

Nynehead News

January 2003

Volume 2

E-mail:
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Issue 1

Don't forget – the Nynehead News is your paper!

It is to help you communicate with others in the Parish of Nynehead, either to draw attention to issues, comment on articles and reports or simply to let us all know what you have been up to!

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Editorial Comment

Welcome to the first issue of Nynehead News in 2003.

The objective remains:

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.

I was pleasantly surprised to receive an email from Paul Cleghorn who lives in Essex. He found the Nynehead News on the community website and noticed an article in the July edition placed by our Community Police Officer regarding 'distraction crime'. He realised that his mother had been approached on this 'distraction' basis and was able to alert her to the dangers of dealing with the companies mentioned. It seems they have now moved to other parts of the country – but might still be here as well!

Jo Jeffery's' article in this issue highlights an event that took place in Bradford or Tone and the benefits they gained from having a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in operation.

To establish a similar scheme for our mutual protection in Nynehead we simply need one person to volunteer their services as a co-ordinator. From past experience I can state that it is not an onerous job and takes up very little time.

If you would like to volunteer for this important project please contact either Jo Jeffery or myself.

You will also find an article from Peter Lacey, who is the County Secretary of the Somerset Association of Local Councils. As he says, our Parish Council, along with others in Somerset face the four-yearly election of Parish Councillors in May. Individuals with new ideas are important to any community so if you feel you have something to offer please contact either David Rabson, our very own Clerk to the Parish Council or Peter Lacey directly.

I have been delighted to receive an article from Steve Ling and would like to thank Steve for his generous offer to introduce anyone interested to the skills of clay pigeon shooting. We must also congratulate Ed Ling on his remarkable achievement in this sport.

As Jeff Northam, who has been my co-editor, no longer lives in the Parish he feels unable to usefully contribute towards the production of our journal. Whilst I personally thank Jeff for the support he has given I am sure that all readers will also thank him for the very substantial contribution that he has made.

As we enter 2003 there are a number of issues which have to be resolved – not least of which is the legally difficult position regarding the Parish Hall and the Club. Both are essential to the community and I wish all involved in this matter every success in resolving matter to the benefit of all.

The Appraisal Group continues to pursue its aim of trying to establish what you want for the future of Nynehead. It is important that you make your views known as in the long term this will be of benefit to us all.

Whilst there are many issues to be resolved during the coming year I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all of our contributors and to wish everyone a happy and successful year.

Mike

Contacting the Nynehead News:

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Next Edition	Editorial Deadline	Distribution Date
April 2003	Sunday 23rd March	Saturday 12th April

As many of you will be aware, Jeff Northam has been joint editor in producing previous issues of The Nynehead News. As Jeff no longer lives in the village he wishes to relinquish his position and will no longer be connected with our publication.

I would like to thank Jeff for the help he has given and whilst no longer living amongst us I do hope we will still see him from time to time.

This does mean that I am looking for a volunteer to take over from Jeff who concentrated mainly on proof-reading, page layout and distribution.

If you would like to be involved please let me know.

Mike

Nynehead Appraisal Group

The objective of the Nynehead Appraisal Group is simply to find out what you – the members of our community – want for the future of Nynehead. The project is funded by the Community Council for Rural Somerset and apart from up to £200 from the Parish Council, total funding has been confirmed from that source.

The group's intention is to issue a 'flyer' during January that will invite you to indicate the aspects of our community that most concern you. The flyer will have a tear-off reply paid section for you to complete and post back to the group – completely anonymously.

This return, combined with face to face interviews with specific social groups in our community will enable the appraisal group to compile a detailed 'draft questionnaire' covering all the points that you have raised - and possibly many others!

You will then be invited to a public meeting at the Village Hall where the Appraisal Group will display the draft questionnaire so that you will all be able to advise on the changes you would like made. In addition, Mark Reynolds will be showing his excellent film of Nynehead's Golden Jubilee Celebrations – you might be in it!

Soon after this meeting the Appraisal Group will deliver a completed questionnaire to all households in the Parish and then having allowed you a reasonable time to complete the information asked – again anonymously - call to collect the completed forms.

The returned questionnaires will be analysed and a further public meeting will be held so that you can see the results.

From these results and the comments that you feed back the team will then work to producing a Parish Plan so that everyone knows what the community has stated that they would like to see happen to Nynehead in the future.

