



**NETHER EDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWSLETTER** [www.netheredge.org.uk](http://www.netheredge.org.uk)

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**December 2017-January 2018**

Individual views expressed are not necessarily those of the Group

Registered Charity No. 1139239

## ASPECTS OF NETHER EDGE

John Austin

The Nether Edge History Group was restarted in 2013 with the sole aim of producing a local history walk booklet. This morphed into 4 walk leaflets followed by many unique guided walks, history talks and displays. The Group's latest publication, *Aspects of Nether Edge*, is now available. You can order a copy by emailing [historygroup@netheredge.org.uk](mailto:historygroup@netheredge.org.uk).

### Book Teasers: How Well Do You Know Nether Edge ?

*Who were the 'thimble ring and mallet scoundrels' and why were the Nether Edge residents of the 1840's so wary of them ?*

*What was Albert St. Clair, born in America, doing in Nether Edge in 1891 and why should we feel sorry for him ?*

*Who wore 'long blue coats' and suffered catcalls and jeers as a result ?*

*Who hanged herself because she was late lighting a fire ?*

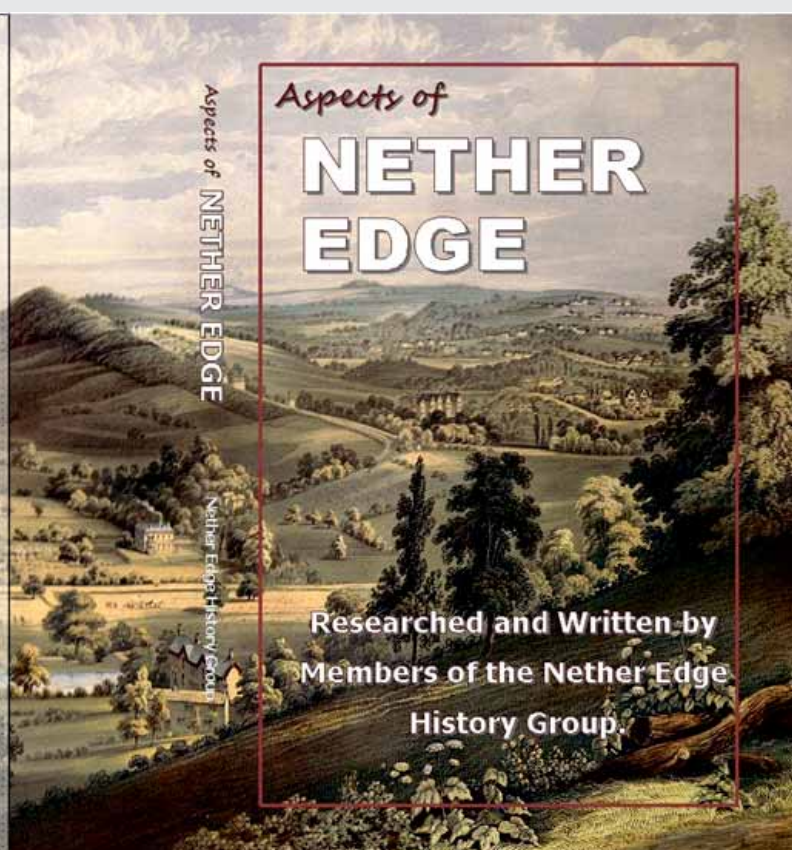
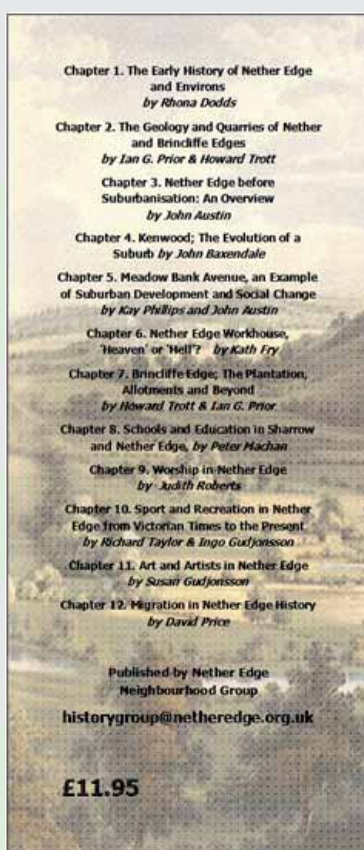
*Who built a Pleasure Garden, using nuts and bolts, and then charged entry ?*

*What pioneering Victorian photographer, based in Nether Edge, famously captured a national disaster on film ?*

*What late Victorian national mania resulted in the formation of a Club at the bottom of Rundle Road ?*

*In the First World war, what Nether Edge house became a receiving base for refugees and from which country did they come ?*

**Answers in 'Aspects of Nether Edge'**



Next year we hope to publish a book of shorter pieces - a successor to *They Lived in Sharrow and Nether Edge* (1988). But that may depend on you! We're looking for articles as short as 500 words or as long as 3,000, so if you have the urge to write about any aspect of the history of Nether Edge that you've been looking into, please email [chrisvenables@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:chrisvenables@blueyonder.co.uk) Or come along to our January open History meeting on Wednesday 3rd January 6-8pm in the Union, and tell us about it.

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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 Chris Venables and the Nether Edge History Group. Any comments or contributions for February's EDGE should be sent to David Pierce

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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](mailto:nengtreasurer@gmail.com)**

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

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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](http://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.



I am pleased to have the opportunity of editing this Xmas edition of EDGE with the Nether Edge History Group. It includes a look back at times long ago as well as activities of today's young people. Historically, John details the academic success of a German family who first came to Sheffield back in 1872, Ann remembers her wartime experiences in Nether Edge and Susan, having been asked to research a photo, describes wartime activities at the Brentwood Tennis Club. Following last year's successful traditional carol singing in the Union, another John wonders what people will think if the singing continues for the next hundred years. He also sets a quiz on the History Group's latest publication, "Aspects of Nether Edge" – the fulfilment of a project he initiated a couple of years ago. Howard reports on the showing of the silent film "Battle of the Somme" at Abbeydale Picture House and the work CADS are doing to restore the beautiful Grade II listed building.

