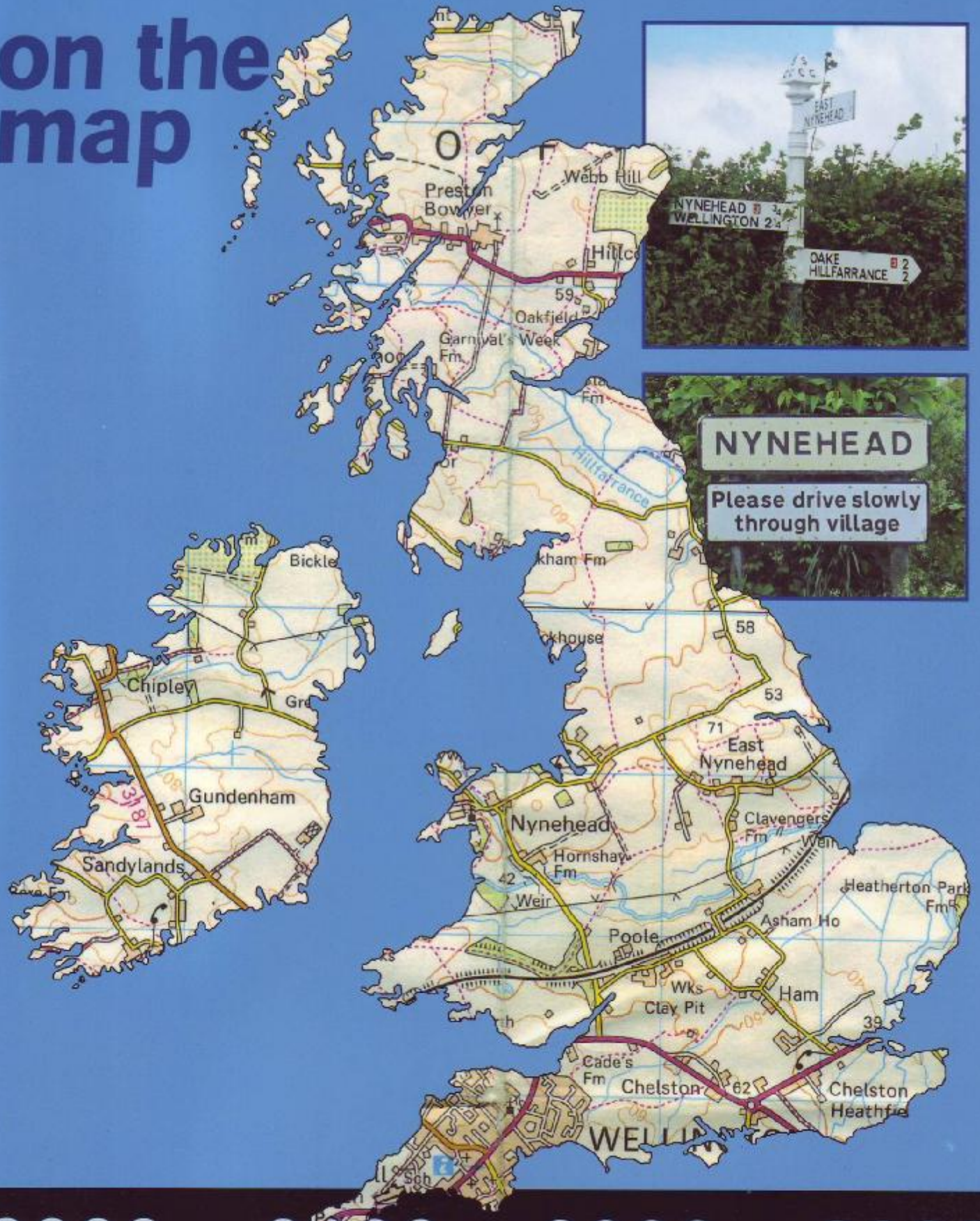
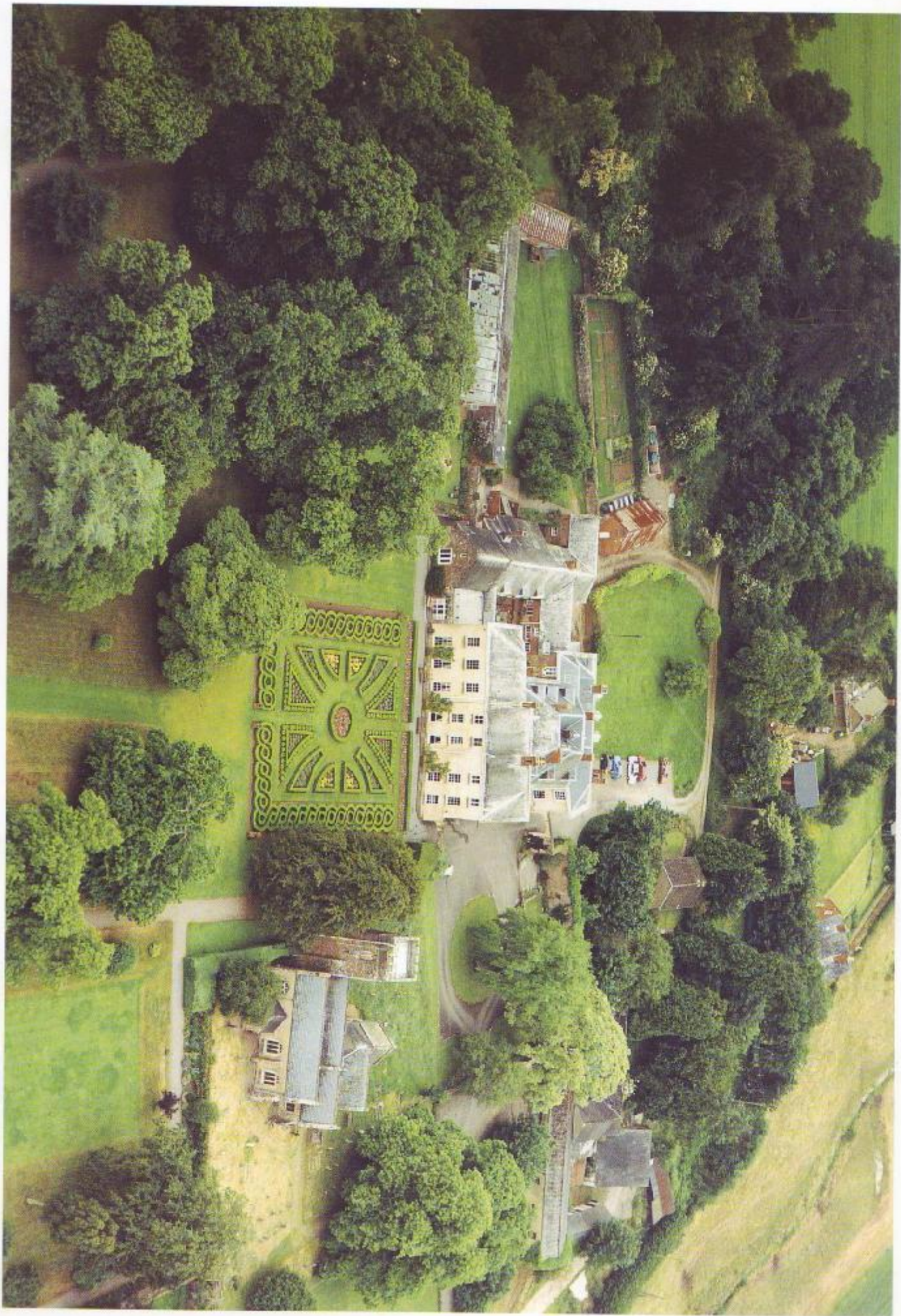


NYNEHEAD

on the
map



2000 • 2000 • 2000 • 2000



Nynehead

On the Map



2000 • 2000 • 2000 • 2000 • 2000 •

*Millennium Committee Chairman
Sarah Bunker writes:*

“Why a Nynhead Book? We have no Shop or Post Office. We have very few places where we all meet and not many parishioners go to the church.

But ... we have chosen to live in this lovely village with its farms, school, the Court, a village hall, a village newsletter and so forth.

Many of us are keen gardeners, walkers and naturalists and though many enjoy their privacy, there is neighbourliness especially in times of need.

As you look back at the changing history of Nynhead, I hope everyone will wish to contribute to a safe, healthy and happy future for generations to come.

The committee wishes to thank all those Nynhead folk who have helped with contributions for this booklet. We wish to thank Edmond Riley our Graphic artist and Character Graphics who have produced this booklet at cost price.

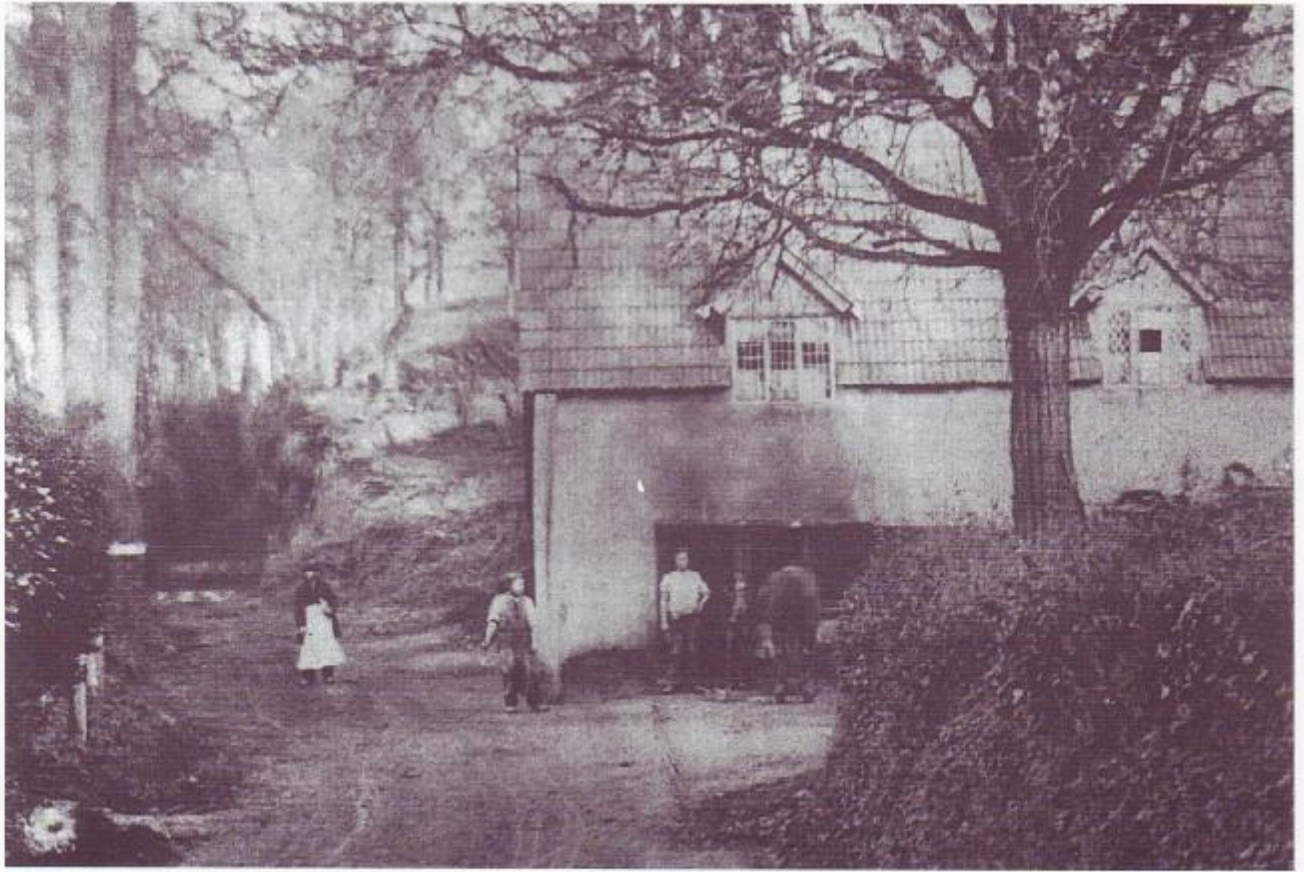
We also wish to thank Nynhead residents who have lent photographs and those who have been kind enough to take photographs with this publication in mind – this has made a tricky, two year voluntary task a bit easier!