The completed Parish Plan becomes a valuable and constructive tool that will enable the community to successfully apply for grants for our mutual benefit.

Janet Watson,
Secretary

All Saints Church Nynehead

Church Services:

All Sunday Services start at 10-30am

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 10-15am on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. For further details please contact Muriel Kodritsch Tel. 661609.

Christmas Services:

As all people in the village know this year we had a Candlelit Carol service on Sunday 22nd December and this was very well attended. The church was mainly lit by a large number of night-lights, which proved to be very effective, and there were a few lanterns placed in the churchyard. The Christmas Day morning service was also well attended and we welcomed several visitors to our service.

Quinquennial Church Inspection:

We have now received the architect's report and the most urgent repairs to the roof have been completed. However, as expected there is a great deal more work which is required in order to preserve the actual church building. The architect estimates that the cost will be some £20,000, which is without attempting to restore the bells which is a long-term aim. There is also work which should be carried out in the churchyard e.g. repairs to crumbling brickwork, repair to a rotted gatepost and the re roofing of two sheds.

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 Gary Sparks – Churchwarden Tel. 663745

A.J. Lock - Churchwarden
Tel 461214

Women's Institute

In November Nynehead was the venue for the Fun Raising Event for the Tone Valley Group and over 80 members came from around the area to recite, do playlets and generally have a good laugh. The refreshments were provided by Appley WI and the raffle by Huish - Champflower. A good evening was had by all.

Later in November we had our A.G.M. and a new President was elected. Sheila Rabson having completed 3 years did not want to be re-elected and Pam Macey became the new President. Sheila was thanked for all her hard work and commitment over the preceding years.

December saw our Christmas party and again we had some games and excellent food and lots of chat! The Carol service at West Buckland Church was well attended and followed by mince pies and coffee.

We are still looking for new members to join our group in Nynehead and honestly we are not all Jam and Jerusalem as we are sometimes portrayed. Most W.I members are looking for contact outside work/children/ home and we have a very varied programme of speakers for 2003. At open evenings we hope that husbands /partners will join us as some topics are of interest to all. I would like you to come to our meetings on the third Monday of each month you can find notices at the village hall and at E Nynehead giving the topic for that meeting.

January 20th Rev. Josie Harrison is our speaker on Woman's Priestly Ministry.

Our Secretary Thelma Helps on 01823 664142 can give you more information

Pam Macey - President

Nynehead Amateur Dramatic Society

Rehearsals are now under way for:

"Up the Beanstalk"

with the group meeting twice a week from Christmas.

Will we ever know our lines?!

This production is quite a mammoth task to take on, as we are all fairly new to something of this kind and there is so much to do, both front of house and backstage. However, we are sure that it will be an enjoyable and interesting project.

The pantomime is a 'potted' version of 'Jack and the Beanstalk', with all the traditional ingredients that you would associate with a family orientated show.

"Oh no it isn't" !!!

If there is anyone willing to join the group, please let me know, as you would be very welcome.

We will also be looking for local traders to buy advertising space in our programmes.

The production dates for the pantomime are 21st and 22nd March. Tickets will be on sale from mid January.

We are holding a Valentine's Frog Racing night at Nynehead Club on Feb. 15th at 8.00. If you have never tried Frog Racing before, it is hilarious fun, so come and have a go! Funds raised from this event will help to produce the Panto.

Lastly, many thanks to the kind people in the village who have given us donations to "get this show on the road".

Happy New Year to you all.

Kate Howard (NADS)
Tel: 665156

The Cyber Club

Those who have been to the computer application and training meetings held at Nynehead School will be aware that 'The Cyber Club' is the colloquial name given to The Nynehead Community Learning Project.

Over the winter period attendance has been low and as a result the Club has not held regular meetings. In addition, Jeff Northam who has been a leading light in the project has indicated that as he no longer lives in Nynehead he wishes to permanently relinquish his link with the Cyber Club and has asked me to see if a volunteer can be found to take over the leadership.

The Club meets at the School and has full – and free - access to their computer facilities for Internet connection (on broadband) as well as a wide range of Microsoft applications. The current charge is £2 per session (£3 for those outside the Parish) with meetings usually starting at 7 p.m. and ending at 9 p.m. Whilst recent meetings have taken place on Thursday evenings there is no reason why this should not be changed.

