

Nynehead News

Volume 4

June 2005

Issue 2

E-mail: nyneheadnews@onetel.com

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Welcome to the June 2005 Edition of Nynehead News.

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

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Editorial Comment

As summer approaches we are able to look back on some of the events of the last few months, most of which are covered in detail under their own headings in this issue of 'The Nynehead News'.

One of the largest events was undoubtedly the VE Day Celebration held in the Village Hall on the 12th May. Congratulations to all who organised or took part in the games at the Jubilee Playing Fields, the unveiling of our "Village Of The Year" sign, the provision of food and refreshments – and by no means least, the excellent performances from our Amateur Dramatic Society. The most important aspect of these celebrations, apart from commemorating the end of hostilities in Europe in 1945, is that they bring us all closer together, thereby cementing the fact that we are a thriving and caring community.

The Parish Council also commenced another year with Alan Ketley being elected as your new Chairman. As many will know, Alan is active in a wide range of community projects including the Garden & Environmental Groups. I am confident his energy and dedication will ensure the Council actively pursues policies in the greater interest of our community. Thanks must also be given to Mervyn Hooper for his leadership of the past couple of years which have covered complex changes to the workings of Parish Councils as required by legislation. David Rabson continues as Clerk to the Parish Council and his duties mean he is responsible for advising your Councillors and ensuring all rules and regulations are adhered to. Keeping up with the detail of legislative and other regulatory changes is a mammoth task and we are extremely fortunate to benefit from David's unrivalled experience in such matters.

On the 12th May the Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Village Hall. One of the objectives of this meeting is to enable all active groups in the Parish to give a report of their activities during the previous year, and invite questions and suggestions from the audience. Regrettably this is one of the areas where our community spirit seems to vanish. This year, as with many others, public attendance was minimal. *Nynehead is your Parish and needs your support throughout the year, not only when you feel it might be bit of fun!*

One matter currently under review is the placement of traffic signs. Alan Ketley's Parish Council report on page 4 invites public discussion at the next Parish Council meeting on Monday 6th June. Hopefully you will have received this newsletter by that time but clearly you will not have had much notice through this medium, although the public notice boards will have carried the agenda since Thursday 2nd June. Although not all views can be implemented, this is your opportunity to let the Parish Council know what you would like – so take advantage of it as there is little point in complaining after the event!

One last bit of news. I understand that we have made a successful bid for funds to produce an event along the lines of "Building Up Steam" but based upon another major character of the era who is known to have spent time in Nynehead. This major event will be an opportunity for everyone to become involved in yet another project that will undoubtedly strengthen our community. It would be really nice to see lots of new people joining in along with the regulars who form the backbone of our community activities – so when the time comes, don't be shy!

As the 'flyer' on page 5 says – **"Watch this Space"**.

Mike Briginshaw

Nynehead Parish Council.

At the May meeting of the Parish Council I was asked to take over the Chair of the Council from Mervyn Hooper. As we all know Mervyn has played a central role in Village affairs for many years and it is a considerable privilege to be asked to follow him.

The Annual Parish Meeting followed on May 12th and there I learnt from some of the Parishes elder statesmen and women, that we are still discussing much the same topics that they were concerned with many years ago. The temptation is of course to suggest that it isn't worth trying to achieve things through the Parish Council. I strongly disagree. There are many topics which those in higher authority discuss on our behalf and I remain convinced that it is vital that our voice is heard where ever possible. This is not to suggest that we will get our own way in every case but I am a firmly convinced that if we don't at least try and influence things we certainly won't!

On Wednesday May 18th a group of your councillors met with Ian Titcombe from the Deane's Highway Dept. and we toured the Village looking at the various signing problems. He is responsible for 'lines and signs' and is basically willing to implement whatever we request.

This long standing question will come to a head at the next Parish Council meeting.

As we all know there are several areas in the Village where the roads are less safe than they might be for pedestrians. The road through the Hollow comes to mind immediately although it is the bends at the top of the Hollow which seem to be the most difficult and potentially dangerous. **The question is, would new road signs make a real contribution to safety or merely serve to clutter the Village with unnecessary signs?** Your thoughts on this would be warmly welcomed and of course you could always attend the next meeting and have your say.

Traffic seems to be a continuous topic of conversation and on Wednesday evening I attended a meeting of the Dean's Planning Committee on your behalf to raise concerns over the proposed Livestock Market at Chelston. Clearly the Market itself would benefit the area by providing new jobs but your Council have expressed concern over the possible increase in traffic through Nynehead trying to reach the market. Our concerns were

rejected as the market will only meet on two days a week, Tuesday and Saturday, and according to their survey there are actually only three local farms that would use the market.

Our concern is that if the market is successful it is likely to meet on many more days. This was confirmed by Councillor John Williams as recently as February of this year. In addition we are concerned that as the Chelston roundabout becomes overloaded with additional traffic from the Market, the expanded Business Park and the proposed Cades Farm development, more and more people will use Nynehead as a route to avoid the congestion at Chelston. This is not a problem they seem to have addressed.

As Chairman I hope to be as proactive as possible and to try and reach a conclusion to some of our longstanding discussions. If you have any comments please do not hesitate to get in touch with me or any other of your councillors. We are here to serve the community.

