

NAYLAND



The parish of Nayland with Wissington lies on the north bank of the River Stour, the boundary between Essex and Suffolk. It is six miles from Colchester and nine miles from Sudbury. In 1969 the village of Nayland was bypassed by the A134 which created a physical barrier between Nayland and its more rural partner, Wiston, which lies to the west.

Nayland has a population of around 1,000. It owes many of its attractive buildings to the prosperity of the clothmaking era in the Stour Valley of the fourteenth to the seventeenth centuries. It has over a hundred listed buildings, some dating from the fourteenth century. Many of these are important, high status merchants' houses and rare artisans' dwellings.

The scheduled Ancient Monument known as Court Knoll on the edge of the built-up area is believed to be the original site of the village. Today it is just a circular field of five acres surrounded by a ditch where in the past Roman remains have been found. The name Nayland is of Anglo Saxon origin and means "at the island" which probably came from Court Knoll which would have stood up as an island when the Stour valley was flooded.



Following the demise of the cloth trade, Nayland became an industrialised village during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, helped by the River Stour being made navigable from Sudbury to Manningtree in 1705. Until the beginning of the twentieth century the village was still a self-sufficient community but following the second world war a gradual decline led to the loss of many of its amenities. However, the 1960s were a major turning point in the history of the village when a great deal of building development took place, bringing new life to the community.

Today, the village has a thriving primary school, nursery and playgroup, a doctors' surgery and a fire service which has been in existence for over 250 years. There is a prestigious village hall, which is well used by village organisations and outside functions, and also a church hall which is suitable for smaller events. St James' Church is in the centre of the village, the present building having been erected around 1400 on the site of earlier buildings. The Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart is nearby.

The village Post Office is an important asset, as are the butcher's shop and two general shops. There is a residential care home for the elderly and three establishments offering holiday and bed and breakfast accommodation. After gradually losing many of its pubs over the years there is just one left plus a former pub, now a restaurant with rooms. There is also a large number of small businesses of various kinds.

Nayland is home to several artists, writers and musicians. There are many organisations for residents, from cubs and scouts, to drama, horticultural and conservation groups and many others. The Community Council is a very active body made up of members of all the village organisations and it produces a free newsletter to every household. The county mobile library visits once a week and there is a good bus service to Colchester and Sudbury.

For more information visit the Nayland and Wiston Community website at:

www.naylandandwiston.net