Unfortunately Bob Foster who has been the 'trainer' until the last couple of months is unavailable for the foreseeable future.

The Club therefore seeks people with good knowledge of using the Internet, Web-site design and the use of Word and Excel to offer their services to help others in our community improve their skills.

In the meantime the Clubs records and access arrangements are being care-taken by myself and I am happy to arrange sessions on request.

If you feel you might be able to contribute to this community project please let me know.

Mike Briginshaw
(Tel. 461627)

Nynehead Parish Council

The last few months seem to have been dominated by procedures and legislation imposed on parish councils by central government, including a new audit system. I am glad to say we passed this hurdle successfully with the help of Jenny Dodd, our internal auditor. We hope that by the time the parish council elections on 1 May all of this will be over and the new council can devote its time to doing positive things for the village.

The present council has been able to bring pressure to bear on the powers-that-be to do things for the village. Flooding has been a problem and the highway authority has been persuaded to deal with the problems at the Poole railway bridge, by the school and on the Langford Budville road, although I suspect there will not be a once-for-all solution. (The school records show that on many occasions over the past century and a half the school was actually closed because of floods, or if not the whole school at least the school 'offices' as they politely put it!).

There have been changes to road markings and verge trimming at Poole in response to complaints by the council and local residents; the highway authority is looking into the idea of introducing speed limits there. We are also trying to get a speed limit for the school and Higher Nynehead in particular to be given a higher priority.

Colin Spackman, our volunteer footpath officer, has been working with Robin Darby on proposed improvements to two footpaths - to redesign the field entrance and kissing gate by the Nynehead pumping station, at the entrance to the path over to the three arch bridge, and to create a nature area with fencing and stiles by the canal aqueduct over the Tone. The council will be supporting the projects from our small footpath budget.

We have also supported local activities through grants of £100 each to the Under 5s Group and the new Nynehead Amateur Dramatic Society, as well as agreeing a council contribution of £194 to the cost of preparing the Parish Plan under the national Vital Villages scheme.

By the time this newsletter comes out the council will have made its decision on its budget for 2003-4 and on the parish precept – the sum

it asks the Deane Council to put on the council tax for properties in the parish. Supporting local activities and projects is an important role for the parish council but members have to bear in mind that every £100 on the parish precept becomes an increase of 70p on the council tax for a band D property.

Finally a reminder that parish council meetings are open to the public and we do have a 10-minute question time before each meeting. These are held at the Memorial Hall on the first Monday of each month starting at 7.30 p.m.

David Rabson
Clerk to the Council

Taunton Deane Borough Council

The DEANE DISPATCH was sent directly to every rural household by post during November and the front-page story gave details of the challenges facing the Council in setting the Budget for the next financial year.

All readers are encouraged to respond to the invitation to state what they consider to be their top three priorities and return the reply slip to:

Nan Heal,
Taunton Deane Borough Council,
The Deane House,
Belvedere Road,
Taunton
TA1 1HE

It is essential that your views are known.

*Cliff Bishop, Councillor,
Bradford on Tone Ward*

Editors note:

I am aware that some people did not receive the Dean Dispatch. If you didn't receive your copy please let me know or contact the Dean directly on 01823 356356

*Mike Briginshaw
Tel: 01823 461627*

Parish Council Elections

"Ask not what your Community can do for you, but ask what you can do for your Community".

You are invited to be a Local Councillor. Your community needs you.

The Parish Councils in Somerset face the four-yearly elections in May 2003. This is going to be your opportunity to get up and do something instead of sitting there and becoming like Victor Meldrew and just getting hot under the collar! Why don't you think about being a candidate?

The Nomination Papers will be available in March, and must be completed to a strict deadline.

You only need to be 21, to find a proposer and seconder, and there is no deposit required.

To help explain the work of the Council and how to get elected there will be a number of events in various locations throughout the County in March. All will be welcome and details will be sent to all the local newspapers. These events are likely to be organised by the various District or Borough Councils with the Somerset Association of Local Councils. For a more detailed discussion, please do not hesitate to phone the Association.

Peter Lacey,
County Secretary,
Somerset Association of Local Councils

Tel: 01823 252515
Email: peter.lacey@somerset.gov.uk

Welcome

I am sure we would all like to welcome Phil and Jane Bassett who recently moved into 13 Farthings Close.

