

NEDGE

NETHER EDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWSLETTER www.netheredge.org.uk

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Plymouth Road on a winters' morning
by Tim Rose
from justupmystreet.com

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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.

Howard Fry compiled this month's EDGE. Ruth Bernard and Kevin Hickey will be compiling the March EDGE, so please send any comments or contributions to them.

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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)

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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) 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.

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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 nengtreasurer@gmail.com



Alarm over revised proposal for Baldwin's Omega HF

A meeting of over 70 local residents was held on 6th January, to agree strategies for objecting to the new application for 52 flats on the Baldwin's site. The proposal is a substantial increase over the previous outline consent for 38 dwellings and there is concern that the revised design is an over-development of the site. There will be six blocks of flats, between 2 and 5 storeys high, all crammed into the former quarry (no houses or family dwellings), many of which will overshadow existing houses on Chelsea Court, Chelsea Rise, Quarry Head Lodge and Bluecoats.

The residents of Brincliffe Hill overlooking the site also raised concerns. There were fears that as they own the land up to the lip of the quarry, they could be obliged to pay for any work that is deemed necessary to the face of the quarry because of the development below them. The residents of Bluecoats were equally concerned by the risk of damage to the quarry face that is above their properties.

Probably the greatest worry however is for road safety and local amenity since the existing site access to Psalter Lane will be for emergency vehicles only. This means that all vehicular traffic from the new development will go in and out through the existing cul-de-sac of Chelsea Court, then down Chelsea Road.

The application predicts that 212 additional two-way vehicle movements will be generated onto Chelsea Court, although this road was originally designed for only 13 dwellings and is already unsuitable for two-way

traffic. It is very narrow and twisting, so when additional traffic is added to existing vehicle movements, this small road past the existing bungalows will suddenly become highly congested. Matters are made worse by the fact that the new development is optimistically based on minimal parking provision (which of course releases space for a greater number of flats within the proposal), so it is probable that any other cars from the site will be parked on surrounding roads as well!

Despite all these concerns, the meeting was well informed and productive. It was accepted that some form of housing development was inevitable, but there was an obvious preference for family housing, as there had been in the initial application. A group is being set up (ruthcurly54@gmail.com) to coordinate responses to the application and there was broad approval to the idea of contributing to a fund, to appoint an experienced planning expert to fight the application on their behalf on a professional level.

Both NENG and Banner Cross Neighbourhood Group will fight this application. NENG understands that a local resident is submitting a claim to the Council for a public right of way through the site. Residents of Nether Edge who consider that they could also support this claim to a 20 year uninterrupted pedestrian/cycle route through the site are invited to write to ruthcurly54@gmail.com or contact Sheffield City Council Public Rights of Way Group

Details of the application can be viewed at sheffield.gov.uk/planning, then scroll down and click on 'Search, view, comment', then enter **Ref 17/04961/REM**.

A new application for Brincliffe Towers

A new planning application has also been lodged for the development of the Brincliffe Towers site in Chelsea Park, following two previous attempts which both failed. This application has much in common with the previous one, except for a number of amendments. The new layout includes three 5-bedroom detached houses with garages, the conversion of the coach house into three 3-bedroom apartments and the restoration of the Brincliffe Tower mansion into a substantial single house.

There are elements of the application to be welcomed, especially the refurbishment of the mansion into a single dwelling and the demolition of

its ugly extensions, but there are a number of concerns, centred mainly on the design of the three new houses. These are modernist in style but with flat roofs that will stand higher than the mansion itself and are of a size that may dominate rather than compliment views from the park. They are also to be constructed of materials that have little in common with the Victorian mansion. There are also concerns about vehicular access and road safety.

Unfortunately, Brincliffe Towers is not 'listed' so the proposal is not subject to the planning constraints that might otherwise have applied, but it remains a very significant element of the Conservation Area.

Details of the application can be viewed at sheffield.gov.uk/planning, then scroll down and click on 'Search, view, comment', then enter **Ref 17/04741/FULL**

Snippets and History Notes

PLAST

(Psalter Lane Action for Safer Traffic)

Recent years have seen a significant increase in bulk container HGVs, using Psalter Lane as their short-cut from the quarries in the Peak District to the M1. Other traffic has also increased and there is constant queuing traffic at peak periods. Air pollution is getting worse, not better and there are grave concerns for the safety of children and older folk crossing the road. As a result local residents formed PLAST in 2016 to find ways of improving safety and reducing traffic volumes on Psalter Lane. They have completed detailed traffic surveys to identify flow rates and vehicle types. Air pollution monitoring has been intensified; recording both NO_x and particulate matter (mostly from exhaust fumes) and they are establishing a rapport with the Council to raise awareness of local concerns.

