

# *Nynehead News*

September 2007

Volume 6

Issue 3

E-mail: [newsletter@nynehead.org](mailto:newsletter@nynehead.org)

This newsletter can be viewed at - and additional copies printed - by visiting:

[www.nynehead.org](http://www.nynehead.org)



The rebuilt entrance to Chipley Park

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## Welcome to the September 2007 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 editor(s) retain the right to reject material at their absolute discretion should they consider it to be inappropriate or offensive.*

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### Advertising Rates

Prime banners on front and rear covers - £20 each

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Top banner	£10	Bottom banner	£10
Full page	£20	Minimum charge	£5

Advertisements can be included in the business section of our website - [www.nynehead.org](http://www.nynehead.org) - for an additional payment of £5 for 3 months.

For more information Contact Peter Russell on 01823 461668

## Editorial Comment

Welcome to the September edition of the Nynehead News and please accept my apologies for the late delivery – this is entirely my fault and not that of our superb delivery team.

My hobbyhorse for this edition is 'communication' and how we may be able to make our community safer and more secure.

Your Parish Council has an 'emergency plan' designed so that in the event of a major disaster within our Parish and the surrounding area, it would be able to organise rescue teams and centres to assist those in need. Access to tractors, trucks, generators, pumps and many other items of equipment has been agreed, together with food, water and other basic requirements. At this point I would like to thank all who have offered their support for the project by making their equipment, facilities and personal assistance so readily available.

However, the plan is of little use unless people can be advised of what is happening. Now I know that many will say that Nynehead is unlikely to ever have any problems requiring an emergency plan - but I suspect that many living in those areas recently flooded – especially those where they thought they were safe - might have wished such a plan was operating to both provide help and keep them up to date with events.

There are other aspects of communication I would ask you to consider, especially the dispersal of information from the Neighbourhood Watch team as well as the Parish Council. Many may be aware that we have three public notice boards in the parish but the survey linked to the production of our Parish Plan showed that only a very small minority actually read their contents.

Information regarding local flooding, road works, diversions and other similar problems could also be provided.

As many of us now have email facilities I would like to suggest that these be held in a central library so that appropriate information can be rapidly disseminated. Those having email would be asked to keep those of their neighbours, known not to have this service, aware of what is happening.

If you feel such a service could be in the public interest please send an email to me, Mike Briginshaw, at [newsletter@nynehead.org](mailto:newsletter@nynehead.org) simply saying that you would be willing to take part. If there is sufficient interest I will endeavour to organise a central register, either via our Newsletter, our Website or the Parish Council. I promise that those giving email addresses will have their confidentiality respected and that no outside organisations will be allowed access.

Duncan Linklater, Webmaster of [www.nynehead.org](http://www.nynehead.org), is also Co-ordinator of the East Nynehead Neighbourhood Watch and has been communicating with many in his area by this method for some time. He is a great advocate of the principle and believes that it would be of benefit anyway, but even more so if all who are able agree to partake.

I look forward to receiving your emails,

Regards to you all,

**Mike**

## Nynehead Parish Council

The council is now up to its full complement of five members. Paul Netley was welcomed to the July meeting to replace Alan Ketley.

We have had four meetings in the last three months – the regular meetings in June and July and two special meetings to consider planning applications at Kinvara, Blackdown View and at school. Both special meetings were well attended by villagers.

The application to replace the temporary buildings at the school brought to the fore the problem of traffic in that part of the village and the safety of people walking from Higher Nynehead down the Hollow. The council supports measures to maintain the school as an important part of the community but considers that the scheme will increase traffic. It has told the county council that adequate parking and provision for the safe dropping off and putting down of pupils are necessary.

The seat by the river near Ash bridge was replaced by Keith Haslam but within days had been stolen again. Any information as to who might have been responsible should be given to the police. The seat will be replaced but with a 'cheap and cheerful' version.

The council continues to raise the problem of excessive traffic with the highway authority and the police, in particular the spate of heavy lorries past the school. The idea of a footpath on the road at the top of the Hollow is being pursued.

Colin Spackman continues to do a good job as our footpath man. With grants from taunton Deane we have built up a reasonable footpath budget. This will spent on a) filling rabbit holes on the canal path between the sewage works and the Tone aqueduct; b) repairing the path on the Bradford side of the Lift cottage railway crossing and c) replacing stiles with kissing gates/squeeze stiles on the path from Stedhams Covert via the three-arch bridge to the pumping station.

This year's Annual Parish Meeting was poorly attended despite having a guest speaker. Next year it will be a shorter event held on the same evening as a parish council meeting.

Finally, although the proposals for a unitary authority for Somerset have been dropped this does not mean that there will be no changes in the way local authority services will be provided. It is likely that the role of parish councils will be under the spotlight and we will do our best to influence the local discussions on this topic.

David Rabson  
Clerk to the Parish Council

## *Nynehead Club*



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

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

## Mobile Library Service

I am delighted to provide the update mentioned in our last edition of the changes to the mobile library service and would like to thank Paul Smith for having been so helpful.

The dates for September and October are:

04 September

25 September

16 October

From 5th Nov there will be a fresh set of timetables, as a new mobile is being introduced to the fleet, which will visit those larger communities in Somerset which do not have their own library. This will have a knock-on effect on the other mobiles and their schedules.

Nynehead will be served from November by the Taunton Mobile, which will visit on Thursday afternoons at the same times as at present.

The dates for November and December are:

08 November

29 November

20 December

The new schedules will appear on our website at [www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries) closer to the time.

