

AGM report

At a national level there are now estimated to be in excess of 10 million members of Neighbourhood Watch, if some of them only do put a sticker in the window. Nailsea Watch now covers 3,900 households with 168 street coordinators or contact persons (some of whom are also area distributors for our newsletter). I would like to thank each and every one of them and our members for the work they do. There is much to be said for people who watch out for others acting suspiciously in their streets. We cannot rely solely on the Police, not least because there are fewer of them on the beat than there used to be. Vigilance is a matter for us all, not something done by someone else or proxied out to the Police. Nailsea Watch is run by the members and that is something we should be proud of.

We have seen changes in our local Neighbourhood Police Team, and on behalf of all the members I would like to thank them for the work they do. I sincerely hope that they will continue to have a prominent presence in the centre of town in the future. There have been several changes in watch Co coordinators this year, so I would like to thank all those who have volunteered and also the retiring coordinators for their service over the years.

Nailsea continues to have a relatively low level of crime. However, we cannot be complacent. Burglaries from sheds and outbuildings have started to exceed those from dwellings, so we all need to pay particular attention to building security. Online scams are an increasing threat to our personal security so be especially careful when working online. There are useful hints and tips on our website.

We have made a conscious effort to replace all the worn out and damaged signs around the town with the help of Barry the Bobby Van man. As you already know we will have to be self sufficient from January when Barry will no longer be able to provide this service. We will continue to supply new and replacement signs, but the local Coordinators will need to arrange to have them erected as and when necessary.

I hope some of you have had a look at our web site and have found it useful. The site is averaging over 30 visits a day (1000 visits each month; the most popular pages are Ringmaster messages). If you have any ideas on how we can improve it then please let us know.

After several years the Committee have decided to re-instate the visit to Houses of Parliament. Well, it was vastly over-subscribed, so the lucky ones had to be decided by draw. We look forward to an enjoyable day on 1st September when we will have a tour of both houses and a meeting with our North Somerset MP Dr Fox in Committee room afterwards. Hopefully, we will be able to arrange another visit later next year after the General Election.

Unfortunately we are no longer officially twinned with Cumberland Park, South Australia. We will however be keeping in touch with our contact there, Terry Harbour, and we will publish any relevant news both in the newsletter and on the web site.

Gill McConachie has decided to stand down from Committee after 6 years as Treasurer and I would like to thank her personally for her excellent work over the past 6 years. **I would also like to report that due to the healthy state of our funds, we have decided that there will be a one year moratorium on subscriptions.**

Finally, I would like to thank all the Committee for their valuable contributions, Jill & Geoff for collating the newsletters and Margaret, Pauline and Audrey for providing the refreshments. I hope you have enjoyed our meetings and guest speakers this year. I am always looking for new ones so let us know if you have a particular request. I know I don't need to remind you of all those things you should do to keep safe, so stay vigilant and together we will keep crime down in Nailsea ■

September
2014
Nailsea

WATCH
THE HIGHER THE VIGILANCE the lower the crime....

DIARY WATCH

All meetings 7:30pm at UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, STOCKWAY NORTH

WEDNESDAY, 1st Oct

Mrs Mary Prior, MBE JP, Lord Lieutenant of the County & City of Bristol will be our guest speaker for this meeting. PC Matt Christie will be in attendance as usual to report the latest crime figures, and answer any questions.

Why not join many other members and have an enjoyable evening.

COME ON - YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE !

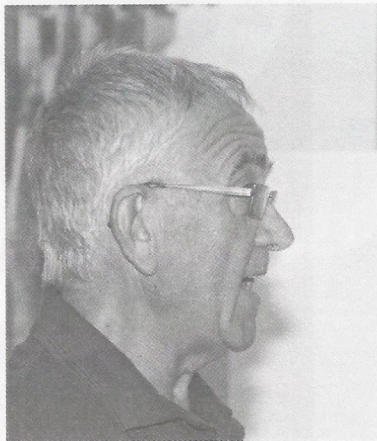
USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

999 Emergency
101 Non-emergency calls, Nailsea Station

0800 555 111 Crime Stoppers
Web site: nailseanhw.org.uk
Email: nailseanhw@gmail.com