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NYNEHEAD - ON THE MAP



Island Cottage, Nynhead, built approximately 1740 as part of the Sanford Estate. It was a blacksmiths cottage from 1821. The picture above shows Mr Baker and sons Robert and Joseph around 1880. Below: The cottage as it looks today.





Introduction

by the Editorial Team

It is 2,000 years since Christ was born. All over the British Isles the end of one millennium and the beginning of another is being marked. Most villages will recognise the Christian significance of this event.

This Nynhead Millennium Booklet is a snapshot of this village and its community at the turn of the year 2000. We have tried to include something about every-

thing within the constraints of space and have included articles and photographs lent by people connected with the village.

The Millennium Committee are all volunteers and felt that a good way to celebrate and mark the event would be to publish a booklet that would provide an independent profile of Nynhead as a rural village in Somerset.

*We hope the reader will find something upon which to dwell.
There is a party and a Village Photograph on 24 June 2000!*



All Saints' Church, Nynehead





The Church

Our Church, All Saints', Nynhead, has a long and interesting history as Tony Lock outlines in the following account.

It is thought that there must have been a church at Nynhead in Saxon times as in 737 AD the manor was granted to the Bishop of Winchester and he would have ensured that there was a place of worship within the manor. In the Domesday book of 1068 it also mentions that the manor was in the ownership of the Bishop of Winchester, by a charter dated 1091. William, Count of Mortain, founder of Montacute Priory, granted to the monks of Montacute the manor and church of Nynhead. The present day church is built mainly of sandstone and parts of the church are 13th century. At this time the church would have been served by one of the monks from the Taunton Priory. In the mid-16th century the first vicar was appointed who was Rev. Henry Dunscombe.

The value of the living in 1695 was £8-7s-11d per year (£8.40), in 1788 it had risen to £70 per year and in 1923 it was £225 per year plus residence and eleven and a half acres of glebe (land for the vicar to farm).

The village grave yard surrounds the church and the gravestones date back to the 16th century. Prior to this date the ground was used over and over again to bury the dead. Amongst the gravestones there is a dole table made of red sandstone which does date back to the 16th or 17th century. The dole table was used to lay out the Parish Charities and in the Churchwardens Accounts of 1668 to 1685 there was many references to charitable giving.

In the 17th century the church had the village stocks within the grounds and these were obviously the responsibility of the church as in the churchwardens accounts of 1679 there is a reference to the stocks being repaired.

Until the 15th century the church consisted of just the nave and chancel. The south side aisle was added in the early part of the 15th century and the rood screen in the latter part of the 15th century.

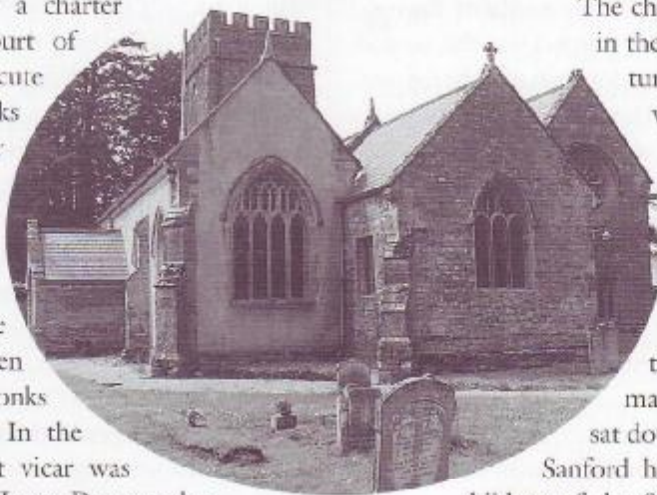
The church was temporarily closed in the latter part of the 19th century while the Sanford Chapel was erected and a great deal of alterations took place.

In 1891 there were obviously far more children in the village than there are today as in the parish magazine it stated that "30 children who had made the necessary attendances sat down to the good tea that Miss Sanford had kindly provided for the children of the Sunday School." Also in the same year there is a record of a "Band of Hope".

In the 19th century a chapel was built on the end of Prings Cottages for the use of the "Independents". Nynhead continued to have its own vicar until 1952 when it became a united benefice with St John's parish in Wellington.

Since these times, the church has obviously had its ups and downs but at the time of writing the Parish Church is flourishing and there is a Sunday School held on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. Nynhead is one of the very few village churches which still has a regular service every Sunday.

A.J. Lock





Nynehead 1000 – 2000AD

NYNEHEAD IN 1000AD

One thousand years ago the following headline might have appeared in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle.

'RENEWED FEARS OF DANISH INVASION AETHELRED UNPREPARED'

Aethelred II (978-1016AD: the badly-advised rather than the 'Unready') was on the English throne and facing threats of invasion from northern Europe. In 997 the Danes had sacked Watchet for the second time in ten years while in 1013 Swein Forkbeard was to sweep up from the south Devon coast on his way to the heartland of Wessex. It is possible that Swein followed the ridge road on the Blackdowns overlooking the Taunton Vale.

How much this affected the hard daily life of the Nynehead resident is of course impossible to know without the detailed records we have for later periods. We can however make some guesses about what the village was like.

We know from items found in the parish that by 1000 AD people had lived here for much more than a thousand years. The Anglo-Saxons who arrived in Somerset in the seventh century found a landscape already settled and farmed but it was these new people who named the villages including Nynehead. The spelling varied from one source to another. In 897 AD it was referred to as 'Nigon Hidon' whilst the Domesday Book (1086 AD) called the village 'Nichehede'. The name means 'nine hides', a hide being about 120 acres and therefore suggesting an area of about 1100 acres. The parish in 1839 had an area of 1448 acres but this did not include 20th century extensions to Poole and the railway.

By 1000 AD the Vale of Taunton was already a rich mixed farming area dominated by the estate of the Bishop of Winchester. Nynehead was one of almost thirty manors in the estate's outer areas, operating independently in most respects but acknowledging the bishop as overlord. Most people would have worked on the

land and life for them would have been extremely hard by today's standards, relieved only by the yearly round of seasonal celebrations. Few people would have been literate and any news of events outside the village would have been obtained by word of mouth.

We don't know how many people lived here, although there would have been far fewer than today. Houses would have been small and thatched, in small groups and isolated farms, perhaps in the hamlets that still exist – Lower Nynehead (n. Florey), Higher Nynehead (Upcott) and East Nynehead (N. Monachorum).

There was probably a manor house and next to it a thatched and wood or stone church. The priest might have been resident or one of a group of 'missionary' priests from Taunton. He would have been one of the important and (possibly) literate members of the community along with the steward who represented the bishop's estate.

From the high point of the Burrows above Lower Nynehead one would have seen a farmed landscape of small fields, hedges and woodland, as today. It would have been a less tidy scene, created and maintained by hard physical work and hand tools. Roads and tracks would not have been surfaced and there would not have been today's distinction between roads and footpaths.

The River Tone (a pre-Saxon name like that of many rivers) was, as today, a major feature of the parish although not necessarily on its present course. The valley would have been wetter with willows, alders and other riverside vegetation and was an important source of food (fish and wildfowl), reed for thatching and water. It was not known if there was a mill on the river at that time.

Nearby villages were very similar with generally small and scattered groups of houses. The nearest 'town' was Taunton, already a marketing centre with a mint and some of the freedoms of a borough. Wellington was still only a village, not being recorded as a town until about 1215 AD.

This picture of Nynehead at the end of the first millennium of the Christian era would have been unchanged for much of the Middle Ages and indeed, in some respects, until the industrial revolution began to have an effect on rural areas. The village did however

change, slowly at first and then in the last two centuries at a faster pace. These 1000 years have been marked by many events, some significant and others less so, but all helping to make the village that we know at the beginning of the third millennium.

NYNEHEAD SINCE 1000 AD

Some important and not-so-important events

1086	Domesday survey: a brief reference to N.	1843	Bristol and Exeter Railway reaches Beam Bridge (and Exeter in 1844).
1091	Manor and church granted to the Fleurey family — whence the name of N. Florey for the area by the church and Court.	1840s	Chipley House demolished by Edward Sandford.
c1300	John de Wyke becomes Lord of the Manor.	1860s	The N. Hollow cut (possibly a local job creation scheme to give access by pony and trap to the new rectory).
1315	First reference to a vicar of N.	1867	Grand Western Canal closed.
1347-50	<i>The Black Death</i> , N. has 3 vicars in 3 years!	1869	All Saints Church enlarged to form the Sanford chapel and to accommodate a bigger organ.
c1380	N. Court rebuilt in stone.	1873	Ash Mill destroyed by fire on 20 October.
1590	Martin Sanford buys the Court.	1901	289 people live in N.
Mid 17th Century	<i>The English Civil War and Commonwealth</i>	1912	Hornshay Bridge rebuilt.
1675	N. Court given a classical appearance John Sanford.	1914-18	The Great War: 6 men of N. died on active service.
1680	A collection in the village for sailors taken captive by the Turks (i.e. Barbary pirates) raises c£13.	1939-45	World War II: no N. men killed on service!
1685	<i>The Monmouth Rebellion.</i>	c1940	The Court sold by the Sanfords to Kleinwort Benson/Bolnore Estates.
Late 17th Century	The philosopher John Locke a frequent visitor to the Clarkes of Chipley.	1948	Last vicar of N. leaves. The parish now shares a priest with Wellington.
18th C	Not much of note?	1949	Outlying farms sold by the Bolnore Estates.
1779	William Ayshford Sanford inherits the Court	1950	Memorial Hall built.
1789	<i>The French Revolution.</i>	1960s	The Avenue felled.
1801	353 people lived in N.	1967	Hornshay and Haywood Farms sold by Bolmore Estates
1817	The tree-arch bridge near the Court built (designed by Thomas Lee of Barnstaple), part of the parkland created by the Sanfords 1810-17.	1991	354 people live in Nynehead. Friends of the Elderly buy the Court
	Building of Wellington Monument started.	1998	N. cut off by floods (yet again!) in January. Friends of the Elderly sell the Court.
c.1830	N. school opened.	2000	Golden Jubilee of the Memorial Hall.
1838	Grand Western Canal opened.		