Alan Ketley
Chairman

Lament on the closure of Nynehead WI.

And did the feet of English women
Walk on that village hall floor.
And did their hands make delicious cakes
Whilst the urn brewed lots of very strong tea.
And was there plenty of work and fun
Combined with ed-u-ca-ti-on
And was there once a chance to meet
Other ladies from WI.

Bring me a programme of speakers;
Bring me a list of those who'd help;
Bring me an envelope of bumpf;
Bring me details of County events.
We will not meet again as a group
But live in hope and aim to inspire
New members to start a WI
In Nynehead's large Memorial Hall.

Sheila Rabson

Nynehead Railway Embankment

Towards the end of April Network Rail started work on the embankment by the bridge in Nynehead. We were told their intention was to continue stripping the banks, as it was a matter of safety for train drivers who had limited visibility of signals. Naturally those who are living in this area are very concerned about the amount of destruction on the banks as the work being carried out seemed drastic in the extreme. We were told that the Project Manager of Network Rail had given instructions for the trees to be trimmed back, you can see from the photograph below that trees have been felled to within inches of the ground.

Network Rail's intention is to come back in September and continue along both sides of the banking which will leave a terrible scar on the landscape. As well as the destruction of habitat for the birds and wildlife, to fell the trees and bushes which are nowhere near the railway line i.e. at the bottom of the embankment is totally unnecessary and could be seen to be carried out to save future costs of annual maintenance.

A reporter from Somerset Sound came out to have a look and was horrified to see the damage being done. He contacted Network Rail and was told a completely different story of the work being done and the reason why to what others have been told, so it seems there is a cover up on the part of Network Rail and that they are being economic with the truth. Please help us to preserve at least some of the embankments by airing your views to Debra Fyne at Network Rail who is in contact with the Project Manager and Andrew Enever of Somerset Sound. The more who protest the better and perhaps Network Rail will review their 'trimming' policy. If this is happening in our small village - what is happening all over the UK?

Jill Prior



A Quiz!

Do You Know?

Who was the penultimate winner of BBC's 2002 contest for the Greatest Briton of All Time?

What his connection with Nynehead was?

What can be done to celebrate his 200th birthday in 2006?



We hope to bring you exciting news of what could happen in 2006 in our next edition - So: -

Watch This Space!



brunel
200

Nynehead Court

As always here at the Court life is never dull, the last few months have been no exception. In March we enjoyed trips to the Brewhouse to see Copellia and An Evening of Flanders and Swann, and we booed and hissed with the rest at Nynehead Amateur Dramatic Society's performance of Aladdin at the village hall. Cards and bonnets were made to celebrate Easter and a little later in the month the weather was fine but chilly for our trip on the West Somerset Railway.

April saw a group of our residents spending a very enjoyable week on holiday in St. Ives. At the Court we were entertained with music from Malcolm Gregory at the organ and Bob Welch with music from the 50's and 60's and we celebrated with Hope Jackson who has been caring at Nynehead Court for 35 years.

Our first outing in May was to Wellington Park for the May Day celebrations followed by a visit to the Wellesley to see Half a Sixpence. Later in the month a trip to Cold Harbour Mill proved interesting and enjoyable.

Our talks and drinks parties organised by the Nynehead Court Support Group have been very informative and entertaining. In March James Williams talked on Otters, Alastair Riley's talk on silkscreen printing was much enjoyed, and Mr. Duckers talk on the prison service proved very interesting.

Our themed drinks parties have covered St. David's Day, St. Patrick's Day and St. George's Day, all followed by traditional suppers.

June looks set to be a busy month with outings and entertainment. The members of Wellington Stroke Club are joining us for lunch followed by musical entertainment with Malcolm Gregory. In July the children of Nynehead School are coming to sing us some old time music hall songs. They are invited to return later in the month to join us for an old time music hall concert by Partytime Productions.

The gardens at the Court are looking wonderful and are well worth a visit. Do come and have a stroll around, maybe pop

in for a cup of tea and a chat with the residents, we will always be pleased to see you.

Spring Fair

The sun shone, the crowds came, and a really lovely time was had by all. Our first Spring Fair was very successful thanks to the support from all who came, and raised £600 for the Golf Buggy Appeal. It was great that so many of you were able to join us to celebrate 40 years of service by Alec Reed our head gardener. The presentation of his long service medal and certificate from the Royal Horticultural Society and his watch from Nynehead Care marked a wonderful achievement. Special thanks to Mervyn and Hilary Hooper, Alan Ketley and Alec Reed, David Rabson, Tony Lock, and to Janet Watson whose help on the day was invaluable. Many thanks also to all the stallholders for their support.

We will be holding another fund raising event in the summer followed by a concert in Nynehead Church on September 11th organised by Nynehead Court Support Group. The program will include music written especially for Nynehead Court, and will be followed by supper at the Court. Details available on request.

Julia Mirylees

Nynehead Court

Sunday 31st July

2pm – 7pm

Jazz in the Garden

With

The Tone Valley Jazz Band

And

Traditional entertainment

Guided Tour of the Garden

Bring a picnic

Adults £5 Children £1

Under 5's Free

Proceeds in aid of our Golf
Buggy Appeal

ALL SAINTS CHURCH.



