

= Nailsea =

Nailsea is a town in the unitary authority of North Somerset in the ceremonial county of Somerset , England , approximately 8 miles (13 km) southwest of Bristol and about 11 miles (18 km) northeast of the seaside resort of Weston @-@ super @-@ Mare . The nearest village is Backwell , which lies south of Nailsea on the opposite side of the Bristol to Exeter railway line . Nailsea is a commuter town with a population of 15 @, @ 630 .

The town was an industrial centre based on coal mining and glass manufacture , which have now been replaced by service industries . The surrounding North Somerset Levels has wildlife habitats including the Tickenham , Nailsea and Kenn Moors biological Site of Special Scientific Interest and Bucklands Pool / Backwell Lake Local Nature Reserve . Nailsea is close to the M5 motorway and Bristol Airport , and its railway station , Nailsea and Backwell , has services operated by First Great Western .

Secondary education is provided by Nailsea School (rebuilt as an Academy in 2009) , and primary education by St Francis School , Grove School , Kingshill School and Golden Valley . Churches include the 14th @-@ century Holy Trinity Church and Christ Church , which was built in 1843 .

= = History = =

The name of the town may be derived from the Old English for Naegl 's island , although it has also been suggested it was spelt Naylsey in 1657 .

The parish of Nailsea was part of the Portbury Hundred . Little is known of the area occupied by Nailsea before the coal mining industry began , although it was used as a quarry in Roman times from which pennant sandstone was extracted . The Romans otherwise ignored Nailsea from 40 ? 400 AD , but left a small villa near Jacklands Bridge .

Nailsea 's early economy relied on coal mining , which began as early as the 16th century . The earliest recorded date for coal mining in Nailsea was 1507 when coal was being transported to light fires at Yatton . By the late 1700s the town had a large number of pits . Around this time Nailsea was visited by the social reformer Hannah More who founded a Sunday school for the workers . The Elms Colliery , (Middle Engine Pit) , one of the most complete examples of an 18th @-@ century colliery left in England , is now in disrepair . It has been designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument and is included in the Heritage at Risk Register produced by English Heritage . Remains of the old pits , most of which had closed down by the late 19th century as mining capital migrated to the richer seams of South Wales , are still visible around the town .

The coal mines attracted glass manufacturer John Robert Lucas , who in 1788 established the Nailsea Glassworks that became the fourth @-@ largest of its kind in the United Kingdom , mostly producing low @-@ grade bottle glass . The works closed down in 1873 , but " Nailsea " glass (mostly made by glass workers at the end of their shift in Nailsea and at other glass works) is still sought after by collectors around the world . The site of the glass works has been covered by a Tesco supermarket car park , leaving it relatively accessible for future archaeological digs . Other parts of the site have been cleared and filled with sand to ensure that the remains of the old glass works are preserved .

The 15th @-@ century Nailsea Court , southwest of the town , is a Grade I listed building .

= = Governance = =

Nailsea was part of Long Ashton Rural District from 1894 to 1974 . It is now within the North Somerset unitary authority , which covers part of the ceremonial county of Somerset but it is administered independently of the non @-@ metropolitan county . Its administrative headquarters is in the town hall in Weston @-@ super @-@ Mare .

Two electoral wards exist in Nailsea . Their area and population are the same as described above . It is in the North Somerset constituency represented in the House of Commons of the Parliament of the United Kingdom . It elects one Member of Parliament (MP) by the first past the post system of

election . Since the general election of 2010 the constituency has been represented by Liam Fox of the Conservative Party . Nailsea is also part of the South West England constituency of the European Parliament , which elects six MEPs using the d 'Hondt method of party @-@ list proportional representation .

= = Geography = =

The Land Yeo river flows to the east of the town . The North Somerset Levels to the west have been drained and farmed by generations of farmers . Tickenham , Nailsea and Kenn Moors SSSI is a 129 @.@ 4 hectare biological Site of Special Scientific Interest . The soils in the area include clays of the Allerton and Wentloog Series and peat soils of the Sedgemoor and Godney Series , which are drained by a network of large rhynes and smaller field ditches , which support exceptionally rich plant and invertebrate fauna communities . Exceptional populations of Coleoptera occur , amongst which are at least 12 nationally scarce species and 2 nationally rare species , including Britain ? s largest water beetle the great silver water beetle (*Hydrophilus piceus*) . There are several other local nature reserves .

The Bucklands Pool / Backwell Lake Local Nature Reserve , southeast of the town centre and close to the Nailsea and Backwell railway station , was constructed as a balancing pond in the mid @-@ 1970s , and has since become home to various wildfowl and dragonflies and a foraging area for bats . Bird species seen on the reserve include gadwall , shoveller , pochard , tufted duck , grey heron and mute swans .