Some current day pleasures which are linked to volunteering are included as Howard describes a work day in the wood, Bill gives advice on photographing birds and Jack tells a lovely tale about two friends he made on his EDGE delivering round. This gives me the opportunity to publically thank Jack who, following a plea from me almost ten years ago, has now produced nearly 100 Crossword puzzles for us. David, who succeeded me as Chairman, considers NENG's role and poses the difficult succession question, whilst the centre pages cover the fun some of our younger generation have at Brownies.

## Correspondance

I just want to make a point about the importance of representing the diversity of the Nether Edge community in The Edge. After a lot of work by many locals to make the festival accessible to all, all I saw in November's festival edition were white faces. I know that many other people attended events across the week.

I appreciate that most of the contributors to The Edge may be white and middle class, like myself.

Nether Edge is generally the type of place where people want to understand more about diversity. Personally, I believe that most people in our area want greater mixing between communities.

I am sure that you want people from all over Nether Edge to feel affiliated to the magazine, and for it to accurately reflect real individual's experiences, moving away from labels and stereotypes. In this way local media plays an important role in social cohesion.

### What do The Edge team and readers think?

Kate West

<https://www.facebook.com/familyvoicesheffield/>

With 5 of its 16 pages devoted to biased coverage of the Save the Trees campaign Edge is morphing into the tree huggers gazette. This year I considered not renewing my NENG subscription and now wish I hadn't. I for one am heartily sick of the campaign and will be mightily pleased when the offending trees are cut down so that Amey can finish the pavement and roadway improvements.

One good bit of news - I was pleased that, following my request, Sheffield Council have now planted a sapling in a gap missed from previous plantings.

Michael Miller, 23 Alexandra Gardens.

## Nether Edge Neighbourhood Group



This year we are collecting for the  
Ruhingya Crisis Appeal and Weston Park  
Hospital.

## Carol Singing



Come and join us singing around the  
neighbourhood and local care homes this  
Christmas

Meet at the Stag's Head 8pm

Finish in the Union Pub around 9pm

Friday the 15th of December.

Dress warmly and wear Christmasy  
(skilling, a torch and drink are useful too)

Hope to see you there! GOG

[illegible]

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CARIBBEAN  
CHRISTMAS  
SATURDAY 15TH DEC**

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## An Action-packed FoBEW Work Morning in Brincliffe Edge Wood

Howard Trott – Friends of Brincliffe Edge Wood

On a warm, dry Wednesday morning in October we fielded a team of ten, working mainly at the eastern (Archer Lane) end of the wood, but also along the top path and at the Fernery entrance opposite Chelsea Park. The main task of the day was to cut back and clear the small meadow known as Needham's Field and our Council Ranger Grahame got straight to work with the strimmer. Volunteers Roger and Mick set about clearing holly and ivy and removing some hefty dead branches along the well-used path above Archer Lane while Chris cleared a large open patch nearby which we will be planting up for next year. Richard made a good start on the meadow raking. Claire and Wendy picked litter and broke up an unsafe wooden garden bench which had been dumped in the wood and Rachel and Sue took on the planting of



Lily of the Valley, primroses, a Sorbus aucuparia (Mountain Ash) and a beautiful holly, the best fruiter available. Ken, meanwhile, was occupied up at the Fernery, removing unwanted seedlings and planting an attractive woodland Geranium (non-native but not invasive). After a welcome hot drink kindly supplied by Grahame, the raking of the field was finished and some digging up of bramble roots was done, mainly by Chris and his mattock. An enjoyable session, with much achieved. Our November Work Morning, the last of the year, was spent clearing paths and steps and pulling out those cans, bottles and who-knows-what from the shrubbery.

The 2018 season starts on Valentines Day, **Wednesday 14th February**, so have a good break, a fine Christmas (not forgetting the Nether Edge Farmers Market and Xmas Fair on Sunday December 3rd, 11.00am - 3.00pm) and a Happy New Year.

NB. *"Aspects of Nether Edge" includes a chapter about our area. Email [historygroup@netheredge.org.uk](mailto:historygroup@netheredge.org.uk) to order.*



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Deborah, Sheffield

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# NENG NEWS

## DO YOU VALUE NENG?

NENG has many faces. There is the incomparable Farmers' Market which transforms Nether Edge four times a year and has raised over £65,000 for local charities. The Festival arose from the market and is now becoming embedded in our community as a diverse collection of entertainment, fun, literature and learning. The Brincliffe Edge Woods are now a more pleasing and cared for environment thanks to the work of its Friends. News of Nether Edge is spread across the community and beyond thanks to the distribution of EDGE by its dedicated team of volunteers. An Open Gardens Day is held annually and roads and park areas are kept tidy by little known members of NENG. The History Group has now crowned its many activities with the publication of a really splendid book, Aspects of Nether Edge. It's an impressive list and one that others look at with envy. Do you value it?

The many faces of NENG are held together by the NENG committee without which these various group activities could not be seen as a coherent whole and benefit from its charitable/company status. But now we are desperate to welcome some new members to that committee with new ideas and willingness to take over the roles of some of its officers including the chairman, treasurer and secretary. Can you help? Would you like to know more? If so please contact the chairman David Pierce or our secretary, Ruth Bernard. (For contact details see page 2.)

### Parking meters - Viv Lockwood reports.

It is four years since the Banner Cross Neighbourhood Group took up the matter of installing parking meters at Banner Cross on behalf of the big majority of traders who were seeing their trade affected by motorists leaving their vehicles outside the shopping parade throughout the unrestricted hours – often using the opportunity of free parking to get the bus into town. Many shopkeepers told us how their trade depended on short visits by customers and had stories to tell of lost customers who had given up trying to find a parking space.

At last, after appearing at Committee meetings in the Town Hall to argue the case, the council have agreed to install parking meters. There will be a 20 minute period of free parking followed by a charge of 70p per hour.

**Festival of Light!** The St Luke's Hospice Festival of Light is back on Sunday December 3 and celebrating its 20th anniversary. This year's Festival – for many people the start of the Christmas season – is hosted by BBC Radio Sheffield's Paulette Edwards, with music from Oughtibridge Brass Band, the Sheffield Harmony Chorus and acoustic singer songwriter LIO.

Adding to the Festive atmosphere, there will also be a hog roast, mulled wine and mince pies, with a free park and ride service from Tesco, Abbeydale Road, provided by First. Starting at 5pm, the Festival of light is a wonderful way to remember loved ones and make a difference to the lives of St Luke's patients. see [www.stlukeshospice.org.uk](http://www.stlukeshospice.org.uk)

A new **Gin Bar** has opened in Vintedge – in the old bank at the corner of Sheldon Rd and Abbeydale Rd.

