

Nynehead News

Volume 5

March 2006

Issue 1

E-mail: newsletter@nynehead.plus.com

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Welcome to the March 2006 Edition of Nynehead News.

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

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Editorial Comment:

I am delighted to see that at long last we are receiving some controversial correspondence. You might remember that in the December edition '*Nighthawk*' wrote an article entitled "To Light" or "Too Light" making a point about light pollution. In this edition we have an alternative view from '*Lighthawk*' entitled "To Dictate or Too Premeditate". We also have an article, this time from '*Nightrider*', with a view on "Living in Nynehead" that might spark a few responses! At this juncture I would particularly like to thank William Sanford for his fascinating contribution on 'The Origin of The Ashes' and the link with Nynehead. If any other readers have items they feel could be of interest, please let me know.

As I hope you are now aware, that great engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel is celebrating his 200th birthday this year and has invited you all to his party in the grounds of Nynehead Court on Friday 26th May! The party is going to be a community play written and produced by Actiontrack Production Company, the same team who produced 'Building Up Steam' back in the summer of 2001. In addition to many from our own community, the children from seven local schools will be involved and will have lots of fun learning about Brunel and their local heritage. These happy memories will undoubtedly stay with them far longer than any history lesson in the classroom.

'Building up steam' led to the formation of our very successful Amateur Dramatic Society. It also strengthened our community by encouraging people who had probably never met before, to work together. Many of the friendships formed at that time have lasted throughout. The resulting community spirit also counted substantially to Nynehead twice winning the Village of the Year competition.

I am aware however, that some are concerned at the cost of the Brunel project, possibly feeling that the funds provided could be put to better use. It is important to realise that the funds raised from the 'Arts Council' and 'Funding for All' have come entirely from the National Lottery. This is money that the public have willingly gambled knowing that a good proportion of their losses will be allocated to arts projects. Once allocated this money can only be used for this purpose and it then becomes a case that if Nynehead doesn't get its share, someone else will!

It is also very noticeable that although a good number of our residents do get involved in community projects, there are some don't. Whilst we all have the right to exclusion I would simply invite those choosing that option to come and have a look at what is being done - it might even be enjoyable!

The relatively dry weather this year has certainly contributed the very poor and often dangerous state of our highways. We all appreciate that our farmers must tend their land, but in a normal year we get periods of heavy rain to wash away the mud. This year that hasn't happened - yet - and the light rain simply makes things worse. Regrettably some of the tractor drivers use the verges to help other road users to pass, but in doing so they turn them into quagmires that are particularly dangerous for cyclists. I understand the difficulties but am sure we would all be delighted if those responsible could take a little more care and where possible, consider cleaning up after themselves!

Mike Briginshaw
Editor

Brunel In Nynehead

As many will be aware, a meeting was held on Friday 17th February to launch this project.

After a brief introduction Mark Reynolds showed his excellent video of the making of "Building Up Steam", the superb community play that was performed in the grounds of Nynehead Court in June 2001. Many of those who remember or were involved in that production certainly felt the odd pangs of both nostalgia and pride in what was achieved. Newcomers and those who did not take part were generally very impressed and without exception gave their support to the new project.

Nick Brace, the Artistic Director of Actiontrack Production Co Ltd. then discussed not only the success of 'Building Up Steam' in terms of the way that our community benefited, but also his aspirations for 'Brunel In Nynehead'. He emphasised that this is one of the very few occasions he has had the opportunity of being involved a second time with the same community - and it may be difficult not to simply do the same again - only better! As a result he and his team will try to find different approaches, so ensuring the project has maximum interest. As a number of our local schools will be involved he feels it important that whilst providing a history lesson, the whole project is also one of fun and enjoyment for all.

The next meeting will be held in our Village Hall on Tuesday 11th April, commencing at 7 pm and again will be open to all. It would be great to see some prospective actors and participants as well as helpers.

On the 20th and 21st April reading & casting sessions will be held leading to rehearsals throughout the end of April and into May, ready for the actual presentation on 26th May in the grounds of Nynehead Court.

The play will commence at 7pm but a Hog Roast with other bits and pieces to eat and drink will be available from 6.30 pm, so you will be able to come along without having to

worry about feeding the family before joining in. And just in case the weather isn't that great, a marquee or two will be there to protect us all.



**Come to the Party on
Friday 26th May
in the grounds of
Nynehead Court.**

The actual play starts at 7 pm, but the grounds will be open by 6.30 and a Hog Roast and other bits and pieces will be ready & waiting.

Nynehead Club will provide a bar with a wide range of refreshments, including the odd pint of beer!

Ample parking will be available and will be signposted ready for your arrival.

