



## **WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE...**

Nynehead's understandable pre-occupation with flooding plumbed new depths this winter, with the usual few days of disruption stretching into weeks. Frustrations with flooding were matched by the consequences, with recycling collection failures blamed on blocked roads, prompting official letters to Somerset Council and a visit by our local MP.

But there were some reasons for optimism, with a makeover at the Memorial Hall giving new life to a venerable icon, while the Playing Fields were boosted by a sizeable grant to be used to renovate its perimeter footpath. Read on...

### **NYNEHEAD PARISH COUNCIL**

In December the Parish Council meeting began with a festive atmosphere, as the Nynehead Carol Singers sang traditional carols while collecting for the Children's Hospice Southwest. Members of the Parish Council also enjoyed seasonal treats, including mince pies and stollen, setting a cheerful tone for the proceedings.

#### **Recycling collection failure in East Nynehead**

Nynehead Now, the village WhatsApp group, was buzzing with comments In January from residents of East Nynehead concerned that their recycling bins had not been collected for more than three weeks. The waste contractor Suez had given the excuse of the flooded road at Tone Green in Bradford-on-Tone. Residents' frustrations were compounded when the black refuse bins were emptied, with that lorry having no difficulty accessing East Nynehead. Nynehead Parish councillors made representations to Somerset Council officials to suggest that Waste Services either drive through the low level flooding or find an alternative route, with several different routes into East Nynehead being cited. This eventually proved successful with the recycling lorry re-routed to avoid Tone Green.

**Rachel Gilmour MP** attended the extended Public Question Time at the February meeting where there was lively debate about the impact of local road flooding on Nynehead, with residents complaining repeatedly about lack of routine maintenance from Somerset Council. Mrs Gilmour, the Liberal Democrat MP, told the 25 residents that she understood that Somerset Council had financial problems and faced massive challenges following Storm Chandra, but that SC needs to understand that flooding matters can and must be resolved. Mr R Wilkins SC Lead Member for Transport and Waste, invited to the meeting by Mrs Gilmour, noted that January saw 7,000 reports of potholes compared to 2,000 in the same month last year. He apologised that his budget was insufficient to handle everything "But I can promise you I will be working hard to get the best value from everyone I work with." Gwil Wren, SC Councillor for the area, reminded the visitors that Nynehead runs the constant risk of "actually getting cut off", with four out of the five entry points regularly and more frequently made impassable by flooding. The MP concluded that she would press central and local government to pay more attention to the threats facing Somerset, not only flooding but also rural deprivation and lack of public transport.

NPC's lengthy efforts to install a **Speed Indicator Device (SID)** achieved success when a **grant of £2,400** was awarded from Avon & Somerset Police Community Fund towards the cost of installing a SID - an illuminated sign showing when a motorist is exceeding the speed limit. Once the cheque is received, Members agreed that the Elan City battery operated SID would be purchased. SC Highways have advised that due to workload pressures the two new mounting posts for the SID may not be installed until August. Therefore NPC will look for an alternative contractor to install the new posts.

Mr Malcolm Vest has continued to make good progress on the new **Flood Signage and Depth Markers** at Hornshay and Ash river crossings, working with SC Traffic Engineer Kate Brown to produce detailed drawings of where the new signage will be placed. Members were able to review these drawings and agreed to ask that an additional depth marker be placed centrally at the lowest point at both locations.

A **salt bin** located at the top of the Hollow has been purchased, filled with de-icing salt for any member of the public to use to aid the safety of road users in this area.

Residents of Blackdown View have informed NPC that **vehicles parked in the turning circle at the end of Blackdown View** are becoming a real problem, especially where there is double parking. There is concern that emergency vehicles could be unable to access some properties and that vehicles are forced to make a long reversing manoeuvre. Members agreed to ask an SC Traffic Officer if double yellow lines or other road markings could be applied at the road end.

### **Footpaths**

Volunteers Steve Wadham and Ben Tingay regularly give up their time to maintain the parish footpaths. As thanks for their work, NPC asked them to nominate a charity for a donation, thus £100 was donated to Devon and Somerset Air Ambulance.