Nynehead is visited every 3 weeks by a mobile library provided by Somerset County Council's Cultural Service. It carries over 2500 books, including a selection in

Large Print and some for children. You also have access to films on video, talking books and music CDs. No overdue charges are made on books borrowed from the mobile.

If you are housebound, to arrange for books to be delivered to you, by the mobile driver or by a Good Neighbour. Please contact 0845 345 9177 for further information.

The mobile library service has been delivering books to rural areas in Somerset for over 50 years and currently visits over 1,000 stops. We have 5 mobiles in our fleet, plus a smaller Travelling Library, which covers Exmoor.

Every mobile has a lift for people who use wheel chairs or who find climbing the steps difficult. The driver will help with this, but if you use a wheelchair, you'll need to bring along a friend or carer who will be trained to help you on and off the mobile. Please contact Paul Smith who will help arrange the training.

If you'd like to find out more about your library service, phone 0845 345 9177 or visit our website at:

[www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries)

where you will find full details about all the mobile libraries.

At [www.librarieswest.org.uk](http://www.librarieswest.org.uk) you can also join, renew or reserve books, and use free online resources, such as the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Paul Smith

Tel: 01278 451201

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## ALL SAINTS CHURCH, NYNEHEAD

### Church Services:

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in the month in Nynehead Court at 10-30am

2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays in Church at 10-45am

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

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

There is a regular Communion Service in Nynehead Court on generally a monthly basis on a weekday.

Pastoral matters: Please contact Rev. Margi Campbell tel 669446

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

Since the last Newsletter, the Village Church has continued to play an active role in the community.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> June we contributed items of garden produce etc to the Bible Society coffee morning in Wellington.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> June Nynehead Court organised 'Brides through the ages' in aid of the Bell fund and although it was a wet afternoon it was very well supported.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> July there was a concert in the church which involved Gospel singing by Pam Roberts and Company. This was very well attended and we were very grateful for the

kind contribution of a buffet supper by Nynehead Court.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> July we had a very successful Barbecue at Langham Farm by kind permission of Rachel and Malcolm Vest. Unfortunately just as we started the heavens opened and we had to retreat to shelter in horses stables and sheds.

29<sup>th</sup> July The church service was held at Langford Budville and the collection from the East Group of Parishes was donated to a fund in memory of Bishop Andrew. This fund is to be used to purchase sports equipment for children in the poor parts of Africa.

### Forth coming events:

August 30<sup>th</sup> to September 6<sup>th</sup> The *Somerset Guild of Craftsmen* are holding an exhibition in the church. This exhibition will be open to anyone so do take the opportunity to see some of the craftwork that is being produced locally.

September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Nynehead will be taking part in the *National Heritage Weekend* when various buildings and places of interest are open to the public. There will be conducted tours of the church between 10am and 5pm on the Saturday and 2pm and 5pm on the Sunday. If you have not yet been on a conducted tour of the church then do take this opportunity of learning about the history of our wonderful Parish Church. If you want to see what the church contains then do look at the village web site [nynehead.org](http://nynehead.org).

September 30<sup>th</sup> The village *Harvest Festival Service* will be in the church at 6-30pm. If anyone wishes to contribute produce etc to the Harvest Festival could you please bring them to the church on the morning of Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>. As is our normal custom all the Harvest Gifts will be given to the Womens Refuge in Taunton.

October 6<sup>th</sup> This is the date for our *Harvest Supper* in the village hall. Tickets will be available near the date of the supper.

October 14<sup>th</sup> The church service will be taken by the *Archdeacon of Taunton* John Reed. On this occasion we do hope that many of the village will join us.

October 20<sup>th</sup> The *Taunton Male Voice Choir* will be giving a concert in the church. More details later.

During the year many groups and individuals visit our fascinating and interesting church. On the 1<sup>st</sup> September the Clevedon Archaeological Society will be visiting the village in order to see the church, the canal and the Court. On the 20<sup>th</sup> September the Taunton Probus club will be visiting the church.

During July/August several members of the congregation have been involved with a study course led by Rev. Josie Harrison at the home of Tony and Cynthia Lock.

**News of members of the congregation:**

Rose Agar- Strath of Nynehead Court was 100 years old on 2<sup>nd</sup> of August and celebrated the day with her family and the residents of the Court. After receiving Communion in the morning she went for a ride in Mike Briginshaw's 1930 Rolls Royce.

Betty Armitage is now 97 years old but unfortunately she has had to move into a care home.

**From the church register:**

In the last few months we have had two funerals involving people in the village:

Gene Broome of East Nynehead aged 83. Gene's funeral was on 12<sup>th</sup> July at the Crematorium and the service was taken by Rev. Josie Harrison. Gene had been unwell for some months and will be sadly missed by family and friends.

Bertie Cubitt His funeral service was in the church on 8<sup>th</sup> August.

**Church Fabric:** There has been very little visible progress with the Bells as the Bell Hanger has been carrying out work in his Taunton workshop in preparation for returning them to Nynehead.

It is hoped that work will soon start on repairing the Bee Bowls in the churchyard as these are in urgent need of attention.

**For those new to the village,** If you would like a conducted tour of the church, which is well worth a visit, please contact Tony Lock tel 461214.

*Tony Lock*

## **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**

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TA21 0BL

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## Nynehead Garden Club

### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Flower Show - 18 August 2007

Once again the Show proved to be a great success with entries as numerous as in previous shows despite the problems encountered by growers due to the very wet year.