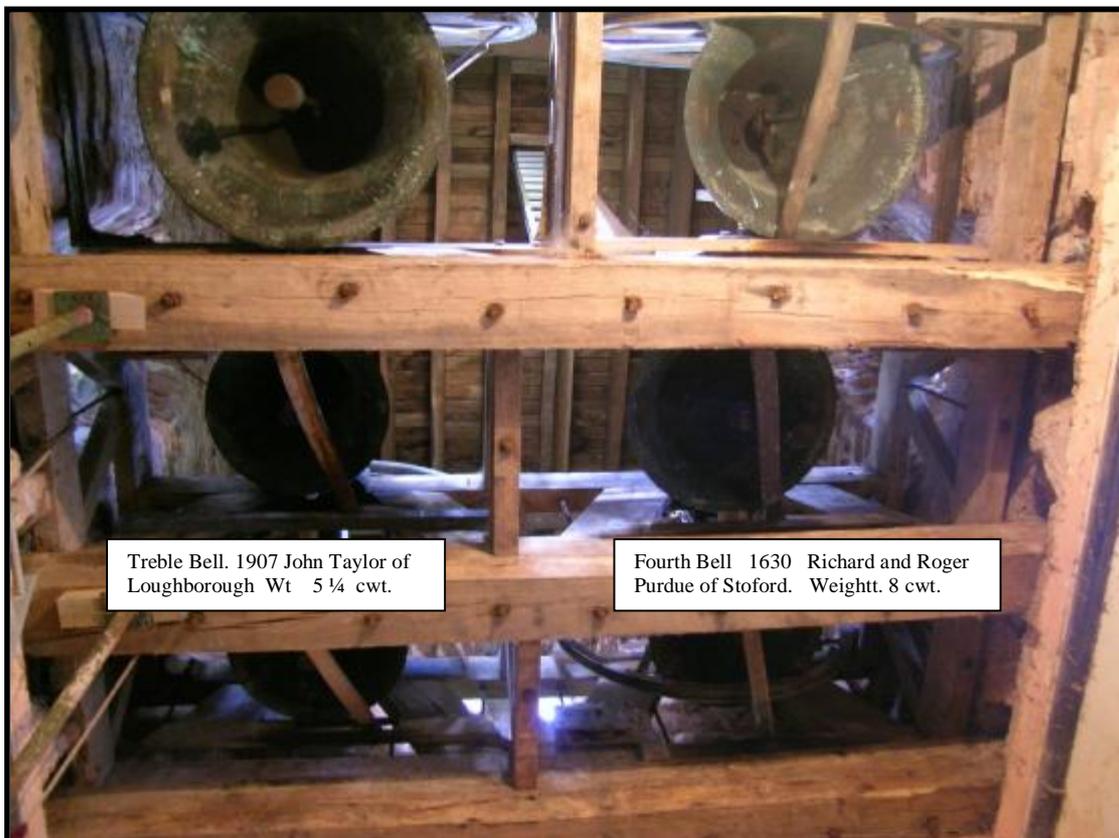
For more information contact:

Mike Briginshaw	461627
Alan Ketley	662249
Jenny Dodd	661653

BELLS IN THE TOWER.

Tenor Bell. C.1500 Thomas Gefferies
of Bristol. Weight 14 ½ cwt.

Fifth Bell. 1894 John Taylor of
Loughborough. Weight 10 ¾ cwt.



Treble Bell. 1907 John Taylor of
Loughborough Wt 5 ¼ cwt.

Fourth Bell 1630 Richard and Roger
Purdue of Stoford. Weight. 8 cwt.

Second Bell 1630 Richard and
Roger Purdue of Stoford Wt. 5 cwt.

Third Bell 1666 John Pennington of
Exeter Weight 6 ¼ cwt.

This is the view of the bells from the floor of the ringing chamber, made possible when the sound proofing and ceiling fell onto the ringing team in 1989 during a peal of bells to celebrate the wedding of Gary and Mary Sparks.

The bellframe is supported by the east-west oak joists from 1907 shown in the picture, which sit in pockets cut into the wall. The ends of the foundation joists have been seriously effected by damp where they enter the walls, and the damp conditions have encouraged rot and death watch beetle attack. The west end of the joists are supported by acrow props as shown.

It is intended that the oak beams, after being shortened clear of the walls, will be left in position supported by a steel beam frame.

All six bells are to be lowered to the tower floor, and fitted with a complete set of new ringing fittings and, where recommended, some of the bells will be transported to the Whitechapel Bell Foundry and retuned before re-hanging.

We await final permission to proceed and then we can raise funds in earnest.

Allan Howe.

The Origin of The Ashes

In August 1882 the Australian cricket team had beaten a full strength English team for the first time at the Oval by the narrow margin of seven runs. The next day the Sporting Times printed a mock obituary notice which read –

*"In affectionate remembrance of English Cricket which died at the Oval on 29th August 1882, deeply lamented by a large circle of sorrowing friends and acquaintances R.I.P
NB the body will be cremated and the ashes taken to Australia"*

In the event the Ashes came into being at Rupertswood in Victoria, Australia on 24th December 1882, where the eight amateur cricketers in the visiting English team, under their Captain The Hon. Ivo Bligh, were staying as guests for Christmas at the country estate of Sir William Clarke Bt. President of the Melbourne Cricket Club.

On Christmas Eve, Sir William decided to hold a cricket match in the grounds of Rupertswood to amuse his visitors. The English were to play a team of Australians from among his houseguests. As it was extremely hot it was decided they would only bat and bowl, and workers from the estate were brought in to do the fielding.

During the match a spectator had asked Janet, Sir William's wife, what prize the team were playing for, and she had agreed there should be a trophy. Although the game had been played in a light-hearted manner it was decided that the English had won.

After dinner in the ballroom on the following day Janet, who had obviously seen the mock obituary, solemnly presented Ivo Bligh with a small pottery urn containing the ashes of a burnt bail, remarking that England and Australia now



had a trophy to play for, and if the English team won the coming series of three Test Matches they were about to play, they could take home the Ashes they had lost at the Oval. In the meantime it was their reward for their victory at Rupertswood.

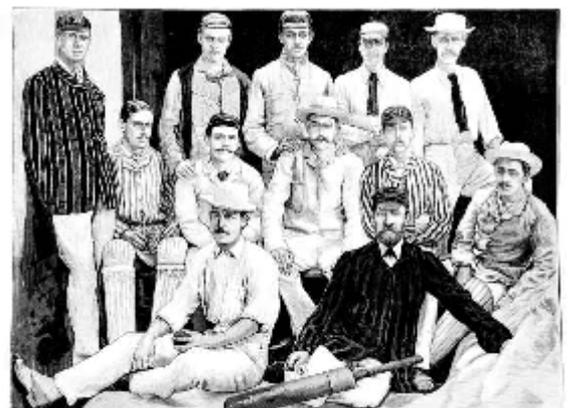
I owe my connection to this story to the fact that Sir William Clarke was my Great Grandfather and my Grandmother Mary, who at that time was a small girl of eight, was also present at Rupertswood during this historic event.



