



EDGE

NENG

Nether Edge Neighbourhood Newsletter
February 2025

INSIDE THIS MONTH:

A WINTER WALK

NETHER EDGE DECATHLETE

RHYME & REASON

ABTISAM MOHAMED

MP FOR SHEFFIELD CENTRAL

WWW.NETHEREDGE.ORG.UK



The Nether Edge Neighbourhood Group
was set up in 1973 with the following aims:

To improve the conditions of life especially of those living or working in the areas of Brincliffe, Nether Edge and Sharrow in Sheffield, without distinction of sex or race, or of political, religious or other opinions, by associating with local authorities, voluntary organisations and residents in a common effort to advance our education, to improve the environment and to provide facilities in the interest of social welfare for recreation and leisure time activities.

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**Individual views expressed are
not necessarily those of the group**

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To contact individual members of the committee or for contact details of the various sub-groups, please go to the NENG website :
www.netheredge.org.uk/

EDGE FEBRUARY 2025

This issue of EDGE was edited by the Edge Editorial Board

Design & artwork: Stephen Houfe (stephenhoufe@gmail.com)

If you want to contribute to the March edition, please contact the EDGE Editorial Board – nengeditorialboard@gmail.com by 12th Feb at the latest



EDITORIAL

Pat Rogers

The snow is melting and spring is well on its way. This issue of EDGE may inspire you to walk through the woods, insulate your house or run a book shop!

Our local MP tells of how she moved from the Job Centre queue to becoming a councillor and eventually an MP. We find out about the rigours of being a top decathlete and another young man urges us to treat others with kindness. There is news from the Comac Bike Project, which is one of the beneficiaries of the Nether Edge Market and, as ever, we have an interesting article from the History Group.

We have also been asked to include a gentle reminder that subscriptions are now due.

As this is the first issue of 2025, we wish everyone a happy and peaceful new year. We do hope that you enjoy reading EDGE and we look forward to receiving letters and articles from readers.

Apologies to any subscribers who received the December Edge late. We had an early/unexpected delivery of the Edges in late November. Unfortunately, as a result of the early delivery, they were left outside for 24 hours throughout Storm Bert. Consequently many copies got very wet... and to compound matters, two of the six boxes of magazines were stolen during the storm. A reprint was arranged (thanks to the printers for their help) but the delays pushed delivery into the first week of December for some areas.

We are hoping this issue will arrive on your doormat early.

We always welcome new members, whether you want to catch up with local news, get involved in any of our groups, or just support our work. Membership costs £10 per year and you will receive ten editions of The Edge - the NENG newsletter.

For further details email ken.lambert227@gmail.com, visit our website www.netheredge.org.uk or scan this QR code



OVERDUE SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Committee has been advised that there are still many overdue subscriptions for 2024-25 and indeed quite a number of EDGE readers have also not paid their subscription for 2023-24.

It is appreciated that times are hard financially for many people, but it does not seem fair that most subscribers do pay on time. Also, the cost of printing has risen, though the Committee has taken steps to keep the costs as low as possible so that the subscription can remain at £10 for 10 copies a year. It is also not really reasonable to expect the local distributor to collect subscriptions in cash, which was the "traditional" means of payment pre Covid.

The Committee has decided to stop delivery of EDGE to readers with two year's subscriptions outstanding. So please help us to help you if you have not already paid (with thanks to those that have) by paying promptly and before the end of March

You can:

- make a bank transfer into the NENG bank account (Sort code 30-97-51 A/C 36208368 NENG and your address as the reference);
- set up a standing order, using the above bank account details and your address as the reference; or
- send a cheque to Ken Lambert, 32 Thornsett Road, Sheffield S7 1NB making sure your address is enclosed, or even drop off cash with a note of your address.

For bank payments, please let me know by email (ken.lambert227@gmail.com), and using your address as the reference is important to help identify which record to update

If you are not sure whether you have already paid or not, contact me at the above email address or text/phone 07518 118789

Ken Lambert

NENG Chair and Membership Secretary

NEWS



11TH NETHER EDGE FESTIVAL DATES CONFIRMED FOR 2025

After a very successful Festival in 2024 with over 70 events, the Nether Edge Festival dates are agreed, starting with the Carnival at Common Ground on 13 September and ending with the Party in the Park on 21 September. Mark Doel and Kate Housden will jointly Chair the planning group this year. We are broadening the group to include the leaders of the six themes: Arts and Crafts, Community, Drama, Film and Literature, Food and Drink, Music and Dance, Talks and Walks. In addition to the themes, there will also be leaders for Communication, Programme, Finance and Volunteers.

There will be an open meeting in February to encourage anyone who is interested in getting involved and for event holders. We are planning on holding this meeting on **Thursday 20th February at Commonground Woodstock Rd S7 1GR 6.30 - 8.30**. Regular Festival meetings will be held on 3rd Thursdays of the month from 6:00-8:30, with subgroups meeting as and when in between the Planning Group gatherings. Contact Kate Housden kmhousden@gmail.com or Mark Doel markdoel@icloud.com

PARAKEET

Prof Ian Rotherham wrote an article (28/11/24, Sheffield Telegraph) about a new type of parakeet appearing in Sheffield – the 'Alexandrine' parakeet. He mentioned the parakeet that was sighted in Nether Edge some years ago, so we were wondering if there had been any sightings recently. Please let us know if you have seen a parakeet locally.



AFTER ALL THE ICE & SNOW IN JANUARY LET'S HOPE SPRING IS JUST ROUND THE CORNER!



Image by snowing on Freepik



LETTERS

EMAIL: NENGEDITORIALBOARD@GMAIL.COM

We have received the following from Graham and Judy Cole explaining what they have done to insulate their Victorian house.

INSULATING SOLID WALLS

We moved to a Nether Edge house with solid stone walls and an unacceptable G grade on its Energy Performance Certificate. We set about insulating the external walls with PIR slabs* and changed a few other things so our EPC now has a B grade. Our insulation had to go inside our walls and we chose to remove some skirting boards and picture rails which we tidied up and put back after fixing the insulation and its covering of plasterboard. The insulating effect of PIR slabs is much better than polystyrene (used in cavity walls in the past) and better than fibreglass which you may have in your attic. We bought a load of second-hand 10cm thick PIR boards and had to fix plasterboard over them but it's easier to use boards which have plasterboard already glued to them. The boards are 2.4 metres long so they won't reach from floor to ceiling but it's not difficult to cut them for filling odd odd gaps. Joins have to be taped to stop water vapour from getting past the insulation. In two rooms we had ceiling cornices which we kept in view by ending our thick insulation at the level of the picture rail and putting thinner insulation between the rail

and the cornice.