Church Services.

All services at the present time start at 10.30 am

The first Sunday of the month, a service of Morning Prayer and hymns is held in the court, followed by coffee. On the other three Sundays of the month, the services are Parish Communion. If not confirmed you are welcome to come and be blessed, as the service is relevant to everyone.

When there is a fifth Sunday in the month the Reverend Josie and the Church Council are holding non-communion alternative services, which seem to be enjoyed and well attended.

Sunday School.

The Sunday school for over 3 year old children is held in a room at the Court at 10.15 am on the second and fourth Sundays. The Sunday school teacher is Muriel Kodritsch. Tel 661609.

Pastoral Matters.

Please contact: -
Reverend Josie Harrison. Tel. 669525 or
Reverend Colin Randall. Tel. 662248.

General Matters.

Please Contact: -
Michael Harding. (Church Warden) Tel. 662940
Allan Howe. (Church Warden) Tel. 666995
Tony Lock. Tel. 461214

Building Progress.

The work on damp reduction is still progressing.

The Sound Enhancement and Loop System.

The system is installed, and has been used in one service.

The Church Bells.

The original oak bell frame in the tower is worm eaten and too rotten to enable the bells to be rung. The cost of an additional metal frame to support the wooden frame is in excess of £30,000. Fund raising is possible, and grants are available. Widecombe-in-the-Moor raised an estimated £200,000. We are looking into it. The 200th. Anniversary of Admiral Nelson's victory, is to be celebrated by every church in the country ringing their bells. I am afraid it will have to take place without us.

Tony Lock.

Tony has stood down as Church Warden after 20 years at the helm. Anyone who has had any thing to do with the church thanks him with deep feelings. He will still partake in the services and show visitors around the church, as well as being a member of the P.C.C. We held a presentation for him at the church service of April 24th.

Special Pets Service.

Rev. Josie Harrison is intending with the permission of the Headmistress to bless pets at the end of year School service, On Friday July 22nd.

WATCH THIS SPACE.

Allan Howe.



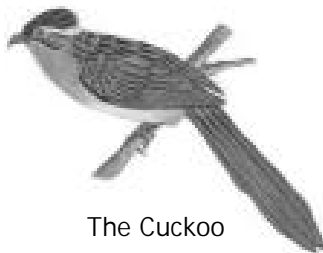
Birds in Our Village

Thank you very much for the telephone calls regarding a couple of controversial bird species during the spring. Such kind interest makes a lifelong hobby all the more engaging!

Firstly, "the" Nynehead cuckoo was as good as his word! He was perched on wires on April 16th, his usual date and I heard the call of this bird from 17th-20th of April, as did many other people. After then, the bird departed, exactly as in the past 3 years. A second cuckoo arrived on May 14th and favoured the strawberry farm area. At the time of writing it is still around, so maybe this one will remain in the locality rather than move on. Cuckoos are beginning to favour the moors and levels in Somerset, rather than traditional farm and country haunts.

Secondly, in early May Mr. Harold Ratsey, a resident at Nynehead Court Residential Home observed a very large bird in the grounds. He noted that the young rooks in the yew trees suffered at its claws and that a jackdaw also perished. He suggested that an escaped eagle owl may be responsible. A few days later the bird was seen by Mr & Mrs Ketley at the top of the Hollow, again terrorising members of the corvid fraternity [crows]. It seems pretty likely that this may well have been a huge owl, with the Eagle Owl being favourite. Some of these are kept legally in captivity and do escape and need to find food. At the time of writing this I have yet to see the bird but it would be a most exciting sight! Eagle Owls breed in central France and towards the eastern areas of France and into Germany and beyond. They stand about 60cm tall and their wingspan is around 1.5m. When you consider that our local Tawny and Barn Owls are less than half this size it is not difficult to see why the crows were so worried!

*Alastair Riley,
Ornithologist*



The Cuckoo

Trees of Nynehead

When people enter Nynehead Court one of the first things they tend to notice is the magnificent tree planted right at the entrance.

The Tulip Tree, proper name *Liriodendron tulipifera*, comes originally from North America and gets its name from the shape of the yellowy green flowers which appear in June or July. The leaves are an unusual shape but it is the flowers themselves which give the tree its common name. It is originally from North America and was one of the first introductions to this country around 1688 or perhaps even earlier. Over there it is widespread from Nova Scotia in the north right down to Florida in the south. whereas we regard it as an important specimen tree, over there it can be as common as the sycamore is over here and will be flailed off on the roadsides as weed!!!

Although it sets a large amount of seed in North America, in this country viable seed is rarely set despite the fact that the tree will flower prolifically once it is old enough. Being a relation of the magnolias, the Tulip Tree dislikes disturbance and is best put into its final planting spot as early as possible. As with all trees the thing to keep in mind is its final height. We can all see at the Court that it is definitely not a tree for the small garden and in other parts of the country specimens have reached over one hundred feet in height with a trunk up to eighteen feet around!

In this country we nearly always regard them as being purely ornamental trees but in North America the timber is of some use as well, known as 'white wood' it is apparently valued for indoor use being fine grained and not splitting easily. According to some accounts it is also grown for its timber in some parts of Europe.