THE NYNEHEAD TITHE MAP (1839)

This map was the first comprehensive record of land use and ownership in the Parish. Together with the Census of Population in 1841 it gives a good picture of Nynehead at the beginning of the Victorian Era.

Tithes had their origins in Old Testament injunctions to devote a tithe (one tenth) of one's produce to the service of God (e.g. Genesis 28.22). For over 100 years up to the early 19th century landowners in England had to pay tithes to the church, usually in kind — corn, hay, wood, other crops etc.

The system became increasingly unpopular from the 17th century onwards, particularly with nonconformists who objected to supporting the established church in this way. By the early 19th century pressure for reform led in 1836 to the Tithe Commutation Act under which tithes were changed into rent charges based on the prevailing price of corn.

Under the Act a survey of each parish was carried out to produce the schedule and the map. These allocated the monetary value of the tithes to each parcel of land as agreed by tithe commissioners whose signatures

NYNEHEAD – ON THE MAP

appear on the map. The Nynehead Survey was carried out in 1837, the surveyor being Charles Bailey, the agent for the Sanfords at Nynehead Court.

Because all parcels of land are numbered the map and schedule are valuable sources of information about the parish and its inhabitants, for example:

- In 1839 Edward Sanford of Nynehead Court owned 1062 acres (73%) of the land in the parish.
- The map is based on the ancient parish boundaries dating from mediaeval times. The main differences are in the south where the boundary then followed the river and where there is a detached part of Hillfarrance.
- The Grand Western Canal had recently been completed.
- The widened River Tone create by William Sanford in the 1810s is clearly shown.
- Since 1839 some important buildings have disappeared (e.g. at Chipley and the mill at East Nynehead while many new houses have appeared in the last 160 years, mainly at Higher and East Nynehead. However, although there were far fewer houses in 1841 the population of 349 was almost the same as in 1991 (354).
- Orchards were an important feature of the life and landscape of the village (and remained so until after World War II), for example Great Orchard of over 9 acres and Haywood Orchard of over 3 acres.

David Rabson

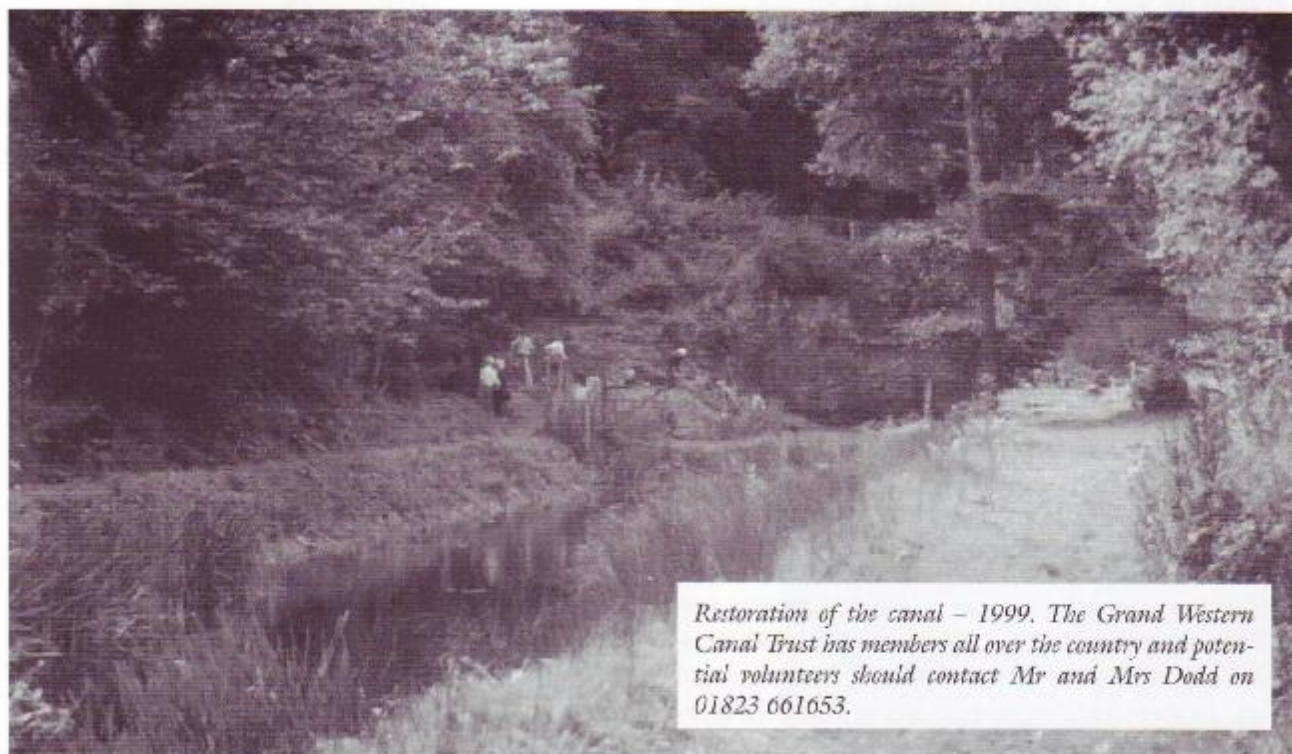


The Grand Western Canal at Nynehead

The canal mentioned by Mr Rabson has been an important part of the history of our village. As one millennium ends and another begins, part of the canal within Nynehead is undergoing some wonderful restoration work thanks to Mr and Mrs D Dodd who live at Wharf Cottage. There are regular days when volunteers assist with the renovation and interested persons can now pause opposite Wharf Cottage to imagine what the canal looked like in its heyday. Nynehead is very fortunate to have seen such sympathy for its history. Wharf Cottage also has links with the nearby brick making industry as we discover in the next contribution.

Casually making its way through the gentle lowlands of the Vale of Taunton Deane are the subtle remains of an old but vaguely remembered waterway. Much of it is only a ghost of its former self, but traces are visible to the discerning traveller who seek its whereabouts. It is the remnant of a bygone age when men had vision of linking the Bristol and English Channels with a waterway capable of transporting goods safely across the Peninsular. The purpose was to avoid the hazardous sea journey around Lands End in the days of sail. Thus was born the Grand Western Canal. Alas, the full and glorious scheme came to nought, but parts were laboriously built and served, in their day, a useful purpose

until superseded by the railway. The land to the West of Taunton was rugged and water supplies unreliable creating a major challenge to the Georgian canal engineers and ingenious methods were devised and built to overcome the necessary changes in level. The route through the Parish of Nynehead presented several obstructions and all were overcome with ingenuity and flare. Two substantial changes of level, a major river crossing, a decorative ashlar aqueduct to cross the fine carriage way up to Nynehead Court and an elaborate embankment and a proportionate quantity of deep cutting were required to take the waterway through the Parish. The changes of level were achieved to using



Restoration of the canal – 1999. The Grand Western Canal Trust has members all over the country and potential volunteers should contact Mr and Mrs Dodd on 01823 661653.

'perpendicular canal lifts', one at Trefusis and one at Nynehead. The River Tone crossing was achieved by an unusual cast iron and stone aqueduct of 10m span still in use as a right of way, but in a sadly dilapidated condition. The cast iron trough that used to carry water is still in place and visible to the passer by. The embankment and carriageway aqueduct are intact, although dry of water, and can be negotiated using the Deane Way. The magnificent cutting has gone, filled in with municipal waste in the late 1960's. When the Canal was in use there were seven lifts between Taunton and the Devon border: most were dismantled when the canal was closed in 1865 but one, that at Nynehead, still retains much of its masonry and can be viewed from the public footpath that passes close by.

THE GRAND WESTERN CANAL LIFTS

In a paper read to the Institution of Civil Engineers in March 1838 James Green explained: *"that these lifts have not been designed to supersede the use of locks on canals in all cases, but for a peculiar situation, in which a very considerable ascent was to be overcome within a short distance, where the supply of water was inadequate to the consumption of common locks, and funds were insufficient for the execution of the work on a scale adapted to such locks"*.

Green calculated that his lifts would consume only 2 tons of water to 8 tons of cargo whereas common locks generally consumed 3 tons of water to 1 ton of cargo, a saving of 93%. He claimed that the time taken to pass one boat up and one down a 46ft lift was 3 minutes whereas the time occupied in passing a common lock of 8ft rise was about 5 minutes. The heights of the lifts ranged from 12ft to 46ft.

It seems that his estimates were optimistic because the first lifts would not function as planned. In practice the descending caisson would not sink deep enough into the lower pound to allow the boat to be floated out. Efforts made to drain the water beneath the caisson away failed. Building 3ft rise locks below each lift except at Greenham where the need for a lock was eliminated eventually solved the problem.

Once the teething problems had been solved the lifts worked satisfactorily for a number of years.

THE NYNEHEAD LIFT

The remains of the Nynehead Lift are of historical significance as it is the only one of the seven that includes a substantial amount of masonry. These lifts were certainly the first in Britain, and possibly the world, to be commercially successful and operated for nearly 30 years. In their day they were at the forefront of technology. One has to respect the courage and imagination

of the Engineer and Proprietors in building such mechanisms when materials technology and iron founding were in their infancy.

There is sufficient remaining to give an idea of what the structures must have looked like. The machinery was removed in 1869, shortly after closure, but a detailed description of the operation together with engineer's drawings still exist. James Green's lifts worked on a simple balance principle. Later generations of canal lift were hydraulically or electrically operated Green's tub boats carried 8 tons of cargo; there are now lifts in Europe that can accommodate 1350-ton boats.

THE LIFT KEEPER'S COTTAGE

Only the foundations of the lift keeper's cottage remain. A door cill with sockets and the remains of the fireplace can still be seen. It was probably a two storey building, purpose built, and similar to other company properties along the canal. It is thought that the building was demolished about 1900.

Information from the census records shows:

- 1851 The head of the family was William Wawman, agricultural labourer, who lived there with his wife and four children.
- 1861 William Wawman still lived there with this wife, but his occupation had changed to lock keeper. Six children are listed but the eldest son had moved on (or died). Another son is listed as a 'Boat Manager'.
- 1871 By now the canal was closed and presumably the land sold. The occupier was Richard Phillips, a labourer on the railway, and he lived there with his wife and seven children. He is reported to have been the last occupant.

Most of the line of the Canal in Somerset is in private ownership, although, for a lot of its length the former towpath is now part of the West Deane Way. Walkers are requested not to trespass on private property.

WHARF COTTAGE

Wharf Cottage was probably built in 1836.

The Tithe Apportionment states that the site was meadow until Christmas 1835 and the 1839 Tithe Map indicates the existence of a complex industrial site including a variety of buildings with a spur and wharf off the Canal.