The judges commented on the high standard and quality of entries and found it difficult in many cases to decide on their awards. Despite them being as accommodating as possible, they judge according to Royal Horticultural Society rules, and inevitably there are occasions when an entry has to be disqualified as it does not conform to the schedule requirements - hence some entry cards are marked "NAS" (not as schedule.) It was great to see so many new entrants this year; hopefully this is not only an indication that more of us are enjoying growing our own fruit and vegetables, but also are keen to join in the fun of the village show. Also encouraging was the higher number of young people entering classes. We look forward to seeing an even greater entry next year!

We were very pleased to welcome Nynehead under-5's Pre-School, who were involved with the Show at an early stage and who provided a very colourful wall display.

Visitor numbers to the Show were well up on previous years and it was good to see so many families attending, as well as a party from Nynehead Court. Grateful thanks are due, as always, to Alec Reed and his team from Nynehead Court, who provided a spectacular display of plants, fruit and vegetables on the stage. We really appreciate this support.

The Raffle was well supported, and sponsored by Perry's Hardware, Sheppy's Cider, Buy and Save, Nynehead Fruit, Discount Tiles, Domino's, Swallowfield, Ken Coles, Blackdown Nurseries and World's End. Grateful thanks go to all of them.

Thanks are also due to the people who helped provide hot and cold drinks and cakes throughout the afternoon. Also, for manning the plant stall in the rain, stewarding the

judging, setting up and dismantling and clearing up at the end of the day.

Anyone attending the Show for the first time could not have failed to observe the energy and enthusiasm of the occasion, and we hope that if you are not already a Garden Club member, you will consider joining the group. Our indoor meetings begin again on 10 September, then 8 October, 12 November and the Christmas meeting on 10 December, and you don't need to be a gardener to join! We all learn together, so why not come along and give it a try.

A full list of all winners follows.

*David Manners*

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## Show Results

### Young People

Photograph of clouds. (5-8) 1. E Raybould  
2. E Boyd (9-11) 1. J Darby (12-16) 1. F Netley  
Miniature garden in saucer. (5-8) 1. E Boyd  
(9-11) 1. J Darby  
Monster made of fruit/vegetables. (5-8) Jt 1. E  
Boyd  
Jt 1. K Harcombe 2. C Harcombe (9-11) 1. J  
Darby  
2. P Darby (12-16) 1. N Turner  
Flower arrangement in mug. (5-8) 1. E Boyd  
(12-16) 1. H Sparks  
Decorated digestive biscuits. (5-8) 1. E Boyd  
2. C Harcombe 3. K Harcombe (9-11) 1. L  
Sparks  
(12-16) 1. N Turner  
Muffins. (5-8) HC. E Boyd. (9-11) 1. L Sparks  
2. P Darby 3. J Netley (12-16) 1. F Netley  
Drawing of Pet. (5-8) 1. E Boyd (9-11) 1. L  
Sparks  
2. J Netley 3. J Darby  
Painting or drawing. (5-8) 1. E Boyd (9-11) 1. P  
Darby 2. L Sparks (12-16) 1. H Sparks 2. F  
Netley  
Greetings card. (5-8) 1. E Boyd (9-11) 1. J  
Netley  
(12-16) 1. N Turner 2. H Sparks 3. F Netley  
Computer generated picture. (5-8) HC. E Boyd  
Healthy school lunch box. (5-8) E Boyd. (9-11)  
1. J Netley (12-16) 1. F Netley HC N Turner  
Spud in a Bucket. J Prior  
Tallest Sunflower. A Howe  
Scarecrow. Joint winners Darby family and  
Hooper family

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### **Shield and Cup Winners**

Prior Shield for Best Vegetable: B Tingay  
Hargreaves Shield for Best Fruit: A Howe  
Rose Cup for Best Rose: J Prior  
Toogoods Cup for Most Cookery Points:  
L Haslam  
Nynehead Court Cup for Most Points in Show: K Haslam  
Village of the Year Shield for Most Points Gained by Young Person: E Boyd

### **Vegetables**

French Beans. 1. S Rabson 2. K Haslam  
Runner Beans. 1. E Entwistle 2. M Hartnell  
3. S Rabson  
Potatoes, white. 1. B Tingay 2. E Entwistle  
3. W Salter  
Potatoes, coloured. 1. K Haslam 2. S Rabson  
Lettuce, 2 heads. 1. L Hawkins 2. A Howe  
3. G Orr.  
Courgettes. 1. A Howe 2. K Haslam  
3. S Rabson  
Fresh Herbs. 1. A Howe 2. E Entwistle  
3. K Haslam  
Shallots. 1. K Haslam  
Onions, white. 1. A Howe 2. K Haslam  
Onions, red. 1. A Howe  
Marrows, matched pair. 1. K Haslam  
2. A Howe  
Tomatoes, dish of 6. 1. K Haslam 2. S Rabson  
3. E Entwistle  
Tomatoes, cherry. 1. A Howe 2. S Rabson  
3. K Haslam  
Cucumbers, matched pair. 1. A Howe  
2. J Prior 3. S Rabson  
Carrots. 1. B Tingay 2. K Haslam 3. A Howe  
Parsnips. 2. B Tingay  
Sweetcorn. 1. K Haslam 2. S Rabson  
3 Veg in Seed Tray. 1. E Entwistle. 2. S Rabson  
3. K Haslam  
Any Other Vegetable. 1. B Sparks 2. K Haslam  
3. J Prior

### **Fun Vegetables**

Largest Single Onion. A Howe  
Longest Runner Bean. S Rabson  
Biggest Marrow. A Howe  
Biggest Pumpkin. L Hawkins