We fixed roofing battens on the walls and the boards were then held in place with long screws. This created a 2cm air gap which is an effective form of insulation in itself, as in double glazing. It isn't heavy work but you need to know how to fix things to walls. If the side of a house is brick built it can be covered on the outside with 10cm thick insulation. I can show you a couple of examples of this in Nether Edge but it's disappointingly rare so far. If you go to the trouble of adding internal insulation I would recommend a thickness of 10 cm which is required as cavity insulation in new buildings. I used 15 cm (including air gaps) on most of my walls. As well as reducing the cost of keeping the house warm there is the benefit of a quick warming up if you come back to a cold house from a winter visit away from home.

** PIR slabs are solid waterproof plastic foam and sold as Kingspan, Celotex etc, made in several thicknesses. For further advice see <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/advice/solid-wall-insulation/>*

A THOUGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR

This thoughtful piece was sent to us by Owen Barber

Happy New Year! I have spent most of my adult years in Nether Edge, where many people have been kind to me. I now live at Camphill Village Trust in Malton but I return regularly to spend time with my family.

Because I am a great fan of Nether Edge and I like helping people, I think that being kind and going out of one's way to do something nice for people to have a better life is more rewarding than to just do nothing. So as it's a New Year, what can be a better resolution than to make an

effort to just be nice to people?

Even if you don't share the same views I'm sure you'll find something in common with them, no matter what. I also know that by just doing the sensible thing and looking out for everyone as they would probably do for you, you'd be rather well chuffed with what you've achieved.

Life is precious and this is why we should give everyone the benefit of the doubt. There is a place for all of us to help each other in our diverse and wonderful Nether Edge.

DOWNHILL WITHOUT BRAKES

I'm a Sheffield author who has recently published a novel set in post-apartheid South Africa, my country of origin. Two other writers in my group have had their books mentioned in your magazine (Mary Marken and Rob Primhak). Like Rob, I am not in Nether Edge but not far away in Broomhill and 45 years a Sheffielder.

Downhill Without Brakes is set in newly democratic South Africa, as the shine is wearing off Mandela's 'rainbow nation'. The country grapples with rampant AIDS, mass unemployment and huge racial inequalities. Social change impacts upon the two main characters and their relationships, as each struggles to stay afloat in turbulent times.

Ezekiel Mabuza, popular doorman at Durban City Hall, has lost one son to AIDS, the other in township violence and his wife to cancer. He firmly believes that he will lose his daughters next.

Ben Gallagher, city museum director, is trying to hold on to a shaky marriage and keep the museum going in straitened circumstances, while training for the Comrades Marathon and fending off a municipal workers strike. A visit by wealthy Swedish grant-givers is disrupted by a startling incident between Ezekiel and Ben, with drastic consequences.

Downhill Without Brakes is a poignant novel that traces how one fateful incident changes the lives of both men forever.

Val Binney

OUR LOCAL MP

ABTISAM MOHAMED

We thought our readers would be interested to learn more about Abtisam Mohamed the Labour MP who has been representing our interests at a national level since the election last year. This is what she has told us about herself.



“At 19 years old, you would have found me in the Cavendish Court jobcentre queue, trying to prove my willingness to work. If you would have told me then that I would be an MP, I would have laughed at the idea. It was not an obvious career choice and politics seemed so distant from my reality.

After a rocky time at school, my career options were limited back then. I started by working in a call centre, before moving on to the voluntary sector, first as a volunteer and then eventually I rose to become the chief executive. It hasn't been an easy journey and like most people, I have had many ups and downs.

I do feel a deep sense of pride in the journey I have made and to now being an MP representing the city that raised me.

It truly is both an honour and a privilege to be the MP for Sheffield Central and I want to thank all the constituents who placed their trust in me to be their voice in Parliament.

I've always been busy, whether that's when I was a full-time mature student while working in the voluntary sector, or working as local councillor alongside practising as a solicitor. The workload is very intense and coupling that with travel to and from London can be tiring! The long train journeys give me an opportunity to catch up on emails, which driving doesn't afford me — yet another reason to campaign for improved public transport.

Though my weeks are never the same, there is usually a vague structure. A typical week begins with travelling to Westminster on Monday morning. Throughout the week, I undertake

parliamentary work, including speaking in the chamber, meeting with ministers, attending All-Party Parliamentary Groups and having discussions with representatives of organisations. On Monday afternoons and Tuesdays, I have Foreign Affairs Select Committee meetings where we examine the policy of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). On Thursday night, I head back to Sheffield for a schedule of local meetings and events across the constituency on Friday, Saturday and sometimes Sunday. My diary is always full, but I usually leave feeling optimistic about progress, especially after seeing the great work being done by local groups and people.

I have already started work on my priorities for Sheffield Central in Parliament, with the climate crisis, mental health, housing, animal welfare and Palestine being just some of the issues I have already raised.

In 2025, I will be focussing on a safer, happier and healthier community. I will be campaigning on housing and energy bills and better provision for mental health services. I will be working to support and improve provision for children and young people through investment for community regeneration and building on the work the Government is already doing to tackle the climate crisis. Finally, in a world that is becoming more polarised and where democracy, international law and human rights are under threat, I want to use my position in Parliament to secure peace and to foster international cooperation including through strengthening relations with the EU.

Sheffield has always had a thriving community representing what I want to see on an international stage — diversity, cooperation and peace. We have fought through fourteen years of cuts to that community and now I have a chance to play my part in repairing the damage. I look forward to working with you all to make our city the best place to live and work. If you'd like to be kept up to date with my work please do sign up for my monthly newsletter through the QR code.”