Nearby towns and villages include Backwell , Wraxall , Portishead , Clevedon , and Tickenham . Nailsea is 8 miles (13 km) from the centre of Bristol , and close to the tourist centres of Weston super Mare and Bath . It is 8 @.@ 5 miles (14 km) by road from the port and service area at Avonmouth .

= = = Climate = = =

In common with the rest of South West England , Nailsea has a temperate climate which is generally wetter and milder than the rest of the country . The annual mean temperature is approximately 10 ° C (50 ° F) . Seasonal temperature variation is less extreme than most of the United Kingdom because of the adjacent sea temperatures . The summer months of July and August are the warmest , with mean daily maxima of approximately 21 ° C (70 ° F) . In winter mean minimum temperatures of 1 ° C (34 ° F) or 2 ° C (36 ° F) are common . In summer the Azores high pressure affects the south @-@ west of England , although convective cloud sometimes forms inland and reduces the number of hours of sunshine . Annual sunshine rates are slightly less than the regional average of 1 @,@ 600 hours . In December 1998 there were 20 days without sun recorded at Yeovilton . Most of the rainfall in the south @-@ west is caused by Atlantic depressions or by convection . Most of the rainfall in autumn and winter is caused by the Atlantic depressions , which is when they are most active . In summer , a large proportion of the rainfall is caused by the Sun heating the ground leading to convection and to showers and thunderstorms . Average rainfall is around 700 mm (28 in) . About 8 ? 15 days of snowfall is typical . November to March have the highest mean wind speeds , and June to August have the lightest winds . The predominant wind direction is from the south @-@ west .

= = Economy = =

Primary income often comes from employment in the service sector , including industries such as insurance and banking , defence related employment , retail and management . Employment within Nailsea includes work in shops , schools , estate agents and banks . Larger businesses in Nailsea include GE , and Bristol Wessex Billing Services Ltd . , the billing company jointly owned by Bristol Water and Wessex Water . Other businesses are situated at units in the town . Nailsea has three large industrial and business estates located at Southfield road , Blackfriars road and Coates Estate

(former site of the local cider making industry) . Nailsea 's shopping area includes Somerset Square , Crown Glass Place , Colliers Walk , and a high street . There are four supermarket chains in the town (Tesco , Waitrose , Co @-@ Op and Iceland) and some national banks and estate agents .

Coate 's cider factory in Nailsea was first opened in 1788 and was bought by Showerings of Shepton Mallet in 1956 . The brand was subsequently merged with Gaymers and absorbed by Matthew Clark Brands . Prior to Coates , there was Heath Brewery , owned by the Thatcher family , which was situated behind the former Friendship Inn . The site of the old factory is now called ' Coates Estate ' and is home to a diverse range of both local and national businesses .

= = Culture and community = =

Nailsea has several pubs and used to have a small nightclub called Decades , formerly known as the AJ 's Bar . There are dedicated youth clubs and two Scouting divisions , which organise the Nailsea Carnival and Mayfair respectively . Nailsea has theatre , musical and orchestral groups . Most are open to all ages and meet and perform regularly at different venues including The Scotch Horn Centre , Nailsea Methodist Church , The Mizzymeade Centre , The Grove Recreation Centre , and Nailsea Little Theatre . Nailsea 's outdoor recreational areas include the playing fields by the Grove Centre and the public park to the rear of the Scotch Horn Centre and Tesco . There are three children 's play parks and smaller areas of green land in the town 's housing estates . The Scotch Horn Park contains a skate park and children 's play park . There are no cinemas in Nailsea , but The Curzon in nearby Clevedon has been operating since 1912 .

The adjacent village of Wraxall has a couple of tourist attractions . Noah 's Ark Zoo Farm has displays of exotic , agricultural and domestic animals including rhinoceros , camels , monkeys , reptiles and most recently a giraffe . It offers hands @-@ on experience with animals and a chance to learn about conservation . Tyntesfield , a 19th @-@ century Victorian country house and grounds , was bought and opened up by the National Trust in 2002 . An edition of the North Somerset Times is published as the Nailsea Times .

Nailsea has a popular carnival annually which has been held since the 1960s , in which all of the local schools and Scouts participate . It also holds a very popular beer & cider festival also held annually at Nailsea and Backwell Rugby Football Club which started in 2004 . The festival holds over 160 local brews every year

= = Transport = =

The principal road serving Nailsea is the B3130 . It leads westwards to Clevedon , where the motorway network can be accessed at Junction 20 of the M5 ; eastwards it links with the A370 (for Bristol) and the A38 (for Bristol Airport) . Another link to the A370 at Backwell offers a route south and west for traffic to other local towns such as Weston @-@ super @-@ Mare . Nailsea 's main car parks are in Clevedon Road , Station Road and Link Road , all of which are free for the first three hours . Bus services in Nailsea are operated by First Bus . The main routes are the X8 / 9 which runs every 15 mins to Bristol jointly run by First and Abus , and the hourly A2 between Clevedon / Portishead and Weston @-@ Super @-@ Mare via Bristol Airport , which also serves the railway station .

