

EDGE

NETHER EDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWSLETTER www.netheredge.org.uk

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April 2017

Registered Charity No. 1139239



One of Nether Edge's urban foxes.

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Photograph by Ian Wilshaw

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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.

This month's EDGE has been compiled by David Pierce assisted by Ian Wilshaw. The May EDGE will be produced by Howard Trott and the FOBEW. Any comments about this EDGE to be addressed to Howard Trott at h-trott@blueyonder.co.uk before 10th April.

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NETHER EDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP - APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To join or renew membership of the Nether Edge Neighbourhood Group please complete the slip below and return it, with your cheque or standing order form, to:

Victoria Imeson, 81 Nether Edge Road, S7 1RW Tel: 07930 417455 nengtreasurer@gmail.com

I wish to JOIN the Nether Edge Neighbourhood Group & receive the magazine EDGE by EMAIL*/HAND DELIVERED* (*Delete as appropriate)

Name _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Tel. _____ Email _____

Your contact details will only be used in connection with your NENG membership.

Annual Subscriptions due **from 1st April** are £8 per household or organisation (£5 unwaged/concessions).

I enclose a completed Standing Order form (downloadable from www.netheredge.co.uk) or a cheque to the value of £_____ made out to "NENG".

As a local resident/ supporter of NENG, I also wish to become a full member of NENG, a company limited by guarantee, which entitles me to have full voting rights at the AGM, receive regular copies of EDGE and fully participate in its activities. In the unlikely event that the Company be wound up, I promise to pay the sum of £1 towards its debts if asked to do so, and understand this liability will continue for 1 year after I cease to be a member of the company.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

PLEASE NOTE: Should you prefer not to become a full member of NENG you have the option of becoming a subscriber only by deleting the section in italics above. This entitles you to receive copies of EDGE but no entitlement to vote. The annual subscription is still £8 per person (£5 unwaged/concessions).

The committee has decided that in future only one EDGE will be delivered to each household and only one subscription is required per household.

Please send signed forms to our Treasurer, Victoria Imeson.



A SPRINGTIME CORNUCOPIA ?

In this month's EDGE Richard Taylor has written about the Nether Edge Book Club and how its last meeting offered a 'cornucopia of surprises'. To appreciate what he meant you will need to read his article but your editor thinks that the use of that juicy word can just as validly be applied to this edition of EDGE. The word can most easily be defined as 'an abundance of good things' and the contents of this EDGE readily matches that description.

We hope that some of the new contributors to this issue will become regular ones. Emily outlines a delicious recipe for stuffed butternut squash and Emma from across the road gives us some tips to keep our green fingers busy at this time of the year. Ben Flaneur aims to keep us on the move each month by describing some walks with a local slant whilst not forgetting the need for stimulating refreshment on the way.

Ken Phillip updates us with developments in Brincliffe Edge Woods whilst Jack Massey tells us about some of the wildlife to be seen there and about more exotic animals further afield. EDGE also hears from Jack that astonishingly he has observed hen harriers not far from Nether Edge. What Nether Edge was like 100 years ago is explained by John Baxendale from the History Group and John Turner invites us all to enjoy a little of his poetry and encourages you to write some of your own.

In addition there are items about early EDGES that have come to our attention, news of the forthcoming festival and more. As always, we welcome your comments about EDGE and life in Nether Edge.

David Pierce

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EMILY'S GOOD FOOD RECIPE

EDGE welcomes Homemade's Emily Rowley to its pages with a series of recipes to excite your taste buds. This month's recipe is for: **STUFFED BUTTERNUT SQUASH** **Serves 2**



Ingredients:

1 X butternut squash,
halved length ways
2 X red onion
1/3 block of feta cheese
1 handful of raisins
1 handful of pine nuts
2 X Table spoons of olive oil
Sprig of fresh thyme
Sprig of fresh rosemary
1 tea spoon of caster sugar
Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

1. Halve the butternut squash length ways and score the flesh. Roast in 1tbsp olive oil, salt and pepper at 200°C for approx. 20minutes until the flesh is soft enough to scoop out of the skin
2. Thinly slice the red onions. Heat 1tbsp of oil in a pan and add the onions once the oil is hot. Cook on a gentle heat with the thyme and chopped rosemary until soft and translucent. Add 1tsp of sugar and a good ounce of salt and pepper.
3. Soak the raisins in hot water for ten minutes until they are plump and juicy. Drain off water.
4. Lightly toast the pine nuts in a hot frying pan.
5. In a bowl mix together the flesh of the squash, caramelised onions, pine nuts and raisins and spoon back into the squash skins.
6. Top with crumbled feta and put back in the oven for 15 minutes until the feta has begun to brown.



Emily with her business partner Becky

FRIENDS OF BRINCLIFFE EDGE WOODS UPDATE

The new working year in Brincliffe Edge Wood got off to an excellent start with the February work morning attracting a record number of Volunteers. This was helped by one of our group (Ian Prior) discovering that the Yorkshire Building Society has a Community Action Programme where staff have 31 hours of paid leave each year to carry out a wide range of projects including woodland management. Three YBS helpers attended our work morning on February 8th and were enthusiastic about the tasks offered to help keep the Wood looking tidy and safe.

The indefatigable Howard Trott has refined our action plan so that we have a clearer idea of what we are trying to accomplish at each work session and during 2017. We have also issued a calendar for work days in 2017 and, for the first time, we are switching some of the Volunteer sessions from a weekday morning to a weekend. The first of these is on Saturday March 11th with two weekend work days planned for Sunday May 14th and Saturday September 23rd. The SCC Rangers have, as always, been very constructive despite their increasing workload. Parks & Countryside deal rapidly with problems such as a massive bough being brought down across the main path during the recent Storm Doris and fielding problems such as fly tipping on the road bordering Chelsea Park.