After 2 years, the final meeting of the **Nosh & Natter** group is being held on 11th December.



### NENG's Tea Party

In November more than 30 of NENG's volunteers enjoyed some delicious food at the Nether Edge Bowling Club

### Time to sign! SYP Alerts is Go

PCSO Sarah Hague reports: Local residents are being encouraged to register for a rapid messaging service from South Yorkshire Police designed to quickly and efficiently inform people about community safety issues. Email and voice messages can now be issued simultaneously to subscribers alongside text messages when officers need to reach large swathes of the community with relevant information.

Speaking ahead of November's official launch, Assistant Chief Constable Hartley said: "This is an excellent way for people to be made aware of major incidents, crime prevention and community safety advice which is relevant to them. It's a free service, which is very easy to sign up to and I'm certain our alerts will be welcomed by those who want to know what's happening in their neighbourhood. Once registered, people can choose what information they receive eg. crime trends in their area or help in finding missing people and how often they receive it. SYP Alerts will be a very useful tool that delivers benefits to the public and police alike." People wishing to register for the new service should visit [www.sypalerts.co.uk](http://www.sypalerts.co.uk)



One of the unforeseen bonuses of delivering EDGE is the animals. I like animals, even some of the human ones, and try to make friends wherever I can.

Take Ginger for instance. He was sitting on the doorstep when I opened the gate. A big, solid, ginger tomcat. We hadn't met before, but he ran down the drive to meet me as if we were old friends. We went through the usual pleasantries. I patted his bottom and he wiped his nose on my trousers. I pushed the EDGE through the letter box and made to go, but it was clear that he wanted more. "If it isn't too much trouble. The merest trifle. Wouldn't want to put you out." Well, what are friends for? I rang the doorbell and continued on my way.

I was hidden by the neighbouring hedge when I heard the door open, and a puzzled voice said "Oh! Hi, Ginger." I didn't enlighten them. There was a pause, then the door closed behind him. Nice one, Ginger!

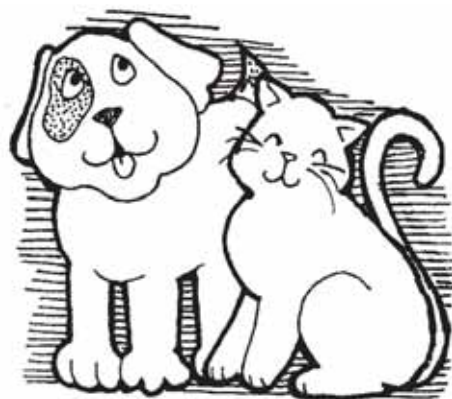
Then there was Boogie. I must have been collecting subs, because I rang the doorbell. This triggered furious barking from the back garden and cries of "Boogie! Come back!" A large, hairy, brown and white dog came hurtling round the corner. I must have been closer than he thought, because he arrived in my presence in mid bark, and his open mouth collided with my hand.

Now I could tell at once that it was an accident. He hadn't meant to do it. Poor old Boogie wasn't sure this was how the world would see it. His face took on a look of abject horror and remorse. "Cripes! I've sort of BITTEN him. This is it. The obedience classes. The muzzle. The dogs' home. One mistake and you spend the rest of your life paying for it."

The family arrived, full of apologies. I made light of it. "No harm done. Only doing his duty. Bark worse than his bite." And so forth. Boogie's face took on a puzzled look. Why wasn't he in the doghouse?

We concluded our business and I went on my way. As I passed him, I held out my hand for him to sniff and patted him. "Good dog, Boogie", I said. Boogie gazed up at me. His face was the face of a dog that hadn't really understood the last five minutes. Nice but dim.

That was the beginning of a beautiful friendship. From then on, we were best mates, and he was always pleased to see me. I never let on about the accidental 'sort-of-bite' (until now) and neither, I'm sure, did he. Nice one Boogie!






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## The Sheffield Carol Tradition – John Austin

In 1872 Thomas Hardy published 'Under the Greenwood Tree'. It recounts and laments the sad fate of the Melstock Quire, a group of rustic working men and occasional musicians whose semi-official role was to provide music for Church services and religious occasions until a new vicar arrives, ousts them and replaces them with an organ. This was a process replicated across the whole country around the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century as the established Church, discomforted by the uncontrolled, anarchic and somewhat irreverent nature of the old ways, moved to take control by imposing an official standardised, more sanitised system. This not only made the old bands redundant but also divorced the music, now played by an isolated organist, from the earthy musical culture of the congregation.

In a very few areas the old practices survived, with the dilettante bands decamping to chapels, pubs and factories, effectively going underground. The Sheffield Carol Tradition offers a rare surviving example of this, breaking surface each year between November and Christmas, mostly in the pubs to the North and West of the City.

What are the characteristics of this tradition? A repertoire of carols with words and tunes not found in the official Hymn books, a style of delivery celebrating energy, passion and gusto over sophistication, and idiosyncratic tweaks peculiar, not just to the Sheffield area, but even to individual pubs within the area. But most notably, it's an enjoyable occasion for mass audience participation, with no requirement for musical knowledge, familiarity or possession of a trained voice.

Last year, the Nether Edge History Group, working with Gareth and Sarah at The Union, experimented with a 'Singalong Introduction to the Sheffield Carol Tradition'. Desperately hoping we might get a couple of dozen participants, we finished up with standing room only, uninhibited participation and a universal request to 'do it again'.

Working on the basis that every tradition has to have an initial starting point, and encouraged by Hardy's words that, though unofficial, these carols 'are good singing still', we are pleased to announce a repeat session. Who knows? In a hundred years time maybe the descendants of Gareth and Sarah, having inherited the running of the Union, will turn to the sepia photographs of them on the wall, laugh at their strange clothes and hairstyles and proudly announce the latest performance of a tradition started all those years ago.