A WALK FROM NETHER EDGE TO ECCLESALL WOODS

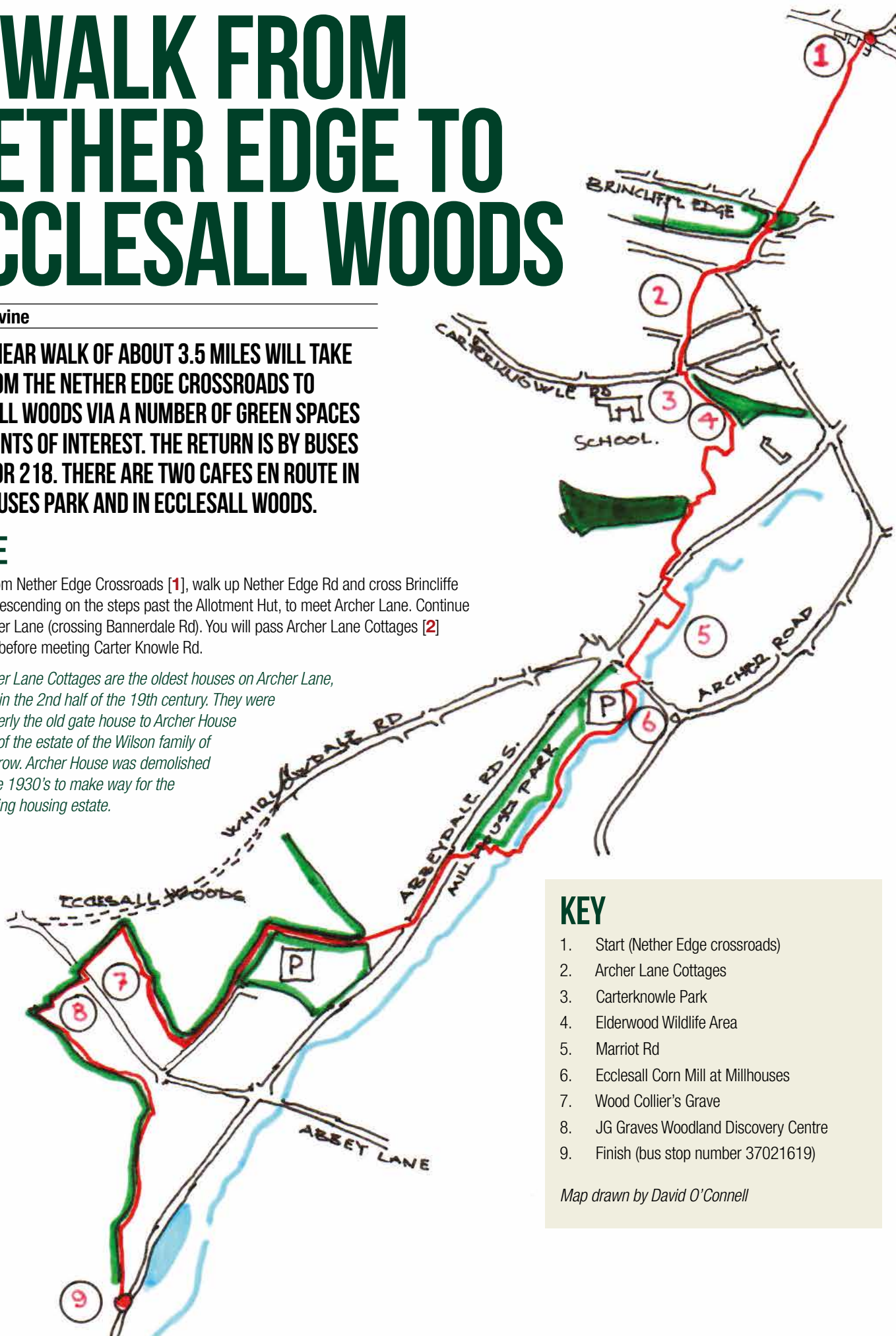
David Levine

THIS LINEAR WALK OF ABOUT 3.5 MILES WILL TAKE YOU FROM THE NETHER EDGE CROSSROADS TO ECCLESALL WOODS VIA A NUMBER OF GREEN SPACES AND POINTS OF INTEREST. THE RETURN IS BY BUSES 97, 98 OR 218. THERE ARE TWO CAFES EN ROUTE IN MILLHOUSES PARK AND IN ECCLESALL WOODS.

ROUTE

Starting from Nether Edge Crossroads [1], walk up Nether Edge Rd and cross Brincliffe Edge Rd, descending on the steps past the Allotment Hut, to meet Archer Lane. Continue along Archer Lane (crossing Bannerdale Rd). You will pass Archer Lane Cottages [2] on the left before meeting Carter Knowle Rd.

Archer Lane Cottages are the oldest houses on Archer Lane, built in the 2nd half of the 19th century. They were formerly the old gate house to Archer House part of the estate of the Wilson family of Sharrow. Archer House was demolished in the 1930's to make way for the existing housing estate.



KEY

1. Start (Nether Edge crossroads)
2. Archer Lane Cottages
3. Carterknowle Park
4. Elderwood Wildlife Area
5. Marriot Rd
6. Ecclesall Corn Mill at Millhouses
7. Wood Collier's Grave
8. JG Graves Woodland Discovery Centre
9. Finish (bus stop number 37021619)

Map drawn by David O'Connell



Archer Cottages

Cross Carter Knowle Rd and enter Carterknowle Park [3]. After 200m turn right at the T junction and keep right at the next 2 junctions to enter a grassy area containing a plaque describing Elderwood Wildlife area [4].

Take the gap in the fence, behind you as you look at the plaque, and walk down hill to the end of Holts View to join a footpath next to a fence. Look out for a footpath sign and follow the path downhill to Abbeydale Rd, entering on to the pavement through a gate in the wall by a bus stop. Cross Abbeydale Rd and walk down (cobble-stoned) Hutchinson Lane to meet Marriot Rd [5].



Marriot Road

Marriot Rd, built in the late 19th century, was originally named Wood Terrace View. It is bounded by woodland and the river Sheaf, forming a quiet oasis just a short distance from the Abbeydale Rd

Walk up Hutchinson Rd and take the gennel (Marriot Lane) in between Marriot Rd and Abbeydale Rd to meet Archer Rd where the zebra crossing will take you into Millhouses Park. Before taking the main path by the river Sheaf divert up to the information boards at Ecclesall Corn Mill [6].

Ecclesall Corn Mill at Millhouses is on the site of one of the oldest mills in Sheffield founded in about the late 12th century. It was given to the monks at Beauchief Abbey in the 13th century. It is the only mill in the Sheaf Valley that remained a corn mill throughout its' working existence until it was closed during the 2nd World War. The current buildings date from about the 18th and 19th century and were converted to steam in the early 19th century.

Take the main path by the river to the boating lake, walk up to Millhouses Café and leave the park by the exit about 50m from the café. Cross over Abbeydale Rd and walk 200m to a footpath entering Ecclesall Woods. The footpath winds round for about 400m before meeting a main bridleway / footpath. Turn left on to the bridleway and walk about 400m until you

meet a footpath on the right running parallel to Abbey Lane. Take this footpath passing the Collier's Pond on the left before reaching the Wood Colliers's Grave [7].

Over two hundred charcoal hearths have been recorded in Ecclesall Woods. Charcoal burning was practised for several hundred years and used in the smelting of iron. The collier's lived on site in a wooden hut next to the hearth and fire was a risk. The grave marks the hut where George Yardley died in 1786 when his home caught fire. This followed a night out at the nearby Rising Sun.