The March work day will focus on the planting of snowdrops, red campion, hornbeam and the continuing removal of unwanted ash seedlings.

Group members Howard Trott & Ian Prior are on target with their research on the history of the Wood for FoBEW's contribution to the NENG History Group publication later in 2017.



Welcome to my column – an interactive slot in EDGE where you can ask questions on anything botanically based – from gardening and cut flowers to houseplants. I will try my best to answer but in some cases we'll be learning together. I own Moss and Clover, the florist on the corner of Nether Edge cross roads.

THINGS TO DO IN APRIL

- Increase watering for houseplants
- Repot houseplants – at least once a year for large plants and more frequently for smaller ones.
- Begin to water desert dwelling plants (Cacti & Succulents) once a month.
- Get weeding (sorry!)
- Nip the heads off any Daffodils & Tulips past their best
- Remove any winter bedding plants which didn't survive the frost
- Sow grass, wildflower seeds and summer bulbs
- Fill your house with seasonal flowers such as Ranunculus, Tulips & other spring bulbs.

Q & A TIME

Q. My giant Cereus Pe Florida cactus is looking a bit sad and the soil looks dry – how much should I water it?

A. *It sounds to me like it could do with a re-pot first – remove all of the excess old soil by gently shaking it off from its roots (gloves required for this of course!) and then re – potting with Cactus or succulent soil (costs around £5/bag). After that, you'll need to give it enough water to soak through the soil. Leave to drain before putting it back into any decorative pot.*

Q. What summer bulbs and perennials would be ready to plant this month?

A. *Lots of lovelies can be planted in April to make your very own cut flower garden such as Alliums, Agapanthus, Anemone's and (a big favourite in the shop) Aстранtia. Remember to prepare the soil before planting for optimum drainage.*

If you have a botanical question you'd like answering, send me an email to mossandclovershop@gmail.com.

TREES – IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

Since the March EDGE was published there have been two significant occurrences. First the seven people who were arrested in Chipping House Road on February 6th have had the charges against them dropped. This means that the cases against all fourteen arrestees have been dropped. As a result there has been a lull in any felling and the campaigning to save the trees continues. Second, the charity Trees for Cities has withdrawn funding and support for its work with Sheffield Council on planting trees in parks and green spaces. Their public statement condemning the Council for its felling of healthy street trees can be found at: <http://www.treesforcities.org/statement-sheffield/>

If you want to read more about the background to these development go to <https://savenetheredgetrees.wordpress.com/> or <http://tinyurl.com/snetweb>

Monthly Lunchtime Socials NOSH & NATTER

A friendly group open to all
Monday 10th April

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Trams, Open Space and the Class Struggle in Nether Edge

By John Baxendale

Nether Edge wasn't built all at once like a present-day housing estate. Up to the Great War and beyond, there were always open spaces, fields, country lanes and paths, attracting working-class Sheffielders for whom a day out in the country was the cheapest escape from disease and pollution. People were quite happy to walk there, which cost them nothing, but from the 1870s you could take the tram, and by 1900 the new electric trams cost only a penny from the city centre.

All very healthy and rational, you may think, but that's not how middle-class Nether Edgers saw it. In 1877 they petitioned the Council against Sunday trams – not for Sabbatarian reasons, but because Sunday was the working man's holiday. The area, they asserted, 'was at present very quiet and respectable', occupied by 'professional and business men' who had 'expended considerable sums of money' on their houses and their 'ornamental gardens, with trees, shrubs, plants and greenhouses'. The trams 'would bring into the neighbourhood a class of people who did not come there at present, and who would very much interfere with its privacy, and would probably cause considerable damage to shrubs, trees, gardens and houses there, and considerably diminish the value of the houses.'

The Council responded that having leased the tramlines to the tram company they had no power to tell them when to run their trams. A somewhat blunter response came in the letter in the Sheffield Independent, asking why 'these people expect more consideration than the inhabitants of Hillsborough, Brightside and Attercliffe?' Was it because 'their residences are more costly and beautiful, or that they assume to possess more refinement than their fellow townsmen'? Moreover, already on Sundays, even without the tram, 'scores, ay, hundreds, of working men, with their wives and families, may be seen in the neighbourhood'.

Mention of 'wives and families' declared the respectability of working-class excursionists, but complaints continued: in 1900 'gangs of roughs' were still monopolising the Sunday trams to the alarm of decent churchgoers, and typically in 1898 a 'gang of rowdies from 15 to 18 years of age' were said to be playing football on the land between Psalter Lane and Sharrow Vale on Sunday afternoons, to the accompaniment of 'fights, stone-throwing and filthy language': what were the police doing about it – and about similar outrages on Frog Walk?

But the struggle over open space could only go on while there was open space to be struggled over. The dense terraced housing appearing below Psalter Lane and elsewhere early in the new century may have lowered the tone somewhat, but it put paid to rowdy football games. Nether Edge had made the transition from rural to urban, and the contest between landowners and excursionists passed from suburbia to the grouse moors of Derbyshire.