Rupertswood

To bring this story closer to home I would mention that Sir William's father came from a Somerset family. They had been farmers around Western Zoyland for centuries, but things had not gone well for them and he emigrated to Australia in 1829, eloping with a local vicar's daughter, whose father thought him unsuitable. He ended up as one of Australia's most successful settlers. It is believed the Clarkes of Western Zoyland were distant cousins of the Clarkes of Chipley and the family now bears arms similar to those on the Clarke's memorial in Nynehead Church.

William Sanford



Ivo Blighs 1882 team of English Cricketers

"To Dictate or Too Predominate"

As we all know, living in Nynhead is generally a pleasant experience. However, some things do tend to grate. Take the night sky for example. When one of my relations visited here recently she was amazed at how dark it was. Above the solid, smothering blanket of cloud were views of our night sky. Stretching right above that was the Milky Way; where the Plough, save for the cloud, would have stood out clearly visible to the north and the occasional yet, to us, unseen satellite would be moving gracefully from horizon to horizon. Living in North Wales she had simply never seen anything like it. She was very anxious with it being so dark.

But wait, what is that other glow in the sky? A star system? Santa Clause on his rounds? No its security lights blazing out and protecting our property and illuminating the night sky and assuring my visitor that the blackness did not hide any threats. Why? The scumbags that sneak around our gardens and steal the contents of our outhouses and sheds are most active on dark cloudy nights, strong lights triggered by their movement scares them and moves them on to less illuminating experiences. Areas that are naturally dark being constantly bathed by electrical lights keeps them away.

Let's not get paranoid. Burglaries in Nynhead are rare but unfortunately shed and outhouse thefts are commonplace and of no interest to the police who have little chance of catching the culprits. However, at least one villager sees the use of such devices as light pollution, whereas the majority see it as self-protection and their use is recommended by the Somerset & Avon police as "a deterrent to burglars".

If you don't approve of passive infrared triggered lights or the use of a constant light at the back and front of some peoples' houses; then next time we have a dark moonless night just go out the following morning and gaze in awe at your empty



toolshed. Then grab a copy of the Gazette so that you can arrange to go to a car boot sale to buy your tools back.

Ask yourself. Would one of those stupid lights on the outside of my house have stopped that theft?

Lighthawk.

Food for Thought! Cheesy Cullen Skink

A traditional and delicious dish that goes down well any time of year, but especially when its cold outside! It takes about 10 minutes to prepare and a further 20 minutes to cook. The weights & volumes given below are approximate, but it's best to stick fairly close to the tried & tested formula. This should provide four decent servings!

Ingredients

225g old potatoes, 50g butter,
1-bunch spring onions & 2 garlic cloves.
10 ml mustard powder.
400g can butter beans, drained and rinsed.
125g fresh skinned haddock fillet.
450ml milk & 300ml fish stock plus
150ml double cream.
175g cubed mature cheese.
400g mixed cooked seafood and some
Chopped chives to garnish.

Method

Cut the potatoes into chunks. Melt half the butter in a large saucepan and fry the potatoes until golden and cooked. Set them aside. Roughly chop the spring onions. Melt rest of butter in a frying pan and fry the spring onions, crushed garlic and mustard powder for 2 minutes. Add the beans and cooked potatoes and fry for another minute. Roughly chop the haddock, add the milk, fish stock and cream to the pan, and then bring to the boil. Lower the heat and stir in the haddock, cheese and seafood. Simmer for 3-4 minutes. season well & serve garnished with chopped chives.

Nancy

Living in Nynehead - a view.

You have to admit that living in Nynehead is pretty good, generally speaking. There isn't much goes on to upset the easy rhythm of life. Shopping is near and handy either in Wellington or Taunton, and we have good access to the motorway if we feel like getting away from the place.

However, (you just knew there was going to be a 'however' didn't you?) one thing can be particularly irritating and that is the driving. Personally I find that when approaching one of the blind bends we have in the village, it's generally a good idea to SLOW DOWN. Now you might think that that is stating the obvious so why is it that time and again when slowing for a bend some idiot comes flying round said bend as if it didn't exist? Do they have x-ray vision perhaps or are they just stupid?

Take the Hollow as an example. We all know that it's basically single file with a couple of possible passing places depending on who or what is trying to do the passing. To me much above about twenty miles an hour and you are pushing it if you need to stop in time. But no, people swing into the Hollow doing anything up to forty miles an hour and then appear amazed that they have to stop for someone coming the other way. In fact I have tried following these people and it is virtually impossible to safely follow them at the speed they achieve. What do they know that I don't? Do they have a braking system that out performs all others? From the gentle tinkle of broken glass heard within The Hollow this would seem not to be the case. Or as I suspect are they merely too stupid to realise the danger? Personally I care not one jot if they run into a lump of solid sandstone but I do object to being put at risk myself by these nutters. Perhaps they have never heard of or seen a pedestrian, cyclist or horse rider, you certainly wouldn't think so from the way they drive.

The Hollow isn't of course the only danger spot and if we move on towards Wellington from the bottom of the Hollow we get to our

favourite 'one way' spot, Island Cottage to Hornshay Farm. What a treat, what a delight for all those 'Chelsea tractor' drivers who faced with an on coming car can do nothing but continue on towards you in the blind belief that because they are bigger than you, you have to give way. It couldn't possibly be because they can't reverse to save their lives could it? And the language that you learn if you have the temerity to suggest that if they had simply paused momentarily before rushing down the road they could have seen that someone was coming the other way, and heaven forbid, paused for a moment.

What I want to know is where is this place that all these people are rushing to? Having lived in this area for a few years now I think I know it fairly well and I have to say that there is nothing out there that I would be willing to die for! Please drive more slowly and think of others if it isn't too much to ask.



Nightrider.

Annual Parish Meeting

Members of Nynehead's electorate are invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting to be held in:

Nynehead Memorial Hall

On

Thursday 11th May

at

7.30 p.m.