A follow-up meeting on 15th January discussed further action to improve road safety and reduce pollution. Psalter Lane is classified as a Class C road with a 30mph speed limit, but it is primarily a residential street, even though it has been identified as an HGV hotspot. Action is now needed to divert such inappropriate vehicle movements away from the city centre entirely. Other measures that were discussed as a means of deterring and slowing traffic included the introduction of a 20mph speed limit, a 'Smiling Sid' digital speed indicator or maybe complete closure of the road from time to time for a community festival. The residents of Psalter Lane are determined to reclaim their street!

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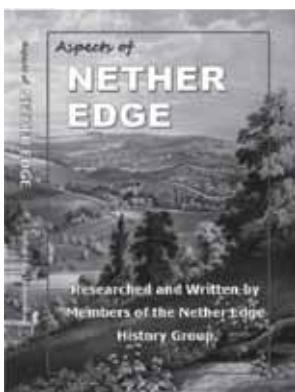
www.carolineokeeffecounselling.com

NETHER EDGE POST OFFICE

You will be aware that the post office on Abbeydale Road closed last year. We understand that Post Office Ltd are still looking for someone to operate from those premises, but without success so far. Maybe this could provide an opportunity for someone to open a new Post Office counter somewhere else in Nether Edge? One hears of community enterprises setting up successful Post Offices in pubs and elsewhere, so maybe it is do-able on a small scale.

Wouldn't it be handy to have our own Post Office on Nether Edge?

Sales of NENG History Group's 'Aspects of Nether Edge'



are going extraordinarily well, so much so that over 600 copies have already been sold since the beginning of December. Only 1000 copies of 'Aspect of Nether Edge' are being published by NENG, so if you haven't already purchased a copy, you had better get in quickly before they are all gone. This is a tremendous achievement by the History Group and all the

contributors are to be congratulated on producing such an interesting and elegant book.

The cost is just £11.99 and copies are available at Wickwire in Nether Edge and at Rhyme and Reason on Hunters' Bar.

THEY LIVED IN NETHER EDGE

Chris Venables and the History Group, are preparing a new version of 'They Lived in Nether Edge'. If you would like to contribute, please contact Chris at chris.venables@blueyonder.co.uk.

Nick Waite is writing a chapter about the Tyzack family for the book. A lot of material is readily available, but he would greatly value any personal memories, reflections or anecdotes about the last of the family who lived locally. Miss Mary Tyzack lived at 7 Williamson Road and only died in 1991, while her brother, Col. Wilfred Tyzack lived at 78 Kingfield Road. Please contact Nick at nick.waite@talktalk.net.

Richard Taylor is organising contacts with nearby Local History Groups. If you have good links which may help in that regard, please tell richardtaylor635@hotmail.com

NENG at the crossroads?

Nether Edge is a fantastic community, full of talented and interesting people from all cultures and backgrounds. We have good schools and dedicated GP practices, good pubs and a pretty good range of local shops, compared to most neighbourhoods. We have a host of leisure facilities as well: bowls; tennis; drama and choirs. The list is long.

None of this has much to do with NENG of course, but NENG plays a vital role in pulling together those endeavours that need some sort of group effort to get things done.

The constituent groups of NENG are rightly focused on their individual projects and interests, but they share a common core in NENG. Each needs insurance and access to a bank account for example and it is sensible to share those administrative resources. Some rules are also necessary to make the whole thing run smoothly and work within the law. NENG is a charity and a registered company, which means we are obliged to have Trustees and Directors who are ultimately responsible for everything that NENG and its constituent groups do, even though the whole thing is voluntary and no one gets paid!

EXPERIENCED BOOK-KEEPER

NENG are seeking an experienced, possibly retired book-keeper. Experience of using SAGE is desirable but not essential

Please speak to the NENG Chair or the Treasurer to find out what would be involved.

NETHER EDGE'S GOT TALENT

There are lots of people with talent living in and around Nether Edge. Many different kinds of talent! We are looking for those who have some of the talents needed to keep NENG and its many successful activities going through this year and beyond. You may not know how you can help. But if you want to contribute in some way to our community then please get in touch. Join us for a cup of tea (or whatever) and a chat with others to find out how you can use your particular talent within our neighbourhood group.

