

Nynehead News

January 2004

E-mail:

Volume 3

Nynehead.news@ntlworld.com

Issue 1

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www.nynehead.com

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Editorial Comment

Welcome to the January 2004 Edition of Nynehead News.

The 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 editor retains the discretionary right to reject material or comments considered to be directly or potentially inappropriate or offensive.

Highways Matters

A couple of months ago Highways Department left four bags of rock salt on the verge about 30 metres on the Nynehead side of Trefusis level crossing.

Within a few weeks all four bags had disappeared!

A couple of years ago one of our residents was riding his motor scooter towards this same crossing on a crisp and frosty morning. As he approached the crossing the alarms started and the barrier began to fall. Our young man slowed down and applied his brakes – only to find that the road was covered in ice! The scooter fell onto its side and slid towards the railway track – coming to a stop directly under the barrier!

Those who know this crossing will be aware that from the time the barrier is fully down to the train thundering past takes about 20 seconds!

If the scooter had slid a further metre or so there would have been little chance of the rider surviving.

If the person responsible for removing the bags of salt reads this, would they please think of the potential consequences of their action. Would they really want to have a fatality on their conscience?

Highways Department assure me the salt will be replaced when weather forecasts indicate it may be required. Hopefully it will still be there when needed!

Oh yes, one other thing, if you know who was responsible but don't want to 'get involved' – contact the Police on 0800 555 111. This is the 'Crimestoppers' number and no questions will be asked – not even the caller's name!

Staying with highways for a while, I'm sure we are all aware that at certain times of the year our country roads get pretty heavily covered in mud and muck. Not that this is unexpected – after all we do live in an agricultural area. As a result we must appreciate that when fields are ploughed, muck is spread and crops harvested, there is bound to be some soil transferred to our lanes.

However, there are occasions when the amount of mud and muck reaches unacceptable levels and becomes environmentally unfriendly – if not downright dangerous!

I asked Somerset County Council for guidelines and advice regarding what is and what is not acceptable - and what can be done to get a problem resolved. The person I contacted was extremely helpful and explained that in the first instance we should contact our Community Beat Manager (details in the 'Contacts' section of this newsletter). The Beat Manager would assess the situation and if he or she considered the problem warranted action, request the culprit to clean things up. If this isn't done within a reasonable time the Beat Manager has the authority to ask W.S.Atkins to take action.

I gather that Atkins then invoices the County for any costs incurred. I also understand that the County have the authority to invoice the miscreant to recover their costs – but that Somerset County Council chooses not to do so. As a result the ratepayer foots the bill!

Now, we aren't just looking at the cost of cleaning the road surface as the offending mud and other debris usually gets washed into the drains by the first heavy rain – probably explaining many of the blocked drains in the Parish. The cost of clearing the drains should also be taken into account and in my humble opinion, recovered from the offending person or persons.

I am advised by others who know, that many 'Rural Counties' in the UK do charge the full cost of cleaning up if the offender doesn't do so within a very short time. In at least one case I believe that only ½ an hour is allowed and that in the County concerned it is standard practice for farmers to have road sweeping equipment standing by whenever there is likely to be a problem.

How do you feel about this situation? Let me know and if you wish I'll publish your comments in the next issue.

Neighbourhood Watch & Policing

Following the interest expressed in the Appraisal Questionnaire the Neighbourhood Watch project really is getting under way. Jenny Dodd held an initial meeting for those who had completed the 'blue forms' and she tells me a formal meeting with the Community Beat Manager is scheduled for early February. Congratulations Jenny, I'm sure the whole community will benefit from your hard work.

Although we don't have a written report from our Beat Manager, Mark Jones, he has been round and about and as mentioned above, is now directly involved in helping us with a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. He has also contacted me to report that over the last three months everything has been quiet in Nynehead.

The Mobile Community Policing Unit will be paying a regular visit to the Village on Thursday 15th January between 2.30 and 4 pm. This unit is staffed by Anne Stoneham and Denise Day, both of whom are very approachable and will do anything possible to help. They usually spend time at the Village Hall and then in East Nynehead - so don't hesitate to look in, even if it's just to say hello!

Your Newsletter – The Future!

The Nynehead News has been produced and edited by me at my own cost, although with valued help in respect of printing.

With the formation of 'nu' - as detailed on page four – it has been agreed that your newsletter should become part of that project.

This means that as 'nu' is a community project and has a suitable constitution and banking facilities, it will be possible for The Nynehead News to accept paid advertising and indeed to receive grants and financial assistance from other sources.

Future production costs should be met from available finances although it is to be hoped that printing assistance will continue until such time as the financial structure is able to cope with this substantial item.