### **Fruit**

Dessert Apples. 1. A Howe 2. K Haslam  
Cooking Apples. 1. H Hooper 2. A Howe  
3. J Darby Highly commended P Darby  
Plums. 1. M Sparks 2. K Haslam 3. A Howe  
Pears. 1. A Howe  
Blackberries. 1. A Howe 2. K Haslam 3 P Darby  
Raspberries. 1. A Howe 2. J Fox 3. M Sparks  
Any Other Fruit. 1. P Netley 2. K Haslam  
3. L Hobbs

### **Flowers**

Gladioli. 2. E Entwistle  
Fuchsia in pot. 1. M Hartnell 2. K Haslam 3.G Orr  
Roses, HT. 1. J Prior

Rose, 1 bloom. 1. J Prior. 2. A Harcombe  
3. K Haslam  
Three flowers raised from seed. 1. K Haslam  
2. M Hartnell 3. G Orr  
Herbaceous Perennials, 6 stems. 1. L Haslam  
2. S Rabson 3. M Hartnell HC. G Orr  
Pot plant. 1. M Hartnell 2. K Haslam 3. A  
Harcombe HC. L Haslam  
Clematis. 1. B Sparks 2. G Orr 3. K Haslam  
Foliage pot plant. 1. A Ketley 2. G Orr 3. L Hobbs  
HC M Sparks  
Dahlias. 1. M Hartnell 2. J Fox 3. K Haslam  
Cactus or Succulent. 1. M Hartnell  
Vase Flowering Shrubs. 1. N Douglas 2. G Orr  
3. S Rabson  
Vase Foliage Shrubs. 1. G Orr 2. N Douglas  
3. J Fox

### **Floral Art**

Arrangement 'Summer Sun'. 1. J Prior  
Arrangement in cup. 1. M Sparks 2. K Boyd  
Gentleman's Buttonhole. 1. M Sparks  
2. A Harcombe 3. N Douglas  
Planted outdoor container. 1. H Hooper 2. K Haslam

### **Cookery**

Cheese straws. 1. A Harcombe 2. L Haslam  
3. B Sparks  
Lemon curd. 1. S Rabson 2. G Orr  
Fruit cake. 1. M Sparks 2. G Orr 3. E Burt  
Chutney. 1. L Haslam 2. B Sparks 3. G Orr  
Savoury scones. 1. E Burt 2. L Haslam  
Marmalade. 1. L Haslam 2. G Orr  
Biscuits/cookies. 1. E Burt 2. M Sparks 3 K Boyd  
Shortbread. 1. L Haslam 2. K Boyd 3. E Burt  
HC A Harcombe  
Jelly. 1. L Haslam 2 G Orr  
Victoria sandwich. 1. L Haslam 2. B Sparks  
3. A Harcombe  
Jam. 1. B Sparks 2. L Haslam 3. K Haslam  
Decorated cake. 1. K Boyd  
Bread (breadmaker). 1. E Entwistle 2. L Haslam  
3. S Rabson  
Bread (handmade). 1. P Darby 2. M Sparks

### **Handicrafts**

Single greetings card. 1. J Bruford 2. S Hooper  
3. N Turner  
Knitting or crochet. 1. L Hawkins 2. L Haslam  
3. K Boyd  
Cross stitch. 1. L Hobbs  
Patchwork. 1. L Haslam  
An item in soft medium. 1. D Beecheno 2. N  
Douglas  
Photograph of building or monument in Nynehead.  
1. J Darby 2. K Boyd 3. A Howe  
Item in hard medium. 1. P Darby 2. J Darby  
Painting or drawing. 1. J Bruford HC. D Beecheno

**AFRICAN DREAM – JULY 2008**  
**ZULU NATAL – RSA**

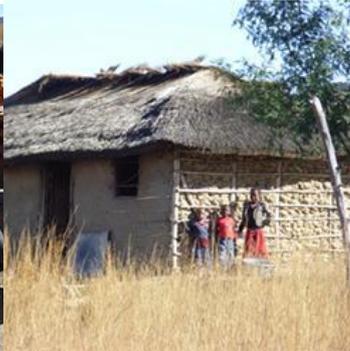
**NATALIE TURNER**

I have been lucky enough to secure a place on a once in a lifetime trip to South Africa in July 2008. It is a 3 week expedition & in that time I will go back to basics, learn how to track & hunt for my meals & learn about the environment & endangered species. I will also get the chance to give something back, to help people less fortunate than myself, which will involve spending time repairing, renovating & painting the ZULUFADDER Orphanage and School at ESHOWE, the orphans whose parents lives have been claimed by AIDS.

This charity project is run by the ROTARY CLUB with 100% donation going towards the orphanage.



Orphans meal times



Orphanage



School decoration

So I think that you will agree when I say that this is a once in a lifetime trip to gain first hand experience of another culture & see the harsh reality of AIDS. The downside is the cost of funding this trip. I have to raise £3,000 by May 2008, so I will be holding various fundraising events locally. With help from my family & friends I have come up with some ideas to raise funds such as:-

PUDDING EVENINGS  
BINGO / QUIZ & COMPANY LOGO NIGHTS  
AUCTION OF PROMISES  
BABY SITTING SERVICES (currently a Brownie assistant & undertaking JSLA)  
MONTHLY CAR WASH & TABLE TOP SALE  
HAND MADE GREETINGS CARDS (made to order)

So I hope that you will be able to support me by attending these events, details of which will follow soon. In the meantime any other fundraising ideas & donations would be gratefully received. I will be contacting local Wellington & Taunton businesses for sponsorship too – do you have any interested contacts that could help me?

If you would like to know any more about the trip I would be only too please to give you more information.