OPEN GARDENS Reminder

Calling all gardeners – if you would like to join the Nether Edge Open Gardens event on 11th June, please contact Marion Rout (marion.rout@btinternet.com; tel 0114 258 4999) or Peter Machan (petermachan@hotmail.com ; tel 0114 255

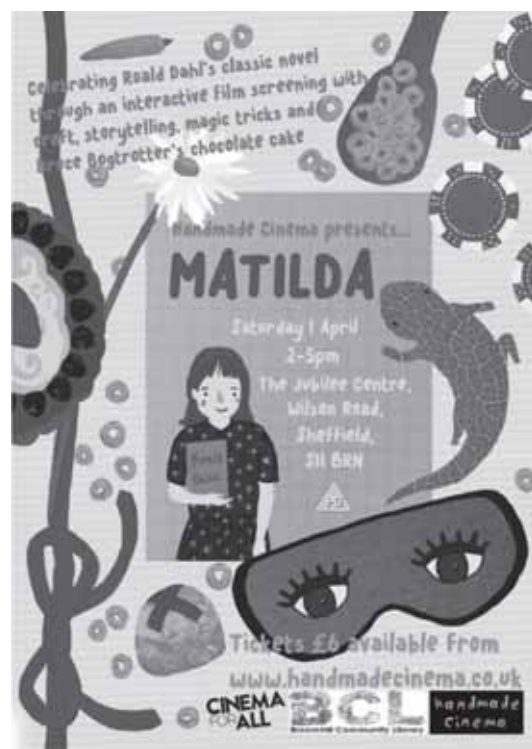
Advertise in EDGE

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Rates start from £20 for a 1/8th of a page and you will be helping your local neighbourhood charity in the process.

For more information contact Victoria Imeson
nengtreasurer@gmail.com



Nether Edge Book Club Corner by Richard Taylor

We try to make each of our meetings as different and interesting as possible. This month we agreed that we would all bring a book that we remembered with fondness from our childhood. Well, what a cornucopia of surprises entertained us as a result and surprisingly with no Enid Blyton amongst them. So here are six books from our past that you may also remember.



Black Beauty

A moralistic classic that tells the story of a horse that undergoes many hardships in its varied life. Written in the late 19th century by Anna Sewell this was not meant to be a children's novel. However we all remembered this story from our childhood with mixed emotions. Maybe one to forget!!

I Capture the Castle, *by Dodie Smith*

This is a decidedly romantic coming of age book. An eccentric family, headed by a writer's blocked author father, live in poverty in a castle. The two daughters find love and the family renewed its finances when the American inheritors arrive.

There is quirky humour and a nod towards a not too sugary Cinderella happy ending.

The Big Book of Football Champions

Not all our members were encouraged to read – personally from the age of 10 to 15 I only wanted to play and watch football. Reading was not for me. Every Christmas though I was given this annual by my parents and I loved it. It contained beautiful artwork as I suspect football action pictures just weren't available. My books were cherished over the years and are still in amazing condition .

Mary Poppins *by PL Travers*

Another old classic that was famous for its film. Could we remember the book? Not many of us could but apparently there was a whole series which passed us by.

Murder on the Links *by Agatha Christie*

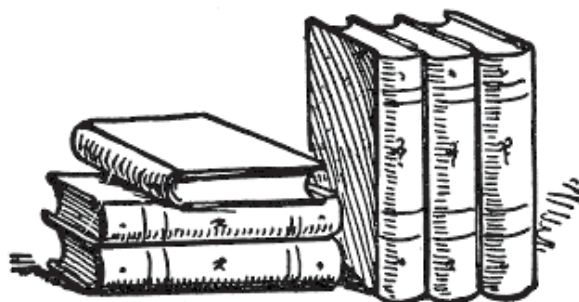
Love her or hate her Agatha Christie played a part in our childhood reading. This book was described as a predictable thriller where it was rather obvious at an early stage who was the villain. Is that the case for a lot of her stories? It was generally agreed that this writer's books helped us all to develop more mature adult reading skills..

Midwich Cuckoos *by John Wyndham*

A science fiction novel which was a strange choice as a childhood book. It just shows how natural readers were searching for more adult material. This book was recreated as a film called The Village of the Damned. Most of us had read it at some time in our life and agreed that John Wyndham's novels were always well written and interesting.

As Baby Boomers we weren't exposed to the wonders of Roald Dahl and Harry Potter but we survived! And so there you have it – I hope you enjoyed the journey into your childhood

Next month we will get our teeth into something more substantial.



Step into spring on the moors

There are many exciting milestones in nature's calendar, but few are more evocative than the first call of the curlew as they return to the uplands from their winter feeding ground. Step out onto the moors in spring and you may also enjoy the song of the skylark, sightings of sluggish adders basking and, if you're very lucky, a glimpse of a red deer calf.

Part of the Peak District National Park, the Eastern Moors sits on the fringes of Sheffield. Boasting a diverse mix of heather moorland, acid grassland, blanket bog and woodland, almost the entire site is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Home to an abundance of wildlife species, the Eastern Moors is well known for its population of adders and herd of red deer, and is also home to the elusive water vole and nationally scarce golden-ringed dragonfly. Its designation as a Special Protection Area (SPA) reflects the presence of bird species such as short eared owl and golden plover. Its dry heath, blanket bog and sessile oak woodland habitats have resulted in a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designation.



During the breeding and nesting season on this special site we ask that everyone enjoying the moors takes extra care to respect wildlife and livestock, giving creatures the space to raise their families undisturbed. Take the Lead, a campaign which runs throughout spring and summer, is being led by land owners and managers in and around the Peak District. The campaign thanks people for literally taking the lead when walking their dog in the countryside during lambing and ground nesting bird season, from 1 March to 31 July each year.