Wood Collier Monument

Walk a short distance (less than 50m) and turn left on a bridleway/main path to meet Abbey Lane. Cross over Abbey Lane (with care) and enter the JG Graves Woodland Discovery Centre [8].

The Discovery Centre was constructed in 2011 on the site of an old sawmill. It is named after JG Graves who helped Sheffield Corporation purchase the Woods from Earl Fitzwilliam in 1927, for use as an 'amenity woodland'.



Elderwood Wildlife Area

At this point you are roughly 1km from the finish, bus stop 37021619. This is about a 20-minute walk and the bus times can be checked online to calculate how much time you have to stop for refreshments.

Leave the Discovery Centre through a wooden arch and turn left downhill. Follow the blue markers to the bus stop [9] keeping right when there is a choice of 2 routes, both with blue markers.



DID YOU KNOW ... THE UK'S TOP UNDER-17 DECATHLETE LIVES IN NETHER EDGE?

By Andy Stovell

From his first school sports day aged 5, Ruben Stovell has always been fast. He currently ranks 1st in the UK in U17 Heptathlon and 1st in Decathlon and 2nd in Octathlon. He also received gold in the 400m National Championships, and a silver at his first international event this year, along with numerous Sportsman of the Year awards. Ruben loves his athletics. His sporting prowess keeps growing making him now a towering 6'4" with a kind heart, lots of confidence, dedication and a contagious smile. He has courageously overcome several injuries and is proving to be one to watch. Ruben is committed for the long term to be a career athlete.



Team Ruben coordinator and Ruben's dad says: "Ruben has big ambitions as a decathlete. His work ethic is phenomenal. His talent, drive and discipline will, we are sure, take him all the way to represent GB one day."

Ruben trains incredibly hard 6 evenings a week. He loves all the 10 events, especially 400m, and is, thanks to his excellent coach John Lane, improving in all the technical events. "Step by step, I aim now as an U20, to compete internationally," says Ruben.

Here Reuben talks to Andy....

Ruben, you're a busy guy. What does a week look like?

I train at EIS and Woodbourn Road stadium 6 days a week: Monday is shot put & discus; Tuesday is long jump & hurdles; Wednesday, pole vault and then I coach kids' athletics; Thursday is high jump & hurdles; Friday is pole vault again and aerobic training for 1500m. Sat is my rest day; then Sunday throwing javelin and lactic acid sessions for 400m (that's where you run until you puke!) and then the gym for strength & conditioning and injury prevention

Every morning & evening I do various stretches and take ice baths after hard sessions.

Obviously, every day I am at school- King Edward VII. I'm really enjoying my A levels- sociology, philosophy and of course PE. And I have a few part time jobs.

Wow. You clearly are putting in the hard work. What do you like to do in your down time?

If I have down time, then I like to nap! I like listening to podcasts and reading and getting insight from others to improve my life and attitudes. Sport in a way, is my downtime from school. Sport is very, very rarely a chore for me. Even when it's not going to plan, that's part of the journey and makes the highs more special.

I've recently got a moped, mostly to get me to training, but it's a lot of fun to be out and about on it.

Tell us about the highs and lows of being an elite decathlete.

Obviously, there are highs & lows: Seeing the work you've done throughout the year pay off in that one competition... that is so rewarding. To have the feeling on the starting line that you've put the work and now it all comes together. Trusting the process.

Athletics is great for socialising. Meeting people who share the same mindset and ambitions. Being with those who get it. They're in the same game as you.

Lows – injury... late nights... having to catch up on school work. A big one is falling into the trap of comparing yourself, that can bring a real negativity. I am working on not trying to be the best now compared to others but to be the best version of myself. That's enough. Too many teens burn out too early. So, I set and achieve small goals and work up to the big ones. It's important to find the enjoyment in the now.

Enjoy the training. Enjoy the journey and trust it to get you to the destination.

Injuries are part of it all. It's inevitable and yes, gutting at the time but I try to be grateful that it's teaching me and honing me. I've had a hip fracture, hamstring issues and back problems but that knowledge gained through the injuries and recovery is actually a step up to ensure I do things better next time. I learn how to listen to my body and understand it and care for it.

How do you maintain relationships with your peers when you're so involved in athletics and training so intensely?

It can be challenging outside of school lots of my friends are out partying while I am at the track or revising for A levels because of time out for competitions. So, I make the most of time when I am with them and consider that special. I do get to the cinema or out to Maccy D's on occasions!

But my athletics is the priority. Most of my close friends are within the world of athletics so I see them lots.



Why not follow Ruben's journey here:
www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61569540121865

Do you have ability for sponsorships or CSR?
Team Ruben would love to hear from you: teamruben2025@gmail.com

For those who like stats, see Ruben's PBs and rankings here:
<https://www.thepowerof10.info/athletes/profile.aspx?athleteid=1006714>

teamruben2025@gmail.com



COMAC BIKE PROJECT

Often the first question we are asked is “why COMAC?” We think it means ‘Help’ or ‘Welcome’ in the Persian language, Farsi, but no-one in the project seems totally sure.

COMAC was set up in Sheffield in 2007 to provide restored, donated/unwanted bikes to asylum seekers and refugees. All our customers need transport to socialise, attend English classes, get to appointments etc and a couple of bus fares a day will eat up most of their living allowance – currently about £7 a day for people in self-catered accommodation, £1.26 a day for people in catered accommodation.

We’ve had several locations down the years. We currently have rented access to a fully equipped workshop and storage. It has heating, toilets, tea-making facilities and a radio. Luxury compared to anything we’ve had before!

Lots of bikes are donated after being left unused and unwanted in a shed or garage, and the generous donors find us via word of mouth, or maybe by searching “Donate unwanted bike Sheffield” – COMAC is the top hit.

We restore and give out about 170 bikes a year, and do occasional repair sessions at one of the local hotels as well as at the workshop.

Mountain bikes and ‘hybrids’ with flat handlebars, with or without suspension forks are the most popular but we do get occasional customers who like to have a road bike with drop handlebars and narrow wheels. Bikes with and without crossbars are fine. The bikes are restored to a high standard, worn parts are replaced (e.g. all cables, brake parts) and we do upcycle second hand parts if they’re in good condition (e.g. pedals, saddles). All the bikes are issued with a helmet, lights, lock, and hi-viz vest.