My contact details are:-

NATALIE TURNER  
KERASIA COTTAGE  
NYNEHEAD  
WELLINGTON TA21 0BY

Tel: 01823-663998  
Mob: 077670856300  
Email: [turnsey12@fsmail.net](mailto:turnsey12@fsmail.net)

Emily Jolliff & Junior Mastermind



Our daughter Emily (10 Yrs) has competed (with we believe about 1100 others nationally) for a place on Junior Mastermind. There were several heats on general knowledge and a trip to the BBC studios to be filmed; as well as a heat specifically about the specialist subjects chosen. We were delighted when we heard this last week that she has finally been successful; and is one of the 16 that will battle it out on television in the autumn. Her specialist subject is the life of Rosa Parks.

She will be recording on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, as yet we do not know when it will be televised but will let you know.

*Tracie Jolliff  
Mill House*

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## Nynehead Local History Society

We are now well into our programme of summer visits. In June local historian Hilary Binding showed us round the churches at Withycombe and Rodhuish on the Brendons while in July we went to the Grade 1 listed house of Walronds in Cullompton (the old stone house on the right hand side of the narrow high street. By the time this appears we will have been to the National Trust properties in Broadclyst plus the church which has a Nynehead connection – a stained glass window which includes Miss Ruth Whitaker who used to live at Nynehead Court.

We end the summer on Thursday 13 September with a visit to Athelney (of King Alfred and the cakes fame) with County Archaeologist Bob Croft. We leave the Memorial Hall at 1.15 p.m. or meet at Athelney Bridge (grid ref.346291) at 2.00

Our winter programme is now in place – details in the diary page. As usual we aim to provide a variety of speakers to please many interests. At our first meeting on 12 October John Porter will be talking about Andrew Crosse of Fyne Court – known as the ‘thunder man’ because of his pioneering work on electricity. Before then there is the heritage weekend on 8/9 September of which more details elsewhere in the newsletter.

The history pages of the Nynehead website are proving attractive to outsiders interested in the village. I have recently had two enquiries from people exploring their family history and one was kind enough to

send an old photograph of the old vicarage next to the school and photos of George and Elizabeth Knight (the schoolteacher?). She commented ‘Having just been looking at your excellent website, and thinking what a go-ahead lot you all are...’ I have also put a short item in the next issue of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society newsletter which should create even more interest.

Our subscription stays at £7 per head and we welcome anyone who just wants to try us out for a modest charge.

David Rabson.



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## NYNEHEAD AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

### Winter programme 2007-2008

Meetings are held at the Nynehead Memorial Hall and start at 7.45 p.m. unless stated otherwise.

Date	Speaker	Topic	Address/tel.	Fee
12 Oct	John Porter	Crosse Connections 1 - the first of three talks about the Crosse family of Broomfield.	12 Darwin Close Taunton TA 2 6TX  01823 271384 john@crosseconnections. org.uk	£35
9 Nov	Denis Dodd	Nynehead's canal and parkland - recent developments.	01823 661653	-
14 Dec	Chris Sidaway	Farmer to farrier - a study of historic farm buildings	13 Duke Street Wembdon Bridgwater TA6 3TG  01278 453216	?
11 Jan 7.30 p.m. (Party)	A seasonal quiz			-
8 Feb	Del Wiggins	How on earth do they know how old it is?		?
14 Mar	Ian Coleby	Branch line to the sea: the history of the railway to Minehead.	32 Holway Avenue TAUNTON TA1 3AR  01823 333617 icoleby@tiscali.co.uk	Donation to WSR/tr avel from Taunton
11 April	Alex Findlater	Introduction to heraldry	The Grammar House Langport TA10 9PU  01458 250868 alex@findlater.org.uk	?
9 May (AGM)	Tanya James (Neroche Community History Project Officer)	The Neroche Project - some preliminary results.	Historic Environment Service The Castle Taunton TA1 4AA  Mobile: 07881 850660 tljames@somerset.gov.uk	?

## Footpath Liaison officer

Kissing gate on Canal Path near Perry Farm.

Users of the Canal Path at the Easy Nynehead end will by now have used the newly installed metal kissing gate. Sam Jones from the County Council organised the construction of a made-to-measure gate that would meet the requirements of the site.

Because the gate is on ground made unstable by the badger sets an integral metal structure was necessary to ensure that the gate doesn't fall apart. Once the nearby vegetation has re-established itself the gate should be less intrusive.

### Permissive Paths

When walking the footpaths in the parish, I often stop and talk to other users to see what they think of the paths in the village. One topic often mentioned is the permissive paths – they have all been well received. The latest of these permissive paths is from the Canal Lift through Harris's Moor into the Carriage Drive and back under the Aqueduct to join the existing permissive path to the Three Arch Bridge. Thanks to Mr Dodd for this useful addition to the footpath network in Nynehead which opens up new opportunities for circular walks around the west of the parish.

### Maize and Potatoes

For walkers, maize is one of the least friendly crops. Its height blots out the view and, more importantly, it interferes with their ability to use the path when farmers don't provide a timely and proper path through the crop. Unless the path is re-established early on in the growing season,

stalk stumps resulting from a path cut through a partly established crop make walking very uncomfortable and liable to trip walkers. And the path should have a clear width that matches the statutory requirement or users find themselves walking through (wet) vegetation protruding across the path from both sides.

Maize has been grown in several fields for the first time recently and this year problems of path re-instatement occurred in both East Nynehead (the two paths leading to the railway crossing by Lift Cottage) and West Nynehead (the route between the Three Arch Bridge and The Lynch corner). Potatoes provide a different but similar problem. Unless a path is re-instated when the crop is planted walkers find themselves either restricted to a narrow trough between ridges or having to cross a series of ridges – neither situation meeting the legal requirement of re-instatement.