The best way to grow a Tulip Tree is undoubtedly as a single specimen where it can be given as much space as possible. Allowed to grow naturally the branches will come down almost to ground level so that the unusual flowers can easily be examined. Pruning should be kept to a minimum and be used only to make sure that the tree forms a clear 'leader', or central trunk. Planting the tree in small garden and then trying to trim it each year won't work!

Alan Ketley

Nynehead Garden Club and Environment Group.

The Garden Club has continued to prove successful this year with all meetings being reasonably well attended. Our March meeting on 'How to prepare and present your Show entries' was perhaps the most eagerly anticipated. Clearly the entries at this years show are going to be bigger and better than last year. As we always suspected Alec Ward from the Court has many secrets up his sleeve on the subject of Showing Vegetables and our only problem lies in persuading him to divulge these secrets. Another talk next year is certainly on the cards.

For our May meeting we had our first trip of the year to Sheppy's Cider Works. This was slightly disappointing from your Chairman's point of view as the Parish Clerk had insisted that the Council business took preference over cider tasting. Several other members had to attend various other meetings so that numbers were not as high as they might have been. Nevertheless I have been assured by Jill, our secretary, that a good time was had by all!

The next meeting sees us at Milverton Herbs which should be fascinating. As we all know the use of fresh herbs is increasing in cooking and it will be really interesting to see what can be grown in the area as well as learning the possible uses they can be put to. Jill and I will


be ringing round to make final arrangements in the near future.

On behalf of the Garden Club we put up a stand to sell plants at the recent Open Day at Nynehead Court. Thanks to Geraldine Orr and Alec Ward at the Court we managed to put together a reasonable selection of plants and raised £145 for their project. Not bad considering the short notice!

On the environment front things are making slow but steady progress. Robin Darby has been experiencing some problems which many of you will have heard about, so the fencing off of the area has yet to begin in earnest. We are in discussion with the Dean regarding the condition of the bridge over the Tone and hope to have their surveyor advise us on its condition when he has time. Ben Tingay meanwhile has volunteered to help draw up a management plan for the area as this was his original area of training and expertise. We look forward to working with him on this and to taking the project forward in the coming months.

Finally don't forget we are rapidly approaching Show Day, August 20th. If you need any copies of the Schedule just let us know!

Alan Ketley



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More of the Guardian Angel

The farmhouse at Havilands Farm burnt down in 1967, and I built the present bungalow to replace it. Most of the house had been built of cob, the exception being the lower half of the rear wall, which I later made into a ten foot high garden wall, with an arch in the middle. The cob walls were pulled down and hauled away by Charley James who used to live in Bickley Farm, East Nynhehead. He later committed suicide, supposedly because of the pain brought on by shrapnel wounds from the Japanese war.

There had been a two-storey brick barn joined to a corner of the farmhouse, making an 'L' shape on two sides of the kitchen garden. After the bungalow was more or less finished, the stonewall completed and the kitchen garden converted into a lawn, I decided that the barn roof which was slowly collapsing needed new timbers before the roman tiles fell through the loft floor and smashed.

The brick yard cottages situated on the corner between Poole and the Nynhehead railway bridge were being pulled down at this time and all the roof timbers due to be burnt. Luckily the digger driver given the job was Seth Richards an old friend of mine from West Buckland, and rather than burning them he gave them to me.

By the end of the summer, I was cementing the ridge tiles in position. After weeks of work and nearing the end, I was carelessly climbing up an untied ladder to the roof. When I reached about ten feet high the ladder slipped one way and me the other. I fell on my new lawn flat on my back in a three-foot wide gap between two piles of bricks. My new neighbour Vic Knights, living in 'Barnstone', watching from his kitchen window, saw me disappear behind the stonewall, and through my newly constructed arch saw me eventually struggle to my feet. Vic died last week from a heart attack.

I only suffered two broken ribs.

A Guardian Angel would you say?

Allan Howe

A Message of Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the electors of Nynhehead who supported me in the recent County Council elections.

I am very pleased and honoured to be elected to represent you for the next four years at Somerset County Council and will do my best to repay the trust you have shown in me.

Please be aware that I am happy to try and help anyone and everyone if I can, with anything to do with the work of the County Council and so please do not hesitate to contact me on 01823 412830 or email csmeaton@somerset.gov.uk

With best wishes

*County Councillor
Caroline Smeaton*

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Nynehead Amateur Dramatic Society

The pantomime is over again for another year and it now seems a very long time since we got together last autumn to decide whether or not to do one but we are all so happy that we went ahead and we had a marvellous time putting it on. This atmosphere, I think, communicated itself to the audiences and made Aladdin such a successful and happy experience for everyone behind, on and in front of the stage.

Aladdin is, apparently, not the easiest pantomime to stage but we had great help and encouragement. The stage managers gradually learnt which props went in which scenes and the actors eventually learnt their lines! The spiders got their legs in all the right places and the camel may have looked like a cow but, believe me, in the land of make-believe, it was a camel

Things seem to go a bit flat when the pantomime is over but this year we didn't have the chance to miss it because several of us were back rehearsing again for the village's VE Day celebrations. We were asked to do something to round off the day's activities and decided on a short entertainment in words and music, finishing off with a 'Dad's Army' sketch, which I hope everyone enjoyed.