Phil & Jane moved from Shoreham by Sea in West Sussex and have already met a good number of their new neighbours at the Club.

We hope they will enjoy their time in Nynehead.

Who'd be a Councillor!

*A quiet life is what I like,
Join the Council - on your bike,
Lots of meetings, with no fee.
Well that's the way it seemed to me!*

*I agreed to go to a meeting,
Two vacant spaces, in the seating,
Both proposed to serve on committee,
It's only a village, not a city.
Surprise, surprise, with no fuss
We're voted on, both of us!*

*Things to discuss, and make decisions,
Things from the past, to make revisions,
I don't want increases in Council Tax,
If it's proposed, give it the axe!*

*We have to think with immunity
And do the best, for the community.
Not everything has an easy solution,
But I like to offer my contribution!*

The musings of 'Councillor Out.'

Children's Hospice

I would like to thank all of the Villagers who gave so generously to Nynehead Club's carol singers as well as for the donation made by the Club following their Fancy Dress Christmas Party.

A total of £200 has been raised and has been sent to the Children's Hospice South-West.

Unfortunately, we will be back next year!

Mervyn Hooper
Chairman
Nynehead Club

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT FOR NYNEHEAD NEWS – DECEMBER 2002

Much of the main business of Somerset County Council is widely reported in the local newspapers. In this report I have tried to highlight other aspects of some of the key decisions that have been taken recently. I am always delighted to hear from any resident in the Division either with comments about the County Council's work or concerns that I may be able to help with.

Silk Mills Bridge and Park and Ride

The county Council's regulation committee recently gave the necessary permission for this essential work to take place. In addition to the benefit to motorists around Taunton, new woodland and wetlands proposed on the Silk Mills site will provide new habitats for otters, bats and owls when the park and ride and bridge scheme is completed in the summer of 2005. The development, located adjacent to the River Tone west of Taunton, will protect and enhance the natural environment. Visitors to the area will be able to walk around the wetlands and view the wildlife.

Reedbeds will ensure the water quality of the River Tone is maintained. Wet woodland is an important habitat for many species including otter. Ponds and reedbeds will be established providing valuable habitats for birds and insects.

The plan includes roosting sites for bats. Badger setts will be protected in the new plans. There will be an "exclusion zone" where construction cannot be carried ensuring the setts are left undisturbed. Underpasses, with wildlife fencing, will be installed to allow animals to safely pass beneath the bridge approach embankments.

The scheme is planned to allow for any future restoration of the canal as a waterway. The land alongside the line of the former canal will be left as un-improved grassland.

LIBRARIES ARTS & INFORMATION SERVICE

1. People's Network

At last, the People's Network roll-out is underway. Extra public computer terminals are now installed in Taunton

Library, giving free access to the Internet and a range of Desktop applications.

Café and computer games at Taunton library

A new coffee bar has opened in Taunton library, managed by Somerset Catering Services with staff from Six Acres in Taunton as part of the Workpower strategy. Hot and cold drinks and pre-wrapped cold food are all available.

The library is also piloting the loan of computer games - loan period 7 days and one game per customer at a time - with a loan fee.

WASTE SERVICES

New mobile phone initiative

During the next few years Somerset is facing some challenging targets for recycling waste and for finding new outlets for waste that would otherwise be going into the rapidly filling land-fill sites. A new mobile phone recycling scheme has been warmly supported by Somerset County Council's Waste Services Group. The scheme, called 'Foneback', is a collaboration between phone network operators and retailers, and has been given the full backing of the Government.

The scheme is being run by 'Shields Environmental', who will resell, repair or recycle the old mobiles, depending on their condition. This will help divert some of the 15 million phones, 1,500 tonnes, that are replaced each year and normally sent to landfill.

Customers can return unwanted mobiles, including any accessories and manuals directly to O2, Orange, T-Mobile and Vodafone outlets or collect Freepost envelopes for the return of materials either in person or by phone at Orange, Virgin Mobile, Currys, Dixons, The Link and PC World stores. Many of the participating stores are also making charitable donation for each mobile returned. Oxfam are also running a similar scheme.

Waste Services are urging people take use of this scheme to help reduce the amount of waste needlessly going to landfill.