Guest Speaker Nick Churchill Portishead Lifeboat

Nick Churchill gave a presentation on the Portishead Lifeboat, its history and future. The need for a lifeboat we originally wanted by the Yacht Club to cover for accidents but more and more requests came from the Coast Guard and Bristol docks for rescues. The lifeboat has during its 25 year life made 364 rescues and saved 15 lives. The community lifeboat is run as a charitable trust. Nationally, there



Nick Churchill

are 33 community lifeboats. The original and current boathouse is a Compton prefab garage which is just large enough for the boat with launching tractor. The crew have to move the lifeboat out of the garage before space can be found for them to change. There are no toilets or shower facilities they use the amenities in the Yacht Club. The Portishead and Bristol Lifeboat Trust is

run by its volunteer Directors, with each Director having his or her own specific responsibilities. Running costs include maintenance of the boat and tractor, MOT of tractor, fuel etc. The area supported by the Lifeboat reaches across to Wales, down to Clevedon/Weston and up to the New Seven Bridge.

When a request for assistance is received from the Coast Guard, it is the Portishead Launch Officer who decides if the boat is launched, depending upon the nature of the rescue or sea conditions (the Lifeboat cannot currently be launched on a low spring tide). The crew, including ladies, are all aged under 45 and they come from all walks of life. They train each Tuesday evening and obviously turn up for call outs. Between April and October it is the silly season



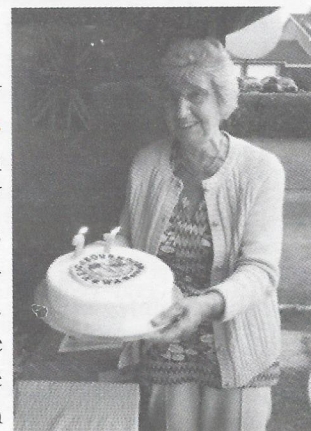
Spindleberry Grove members partying

when boating people, water skiers etc get into trouble. Each time the lifeboat is launched, it has to be washed on its return. The future of the Portishead Lifeboat looks brighter since the RLNI will be taking on sponsorship of the Lifeboat once the new lifeboat station has been built. The new station will cost £1.8M, however the RLNI require the community to fund 10% of the cost i.e. £180,000. The new location will assist faster launching and recovery of the lifeboat in what is very challenging beach terrain. When someone is in trouble at sea, seconds can make the difference between life and death. Also, there will be no restrictions at low water, so the new station will be operational 24/7. For the crew, the improved facilities will include changing rooms, dry storage facilities and hot showers. There will be an office, a training room and casualty reception facilities.

Nick answered a number of questions from the audience and ended by appealing for donations to help raise the required £180,000 for the new lifeboat station ■

Spindleberry Grove Celebrate 21 years with NHW

2014 marks the 21st anniversary of the NW scheme in **Spindleberry Grove**. We have been having a very successful NW BBQ party every year, and this year we have dedicated the celebrations to our anniversary. Over the years people have moved in and out of our Grove and we have maintained a warm welcome to everyone and the BBQ has formed an excellent venue



Mrs Smith with cake

to meet our new neighbours. Over the years the children grow up and depart but sometimes they visit us at the BBQ along with their children, which we believe shows the value of this NW scheme and our BBQ.

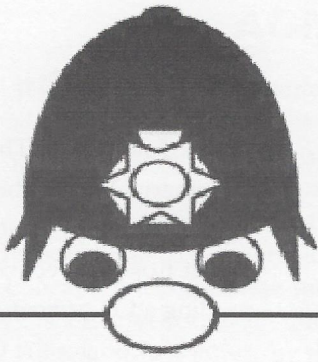
The weather this year was lovely and we celebrated with a special cake and a toast to our 21 years. The picture shows Mrs Smith, a founder member of our NW scheme, holding our cake. We are looking forward to the next 21 years and many new friends ■

Reported by Richard Bedwell

Following the election, your Committee for 2014/15 is:

Chairman: Peter Smith
Secretary: Vacancy
Distribution: Ian Mottram

Vice Chairman: Mike West
Treasurer: Colin Oliver
General Committee: Terry Thompson, Trevor Lyons, Colin Basson, Sue Lomax.