Katherine Clarke, Visitor Experience Manager for the Eastern Moors Partnership, said: "Dog walkers are important guardians of our countryside. They are the eyes and ears of the landscape, walking in all weathers throughout the year, noticing unusual wildlife sightings and recognising seasonal change. They come from all walks of life with two common interests; they love their dogs and they love the outdoors. Take the Lead aims to celebrate this infectious love of dog walking whilst raising awareness of how

responsible dog walking leads to a countryside richer in wildlife and helps keep sheep, lambs and ground nesting birds safe from harm.

In the Peak District there are a multitude of ground nesting birds including curlew, snipe, woodcock, meadow pipits, skylark and stonechat. However, their nests aren't the most secure and can leave their eggs and chicks open to predation from wildlife such as foxes, crows and badgers. A dog running across the landscape can be one disturbance too many for these bird species and can have a detrimental effect on breeding success."

For more information and ideas of where to enjoy exploring this spring please see our website www.visit-eastern-moors.org.uk



MY FAVOURITE WILDLIFE SPOTS

By Jack Massey

As a wildlife enthusiast, I've been very fortunate. Seen leopards and tigers in India. Been charged by an elephant in Africa. Swum with sharks and sting rays in the Caribbean. Seen wild duck-billed platypuses in Australia, spectacled bears in South America and whales in the Bay of Biscay. It's all been fantastic.

What else have I seen? A colony of sand martins skimming the river outside their nesting site. Badgers chasing fox cubs when they got too close. A huge flock of wagtails, all going to roost in a tiny laurel bush, next to a busy main road. A bittern dropping in to roost in a bed of reeds near an old colliery. Two vixens watching on while their eight or so cubs play fought, like mischievous kittens. A peregrine throwing a dead pigeon to his mate, who caught it in mid-air. Where have I seen these wonders? Why, in Sheffield, of course. You could have got there on the bus! In fact, for the vixens and their cubs, we didn't have to leave home. They were in the drive opposite, and we used to sit in the car to watch.



I'm not saying that the rest hasn't been wonderful. (Did I mention the Giant Forest Hog in the Ngorongoro crater, which looks like a cross between a pig and a gorilla, or the nocturnal Owl monkeys in the Amazon basin?) No, what I am saying is that there's an awful lot to see right here in Sheffield, right on your own doorstep, if you keep your eyes and ears open. *Good luck and good hunting.*

My role as a volunteer Peak District National Park Ranger

By David Levine

The Peak District National Park has its 76th birthday this month. It was the first National Park in Britain and arose out of legislation passed by the post war Labour government. The Peak District National Park Ranger Service, started with just one ranger in 1954 (then termed a warden) and currently consists of 16 full time rangers and over 250 volunteers.

I recently qualified as a volunteer ranger. It is a wonderful way to learn about the National Park's special qualities - the natural beauty, the wildlife and the cultural and historical heritage. I work with other rangers and engage with the public to aid their understanding and enjoyment.

During my training, over nearly 2 years, I visited ranger centres throughout the Park and shadowed rangers on patrol. There were also taught sessions in the classroom and in the field where I learnt more about the Park, the role of the ranger, countryside safety and navigation.

I do a fortnightly Sunday shift at Fairholmes in the Upper Derwent valley, a 30 minutes' drive from Nether Edge. At weekends the centre is a very busy one, particularly with walkers and mountain bikers. There is also a mid-week team that focuses on maintenance and conservation.



Fairholmes Ranger Briefing Centre

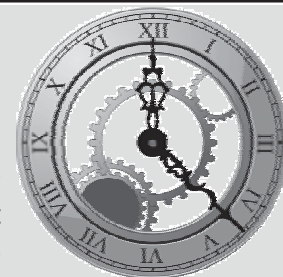
Above Derwent Dam



A typical day involves patrolling the open moorland, hills and public rights of way. For example, after high winds, trees that are blocking paths need to be identified and cleared. We are trained to deal with the public in a measured and diplomatic way and handle any conflicts that might arise. Rangers meet the public and are the "eyes and ears" of the Park Authority.

Volunteer rangers also lead guided walks throughout the Park including observing mountain hares, visiting aircraft wrecks and locating lost farms. For the calendar of events and to book on a guided walk visit www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/events.

TURN BACK THE CLOCK WITH EDGE



Old films, old newspapers enable us to look back in time. So we are grateful to Helen McIlroy for finding some old copies of EDGE in her cellar and handing them to us. They date back to the early nineties and some to the late eighties. And they really do remind us that the world has changed in many ways since then. Not surprisingly those EDGEs are quite primitive creations compared with the current high-quality productions. On the other hand it reminds those of us who can remember of long hours spent turning a Roneo or Banda duplicating machine, of inky stencils and stapling machines and sketches scraped out with a stylus. A technology that would astonish our younger readers but one that enabled schools, neighbourhood groups, political parties, trades unions and many others to publish documents for distribution to their target audiences.

To skim through the contents of these early EDGEs is to be surprised and reminded of the differences between now and then but also that some things have not changed at all. For example, here are adverts in the early copies of EDGE for jumble sales. When did I last seen one of those advertised let alone go to one? More interestingly, bearing in mind our current 'discussions' about trees, in the earliest issue from September 1987 there is an item about the proposal to create a conservation area in Nether Edge. If it became a conservation area it was thought 'then we, the residents, would have a greater say in what happens here' and 'if you wish to cut down or lop a tree ...you must give the local authority six weeks' notice'. So far as the street trees are concerned they didn't foresee the catch that the Council was excluded from some of the requirements. Nor did they foresee how change affects wildlife. 'We have received news of lots of sightings of hedgehogs this summer' wrote the Wildlife Group in September 1988. Now it seems that those 'delightful creatures' are an endangered species. Unfortunately some things haven't changed. In those early copies there are frequent contributions headed Graffiti and Vandalism or the State of our pavements.