### Path Improvement

The Parish Council has some funds available for path improvement. One suggestion is to place a robust sign where the path from Stedham's Covert to Wellington crosses the Canal Path. The sign would indicate distances to sites in all four directions and guide walkers unfamiliar with the area. If you have any ideas then speak to a Parish Councillor.

The wet weather of early summer is now a distant memory so why not get out and use the paths around the village to enjoy the brilliant views, flora, fauna and industrial archaeology.

*Colin Spackman*



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## Do you drink Wine? If so, do you make your own? Ever thought of making your own?

Gone are the days when Home Brew was a glass of Pea Pod Wine and it sat in the glass looking like soup and tasted like, well let's just accept that it wasn't from a Chateau.

Most modern wine makers like to make wines like those you buy and the Home Wine and Beer industry has risen to the challenge.

Since the arrival of third world countries into the commercial wine making world, the traditional wine making countries of Europe have been left with large amounts of high quality grape juice. That juice the Home Wine and Beer industry is able to buy.

Around 1990 the first single varietal grape wine kits came onto the UK market and we were able to make such wines as Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay.

At that time the cost was high, when compared with old fashioned fruit based kits. However, the quality was high. Since that time the number of varieties available has risen immensely, giving the wine maker a very wide choice.

The wine making process has become very simple; if you can make a cup of instant coffee then you can make good wines. Equipment required is minimal costing around £15 and it takes about 1-2 hours of your time.

£21.00 will give you a kit of white wine to which you only have to add water to produce 30 bottles of a dry white table wine similar to Italian Soave. That's 75p per bottle making it cheaper than a 500ml bottle of Coca Cola!

The more expensive ranges of 30 bottle kits run from around £27.00 for a Chardonnay right up to £60.00 for a high quality "Chateau Neuf du Pape".

There are a number of kits in mid range, the most popular being California Connoisseur at £36.00 for 30 bottles.

Manufacturers also produce a variety of 6 bottle kits at £10.00. These are ideal for a beginner to try the hobby.

Wines in the price range £21.00 up to £36.00 will compare favourably with wines costing around £5.00 to £6.00 per bottle and the £60.00 range compares with wines at £10 plus per bottle.

Most importantly when you raise a glass of your own the Chancellor gets nothing, there is no duty on home wines.

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- Next Deliveries in the Nynhead area :-
- **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2007**
- **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2007**
- **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

## Nynehead Amateur Dramatic Society

The Society's AGM took place last month and once the business of the evening had been swiftly and successfully completed we went on to talk about the variety show we are putting on in the autumn.

The Countryside Show will be a mixture of music and words to which everyone in the family is invited. It will take place in the Hall on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 pm. Tickets will cost £6.00 each to include a 'fish and chips' supper or £3.00 for sausage and chips for primary school age children. Tickets will be available from Hilary Hooper from the 24<sup>th</sup> September.

Next year's pantomime is currently being written and there will be more details in the December issue of the Newsletter but it will be slightly earlier than before so as not to coincide with Easter.

If anyone would like to 'do a turn' for the Countryside Show or you would like further details about the Society and its activities please let me know - we'll be very pleased to see you.

*Rosemary Lea*  
*Honorary Secretary*

## Nynehead and District Local History Society

Item for SANHS Newsletter  
July 2007

Nynehead's history on the web

Nynehead's award-winning website\* [www.nynehead.org](http://www.nynehead.org) no longer provides only basic facts about the village. With the help of local organisations and researchers it now provides an accessible and increasing source of information about the history of the parish. Nynehead is noted for its fine parish church, Nynehead Court and the Grand Western Canal and a wealth of information on all of these now available. The organisers are particularly pleased that Bridget Clarke has kindly allowed her work on the papers of Edward Clarke, owner of Chipley in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century and friend of the philosopher John Locke, to be included on the web site. Why not have a look!

(\*joint winner of the Calor Village of the Year website in Taunton Deane 2006)

*David rabson*

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## Birdwatching bit !

The autumn is here already after a most peculiar summer! Birdwatchers find the autumn to be the most exciting period because of all the migratory movements that occur. Amongst all the arriving birds like the fieldfares, redwings, geese and ducks are the departing ones, the swallows, martins, warblers and other southern dwellers! In amongst all of these along with the resident species birdwatchers are always on the look out for the occasional rarity. This can turn up anywhere and Nynhead, with its diverse habitats is due something, I am sure !

Rarities are not only what keep me interested but it is worth mentioning them if only to tell the tale of April 20<sup>th</sup> ! The spring always turns up rarities too, though in smaller numbers than the autumn. On April 20<sup>th</sup> David Manners and Martin Darbyshire were out and about and were confronted with a large raptor behaving in a strange way above the centre of the village. Both men know their birds and their descriptions of a somewhat buoyant flight, light coloration and the overall size was intriguing when they rang me. We could not solve the problem.....but a week or so later reports of a similar bird at the same time heading in the same direction made things clearer. David and Martin are now proudly able to say they saw Somerset's first short-toed eagle! The same bird mooched northwards to the Cheddar area before presumably deciding that it had overshot its most northerly breeding area in the Foret d'Ecouves near Alencon in southern Normandy!

Still chatting about the Spring, the cuckoo again failed to materialise, so that's now three years since a cuckoo arrived and remained in Nynhead. One was heard - again by David - on May 27<sup>th</sup>; otherwise, no cuckoos. More positively, many villagers noticed that we had lots of swifts this year, more than previously. Unfortunately, they left very early in mid July, probably as a result of the weather ! Our swallows and house martins will be preparing to leave any

day now too, although several swallows were gathering on wires by The Club as early as July, suggesting that they became disenchanted with our summer too!