On the Beat

Rouge Traders

Please, please, please be aware of cold callers attending at your home address. Now that we are well and truly into the summer months the Nailsea beat team have noticed a rise in 'cold callers' trading in Nailsea and the surrounding towns. By cold callers I mean workmen who attend at your home address and offer to do a trade be it driveway maintenance, gardening or other forms of building repair. **DO NOT ACCEPT THEIR BUSINESS**, the majority of tradesmen who cold-call are either conmen or will offer shoddy workmanship. The law has recently changed, as from June 2014 any tradesman attending at your home address where a contract is drawn up has to give 14 clear days for a cooling off period, this must be in writing with a contract which also clearly shows how the contract can be cancelled. Often these contracts will say that the termination has to be in writing. This is not the case, telephone or email are both acceptable ways to cancel. Be aware of giving a deposit, if you write a cheque you will often find it will be cashed prior to the 14 day cooling off period expiring. When paying any form of deposit, cash or cheque, once it's been handed over it is very difficult to get back. If you must pay, then use a cheque and postdate it to after the cooling off period. If you are talked into any form of work then get more quotes, it is good practice to have at least three quotes before you have any work carried out to compare what different tradesmen can offer you. Last but not least you are the customer. If you do not want their trade then say NO, don't let them into your house and tell them to go away. If you have any vulnerable neighbours please be on the lookout for rouge traders that are calling.

More information can be found on the North Somerset trading standards website,
www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/northsomerset ■

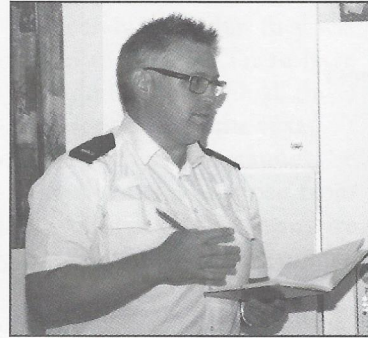
P C Matt Christie



Police Successes

Burglaries

At the recent Neighbourhood Watch AGM I gave out the following figures in relation to the reduction in the past two years with Burglaries in the home and non-dwelling burglaries (sheds and garages). Between June 2012 and June 2013 there were a total of 34 burglaries reported to the police that was June to June. For the same period 2013 to 2014 there were only 15 reported burglaries that's a 44% reduction. It's a similar story with non-dwelling burglaries with a 67% reduction year on year ■



P C Matt Christie reporting at our meeting

Nailsea Policing Team

It is with great pleasure that I introduce two new PCSO's who will be covering Nailsea.

PCSO Simon TUONG has newly started and will be covering the town centre, Simon is currently being tutored but will soon be out and about in the town so stop him and say hello.

Also the team have a returning **PCSO Elle HICKS**. Elle used to cover Yatton but moved to take up a different role in Bristol. Elle has since seen the light and decided to return to what she loves and that's being a great PCSO so it's a big welcome to both Elle and Simon to great additions to the team ■

The Little Book of Big Scams

To mark 'World Elder Abuse Awareness Day' (15 June), the Metropolitan Police Service has produced a guide on how to avoid some of the most common scams.

'The Little Book of Big Scams' is a comprehensive guide on fraud prevention, explaining some of the most common scams in existence, ranging from the simple to the sophisticated, providing essential advice to reduce the chances of you being parted from your money.

The booklet is primarily aimed at the elderly and vulnerable in society as they are particularly at risk; but anyone who reads it will benefit. People from all backgrounds and income levels are targeted by scammers - anyone can fall victim to fraud.

The guide was launched by the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) alongside Esther Rantzen and Gary Fitzgerald, (CEO of Action on Elder Abuse).