Please come to an 'Open Session' at the Bowling Club between 6 and 7pm on Monday 19th February

Getting involved with all this may sound like hard work, but in reality, there is huge reward in helping to get things done in our community. Many people in and beyond Nether Edge genuinely admire the diversity of 'stuff' that happens in our neighbourhood throughout the year. It would be a great pity if all of this got frittered away because not enough people were prepared to help look after it!

We urgently need more people with fresh ideas to join the NENG committee, ideally with a willingness to become Trustee/Directors and take on key responsibilities. Management know-how and vast experience of NENG itself are not necessary, but common sense, enthusiasm and a willingness to work as part of a team are very important

NENG AGM

Our AGM is provisionally booked for Wednesday 18th April at the Bowling Club at 7pm for 7.30. Please contact the Chair or Secretary (see details on page 2) or write to us at EDGE if you would like to share your views on the future of NENG or would like more details



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Aspects of Nether Edge

Clyde Binfield, *Emeritus Professor of History, University of Sheffield*

Aspects of Nether Edge, Sheffield: Nether Edge Neighbourhood Group, 2017.

Editors: John Austin, John Baxendale and Peter Machan

In 1961 H.J. Dyos's *Victorian Suburb: A Study of the Growth of Camberwell* set the bench-mark for urban and especially suburban history. The suburb, macrocosm in microcosm, parasite perhaps, satellite certainly, became a proper focus for serious study. Sheffield provides rich pickings for the suburban historian: Broomhall and Broomhill, Tapton and Taptonville, Crookes, Endcliffe, Ranmoor, Fulwood, Ecclesall, Beauchief, Dore and Totley of course, Woodseats no doubt, Norton too, and there are more. Wherever the prevailing winds and the prospect of far views encouraged them, they blossomed. They grew, each one distinctive, from the first half of the nineteenth century to the eve of the Second World War. Since then, notwithstanding the occasional social wobble in Broomhall and parts of Nether Edge, they have remained fixed points in the Sheffield townscape. For a famously proletarian city, a people's republic no less, such middle-class variety is disconcerting.

Nether Edge is certainly distinctive, topographically and socially. It proves to be complex as well. Its History Group, a sub-set of its well-established Neighbourhood Group, has produced an ambitious collection of essays, modestly called *Aspects*. A baker's dozen of residents have written on twelve aspects. These writing residents express the essence of suburbia because nine of them are incomers – from London (and Surrey), Manchester (with touches of Wales and Lancashire), Edinburgh, and Reykjavik. They belong to that easily maligned breed, the chattering classes, northern outliers of the liberal metropolitan elite, but here they are exercising true stewardship. They insist that their aspects are neither definite nor complete; some are clearly work in progress. They are, however, too modest. Their book is remarkably comprehensive. It covers topography, pre-history and early history, art, education, recreation, religion, and sport (I list them in alphabetical order), also allotments, migration, and the workhouse. Religion goes beyond Methodism to encompass the mosque and the synagogue. Recreation has a due focus on bowls and tennis. Each chapter is readable, some very readable, and all are enjoyable. The illustrations are first-rate (there is a mouth-watering one of the originally Methodist St Andrew's Psalter Lane), numerous, and where the reader would want them to be. The totality is a treasure trove. Every school and every estate agent should acquire a copy and ensure that it is well-thumbed. These *Aspects* set the pace in Sheffield suburban history.

This reader particularly warmed to “Kenwood: the Evolution of a Suburb” and to its companion piece on Meadow Bank Avenue. That avenue is one of Sheffield's pleasantest surprises, even if the latest Pevsner correctly describes its houses as mostly unremarkable. He also warmed to the account of a cluster of artists, chiefly in Oakdale Road, with lines in sculpture and photography as well as oil and watercolour; and he welcomed the concluding chapter on migration. If this suburb's first incomers came chiefly from the neighbouring midlands,



there followed a steady trickle of Germans, a post-war influx of Poles, and larger numbers from Pakistan and Bangla Desh.

Every reader will unearth a nugget. Mine can be found in the letter written in July 1907 by Edith Leader to her father, Robert Eadon Leader. The Leaders were not from Nether Edge. Edith lived on Glossop Road and her father, the third and last generation of Leaders to run the *Sheffield Independent*, now lived in London's northernmost suburbia, but he remained an indefatigable compiler of Sheffield history and he had asked Edith to investigate Cherry Tree House, a seventeenth-century survival facing



Aspects of Nether Edge

demolition. Her letter is a model of relevant information. It was just what her father needed. The Leaders believed in educated women. Edith had four sisters, one of them a Newnham graduate who ran a girls' school in East Finchley. Edith's letter brings to life a woman of considerable (and, one fears, largely untapped) capacity. Sheffield nurtured such people; they could certainly be found in Nether Edge and books such as *Aspects* reveal them.