During the summer my thanks and admiration to Mervyn for his superb description of a male redstart which he had seen on a visit to Selworthy. May he see many more interesting birds on his days out - last time it was a goosander he found! A rare summer visitor, the redstart is a striking bird and does breed in the coombes of Exmoor and on the slopes of the Mendips, albeit in small numbers. Try to seek one out next year! It was great to learn of the pair of spotted flycatchers nesting at Sheila & David Rabson's house too. These are scarce birds now.

I seem to have mentioned all our seasons in this piece - proof no doubt of the importance of the seasons to bird and wild life in general. So, with autumn upon us I will finish with a reminder for the colder weather of winter. Please make sure that you keep those feeders well stocked ! The birds really do appreciate it even if they cannot say thank you !

This will be my final birdwatching piece. Along with the swallows and house martins, Lynn & I are heading south as well. In conclusion, my thanks to the tiny number of villagers who have regularly kept me informed of all things avian. I remain convinced that the best hobbies are the ones that are free!

Alastair Riley



## Nynehead Court

Over the last few months we have been enjoying our outings and events despite the unseasonable weather.

On one of the few sunny days in May we travelled to Sidmouth for lunch at the Bedford Hotel on the sea front, and on the way back stopped at Honiton for an ice-cream, possibly the best in Somerset! We enjoyed our varied trips out for coffee and tea during the month, the Pines at Buncombe being a favourite venue. On a clear day the view is wonderful.

Talks during the month were provided by George Reekie who gave us an interesting talk on tigers, David Rabson's talk on Normandy was much enjoyed and Graham Brewer brought a wonderful collection of crystals for us to see, talking most knowledgeably on this fascinating subject. We enjoyed the musical interludes provided by our usual entertainers and especially the visit from Carl Durbin playing his Barrel Organ.

In June we visited Bishops Lydeard Mill for coffee and a talk on their restoration program, and travelled to Holford for lunch at Stella's Tea Garden, followed by a scenic drive home.

The Armchair Travel destination this month was our own West Country but viewed from the air, which gave a very interesting perspective.

Water colour classes with Virginia proved popular and we hope to welcome her back soon, and the ladies of the Townswomen's Guild entertained us with a musical afternoon.

Our Summer Fair on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June was held inside due to bad weather but was still well supported. Apple County Chorus harmonised beautifully and the fashion show of wedding dresses through the ages gave a fascinating insight into changing styles. The event raised a substantial sum for Nynehead Church Bell Fund which is now nearing its target.

July saw us travelling to Dartmouth. We enjoyed lunch out and took a boat trip on the river. We had a lovely tea at Home Farm, Blue Anchor, and late in the month we made the most of a very sunny day and had an impromptu picnic at Minehead. The day was crystal clear and the views across to Wales were magnificent. We ate our lunch looking out across the sea and had a really lovely day.

A highlight in our musical calendar was the visit of Tom McLauchlan a classical guitarist from Live Music Now! His playing was sublime.

### The Friends of Nynehead Court

The continued support of the Friends is much appreciated by us all. Running the shop, providing beautiful floral displays, hosting drinks parties and sing alongs all contribute so much to life here at the Court.

## Nynehead Court

Sunday Sept 9<sup>th</sup>  
2.30pm - 6pm

Come and enjoy  
an afternoon  
of music with

## The Tone Valley Jazz Band

Admission £3  
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a Cream Tea

## Craft Stall Raffle

## Local Geology - Part 3

### Greensand

For the third part of the geology series we stray away from Nynhead to examine the geology that forms the Blackdown Hills. The Upper Greensand Formation forms the high plateaus of the Blackdown Hills overlying the Triassic rocks around Wellington and also the Jurassic rocks near to Chard. It is a shallow marine sand and sandstone deposit of Cretaceous age (approximately 130 million years), which gets its name from the green colouration it displays when fresh. This is caused by the mineral glauconite, a mineral formed only in marine environments. However, much of the greensand visible will be a bright orange colour caused by oxidation of the iron minerals, which occurs very rapidly once the greensand is exposed.

The steep slopes formed by the greensand can be seen by taking a drive up the road through Ford Street and onto the Monument Road.



Steep wooded slope in the greensand above Ford Street.

#### Major aquifer

The greensand is a major aquifer (water bearing rock) and many farms on the Blackdown Hills get their water from a private supply in the greensand. Unfortunately because the greensand is rich in iron the water from it

causes the corrosion of copper water pipes- a situation which could be costly, but is now easily remedied by fitting a plastic water system.

#### Landslip and quicksand

The greensand forms steep slopes where erosion has cut valleys through into the underlying rocks. Due to the steepness of the slopes and the amount of water that runs through the greensand these slopes have a tendency become saturated and form quicksands which are liable to slip from the upper slopes especially after heavy rain. Therefore farmers have long left these slopes wooded as attempts at cultivation are not cost effective. When visiting local farms I have heard many stories of things lost into the greensand ranging from wellington boots to tractors!

#### Scythe stones

Certain beds of the greensand form a type of sandstone suitable as "whetstone" which is used for sharpening scythes and other cutting implements. Numerous quarries for whetstones were dug in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century mainly around the escarpment near Blackborough. These quarries also produced many well-preserved fossil specimens.

#### Smelting for iron

The greensand of the Blackdown Hills is rich in archaeological finds relating to the iron industry. The greensand contains iron-rich nodules in places and there is evidence that these have been extracted and smelted for iron since Roman times. Much of the remaining evidence takes the form of slag deposits, which are widespread around Hemyock, Uppottery and Yarcombe. Evidence may also remain in local field names for instance Cinder Hill near Whitestaunton.