With all good wishes for 2003

Caroline Smeaton
County Councillor
Tel: 01823 412830
Email: csmeaton@somerset.gov.uk



GRAND WESTERN CANAL TRUST

illi sunt nos

The Work Goes On

Work continues on preserving and conserving what remains of the Canal where landowners give their consent. In the parish we are especially grateful to Robin Darby and his family for agreeing that the Trust can work on their land as the remains of the Canal that they own are a very important part of our industrial heritage.

On the second Saturday of each month a motley group tackle what they can, be it digging in the lift chamber, clearing undergrowth or tending bonfires. To enable this work to be carried out the Trust owns various tools, mainly of the sort found in gardens, and items of plant such as the water pump and the Winget tractor. If anyone in the village has a few hours to spare and doesn't mind getting their hands dirty, the Trust would be delighted to receive help in maintaining these assets which are usually stored in the village. If you can help, then please ring Denis or Jenny Dodd on 01823 661653.

The proposal to reinstate a waterway between Taunton and the watered section of the Canal in Devon is meeting with opposition from a few landowners who appear to fear that their enjoyment of their property could be spoiled or that they will not receive adequate financial compensation. The owners of the Wharf Cottages at Tone fear that they could lose their gardens although the Canal itself was not in their gardens. There was a wharf there, similar to that in the garden at Wharf Cottage Nynehead, but it was not part of the main line.

The engineers have yet to design the waterway so it is difficult at this stage to know where and who will be affected. The latest proposal is to consult the landowners along the original line about their views and the whole scheme could be scuppered without knowing what it could be like and whether they would be affected.

A similar situation did occur when the Canal was built originally, but opposition was overcome and Nynehead acquired its footpaths along the old towpath that crossed the delightful aqueducts over the river and the carriageway.

If you want to know more about the Canal call in at Wharf Cottage, but be careful while the building works are taking place, or ring Jenny & Denis Dodd on 01823 661653.

Communities First in Rural Somerset

I am delighted to say that I have managed to negotiate with Business Link to hold further **E-business advice sessions**. These sessions are aimed at helping businesses of all sizes by providing a number of 1-hour sessions – **free of charge** – to answer questions relating to the Internet and business.

The sort of questions asked in the past have included:

- How do I register a 'Domain Name'?
- How do I take credit card payments on my website?
- How do I attract more visitors to my website?
- How do search engines work?

Meetings lasting 1 hour will be held between 9am and 5pm at the Community Education Centre, Corams Lane, Wellington on Thursday 27th February and Thursday 24th April.

Places must be booked through Business Link on 08457 211112.

Helen Tuck
Rural Regeneration Officer

h.tuck@tauntondeane.gov.uk

Local History Society

We are now well into our 32nd season of talks, with well-attended meetings on subjects ranging from Somerset privies (which stimulated some very amusing anecdotes!) through the superb architecture of our local churches to the recent history of Montacute House. Before the end of the season we will have been introduced to coin hoards and mills, and travelled to Bishops Lydeard and the Pyrenees.

Our work on the 'Book of Nynehead', to be published by Halsgrove Press in time for Christmas 2003, is stepping up a pace as we have set ourselves a target date of the end of March for the text with a view to getting the material to the publisher before their absolute deadline of 1 July. We have had some amazing contributions of illustrations and written work from people in the village and former residents. Every piece received opens up other avenues to explore and we always welcome new contributions.

In particular we are on the look out for photographs of village celebrations – coronations, outings, the end of the war, family events etc – and material about the First World War. The publishers are keen that we put in material about this as most community histories tend to concentrate on the 39-45 war, for obvious reasons, but there may well be family records, diaries or memories that are of interest.

If you have anything that you think might be of interest, however slightly, please contact Tony Lock (461214), or myself (666609).

David Rabson

THE BOOK OF NYNEHEAD

WILDLIFE CHAPTER

DO YOU HAVE ANY INTERESTING OR UNUSUAL RECORDS OF WILD ANIMALS, PLANTS, INSECTS, REPTILES ETC. FROM YOUR GARDEN OR FROM THE PARISH, THAT YOU ARE WILLING TO SHARE IN THE FORTHCOMING 'BOOK OF NYNEHEAD'?

THIS INFORMATION, WILL HELP TO BUILD ON THE OVERALL RECORDS ALREADY COLLECTED.

PLEASE CALL DAVID MANNERS ON 661453 OR EMAIL at david@davidimages.co.uk

***All information will be handled in confidence and no details of exact locations will be published.**

Special Offer!