### **New Chair for NPC**

Mr J Toye will be standing down from NPC as Chair and as a Member in May as he will be spending the majority of his time in Exeter. This will leave a vacancy for a Parish Councillor, so if you are interested in this role please contact the Clerk (Vicky Hebditch) [clerk@nyneheadparish.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@nyneheadparish.gov.uk).

For more information on the role of a Parish Councillor, go to [www.nalc.gov.uk/campaigns/becoming-a-councillor/what-parish-and-town-councils-and-councillors-do.html](http://www.nalc.gov.uk/campaigns/becoming-a-councillor/what-parish-and-town-councils-and-councillors-do.html)

**The Precept** demand to be added to Council Tax bills for 2026-27 is for an annual amount of **£11,582** as approved by NPC on 15<sup>th</sup> December. This is an increase of 4.73%. As a result, a Band D property's levy would be £60.94, an increase of 84p or 1.4%.

## **NYNEHEAD MEMORIAL HALL**

The village's prime venue for a wide range of activities and parties has had a makeover. The process started with some routine repairs to double-glazed windows, then moved on to smart new thermal curtains aimed at keeping warmth in and cold out. That theme got serious as insulation panels were installed along sloping sections of the ceiling - a truly local job with Caleb Phillips installing the panels and Thurston Howe finishing off with painting that included some touch-up work on the walls.

Those elements were largely paid for by a generous grant from Somerset Community Foundation, for which the Hall Management Committee is very grateful. But the Committee itself dipped into funds to renovate the exquisite wooden floor which was once used for dancing. The floor's original colour has been restored, with a beautiful sheen worthy of our care.

The overall result has been welcomed by villagers and visitors alike, not only for its warm welcoming feel but also for keeping the hall literally warmer for its many users.

In an experimental break from tradition, caretaking at the hall will no longer rely on the goodwill of a Nynehead resident. Instead, the tasks of cleaning and caretaking have been combined, and contracted out to a young couple running a small business in Wellington. They are very enthusiastic about the prospects, so hall visitors are requested to give them all the support they need as they settle into a rewarding but sometimes challenging role.

One of the favourite draws at the Hall is **Nynehead Natters**, a fortnightly opportunity for villagers and friends to gather to enjoy a cup of tea, cake (usually delicious homemade bakes) and a chat, Natters sessions are held in the Hall from 2 - 4pm on alternate Friday's:  
6th & 20th March      10th and 24th April      8th and 22nd May.

## **NYNEHEAD MEMORIAL CLUB**

The Club (next door and adjacent to the Hall) is open to members and guests every Saturday 8pm - 11pm, plus alternate Thursday evenings when 'home' skittles team matches are played, and also on the third Friday of the month for Open Mic Nights.

The Club provides a welcoming friendly atmosphere for people to gather. New members are always welcome as are suggestions and ideas to help us achieve the Club's mission statement 'To further the social life of the village and to promote mutual improvement and entertainment.'

The Club AGM, held on Friday 20th February was very well attended by 18 members the minutes of the last AGM were agreed and reports given by the Chair and Treasurer, The outgoing committee stood down and the following Club Members were appointed to form the new committee:

Chair - Ann Odam (re -elected)  
Vice Chair - Barbara Greenslade  
Secretary - Amanda Harcombe (re - elected)  
Treasurer - Louise Tingay  
Bar Steward - Brian Odam (re- elected)  
Assistant Bar Steward & Skittle Team Captain - Tom O'Neill  
Mark Greenslade  
Sara Thurston  
Elizabeth Coulton  
Dan Mancini

Thanks were given to the outgoing committee and all members for their continued support. In particular many thanks to Joe Frost, who decided not to stand again for the role of Treasurer, for his dedication to this role and his service to the club over the last nine years.

Tom O'Neill was thanked for his hard work and effort put into the Skittle Event he organised in January. In turn Tom thanked all those who had helped both on the evening itself and in the planning and preparation. The funds raised at this event will be used to update and enhance the bar area and replace the music system.