In 1837, Francis Thomas who owned the nearby Poole Farm, took advantage of the clay soil to start a brick making industry. He built his first kiln near the



Wharf Cottage, 1900

Canal where is passed under the Wellington to Nynhead road, close to the site of the new wharf, allowing easy delivery of fuel and despatch of bricks. The brick trade through the wharf must have been short lived because of Francis's son William moved brick production to Poole and began using the new railway to despatch his bricks. A plan of the Poole Estate dated 1866 shows the site much as it was in 1839 so the wharf was probably in use until the canal was closed in 1865.

The brick industry has only recently finished its operations in the parish resulting in some unemployment.

Early Canal records, c.1840, show that the site was known as Horsey's Wharf. It was owned by Charles Fox and occupied by William Day Horsey, a Wellington tradesman. Horsey probably used it for business only as he owned a residential property and offices in Wellington High Street.

The Somerset Directories of the period listed Fox as a coal merchant and Horsey as a Stuckey's Bank agent, insurance agent, stamp agent, woollen and linen draper, grocer, tea dealer and brickmaker!

By 1848 Horsey had moved his yard to the railway station and the 1851 census shows a Robert Peach and family occupying the site. Peach was a drainage pipe contractor with four servants. Three of the servants were drainage pipe makers, the other a nurse.

A family by the name of Jordan occupied the building from 1875. A former resident of the old lodge built into Brunell's railway bridge over the carriageway to Nynhead Court named Joe Hutchins tells us that the cottage was known locally as "Jordan's Place" and the



The construction of the warehouses at (Poole 1978) judging by the registration number of the vehicle which bears the name of L. Sparks & Son. The inset (right) shows a lorry from the same family business dated 1948

baptisms were carried out in the nearby River Tone. Consequently the River was often referred to as the River Jordan!

The property is a three storey building. The ground floor includes two spaces and vaulted ceilings which were possibly open fronted and secured with iron or wooden gates. The annex at the back must have been added later as it does not appear on the Tithe Map, but is shown on the first edition 25" OS Mp of 1886.

The wharf shed was considerably larger when built

and probably had five bays. The stone building to the North is a later addition. The wharf shed is to be restored using two six inch cast iron water pipes, identical to the three in use, found in the garden. It is possible that these pipes once belonged to James Green, the canal Engineer, as the Taunton Courier of 11th October 1837 includes details of an auction held at the George and Dragon, Taunton, when a quantity of cast iron water pipes (including six inch) were sold.

Nynehead and District Local History Society

When the World Ploughing Championships were held in Nynehead in 1971, a small group of local people (including Andrew Bye, Richard Emeny, Eva Edwards and Neville and Joy Upham) decided that it would be good to tell visitors from all over the world about the village. They arranged a small exhibition and wrote a leaflet about Nynehead past and present.

It soon became clear that Nynehead has a fascinating past and a Local History Society was formed to promote research about the area, looking particularly into the papers of the Sanford family who lived at Nynehead Court for three hundred years. These papers are kept in the Somerset Record Office where the catalogue has over 4500 entries.

In 2000 the Society is still flourishing with over 50 members drawn from Nynehead, Wellington and nearby villages. Over the years we have welcomed many expert speakers on topic as wide-ranging as the Taunton mummers play, Quakers in

industry and Iron Age farming. At times the definition of 'local' and 'history' is stretched. Topics have included the geology of the Sahara Desert and steel making in Sri Lanka before 1000 AD, but as well as being enjoyable even such subjects as these can throw light on what it has meant to live in this part of the world over the centuries.

During the summer we visit places of historical interest. We have been blown off our feet on Ham Hill, have been soaked looking at industrial remains on the Brendon Hills and have basked in summer warmth at Kingston Lacy in Dorset!

There is always more to discover and there is an inexhaustible supply of people keen to tell others about their often rather obscure interests. The success of our evening meetings is shown by the difficulty speakers have in getting away at the end of the evening! We are also keen to encourage members of the Society to do their own research into local history – and to tell us what they have discovered.

❦

The School



The School and Orchard Cottages opposite the school (inset).

The school was built c1830 at the instigation of the Sanford family. There are memories of the school in Nynhead dating back to before the second world war. Many people may remember headteachers, Miss Flood, Mrs Bailey and Mr Norton, with affection and current headteacher Mr Pearson has kindly provided some thoughts from school children in 1999. We wonder how many people recall MrsWare and her infant teacher Miss Kick. MrsWare lived at Hillfarrance and cycled to and from school. On wet days Mrs Ware would cycle with an umbrella held above her head!

The day of Skye – aged 9

I live in up by the hollow in a village call Nynhead. I live in number 3. Down by the hollow there is a little village school and it is called Nynhead Primary School. The school is great, there is a library, a teachers' office and two classrooms, one for the juniors, one for the infants (the small ones).



During 1973, Head Teacher Miss Dorothy Flood retired. Left to right: School Teachers and Governors Mrs Rene Sharland, Miss Flood,

Mrs Pat Allery, Mrs Findlay, Mrs Jean Sparks, Mrs Maz Northam, Mr W. J. Baker, Mrs Thelma Helps and Rev. John George.

A Day at Nynhehead School

We usually get to school at about ten to nine and wait by the gate for each other. At nine o'clock we sit on the carpet and wait for the teacher. First lesson – Maths, Steven's second favourite subject. Today we did Triminoes – we had to do lots of additions to fit cards together to make a pattern.

At ten o'clock we have a short play outside – but today it was raining so we went on Times Tables and Maths Circus on the computer. We have a computer room with eight good computers and smart new computer chairs – cool! We also have smart new tables, all different colours and shapes, in the classroom.

After break we have English – we looked at what words we could make with a particular sound, and then did some writing.

Service time; a lady from 'Lepra' told us about the disease of leprosy. It's horrible! Next week we are going to do a sponsored aerobics session to raise money for Lepra to cure people with leprosy.

Before lunch it is topic. We are learning about the Celts and Romans. Lastweek we went to the Peat Moors centre and got really muddy daubing mud onto a wall. That's how they built houses in the days of the Celts.

Lunch time. When it is sunny we eat outside. We play games like football and cricket.

After lunch we come inside and read our books. Its Wednesday great its PE! We get changed and go to the school field. Its rounders, we go to our places in the field. Andrew scores six rounders! Cool!

Back at school we have a story. At 3.15 we say a prayer and go home.

Steven, Robert, Andrew and Craig (Year 6 boys)

A day in the life of Becky - Aged 9

I live in a house up the hollow at number five Blackdown View. Everyday I get up and have breakfast with my little sister and Mum. Dad has gone to work to drive his lorry round. Mum takes us to school to do our daily work first up is Maths Oh not $2+2=4$.

Then it's playtime. What shall we play? I know we can play Mums and Dads with the Infants. But some want to play power rangers never mind it's time to go in now. English now, "get into your groups" says the teacher. Everyone hurries about getting their English books and start working. Then it's playtime again let's carry on with our game. When it's time to go in again we go to drama. I want to be a Celtic lady this is fun ... Oh, oh here comes a Roman quick get round the fire we will decide whether to fight or not. Oh. "It's time for service children" says the teacher. "line up by the door." Then we walk over to the library where we have our service, sing our hymn, then it's lunchtime.

We wash our hands and get our lunchboxes, say our prayer and eat our dinner, lots of noise and yapping. Soon it's time for play we all rush out we carry on playing Mums and Dads. We come in for quiet reading. It's very quiet. Then the teacher calls us over and sits us on the carpet and tells us what to do next to write about the millennium. We all get our books out and start writing. Soon it's time to go home. Hand out all the letters then time for the payer. But before you go here's a quick reminder of everyone I know.

The Juniors

*Robert is the whacky one hitting everybody
Steven he's the football one
Craig always being noisy and naughty
Andrew always being naughty
Slye she's the crazy one
Fleur she's always laughing
Kylie she's the nice and friendly one
Jess L.F.B she's brainy
Becky quiet but friendly
Kim she's the tomboy
and well I'm the quick worker.*

The Infants

*Jessica B the Juniors favourite
Gemma she's the happy one
Hannah S is good at recorders
Conor H the shoutful one
Hannah D always trying hard
Connor D he's into Power Rangers
James I don't know him yet
Stewart always crying
Kate she's really friendly
Sophie she's playful
Sam W he's very silly
Sam P.G. has a sweet laugh
Jade she's jumpy
Zia she's shy.*



Here are the children of 1999



The Court

The photographs in this section tell of a new chapter in the life of Nynhehead Court. Its status as a home for the elderly had been threatened during 1998/99, but its future is now secured once again.

It is probable that there was a Manor House of sorts at Nynhehead in 737 AD as it was at this date that there is a historic record of the manor being granted to the Bishop of Winchester.

Originally the house lay north to south and consisted of the living area or hall which covered the area of the modern day hall and dining room. The original manor consisted of one large room with a central hearth and a louver in the roof to let the smoke out. The kitchen was probably detached from the hall in order to lessen the fire risk. The building was a single storey timber building which had a stone foundation; an earth floor laid with

rushes and a thatched roof. All members of the household lived, ate and slept in the hall.

In 1068 the manor was owned by the Fleuri family and they owned it for two and a half centuries. After the Fleuri family John De Wyke became Lord of the Manor during the reign of Edward I (1272-1307).

Even to this day there is a variation in levels between the hall and passage which went to the kitchen and it is possible that the raised dais would have been where the Lord of the Manor ate.

In the 13th century during the reign of Richard II (1377-99) the house was rebuilt in stone and a gallery



MP Jackie Ballard and the new owner Mr Marneros at the re-opening



Entertainment inside Nynhead Court

or solar was added. This gallery ran between the two porches and was used to provide privacy for sleeping. Other than the original porch very little of this house can be seen today.

The original entrance to the house was from the courtyard through the porch. This porch had the main door on it and this is dated as 1380. The door with its original knocker has since been moved to the front of the house.

There is a half built up window visible on the outside of the porch which suggests that it lit a spiral staircase to the gallery or solar. Another relic of the old house is the curve of a roof beam over the gallery which is still visible on the landing of the first floor behind the lift. The original roof level was also visible when the rendering was removed during restoration during 1991.

Further building took place in the 15th century (Tudor) and evidence of this can be seen in the great fireplace in the dining room. It would have been at this time that the earth floor covered with rushes would have been replaced with stone and wood floors. It is thought that the room on the west end of the south wing used to stand apart from the main building. This room was a dower house complete in itself. It has a strong and simple shape with a mullioned window, gable roof and great fireplace.

On the west side of the courtyard are a number of tudor cottages which were probably lived in by servants/farm workers. The room on the north end of these cottages used to be the dairy and until the early 1990's still had the slate tables around the room.

The Court was sold by the De Wykes to the Sanfords in 1590. Martin Sanford (1575-1643) had 8 children and many grandchildren all of whom had to be accommodated. He built a nuptial chamber over the present dining room which had a lovely plaster bridal wreath in the ceiling, the room also has an ornate fireplace which bears the Sanford Arms and is dated 1633. The fireplace is part of the large chimney from the dining room and was part of an external wall.

The Court as we see it today is largely due to John Sanford who was a builder (1638-1711). The initials of John and Elizabeth with the 1675 are deeply inscribed into the stone over the doorway connecting his new building with the original hall. John had 11 children so the accommodation had to be large. John built the main block looking roughly east, the block to the west of the drawing room and the east projecting block. The east-west block which forms the north side of the house is a later addition probably early 19th century.