It also means that a greater number of people will be able to join in the production and editing. I am willing to remain as editor for the next issue and to assist in the one after that - on the basis that editorial prerogatives remain. I would also expect this privilege to be granted to my successors in due course.

The Nynehead News is your publication – it will only continue with your participation. This new structure will make it possible for greater participation and therefore, be less of a burden for any one individual.

I had hoped to provide details of 'nu' meetings just now, but will ensure that you are all advised as soon as the dates are fixed – probably during late January to early February.

Communication

This rather neatly leads me to my next point for you to consider. Communication is a problem in most rural communities and Nynehead is no exception. Although we have three notice boards the evidence is that only a few people read them regularly and most hardly ever – if at all!

So, for example, if 'nu' wanted to contact you regarding courses, meetings etc. it can only do so by delivering a 'flyer' to all homes. This is not only expensive, but also very time consuming.

I already have email addresses for most contributors to the newsletter and indeed a number of personal friends and contacts. It would not be difficult to form a directory of those willing to participate so that communication could be sent to you by email keeping you up to date with what is happening in your community.

If you are interested in using this medium please let me know – by email – on:-

Nynehead.news@ntlworld.com

I guarantee the addresses will only be used under the 'nu' umbrella and will not be passed to others without your prior permission. Oh yes, and for those who may be concerned, I am advised that as this newsletter operates on a 'non-profit' basis there are no problems under the Data Protection Act!

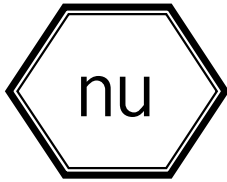
Mike Briginshaw

Contacting the Nynehead News:

Editor: Mike Briginshaw, Oakridge, Nynehead, Wellington, Somerset. TA21 OBZ Tel: 01823 461627
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Next Edition	Editorial Deadline	Distribution Date
April 2004	Saturday 20 th March	Saturday 10th April

Email : Nynehead.news@ntlworld.com



“Nynehead Understanding”

Just over two years ago the Nynehead Community Learning Project (NCLP) was formed with the objective of providing training in computer skills.

Although well attended in the early days the project gradually diminished as those who were interested at the outset gradually acquired the basic skills they wanted.

However, the Appraisal Questionnaire clearly demonstrated that there is an ongoing thirst for knowledge and the project is being re-vitalised and broadened to offer greater appeal to all.

An inaugural public meeting was held on the 18th December and a constitution was adopted with the objective of:

“Promoting Understanding in Nynehead by providing a learning and communication facility to people of all ages”.

It was also decided to rename the project **NU** which apart from being a name in itself is also an acronym for ‘Nynehead Understanding’.

An initial meeting has been held with SCAT and tutors are readily available for a broad range of subjects providing groups of not less than 12 people can be formed for each subject.

In addition tuition in designing and running websites and in digital photography are generously being offered by local residents Duncan Linklater and David Manners.

If you are interested in joining these projects please complete and return the separate form that is being distributed with this edition of the Nynehead News.

Chairman – Jeff Northam – Tel 667588
Secretary – Duncan Linklater – Tel 461637
Treasurer – Mike Briginshaw – Tel 461627

Nynehead School

We have had a very enjoyable term.

It was a busy first half term. The juniors visited Caerleon and had a visit from an archaeologist. The year six pupils prepared and delivered a presentation to the judges for the regional village competition. The infants have had lots of visitors to help them with their project on themselves including babies, infants and toddlers.

The second half of term has been equally busy. Cricket coaching and dance lessons have continued. The infants visited a building site. The school joined with the village to hold a very successful Christmas Fayre. The children also performed ‘Rock around the Clock’ to a large audience in the village hall. As a special treat the Flying Pizza theatre group will be visiting the school to perform Pinocchio to the children. The school Christingle service was held on the 17th December. Christmas parties brought the term to a close and this year parents were invited to join us for mince pies and tea.

Next term we will be visiting @ Bristol and also getting the County Star Lab.

We wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year



An Hour to Spare?

Are you free occasionally – particularly late mornings and early afternoons – with an interest in either sketching, music, chatting or walking around the gardens with residents?

If so, please contact Lynn Riley at Nynehead Court on 662481

Nynehead Parish Council

We have had a busy time this autumn. The highlight has been Nynehead's success in achieving the accolade first of all of Somerset Village of the Year. This was followed by a great event in the Memorial Hall in October when a two-hour presentation was made to the regional judges. Many thanks to all those who contributed to a splendid event, including the chickens! The judges must have been impressed, as when Mervyn and Hilary Hooper represented the village at the national awards in December they learnt that Nynehead had won the regional 'Community Life' category. In addition to the title we have received prize money totalling £850, held by the parish council, and in due course there will have to be a decision on how it should be used to the benefit of the village.

