



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014

### Activity Report

#### Contents:

<b>Membership</b>	<b>Page 1</b>
<b>Farmers' Market</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>History Group</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>Friends of Brincliffe Edge Woods</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>Open Gardens</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>Party in the Park</b>	<b>Page 4</b>

**An AGM report on the website ([www.netheredge.org.uk](http://www.netheredge.org.uk)) will also feature updates on NENG's involvement with Chelsea Park, with Wildlife and with Gardens in the area.**

#### **Membership**

We have 889 residents who subscribe to NENG and receive the EDGE newsletter. This is up slightly from last years figure of 884 but of course there have been more new joiners but these have been offset by people leaving the area. Of the 39 new joiners a half have opted to receive the newsletter electronically. Of the 889 subscribers 176 have signed to be full Company members with voting rights.

Of all subscribers 291 received a concessionary rate and 24 subscribers added a donation or contribution to postage. There are 187 subscribers who have arranged Standing Orders to pay their annual subscription.

We have 38 distributors (including 5 lead distributors) who deliver the EDGE newsletter 10 times a year and collect the subscriptions annually. In addition there are 11 volunteers who provide short term cover for distributors.

NENG has a managing committee of ten (including job sharing) who oversee activities in particular the production of the EDGE newsletter. A committee member or a guest editor will commission articles, coordinate content and produce the newsletter layout for the printers each month (excluding January and August).

### **Farmer's Market**

The Farmers' Market has enjoyed another highly successful year. Its success can be measured in various ways but perhaps the best quantifiable measure is the amount raised and donated to charities during the year. Approximately £8000 is raised each year and in the last twelve months a variety of beneficiaries have benefitted. These have included the Forge Dam Restoration project, the Teenage Cancer Trust, Sheffield Talking News and Homestart. In addition, modest donations have been made to local residential homes. Other areas have followed in our steps and established their own markets but we are pleased that so many people regard ours as the best. Stallholders often say that it's the best market they attend and residents love to come to the events. They are attracted by the quality of the produce available and also the wide range of entertainment we provide. The support of the Bowling Club adds to the Market's appeal and the unique location stimulates the intimate and friendly atmosphere which ensures success. However, its success and the consequent benefits to the community cannot be assured unless more volunteers to organise it are forthcoming. If you can help please contact one of our committee or:  
davidpierce@blueyonder.co.uk

### **History Group**

The History Group has been established for a year and achieved a great deal. It has developed and lead four walks and published a folder containing four historical self-guided walks around Nether edge. This has been very successful with the first edition selling out. The second edition is available at the AGM

tonight and at various local outlets. It costs £4. Further projects include more guided walks during Sheffield's Environment Weeks and Heritage Open Days.

New members are always welcome to share their knowledge and join in further research.

### **Friends of Brincliffe Edge Woods**

As we come to the first anniversary of setting up the Friends of Brincliffe Edge Wood group it is time to take stock of what we have been able to achieve in that time.

Apart from holding steering group meetings we have taken expert advice and carried out numerous walks in the wood to identify areas on which to concentrate our efforts. We have agreed our Action Plan for the current year to Spring 2015 with John Gilpin, Woodlands Officer for Sheffield City Council. Last Autumn we planted snowdrops and, funded by NENG, bought plugs of woodland plants for planting out this Autumn. These plants are being cared for by BEW group members and volunteers.

Since last November we have held regular volunteer working days with a Council Ranger, when we have cleared paths and steps, removed some of the rampant cherry laurel near the Archer Lane end, created log piles, collected litter and household rubbish, and made a good start on erecting a substantial fence at the entrance at the far end of Brincliffe Edge Road.

Other items on our Action Plan include upgrading the paths and steps and access generally, installing more bench seats, renewing and updating the faded information board, thinning sycamore and ash seedlings and saplings, planting hazel, hawthorn and suitable wild flowers.

Connected to our interest in the historical aspect of the wood,

which has developed from a plantation in 1815, we have proposed that a very old hornbeam growing in the wood be included in the city council's list of Veteran Trees. We are also proposing to complete the line of oak trees (which are old) bordering the wood's southern boundary.

We have joined the Sheffield Green Spaces Forum where we can gain mutual support by sharing ideas, difficulties and solutions to our challenges.

We have also had a presence at the Nether Edge markets to explain our activities and recruit a good number of helpers and supporters.

We are grateful to our volunteers, who continue to make a vital contribution, and we thank NENG for their financial support for this exciting project to improve and conserve this important part of the local environment.

Howard Trott on behalf of FOBEW

## **Open Gardens**

A lovely day dawned for the most recent NENG Open Gardens day on 30th June last year bringing many out to stroll the neighbourhood, enjoy the variety of gardens and sunshine – not to mention the tea, the cakes and the sales of plants. The generosity of Nether Edgers meant that the gardens raised just short of £1500 for charities - CISV, Roundabout, Red Cross, RSPCA, St Luke's Hospice, St Wilfrid's Drop-in Centre, Salvation Army, Tools for self-reliance, and the Victoria Community Centre. We are expecting 10 gardens to participate in this year's Open Gardens event. Watch the website for details...

## **Party in the Park**

Around 300 people from across Nether Edge celebrated at the 'Party in the Park' event on Saturday 1 March.

Face paints, crafts, a fire engine, a children's fancy dress and fashion parade, martial arts, dance and were on offer at the Common Ground off Woodstock Rd .

People bought food to share, books to swap and ideas to

exchange at the event organized by the community and supported by the Nether Edge Neighbourhood Group. Funds from the City Council and from Birds Opticians made it possible to build on the success of 2013's inaugural event and celebrating the area's truly diverse culture

