

Nailsea Neighbourhood Watch AGM

7th July 2012

Chairman's Report

This year marks 21 years of a successful Neighbourhood Watch in Nailsea. We plan to publish an article in our newsletter to mark the occasion later in the year. We would like to include any early memories or pictures you may have of Nailsea Neighbourhood Watch, so please let us know as soon as possible. We have continued to produce five colour newsletters during the year, and as always we would be grateful of any suggestions you may have for new content. Since Matthew left us in January, we have not always managed to get the newsletter out on time and I thank you for bearing with us. However, we now have volunteers to collate each edition of the newsletter ready for distribution, and our printers, Adroit, continue to provide a good service.

Last year members voted for an increase in annual subscription to £1 (after being set at 50p for the previous 15 years). This means that we are no longer operating at a loss – but more about this in the Treasurer's report. We gave our Nailsea Neighbourhood Watch promotional leaflet a complete make-over this year and it has now been re-printed.

Our Open meetings have featured guest speakers Terry Stephens (National Trust Tyntesfield), Julian Moss (District Commander), Kim Morrissey (Great Western Ambulance Service) and Mike Wedlock (Senior Citizens Liaison Team). We like to cover a wide range of subjects, mainly on Crime and the Community, and try to introduce new ones to avoid too much repetition. If there is a particular subject you would like for a future meeting please let us know and we will do our best to include it.

We continue to enjoy a good presence across the Town with 165 Schemes covering 3,800 households, and the new Information Pack for Contact Persons has been well received. I would like to thank all our existing Contact Persons, and those who have retired recently, for doing such a splendid job as without them Neighbourhood Watch would not be able to operate. I would also like to thank Terry Thompson and Barry, the Bobby Van man, for continuing to provide and erect our street signs. Currently, we need replacement Contact Persons for schemes in The Uplands, Dunster Gardens, White Oak Way and Ridgeway, so if you would like to volunteer or know of anyone please let us know.

During the last couple of years our Committee numbers have declined. We now have only 7 members. In the last few months we have had several offers of part time help from members for which we are extremely grateful. Unfortunately, we have had no offers to join the Committee or for the post of Secretary. If we are to continue to be successful, it is important for a 'Watch' of this size to have a larger Committee to organize our programme of events and generate fresh new ideas.

We are still 'twinned' with STURT Watch in Adelaide Australia, although we have not had much contact with them this past year. We hope to start this right going forward, giving you news updates at Open meetings and in the newsletter.

Our Christmas Social was again well attended with local exhibitors, Bingo, quiz and a raffle. We kept the same format as in 2010 and this seemed to work well. I have to give a big thank you to all our Exhibitors and the Police who attended, and to our ladies Audrey, Margaret and Pauline who provide the refreshments for this event and all our Open meetings. I hope everyone who attended enjoyed themselves and I am looking forward to our next Social on Wednesday December 5th.

We have just completed a web site for Nailsea NHW which will hopefully appeal to residents and potential residents of all ages. There will be content about public meetings, AGMs, the newsletter, News, Stop Press and much more. The basic web site is now 'live' and we will be working to provide much 'richer' content over time. We plan for the site to be accessible from the Nailsea People, Nailsea Town Council and Nailsea Life web sites and our site name – "nailseanhw.org.uk" will be registered with the main Search Engines like Google etc.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Adam and the local Police team, to Mike for his help with the newsletter and being our photographer, to Gill for her continued diligence with the finances, to my other Committee members for their help and support throughout the year and to all of you, the membership, for helping to maintain Neighbourhood Watch in our town.

Peter Smith