The large bell which is now placed on the north wall is inscribed 1747 and would have been used to summon men to work and also to meals.

The wing underneath this bell project at a curious wider-than-right angle and the size and height of the ground floor room, now the kitchen, give the impression that it was intended to be of importance, as do the 3 tall north windows, embellished outside with stone panneling. It is thought that the odd angle is due to it being built on the very much earlier building which was detached from the main house. Possibly the original kitchen.

In 1906 the Court was tenanted by a Mr J. S. Lysaght. In 1919 it was taken over by Major Stobart who died in 1935. It then stood empty until 1939 when a Dr Waterhouse took it over. He was a London mental specialist and he used it as a hospital.

At the end of the war it became the property of Klienwort and Benson. Then in 1948 it was bought by Mrs Jenson Potts. In 1960 it was transferred to a limited company of which Mrs Jenson Potts was a member. Through her generosity it was registered as a charity and then became a retirement home with nursing facilities.



Nynhead Court as it is today

The Friends of the Elderly took it over in 1991 and this charity spent a considerable amount of money on both the house and garden in order to return it to its original glory.

Captain Adam Marneros now owns the Court and it continues to be a Residential Home for the Elderly.



The Village Hall & Club

During the Second World War a series of social events such as dances, concerts and whist drives were arranged and held mainly in the village school with the aim to build up a fund to assist the families of any members of the armed forces who may lose their life whilst serving their country. Fortunately all returned and when a public meeting was called to obtain views as to how the money raised should be spent it was agreed that after a gratuity to each serving personnel, the balance should be put towards a lasting memorial, a village hall and only in 1995 it was seen fit to have Nynhead Memorial Hall recorded in the The National Inventory of War Memorials.

In 1948, Bolnore Estates, the then owners of Hornshay Farm and a large area of surrounding land and property, was approached and they kindly agreed to

donate the site with a condition that should the hall cease to be used as such in the future, the land would revert to them.

On 28th September 1948, a small group namely Mr. W. T. Baker, Mr. & Mrs. T. H. G. Luxton, Mr. & Mrs. L. Sparks, Mrs. W. M. Pugh and Mr. E. G. Atyeo together with Mr. C. J. Rowland (a Wellington builder, to give advice) travelled to Torquay where a number of timber buildings occupied during the War as offices for Prudential Assurance, were being auctioned. Having decided that one of these buildings would be purchased at a cost of £310. After dismantling, it was brought back to the site where it remained for about a year during which time there was some minor deterioration. By the Spring of 1950 it had been re-erected and equipped and the opening ceremony was performed by Mr. Lloyd H. Fox, J.P. on 15th April 1950, followed by an evening concert.

It was necessary to obtain a bank loan, this was made possible by Messrs. W. T. Baker, T. Luxton, T. Stevens and L. Sparks standing as guarantors to meet the eventual cost of £1,580. It was not until 1960 that the full

5 Fleet Street
Torquay,
Devon

28th September 1948

Mr. Luxton, Nynhead Memorial Hall Fund, Wellington, Somerset.

In account with
Messrs. Waycotts

Shipway Estate, Torquay.
Hut No. 15.

BY Deposit received on the purchase of the above in the sum of £310.	130	0	0
Balance due.	210	0	0
	£310	0	0

RECEIVED
Waycotts & Co.
J. Waycotts

Receipt for the deposit paid for the purchase of Hut No. 15 which was to become the Village Hall



Autumn 1948: The delegation who travelled to Torquay to purchase at auction the building that was to become The Nynhead Memorial Hall. After dismantling and re-erection on site the hall was opened on 15th April 1950. Pictured left to right: C. J. Rowland (Builder), Mrs. M. Sparks, Mrs. W. M. Pugh, Mr. E. Atyeo, Mrs. T. Luxton, Mr. L. Sparks and Mr. T. H. G. Luxton.

NYNEHEAD MEMORIAL HALL
ANNUAL REPORT

April 1951

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have come to the end of the first year after the completion of our Hall, which has proved so successful and one we can all feel justly proud of. In having such a grand hall, its size and quality is a great achievement, envious eyes have been cast in our direction by many people. We have been a wonderful committee, we have all worked hard and well together both before and after the completion of our Hall, there are quite a few more improvements we still want to make and to work for. To the Committee our most grateful thanks are due.

During the latter part of the year Mr. Luxton gave up the position of Hon. Treasurer which we very reluctantly accepted. He has been a great tower of strength to us and our grateful thanks to him for the great amount of time, worry and trouble he has been to in trying to make our dream come true. Miss B. Sparks took over the duties of Hon. Treasurer and to her we extend our thanks.

At the present moment we are overdrawn at the Bank to the extent of £800. This sum is secured by the guarantee of the Trustees. If we can maintain the interest shown during the last year I am convinced that within a very few years we shall be able to free the Trustees of their responsibilities.

A Sub-Committee drew up the rules as to the letting of our Hall and the charges for hire of same which shall be reviewed each year, the Committee shall be elected each year at an Annual General Meeting, each Organisation in the Parish to nominate one person to serve on this committee.

The cleaning of the Hall during the past year has been conscientiously done by Mrs. G. Broom and Mrs. R. Humphries and to them we owe our thanks and gratitude. The Hall has always been beautifully clean and ready for every function whenever it has been required.

In conclusion, I again say how very proud we are of our efforts so far, and when this outstanding debt is cleared we can add other improvements for the benefit of everyone.

It has been encouraging to note one new Organisation has started, namely "The Olde Tyme Dance Club" less hope others will follow during this coming year.

W.T. BAKER
CHAIRMAN

and Safety Regulations including complete re-lining of the interior, modernised toilet blocks and new entrance lobby to the club in 1085/6; an extension to provide a storage area for equipment in 1990 and in 1992 the second phase of the tarmacing of the car parking area around the building was completed with the help of a thank you gift of £1,000 from Gulf Oil in acknowledgement of assistance given by parishioners during and after the train derailment at the level crossing on 16 May 1991, towards the total cost of tarmacing of approximately £7,000. More recently double glaze hardwood windows all round and rebuilding of the end wall in 1998.

The Hall is registered with the Charities Commission and is a member of the Rural Community Council whose legal experts advise on Terms and Agreement of Hire etc. The result, N y n c h e a d

Memorial Hall is now one of the best, if not the best village hall in the district and one to be proud of.

loan was repaid and then alas in 1963 a major expense arose with the necessity for a new floor at a cost of £278!

Later, a Trust Deed and Deed of Appointment of the Parish Council as Custodian Trustees was drawn up.

Meantime, in 1954 Mr. Fred Atyeo who was then secretary of the Hall committee had the idea of building an extension onto the side of the hall to provide a Club and Skittle Alley and in due course came into being as Nynehead Memorial Club.

Much improvement work has been carried out over the past 49 years, some compulsory to meet new Health

NYNEHEAD MEMORIAL HALL

The Chairman and Committee request the pleasure of the company of

at the

OPENING CEREMONY

to be performed by LLOYD H. FOX, Esq., J.P.

ON SATURDAY, 15TH APRIL, 1950

At 6.30 p.m.

R.S.V.P. to the Hon. Secretary,
Mr. F. G. ATYEO,
2, Farthings Close,
Nynehead,
Wellington, Somerset.

Invitation for the opening of Nynehead Memorial Hall

NYNEHEAD - ON THE MAP



Above: The Village Hall before renovation and below as it is today in 1999

Betty and John Sparks





The Farming Heart of Nynehead

As rural village made up of three separate communities, Nynehead both encloses farms and farmland and is surrounded by farms and farmland.

Although the number of farm workers is now far fewer than at earlier times this century, farming is still a

dominant part of Nynehead at the start of this new Millennium.

It is interesting to dwell on the jobsheets below for Hornshay Farm in 1942 – when a letter cost 2½d to post. Ah! ... gone are those days!

Date: January 1st 1942 – Weather: Dry/sharp frost

- 2 men 4 horses hauling yard manure to field 4
- 1 man 1 horse feeding outside stores & hauling yard manure
- 1 man tying wood
- 1 man feeding sheep and tying wood
- 2 men 1 boy feeding and cleaning cattle

bought 2 tons cake from Bibby

Date: April 1st 1942 – Weather: Heavy showers/high winds

- 1 man 2 horses rolling grass
- 1 man 1 horse hauling corn and hay
- 1 man 1 horse feeding outside stores and hauling hay
- 1 man digging turnips
- 1 man 2 horses feeding sheep & hauling hurdles

Date: June 1st 1942 – Weather: Dry/Warm

- 1 man 2 horses ploughing field no. 5
- 2 men shearing sheep
- 1 man feeding sheep and helping to shear
- 1 man 1 boy feeding cattle and cutting weed
- 1 extra man weeding corn
- 1 man sick

Date: August 1st 1942 – Weather: Light showers

- 3 men cutting wheat and trimming hedges at Chipley
- 1 man sticking beans no. 1 field
- 1 man feeding sheep and helping to cut wheat
- 2 men 1 boy feeding cattle and sticking beans
- 7 men 2 hours overtime corn harvest

54 ewes Wellington market

Date: January 1st 1943 – Weather: Dry/Sharp frost

- 2 men 4 horse ploughing no. 1 field
- 1 man cultivating with our tractor no. 3 field
- 1 man trimming hedges
- 1 man feeding sheep and trimming hedges
- 2 men 1 boy feeding cattle and apple picking



Mr Bryant with a few of his 250 cows



Above: Heywood Farm

Below: The Darby family outside Hornshay in 1999

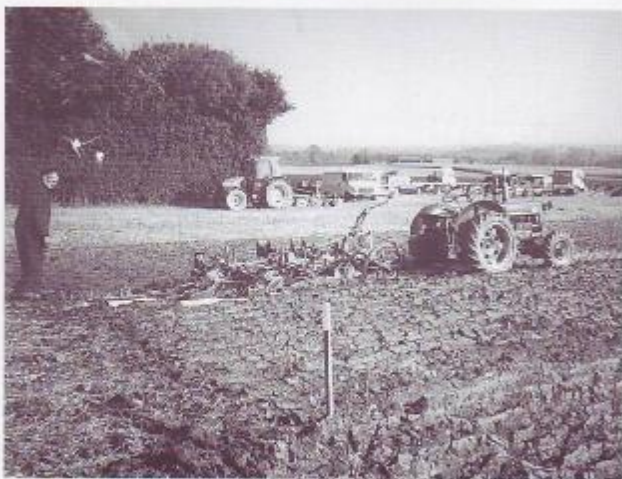




Ash Farm

Ploughing

In 1971 The World Ploughing Championships were held in Nynthead.



Other ploughing matches are also regularly staged

FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD

In a farming community food is always an important element of life. Tastes in food change over time, traditions in food change too and there are clearly more choices at the end of this millennium than there were at the beginning.

How many people would have sat down to the recipe below even 100 years ago?

Take 1lb of Pork Tenderloin and 1 tbsp ginger + soy sauce. Cook at 200°C for 25 minutes wrapped in foil. Serve sliced with rice, sliced baked peppers cooked in just vegetable oil.