*I hope you can join us at this year's "Singalong Introduction to the Sheffield Carol Tradition", at The Union Hotel, Union Rd. 7.00–8.00pm, on Thursday December 21<sup>st</sup> 2017. Come early if you want a seat.*



## St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church

### Wishing you peace and joy at Christmas

We welcome you to our Christmas 2017 celebrations:

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 10.30 am** - Advent Carol Service with Holy Communion. Please bring gifts for Baby Basics suitable for babies and their mothers. Followed by soup and puddings

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December** - Taizé prayer for Advent in Church, starting at 7.00pm

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December from 6.30 pm** Sheffield Carols – Come and sing traditional Sheffield Carols with live music, delicious refreshments and Christmas gift stalls. Free Entry - For all the family

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 3.00pm** - Crib Service, for toddlers and their families  
**6.30pm** - Carol Service

**Christmas Eve 5.00pm** - Christingle Service

**Christmas Day 10.30am** - Family Communion

For further details of other services, please visit our website at [www.standrewspsalterlane.org.uk](http://www.standrewspsalterlane.org.uk)



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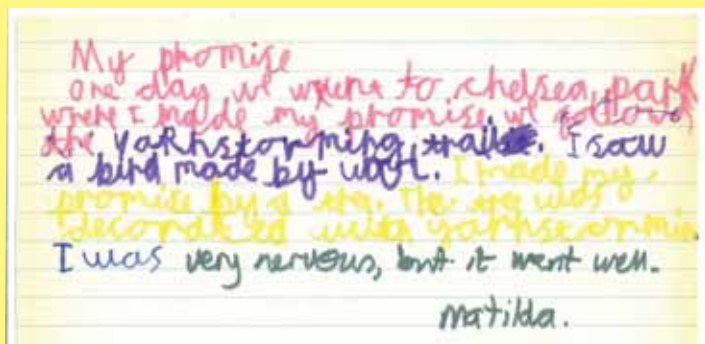
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We are the Brownies of St Andrew's Hall. We have done lots. !!

**Horse riding:** The first thing we did this term was horse riding. It was great fun and I loved the bumpiness! Olive



The Sawmill: One of the things we did this term was go to the (Ecclesall) sawmill. Misha's dad told us lots of things about how to bend wood. He showed us some onions and apples (his sculptures) made of wood. At the end we got some wooden sticks and toasted marshmallows. What fun!



## Girlguiding

Do you have fond memories of the games, activities and camps which you enjoyed as a Brownie or Guide? Would you like to help today's youngsters?

Girlguiding UK has a waiting list of over 70,000 girls who, with your help, could benefit from the amazing experiences guiding has to offer. Volunteer with us today to help a generation of girls build their confidence, have fun and fulfil their potential. Find out more at [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) or contact Mavis Paul, our local coordinator - email [mavis.brian\\_paul@btinternet.com](mailto:mavis.brian_paul@btinternet.com) tel. 268 3927 or 07725 464611.



We went Horse riding at the start of term.  
We learnt how to turn the horse how to  
stop and start and make the horse go  
faster. I rode a nice little pony called  
Yorkie. The place where we rode the  
horses was called smettings farm, Smet-  
tings farm also had an archery target



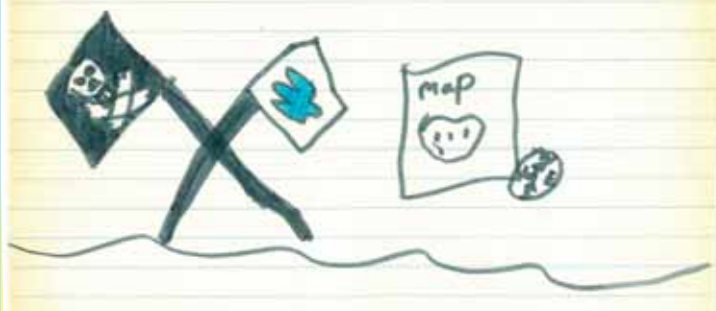
Imogen

**Yarnstorming:** To start off with we did some finger knitting. Then we handed in all our stuff and Snowy got all the knitting hung up around lots of trees near us. We had lots of fun. Anna

The next week we followed the yarnstorming trail. I saw a bird made of wool. In Chelsea Park, I made my Brownie Promise by a tree decorated with our yarnstorming. I was very nervous, but it went well. Matilda

We went to brownie camp and we stayed in  
a bield with dorms and beds. We went  
tree climbing the theme was swallows and  
amazons the next day went to the gift  
I got some polo mints and a toy fox  
and we went on a treacher hut with signs  
we found some sweets it was fun.  
I liked it there it was fun. I was tired  
afterwards because I stayed up late  
but I did get to sleep. I made a new  
friend called Aimie. We were both  
artists a brownie camp.

Belle





## Operation Christmas Child:

We do Christmas child boxes because we know it's good to be kind to children around the world who are less fortunate than ourselves. In the Christmas child boxes we put lovely things like pencils and pens and useful things like toothbrush and toothpaste. We put in fun stuff so they can have fun. And we put in things they need so they can have hygiene for as long as the supplies last. We decorated the boxes in lovely colourful Christmas paper to stop the boxes looking dull.

Imogen

We do various child boxes. We do this because we know it's good to be kind to children around the world who are less fortunate than ourselves. In the Christmas child boxes we put lovely things like pencils, pens and useful things like toothbrush and toothpaste. We also put in things they need so they can have hygiene for as long as the supplies last. We decorated the boxes in lovely colourful Christmas paper to stop the boxes looking dull.



"We want to show they are loved."

## Pack Holiday:

After half term we went on Pack Holiday which was one of the best things we have done at Brownies. We went tree climbing, den building and we also learnt some knots.

Molly

We stayed in a building with dorms and beds. The teams were Swallows and Amazons. The next day we went to the gift shop. I bought some polo mints and a toy fox. We went on a treasure hunt with tracking signs and found some sweets. It was fun. I liked it there. I was tired afterwards because I stayed up late but I did get to sleep. I made a new friend called Aimie. We were both Artists.