There is still a small number of the excellent Millennium Books available at a bargain price of only £2.50 each.

To get your copy call David Rabson on 666609

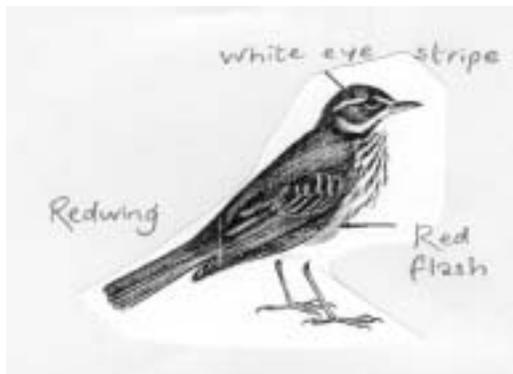
Ornithology - winter thrushes

Nearly everyone knows the blackbird. There are plenty of them in Nynehead and all over the UK. Many of you may know the song thrush too. Nynehead has a reasonable number although it is sadly a bird that is in decline.

If you live near to the church or regularly use the lane to Langford Budville you may just be aware of the mistle thrush which is a giant thrush that makes a strange sound like the football rattle I had when I first went to Colchester games in the 1960s! These three birds are with us all year round. Ornithologists call them *residents*.

However, I have often been asked about a couple of other relatives of these thrushes when villagers have seen them in their garden or in the hedgerows from November through to March/April. So, I thought that I may be able to save some of you the trouble by putting this piece in our excellent 'Village News'.

The black and white drawings show two birds, the larger one is the fieldfare and the smaller is the redwing. Both are thrushes which arrive in the UK from the far north of the Northern Hemisphere where much of the land becomes iced, thus reducing their food supply. Indeed, if we have harsh winter weather here you will see them because they visit gardens for food. If things are not too harsh they stay in the fields and lanes. A good place to see them is in the fields either side of the lane from Nynehead to Houndsmoor.



Both species are noisy, especially when passing overhead when they make a distinctive 'chakking' call. The black & white drawings do neither bird justice as the red feathers on the flanks of the redwing are very striking whilst all the various parts of the fieldfare are very clearly defined with several greys and rich browns. In late March & April they head back north again to breed.

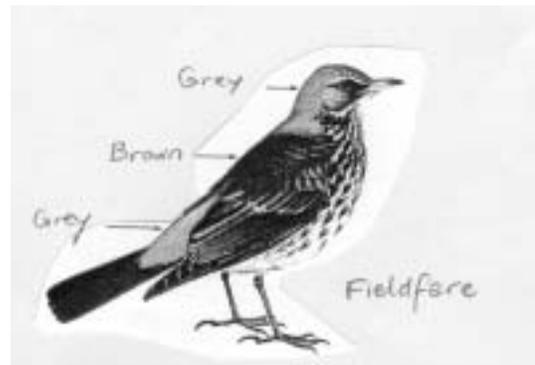
As some of you know, my son, Nynehead Club & Cricket club member, Edmond, has lived in Iceland since early summer. There, in the gardens of all the houses of Reykjavik you are lucky to see any bird at all, save for the ubiquitous starling, but in the streets and parks redwings play happily as the climate is perfect and they do not need to migrate south. It is strange to see them in mid-summer!

I hope that you find some 'winter thrushes' this season and that the above is helpful. I am by no means an expert ornithologist but am happy to try to assist with anything villagers may see and would like to thank the many of you who have already brought things to my attention over the past few years.

Alastair Riley

Amateur ornithologist *

**Not a 'twitcher' by the way! A 'twitcher' is quite a different kind of bird watcher, one driven by a desire to 'tick' as many species as possible wherever they may be. It is an expensive business as 'twitchers' - who can be very competitive - use all sorts of mobile communications systems to further their entirely different hobby.*



Clay Pigeon Shooting



Edward Ling

I have been delighted to hear from Steve Ling at Heywood Farm who, quite justifiably, is proud to tell us a little about his son Edward - pictured above.

Ed, now aged 19, started shooting at the age of 13 when he won the Somerset County Championship in 'skeet'

Skeet is a variety of clay pigeon shooting in which clay targets are thrown from traps to simulate birds in flight and are fired from 8 different traps by the shooter.

Ed then went on to make the junior England team for Automatic Ball Trap (ABT) shooting in Scotland. He later made the Great Britain Junior team for the European Universal Trench (UT) championships in France where the team won the Bronze Medal.