**BRITISH NATIONAL
PLOUGHING
CHAMPIONSHIPS AND
COUNTRY FESTIVAL**

**Including:
EUROPEAN
REVERSIBLE
PLOUGHING
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**A Great Day Out
For All The
Family**

**TRADE STANDS
COUNTRY CRAFTS
WORKING
DEMONSTRATIONS**

**HEAVY HORSES
VINTAGE
TRACTORS**

**14th and 15th October, 1995
NYNEHEAD,
WELLINGTON, SOMERSET**

(On Land kindly loaned by Mr. S. T. Ling)

Sponsored by **Firestone**





Sports & Leisure

After all that hard work – room has always been found for leisure in Nynehead

Nynehead Cricket Club

As the Millennium come to an end Nynehead Cricket Club conclude their tenth season of playing cricket under the village's name. The team is drawn from the surrounding district and a good proportion of the small membership of twenty or so do live in the village. The team does not actually play in the village however! For a number of years only away matches were contested

until the club managed to agree a rental on a delightful field at Ham just about a mile as the crow flies from the centre of Nynehead. Now, as the next millennium begins, the club members are happy in their 'home' and are currently endeavouring to improve the facilities which they provide. At present there is a changing room and a toilet block – as the cricket field has mains water supply – but plans are afoot for a second changing room



NYNEHEAD CRICKET CLUB 1999

Back row: S. Jeffreys, K. Phillips, P. Power, A. Gamlin, M. Wright. Front row: R. Barry, A. Riley, P. Bunker, S. Gamlin (Capt), E. Riley, P. John

and a new storage shed to house the mowers and roller. There is no electricity, so the absolutely excellent teas provided are a remarkable achievement in themselves.

The club is well chaired by Keith Haslam and well led by Simon Gamlin; the treasurer is Phil Bunker and the fixture secretary is Paul Power with Jonathan Walsh as Secretary. A number of the playing members throw themselves into the 'life' of the club, never more obvious than at the outstanding annual barbecue which is held on the field at the height of the summer. Usually attended by up to 200 people, there is live music and plenty of food and drink – again, all provided without electricity. The Club hold a dinner and awards evening in the early autumn and an annual general meeting in February just as practice nets at Somerset CCC begin. There is often a skittles week and other fund raising too. By the end of 1999 funds were in a reasonable state, certainly no better or worse than the standard of play on the field!

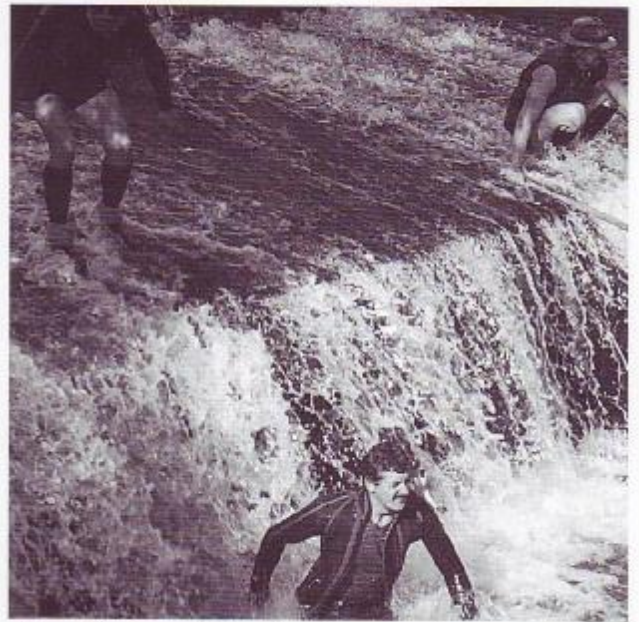
In 1998 11 fixtures were fulfilled and ten were won. A stronger fixture list for 1999 was sought – possibly the club's most ambitious move to date – and whilst the standard was much enjoyed by the players, the results were less dominant in Nynhead's favour! Six games were won and 10 lost, with more than 200 runs conceded on no fewer than six occasions! Fixtures against Hemyock, Galleywood (from Essex), Sampford Arundel and even Wellington's Sunday XI were all strong opposition for Nynhead unused to playing 'league' sides. All the club's fixtures are currently 'friendlies' and there are no plans to change this as the millennium ends. In 1999 Phil John, Paul Power and Alastair Riley all contributed half-centuries for the Club and had Neil Hendy played more often his contributions would undoubtedly have assisted matters. Both Alastair Riley and his son Edmond took plenty of wickets, along with Andy Gamlin – the club's most economical bowler, and Paul Power. The fielding was sometimes patchy but always keen and the predominant feeling at the close of the tenth season is that Nynhead Cricket Club are getting stronger yet all the while maintaining a tradition of trying to play the English game in a good spirit of sportsmanship at all times. 2000 is eagerly anticipated!

ROLL OF HONOUR 1999

Batsman of 1999	:	P. Power
Bowler of 1999	:	A. Riley
Players' Player	:	S. Gamlin
Young Player	:	E. Riley
Clubman	:	S. Gamlin

Annual Tone River Struggle

Discuses in the river water ended the remarkable annual River Struggle on the Tone from Tonedale to the market in Taunton.



Above: The Annual River Struggle passing through Nynhead at Hornsbay Weir; and below in calmer waters



Do you recognise these two? – They were to be found on various doorsteps on the night of Hallowe'en in 1998!



In 1927 there were enough men for a football team



In the latter part of the millennium a playground was added to the Playing Field



Above: Action from the Annual Horse and Dog Show

The Annual Horse and Dog Show

The Annual Horse and Dog Show is a major event attracting wide-flung interest.

The Year 2000 Nynehead Show is this year to be held on the 18th June and will include showing classes for Mountain and Moorland ponies, Riding Horses and Ponies, Hunters, together with some fun classes for those people whose horse do not exactly fit into the above categories. We also have a range of driving classes which will include a road drive again this year for the coveted Red Rover rosettes.

We would like to mention that none of the above would have been possible without the kind permission of the Darby family in allowing us to use the beautiful setting at Hornshay Farm and Nynehead Show are eternally grateful.

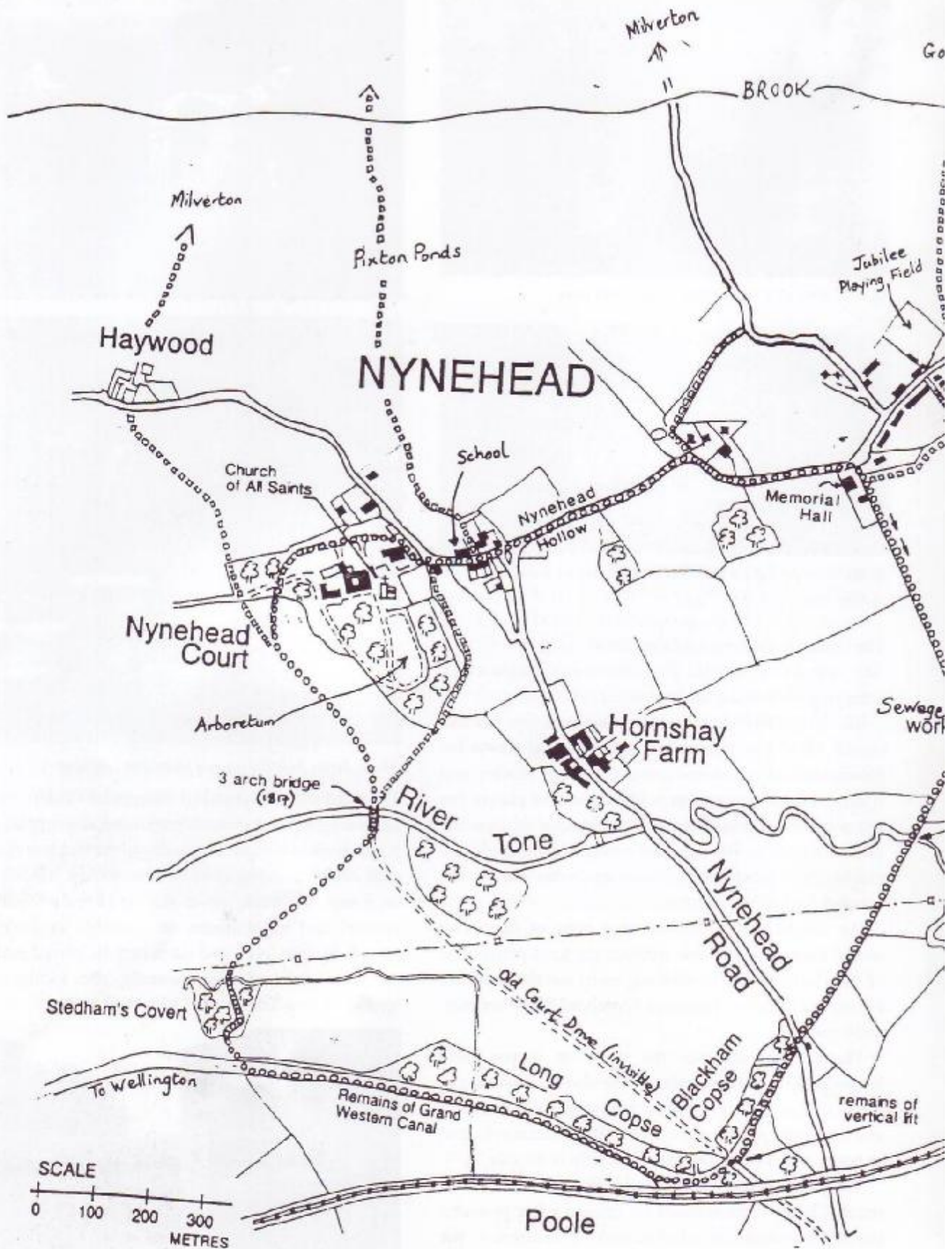
Please come and see the show or if you have horses/ponies, enter the show. The show is run on the basis of "Run the sort of show you would like to attend and hopefully people will come." We are acknowledged as being a friendly show, who will help if we can.