In the past three months the council has had more time to consider things that are really important for village life. Roads continue to feature on every council agenda and we continue to press Somerset Highways to repair potholes quickly and deal with the problem of mud on roads – we are aware that many people feel that this is a road safety hazard.

Speed limits for Nynehead have been on the county council's programme for some time but we have now reached the stage when firm proposals have been made. Excessive speed is a nation-wide issue with arguments for and against speed limits being imposed in small villages such as ours. The views of local people are important for the parish council in deciding how to respond to the proposals.

Work has continued on rights of way matters, with the valuable help of Colin Spackman. We have also met the Nynehead Appraisal Group to discuss how the council can take forward ideas arising from the recent questionnaire and are considering how we should make use of the new village website. By the time this issue hits the streets of Nynehead the parish council will have set its budget and precept (council tax) for the year beginning 1 April 2004.

Finally we welcome villagers at our monthly meetings when as we would remind everyone there is an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions and make statements about council business.

David Rabson
Clerk to the Parish Council

Nynehead and District Local History Society.

We are now half way through our 32nd winter programme. So far we have heard about such varied topics as the Devon and Dorset World Heritage Coast, the SHER – Somerset Historic Environment Record – which gives on-line access to records of historic buildings and archaeological sites, and the life of the Reverend Charles Marson, vicar of Hambridge, socialist priest and friend of the folk song collector Cecil Sharp.

After our traditional New Year party in January we continue with an architectural tour of Europe (February), sources for family history (March), the Grand Junction Canal (April) and Weather in West Somerset (May). We try to provide a variety of topics that should provide something of interest for everyone.

From May onwards visit places of interest in the surrounding area and any suggestions would be welcome. 2004 is also of importance for two very different anniversaries – the centenary of the record-breaking run by the City of Truro on the railway near Wellington and the three hundredth anniversary of the death of the philosopher John Locke who had close links with Chipleigh.

Both of these anniversaries will be celebrated in the area. More information about them can be found in the 'Book of Nynehead' published in November and now available from local bookshops (at the excellent price of £19.95). We would like to thank again all those who contributed to the book in all sorts of ways and those who supported us by putting in advance orders. We are delighted that it has been very well received and was worth the great effort made by many people in the village and elsewhere. Material collected by the Society over the last 30 years has been deposited in the Somerset Record Office in Taunton and is available for anyone wishing to follow up topics in the book. It is by no means the last word on Nynehead's history and there are many questions still unanswered.

David Rabson

Success for Nynehead in Calor Village of the Year

Somerset village, Nynehead, is a Community Life category winner in the 2003 Calor Village of the Year competition. The results of the competition were announced by guest of honour Alan Titchmarsh at an awards ceremony held on Tuesday 9th December in London.

Nynehead, situated on the River Tone about seven miles upstream of Taunton, won the Community Life category in the South West and Western England region of the competition, competing against villages from Avonside, Cornwall, Devon, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

The village was presented with a certificate and cash prize by Alan Titchmarsh and Calor's managing director, Howard Kerr. Alan commented: "Congratulations, not just to the winning villages in the competition, but to all the villages that have taken part. Calor Village of the Year is a great opportunity for communities to evaluate what they have achieved over recent years and, from what I have seen and heard at this ceremony, they should all be really proud of their achievements."

The competition judges look for well-balanced, pro-active caring communities which, irrespective of size, have made the best of local opportunities to maintain and enhance the quality of life for all residents. Nynehead impressed competition judges with its determination to identify and address the needs of its residents. This is a thriving, caring and welcoming community that continually strives to make a better life for its residents.

After visiting the village judges observed that Nynehead is a wonderful example of a small, scattered community achieving a great deal against considerable odds. There is no village shop, post office or public house, but there is an extremely strong sense of community spirit.

Calor managing director Howard Kerr commented- "The 2003 Calor Village of the Year competition has proved a huge success yet again, highlighting some wonderful community projects and providing an opportunity for villages to assess the needs of their residents. Standards are getting higher every year, showing the positive effects the competition is having throughout England and Wales. I would echo Alan's words in

congratulating all the villages that have taken part in this year's competition, from county competitions upwards. "Thanks also to Alan Titchmarsh for attending the awards ceremony, I'm sure that his involvement in the competition will help to raise its profile even further."

(This announcement was posted on the Village of the Year website as a press release)

Calor Village of the Year Competition

I should like to congratulate the Parish Council and the residents of Nynehead on their success in being voted as having the best community life in the South West and Western England. Within the village there are many individuals, clubs and organisations who's combined efforts impressed the judges who made the following observations: -

"Nynehead impressed us with its determination to identify and address the needs of its residents. This is a thriving, caring and welcoming community that continually strives to make a better life for its residents.