We shall try to trawl through some of these old EDGEs again but in the meantime we would like to receive other old copies of EDGE so that NENG can build up its archive for future generations to use.

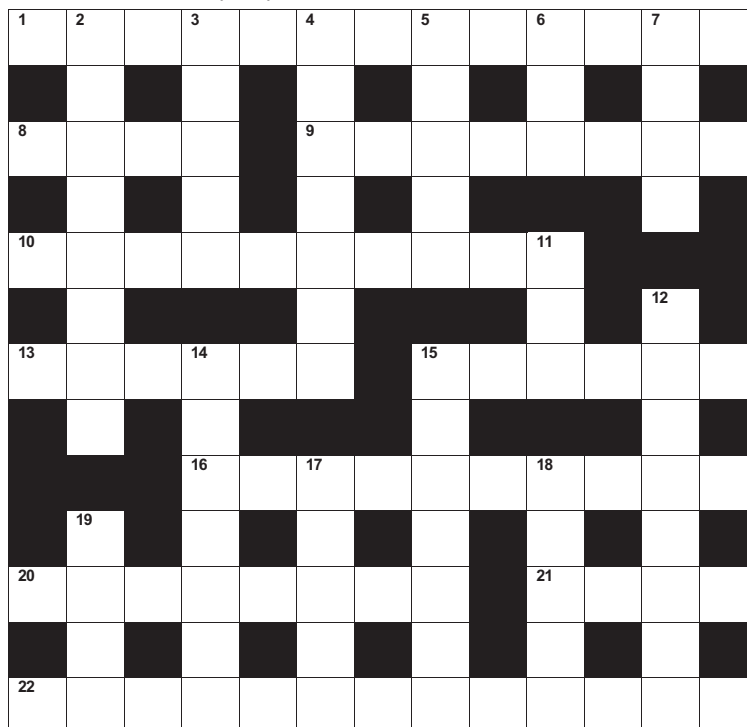
SPRAT'S EIGHTY NINTH CROSSWORD

Across

1. Worn round the wrist, with many small trinkets and ornaments (5,8)
8. Proverbial bald bird (4)
9. Portable protection against rain (8)
10. Reserve in a cricket team (7,3)
13. It has six legs (6)
15. Medium sized long-legged African wildcat (6)
16. Rubber bullet (5,5)
20. (Of a man) Confident, stylish and charming (8)
21. Idle (4)
22. Extinct elephant (6,7)

Down

2. Deceive or trick (8)
3. Honey badger (5)
4. Common garden bird (4,3)
5. Long player (5)
6. Mrs Adam (3)
7. They're proverbially slippery (4)
11. Often found in a sentence with 'neither' (3)
13. Strong glove, covering wrist (7)
14. Involve deeply (7)
15. Popular Spanish drink (7)
17. Obsequious person (5)
18. Drug prepared from poppies (5)
18. Her lover was drowned, swimming the Hellespont (4)



Answers on page 14

LET'S GO TO THE PICTURES

Five years old this September is Sharrow Reels. What started off as an idea by a few friends while down at the pub, has ended up showing over 50 films to date. Films can vary from newer critical releases such as *Boyhood* and *The Big Short*, to older classics like *Roman Holiday* with the odd documentary or animation thrown in for good measure. The idea behind the event was to create an affordable evening, where people from the community can easily access good cinema. With strong attendances, it is easy to see that locals are keen on that too. Typically on the third Sunday of every month, every evening begins with some homemade cake and quality coffee before the film begins.

Coming up over the next few months they are showing *The Prestige* (19 March) and *Macbeth* (22 April), with plans to possibly show *La La Land* and *Ida* in the coming months. Plans are in the works for something special come the fifth anniversary screening in September.

This volunteer-run evening takes place down at 215 Sharrow Vale Road, which is normally home to The Crowded House (a local church). The church has even got in on the act lately, running a monthly event based around short films called Sharrow Shorts.

Doors open at 7:30pm, with the film beginning at 8pm.

Tickets are £3 on the doors.

Check out Facebook and Twitter for details of future screenings



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SOMEWHERE ELSE

By Ben Flaneur

Two years ago EDGE published a feature introducing readers to the wealth of choice in Nether Edge for those who like an occasional (or a regular fix) of coffee. But we are not alone in seeing a huge rise in the number of coffee shops of all kinds in recent years. So this series will introduce you to some of the coffee shops that lie just outside the boundaries of Nether Edge. Most of us will find them within easy walking distance, for others it may be a challenge. And although drinking too much coffee may be regarded as an unhealthy practice, there is little that is better for us than a good walk.