This your opportunity to hear reports from, and ask questions of, Nynehead's many active village organisations

Parish Council

Since the last issue the main business of the council in December and January was to agree a budget for the coming year starting on 1 April and to set its precept, the parish share of the council tax. For 2006-7 the precept will remain unchanged at £3000. A summary of the budget will be displayed on the council notice board at the Memorial Hall.

One of the main roles of the council is to speak on the village's behalf and persuade the various authorities to do things which will benefit the residents. The condition of roads is always of interest and positive meetings have been held with the highway surveyor as a result of which things have happened - holes filled, the mud and leaves in the Hollow cleared (partly at least). We are also pressing Somerset Highways to sort out once and for all the drainage problems in Ash Lane. We have also asked them to provide flood warning signs that can be put up by people in the village, but it appears this is not possible. However they have suggested that we contact the Environment Agency which provided 'fold-down' signs for the flood scheme in Hillfarrance.

Footpaths are one village amenity on which the parish council can make a difference, as Colin Spackman's report shows. The parish council is not the 'footpaths authority' but we work closely with the Deane and County Councils and do have a small amount of money for minor works. Setting up a volunteer group to work with the county will be a step forward, as is any success in obtaining grants from outside bodies for footpath improvements.

As the Nynehead News shows, a lot goes on in this village, small as it is, and there is more to come this year. Twice in the past three years we have received awards in the Somerset Village of the Year competition, which in addition to the prestige it brings has the benefit of cash prizes which can be put towards village activities or facilities. Improvements to the village hall have been helped by these and other funds.

So, Nynehead will be entering the 2006 competition, and Mervyn Hooper will again be co-ordinating the entry, with the help of volunteers. Anyone interested should contact Mervyn.

The Annual Parish Meeting, open to all electors in the parish, will be held in the Memorial Hall on Thursday 11 May at 7.30 p.m. This is another opportunity to hear about what has been going on in the village and what is planned for the future. All village organisations are invited as in previous years to make a report to the meeting on their activities in the past year.

As usual it would help me to write the minutes of the meeting if you could let me have a written copy of your report, preferably on no more than one side of A4, or ideally send it to me by email in Word.

This year we hope to have a guest speaker from the Fire Service on the subject of fire safety in the home. This should be of interest to everyone.'

A reminder that we are delighted when members of the public attend parish council meetings - there is always at least one but recently we have had up to six, and more will be welcome. Meetings start at 7.30 with a ten minute public question time and finish with an opportunity to comment on the decisions and discussions.

David Rabson
Clerk

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All Saints Church



Church Services

February	5 th .	12 th .	19 th .	26 th .	
	10.30	10.45	10.45	10.45	
March	5 th .	12 th .	19 th .	26 th .	
	10.30	10.45	10.45	10.45	
April	2 nd .	9 th .	16 th .	23 rd .	30 th .
	10.30	10.45	10.45	10.45	***
May	7 th .	14 th .	21 st .	28 th .	
	10.30	10.45	10.45	10.45	

*April 30th joint service with W.Buckland.

First service of each month.

In Nynehead Court followed by coffee.
Everyone welcome.

Christening.

Louisa Fiona Vernon Wills of 'Clavengers',
East Nynehead, on Sunday, February 12th.
Rev. Margis' first christening in our church.

Thurs. March 9th.

Churchwardens meeting at Rev. Margis'
vicarage.

Monday March 27th.

PCC A.G.M - Church.7.30 pm

Thurs. March 30th.

Easter Service in the church for the Village
School. 2.30 p.m.

Sat. April 22nd.

Coffee Morning in aid of Church funds.
10.30 am at 'BLUEHILLS'.

Sun. April 30th.

The five churches service in West Buckland
church.

Sat. May 13th.

Concert in the Church. 7.30 p.m.

Wed. May 17th.

Arch Deacons visitation.
St. Johns church 6.30 pm

Lent Courses Wed. 7.30 pm March 8th.

(and on the five following Wednesdays)
Betty Sparks home, 8 Roundoak Gardens.

Bell Restoration Project.

We are still moving forward, slowly but
surely. The next meeting of the Diocesan
Advisory Committee should permit our
application for formal approval of the bell
Restoration Project to go forward.

Bell Ringers.

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

Pastoral Matters.

Rev. Margi Campbell. Tel. 669446
Rev. Josie Harrison. Tel. 669525

General Matters.

Church Wardens.

Michael Harding. Tel. 662940
Allan Howe. Tel. 666995
Betty Sparks (secy.) Tel. 660407
Tony Lock. Tel. 461214

Allan Howe.

Local History Society

Since the last issue we have had talks on three very different topics.

In December Peter Harrison took us to the other side of England to two houses owned by the National Trust – Oxburgh Hall and Blickling Hall. The particular interest of these houses is dating from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries respectively they are both built of brick. Peter's own background in the brick industry meant that we received a good insight into the history and quality of these fine houses.

Our annual New Year party in January was greatly enjoyed by all present. The entertainment this year was a quiz about Somerset place names, twenty cryptic questions on the lines of 'two pieces of metal and part of a ship – 10 letters'. Although at first sight the questions were difficult, team effort paid its reward and some very high scores were achieved.

Our speaker in February was David Hawkings of Taunton. Occasionally we are 'taken' away from Nynhead by speakers and this was probably the furthest yet as David's talk was on 'A Somerset sheep-stealer transported to Australia'. Compiling the story of Wiveliscombe man John Hawkins whose death sentence was commuted to transportation was a twenty-year project, involving delving into archives here and in London, contact with people in Australia and many surprises! A fascinating talk.

Looking forward, our speaker on 10 March will be Lee Bray from Exeter University, who has been involved recently in some exciting excavations of Roman iron working on Exmoor and in particular at Clatworthy reservoir.