"Nynehead is a wonderful example of a small, scattered community achieving a great deal against considerable odds".

At the Council Meeting of Taunton Deane Borough Council on 16th December I gave details of this outstanding achievement and received the support of the Council in requesting the Mayor to write to the Parish Council conveying the Council's congratulations.

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and wish you great success in the future.

Cliff Bishop
Councillor Taunton Deane Borough Council



The Trophies

All Saints Church – Nynehead

Church Services:

ALL SUNDAY SERVICES START AT 10.30 am

On the first Sunday in the month the church service is held in Nynehead Court at which 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 everyone to attend.

On all other Sundays the service is held in church and is a service of Parish Communion. However, one does not need to be confirmed, as the majority of the service is relevant to everyone.

Sunday School:

There is a Sunday School for children over 3 years old and this is held in Nynehead Court at 10.15 am on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. For further details please contact Muriel Kodritsch tel. 661609.

Church maintenance: Since the last issue of the Village Newsletter we have been given the 'go ahead' by the Diocesan Board to investigate the possibility of opening up the original stairway to the ringing chamber. A suitable stonemason has looked at what needs doing and we await a date for him to start work. In order to carry out the investigation, the statue of Elijah which stands at present in the doorway, will have to be moved. This statue was carved by William Giles of Wellington in the late 19th Century.

Fund Raising: In October we were wonderfully entertained in church by a choir called 'Amici' which was conducted and directed by Dr John Cole who used to practice in Wellington. We were entertained with a wide variety of music and the church was full to capacity, which meant a considerable sum of money was raised for the maintenance of the church. We hope to repeat the occasion again in a couple of years time as many of the audience said that if they had known of the quality of the entertainment, more of their friends would have supported the evening. Mind you there would have been standing room only.

Remembrance Day Service: As has been the tradition in Nynehead for many years there was a retiring collection after the Sunday

morning service and a donation was sent to the Earl Haig fund.

From the Parish Register:

December 14th Baptism of Jodie Anne Higgs daughter of Robert and Sheryl Higgs of Richards Close in Wellington. Robert used to be a pupil at the village school many years ago.

Church contacts:

Pastoral matters:

Please contact Rev. Josie Harrison tel: 669525 or Rev Colin Randall tel: 662248.

Other matters of a general nature:

either Tony Lock – Churchwarden tel: 461214 or

Allan Howe – Churchwarden tel: 666995

A.J.Lock - Churchwarden

Tel 461214

Nynehead Appraisal group

The Appraisal Group presented the analysis of the Questionnaire at a public meeting in the Village Hall on Saturday the 25th October.

The meeting was well attended and also provided an opportunity for those who had expressed specific interests to meet others of like mind and to formulate ways of carrying their projects forward.

On the 19th November the Appraisal Group held a formal meeting with the Parish Council where the overall findings were discussed and those items considered to have particular merit were nominated to form part of a Parish Plan.

The Appraisal Group is currently producing a draft Parish Plan that will be presented to the Parish Council in January for final review and agreement.

Mike Briginshaw

County Councillor Caroline Smeaton has the following appeal:

SOMERSET CHILDREN NEED FOSTER CARERS

Foster carers are needed across Somerset for children of all ages. In the county on any day there are about 330 children being cared for by the Social Services Department. About three-quarters of them are placed with foster carers.

Why do children need fostering?

About 4000 children in Somerset receive support. They are defined as "in need" for many reasons. Some may have disabilities, some may have parents with drug or alcohol problems, some may have been neglected or abused.

Some of these children spend time in temporary foster care if their parents are unable to look after them and there is no one else in their family who can.

Most of the children return to their parents. For a few, decisions are made, usually by the courts, that they cannot return home. There are about 40 children in Somerset waiting for new, permanent carers.

Who can foster?

Most people have the potential to foster. Foster carers are ordinary people with an interest in helping children and their families. They come from all sorts of backgrounds and live in all sorts of circumstances with loads of experience of children or no experience of children.

It is personal qualities and the support of families and friends that are important. Foster carers receive training, support and weekly payments.

***If you would like to find out more,
Ring free
0800 587 9900
or visit the web site
www.somerset.gov.uk/fostering***

Nynehead Women's Institute

The AGM was held in November and a new committee was elected. This means that it is safe to come to any meeting without the possibility of being press-ganged to do something.

The programme has been fixed for next year and appears to have something for everyone – e.g. gardening in the Caribbean, sailing, flower arranging at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, miniature painting, home security and creating a garden at Hampton Court Flower Show. The aim of each meeting is to have fun and learn more about the world, its people and their skills etc. The speakers talk for about 45 minutes and then questions can be asked.

