit 7, Poole Industrial Estate
Tel: 666659 Fax: 664800

Email:
adrian@exclusivetile.fsnet.co.uk

Local birdwatching.

As I type this the first frosts of late Autumn have arrived so maybe the seasons are sorting themselves out after a rather baffling 2006.

The fieldfares and redwings about which I have written several times before have only just arrived. This suggests that the autumn in Scandinavia has been mild until just recently. I heard them arrive. The fieldfare has a distinctive rasping, 'chakking' sound usually heard overhead which alerts one to their presence. In the hope of persuading these smashing thrushes to hang around I have piled up all our windfall apples in a heap. The 'winter thrushes' and other garden visitors will be other beneficiaries of this year's excellent crop of apples.

The village seems to be taking on its winter species list around and about. Oddities do still surprise me though. The other day, while checking otter evidence for the Somerset Wildlife Trust down by the '3 Arch Bridge' I was astonished to see a little grebe on the river for the first time since 1996. These small water birds tend to prefer big areas of water where they can dive to a good depth looking for tiny fish. In winter they do occur along canals and wider rivers so, given the shallow nature of where I saw the bird, this was still quite a surprise.

The sewage works was home to about 9 chiffchaffs which 'over-wintered' during 2004-5. There were none that I could see last winter but only yesterday I discovered 3, along with a male blackcap, all hunting soft food in the thick hedge beside the works. If you wish to see these little warblers it's best to choose a sunny day before 10am and to search the inner hedge once the sun has gone around to the south. I am often asked if their presence is evidence of 'Climate change' or warmer winters. It may be, although small numbers of both species have occasionally wintered in southern Britain for years. Nice to think that they want to stay!

One of my 'Premier league' birds is the delightful stonechat. This winter we have at least one pair of them proudly showing off to anyone who will stand and stare. The pair I have found enjoy sitting atop the hedgeline associated with the stream which dis-sects the big level field between Wharf Cottage and Hornshay Farm. The male bird has strong colouration with a dark mantle whilst the female is more subtle, but just as lovely. Both are house sparrow size.

The 3 colonies of house sparrows seem to remain constant in number. They do well given the predators that we have such as cats and birds of prey. I would like to thank both Jane Bruford [sparrowhawk information] and Martyn Bellamy [Common buzzard] for telling me about raptor activity in the village. It is worth highlighting the fact that sparrowhawks can often confuse us. The female bird is much browner and very much bigger than the male who is smaller and neater to look at. Indeed, many a female sparrowhawk has confused me as I have mistaken her for a different and much bigger raptor !

In the meantime , I hope that lots of parishioners will gain pleasure from the creatures that inhabit our village during winter and that bird feeders are kept well stocked ! {keep those squirrels at bay!!}

Alastair Riley - Birdwatcher.

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**WINTER WEATHER AND DARK
EVENINGS**

Now that the nights are drawing in and the weather has taken a turn for the worse there are several extra things that you can do to help protect your home when you go out and leave the premises empty for the evening, These include:-

- 1, Leave a light on in the house either in an upstairs room or even a lamp on a time switch in the lounge or dining area that will show enough light through the closed curtains to put off a potential burglar.
- 2, Maybe you could leave a radio switched on so that it appears that there is someone at home.
- 3, Make sure you draw the curtains before you go out so that it is more difficult for anyone to look in through the window.
- 4, Make sure that if possible all windows and doors are locked when you leave the premises for the evening.
- 5, Make sure that alarms are set properly before leaving the premises.

There are also things to bear in mind when you are out and about in this dark and dingy weather, it will be more difficult for drivers to see you so it is a good idea to wear some sort of reflective clothing, especially when walking in the lanes around the rural villages.

The wet weather and the mud from farm gates etc make the roads around these areas very slippery and dangerous, so when

driving around the lanes and roads of the rural areas please pay extra care and attention to pedestrians, animals and other vehicles that are in the vicinity. It will take longer for your vehicle to stop in the wet weather and there is the possibility that at too fast a speed the vehicle could slide instead of stop.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message from:-
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Neighbourhood Watch

Some time between the evening of Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th November 2006 a shed was broken into near Poole and a Mountfield mower stolen. The police were informed and as it happens the item has been recovered. It appears the thieves had difficulty making off with it. But they nearly succeeded!

Arising out of this the owner was informed by Wellington police that there is generally a lot of minor criminality in the area at present.

[Nice of them to let us know!]

So WATCH OUT!

Duncan Linklater

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Footpath Liaison Officer

Parish Walk

On the afternoon of Sunday 24th September when the weather was fine but for a couple of thin showers 14 people took part in a walk that took in the Haywood Farm diversion as well as trips to the parish boundary - with Milverton at Tad Brook and with Langford Budville at The Lynch. We also visited some industrial archaeology - the remains of some 18th century water management works for a mill near Court Farm Gardens. The walk took everyone in the party, including those who have lived in the village for many years, to somewhere new to them - a true adventure.

The new alignments around Haywood Farm now appear on the footpath maps in the three notice-boards around the village, thanks to Chris Watson.

Stile / Kissing Gate on Canal Path near Perry Farm

As walkers will be aware this situation has still not been resolved. The Parish Council is keen to get a kissing gate reinstated at this site to maintain the stile-free route from East Nynehead through to Wellington. Our new contact at Somerset County Council, Sam Jones, has yet to reach agreement with the landowner regarding which sort of kissing gate would suit all interested parties at this location.