On 7 April Hilary Binding, a well-known local historian from Carhampton, will be making another welcome visit. On this occasion her subject will be 'Visiting Exmoor – a history of tourism'. Most local people will have visited Exmoor at some time and this will be an

opportunity to hear how the moor came to be popular with tourists. There are historical connections between Nynhead and such places as Lynton and Lynmouth, and Hilary has promised to follow up her talk with an outing in the summer.

Our customary brief AGM will be on 12 May when I will be talking about the pilgrim trail to le Mont-Saint-Michel in Normandy and some of the historical links between England and that part of France.

We are now thinking about summer visits so any suggestions will be welcome. All our winter meetings in the Memorial Hall start at 7.45 p.m. New members and visitors are always welcome.

David Rabson.

The remainder of the winter programme is: -

10th Mar	Lee Bray Department of Archaeology Exeter University	The human face of Romano-British iron working on Exmoor.
7th Apr	Hilary Binding	Visiting Exmoor – a history of tourism.
12th May	AGM David Rabson	The pilgrim trail to Le Mont-St-Michel

Nynehead Under 5s

Second Great Easter Egg Hunt



s

Second Great Easter Egg Hunt which will take place on Easter Bank Holiday Monday 17th April. The theme for this year is Disney Animated Films. Once again we are hoping that people in Higher Nynehead will volunteer to take part by decorating an egg and displaying them in their front gardens. People will then meet at the Village Hall and will follow a map round the village guessing the films. There will also be a community market at the village hall along with an opportunity to have a cup of tea and slice of cake after all that egg hunting!

Our last Egg Hunt was a massive success with over 60 people taking part in the hunt. If you do not wish to make an egg but would still like to support the event by donating an Easter Egg or raffle prize we would be very grateful.

If you are interested in taking part then please contact Louisa Raybould tel. 01823 669727 to discuss Disney Films!! Watch out for more information around the village in the next few weeks.

Nynehead Under 5s now runs three different groups from Nynehead Village Hall. All are interlinked and it is hoped that children will progress from one to another:

Nynehead Toddlers

Bugs and Butterflies, the Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day have been just some of the topics which Nynehead Toddlers has

covered over the last term. The group now has around 20 children attending on a regular basis.

Nynehead Toddler Group is for mums-to-be, carers, babies and toddlers. We offer a wide range of activities including; painting, puzzles, dressing up, craft activities, baby toys, bikes, construction, storytime, snacktime and music all for £1.50 per session.

Nynehead Pre-School for 2 Year Olds

Nynehead Pre-School now runs a special session for children aged from 2 years old. The success of Nynehead Pre-School's special 2 year old session means that we now have a waiting list. Spaces will become available as children move into the sessions for older children but if anyone is interested please let us know as soon as possible. The session is held on Friday 9.30am – 12 noon.

Nynehead Pre-School

Nynehead Pre-School is for children aged between 2 ½ and 5 years. The theme for this half term is Easter and children will be doing Easter cooking as well as preparing for that all-important day – Mother's Day!

As its numbers have risen significantly over the past few months we have now introduced a key worker system. This means that each child now has a key worker who is responsible for keeping a scrapbook with children's photos and art work, recording the child's development within the foundation stage and taking a general interest in the child and his/her needs.

Pre-School hours are Tuesday 9am – 1pm, Thursday 9am-1pm and 12noon – 4pm (all day session available). Sessions are flexible.

For more information about any of our sessions please contact either:

Dawn Netley tel. 01823 666895 or
Maria Sines Tel. 07947 663108.

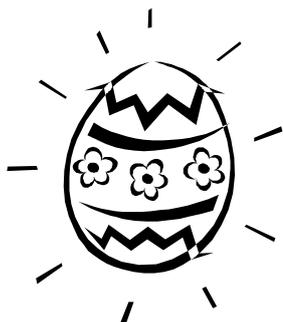
And finally...

A big thank you to all of those who helped organise and came along to our Bingo night which is being held at the time of writing. All our events raise vital funds for our activities and we are extremely grateful for your support.

Nynehead Under 5s has its own clothing range. Now available are polo shirts, fleeces and waterproof jackets, in adult and child sizes, all with the Nynehead Under 5s logo on. If you are interested in buying one, and in doing so supporting your local pre-school and toddler group, please contact:

Louisa Raybould
Tel. 01823 669727.

**Monday 17th April - Nynehead Under 5s
Great Easter Egg Hunt**



**Nynehead Amateur Dramatic
Society**

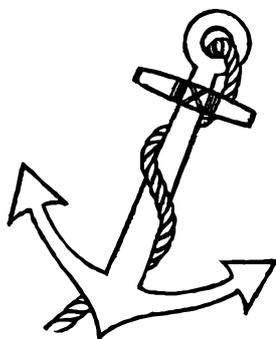
Preparations are now well in hand for this year's pantomime 'Beauty and the Beast'. There will be lots of fun and laughter and plenty of audience participation.

Please come along and join us in the Memorial Hall on Thursday 23rd March, Friday 24th March or Saturday 25th March, at 7.30 pm. Tickets cost £5.00 for adults and £2.50 for children and can be obtained from Hilary and Mervyn Hooper (telephone number 461518).

Tickets are also available for the dress rehearsal on Wednesday 22nd March and cost £4.00 for adults and £2.00 for children. All proceeds from the evening will go to The British Heart Foundation.

Incidentally if you're due for a haircut in March, fancy a perm or a scalp massage or would like to treat yourself to an aromatherapy session why not try our resident hairdresser at the pantomime. Rates are very reasonable.

Rosemary Lea
Honorary Secretary



The Anchor Inn

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Environment group.

This has been an exciting winter for the environment movement in Nynehead. Our new footpath has been completed improving the access to the Nature Reserve at the aqueduct. We are now working on the gates to this section of path so that we have better access for wheelchairs and prams.