Customers have come to the UK mainly - but not exclusively - from Iran, Iraq, Kurdistan, Afghanistan, Syria, Sudan, and Eritrea. They are sent to us via a variety of agencies - including social services who have responsibility for asylum seekers less than 18 years old. Many come via word of mouth from friends. We list and take contact details for everyone, then contact them when they get to the top of the waiting list. This can take up to 3 months at the moment. They

are given an appointment to attend our workshop where they can select a bike from those that have been restored. We help them choose a bike which fits and meets their needs.

We currently get some funding from hosting university students who do community placements as part of their courses. We get occasional donations from other charitable trusts, and we occasionally sell donated bikes which might not appeal to our customers but do have resale value – eg ‘vintage’ bikes like a Raleigh Shopper with 3-speed gears, vintage tourers etc.

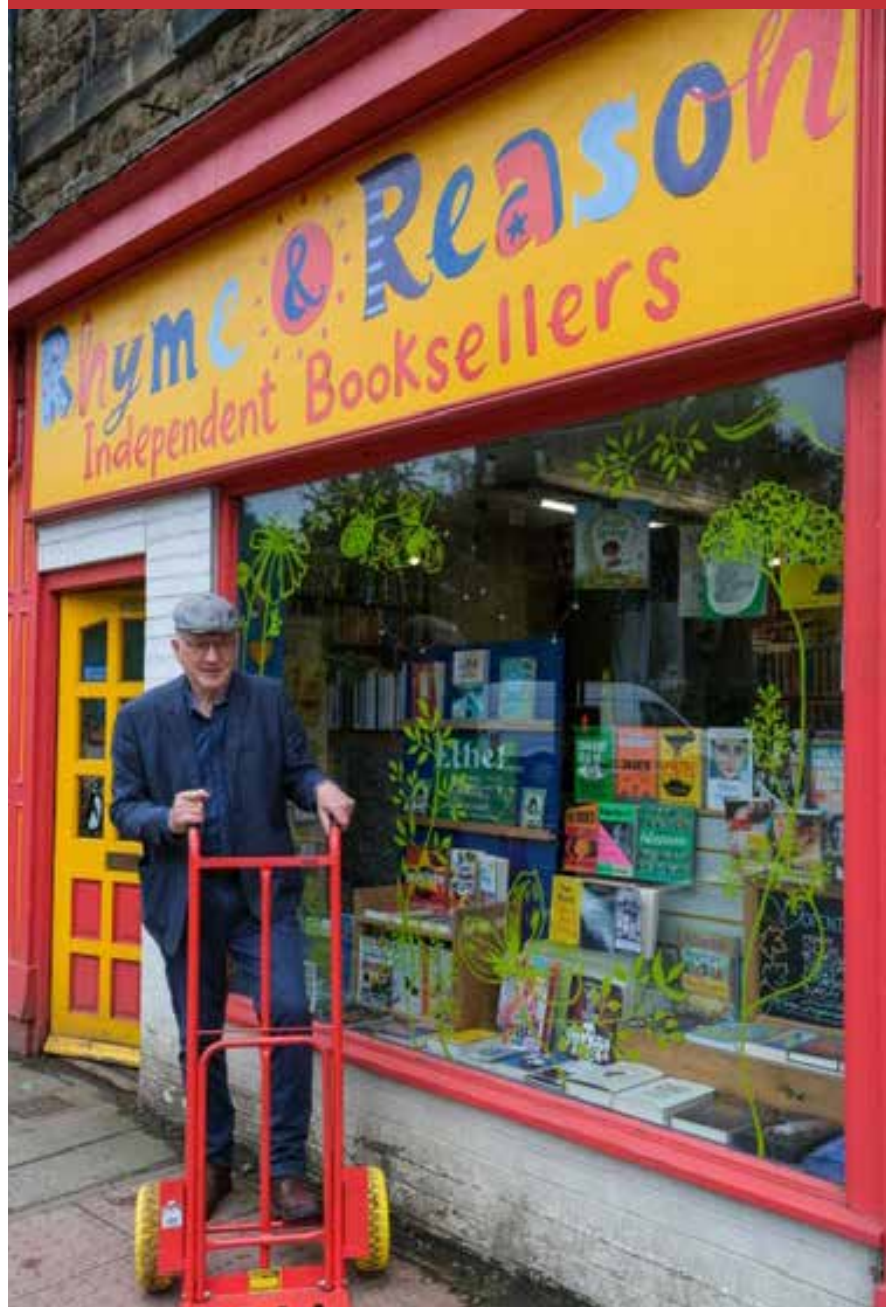
Everyone involved in the project is a volunteer, some of them asylum seekers or former asylum seekers. We don’t advertise ourselves but we know word of mouth works extremely well.

Donations can be made via our website <https://comac.org.uk/> or search for Comac Sheffield.

There are similar projects in other cities, so tell your friends outside Sheffield to support them too!

<https://comac.org.uk/>

A BOOKSELLER'S TALE (IN A NUTSHELL)



Richard Welsh

Books and bookshops have been a consuming passion in my life since childhood.

As a new graduate in the 1970s I found work in a bookshop at the Angel, Islington, and subsequently took up jobs in publishing first in London and then in Brighton.

After moving to Sheffield in the 90s and settling in Nether Edge with my young family, I noticed the lack of independent booksellers in the city. The closure of a hairdresser on

Ecclesall Road at Hunter's Bar seemed to provide an opportunity for a new livelihood, and the small premises were duly re-fitted with a shop window, a new counter and vintage library bookshelves.

Rhyme & Reason raised its banner and opened for business on 1st June 1999. The original shop sign was replaced 15 years later with brighter, quirky livery created by local children's author and illustrator, Lydia Monks.

At the start of the new millennium, we found ourselves, as bricks and mortar booksellers,

in competition with the ascendant online booksellers and indeed with e-books. Fortunately, Rhyme & Reason attracted a loyal clientele who valued the experience of browsing in a child-friendly, neighbourhood bookshop which offered recommendations and a rapid ordering service.

The shop's original stockholding consisted mainly of new books for children, from babies to teenage; but this offering was gradually extended to include a broad selection of contemporary fiction, poetry and non-fiction for adult readers too.

Over 25 years the business has employed and trained a small army of school age 'work experience' and Saturday workers, some of whom have continued working in the shop into adulthood. It's always been a joy to see these young people grow in confidence and flourish in a workplace. The staff team grew as the shop began taking authors and book fairs into local schools and undertook collaboration with Off the Shelf Festival, the Festival of Debate and community groups.



Sadie Hatch, the shop manager, outside the shop and the artist Vicky Frost painting her design on the inside of the shop window.