Belle

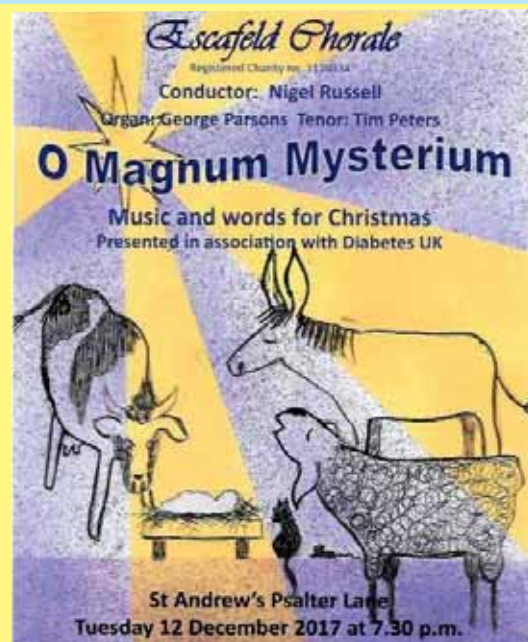
I was in the Swallows dorm with Katy, Me, Alexandra, Noulla and Aimie. We laid a treasure hunt and I hid sweets on the roof of a shed. We found the ones that the Amazons had hidden.

Olive.



The Harvest: First we decorated paper bags. Then we filled them with goodies. The next Monday we all met at St Andrew's church and split up into groups of three or four. Then we went around to care homes, flats and houses for the elderly people and gave them our bags of food. They were all very grateful. Anna

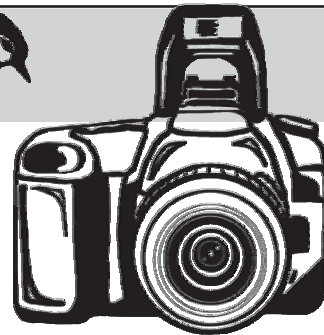
It made me happy seeing the reactions on their faces. I like to give them company because they probably don't get it from young people that much. Misha





## SNAPPING BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES

Bill Atherton



As we drove from Owler Bar towards Baslow there was a stag's head, only his head, outlined on the horizon, black against the grey sky, like an heraldic symbol. Just for a split second, then it was gone. It would have been great to capture a picture of that. But I was driving with a sleeping child in the back seat so I really ought to have been looking at the road!

My cousin Donald once said, "The camera you have in your pocket is the best kind as you are able to act when surprising things appear." This was in response to the photo I had taken of a young sparrow hawk. This had been taken outside St Oswald's scout hut. It was just standing by the patch of nettles waiting for lunch. I took my phone out of my pocket and took a photo. It didn't move so I went a little closer and took another. It was standing on some bark & woodchips. The browns of its plumage gave it good colour camouflage. So having taken the two photos I continued on my walk to collect my car from the garage on Edgedale Rd.

I was unable to photograph its parents later that year as they tossed food one to another over Brincliffe Edge around 70 feet above me. Too fast and unexpected, I was digging on the allotment at the time. I had read of that happening and was delighted to see it.

My dad gave up photographing birds. That was well before digital photography. It was costing him a fortune in film. He took to flowers. They stay still. When taking pictures of things that move it's best to snap the first thing you see and keep on taking pictures as you go closer, until your subject fills the viewfinder or flies off. We were on holiday on Sicily walking through the temple of Jupiter and I saw a black gecko in the bole of an olive tree. Took my first picture. As I got closer I realised there was another one next to it the same colour as the bark of the tree. Kept going closer and had both in the frame when a lizard I had not seen ran over the top of the black one and spooked him into running too.

Taking pictures of flowers, butterflies and other insects is when your phone comes into its own. Two dramatic pictures stand out for me. The big red beetle that was eating greenfly on cow parsley on the allotment lane; not seen it before or since. Turns out it was a *pyrochora coccinea*, rare in these parts. But the photo that has caused most fuss has been the White Letter Hairstreak.

Taking the photo of the odd butterfly that had come through my attic window was quite tricky as it had landed on my left hand and was drinking sweat from the creases of my left palm as I tried to focus the camera. (I am left-handed.) "Where did you take that picture? Are there any elm trees nearby?" And if you live in Nether Edge you will know the rest of the story. So I will apologise here. All this fuss about 'The Chelsea Elm', it is my fault!

But with your camera you don't have to limit yourself to upsetting SCC.

There is a survey of insects being run by the Sorby Invertebrate Group from March 2017 to March '18. For further information contact them <http://www.sorby.org.uk/groups/sorby-invertebrate-group/>. Along with adding information to the survey they have given me information as to what it is I am photographing. I did not know there were so many types of hoverfly! And apparently a butterfly photo I sent in has a variation in wing markings that has not been recorded before. Who knows I could have a butterfly named after me!

Bill Atherton

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# Christmas

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When it went on the market newly-built in 1861, 21 Kenwood Park Rd was described as an 'excellent stone-built Gothic villa', commanding 'very extensive and beautiful views over Meersbrook and the Derbyshire moors', and all within a few minutes' walk of the Sharrow omnibus – a snip at £650. Thirty years later, it was the home of the Glauerts, one of the most interesting of Kenwood's Victorian business families – although in the end their achievements were more in the field of science than business.

Louis Glauert (1846-1919) and his younger brother Carl arrived in Sheffield from Oldenberg in Germany in 1872 to set up a cutlery firm. Moving from one factory to another as their business grew, L and C Glauert ended up at Wallace Works on Furnival St near the city centre. They seem to have been involved in many branches of the cutlery trade, but especially in the production of 'German forks', described as having 'flat shank and bib', over which they claimed copyright. No doubt the German connection remained important: in 1877 Louis returned to Germany and came back married to Amanda Watkinson, who was English but born in Hamburg, where her father Samuel had moved his cutlery business in the 1850s. Both brothers joined the Freemasons and became naturalised British subjects.

Sadly Carl died in 1891 aged only 42, but not before marrying Clara Colver, a farmer's daughter, but also a member of one of Sheffield's most prominent business families – a useful connection for any rising Sheffield businessman.

By this time Louis and Amanda were living in Nether Edge, at 17 Glen Rd, where four of their five children were born in quick succession: Ludwig (1879), Otto (1881), Elsa (1882) and Gertrud (1883) – and then after a long interval, Hermann (1892). Clearly the family needed and could now afford a larger house, and by 1891 they were at 21 Kenwood Park Rd, which remained the family home until Amanda died in 1925.