Rosemary Lea
Honorary Secretary

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The Pantomime

In a little village in Somerset I heard about a play. In fact it was a Pantomime and is excellent so they say. It was Aladdin & his lamp, so I went along to see it and what a wonderful show it was.

I clapped and laughed the whole way through. I've only got two legs & manage to trip over, so how did Widow Twanky manage to dance with what looked like six legs? If ever I meet him I will always see his belly button so look out Widow Twanky! He was hilarious, just wonderful. It gave great pleasure to watch him.

Everyone deserves a medal, not Bronze or Silver but Gold. It was a wonderful show and a credit to you all.

So I say many thanks for a pleasurable evening & memories that will stay with me for a long long time.

Well done everybody

Eve Barrow

East Nynehead Neighbourhood Watch (ENNW).

If anyone notices any of our shiny, new Neighbourhood Watch signs down or missing from their customary places, could you please inform Duncan Linklater on 461637 who will scamper out and investigate.

Should anyone actually see a sign 'down but not out' (as was the case recently with the one from the sign by the railway bridge) could you please rescue it and deposit it by my front door (Pinewood) and I will see to its re-erection.

If anyone notices a sign becoming weed-infested please stamp them out!

Duncan Linklater

Nynehead and District Local History Society

We held our Annual General Meeting on 13 May. Our Chairman Tony Lock reported on the year's events: 'The Society is now in its 34th Year having started at the time of the World Ploughing Competition in 1971. It is still flourishing although membership this last year has been slightly lower than it has been for several years. There are some 45 members who enjoy a very varied programme of speakers during the winter months, October until May, followed by visits during the summer.

During the winter months we have continued to meet on the second Friday in the month at 7.45pm and this last year some of our visits were during the day.

Last summer the highlights of our visits were a visit to Charmouth on one beautiful evening where we had a conducted tour of the Heritage centre and searched for fossils on the beach. We also had a very successful and interesting visit to Banwell Caves near Weston Super Mare.

In September, in association with the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society, we hosted the John Locke lecture in the Church. The event was to celebrate the tercentenary of the death of the philosopher John Locke and was held in Nynehead because of the very close links that he had with the Clarkes of Chipley and Nynehead. (*For more information about Locke and his links with the village see the Book of Nynehead*). The lecture was given by Dr. Mark Goldie from Cambridge University who is one of the leading experts on John Locke and the event attracted a very large number of people from far and wide.

The winter programme once more produced some fascinating talks including a history of gravestones, sinners of Wedmore and the lost ports of the River Severn.'

The treasurer Cynthia Locke reported that as the society's finances were sound there was no need to increase the annual subscription of £7. The officers and committee were re-elected without dissent and acclaim!

After the brief AGM Mark McDermott made a welcome return to speak to the society on the Somerset Dendrochronology Project. The project was set up in 1996 by the Somerset Vernacular Architecture Group to use the technique of dendrochronology – analysing tree rings – to date the county's historic buildings.

A cross-section is taken of the tree rings, mainly in roof timbers, which are then compared by computer with known chronologies over 1000s of years. Some 50 buildings have been analysed in this way but not all timber can be tested and as it is an expensive process - £500-600 per test – the project has twice run out of funds. The buildings examined have been mainly mediaeval, the earliest being a house in Winscombe which was found to have roof timbers felled in 1278 AD.

Future events:

Friday 10 June:

An evening visit to Elworthy and Stogumber churches.

Leaving the Memorial Hall at 6.00 p.m. or meeting at Elworthy Church at about 6.30 p.m.

Thursday 7 July:

Afternoon visit to Axbridge.

Leaving the Memorial Hall at 1.30 p.m. or meeting at King John's Hunting Lodge in Axbridge at 2.30 p.m.

Friday 12 August:

An afternoon walk on Brean Down the Bristol Channel, wildlife and over 2000 years of history.

Leaving the Memorial Hall at 1.30 p.m. or meeting at 2.30 p.m. at the National Trust car park (Grid Ref. ST 297586) at the end of the coast road north from Burnham-on-Sea.

Friday 14 October:

1st meeting of 'Winter programme'.

Speaker to be announced. Nynehead Memorial Hall at 7.45 p.m.

Tuesday 18 October:

Advance notice – the Sanford Archives.

An afternoon and evening event presenting the results of the Somerset Record Office's year long project. To include school activities, displays of archive material, talks, and refreshments using recipes from the Sanford archives. Nynehead Memorial Hall from 2.p.m.

For more information on any of these events or our activities generally contact David Rabson on 01823 666609. Our meetings and visits are open to any one interested in learning more about the history of our village and its area.

*David Rabson,
Secretary*

Nynehead VE day Celebrations 14th May 2005.

In true wartime spirit the light drizzle did nothing to dampen the spirits of the people who turned out. The day started at 10:00 hours for those who helped to organise the day with a small "ARMY" of people preparing food, decorating the hall and preparing the Playing Field.