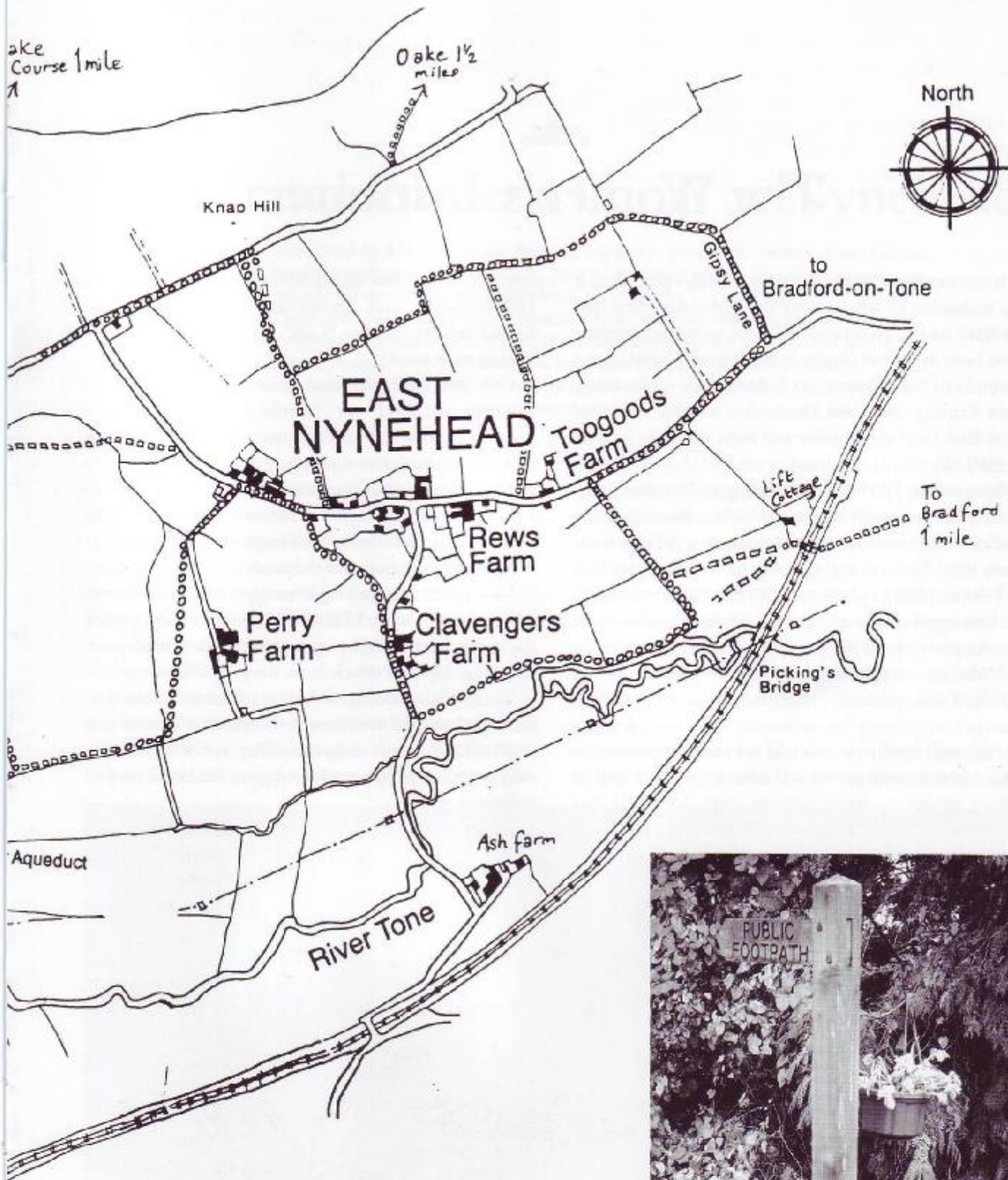
We invite anyone who would like to come with a stand, Charity organisations are offered a free position, but all other stalls are asked to make a donation to the funds collected on behalf of the Charities which we support from year to year. The Secretary, Sue Schock, can be contacted on (01823) 664121.

The Club (The Nynehead Memorial Club)

Drowning one's sorrows after cricket, a struggle on the River Tone or simply after a day in the fields is not possible in an inn at Nynehead. However, the "Club", open on 5 nights a week, serves real ale (from a Wellington brewer) and refreshments are available to those who attend. Skittles, pool and darts may be played and conversation enjoyed. Occasionally, the locally based 'group' "Long Tall Shorty" play their music.







*Nynehead has wonderful walks - as denoted on map.
With thanks to Mr Chris Watson for his assistance
with this map.*





The Women's Institute

It is not until one looks back over the years that there is the realisation of what a busy and interesting time that we have had at Nynhead W.I. Our monthly meetings have been lively with topics ranging from 'Taxation and Investment for Women' to light-hearted Cake Icing, Hair Cutting and Cake Decoration to slick shows of local Red Deer on Exmoor and even a cycling holiday in the USA.

It started in 1969 as a small group of Nynhead residents, some relatively new to the village forming first a Ladies Group and eventually becoming a W.I. We meet every third Monday in the month of the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. After a short resumé of business and news, we have speakers to suit all tastes, we hope, followed by tea. A variety of mouth watering savouries and cakes are provided on a rota basis. The competition of the month is judged and an annual cup is given to the over-all winner.

Although small in numbers it is a very active Institute taking part in most group and county events as well as raising money to cover running costs. Members also stage special events to raise funds for other local and national charities. Most years one special event is

arranged which has varied from a Fashion Show to a Harvest Supper and, on one occasion, a slightly adulterated version of show "Cats". Table top sales are also held to raise money.

One year as our President was also Mayoress of Taunton, we held our "Birthday Meeting" in the Mayor's Parlour and another meeting was held outside in the Gardens at Hestercombe.

On a more serious note, once a year we discuss resolution, one of which is put forward nationally to the Government, with the hope of improving life. Such topics as water pollution and the ozone layer are examples.

On a lighter note we organise trips, both far and near, included in these are Christmas Dinners, and as part of the larger Tone Vale Group we have made a small piece of a large Tapestry which is on show in Taunton.

To conclude, needless to say, as a country group, gardening/plants and their propagation both of flowers and vegetables are often discussed. They are often bought, sold or exchanged at our meetings as are home cooked delicacies.

All are welcome, so roll-on the next millennium.



The Events we Recall



Commemorating the Coronation of George VI, 1937

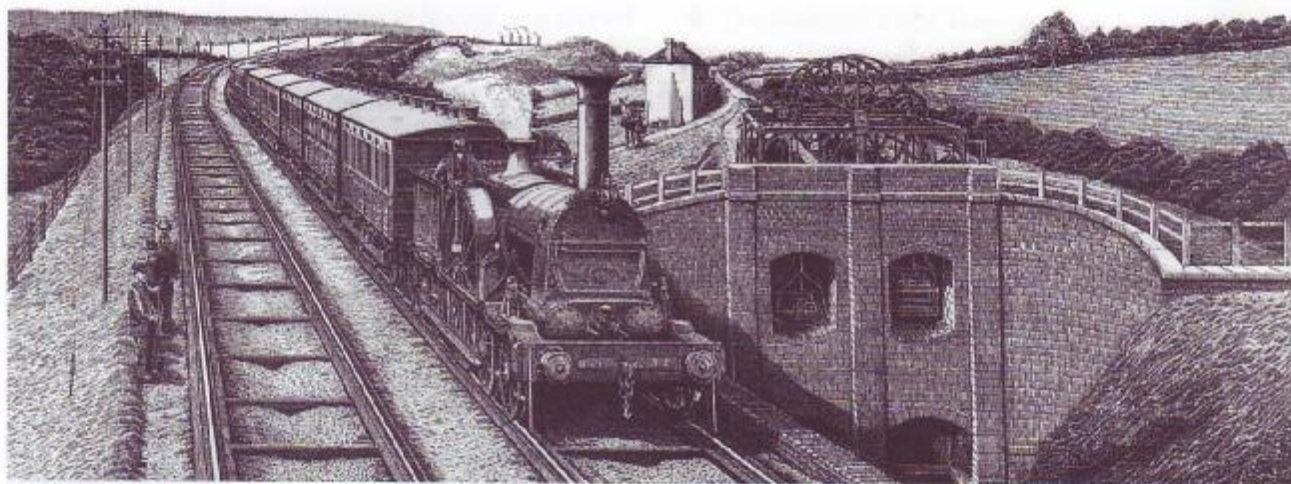


12 May 1937, the children's fancy dress party at Nynehead Court



Nynehead and Oake Home Guard – the original "Dad's Army". Jim Floyd recalls many pictured here. Back Row Left to Right: ???, ???, Jack Hawkins, R. Hartnell, ???, ???, ???, T. Hutchings, E. Pulman, E. Stevens, J. Floyd. Middle Row: S. Jones, T. Lock, H. Dunn, R. Marks, Bill Winter, Bob Winter, H. Sharland, B. Pavey, ???, ???, L. Stone, E. Derbe. Front seated: Bill Radford, L. Sparles, Rev. Rees Davies, R. B. Hankey, A. Elston, Fred Bickham, ???.

NYNEHEAD – ON THE MAP



Trefusis Bridge 1864



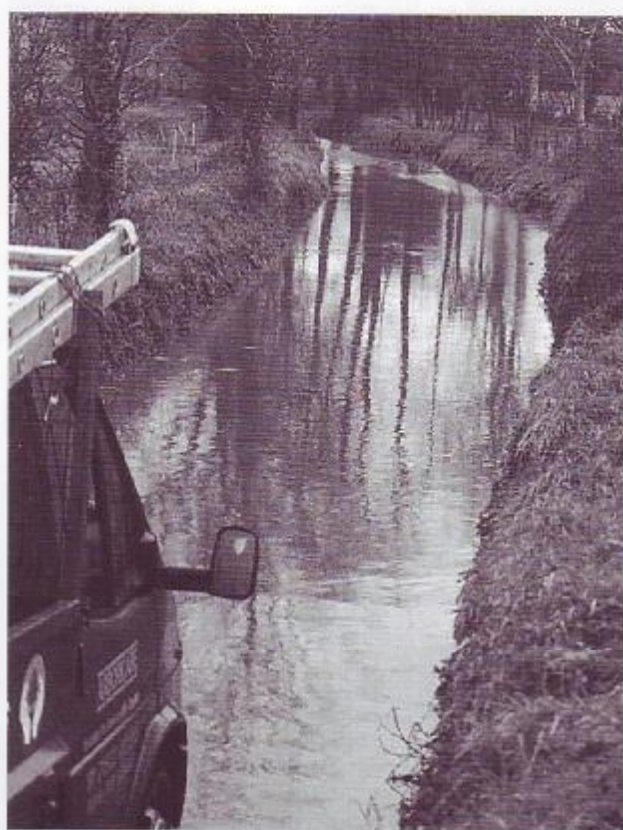
A Village Party 1970



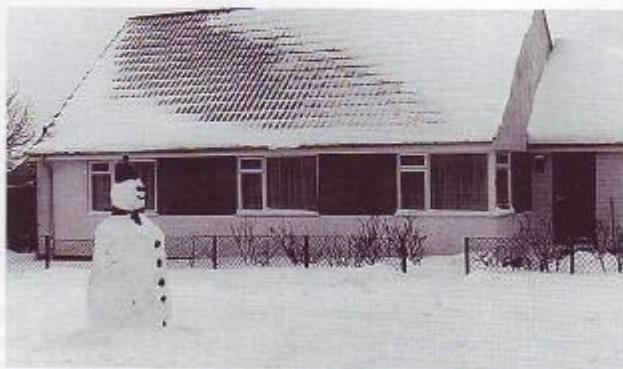
This is a road! – not a river



Frequent flooding is part of Nynhead life



Any guesses for where you are?