But it was the children who made the Glauerts unusual. Instead of following the usual pathway of the family firm or local professions, four of them went to university and achieved academic distinction in science and mathematics. Ludwig, like his brothers, attended local preparatory schools in Kenwood and went on to Sheffield Royal Grammar School on Collegiate Crescent (later King Edward VII). As a teenager he was a keen member of the Sheffield Naturalists' Club, and a noted chess player. After achieving first class honours in Geology at the then Sheffield University College, he worked for a while as a demonstrator in the Metallurgy Department, and then in his father's firm. But Geology and Natural History were closest to his heart, and in 1908 he went to work for the West Australia Mines Department where he could pursue these interests. He made his name as a paleontologist for his work on Australian fossils and living animals including scorpions and reptiles, and eventually became Director of the Western Australia Museum, where he displayed his passion for engaging the public in the world of science and nature.

Otto won first prize in mathematics and a prestigious scholarship at Clare College, Cambridge in 1900, and played chess for the University. But his academic career was dogged by ill-health, and he emerged with a third class degree and a career as a schoolmaster, though producing significant work in the field of aeronautics, no doubt inspired by his brother Hermann. Hermann's career was a glittering one, though tragically short. After winning the prestigious Open Mathematics Scholarship at Trinity College, Cambridge he took several important prizes for Mathematics and Astronomy, and was a Wrangler in 1913: Cambridge's way of saying that he got a First in Maths. He became a Fellow of Trinity and intended to become an astronomer, but, perhaps unhappy languishing in Cambridge during the War because of his German ancestry, he switched fields and took a post at the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough, where he became Principal Scientific Officer and one of the foremost pioneers in the new field of aerodynamics, developing theory that was crucial to future aircraft design, before being killed in a freak accident in 1934, while out for a walk with his family and his brother Otto. He was only 42.

I have left the two girls to last because in many ways their careers were the most interesting. Elsa's time at Sheffield High School was covered in scholarly glory, and she arrived at Girton College, Cambridge in 1900 full of promise. At this time the talk was all of the suffrage and the 'New Woman'. When Elsa completed her course in 1904 she was the great hope of the feminists, and a large crowd of women assembled to hear her results. Cambridge did not give women degrees until 1948, but in a typically English fudge they were told what degree they would have got: Elsa would have been a Wrangler, and was the best female mathematician of her year. However, unlike her brothers, she did not seek to climb further in the academic world but began a successful career as a school teacher, eventually in 1922 becoming Head of the new Scarborough Girls High School, where she remained until she retired in 1946. I have it on good authority that her colleagues, in recognition of the unfairness of Elsa not receiving a Cambridge degree, refused to wear their own academic gowns.

And Gertrud, what of her? It is, alas, an all too familiar story. She never married, or went to university, but remained at home in Kenwood Park Road with her ageing parents and after they died went to live in Cambridge with Hermann's widow Muriel – herself a scientist of some repute, as were her and Hermann's three children, and poor uncle Carl's only son.

At the end of the nineteenth century there was a lot of talk about German competition and in particular Germany's superior focus on technical and scientific education. The Sheffield industries were inherently scientific, and many businessmen's sons took qualifications in chemistry or metallurgy at the newly established Sheffield University, before joining the family firm. That the Glauerts (or most of them) climbed higher, and away from Sheffield, I am sure owes a great deal to their German cultural heritage.



In 2017 I was joined by three other founder members of the now defunct Friends of Abbeydale Picture House charity to attend a memorable event at said Abbeydale Picture House.

The evening was part of the Imperial War Museum's 100 nationwide performances (Sheffield being their 98<sup>th</sup>) of the famous 1916 silent film – Battle of the Somme – as part of the First World War Centenary Commemorations.

The four of us arrived at 7.30pm and the evening began with four poems from A.E. Housman's A Shropshire Lad, performed first by voice then by piano and violin. Quite a moving start. This was followed by a long introduction from a representative of the Imperial War Museum who is touring the country with this event. Apparently when the film was first released it was, at one stage, being shown at five separate cinemas throughout Sheffield with the Cinema House in Barker's Pool showing it at 2.30, 4.30, 6.30 and 8.30pm daily!

The film remains one of the most successful British films ever made. It is estimated over 20 million tickets were sold in Great Britain in the first two months of release and the film was distributed world-wide to demonstrate to allies and neutrals Britain's commitment to the First World War. It is the source of many of that conflict's most iconic images and was made by British official cinematographers Geoffrey Malins and John McDowell. It was made in five sections and these were slowly trickled to the cinemas to keep the interest going and boost national morale. The tone was generally upbeat but some scenes were nevertheless very harrowing and conveyed the horrors of war in what was then a very different world. The excellent musical score was by Laura Rossi and superbly performed by the 50 piece Endcliffe Orchestra.

It was wonderful to hear live music once again at The Abbeydale and confirmed what many performers have previously said - that the acoustics here are the best in Sheffield. Especially now that the suspended ceiling has

been removed to expose the original domed ceiling.

After the performance we met Nick Potter of the CADS (Creative Arts Development Space) Trust who is leading the latest attempt to restore the cinema to its former glory. He kindly gave us a guided private tour and CADS progress is very apparent in what is a mammoth task. The building now seems to be in good hands and is definitely going in the right direction.

Since the inevitable demise of the Friends of Abbeydale Picture House I have continued to support the various attempts to help this wonderful Grade II listed building and at long last the dreams I had when I first became involved with this iconic cinema look to be coming true. It was an exceptionally difficult and distressing time for us as founder



members during our involvement with the 'Friends' and unfortunately we were stymied in our efforts by factors which I will not go into. Many of you know the true story as to why our attempts were unsuccessful, why the 'Friends' lost so many Trustees and volunteers and exactly who was responsible for the failure. However we have every faith in the building's ability to survive these ups and downs and the atmosphere inside is now one of openness, warmth, and friendliness.

We rounded off the evening by visiting the Picture House Social which is in the basement of the cinema where the old nightclub and snooker hall used to be. This is an incredibly successful venue and one of THE places to go in Sheffield's nightlife. We didn't stop long as being four 'crumbles' we stuck out like sore thumbs! Try it anyway, you'll be amazed by the buzz of the place.

I would urge you to support any events put on at The Abbeydale. They are on the verge of obtaining a full operational licence so there will be many more things to see. Keep an eye on the press and the CADS website as they do deserve our full backing.

This landmark Grade II listed building, originally opened in 1920 as a cinema, needs to be put back on the map again, and I think that CADS are just the people to achieve this. Please support them in any way you can.