Nynehead WI belongs to the Somerset Federation of WIs and in turn they belong to the National Federation. As a national body we have proposed items to the Government and they have implemented changes in law. Each WI can propose such items and if agreed at each level it comes to the national AGM and every WI in the country will vote on the topic. The WI also took part in University Challenge.

At County level trips have been arranged to China and provided us with opportunities to learn new crafts, computer skills etc. The WI are prepared to take up anything if it is proposed to them.

Individual WIs run their own monthly meetings and some also have sub-groups e.g. rambles, sewing, drama etc. WI has much to offer any woman so why not give it a go. Don't rely on hearsay but come and see for yourself. The next meeting is on:

Monday 19 January at 7.30 p.m.

Speaker – Alan Ketley
Topic – Gardening in the Caribbean.
Venue – The Memorial Hall.

Sheila Rabson
President

www.nynehead.com

Our thanks must go to Duncan Linklater for having built and launched the new Nynehead website.

Although still in its early days it already has lots of information about Nynehead with specific pages covering:

The Appraisal – including the full questionnaire analysis.

Business – a page for local businesses to let us all know what they do.

The Canal – this page is still under construction but already warns of the Hippos that nest there.

All Saints Church – lots of history and some great photos' plus details of services.

Cricket Club – the place to find the fixtures and results!

The Environment – lots of natural history.

Events – a diary page letting you know what's on and where!

Footpaths – including a map showing the routes of all of Nynehead's public footpaths.

Newsletter – This newsletter will soon appear as will a library of previous issues.

Nynehead Club – find out what's happening and when.

Nynehead Court – history and general information.

'Out-Parish' provides links to other sites including Somerset CC & Taunton Deane.

Police – who to contact and how!

Nynehead School – what's happening!

Thespians – for details of the Amateur Dramatic Society.

Transport – details of Cook's bus service and the Wivey Link.

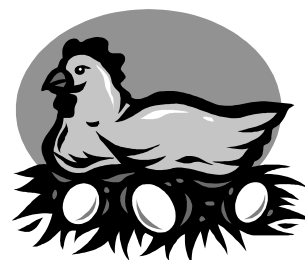
There is also a **'CHITCHAT'** page where you can leave and collect messages or simply make your views known. Other pages let you place

your own **'small ads.'** and provide details of **'Local Contacts and Information'**.

Other groups are welcome to add their own pages and Duncan is happy to help in any way that he can. He has also offered to provide training for those who would like to maintain their own pages.

If you would like to become part of **www.nynehead.com** contact either myself or Duncan Linklater on 461637

Mike Briginshaw



Dollings Cottage Eggs

Please remember that Chickens have holidays as well – so we don't have as many eggs as usual – but there are still some!

To be on the safe side call us to check what is available or to place your orders.

(Normal service will be resumed in the spring!)

Now £1.20 per dozen
(Please bring your own boxes.)

Will & Lu would like to thank you for your support and wish everyone the compliments of the season.

Tel: 01823 461781

Nynehead Club

Coming to the end of another enjoyable year the Club wishes to thank all those people who give up their time to enable it to continue.

In the year we have seen the installation of a new smoke extractor and a new stereo system, both of which have improved the environment within the club.

Between Christmas and New Year the adjoining wall between the skittle alley and the bar area will be removed, greatly increasing the usable floor space. Brick piers will replace the wall and walls and ceilings will be insulated. The skittle alley will still be operational when required.

At the moment there are no special functions organised but I am sure this will be quickly rectified in the New Year soon after the alterations have been completed.

A very enjoyable Christmas Party and Christmas Eve opening were well attended.

The Club's Carol Singers wish to thank everyone for their generous donations, raising just over £100 for the Children's Hospice South West and for Breast Cancer research and treatment.

The club's current opening times are:
Thursday, Friday & Saturday
8.30 pm to 11 pm.

Remember, it's your village; it's your club, so please come along and put the world to rights over a quiet drink!

Wishing you all a happy New Year,

Mervyn Hooper
Chairman.



Getting Started!



Almost Done!

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Telephone:- 01823 665213 or 07810 595160 (Mobile)
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Footpaths

Canal Path

Since the last newsletter, TDBC have created a built-up path on the canal path between the sewage works and the river crossing. Walking along this well-used route will now be a more pleasant experience when the ground is flooded down there.

The path consists of scalplings on a geotextile base. This form of construction greatly reduces the likelihood of the path sinking and getting puddled. It will be necessary for the hedge to be kept cut back at the times of year when the path is most useful. The majority of the cost was met by TDBC, with the Parish Council also making a contribution.