Upcoming Club events:

Friday 20th March - Open Mic Night (3rd year Anniversary)

Friday 17th April - Open Mic Night

Friday 15th May - Open Mic Night

Saturday 16th May - Club Quiz Night 7.30pm - late

## **ALL SAINTS CHURCH**

A Service of Holy Communion will be held in the Church on Sunday, March 8th at 11am, followed by a Lent Lunch of soup and bread on Friday 13th March at 1230. No charge for the lunch, with donations going to Christian aid. There is no service on 22nd March, but service of Morning Prayers will be held in Nynehead Court on Sunday 29th March - all welcome.

Easter Sunday will be celebrated with a united service at Bradford-on-Tone on the morning of 5th April (10am). A lay-led service in our Church will be held on Sunday 12th April at 11am, with a Service of Morning Prayer in Nynehead Court on Sunday 26th April, also at 11am.

May's Service of Holy Communion is in the Church on the 10th at 11am, and there will be a United Service in the Church on Sunday 31st May.

## **NYNEHEAD GARDEN CLUB**

The Garden club's first meeting is on Monday 9 March from 7.00pm, when we welcome Dr Francis Burroughs who is talking to us on "Catching the Judges' Eye". For anyone thinking of entering the Nynehead Flower Show this year, it's a great opportunity to get some first-hand tips and advice. Dr Burroughs is one of the judges again this year at the Show.

We also have our Spud-in-a-Bucket competition which is only £ 1 to enter. See if you can grow the best crop ready for the Flower Show when all the buckets are weighed - and you get to eat your own produce! Spuds and buckets are available at our first meeting, or give Gordon Stead a ring.

The Flower Show, a highpoint of village life, is on Saturday 8th August - a date for your diaries.

New members are very welcome to come along to any of our meetings. The first meeting is free and you can then join or pay £ 2.00 per visit.

Other upcoming meetings

13th April Roy Cheek on Irresistible Garden Plants for Butterflies

11th May Aymeric Huruerre, head gardener at Cannington Walled Garden, with an insight into a Somerset treasure.

## **NYNEHEAD JUBILEE PLAYING FIELD**

The Playing Field Committee's search for funding paid off when the Somerset Council Social Fund awarded a generous grant of £2,800. This will be used to refurbish and resurface the perimeter track around the field, which has become uneven and unattractive over the years. Our trusted contractor Darren's Dens will be working on the track in mid-March, when the park will be temporarily closed. When it reopens, we hope that more people will be able to enjoy the track as a safe place to exercise or ride bikes, as well as access to the field's play areas away from wet footpaths and busy roads.

Otherwise, it has been a quiet Winter at the Playing Field, keeping up with our maintenance and safety checks. As you all know too well, it has been a very wet Winter, so work will begin in earnest as Spring arrives.

A reminder that no vehicles are allowed onto the Playing Field and that dogs must be left at the gate unless they are trained assistance dogs. We want everyone to be able to enjoy the Playing Field safely.

Our AGM will be held on Thursday 7th May at 7.30pm at Nynehead Memorial Hall. Please come along to share your views, or just to hear about our plans. Everyone is welcome.

For any suggestions, concerns or if you'd like to find out more about joining the committee, please email [nyneheadplayingfield@gmail.com](mailto:nyneheadplayingfield@gmail.com).

## **NYNEHEAD CRICKET CLUB**

Nynehead Cricket Club's season starts on Sunday 26 April this year with a Home match vs Blagdon Hill at 2pm. If you'd like to come and watch please do, we now have a bar and all are welcome to come and spectate.

If you're interested in playing cricket this year, please contact David Raybould on 07967 657122 or [daraybould@btinternet.com](mailto:daraybould@btinternet.com). We welcome players of any age, background or level of ability. We also sometimes play mixed games with men and women both taking part.

Diary dates early season:

Sunday 26th April - Nynehead vs Blagdon hill at Nynehead 2pm start.

Wednesday 29th April - Nynehead vs Wombats at Wombats 6pm start.

Sunday 3rd of May - Nynehead vs Mass at Nynehead 2pm start.

Sunday 10th May - Nynehead vs West Bagborough at West Bagborough 2pm start.