Have I criticisms? I have grouses and grumbles, which I would willingly pass on; pet hates about such things as wandering apostrophes, a Blairite tendency to verbless sentences and other currently fashionable ticks and mannerisms – but there would be a serious purpose behind my bad temper. I would urge the editors to plan for another edition which completes these *Aspects* and vindicates their ambition. I would urge them to exercise even more rigorous control: more cross-referencing, more ironing-out of repetition, greater precision in dates (to be told that something is “recent” in 2018 will carry less authority in 2028, let alone 2038). I would, hardest of all, urge such an eye for style that this multi-authored volume might stand firmly on its feet as a unitary volume, in which each author's voice sounds distinctively because each is part of an almost seamless whole. It would be worth the editorial agony and each contributor – to use old Methodist terminology – would be a justified sinner.

There are gaps to fill and edges to clarify. It began to dawn on this reader that *Aspects of Nether Edge* in fact embraces the wider area bounded by Ecclesall, Abbeydale, and Bannerdale Roads; that last entails a bold but justifiable exercise in imperialism. This allows for greater coverage of densely housed artisan areas as well as leafy purlieus and it adds several dimensions to the studies of education, religion, and migration, not to mention health and prosperity. It helps to explain the strategic positioning of Endcliffe Methodist Church and the Congregational Churches on Abbeydale Road and Cemetery Road, which drew on the artisan streets for their mission and the heights of villadom for their income. This had a political bearing. The next edition must have a chapter on politics. And then, to gild the lily, I would like more on, say, Brincliffe's villadom. There is some quietly good Arts-and- Crafts domestic architecture in Brincliffe Gardens and along Osborne and Kingfield Roads, not to mention Mansell Jenkinson's tasteful essays in Cotswold-Peakhistorical close to Kenwood Hall (which he made into a temperance hotel). A final thrust: might there be room for more case-studies, combining more aspects? Let me throw in Alderman Allott of Brincliffe Grove (now The Towers) and Alderman Styring of Brincliffe Tower (the two houses,



though towering, are not to be confused). They introduce in successive generations Congregationalism (the Styrings were pillars of Cemetery Road Congregational Church, the Allotts of Nether Chapel and Broompark), Liberalism, philanthropy, wheeler-dealing, financial creativity (Allott's bankruptcy was beyond spectacular), professional consolidation (Allott's firm of accountants still flourishes; Styring was a solicitor), all in an appropriately leafy and Tudor-Gothic setting. What more could one ask?

That this reader asks for it is testimony to how much he has enjoyed the twelve *Aspects* that have been provided here.



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The Merlin Theatre and Nether Edge

We have a facility with great potential on our doorstep that is really keen to engage with the community. The Merlin Theatre is the music and drama base for Brantwood Specialist School on Kenwood Bank and Freeman College in the centre of town. They are all part of the Ruskin Mill Trust which is a charity devoted to nurturing, educating and training young people with special educational needs; particularly autism, so that they can thrive at their own speed to achieve their full potential as valued members of their community.



It was a wet and windy afternoon just after Christmas when I met Sarah Spencer. She is the recently appointed Theatre Director at the Merlin - previously Creative Director at the Lantern Theatre, just down the road and she was keen to show me round and talk about Merlin's aspirations for the future. The theatre and next-door Tintagel House, would normally have been busy with student activity, but school was still closed and they were clearing up from a Christmas show that had been staged by Nether Edge Primary School at the end of last term. By all accounts, it had been a very successful production that had been enjoyed by all, especially the children. It must have been very exciting for them to be able to perform in a very smart 'grown up' theatre with proper sets and a professional lighting rig (managed by students from Freeman College) in front of so many parents sitting in plush, tiered seating.. Whether for children or adults, the range and quality of back-stage and front-of-house facilities at the Merlin are truly impressive.