In addition the path going north from Rews Farm in East Nynnehead has now been aligned correctly with usable headland paths and improved signage.

Footpath volunteers

After the results of the Village Appraisal were made available I talked to Alan Ketley and we agreed that it would be sensible for the environment and footpath volunteers to merge together into one group. Many of those who had expressed an interest in helping out had done so in both causes. Also footpaths are an integral part of the environment and separating them out seems a false distinction. The merged group will, initially, be guided by Alan.

Describing paths

On the statutory definitive rights-of-way map footpaths are all identified by a code. These codes are useful when talking to TDBC or Somerset County Council, but they are not generally known by people in the village. Very few of us will describe our walk as being along WG8/19, WG8/19a, WG 14/4 and back up WG8/6 to the village hall.

To help us all and to make path identification more memorable perhaps we could give names to our footpaths. These names could, for example, reflect their location (WG8/19a is in Long Copse), their destination (WG8/13 goes to Bradford) or some feature on the path (WG8/15 goes past Greedy's Moor according to my map). Naming paths in this way might bring back into common usage some old names for local features.

What do you think? Have you got any suggestions for path names?

Colin Spackman
(Footpaths Liaison Officer)

Nynnehead Amateur Dramatic Society

It's nearly time for Nynnehead's panto season to begin

...Oh yes it is!

This year's production 'The Sleeping Beauty' will take place from 25th to the 27th March 2004, with a principle cast of 24 (at the moment) and many extras.

One can imagine the logistics behind such a venture. We have been lucky to find such helpful and dedicated members of the company to ensure every aspect runs smoothly. Thanks are due not only to the actors, but the wardrobe contingency, props, set design and construction crew, prompt, musicians, finance staff, secretary and of course all the tireless actors and actresses who have all been hard at it for months now.

Come and meet Nurse Nora, The Prince and the rest of the cast in March and enjoy the spirit of Panto on your doorstep.

Tickets will be available nearer the time from Kathy (01823 667148), but remember that they sell out fast!

NADS would also like to wish Lu a speedy recovery from her back injury,
Get Well Soon!

Any other Panto related confabulation?

Contact Mark (01643 841047)



Nynehead Cricket Club.

It is now the close season of course. This does not mean that the cricket club are idle. The excitement of the new pavilion project is still high and many club members are at work at the cricket field on many Saturday mornings.

The photograph below is one of many which shows how the new pavilion is beginning to rise from the ground. All the efforts of club members mean that costs are kept to a minimum.

Simon Gamlin acts as 'foreman' with his working knowledge being invaluable and club members do as they are told – most of the time! The workforce have kept up to schedule and hope to have the slab fully finished during the winter prior to building upwards in the early Spring.

Chairman Keith Haslam keeps the workers fed and watered and the loan of some powerful machines from Abacus has been greatly appreciated. The club were hugely pleased to receive news that the Parish Council had been able to donate £200 towards the project and felt very warmly supported by this magnanimous and community-aware action.

Winter birdwatching.

Many villagers keep bird tables stocked at this time of the year. The birds certainly appreciate it – even if the financial cost to those of us who do this can be quite high!

I am often amazed at the range of species which inhabit the garden here in Nynehead. Just ten minutes spent watching will often turn up nearly 20 species from my windows with at least half of those feeding on seed and nuts which I provide.

It has not been a cold winter as yet so the fieldfares and redwings are content with food found in the fields but you may see them once the temperature drops. Nynehead is also home to one or two significant winter flocks of birds in the fields of the village. Only last week I saw 275 chaffinch by Mr. Ling's farm and the linnet flock in the fields around Blackdown View has risen to more than 40 at times. Last winter the size of the chaffinch flock was even greater with over 450 birds on the lane towards Milverton, which being higher ground, is always the best lane for birds. I was delighted to count 9 lapwing in a field on Great Downs at the end of November although they did not stay for long. There are a few red-legged partridges around too, but how I miss the 'real' British partridge – the grey partridge, now very rare throughout our country. Only last week I saw dozens sitting beside the roads of northern France unconcerned about cars going by. It's 12 years since I saw one in Somerset! Do let me know if you see one!

Alastair Riley – amateur ornithologist



Advice Show Hits the Road!

Parents looking for something to amuse the kids over half term, need look no further than the "**Community Council for Somerset's Altogether Now? Roadshow**". Taking place in five venues around rural Somerset over five days (Monday 16th – Friday 20th February), the Roadshow will provide entertainment and refreshments for all ages, from 3 – 103. As well as a crèche and things to do for younger children, the Somerset Rural Youth Project will be on hand at each event with a range of activities for teenagers.