We now have a management plan for the Reserve which has been prepared by John Clare who does similar work for the Deane. As money allows we will have copies of this made and distributed so everyone can see what is involved. At the moment we have zero funds but will be making applications for grants as Spring develops.

As always Nynehead is at the forefront of developments and we are looking to set up a Volunteer group to help maintain our footpath network. Footpaths are the responsibility of the County Council and the landowner but with the best will in the world it would be impossible for them to physically maintain all of them in detail. This is where the idea of a Volunteer group comes in and we would like to establish how many people are actually interested before holding a meeting. If you would like to be involved at some stage please contact me on 666249. The County footpath people would like to use Nynehead as a 'guinea pig' to try out the volunteer concept and we could be eligible for some funding if all goes well.

The idea is not that we will be out every weekend slaving away but that there could be a group of people who, time allowing, would be willing to help maintain our path network and perhaps work on the Nature Reserve. One big advantage of this scheme is that it opens the way for grant money coming into the village. It is always easier to obtain funds when you can show that local people are prepared to be involved, so if you are interested PLEASE let me know!

Alan Ketley.

Nynehead Memorial Hall

I am pleased to report the committee is making good progress with improvements to the hall. In the next few months a new kitchen will be fitted, the wood on the front of the hall will be replaced and a cycle stand provided.

The committee is still looking for someone with secretarial skills to take the minutes etc, if you are interested please contact me.

The AGM will be held on Monday 24 h April at 7:30pm in the hall.

Gary Sparks
Chairman

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Nynehead Club

Over the past year the club has been successful both socially and financially. We are always looking for new ways to improve the facilities of the club for its members and are currently purchasing some new chairs. We are also hoping to provide a patio area which will enable people to sit outside and enjoy their drinks in the summer months.

The Christmas period was very enjoyable with a well attended Christmas Party (with a few people brave enough to come in fancy dress) and our usual Boxing Day opening with Terry's stew.

A BIG THANKYOU must go to Kevin Cullen and Mum for the New Years Eve Karaoke night and supper. All who attended had a fabulous night with quite a few people brave enough to try their hand at the karaoke. Kevin's Scottish regalia (kilt) along with the Scottish music towards the end of the evening helped to bring Hogmanay to Nynehead. The soup was fab too!!

Over the coming months we are putting on several events including an April Fools Skittles night on 1st April and our annual Easter Bonnet Party on Saturday 15h April. We are also hoping to arrange a quiz night so please keep an eye on the notice board for further details - all welcome.

Rural Youth have continued to make use of the facilities on a Tuesday night and wish them all the best in their search for a new leader.

We would like to wish NADS all the best for their forthcoming pantomime (break a leg) and are pleased to be able to help in any way.

Our AGM will be held on April 5th at 8pm.

We are always looking for new members and membership remains at £2 per year

Sarah Hooper
Social Secretary



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Nynehead School

Our school has taken a decisive step to securing its future and towards a new vision for schools in rural communities. As you will have seen in the local press the governing bodies of Nynehead and Oake and Bradford have decided to join forces and federated from January 1st 2006. Contrary to the reports, this does not mean that the schools are merging. The two schools will remain completely separate, own budgets, DFES numbers and sites. The new arrangement does allow for greater flexibility of staffing and all new staff will be appointed to the federation rather than to one school. This nationally ground breaking work and the governing body has been warmly commended for their strategic look at the future. We have already been contacted by schools in Cornwall who wish to follow our lead, we expect there to be others in the near future.

Back at the chalk face the pupils are studying Toys in the infants and World War 2 in the juniors. The school will be taking part in the Anne Frank Exhibition with work from the juniors displayed as part of the exhibition. This work has been backed by trips to the County Museum and will culminate in an evacuee day on the west Somerset Railway with two other schools.

Our Easter service will be at the church on Thursday 30th March at 2.30 and is open to everyone.

Happy Springtime

Angela Lewis



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Cricket News.

Although it is the 'close season' Nynehead Cricket Club is still alive & kicking. At a recent committee meeting it was decided that there WERE enough youngsters for the Club to consider a youth XI this season. More details will be sent to interested persons soon!

Alastair Riley

Birdwatching in the village.

This copy will arrive with thoughts of Spring and will undoubtedly lead Mervyn to sharpen his eyes in order to pick out the first swallows before I do at the start of April!! He has seen the first ones each of the last 2 years!

However, as this is written it is still very much the winter time. It has been a long winter for birds with the feeders in our garden requiring refilling more than ever before. There have been many fieldfares and redwings in the fields around our village and even a rare winter visitor - a brambling - joining in the hunt for seed with the chaffinches. There have been bigger numbers of these finches than is usual in southern England this winter; a clear observation on matters of temperature! Yellowhammers have been seen in some of the hedgerows in East Nynehead and near to Block House farm. I cannot be around and about as much as I would like of course - there is work to do - so it is great to receive news from villagers.

It was great to learn from both Robin & Keith that the scarce little egret which was first found by David Manners a couple of years ago has been in our village. The little egret is a new colonist to the UK and I believe that I have read that there are now nearly 500 pairs established in the country. This does not make them common of course

and they do not stay in our village long, they are winter visitors. Robin had 2 on the fields by the river at Hornshay whilst Keith found birds roosting in the trees beside the ox-bow twists in the Tone at East Nynehead on the way to Bradford on Tone. I found 2 of them here as well - possibly the same two Robin saw - in company with a grey heron and 5 comorants on the pylons! On the river itself where the low water levels have resulted in some islets appearing, I have found 2-3 snipe, a green sandpiper and a woodcock too. Nancy called to describe a beautiful green woodpecker in her garden. These fantastic birds are much bigger than one might think and are dramatic when they speak too! Their strange laughing cries - which we used to call yaffles in Essex - are common in our village where the bird nests in two or three places including at Nynehead Court. Also, Chris pointed out that he had seen a raven in mid February. In fact, the raven is a bird which has mysteriously extended its range from principally moorlands and some cliff edges. You can even see them flying over Taunton nowadays! Listen out for their deep guttural croaking cries which seem to drown out any other sound.