During the strange times of the COVID pandemic there was a forced break in bookselling service as the Rhyme & Reason staff team was furloughed and the shop partially closed for the duration of lockdown. However, a book ordering service was maintained, with books delivered to customers' addresses initially and subsequently available for collection at the shop door.

Although more people became accustomed to working and shopping online during this period, there was a positive impact on book sales through independent shops, partly because increased social isolation encouraged more reading.

Trends and products change: audiobooks on tape were superseded by CDs and the latter largely by digital downloads. The rise in popularity of graphic fiction for early readers as well as adults has been one exciting development which is in evidence on our shelves. As booksellers we have our work cut out keeping abreast of new books published every month in different genres for both children and adults. Our printed bookshop newsletters and flyers have largely been replaced by online posts (e.g. Instagram: @rhymereasonbooks) and emails.

After a quarter century at the helm of the business, I'm now seeking to hand over to someone with a love of books and a calling to apply their creativity to forging a new chapter at Rhyme & Reason!



Pets at Rest home euthanasia vet

I'm Rob, a local vet and resident of Nether Edge. You might see me out and about in my electric car, visiting pet owners in our community. I run an independent business that comes to your home to support with end of life care. Saying goodbye at home, ensures your companion feels safe and calm, surrounded by loved ones. You can find out more on my website or by using the QR code to visit my Facebook page.



07866 243673

www.petsatrestvet.com



PERFORMANCE
VENUES

February 2025

FIRTH HALL & DRAMA STUDIO

Firth Hall - Concerts

**Martin Roscoe (Piano) &
Fenella Humphries (Violin)**
Thursday 20th February
Ravel, Williams, Boulanger

**Fleur Barron (Mezzo Soprano)
& Simon Lepper (Piano)**
Thursday 13th February
Brahms to Chinese Folksong



Drama Studio - Enable US

Handful of Nothing
Saturday 8th February
Circus

Mariposa
Monday 10th February
Contemporary Dance



TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
<https://bit.ly/feb25PV>

University of Sheffield - Performance Venues



mind Sheffield
Registered Charity No. 276108

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- ✓ Children: £60 per session

CONTACT US!

Email: info@sheffieldmind.co.uk Phone Number: 0114 258 4488 Location: Wellbeing Centre, 118 Sharrow Lane, S11 6AL

SELF REFER NOW!

Bannerdale Osteopaths

Happy Patient

Google Review

I presented myself with painful feet after long walks. Not content to accept that it was a natural part of getting older, I am delighted to report that Pooja Guria set me on a path to a pretty speedy improvement within 5 sessions and one of those was taken up with a pulled back muscle (oh the relief!)

I like the app they use and did the homework Pooja set me (still do though not as often, and after 2 months was back to walking 15 miles across the Peaks without pain.

★★★★★

THE MAN WHOSE HOUSE WENT EAST

John Baxendale



Tudor Works in 1935 - note the side of the Lyceum theatre on the right

The Nether Edge lore tells of a big house on Sharrow View which was demolished and shipped, stone by stone, to Hong Kong (or was it Japan?) to be re-erected, some say, on a golf course. Well, I don't know much about that, but I can tell you who built it in the first place, and what happened then.

In or around 1840, John Round (born 1809), an artisan metalworker, migrated with his family from Harborne, near Birmingham, to work and live in William Hutton's electroplating business on Surrey St. In 1847 he somehow acquired a little capital and started his own business on Tudor St, eventually in partnership with his eldest son, Edwin (born 1829). The business prospered; Tudor Works grew, occupying the site of present-day Tudor Square. By 1861 they were one of the leading electroplating firms, employing 150 people – 350 by 1871 - with agencies in London, Paris and Montreal, justifying their trade mark 'All the World Round'. By now the Rounds had moved out of the town centre into the growing suburbs. Edwin married, set up home on Wostenholm Rd, and in the early 1860s moved into his own substantial mansion on Sharrow View, in George Wostenholm's Kenwood Park suburb, and called it Harborne House, in honour of his birthplace.

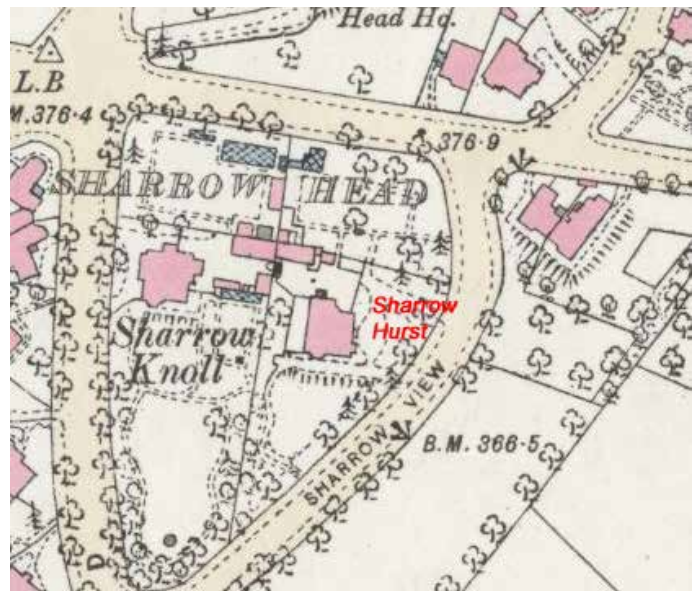
Harborne House was big – seven bedrooms plus two servants' attics, billiard room with lavatory, coach house, stable and extensive gardens. By 1931, when it was called Sharrow Hurst, it would acquire a garage and a tennis court. While he was living there with his wife, four sons and two daughters, Edwin's career as a public man flourished. He was elected to the Council on principles 'decidedly Liberal and on the side of progress' – votes for working men, and a cautious approach to public spending. After two Council terms he preferred to work on the ground, chairing the Ecclesall Burgesses Association and taking a combative part in the selection of candidates – they presented him with a portrait; I wonder where it is now? He had a finger in every pie – director of two Building Societies, a water company and the Theatre Royal (round the corner from Tudor Works), chairman of the committee that set up Nether Edge Bowling Club, Secretary of Sheffield Mechanics Institution, a Governor of Sheffield School of Art, a Captain in the Hallamshire Rifles, and a committee member of the Wednesday Cricket Club. No relief committee or list of donors went without his name on it. There are hints that not everybody liked him, but most people had heard of him.