TO THE QUARRY AND BEYOND

We start our walk, as all the others in this series will do, at the Nether Edge traffic lights and set off along Machon Bank Road with Sainsbury's on our left. The road slopes gently upwards and we quickly come to its junction with Barkers Road. This junction can be somewhat confusing for motorists as the 'main' road appears to continue straight ahead but in reality veers to the right. It is not a problem for us though, we continue on Barkers Road towards the trees lining the road ahead of us. We cross the junction with Osborne Road and Ladysmith and encounter the rather difficult junction where five roads meet. Straight ahead is the attractive Lyndhurst Road with the former hospital site and its much sought-after development of houses and apartments. But we take the second left turn into Union Road and see on the left the delightful Audrey Cottage. The owners of this lovely house open the gardens every year for afternoon teas to raise money for charity. Ahead of us we can see the road climbing towards Brincliffe Edge and as we walk up it on the right hand side we can feast our eyes on the grand houses and grounds of Glenholme and Brincliffe and then the King's Centre on our left. We don't have to climb to the top of the road because we take the first turn on the right to begin a pleasant walk along Chelsea Road. We pause to look at the decorated Chelsea Elm, one of those threatened with felling which came second in the Tree of the Year awards and which stimulated a major campaign to protect it.

We are walking parallel to the top of Brincliffe Edge, sheltered from the worst of the breeze and able to

enjoy the fine views across the city. Some of the houses on your right will have rear gardens that slope down giving them very open aspects of the city centre a mile or so away. Some of the grass verges along here have been ruined by the wheels of heavy vehicles whilst another catches the eye as it has been planted by a local resident and now stands out as a beautiful herbaceous border. But soon our attention is turned to the left of the road where we can see a local treasure, Chelsea Park. If you choose you can enter through a narrow opening in the wall, walk through the park and exit by the main entrance to re-join Chelsea Road. Then, continue along the road, pass Cavendish Road on the right and an ancient footpath on the left leading to the top of the edge to observe the cosy-looking bungalows ahead of you. These have been built close to the disused quarry on your left-hand side. On a cold day like today's they look very welcoming. But we must pass through these houses into the car park of Baldwin's Omega. From the porch of this fine restaurant you can clearly see the quarry's walls before we turn right along its entrance drive. It will be closing down next year to be replaced by a housing development so make the most of it while you can. We are now at the highest point in our walk and on a fine day there are views across the city and over the suburbs to the moors beyond.

The moorland is beckoning but we are almost at the end of today's walk as we turn right to descend to Psalter Lane. But before that wait for a minute or two to look at the terrace of old cottages opposite. And, if you care go left to view them: at the far end you'll see a dilapidated collection of privies. They bring back memories for some of us.

So, we turn down Psalter Lane to see the busy road ahead of us heading out of Sheffield. But don't go as far as the traffic lights, cross the road and you'll come across a little ginnel/alley way leading down to Ecclesall Road. It's cobbled so take care if it's wet. Turn right at the bottom and there on your right is our destination, a coffee shop called Somewhere Else. A disappointment awaits us today however as we find it is closed. We discover that it always is on Tuesday's and so we cross the road and enjoy a latte and scone

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The festival committee is working hard on planning the festival for 2017. Due to be held from 15th to 24th September it has already been decided that the overall framework for the event will include two big events at each end of the week. At the beginning of the week a family fun day is being organised at Common Ground on Saturday 16th to be followed by the Farmers' Market on the Sunday. At the end of the week there will be a repeat of last year's successful craft and community fair at St Andrew's Church and a bigger and better Party in the Park on the Sunday.

A review of last year's festival has led us to conclude that some events should be repeated. These include the children's art show, a ceilidh, a book group event and a multi-faith discussion. We hope to add to these a musical event or two and a number of food events. We have also reviewed our publicity policy and in spite of the growing importance of social media we decided to publish a brochure again for wide distribution to complement a stronger emphasis on Facebook, Twitter and our website.

Lots of other potential events are being considered or planned but we are still eager to receive ideas from anyone about what might be included to ensure that our third festival grows and builds upon the success of previous years.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

February's edition of EDGE really resonated with me and March's edition confirmed it. 'Nether Edge - love the trees, hate the litter'. I know there are areas which have an even worse litter problem than we do, but I don't live in them. I'd like something done here in the hope that it will spread.

I was also reminded of the African proverb. 'Talking about pumpkins doesn't make them grow'. We need action.

The proposal is that on Sunday morning, 9th April, we all go out, just for a couple of hours, and collect the litter, just in our street. There surely must be a few people on every street in Nether Edge who feel the way I do, and would be willing to clean up.

I don't want to appear too Goody Two Shoes, but I already pick litter outside our house. I take the wheelie bin out with me and I've got my own grabber, but gloves will do. It's amazing what can be achieved in a short space of time. Just think how nice it would be if the whole of Nether Edge was like that. If we can get it through that dropping litter is unacceptable, then maybe it will stay like that.

Jack Massey

Ed: NENG has discussed Jack Massey's letter and is supportive of it. NENG will consider what future actions might be taken to take the idea forward

FESTIVAL FUN RUN ??

Where is a good venue for a FUN RUN?

Chelsea Park is the answer, as a part of the Party in the Park during Festival week.

Around the park, along Chelsea Road and back again? With so many people turning out every Saturday for the Park Run it should prove to be very popular.

Who would like to help organise it? If you are interested then please contact

Maggie Little at
maggielit@sky.com



I've been lucky enough to have led poetry writing workshops at the 2015 and the 2016 Nether Edge Festivals. They have both been inspirational and productive sessions - with local writers coming along and writing memorable and high quality pieces. We avoided any unnecessary emphasis on too much formality – so we could allow the writers to relax and be creative without terrible pressure being thrust upon them. My role was to set the theme(s) for the sessions and to give helpful feedback to everyone as they engaged in the process of writing. At the end of the session, each writer shared his/her work with the rest of the group and received further constructive feedback.