**Photos: The bridge to nowhere; the Playing Field path; the MP's visit; the madeover Hall; and the salt bin.**

## DIARY

Event	Date	Venue	Time
Natters	6th March	Memorial Hall	2-4pm
Holy Communion	8th March	All Saints	11am
Garden Club - Judge's Eye	9th March	Memorial Hall	7pm
Lent Lunch	13th March	All Saints	12.30pm
Parish Council	16th March	Memorial Hall	7.30-9.30pm
Natters	20th March	Memorial Hall	2-4pm
Open Mic (3rd anniversary)	20th March	Nynehead Club	7pm onwards
Morning Prayer	29th March	Nynehead Court	11am
Easter service	5th April	Bradford on Tone	10am or 10.30am
Natters	10th April	Memorial Hall	2-4pm
Lay-led service	12th April	All Saints	11am
Garden Club - Plants to tempt butterflies	13th April	Memorial Hall	7pm
Open Mic	17th April	Nynehead Club	7pm onwards
Parish Council	20th April	Memorial Hall	7.30-9.30pm
Natters	24th April	Memorial Hall	2-4pm
Morning Prayer	26th April	Nynehead Court	11am
Playing Field AGM	7th May	Memorial Hall	7.30pm
Natters	8th May	Memorial Hall	2-4pm
Garden Club-Cannington view	11th May	Memorial Hall	7pm
Open Mic	15th May	Nynehead Club	7pm onwards
Club Quiz Night	16th May	Nynehead Club	7.30pm-late
Natters	22nd May	Memorial Hall	2-4pm

## USEFUL CONTACTS

Organisation	Contact	Phone	Email
NHS non-urgent		111	
Police non-urgent		101	
Parish Council			
Chair	Jeremy Toye	07801 824755	<a href="mailto:Jtoyenynheadcouncil@gmail.com">Jtoyenynheadcouncil@gmail.com</a>
Vice Chair	Jan Butterley	461349	janparishcouncil@gmail.com
Members	Amanda Harcombe		amandaharcombe975@gmail.com
	Malcolm Vest	461758	malcolm.vest@btinternet.com
	Rachael Ball Risk	975826	rachaelnyneheadparish@gmail.com
Clerk to Council	Vicky Hebditch	461474	clerk@nyneheadparish.gov.uk
Somerset Councillors	Gwilym Wren Dave Mansell	400657 01984 623823	<a href="mailto:gwil.wren@somerset.gov.uk">gwil.wren@somerset.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:dave.mansell@somerset.gov.uk">dave.mansell@somerset.gov.uk</a>
MP	Rachel Gilmour		<a href="mailto:rachel.gilmour.mp@parliament.uk">rachel.gilmour.mp@parliament.uk</a>
Police	PCSO Vicky Henderson	07889 655302	<a href="mailto:victoria.henderson@avonandsomerset.police.uk">victoria.henderson@avonandsomerset.police.uk</a>
All Saints Church	Rachel Vest	461758	malcomandrachel.vest@btinternet.com
Cricket Club			
Captains	Jamie Lee Calum Hayman	07467 275861	jamielee39@gmail.com
Chairman	David Raybould	07967 657122	daraybould@btinternet.com
Garden Club	Gordon Stead	07818 003385	gordontstead@gmail.com
Jubilee Playing Field	Rachael Ball Risk	975826	nyneheadplayingfield@gmail.com
Memorial Hall			
Chair	Gary Sparks	07852 335176	gm.sparks@talktalk.net
Bookings	Barbara Greenslade	07500 905545	nyneheadhallbookings@btinternet.com
Caretaker	Diva Cleaning Services	07309 494035	divacleaningservices@outlook.com
Nynehead Club Secretary	Amanda Harcombe		amandaharcombe975@gmail.com
Village Agent	Sharon Coles	07947 901559	sharonc@somersettrcc.org.uk
Nynehead News Nynehead Now	Jeremy Toye	07801 824755	jtoyenynheadcouncil@gmail.com

### Nynehead News publication dates and deadlines for 2026

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