Copy and paste the following link into your browser:
http://www.met.police.uk/docs/little_book_scam.pdf

Source: www.actionfraud.police.uk

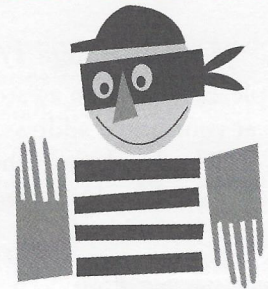
CRIME FIGURES

MAY/JUNE	2014
Other	1
Criminal Damage	16
Assault	35
Theft	14
Burglary House	3
Burglary Shed/Garage/Business	3
Theft cycle	0
Robbery	0
Theft of Vehicle	0
Theft from Vehicle	9
Possession of Drugs	2
Anti Social Behaviour	38
Total	121
Anti Social Behaviour—Nailsea Police Beats	
West End	5
Mizzymead	9
Youngwood	14
Nailsea Yeo	10
Golden Valley	0

Around the schemes

Thank you to Joan Thomas and Rosemary Dennis who are the new Coordinators for Kingsmead and Heath Road respectively. We are still needing a Co-ordinator for Riverway, so please contact the Chairman on 857418 for more details ■

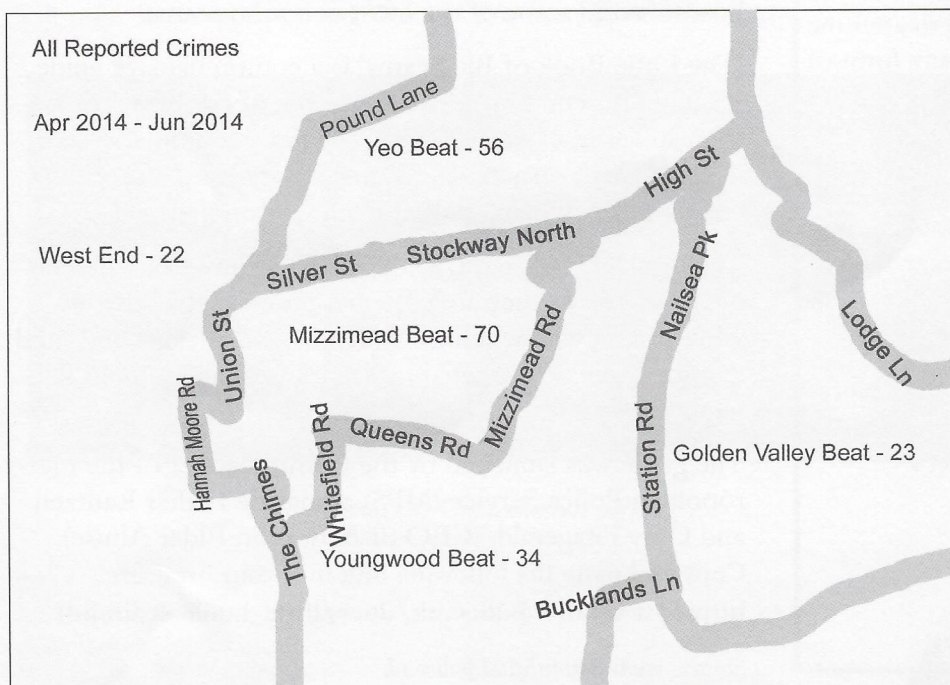
KEEP HIM OUT !!



“Don't share your tools with me. Lock the ladder and spade in the garage rather than that old shed.”■

Autumnal reminder ...

With the evenings getting darker, don't forget to secure downstairs windows, entrance doors and change your timers on lights etc. Remember, the clocks go BACK 1 hour at 2am on Sunday 26th October ■



The map shows the area covered by each beat and their respective number of crimes reported. The figures were taken from www.police.uk.

Dear diary

WEDNESDAY 1st Oct 2014

Mrs Mary Prior, MBE JP
Lord Lieutenant of County & City
of Bristol

WEDNESDAY 3rd Dec 2014

Christmas Social

WEDNESDAY 4th Mar 2015

Guest speak tbc

WEDNESDAY 6th May 2015

Guest speaker tbc

WEDNESDAY 1st Jul 2015

AGM / Guest speaker tbc

WEDNESDAY 7th|Oct 2015

Guest speaker tbc

WEDNESDAY 2nd Dec 2015

Guest speaker tbc