At 14:00 hours the events at the field began. This comprised of several side stalls, a football match and novelty sports. Some of the "older players" entered into the spirit of the day and wore dresses. Thanks to Malcolm for organising this (Unfortunately he did not complete the match as he was the only one to be shown a red card!!) During half time, novelty sports were held for both the adults and children.

We then went to the Village hall where we had a group photo. Captain Neville Upham symbolically unveiled the new Village Hall sign and said a few words regarding his days in the merchant Navy during the war.

We then moved inside for the judging of the children's fancy dress with three joint winners :- Joe Dolan, Lizzie Boyd and Jessica Cullen. Then Nancy's hat, made from newspaper in true wartime fashion won her a bottle of wine.

Allan Howe gave a moving account of wartime history, followed by a prayer and hymn.

We then sat down to a delicious tea, after which we were entertained by NADS with a variety of sketches in true wartime tradition! Jim Clapton looked marvellous as he sang about his "Little Bottom Drawer", Gill Binding & Rosemary Lea treated us to some truly evocative poetry and prose while NADS got together to act out "The Man and The Hour" from "Dad's Army". We also had a sing along to some of the old wartime songs, accompanied by Shelia Rabson on the organ.

A big thank you must go to all those who helped to make this day possible including all of those who donated raffle prizes and food, as well as those who lent us items for the memorabilia table.

Sue Chipchase at Nynehead School, for the wonderful wall display of farming through the war as compared with modern day farming methods.

We must also say thank you to Nynehead Club for agreeing to sponsor the event to get it under way. Thanks to Nynehead Court for allowing us to fund raise, the success of the social skittles evening held at Nynehead Club and the Grand Raffle held on the day have allowed us to cover our costs and make a nice donation to the village hall.

We would like to thank all those who worked unstintingly to make such a great success of the day on behalf of all who attended.

Hilary & Mervyn

Nynehead Jubilee Playing Fields

The playing field was put to good use for the Nynehead V.E day football match and sports event. It was well attended by all and the weather did not dampen the village spirit or the enthusiasm of the *ladies* football team.

The committee would like to see the field used more often as a venue, so any village organisation holding an event or family wanting a larger space for a BBQ, please contact Dave Raybould on 669727 or Ben Tingay on 669828 for further details.

As always we need to raise funds to maintain the playing field. We will be holding a sponsored cycle ride in July, open to all ages. So are you or your kids letting the cobwebs build up on your bikes? Dust them off and come for a ride and raise some money. Please let me know if you are interested.

The "Duck Race" will be held on 17th September at Nynehead Weir commencing at 2 pm. Posters giving more information will appear closer to the time.

Ben Tingay
Chairman

Nynehead Cricket Club.

Our village cricket club have begun another season and welcome any villagers to home games, so see the list below!

This year our slowly evolving pavilion can be used to change in even if there is still much to be done! It looks terrific and the hard work put in by club members is remarkable week in week out. There is now a kitchen and also a fine patio out the front of the building! It is hoped to fund the connecting of an electricity supply before the end of the year.

On the field several new members have been made welcome and the captain, Graham Sparks sometimes has to choose a team now rather than to select only those available! That is a novelty for our small club!

The first few fixtures were rained off but Keith Haslam had a marvellous pitch ready in any case even if this was somewhat wasted when first used!! This was because Hemyock batted and made just 23 runs!!! At the time this was a club record low opposition total; so imagine the astonishment of everyone connected with the club when Bishop's Hull were dismissed for only 15 two weeks later! In between these two odd successes Nynehead lost a much more 'normal' game to the Wombat CC by about 30 runs chasing a total in excess of 200.

Fixtures: -

June 5th The Wombats CC [away]
12th Culmstock [home]
19th Hemyock [away]
25th B B Q
July 3rd East Huntspill [home]
4th North Croydon tourists [home]
10th Churchinford [away]
17th Fitzhead [away]
24th Kentisbeare [home]
31st Bishops Hull [home]

Villagers are reminded that they are very welcome at the Nynehead Cricket Club Annual BBQ at the cricket field from 7pm on SATURDAY 25th of June. Tickets will be available from Keith Haslam or David Raybould or Alastair Riley.

Alastair Riley

Nynehead Memorial Hall

The Committee has met 9 times in the last year and has made good progress on several items:

The lease to the club has now been signed and was presented to the Club Chairman at the A.G.M. A new hiring policy has been drafted and a Building Improvement Fund has been set up. 12 new chairs with padding and arms have been purchased. New black-out blinds have been fitted. Outside the hall new guttering has been fitted and the Under 5's have installed gates. Other improvements include: a projector screen which is on order and refitting the kitchen for which we have a quote and are looking for grants.

We are very pleased to have received grants from Somerset County Council Community Budget, the Local History Society and the Village of the Year/ Millennium funds. The Committee is now looking at improving the toilets and re-cladding the front of the hall.

I would like to say a very big thank you to David Rabson for staying on as Secretary especially as I was new to the position of Chairman. Also thanks to John Sparks for keeping the hall clean and to all committee members for **their help and support**. A new committee has been elected for the coming year. However we have been unable to find a secretary, would anyone able to help please contact me.