Sheffield Village

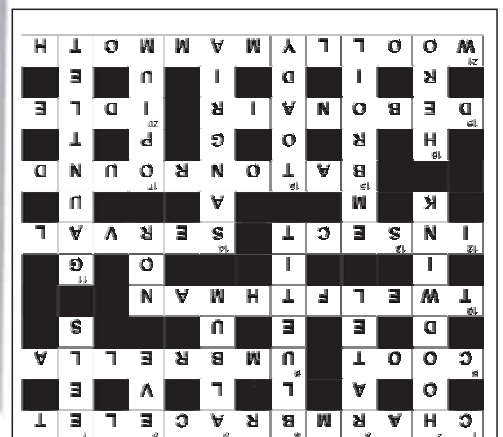
*Sheffield is not a city
In which to bury your sins.
Random encounters
Occur daily
In every shop
In the area.
Vague acquaintances are able to provide a
detailed catalogue of your movements
Over the last 4 years.
You meet a former neighbour
Who has recently married a work colleague.
Your daughter's friend is there with her mother
Who, it turns out, was your lover, briefly, in the 1980s.
Your best friend in the 1970s
(who played ukelele in your folk band)
Has retrained -
And now manages the store....
You fix a tight smile
And exaggerate your current life successes.
Your old friend nods quietly.
He looks over his shoulder
Curiously
At you
As you leave the store.*

John Turner

We will be following up these sessions with another workshop during the 2017 Festival this September where we look forward yet again to memorable poetry being written by the participants.

Nether Edge is, of course, Sheffield's centre of creativity. The Bowling Club hosts a regular programme of live events and one often sees people working hard creatively on their laptops at both of the cafes.

We would like to re-visit the idea of establishing a regular monthly writers' group to further stimulate creativity in The Edge. If you're interested in signing up for it please contact me at jrt39bow@gmail.com.



Crossword answers

What's On events in and around Nether Edge in April

Every Wednesday 12noon-1.45pm: Psalter Lane Lunch Club and Cameo activities at the Salvation Army, 12 Psalter Lane, S11 8YN.Tel 266 8127.£3.50.

Every Wednesday, 8.30-11.00pm. Nether Edge Folk club, Singers night, Nether Edge Bowling Club. www.netheredgefolk.club.

Saturday 1st April, MATILDA Roald Dahl's classic movie with much more at the Jubilee Centre, Wilson Road, S11 8RN. £6 per ticket, available from www.handmadecinema.co.uk

Sun 2nd April 10.30-3.30. Fun Family Bowling Day at Nether Edge Bowling Club. All are invited. A fun course run by qualified coaches who will give you instruction. Everything you need will be provided just wear flat shoes. Refreshments provided. Tel 266 1160 or 07969077002 so we have an indication of numbers.

Tue 4th April 6-9pm. Lantern Making Workshops .Get ready for the Sharrow Lantern Carnival (on Sun April 9th) by making your own lantern at our free workshops. No need to book, materials provided at St Mary's on Bramall Lane. Timebuilders.org.uk.

Sat 8th April 12noon-4pm.Heeley City Farm Spring Fair. Full range of activities, workshops and stalls including, Arts and crafts, beer tent and live music, heritage workshops, food stalls, animal fun and kids activities. Free entry.

Sun 9th April. Sharrow Lantern Carnival 2017.Gathering Mount Pleasant Park at 7.30pm, set off at 8pm from Mount Pleasant, parade 8pm-9pm. Arrive at Cemetery 9.00-10.30pm ,fire spinning and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/648161348690767/>

Mon 10th April 12noon-2.30pm Nosh and Natter at the Union Hotel, Union Rd.Everyone welcome .Contact Chris Venables for further information 255 0805

Wed 12th April 7.30pm .Cafe#9 proudly presents Rebecca Pronsky a gifted songwriter from Brooklyn who has a 'crystal bright yet earthly sensuous voice. Tickets £11

Wed 12th April 7.00pm. Regather Supper Club - Eating seasonally .Our most popular supper club returns. £20/£18 for Veg Box customers.www.regather.net

Sat 15th April 7.30pm .Scott Doonican, with Barnsley comedy-folk heroes The Bar- Steward Sons of Val Doonican, returns to the Lantern Theatre. Tickets tel 03336663366.

Sat 15th April 7.30pm. Blues Night-Sam Green and The Midnight Heist is a band from the southwest who play swamp infested Blues, Folk, Roots, Rock. Tickets £8. www.regather.net

Mon 17th April 10.00-16.00pm. The Duck Race in Endcliffe Park, Rustlings Rd.

Fri 21st April 8.30pm. Porch Lizards –Bluegrass Band performing at the Nether Edge Bowling Club. Tickets £6 phone Michelle 077427839 or email nedgebc@yahoo.co.uk.

Thursday 20th April, 7.30 pm. St George's Event, 'What is your Dragon?' An Interfaith Event in Shirley House, 31 Psalter Lane

Sat 22nd April 7.30pm. Regather Comedy Club. Featuring Joz Norris and Eleanor Morton £6.50/£7/£30 table of 5. Regather Works,57-59 Club Garden Rd, tel 0114 2731258.

Sun 23rd April 12.00-4.00pm. Sharrow Vale Market Day. A range of activities, entertainment for all the family which includes fresh local produce, books, clothes, crafts and live music.

Sun 30th April 10.00am-4.00pm. Spring in the Woods is back celebrating the end of a long hard winter in Ecclesall Woods. Join us for food, crafts, and activities. For info ring 235 6348

Sun 30th April 2.30pm. Sheffield Environment Week. Sheffield Woodland Connections have organised guided walk for adults to enable you to gain confidence in identifying trees and woodland plants. Meet at Woodland discovery centre, Ecclesall Woods. For further information email franhalsall@googlemail to reserve your place.