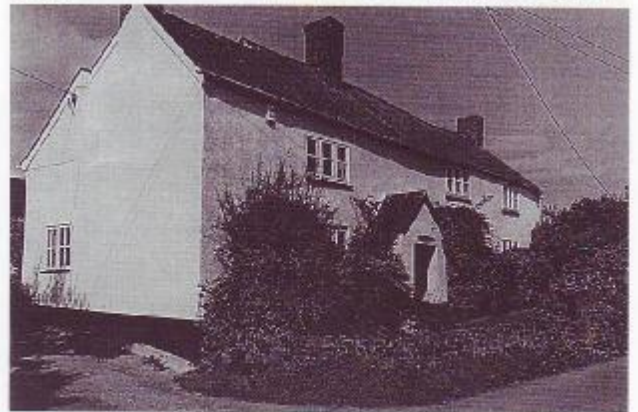
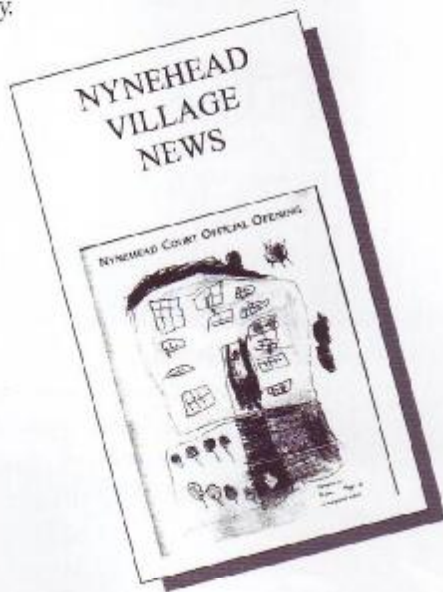
It can even snow in Nynhead – 8 Roundoak Gardens



The Locals and our Village in 1999

This final section of the Millennium Booklet takes the reader on a tour of some of the houses, buildings and village views

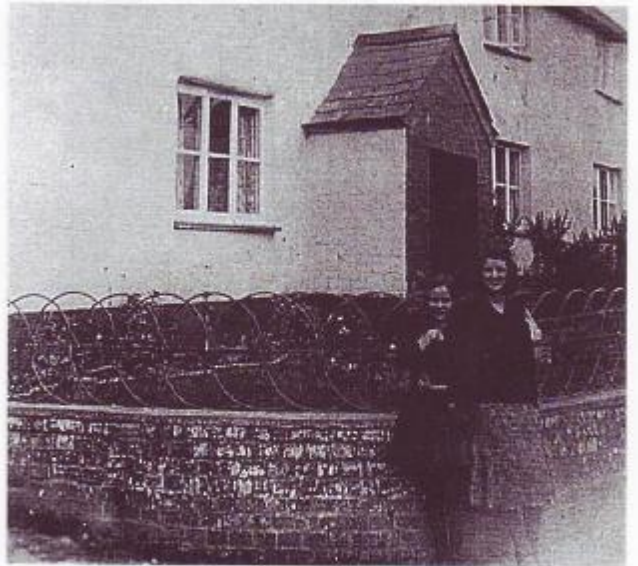
Pride in Nynhead from its residents has never been in doubt. In 1998 the village Newsletter was relaunched by Mrs K. Boyd. The newsletter seeks to keep residents fully informed about life in the village where the population is only c300 people in this last decade of the 20th century.



The Marsh's at their home "The Bush" – once an Off-licence and stores



The Gollop family at "The Bush" in 1929



"The Bush" as a former Off-Licence/Stores

NYNHILL - ON THE MAP



The Old Post Office (last used as a post office in the 1980s)



The Old Vicarage



Janet and Chris Watson outside Aysgorth



The former Rectory



1 Court Cottages - extended 1999



2 Court Cottages - restored in 1997



3 Court Cottages



So where is this?



Oak Ridge



Little Chipley



Whose gardens are these? – Roundoak of course!



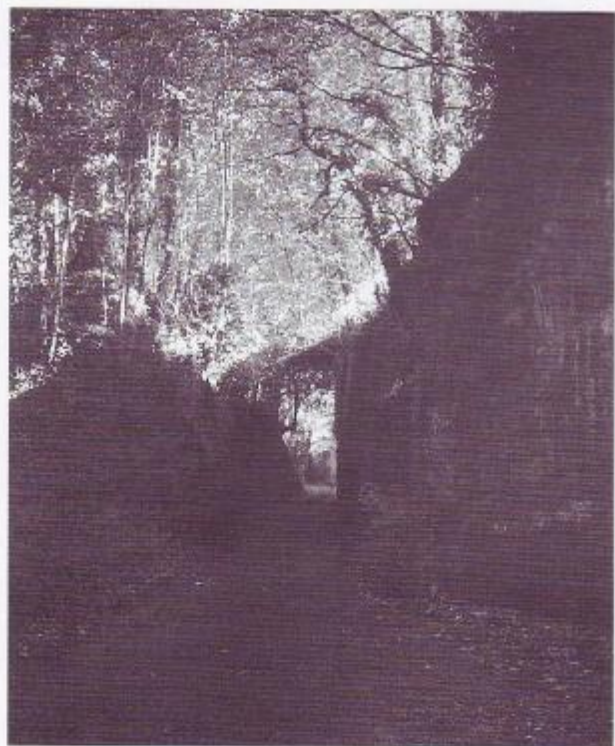
Farthings Close



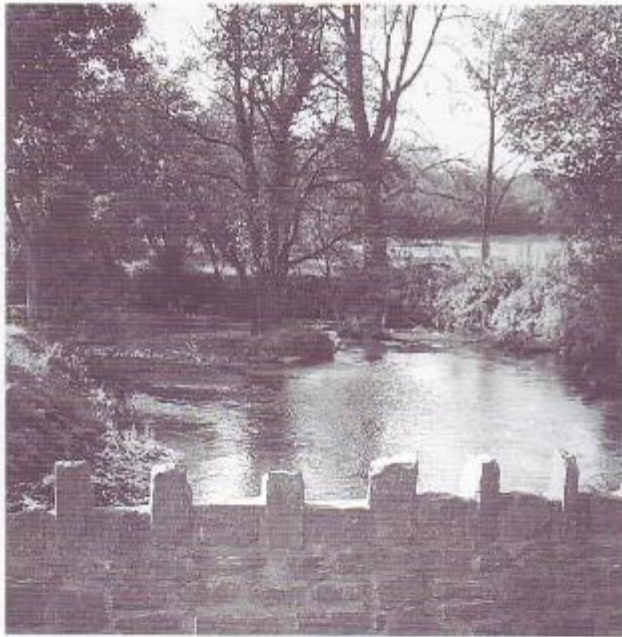
A development of 7 houses built in 1996 – Blackdown View ... and what an understatement that is ... Panoramic View more like!

The Hollow

The was created by the Sanfords in the 1860's to give work to the unemployed and possibly to provide a better road between the new Rectory (1861) and the church



Higher Nynshead from the fruit farm



The rebuilt bridge at Ash - worth waiting for



Hornsby Weir



A home in East Nynehead



1st or last house in Nynehead?



Pool



Another look at Pool



Above: Old and below - new-ish



NYNEHEAD - ON THE MAP



Maybe this is the first house in Nynelhead or is it the last?



Our "old style" original telephone box



Do you recognise this scene above or maybe recognise where we are below



Higher Nynelhead



Who has lost a wheel?



East Nynelhead - Bickleigh Farm

More Village Homes



Langham



"The Farthings" Blackdown View with spring apple blossom



Hillside



Rews Farm





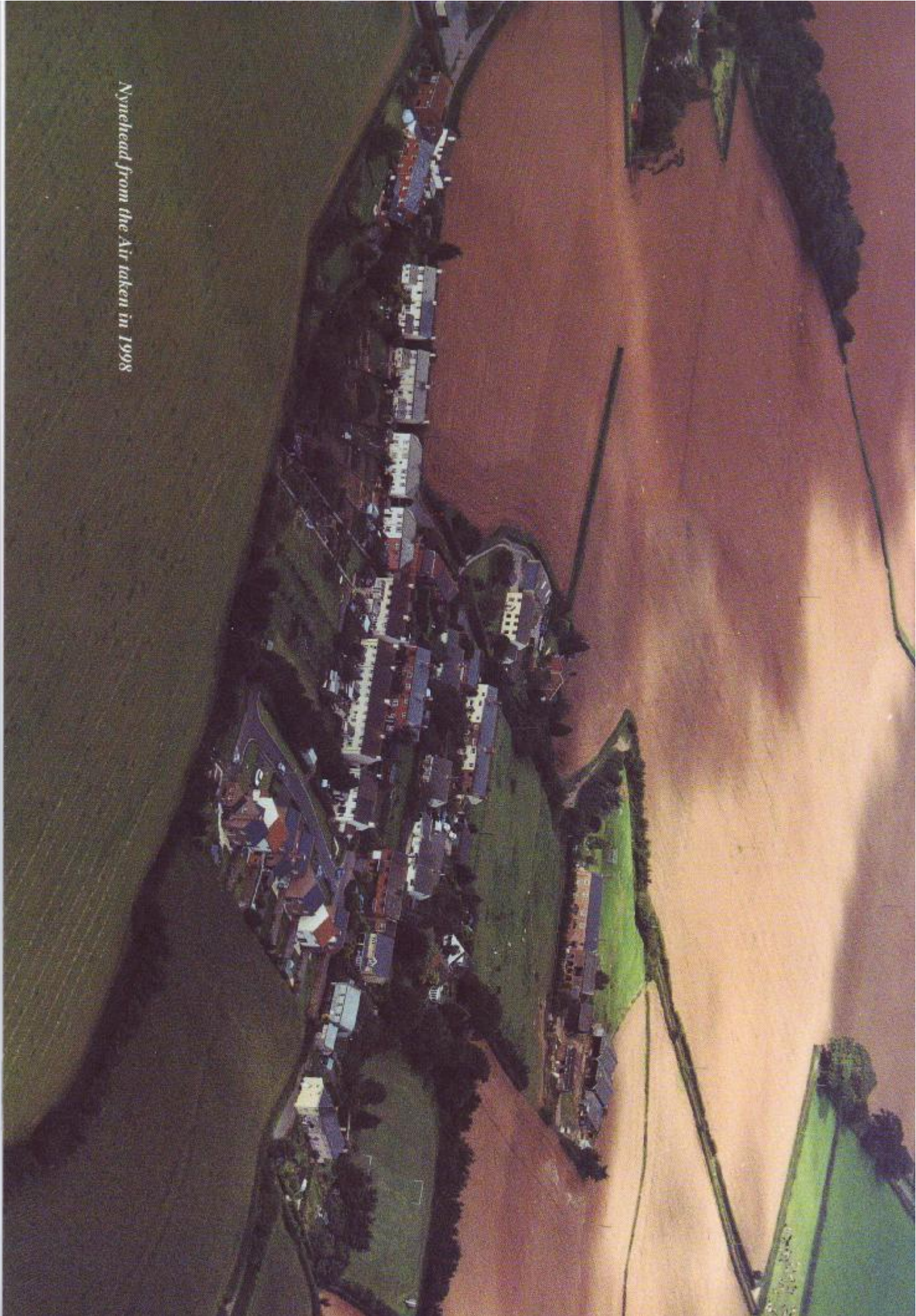
Above and below: The school children of 1908





Captain Upham retires as clerk to the Parish Council.





Nynehed from the Air taken in 1998