*Gary Sparks,
Chairman.*

TABLE TOP SALE

Turn your unwanted stuff into
cash

18th June
2 pm to 4.30 pm

In aid of the Village Hall Building
Fund

Contact Lu on 461781

Nynehead Club

The club is still enjoying a good year. The long awaited lease with the Village Hall has now been agreed and signed.

The 'No Smoking' at the bar rule is still working well.

The Easter Party was a great night where the Easter bonnet competition was entered into with Great Spirit. First prize went to Jodie Binding for her wonderful nest creation.

We also held a skittle night to raise funds for the VE day celebrations. This event was well supported and enjoyed by all who attended.

Our next event will be the Club Barbecue on 9th July 2005. We are also hoping to organise some more events in the near future- please keep an eye on the club notice board.

Our opening times continue to be:-
Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 8.30 pm until 11 pm.

We hope that you will be able to come along and enjoy a quiet drink, and maybe play a game of pool or darts.

New members are always welcome and subscriptions remain at £2 per year.

Sarah Hooper
Social Secretary

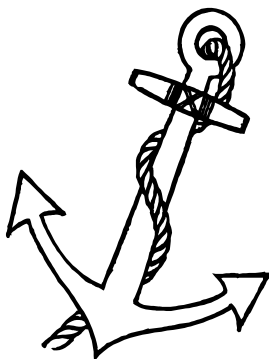
Nynehead Club



Non Smoking Rule at the bar

**Annual subscription still only
£2.00**

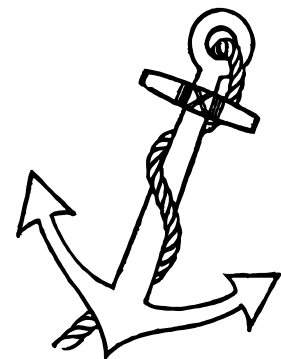
**Opening Hours:
Thursday, Friday, Saturday
8.30 pm to 11.00 pm**



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Another Spring – Another Harrowing Time!

I have just looked back to see what was reported about the state of footpaths a year ago, in the June 2004 edition of Nynehead News. It seems that this year's report, 12 months on, could almost be a repeat - with references to headland paths being ploughed out, either accidentally or deliberately, and cross field paths not being reinstated. Now it is true that in some cases the situation will be retrieved, thus providing a better surface for walkers and fulfilling landowners' obligations. However it would be better if the newly improved surface were then left alone rather than being disturbed every ploughing season, to the consternation of footpath users. But, more seriously, some of these damaged paths will almost certainly not be returned to a usable state by the landowner, as shown by previous years' experience.

A partial solution to the problem is to fence off headland paths so that they cannot be disturbed by agricultural machinery. But this solution does not usually make for pleasant walking, nor does it improve the landscape - so it isn't, in my view, to be recommended, and would be a retrograde step. Are there any other solutions that make it easier to keep the rights of way in a fit, usable, legal state?

Canal Path Stile

The stile at the east end of the canal path,

where it passes into the field next to Perry's Farm, became unstable recently and was pulled down, deliberately, to prevent a possible accident. We hope that it can be replaced in such a way that the entire length of the footpath from beyond Wellington sewage works 'through to East Nynehead will be stile free.

Village of The Year Competition.

I am told that the condition of the village's rights-of-way is a component, albeit a small one, in the Village of The Year marking scheme. Although the paths in the village are generally passable this is one area where Nynehead could improve on its winning score of 2003. By bringing more paths up to standard, and keeping them there, the village stands a better chance of a repeat success in the sure knowledge that the competition will be harder next time.

Apology

The recent report of a locked gate not being on a right of way is incorrect – due to a misunderstanding. The gate is actually in Oake – not Nynehead. Apologies!

Colin Spackman
Footpaths Liaison Officer

Blackdown MOT Centre

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TEL: 01823 660753

Nynehead Under 5s



Nynehead Pre-School continues to flourish. The children have been learning about growth and growing; planting their own seeds and learning about animals that live around them and further afield. We have also recently had our first Ofsted inspection and we took great pride in sharing all our achievements with the inspectors.

To give parents an opportunity to find out more about Nynehead Pre-School we will be holding a Wine and Cheese Open Evening at Nynehead Village Hall on Tuesday 7th June at 7.00pm. All are welcome.

Our Prize Bingo night raised over £300 for equipment for the pre-school so we would like to thank everyone who came. It was another successful night and the atmosphere was fantastic, it was great to see so many people.

Nynehead Toddlers continues to offer a wide range of activities for babies and toddlers. This term we have been visited by Wellington Library and Jo Jingles, a music class which uses music and movement, singing and nursery rhymes to entertain and educate young children. We also had a beautician who came to offer some relaxing therapies for the mums, dads, grandparents, nannies and childminders who attend our group.

Nynehead Under 5's Toddler Group is on Wednesday mornings (term time only) from 9.30 – 12 noon. We are always happy to take donations of toys for babies or toddlers so if you have any in your attic that you no longer need please contact Louisa Raybould Tel. 669727.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Gill Davies who recently resigned as our Treasurer as she is leaving the area. Gill has been a fantastic treasurer and one of the main contributors to the success of our pre-school so far. She has secured a significant amount of funding on our behalf and we would like to wish her and her family good luck for the future.

Don't forget our Open Evening on the 7th June – hope to see you there.