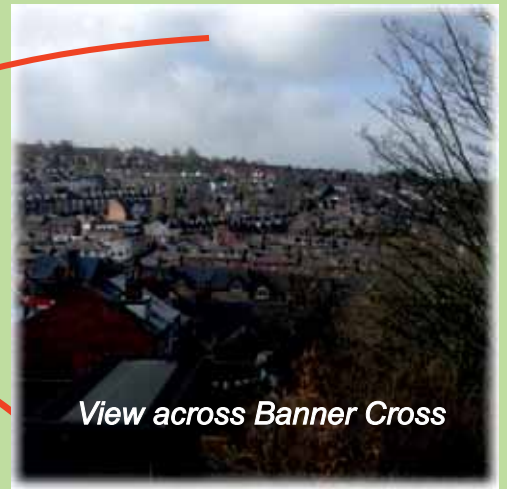
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in Poppies Bakehouse. It's a very clean and airy place with a small collection of gifts on sale as well and a small area for tiny tots to enjoy. We sat in the window, in the sunshine, and watched the Banner Cross world go by. We can see Somewhere Else across the road and we're sad that we can't enjoy its quirky interior. We must return to both of them. For the moment we consider whether to retrace our steps to Nether Edge or to return via Ecclesall Road (with its choice of many more coffee shops) and thence home via Hunter's Bar. We chose the former. Next month we'll walk to somewhere else.

Somewhere Else



Our destination



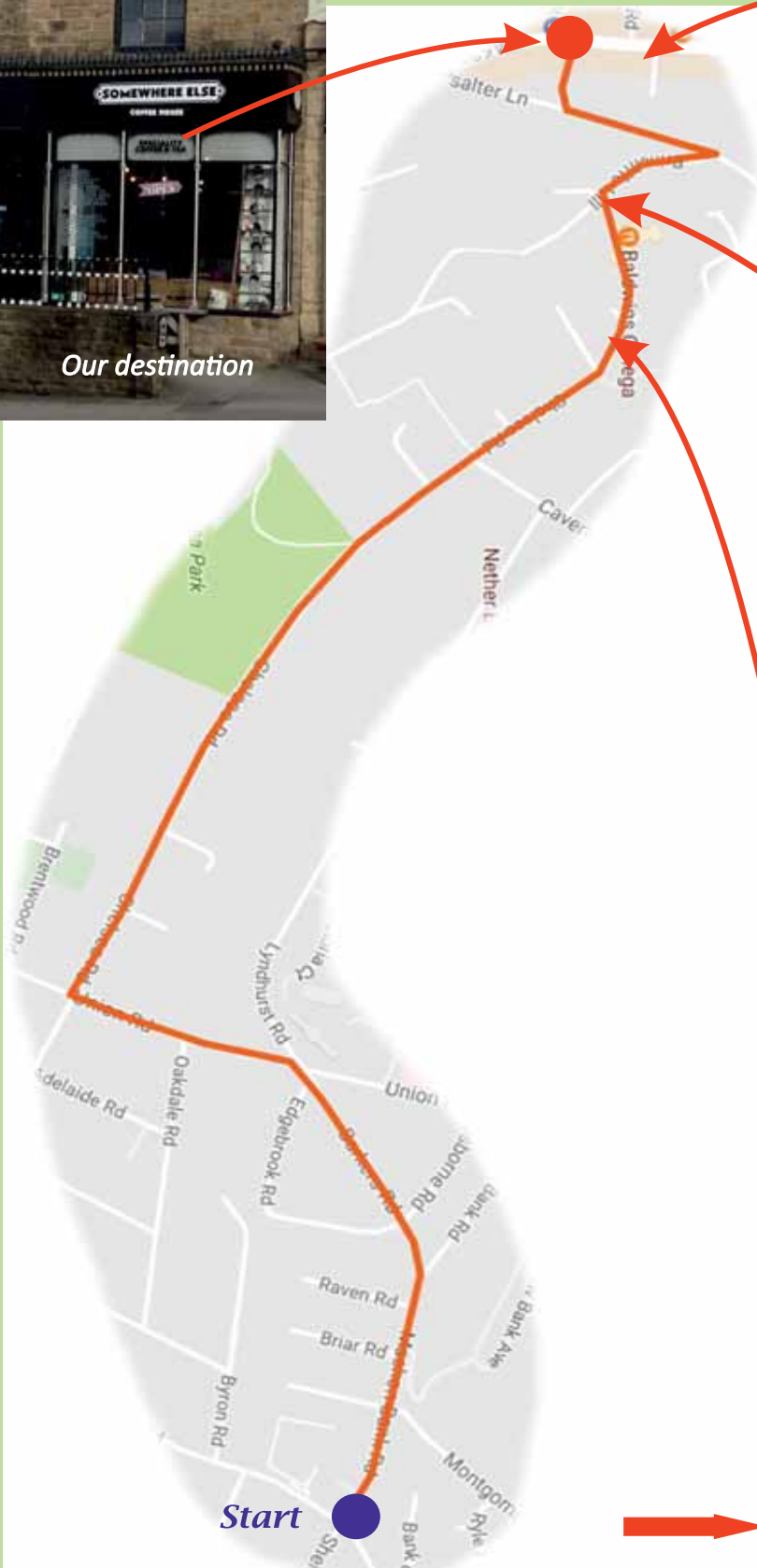
View across Banner Cross



The old privies



As we enter the old quarry



Start

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