Winter can still be interesting and many birdwatchers even state that it is their preferred season to be out and about. I have no preference myself, really as Nynehead usually has something to surprise and engage me at all times! Anyway, to return to the forthcoming Spring.....last year the cuckoo was seen on April 15th & Mervyn's first swallow was on April 5th! Enjoy the possibilities which our village presents in the meantime.

*Alastair Riley,
Birdwatcher*



The Raven

Footpath Liaison Officer

Footpath Signs.

You may have noticed that some of the old-fashioned footpath signs have made a re-appearance around the parish. These are the upright posts installed where footpaths leave the highway - they were superseded by finger posts in later legislation. Chris Watson has done a good job retrieving, refurbishing and re-erecting them. With their coat of creosote, repainted lettering and new waymark they certainly add to the village environment. Thanks Chris.

Heywood Farm diversion.

There has been much activity recently on this topic, After looking over the situation at a site meeting in January, the Parish Council felt that the provision of signs and other furniture was inadequate, indeed dangerous in one instance. Because the new alignment was about to be formally confirmed, the Council acted quickly to bring the situation to TDBC and SCC's attention.

The outcome was another on-site meeting, this time with Tamsyn Matthews from SCC Rights of Way department. The changes needed to bring the diverted paths into a legal, safe and user-friendly state were pointed out and Tamsyn agreed to get them implemented. The most obvious need is for a secure set of steps up the bank to the stile opposite the ploughing cairn - without these steps access to the path is dangerous. SCC have an opportunity to show us what they regard as an acceptable standard in providing rights of way. Let's hope they take up that opportunity.

Single Payment Scheme and footpath maintenance

You may recall that I had attempted to contact the Rural Payment Agency (RPA) to ask how to inform them of landowners who don't meet their obligations regarding rights of way. Eventually my second letter, posted

in early October, generated a reply - three months later, in January.

Apparently the RPA expects such information to reach them via county highway authorities, but direct contact is not ruled out.

Canal Path.

Elsewhere there is a report on how and why the path from the sewage works to the aqueduct has been upgraded.

Colin Spackman

Parish Walk - All Welcome!

Sunday 19th March 10.00 am.
Start at the Village Hall

The route includes:

A canal lift,
Two canal aqueducts,
Three-arch bridge,
The planned site of the nature reserve,
Nynehead Court Ice House

- Oh! and two stiles.



This is a 2½ mile circular walk along the canal to Stedham's Covert and then back via Nynehead Court. Stout footwear is advised and the route is unsuitable for wheeled vehicles.

Nynehead Garden Club

February 13th saw the first meeting of the Garden Club following the AGM in January. Mr Mike Burgess of Secret Seeds, a local company based just outside Tiverton, gave a first class talk showing many of the plants which could be grown from the companies seeds. His talk was illustrated with a splendid range of pictures showing many of the plants in their natural habitats. This is always useful to gardeners as it gives the best indication of the type of conditions the plants need to be at their best.

The speaker was at pains to point out that they only gathered enough seed to establish a group of plants at their nursery and that they never sought to damage wild areas by over collecting. On this point it was interesting to note that a plant such as the Lotus berthelottii, commonly used in hanging baskets and widely available from garden centres, is now almost extinct in its native habitat in Tenerife.

The pictures ranged from Tenerife to Crete and the Czech Republic, reminding us yet again of the wide range of plants that we can grow in this country. Global warming should ensure that this trend continues. Following

the talk members were able to buy seeds from the huge range which the speaker had brought along with him.

Following Januarys AGM Jill Prior has stepped down as secretary and been replaced by Ann Manners. Other than that the committee were re-elected on block. Our sincere thanks go to Jill who carried out much of the work involved in setting up the Garden Club originally. Membership fees have been held again at £5 which represents excellent value!

With this Newsletter you should receive a Show Schedule and entry form for the Show on August 19th.

Now is the time to be starting those prize winning vegetables and flowers. (Keith Haslam has been spotted purchasing his leek seeds incidentally!)

Our next talk on March 13th will be by Roger Sutton the well known expert on butterflies and promises to be a real treat! We are very lucky to have secured the services of such an eminent speaker.

Alan Ketley
Chairman



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Nynehead Court

Christmas was a very busy season for us at the Court, and it was especially nice to see so many of you at our Open Day.

December's first outing was to the Christmas Tree Festival at Crediton. The many trees in the church, all decorated by different organisations, were quite beautiful, and lunch was very good too! Our trip to Oake Manor Golf Course for lunch was lovely, the views from the dining room being much appreciated. We were entertained by Partytime productions with the pantomime Cinderella, the TG Singers, and Canine Capers with their line-dancing dogs. The Keith Gibbs Quartet gave us an afternoon of Christmas music, and Wellington Town Band's carol concert made us all feel very festive.

Also in December, Mr. Collins talked on his experiences as an Exmoor Park ranger, Clem Prior gave us some interesting information about the history of Barge Painting, and Steve Shore brought some of his rescued animals to visit us from the Acorn Animal Shelter. Steve Manning took on the persona of a Victorian gentleman to entertain us with tales of Christmas past. The children from Nynehead School who joined us for the afternoon were spellbound and hands shot up to answer every question. It was lovely to see that children still enjoy simple storytelling.

In January our morning coffee trips continued, and late in the month we visited Exeter Museum. The museum proved to be a fascinating place with many interesting exhibits and the beautiful bright, although very cold, weather made the trip even more enjoyable. Many thanks to Mike Briginshaw who drove for this and many of our outings.

A good friend of Nynehead Court was persuaded to talk to us in January about her recent visit to China. Janet Watson told us of her travels to this far-flung destination with all its wonders, and with photographs and books painted a wonderful picture of this ancient country. Thanks also to Janet for regularly exercising our vocal chords with her monthly sing alongs.