And then in 1870 it all went wrong. Round & Son had overreached, with debts over £40,000. The liquidators thought they could pull it round and pay the creditors – which they did – but father and son left the firm, John

to retire, Edwin to start a new venture, round the corner on Holly St. He sold up Harborne House and its contents – see the sale advert for a glimpse of how well-to-do Nether Edgers furnished their houses – and moved to a smaller house on Montgomery Road. But that wasn't the end of his troubles. Edwin Round & Co was plagued with internal rows, with the workforce, between the directors, and it was losing money. In 1876 the Board dismissed Edwin as Managing Director; the firm struggled on, never paying a dividend, and in 1881 it was wound up.

Edwin had by now returned to his Birmingham roots. His wife and father both died in 1877, and the 1881 census found him on the road, described as a commercial traveller, staying in the Gordon Arms Hotel in Huntley, Aberdeenshire. In October 1883 he died, at Powick, near Worcester. He was only 54, The Sheffield newspapers, once so full of his name, barely noted his passing.

And what about Hong Kong? – or was it Japan? As I said, I don't know. If you do, please tell me!



Map showing where Harborne House was

contact@netheredgehistory.org.uk
<http://www.netheredgehistory.org.uk>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/netheredgehistory/>

NEXT HISTORY GROUP OPEN MEETING

Wednesday 26th Feb, 6.30pm, The Union. An open meeting of the History Group. Speakers give a short presentation of something they have investigated. Everyone welcome.

WHAT'S ON

in and around Nether Edge in February 2025

UNION HOTEL

Union Road, Nether Edge

The popular **Union Monday night quiz** has been running for 17 years with quizmaster John Barthram. Starts at 9pm, £2 per team. Free sandwiches, sausages, and sausage rolls. Free drinks for winners and a free meal prize for the best team. All are welcome.

On the first Wednesday of every month, 9pm Monthly Pop Quiz.

£2.00 per team and free food.

CAFÉ #9

Thur 6th Feb. Gavin Fairhall Lever brings together Punk fiddle, jazz bass and Balkan guitar in a colourful mix of the traditional and the original. Tickets £19.30.

Thur 13th Feb. Valentine Noire - Tales told by Jason Buck. An alternative Valentine's night where award-winning storyteller Jason Buck's dark tales of romance, love and sensuality.

Fri 14th Feb. Powerhouse Americana duo, **Tracey McNeil and Dan Parsons** present masterful harmonies and deft guitar playing.



Sat 15th Feb. An evening with **Ma Polaine** a Somerset based duo, influenced by blues, jazz and country., played on 6 music and Cerys Matthews Radio 2 Blues Show.

Sun 16th Feb. Eleanor Dunsdon and Gregor Black are Glasgow-based harp and percussion duo who blend traditional with contemporary vocals and electronics.. Award winners 2024 at Celtic Connections.

Thur 20th Feb. Blessed with a distinctive, bluesy, soulful voice, UK based singer-songwriter **Luke Jackson** has an enviable reputation for himself in the Roots acoustic, folk and Americana circuit.

Sat 22nd Feb. Dolly Mavies, singer-songwriter, her music captivates, with haunting vocals and ambient tones.

Sun 23rd Feb. A chance to witness another mind blowing performance from the insanely talented classical pianist **Hyuk Namkoong**. Tickets £13.80

Thur 27th Feb. Claudia Schwab is an award winning, originally Austrian fiddle player, singer and composer who lived and works in Ireland. She amalgamates different traditions and styles including Austrian, Irish, classical indian and Eastern European folk music.

Fri 28th Feb. Maddie Morris, a contemporary folk musician who won the BBC2 Young Folk Award in 2019 and has been described by Jim Moray as "leading the next generation of socially conscious songwriters
All performances start at 7.00pm and tickets from WeGotTickets are £16.50 (unless specified separately) including booking fee and byo/ corkage fee should you want to bring alcohol.

BYRON HOUSE

Nether Edge Road, S7 1RU

Quiz night every Sunday at 9.30pm. Cash prizes to be won.

SHEFFIELD GENERAL CEMETERY

Sun 2 Feb doors open 7pm, performance at 7.30pm. Folk at The Chapel Presents **R. Loomes, Menko, Greet and Adam Weikert**. The Samuel Worth Chapel has a fully licensed bar, card payments are accepted. Tickets £10 +booking fee.

Sat 15th Feb 7.30pm. Charm at the Samuel Worth Chapel with Harry Corps and Tobias Holden. Charm are a 5-piece Sheffield band, who are inspired by a range of genres , including jazz, funk and world music.They are an engaging and sophisticated live act. Tickets £12 and £10 concessions booking fee.

Fri 21 Feb 8pm-1 am. A little Way Different with DJ Richard Smith and special guest DJ Selector Oxman from Soho Radio. A night of ska, rocksteady and reggae featuring sounds of Alton Ellis, Delroy Wilson, Ken Boothe, Bob Marley, Dennis Brown and many more. Tickets £7 +booking fee.

Sat 22 Feb 7.30pm. TV Smith at The Samuel Worth Chapel. TV Smith was founder member , singer and songwriter for the Adverts, who formed in late 1976 and were one of the leading bands in the first wave of British punk rock in early 1977. Tickets £17.50.

For further information about events contact sgct@gencem.org . All tickets sold online via TICKET SOURCE, no tickets on the door.

ST ANDREW'S PSALTER LANE CHURCH

The Tuesday Café

Tuesdays 2 - 4pm, Shirley House (Next door to MHA Southcroft. Parking in the church car park. Access by ramp).
A café for those living at home with memory loss or dementia

and their carers and older people living alone. Hot drinks, cakes, biscuits, music, singing, and more. For further information please contact the Church Office: Telephone 0114 2678289

Knit and Natter Group

Mondays 10 - 12pm, Shirley House
Everyone is welcome to come and knit, sew, craft or just chat and enjoy a drink and a slice of cake.

Sat 1st Feb. 9.30 - 12.30pm

There will be a working party to tidy the church grounds. Everyone is very welcome to come and help and enjoy refreshments at about 11am

19th February 2025 - 7:30pm

Film show, 'The Quiet Girl' - A Shirley House Interfaith Centre event.
Refreshments included.

Everyone welcome, of all faiths or none.

(Shirley House is next to the church, please park in the church car park. There is no parking at Shirley House)

LANTERN THEATRE

Kenwood Park Road S7 1NF

Saturday 1st February 7.30 pm

Christine Moon plus Catherine Warr,

Youtube historian

Christine describes herself as "a pansexual Crone with an acoustic guitar, attempting to play her part in bringing about a better world, one revolutionary love song at a time."

Catherine's YouTube channel is filled with engaging and varied tales from history.

£15 + booking fee.



Tuesday 11th February 2025 - Saturday

15th February 2025 7.30

Passing Places

'Passing Places' follows two young men, Alex and Brian, as they flee their dead-end lives and hit the road with nothing but a stolen surfboard and a dream.