He then won the European Olympic Trap junior championship in 2000 and followed this up in 2001 by taking the European UT junior championship.

His shooting career has taken Ed to many countries including Spain, Portugal, Andorra, Italy, Malta, Cyprus, Egypt and Croatia – to mention a few!

Ed now plans to go to Australia and India in February to try to qualify as a senior for the next Olympics.

I am sure everyone in our community would like to wish Ed every possible success in the future.

Steve also shot for England 5 times and is now a qualified Great Britain Target Shooting Federation (GBTSF) coach.

Steve is happy to meet anyone living in Nynhead who has an interest in clay pigeon shooting and has offered to show them exactly what its all about. Steve tells me that although the normal charge for a shoot is in the order of £25 he is prepared to give those interested – young and old alike – a free go. He explains that whilst youngsters often have the better 'eye', the more mature person – having more patience – can also be very successful.

This is a very generous offer and I hope it will be taken up by Villagers of all ages.

If you are interested please telephone Steve Ling on 01823 662428

Nynhead Memorial Club

The club has had a successful year, with all the usual events. In November the club held its first Autumn Supper. This was extremely well supported and a super evening was had by all. We hope that this will become an annual event.

Several village organisations have been using the club for social events and meetings, and the increased support has enabled the club to reform a skittles team.

Several events are being planned for 2003- Details in the next issue of the Nynhead News. All events will be advertised on the board outside.

We welcome any new members, and membership is still a snip at £2 per year. Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Kate Howard
Social Secretary

Footpath Liaison Officer

What Do We Want From Our Footpaths?

As I have become more involved with the role of Footpath Liaison for the Parish Council and spoken to the various bodies and individuals concerned, I have had to think more about what we want from our footpath network.

Is it there merely for leisure purposes? Do we want the footpaths just for our daily dog walking, and our Sunday afternoon stroll? Or can it be used for other, more practical purposes?

Could an enhanced footpath network play a role in reducing car usage in Nynnehead. And could it encourage everybody, not only young people, to leave their car behind and walk to the village hall, to school, to church or to Taunton Road to catch a bus?

Broken Networks

For reasons too convoluted to explain I recently obtained a booklet entitled 'Rural Routes and Networks'. First published this year, it is produced jointly by the Institution of Civil Engineers and the Countryside Agency.

Within its 40 pages there are some interesting and thought provoking ideas. The first of these that made an impact was the idea of 'broken networks'. By drawing a diagram containing only those routes suitable for, say, walkers then the problem is readily seen. There are gaps in the network that make certain journeys impossible or circuitous, Routes that are otherwise pleasant and safe are broken by dangerous road or rail crossings, or involve walking along unsuitable stretches of busy roads.

An example in Nynnehead is in trying to find a safe, sensible route to walk between the village and Wellington- no matter how safe and dry the route along the line of the canal there is still a very awkward length of road to negotiate from Wharf Cottage up to the Taunton Road. Or if you go via the three arch bridge there is a main railway line to be crossed on the level, unless a much longer route via Crosslands and Longforth farm is used.

Questions

In considering how much effort should be put into enhancing the village footpaths there are many questions to ask.

Would anybody use the footpaths for getting around the village if they were easier to use and provided continuous, safe routes?

Would Nynnehead be a more attractive place for younger people and children if moving safely around the village was possible without using a car? Or does living in Nynnehead mean it is essential to have access to a car?

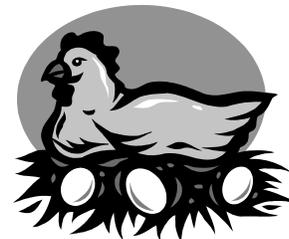
What can be done to join up the various safe routes to make a proper, useful, life-enhancing network? What can be done to bypass or improve those sections that prevent full enjoyment of our rural routes without urbanising the roads via signs, lights, kerbs and so on?

What Do You Think?

Maintaining the current network to acceptable standards for current usage levels is worthwhile, but can you think of any improvements that would give added value?

Think about it and let your local councillor, or me, know.

Colin Spackman - Dec 2002



Dollings Cottage Eggs

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Will & Lu would like to thank you for your support
and wish everyone the compliments of the season.
Tel: 01823 461781

POLICE BEAT NEWS

Since taking over the Milverton beat from PC Hawkesworth, I am slowly but surely getting to meet you all. Bear with me as this is rather a mammoth task with 24 villages in 80 square miles to cover .