Peter Triggs gave us an illustrated talk entitled Beautiful Britain. His many wonderful slides took us to all corners of the British Isles from the comfort of our armchairs.

Art and Craft Group

November and December saw us busy making cards and decorations for Christmas, and Mrs. Ann Bartaby helped us to make some lovely floral Christmas table decorations. Ann McLaren joined us again for embroidery and with her guidance we produced some very colourful pieces of appliqué work.

Following his talk in December on barge painting, Clem Prior returned in January to teach us the first steps in painting flowers. Periwinkles, daisies and roses all brightened a winter afternoon and great fun was had by all those who attended.

Many thanks to all our tutors and to Mrs. Rosemary Green for her continuing help with the group.

If you are interested in joining our group you would be most welcome. Contact Julia at the Court for meeting dates.

The Friends of Nynehead Court

Many of the Friends joined us for our Open Day in December, providing much appreciated help and support. Their assistance with running the shop, providing lovely floral displays and hosting drinks parties is most welcome, and we thank them again for their continued support.

Julia Mirylees



'SORT IT'
Phase 3 Roll-Out

Letters should by now have arrived informing some residents, in the Parish, of their inclusion into the new waste collection and recycling scheme - SORT IT!

The following area is included :-

Hornshay Farm - Poole - East Nynhehead - Railway crossing and East Nynhehead to the 'T' junction on the Nynhehead to Oake Road.

This phase is due to commence in May and residents are being asked to respond to the request forms and essentially to read the notification pack. Anyone with queries or concerns can call the Waste Services Team on: 01823 356346.

It is hoped that the rest of the Parish will be included in the fourth phase by the end of the year.

Cliff Bishop

Councillor, Taunton Deane Borough Council

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Useful Local Contacts

All Saints Church

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

Birdwatching

Alastair Riley	663699	email	alastair.riley@which.net
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Grand Western Canal Trust

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

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

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators

Jenny Dodd	661653	email	doddy@talk21.com
Lu Hawkins	462954		
Allan Howe	666995	email	howe@howe.eclipse.co.uk
Duncan Linklater	461637	email	duncan@designlink.co.uk
Peter McLaren	461949	email	paam@ninehides.fsnet.co.uk
Robert Needs	662620	email	angieneeds@beeb.net
Alec Reynolds	663323		
Chris Watson	662740		

Nynehead Amateur Dramatic Society (NADS)

Rosemary Lea (Hon. Sec.)	666166		
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Nynehead News

Allan Howe - Chairman	666995	email	howe@howe.eclipse.co.uk
Jenny Dodd - Secretary	661653	email	doddy@talk21.com
Mike Briginshaw - Treasurer	461627	email	bmike1@onetel.com

Nynehead Cricket Club

Keith Haslam - Chairman	461667		
Alastair Riley - Secretary	663699	email	alastair.riley@which.net

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		
The Club	665072		

Useful Local Contacts

Nynehead Memorial Hall

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

Nynehead School

Angela Lewis - (Head Teacher)	662021	email	alewis1@educ.somerset.gov.uk
Sue Davies - (Chair of Governors)	432509	email	davies.westwing@lineone.net

Friends of Nynehead School

Mary Sparks	663745
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Parish Council:

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

County Councillor:

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

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

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

POLICE - Crimestoppers

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

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

Rural Youth Project

Dawn Netley	666895
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Diary: - 4th March to 4th June 2006

Mar - 6	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall - 7.30 pm
Mar - 10	History Society - Romano - British Iron working on Exmoor - 7.45pm at Village Hall
Mar - 13	Garden Club - Roger Sutton or butterflies- Village Hall - 7.30
Mar - 19	Parish Walk - starting at Village Hall - 10am
Mar - 22	Pantomime - Beauty & the Beast - 7.30pm at Village Hall - Dress rehearsal night
Mar - 23	Pantomime - Beauty & the Beast - 7.30pm at Village Hall
Mar - 24	Pantomime - Beauty & the Beast - 7.30pm at Village Hall
Mar - 25	Pantomime - Beauty & the Beast - 7.30pm at Village Hall
Apr - 1	Nynehead Club - April Fools Skittles Evening - 8pm
Apr - 3	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall - 7.30 pm
Apr - 5	Nynehead Club Annual General Meeting - 8.0pr - 150 at the Club
Apr - 7	History Society - Visiting Exmoor - a history of tourism - 7.45pm at Village Hall
Apr - 10	Garden Club - Potted Up - Village Hall 7.30pm
Apr - 11	Brunel 200 - Open project meeting - Village Hall - 7pm
Apr - 15	Nynehead Club - Easter Bonnet Party
Apr - 20	Brunel 200 - Casting & Reading meeting - Village Hall - 7pm
Apr - 21	Brunel 200 - Casting & Reading meeting - Village Hall - 7pm
Apr - 24	Nynehead Memorial Hall Annual General Meeting - Open to all 7.30pm at Village Hall
May - 8	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall - 7.30 pm
May - 8	Nynehead Club Committee Meeting - 8.30pm at the Club - all members welcome
May - 11	Annual Parish Meeting - Village Hall - 7pm
May - 12	Annual General Meeting + The pilgrim trail to Le Mont-St-Michel - 7.45pm - Village Hall
May - 15	Garden Club - Bedding Plants - Village Hall - 7.30pm
May - 20	Copy Deadline for March Edition of Nynehead News
May - 26	Brunel's Birthday Party - Nynehead Court Gardens - from 6.30pm
Jun - 3	Distribution date for March Edition of Nynehead News
Jun - 5	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall - 7.30 pm
Jun - 7	Nynehead Club Committee Meeting - 8.30pm at the Club - all members welcome



The tree shown on the front of our December Newsletter can be seen in the fields to the west of Nynehead Road between Hornshay Farm & Wharf Cottage

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