The more serious side of the event is to allow parents time to access information about services available to them at a local and national level. Recent research by the Community Council for Somerset highlighted a lack of access to information and advice as one of the key problems affecting people living in rural areas. The idea is that by running an event to advertise how people can make the best use of their local services alongside the children's activities, the Community Council will attract a large number of people over the five days.

"The idea is to allow people access to those who can help them make a difference to their lives. It might be that the roadshow is able to provide information about benefits, about how people can become more involved in their local communities, or quite simply how they could save money on their gas or electricity bills through talking to representatives from organisations such as Energywatch, who will be in attendance at each event. Jeff Townsend, the Community Council's Social Inclusion Worker said: "We had wanted to run an event of this kind for quite some time and half term, when many people are not at work, seemed like the obvious time to do it. We also realised that providing activities in villages, where there is often little or nothing for young people, would be a huge draw."

In order to make the appeal of the events as broad as possible, the Community Council are encouraging people from across Somerset and beyond to attend. Entry is free and will include a buffet and refreshments. An added incentive is a free transport scheme which will run from surrounding villages in to each event.

You can book your space on the bus by calling 01823 331222 or emailing info@somersetccc.org.uk

Want to know what Broadband actually is?

Could it save you or your business money?
Can you get it?
How can you get it?
What could it do for you?
What's a Trigger level?
Do you have one?

Reserve your place at one of the following road shows to see a practical demonstration, addressing the issue of dial up speeds and the other advantages of broadband to businesses and residents.

A variety of alternative Broadband providers will be present to talk about the other technologies available to you and the cost. There will also be a chance to put any questions about Broadband to a panel including a representative from BT. After the presentation you will have the opportunity to grab a cup of coffee and wander around the stands to talk to the different companies.

Details of the road shows are below so come along and find out more!

Wednesday 14th January - SCAT
Thursday 22nd January – Milverton

Session 1: 10.30 am to 1 pm
Session 2: 2 pm to 4.30 pm
Session 3: 7 pm to 9.30 pm

Places are limited so please call to reserve your seat and receive more information.

Emma Morrice – 01823 356399
Nick Coleman - 01823 356489

Business Meeting

7.30 pm Tuesday 27th January
The Globe Inn, Milverton

Anyone working from home or otherwise by themselves is welcome to attend a 'business meeting' at which a speaker from the Inland Revenue will be present.

For more information contact:
Hattie Winter on 01823 356485
Or by email at:
h.winter@tauntondeane.gov.uk

Royal Observer Corps.

Within living memory, in the days when gentlemen wore long trousers to play lawn tennis and ladies did not, it was pretty clear who the enemy was and how to 'frustrate their knavish tricks.' After the 1914-18 War it became apparent that one of the likeliest knavish tricks would be that he ('she 'being then unheard of) would fly a machine over and drop something from a great height on one's head such as an old anvil, chamber pot, or Zurich gnome. In 1925 therefore it was deemed prudent to create a body whose task was identifying enemy aircraft. That body was the Royal Observer Corps (ROC).

As ever better methods of killing each other were devised, culminating in the ability to 'deliver' nuclear weapons without even the need for a postage stamp let alone a piloted aeroplane, the ROC was assigned the added responsibility (and latterly sole task) of reporting nuclear explosions and monitoring fall-out. To assist them, work began in the mid-1950s on constructing 1563 underground monitoring posts throughout the UK.

Posts were clustered in 3's and 4's. A local command post relayed information received from each sub-post to Sector Operations Centres where scientists would 'interpret the data i.e. reassure the public that we had nothing to worry about while advising the people who mattered, the politicians etc, where to go for safety. To give fall-out protection, it was decided new 'monitoring rooms' would be constructed underground, usually at the same location as the aircraft spotting posts that, for obvious reasons, were usually in relatively elevated positions.

A typical post consisted of a 15ft entrance shaft giving access to two rooms; one contained a chemical toilet, the other, larger (15ft X 7ft 6ins) monitoring room had basic furniture plus the monitoring and communications equipment. A ventilation shaft with two louvered vents was located alongside the entrance shaft with a second airshaft at the other end of the room - particularly useful bearing in mind the proximity of the chemical toilet. Lighting was from a 12-volt battery. With few exceptions this layout was the same at all locations.