Christmas was only a couple of weeks after the Sheffield Blitz on Dec 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 1940. We spent Christmas that year at Totley with my Grandmother, having lost everything in the fires that destroyed our home. My mother talked about the Christmas puddings she had made which were lost. I remember in later years during the war being sent to Redman's shop which survived the Blitz on the Moor for the ingredients for puddings when they were available. Christmas 1940 was celebrated as well as possible in Sheffield; the pantomimes took place as usual, as the theatres escaped the damage. Special meals were prepared for the homeless. I had more presents than usual, especially my doll Mary who had survived the Blitz because she was at the doll's hospital in London Road being repaired and had a new set of clothes.

By Christmas 1941 we were rehoused in Nether Edge. With rationing, the usual cakes and poultry were impossible, people had to improvise and my mother who had been a cook in private households was not very good at this and gave up the battle. I remember liquid paraffin which was a medicine was used to make pastry and there were plenty of cook books and Ministry of Food leaflets to help housewives. My father was Irish and our relations in Ireland sent us butter wrapped in leaves and unbelievably we had trays of eggs arrive unbroken. For Christmas my aunt sent chickens with their innards and feathers complete. My mother was used to gutting and plucking poultry but the smell was awful although the chicken tasted good. One of my aunts lived in Grindleford and reared a pig which was killed at Christmas and we all expected a share in the meat. Other members of the family had chickens, so eggs were available for cooking; dried egg was useful as well. I remember turning a glass jar with cream from the top of the milk to make butter. When things improved, we had goose rather than turkey, there was a lot of fat to deal with, and all cooking was in the oven of a Yorkshire range and a tiny gas ring.

Christmas decorations were paper chains and nothing new during the war. Family parties were held at one of my aunts' houses and a walk home in the blackout as buses did not run on Christmas Day. We played card games and two of my uncles dressed up as Gert and Daisy, a popular radio comedy act. Another uncle did conjuring tricks, not very well. At school we did a Nativity play and other concert performances. Carol concerts and Midnight Mass when I was a bit older were at church. Our Christmas stockings always had an orange when available and new money. I remember receiving an Enid Blyton book. Christmas was celebrated as much as was possible and children were sheltered from the harsh realities of wartime especially at Christmas.

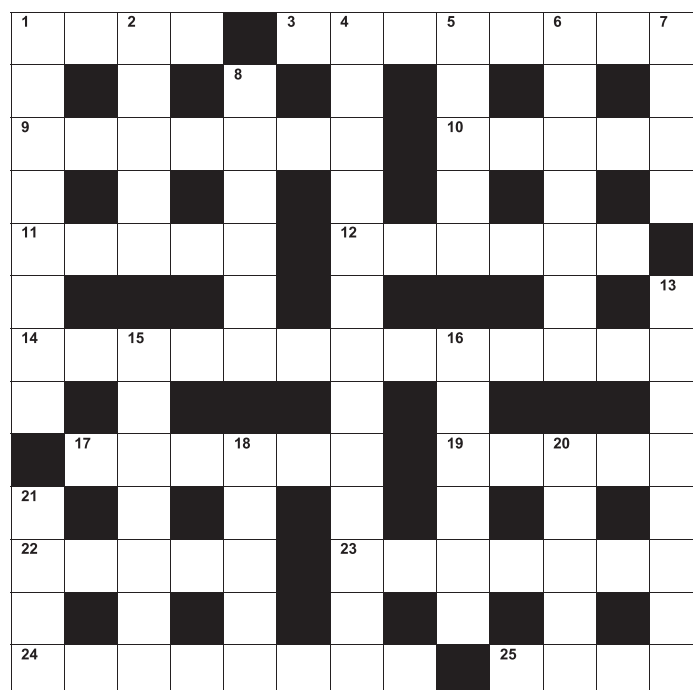
## SPRAT'S NINETY SEVENTH CROSSWORD.

### Across

1. Polish, nude or light brown (4)
3. Water (5,3)
9. Pungent gas (7)
10. Innocent (5)
11. Durable fabric (5)
12. Prickly plant, formerly used in the textile industry (6)
14. Spring-loaded exercise device (5,8)
17. Lie in a relaxed fashion (6)
19. Ceramic country (5)
22. Of the country (5)
23. Area presided over by a bishop (7)
24. Vitamin B1 deficiency (8)
25. Leave out (4)

### Down

1. Cabbage etc (8)
2. Thigh bone (5)
4. US insulating strip on a door (5,8)
5. Devil ray (5)
6. The flavour of Pernod, Ouzo and Raki (and balls!) (7)
7. Wide-mouthed water jug (4)
8. Hexapod (6)
13. Crossbow (8)
15. Ruler, moth or penguin (7)
16. Used to moor ships (6)
18. Improvise (2,3)
20. Part of the intestine (5)
21. Larva or food (4)



Crossword answers p15



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skip a week*



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## WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER /JANUARY

**Sun 3rd Dec.** 11.00-3pm Nether Edge Farmers' Market/Xmas Fair. Note earlier start and finish time. Lots of food , craft stalls & live music. Supporting Disability Sheffield & Sheffield Churches Council for Community Care. Santa (with his sack) talking to good children in his grotto up on the Bowling Green.

**Sun 3rd Dec.** 10am – 3pm. Pedlars Corner Car Boot Sale and Community Flea Market at Abbeydale Picture House, Abbeydale Rd. Stalls inside and out.

**Sun 3rd Dec** 2.00pm. Historical Tour. Discover the history of the cemetery and learn about some of its residents on this guided walk. Meet at the General Cemetery Gatehouse, Cemetery Avenue, S11 8NT.

**Wed 6th Dec** 8.00-1100pm. Sophie Barker Live + Animal DJ set. £8. Regather Works, 57-59 Club Garden Road. Tel 2731258.

**Fri 8th Dec.** 7.30 for 8pm. John Bartram Quiz night. £2 entry proceeds to local charity. Nether Edge Bowling Club.

**Sat 9th Dec.** 1pm-3pm. Christmas Wreath Making at the General Cemetery, Cemetery Avenue, S11 8NT, also children's crafts and free refreshments. Materials sourced from site. Suggested min. donation of £5.

**Sat 9th Dec** 11.00-3pm. Winter Fayre including Santa's Grotto, kids rides and activities, gifts, art and crafts, food stalls and mulled wine. Heeley City Farm.