Crime in the area still remains low, however is still occurring. Below is a breakdown of the types of crime reported since the end of September:

Thefts from sheds / outbuildings	7
Thefts from/damage to motor vehicles	7
Dwelling burglary	6
Theft Elsewhere	3
Arson	1
Drugs Possession	1
Assault	2
Arson	1

Incident of note: *Bogus Caller*

An elderly resident in Bradford-on-Tone was visited by a bogus roofer who spent a short time on the garage roof of the property carrying out repairs that were not required. He then demanded £5000 in payment. A vigilant neighbour intervened and the male left stating he would return the following day for the money.

The word was circulated very efficiently in the vicinity by the local neighbourhood watch scheme.

The next day the male returned to collect payment. Friends and neighbours who had been watching for the male once again intervened and he left empty handed. This information was passed to police who circulated the intelligence to other force areas via 'Operation Litotes', an initiative to help combat distraction burglaries and artifice crime.

Thank you to all concerned, this was an excellent demonstration of community spirit. Remember – ***IF IN DOUBT CHECK THEM OUT*** – a genuine caller will not mind.

The community policing unit (mobile police station) will be returning to our villages soon. It will be manned by civilian support staff and visited by myself. It will be visiting Nynehead on Friday 10th January PM and Tuesday 28th January PM, it will be situated in the car park of the village hall.

ROAD SAFETY

As it is now dark from 4.30pm most evenings I feel the need to re-emphasise the importance of taking care on our roads. Children are walking home in the dark from school, we are driving home from work in the dark then going out to walk the dog etc. The roads are often wet and slippery and visibility can be poor in rainy or foggy conditions, not to mention the condensation on the windscreen. All of this added to the speed at which we travel through our villages is a spell for disaster.

Parents, please ensure that your children wear reflective clothing when walking in the dark. Dog walkers and anyone else, set an example to the children by wearing reflective clothing. Motorists, take into consideration the road surface conditions, could you stop in time if a child ran out ? And please everyone, **SLOW DOWN**.

**PC Joanne Jeffery 2378
Wellington Police Station
Victoria Street
Wellington TA21 8HR**

Tel: 01823 363262

Fax: 01823 660396

E Mail:
joanne.jeffery@avonandsomerset.police.uk

**Confidential Voicemail: 01823 363287
mail box no. 72378**

**Crimestoppers to give anonymous
information: 0800 555 111**

Editors Note:
To enable the Police to accurately compile statistics of crime incidence it is vital that **all crimes – or suspected crimes** - however minor, are reported.

LOCAL CONTACTS

Parish Council:

Mervyn Hooper - Chairman	461518
David Rabson (Clerk)	666609
Mike Briginshaw - Vice Chairman	461627
Ben Tingay	669828
Peter Russell	461668
Gary Sparks	663745

Nynehead School

Peter Pearson (Headmaster)	662021
Mrs M A Northam (Chair of Govenors)	667588

Friends of Nynehead School

Alison Bashford	660071
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Jubilee Playing Fields

Mervyn Hooper	461518
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Nynehead History Society

David Rabson	666609
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Nynehead Memorial Hall

Nigel Howard (Chairman)	665156
Kathy Boyd (Social Sercretary)	667148
Betty Sparks (Treasurer)	660407
David Rabson (Secretary)	666609

Nynehead Club

Mervyn Hooper (Chairman)	461518
Mike Briginshaw (Treasurer)	461627
David Raybould (Secretary)	669727
Kate Howard (Social Secretary)	665156

All Saints Church

Tony Lock	461214
Gary Sparks	663745

Nynehead Women's Institute

Pam Macey - President	660757
Thelma Helps - Secretary	664142

Grand Western Canal Trust

Denis & Jenny Dodd	661653
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Nynehead Cricket Club

Keith Haslam	461667
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Nynehead Community Learning Project

Peter Pearson	662021
Mike Briginshaw	461627

POLICE

Wellington Telephone	363262
Wellington Fax	660396
Taunton	337911
Voice Mail	363287 (Then 72378)
E-mail	joanne.jeffery@avonandsomerset.police.uk

CRIMESTOPPERS

To give anonymous information	0800 555 111
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