## FONS

Do you know what Fons is ?

Friends of Nynehead school was started many years ago to provide much needed support and funds for the school.

For the last few years this has been run by Mary Sparks and Judith Stacey . The parents and staff would like to thank them for all their hard work.

But now both Mary and Judith's children have moved on and a new committee must be formed to carry on all their hard work.

If you could spare a little time to help support a very important part of our Village, whether on the committee or by other means could you please contact me directly.

Our first project is going to be a grand Christmas Draw. We are looking for a sponsor for the cost of the tickets and if you could donate a prize or sell some tickets your support will be greatly received.

Please contact me on 667148.

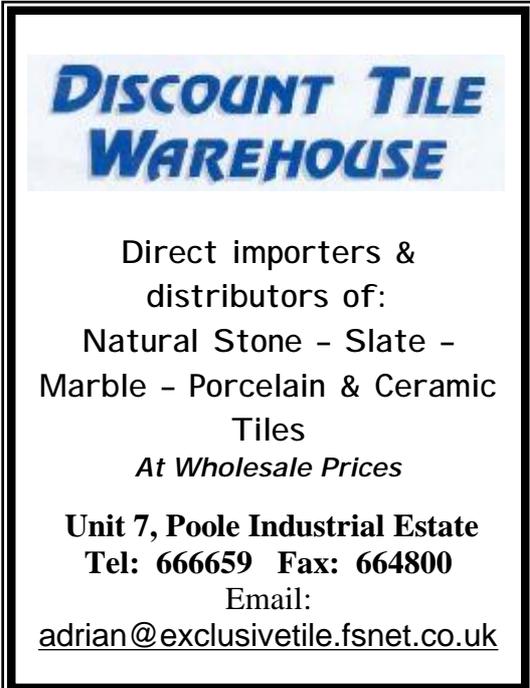
*Kathy Boyd*



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## Neighbourhood Watch

Please find detailed herewith an overview of incidents reported to the Police in Beat area GT021 Bradford on Tone for the month of July.

There were a total of 13 calls made to the police from your beat area during this time including:

1 dwelling burglary  
1 assault  
1 theft of pedal cycle  
No reports of nuisance or rowdy behaviour.

If you have any information about such incidents or suspicious activity please telephone the police as quickly as possible on the general contact number 0845-456-7000.

NHW office 01823-363348  
Message G568

If you have information about any crime, phone the police on 0845 456 7000 or you can call anonymously to CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555 111

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## Diary: - 1<sup>st</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2007

Sep - 9 <sup>th</sup>	Tone Valley Jazz Band & Craft Stall raffle at Nynehead Court from 2.30 pm to 6 pm
Sep - 8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>	National heritage Weekend - Church tours from 10 am to 5 pm
Sep - 4 <sup>th</sup>	Mobile Library in Nynehead between 2.25pm & 3.30pm - See page 5 for details
Sep - 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall - 7.30pm
Sep - 30 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest Festival Service in the Church 6.30 pm
Sep - 25 <sup>th</sup>	Mobile Library in Nynehead between 2.25pm & 3.30pm - See page 5 for details
Sep - 15 <sup>th</sup>	Playing Fields Duck Race at Hornshay Weir - starting at 2.30 pm
Sep - 13 <sup>th</sup>	History Society visit to Athelney - leave Village Hall at 1.15 pm
Sep - 12 <sup>th</sup>	Nynehead Club Committee Meeting - 8.30 pm - all members welcome
Sep - 10 <sup>th</sup>	Garden Club - 'Carnivorous Plants, talk & display - Village Hall 7.30
Oct - 8 <sup>th</sup>	Garden Club - 'Cacti & Succulents' - talk & display - Village Hall 7.30
Oct - 20 <sup>th</sup>	Taunton Male Voice Choir concert in the church - details to follow
Oct - 1 <sup>st</sup>	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall - 7.30pm
Oct - 16 <sup>th</sup>	Mobile Library in Nynehead between 2.25pm & 3.30pm - See page 5 for details
Oct - 14 <sup>th</sup>	Archdeacon of Taunton taking church service
Oct - 13 <sup>th</sup>	NADS - "The Countryside Show" - Village Hall 7.30 pm - see page 16 for details
Oct - 12 <sup>th</sup>	History Society - Cross Connections pt 1 - Village Hall 7.45 pm
Nov - 9 <sup>th</sup>	History Society - Nynehead's Canal & Parklands - Village Hall 7.45 pm
Nov - 8 <sup>th</sup>	Mobile Library in Nynehead between 2.25pm & 3.30pm - See page 5 for details
Nov - 29 <sup>th</sup>	Mobile Library in Nynehead between 2.25pm & 3.30pm - See page 5 for details
Nov - 1 <sup>st</sup>	Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall - 7.30pm
Nov - 17 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Copy Deadline for December 2007 Edition of Nynehead News</i>
Nov - 12 <sup>th</sup>	Garden Club - 'Colour in the Winter Garden' - talk - Village Hall 7.30
Dec - 1 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Distribution date for December 2007 edition of Nynehead News</i>
Dec - 10 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Garden Club Christmas Party - Village Hall

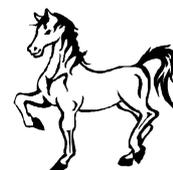


The picture on the front of the June edition was taken by Captain Neville Upham and showed the clay pit at Poole at about the time that it started to become the capped landfill site that we know so well. Regrettably no-one has come forward with a date at which it might have been taken and unfortunately Neville can't remember either. If anyone can help please let me know.

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