Nailsea and Backwell railway station is on the edge of neighbouring Backwell . It is managed by First Great Western , who run all services from the station , but is only staffed for a few hours on busy mornings . Trains run seven days each week , with a weekday off @-@ peak service of two trains per hour in each direction , running between Taunton and Cardiff Central or Weston @-@ super @-@ Mare and Bristol Parkway . Mornings and evenings see some direct services to and from London Paddington . Platform 1 (westbound) can only be accessed by steps , but Platform 2 (eastbound) can be reached either by steps or a 1 in 12 (8 %) ramp . The station has a car park for 100 cars , but is due for expansion . Over 350 @, @ 000 journeys are made from the station each year .

Bristol Airport is less than 10 miles (16 km) from the town centre .

= = Education = =

Secondary education in Nailsea is provided by Nailsea School , which attained Technology and Media Arts College specialist status before a £ 28 @. @ 8 million revamp in 2010 . Nailsea has infants , junior , primary schools , and a music school , some of them including : Kings Hill C of E , Golden Valley , Hannah More Infants , St. Francis Catholic School and Grove School . Ravenswood School caters for children with special needs and learning difficulties . There are also playgroups for children in the area who are too young for infants school .

= = Religious sites = =

In the 2001 census 78 % of Nailsea 's respondents claimed Christianity as their religious preference ; 16 % claimed to have " no religious preference " , the second largest group . All of the religious buildings are Christian in nature . Christ Church and the 14th @- @ century Holy Trinity Church are Church of England parish churches . Christ Church was built in 1843 by George Gilbert Scott and William Bonython Moffatt and has been designated as a Grade II listed building . Holy Trinity features a tower with six Bells , a cemetery , and a community centre called " The Trinity Centre " . It is Grade I listed .

Nailsea Methodist Church was founded in 1789 ; the first building opened three years later . In 1914 a new chapel was opened on Silver Street , and a youth club was added in the 1960s . In early 1992 the old church was replaced with a larger , flexible , multi @- @ purpose building and the youth club was refurbished and renamed the Wesley Centre after Methodism ? s founder , John Wesley . There is also Nailsea Baptist Church , the Catholic Church of St Francis of Assisi , Southfield Church , the United Reformed Church and the Community Church .

= = Sports = =

Nailsea has four football clubs , AFC Nailsea , Selkirk United , Nailsea United FC and Nailsea Town F.C. The two clubs also organise junior football teams in the area , catering for under 8s to under 16s . Nailsea Cricket Club was formed in the mid @- @ 1850s and runs six sides across senior , junior , and women 's ' cricket , covering an area of West Bristol and North Somerset .

Nailsea also has a ladies hockey club , which was formed in 1924 . The club has two league teams : a youth team and a veterans team . The Scotch Horn Centre provides both an aerobic exercise and a free weights gym , as well as squash courts , and room for other indoor sports . Nailsea does not have a public swimming pool despite a long @- @ running campaign by the Nailsea Swimming Pool Interest Group to build one . Other leisure facilities in the area include a swimming pool in nearby Backwell and a golf club in Tickenham .

Nailsea and Backwell Rugby Football Club 's 1st XV play in level 8 of the RFU league system as of 2012 , and the 2nd XV in Somerset 2 North (level 10) .

= = Notable people = =

One of Nailsea 's best known celebrities was Adge Cutler , the Somerset folk singer , whose backing band was The Wurzels . He worked at the Coates cider factory . The Wurzels ' album Live at the Royal Oak was recorded at The Royal Oak , a public house on the High Street . Cutler is buried in Christ Church graveyard .

Mervyn Kitchen was born in Nailsea in 1940 , He became an English first @- @ class cricketer . In his playing days he was a left @- @ handed batsman for Somerset County Cricket Club , making 15 @, @ 230 runs in his 354 first @- @ class games . He topped the county averages in 1966 and 1968 . He went on to umpire in 20 Test matches and 28 One Day Internationals before retiring in 2005 . Another Somerset cricketer , Stephen Newton , was also born in Nailsea in 1853 .

The gymnast Charles Sederman , who competed in the 1908 Summer Olympics , was born in Nailsea in 1881 .

Professional golfer Chris Wood grew up in Nailsea , and currently resides there .