**Sat 9th Dec.** 7.30pm.The Abbeydale Singers performing their Christmas Concert at St Mark's Church Broomhill. S10 25E.

**Sat 9th Dec.** 7.30pm. General Knowledge Charity Quiz Night, Nether Edge Bowling Club. All welcome – but come early!

**Sun 10th Dec.** 11am – 4pm Christmas Vintage Flea & Food Market, Abbeydale Picture House inc. Santa's Grotto & Live Music.

**Sun. 10th Dec** Sharrowvale Rd Christmas Market.

**Sun 10th Dec** 7.00pm. Anna Silvera performing at Cafe#9, Nether Edge, Nether Edge Rd. Tickets £11.

**Mon 11th Dec.** 12pm-2.30pm. Last Nosh and Natter at the Union Hotel, Union Road. Pop in for a chat or something to eat.

**Tues 12th Dec.** 7.30pm. Escafeld Chorale Christmas Concert "O Magnum Mysterium"at St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church. Tickets £10 (£8 concessions, £4 Students, accompanied Under 16s Free).Includes seasonal refreshments.

**Wed 13th Dec.** 7.30pm. The Elvis Dead at the Regather Comedy Club, Regather Works, 57-59 Club Garden Rd, Sharrow. Retelling of The Evil Dead 11 through the songs of Elvis Presley.

**Wed 13th Dec** 8.30pm. Tom McConville known as the Newcastle Fiddle Player will be performing at the Nether Edge Bowling Club. Tickets in advance £7 (on the door £9)

**Thur 14th Dec** 6.30 – 9pm Sheffield Carols Evening at St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church. Entrance free. A great family evening, singing Sheffield Carols. Homemade soup and cakes. Christmas gift stalls.

**Fri 15th Dec** from 6pm. Nether Edge Carol Singing. Meet at the Stag and finish at the Union Hotel about 9pm. Families welcome. Collecting for Burmese Rohingya Refugees and Weston Park Hospital.

**Sat 16th Dec.** 2pm matinee Dilys Guite players perform Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, Lantern Theatre, Kenwood Park Rd.

**Sat 16th Dec.** 5-11pm. Sharrow's Caribbean Christmas at Sharrow Community Forum, Old Junior School, South View Rd, S7 1DB. Free entry. Fun for all, with entertainment, food and drink.

**Sat 16th Dec.** 7.30-10.30pm. Love Music hate racism, Regather Works with Bell Hagg Arkestar. Tickets £4 unwaged, £8 waged.

**Tue 19th Dec.** Carols at the Nether Edge Bowling club.

**Thur 21st Dec.** Singalong Introduction to the Sheffield Carol Tradition. Union Hotel, Union Rd.

**Thu 21st Dec** 7.30-11.00pm. The Silver Darlings Midwinter Night. Tickets £7. Regather Works. Tel 2731258.

**Thur 21st & Fri 22nd** 7.30pm. A Christmas Double Whammy. The Goat Roper Rodeo Band performing at Cafe#9, Nether Edge Road. Tickets £11.

**Wed. 3rd Jan 2018** 6 – 8pm. Nether Edge History Group Open Meeting at the Union Hotel. Opportunity to pop in for a chat, learn what the history group is doing, share details of your historical interests. All welcome.

**Mon. 15th Jan 2018** 7 – 9.30pm. Psalter Lane Action Group for Safer Traffic. Public meeting in St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church.

**Sun. 28th Jan 2018** 10-11am Big Garden Birdwatch, RSPB's national bird survey, in Sheffield General Cemetery with some of Sheffield's bird experts. 11am – 12noon Kids crafts.

1	B	U	F	F	3	A	D	5	A	M	S	A	L	7	E
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25	B	E	R	I	B	E	R	I		O	M	I	T		

Crossword Answers



## ANYONE FOR TENNIS? .....-Susan Gudjonsson

It's over 130 years since tennis was introduced into Nether Edge and in that time there have been five successful Lawn Tennis Clubs (LTC). One by one they have closed down, their courts giving way to the demand for housing land, or their finances falling victim to a dip in enthusiasm for the game. Today only one club, Brentwood LTC, remains. Founded in 1907, the club is proud of its history and in June of this year held an Open Day to celebrate the centenary of a very special photograph that hangs on the clubhouse wall. Taken in June 1917, the photo shows tennis players sitting with wounded soldiers, watching a game on Court 3 at Brentwood.

The photograph, taken by Brentwood member Alfred Lucas, came about because in 1915, after tennis players came under criticism for not supporting the war effort, the committee at Brentwood had an idea. They decided to invite wounded soldiers to come to the club once a fortnight during the season, to be entertained and to play a game of tennis if they were able. Tea and sandwiches were provided and motorized transport was sent to the local Base Hospital at Collegiate Crescent to collect and return the soldiers. The club offered this hospitality for five seasons, from June 1915 to September 1919. It proved so popular that other local clubs, including Nether Edge Tennis Club (where Birchcroft flats are now) followed Brentwood's example.

So on 25<sup>th</sup> June this year, Brentwood invited the people of Nether Edge to pay them a visit, as members staged a re-creation of the photograph from 100 years ago. Period costumes were worn, games were played with wooden racquets, while tea and cucumber sandwiches, along with other delicious refreshments, were laid on in the clubhouse. The sun shone, a good time was had by all and at 3 o'clock the old photograph was re-created. We can see the result here:

NB: The house (on Brincliffe Edge Road) is still there, but the trees have grown!

If you fancy a game of tennis up at Brentwood, contact Andy Fee, Club President [andy@brentwoodtennisclub.com](mailto:andy@brentwoodtennisclub.com).

And, if you'd like to read more about this story, you can find it in the Sport and Recreation chapter of our new book "Aspects of Nether Edge" on sale at the Nether Edge and Sharrowvale Rd December Markets.



June 1917



June 2017

### Extract from a Nether Edge Memories notebook

My Mother was mentioned in the book "They Lived in Sharrow and Nether Edge". Nancy Webster sheltered from the Sheffield Blitz with her friend who she was visiting. Nancy lived on Harley Rd, Ecclesall Rd South with her parents. I returned to the area when I was 60 years old and retired to a Victorian Terrace on Psalter Lane. I missed Nether Edge so much. My son lives on Montgomery Rd and my daughter lives next door to me with her family. We will never ever leave!  
*Lynda.*