Louisa Raybould

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Useful Local Contacts

All Saints Church

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

Grand Western Canal Trust

| | | | |
|--------------------|--------|-------|---------------------------|
| Denis & Jenny Dodd | 661653 | email | denis.dodd@btinternet.com |
|--------------------|--------|-------|---------------------------|

Jubilee Playing Fields

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

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators

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

Nynehead Amateur Dramatic Society (NADS)

| | | | |
|--------------|--------|--|--|
| Alison Ellis | 664248 | | |
|--------------|--------|--|--|

Nynehead News

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------|-------|-------------------------|
| Allan Howe - Chairman | 666995 | email | howe@howe.eclipse.co.uk |
| Duncan Linklater - Secretary | 461637 | email | duncan@designlink.co.uk |
| Mike Briginshaw - Treasurer | 461627 | email | bmike1@onetel.com |

Nynehead Cricket Club

| | | | |
|--------------|--------|--|--|
| Keith Haslam | 461667 | | |
|--------------|--------|--|--|

Nynehead Garden Club & Environmental Group

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

Nynehead History Society

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

Nynehead Club

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--------|--|--|
| Mervyn Hooper - Chairman | 461518 | | |
| Zoe Eglin - Secretary | 660757 | | |
| Dennis Galpin - Treasurer | 665879 | | |

Useful Local Contacts

Nynehead Memorial Hall

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

Nynehead School

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

Friends of Nynehead School

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| Mary Sparks | 663745 |
|-------------|--------|

Parish Council:

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|-------|----------------------------|
| David Rabson (Clerk) | 666609 | email | rabsons@btinternet.com |
| Alan Ketley - Chairman | 666249 | email | alan.ketley@homecall.co.uk |
| Mike Briginshaw - Vice Chairman | 461627 | email | bmike1@onetel.com |
| Phil Bassett | 665766 | email | swiftline42@aol.com |
| Mervyn Hooper | 461518 | | |
| Gary Sparks | 663745 | | |

County Councillor:

| | | | |
|------------------|--------|-------|--------------------------|
| Caroline Smeaton | 412830 | email | csmeaton@somerset.gov.uk |
|------------------|--------|-------|--------------------------|

District Councillor:

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

POLICE

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

POLICE - Crimestoppers

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| To give anonymous information | 0800 555 111 |
|-------------------------------|--------------|

Pre-school and Toddler group (Under 5s)

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| Dawn Netley | 666895 |
|-------------|--------|

Rural Youth Project

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| Dawn Netley | 666895 |
|-------------|--------|

Diary – 5th June to 3rd September 2005

| | |
|----------|--|
| 6 – Jun | Parish Council Meeting at Parish Hall – 7.30 pm |
| 7 – Jun | Nynehead Pre-School Group – Wine & Cheese Evening in Village Hall from 7 pm |
| 10 – Jun | History Society – Elworthy & Stogumber Churches – Meet at Village Hall 6 pm |
| 12 – Jun | Cricket Club playing at home to Culmstock starting at 2.30 pm |
| 13 - Jun | Nynehead Garden Club visit to Milverton Organic Growers – Details to be announced. |
| 18 – Jun | Table Top Sale at Village Hall – 2 pm to 4.30 pm |
| 25 – Jun | Cricket Club BBQ – from 7 pm at the Cricket Field |
| 28 - Jun | Nynehead Playing Fields EGM at Nynehead Club – starting 8 pm |
| 3 – Jul | Cricket Club playing at home to East Huntspill starting at 2.30 pm |
| 4 – Jul | Cricket Club playing at home to North Croydon Tourists starting at 2.30 pm |
| 4 – Jul | Parish Council Meeting at Parish Hall – 7.30 pm |
| 7 – Jul | History Society – St John's Hunting Lodge, Axbridge – Meet at Village Hall 1.30 pm |
| 9 – Jul | Nynehead Club BBQ |
| 11 – Jul | Garden Club – Mike Pollack & Wisley R.H.S. Garden – Village Hall 7.30 pm |
| 22 – Jul | All Saints Church – Special Pets Service – Time to be announced |
| 24 – Jul | Cricket club playing at home to Kentisbeare starting at 2.30 pm |
| 31 – Jul | Cricket Club playing at home to Bishops Hull starting at 2.30 pm |
| 31 – Jul | Nynehead Court – “Jazz in the Garden” – 2 pm to 7 pm |
| 12 – Aug | History Society – Brean Down Walk – Meet at Village Hall 1.30 pm |
| 14 - Aug | Horse Show at Hornshay Farm – commencing 10.00 am |
| 20 - Aug | Nynehead Garden Club ‘Flower Show’ - Village Hall from 2 pm |
| 5 - Sep | Parish Council Meeting at Parish Hall – 7.30 pm |
| 11 – Sep | Nynehead Court Support Group – Concert in All Saints Church |
| 17 - Sep | Nynehead Playing Fields Duck Race – Nynehead Weir – from 2 pm |



The picture on the front of our March edition showed a fence alongside the footpath that goes through the field between the three arch bridge and Heywood Farm.

It is believed that the tops of the spikes were bent over to prevent injury to the hunt's horses and hounds when following a scent!

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