The monitoring equipment was 'refined' during the late '50s. Radiation was measured in roentgens per hour from a surface mounted ionisation chamber that could be withdrawn in some way below the surface yet continue to

operate. Its data were transmitted down a pipe to the chamber below. A Bomb Power Indicator capable of measuring pressures of up to 5lb/sq in. also fed information from the surface to the chamber below. Last was the Ground Zero indicator (GZI - where have I heard that expression before?) This consisted basically of a pinhole camera with four holes facing the cardinal compass points. In the event of a nuclear burst, the image of the fireball would be projected through one or more of the pinholes and recorded on photographic paper. From this information the bearings and elevation of the burst could be calculated. The GZI was mounted on a convex metal plate, usually located on top of the vent shaft next to the entrance. It required someone to emerge into the open to retrieve the sheets of photographic paper! This was not regarded as a plum job.

In January 1968, the then Labour Government decided the threat of a nuclear attack had lessened and as part of massive reductions in defence spending the strength of the ROC was halved, from 25,000 to 12,500 resulting in the closure of more than half the underground posts. A third and final restructuring took place during the 1980's.

Regular training continued through the 70's and 80's but in 1991 it was decided by the Home Office & MOD that the ROC would cease active training presumably on the assumption by the great and the good that the threat of nuclear fall out was either negligible or, more sinister, of no concern to our masters. Thus the remaining underground posts were closed at the end of September 1991. Some reverted back to the original landowners, others were put out to public tender, many of the latter being snapped up by cellular telephone operators because of their strategic positions on high ground.

We still have an underground post here in Nynehead!

Owd Moudiewarp

Jeff Northam handed this interesting and amusingly written article to me, with the original stating that it may be edited and published. Unfortunately we don't know the author's name but if he or she could let me know I would be delighted to publish the appropriate acknowledgement in a future edition.

Mike Briginshaw

LOCAL CONTACTS

Parish Council:

Mervyn Hooper - Chairman	461518
David Rabson (Clerk)	666609
Mike Briginshaw - Vice Chairman	461627
Phil Bassett	665766
Alan Ketley	666249
Gary Sparks	663745

Nynehead School

Angela Lewis (Head Teacher)	662021
Carole Darby - (Chair of Govenors)	663166

Friends of Nynehead School

Alison Bashford	660071
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Jubilee Playing Fields

Mervyn Hooper	461518
Alan Ketley	666249

Nynehead History Society

David Rabson	666609
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Nynehead Memorial Hall

Nick Hollingsworth (Chairman)	666058
Kathy Boyd (Bookings & Fund Raising)	667148
Louise Hobbs (Treasurer)	669828
David Rabson (Secretary)	666609

Nynehead Club

Mervyn Hooper (Chairman)	461518
David Raybould (Secretary)	669727
Sarah Hooper(Social Secretary)	461518

All Saints Church

Tony Lock	461214
Alan Howe	666995

Nynehead Women's Institute

Sheila Rabson	666609
Thelma Helps	664142

Grand Western Canal Trust

Denis & Jenny Dodd	661653
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Nynehead Cricket Club

Keith Haslam	461667
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NU (Nynehead Understanding)

Jeff Northam	667588
Duncan Linklater	461637
Mike Briginshaw	461627

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
PC Mark Jones - Email	markj.jones@avonandsomerset.police.uk

CRIMESTOPPERS

To give anonymous information	0800 555 111
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Diary - 10th January 2004 to 10th April 2004

5-Jan	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall - 7.30 pm
9-Jan	History Society New Year Party - 7.30 pm
14-Jan	Broadband Roadshow at SCTA - see page 13 for details
15-Jan	Community Police Unit in Village from 2.30 to 4 pm
19-Jan	WI - First 'Monthly Meeting' of the year in Village Hall at 7.30 pm- Gardening in the Caribbean
22-Jan	Broadband Roadshow at SCTA - see page 13 for details
27-Jan	Small Business Meeting - Milverton 7.30 pm at The Globe - see page 13 for details
2-Feb	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall - 7.30 pm
13-Feb	History Society - 'Buildings of Experience' - 7.45 pm
16-Feb	Community Council Roadshow - see page 13 for details
17-Feb	Community Council Roadshow - see page 13 for details
18-Feb	Community Council Roadshow - see page 13 for details
19-Feb	Community Council Roadshow - see page 13 for details
20-Feb	Community Council Roadshow - see page 13 for details
1-Mar	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall - 7.30 pm
12-Mar	History Society - Sources for Family History - 7.45 pm
20-Mar	Deadline for January Edition of Nynehead News
25-Mar	Pantomime - Sleeping Beauty - at Village Hall
26-Mar	Pantomime - Sleeping Beauty - at Village Hall
27-Mar	Pantomime - Sleeping Beauty - at Village Hall
2-Apr	History Society - Effect of Grand Junction (Union) Canal on Marsworth, Bucks - 7.45 pm
5-Apr	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall - 7.30 pm
3-May	Annual Council Meeting
14-May	Annual Parish Meeting