Note: contains strong language and mature themes

£15 + booking fee. Concessions: £13.50 + booking fee.

Thursday 27th February 2025 7.30 pm.

Amy Johnson: Last Flight Out

Written and performed by Jenny Lockyer

We meet Amy in a world of memories, desires, wishes and ambitions. As we find out about her life we start to see how the pieces fit and the tools Amy used to bring her dreams to reality.

There will be a post-show Q&A.

Guide age of 14+.

£15 + booking fee. Concessions: £10 + booking fee.

Friday 28th February 2025 7.30 pm.

Scott Doonican - One Man Show 2025 Tour

Scott Doonican brings his 2025 ONE MAN SHOW Tour back to The Lantern, Sheffield.

Expect silliness, shenanigans, singalongs and stories a-plenty.

£19.50 + booking fee.

Book all shows at ticketsource.co.uk

NETHER EDGE BOWLING CLUB

Gloria Monday's Thursday Fundraiser At

Nether Edge Bowling Club, **Thurs. 13th Feb.**

8.00pm

Acoustic Music Concert at Nether Edge Bowling Club

Gloria Monday, Nether Edge's stripped down Orchestra of Truth, have been running these events since 2019, with a strong local following. Each month we present two excellent guest performers, usually a group and a solo musician, at the Grand Ol' Bowling Club.

gloriamondayduo@gmail.com

NETHER EDGE FOLK CLUB

At Nether Edge Bowling Club Nether Edge Road S7 1RU

At Nether Edge Bowling Club, Nether Edge Road S7 1RU

Wednesday evenings at 8pm

The club enjoys acoustic music in a wide variety of genres including traditional, roots revival, blues, jazz, country and Americana. It's a friendly community with beginners, experienced players, unaccompanied singers, instrumentalists and singer/players all equally welcome.

There is no admission charge but everyone is asked to contribute £2 to the guest booking fund, apart from nights when there is a guest musician - please see below.



Fake Thackray

12th Feb. 8.00 pm.

"John Watterson captures the genius of Jake Thackray wonderfully well; he brings out the poetry of Jake's lyrics and the deeply felt emotions of the music in a way that nobody has done before. Except Jake, of course! And when John sings it's as though Jake is with us in the room" Ralph McTell

Tickets are available in advance at the club (£6) and online (£8)

netheredgefolk.club for more details.

COMMON GROUND

Common Ground Community Centre,

Ammi's Kitchen Community Lunch

Friday 7th and 28th Feb. 12 - 2pm.

All are welcome. Eat in only. Free if on benefit or pay as you feel.

.....
Ammi's Takeaway. Fri. 14th Feb.

Pick up 3 - 6pm. Pre-orders only from www.ammiskitchensheffield.org

NETHER EDGE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE (W.I.N.E.)

Nether Edge Club, Moncrieffe Road S7 1HR

Enjoy lively, interesting speakers and activities on the first Tuesday evening of the month.

Meet like minded women at our dining, theatre, craft and walking groups. Contact us on facebook for a chat or pop into the club on our meeting evening at 7.00 pm and ask for a committee member.

NENG HISTORY GROUP

Union Hotel, 26th Feb 6.30 pm

An open meeting of the history group. Speakers give a short presentation of something they have investigated. Everyone welcome.

WALKING NETBALL

SHU Pearson Building, Broomgrove Road.

Thursdays 1 - 2pm Lots of limbering up, fun

activities (See England Netball website) and a short game. You don't have to be skilled or very agile; it's just great fun. £6 per session

Details: whitechristie3@gmail.com

THE STAG'S HEAD

15 Psalter Lane S11 8YN

Quiz every Monday evening from 8pm.

Everyone is welcome at this popular quiz which has been running for a number of years. It's £1 to enter and there's a maximum of 6 people in a team. The quiz usually lasts for 1½ - 2 hours. Free food is provided at half time for quizzers.

All quiz entry fees go to two charities - St Luke's and Cavendish Cancer Care.

LIVE AT SAM'S

28th Feb 7.30. James Delarre and Saul Rose

- **House Concert** info@liveatsams.co.uk

THE OLD CHAPEL GALLERY

Union Road, S11 9EF

Feb 6th-9th. Dave Akehurst Paintings

.....
February 13th-16th. Steve Montgomery

"Imaginary Energy"

www.theoldchapelstudiosgallery.co.uk



NETHER EDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP SAFER STREETS SUBGROUP

Faith Salih

On 19th November, a meeting took place at the bowling group to bring people together who wanted to discuss issues of road safety and traffic in Nether Edge. Initial ideas for a NENG subgroup were discussed and we unexpectedly found ourselves volunteering to co-chair the subgroup moving forward. The meeting was well attended with about 40 people present, and some general themes arose from the discussion in the course of the evening. These were:

Safety and quality of life for all those travelling or living in Nether Edge but particularly more vulnerable street users – pedestrians, children, elderly or disabled people and cyclists.

Traffic Management and reduction including parking and speed of vehicles around roads which aren't safe or suitable for driving at speed.

Representation and Advocacy with a recognition that this requires inclusion of all

demographics and includes Nether Edge and Sharrow residents. Data is needed to inform advocacy and act as a voice to the council and encourage community action.

Since taking the reins of the subgroup, we have met to think about how we intend to run the subgroup and talked with a number of local people. Our next step is to set up a working subgroup of up to ten people – we'd like those on the subgroup to collectively represent a good spread of Nether Edge and Sharrow. Some people at the initial meeting have volunteered but we still need representation from Osborne Road/Machon Bank Road/Sheldon Road, including the streets surrounding Emily Road and Sharrow. We're setting up an email address for the group but if you're interested in the meantime, please contact us via the NENG email address: nengeditorialboard@gmail.com.

We will be holding a meeting in the next few weeks with those interested in the subgroup, and then aim to have a wider community meeting in the first quarter of the year to

share our plan. We'll aim for a quarterly newsletter by email to keep people informed.

Our wish for the subgroup is to raise awareness of the importance of how we use our streets and the link between safe streets and the quality of life for people in the area. We want to enhance safety for all, particularly pedestrians and cyclists, and improve the area's living environment because this benefits us all. While this may include gathering data around traffic solutions, we also have a mind to what may be quicker fixes like pocket parks or landscaping to make flared junctions safer or looking at community action on gritting pavements in adverse weather, for example. We are committed to representing the diverse needs of the community, including disadvantaged groups, and want to foster positive changes and community engagement which we can't do on our own. Please let us know if you have issues you'd like to discuss, or would like to be added to our mailing list.