Permissive Paths

Plans by Mr Darby and Mr Dodd to create two permissive paths - one beside the River Tone from the three arch bridge to the river bridge on the Wellington road, the other from the three arch bridge to the canal lift - have been delayed by what is probably best described as administrative difficulties.

Route to Oake

The idea of promoting the route linking Nynehead and Oake via the Playing Field path and Oake golf course has been discussed with the clerk to Oake Parish Council.

Colin Spackman

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Useful Local Contacts

All Saints Church

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

Birdwatching

Alastair Riley	663699	email	landaandcufc@btinternet.com
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Grand Western Canal Trust

Denis 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

Lu Hawkins	462954		
Allan Howe	666995	email	howe@howe.eclipse.co.uk
Duncan Linklater	461637	email	duncan@designlink.co.uk
Peter McLaren	461949	email	paam@ninehides.fsnet.co.uk
Robert Needs	662620	email	angieneeds@beeb.net
Alec Reynolds	663323		
Alan Ketley	666249	email	alan.ketley@tiscali.co.uk

Nynehead Amateur Dramatic Society (NADS)

Rosemary Lea (Hon. Sec.)	666166		
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Nynehead News

Allan Howe - Chairman	666995	email	howe@howe.eclipse.co.uk
Mike Briginshaw - Treasurer	461627	email	mike@nynehead.plus.com
Peter Russell - Advertising	461668		

Nynehead Cricket Club

Keith Haslam - Chairman	461667		
Alastair Riley - Secretary	663699	email	landaandcufc@btinternet.com

Nynehead Garden Club & Environmental Group

Alan Ketley - (Chairman)	666249	email	alan.ketley@tiscali.co.uk
Ann Manners - (Secretary)	661453	email	goodmanners@btinternet.com

Nynehead History Society

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

Nynehead Club

Mervyn Hooper - Chairman	461518		
Zoe Eglin - Secretary	660757		
Dennis Galpin - Treasurer	665879		
Sarah Hooper - Social Secretary	461518		
The Club	665072		

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
Sue Davies - (Chair of Govenors)	432509	email	davies.westwing@lineone.net

Footpaths Liaison Officer

Colin Spackman	666702
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Friends of Nynehead School

Mary Sparks	663745
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Parish Council:

David Rabson (Clerk)	666609	email	rabsons@btinternet.com
Alan Ketley - Chairman	666249	email	alan.ketley@tiscali.co.uk
Mike Briginshaw - Vice Chairman	461627	email	mike@nynehead.plus.com
Allan Howe	666995	email	howe@howe.eclipse.co.uk
Gary Sparks	663745		
Mervyn Hooper	461518		

County Councillor:

Caroline Smeaton	412830	email	csmeaton@somerset.gov.uk
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District Councillor:

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

P.C. Kevin Challes	Mobile:	077 177 00663
	Email:	kevin.challes@avonandsomerset.police.uk
PCSO Scott Windsor	Mobile:	078 1079 1308
	Email:	scott.windsor@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Local Police Station	0845 456 7000
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POLICE - Crimestoppers

To give anonymous information	0800 555 111
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Pre-school and Toddler group (Under 5s)

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

Rural Youth Project

Dawn Netley	666895
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Diary: - 4th December 2006 to 3rd March 2007

(Plus a few extras to get you ready for March)

Dec - 4	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall - 7.30 pm
Dec - 7	Nynehead Club Committee Meeting - all members welcome
Dec - 8	History Society - The good old days - Taunton's Health & Housing - Village Hall 7.45 pm
Dec - 9	Nynehead Court Christmas Open Day - 11 am to 6 pm (Buffet Lunch 12.30 to 2.00 pm)
Dec - 14	All Saints 'Feast of Carols' in the Village Hall at 7 pm
Dec - 16	Nynehead Club - Christmas Party - 8 pm (Bring a Plate - Fancy dress optional!)
Dec - 17	Nynehead Court - Wellington Town Band Christmas concert
Dec - 17	All Saints Church - Candlelit Carol Service - 4 pm
Dec - 24	All Saints Church - Parish Communion at 10 am
Dec - 25	All Saints Church Christmas Communion at 10 am
Dec - 31	Nynehead Club - New Year's Party starting at 8 pm
Jan - 8	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall - 7.30 pm
Jan - 11	Nynehead Club Committee Meeting - all members welcome
Jan - 12	History Society - New Year's Party & History of recorded sound - Village Hall 7.30 pm,
Jan - 15	Garden Club - Landscaping & Building - Village Hall 7.30 pm
Jan - 20	Nynehead Club - Skittles Night
Feb - 5	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall - 7.30 pm
Feb - 8	Nynehead Club Committee Meeting - all members welcome
Feb - 9	History Society - Brief history of the English Language - Village Hall 7.45 pm
Feb - 10	Nynehead Club - Valentines Disco
Feb - 15	Garden Club Annual General Meeting - Village Hall 7.30 pm
Feb - 17	<i>Copy Deadline for March Edition of Nynehead News</i>
Mar - 3	<i>Distribution date for March edition of Nynehead News</i>
Mar - 5	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall - 7.30 pm
Mar - 9	History Society - Medical photography & artificial limbs - Village Hall 7.45 pm
Mar - 21	'Dick Whittington Pantomime' at Village Hall 7.30 pm (Dress Rehearsal)
Mar - 22	'Dick Whittington Pantomime' at Village Hall 7.30 pm
Mar - 23	'Dick Whittington Pantomime' at Village Hall 7.30 pm
Mar - 24	'Dick Whittington Pantomime' at Village Hall 7.30 pm

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