I know Sarah is on a mission to introduce more events that will appeal to the wider local community and we talked about the possibility of a May Day event or possibly open-air summer concerts (Nether Edge Festival?) and ideally a more regular programme of events, though these would need to be slotted around their primary educational focus. They don't usually have a bar, but they can serve seriously good food as Freeman College students are also involved in the Fusion Cafe on Arundel Street. This is one of my favourite lunchtime eating-places, serving delicious organic food, which is grown by students at their in-house

market garden up at High Riggs in Stannington. This also provides students with hands-on experience of the whole cycle of production and service that is core to their ethos—from seed to table.



Wouldn't it be lovely (from the perspective of a cold and blustery winter's night in Nether Edge), to be in the peaceful gardens of the Merlin Theatre of a summer's evening with a bite to eat, good company and live music?



The Lantern Theatre

When we first moved to Sheffield in 1977, we took in actors from the Crucible, to help pay the mortgage, so a lot of now-famous people shared our bath - though not necessarily at the same time. What really surprised us was not just how charming they were, but how very hard they have to work. They had to buzz up and down the country between performances to attend auditions and rehearsals elsewhere and survived on virtually no sleep. Amateur theatre of the quality of the Lantern Theatre is not much different. OK, the Lantern is quite a bit smaller than the Crucible and the actors aren't actually paid to perform, but there is the same dedication to their craft, enthusiasm for their art and clear focus on performance. I find it all quite mesmerising!

The Lantern is the home of the Dilys Guite Players (DGP) who were founded in 1957 when Dilys, a local actress, discovered the theatre in a very dilapidated state and set about restoring it. The back-story is that William Webster, who owned the house next door, built the charming theatre for his daughters in 1893 in an effort to dissuade them from running off to 'tread the boards' on the London stage. Charles Richardson subsequently owned the building, but he presented it as a gift after he saw the extensive work they had done, to form a permanent theatre charity there. I spoke to Kevin Jackson, who is the chair of the DGP and was amazed by the breadth and depth of their enterprise. Everyone involved in Lantern productions, which includes actors, directors, back stage and front-of-house personnel are members of the DGP. They come from all walks of life in and around Sheffield. Some are students at the university while the majority are in normal jobs, so 'theatre' has to be done in any spare time. But time is used very productively. It is not unusual for there to be three different shows in preparation at once: one being auditioned and cast; one doing read-throughs and another in full rehearsals. This could involve 60 – 80 very active members, split across the three productions, each working in different spaces (the stage, the auditorium, the foyer, the dressing rooms and perhaps outside if it's not raining) at the same time. Then add scenery and props building, wardrobe etc. But that's what live theatre is all about!

The Lantern receives no public funding and instead, relies wholly on ticket sales, membership subs, private donations and bar sales to maintain the building and fund every production. As everyone's a volunteer, so labour comes free, but there are substantial overhead costs for each show including royalty payments, scripts (which are often copyright so they can't just be copied); wardrobe (mostly hired from the Crucible); props and scenery (which is often repurposed between productions) Then there are utility costs and the maintenance of a beautiful, but delicate and 'listed' Victorian building to be paid for, so



each carefully crafted production is a minor miracle. 'A Christmas Carol' was a sell-out last December but there is an exciting range of new productions coming up in 2018, including *Betrayal* by Harold Pinter in February, then a touring production visiting with 'We are The Lions, Mr Manager' (about the inspirational leader of the Grunwick strike) in March. The Lantern also fosters its own youth theatre and each year there is a New Writing Festival featuring both home-grown talent both from the DGP membership and international writers.

The Lantern thrives on volunteers and gives opportunities to newcomers to try out all aspects of the theatre. It is also a very welcoming community of like-minded people of all ages and cultures, so if you want to give it a try, just log onto their website and click 'get involved'. We are lucky to have such a great institution on our doorstep.

HF



Volunteering in faith communities

Faith communities largely depend on volunteers, although they would often use slightly different language to describe these contributions. The Sikh faith, for example, has the Punjabi word *Sevadar* to denote someone who offers *sewa*, or selfless service. Much of the voluntary service offered within faith communities is for the smooth running of the places of worship themselves, but some is consciously outward-looking, as a way of serving the wider community. It was lovely recently to see the Madina Masjid (Mosque) and the Reform Jewish Congregation working together on a joint litter-picking initiative.

At St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church, where I am minister, there are a number of things people can help with without necessarily being a church member. To give a few examples: there's the Knit and Natter gathering on a Monday morning; there are regular working parties to keep the church grounds tidy; and the Shirley House Interfaith Centre provides opportunities for people of all faiths and philosophies to meet and develop friendship and mutual understanding, with no pressure to become part of

any faith group.

We would also welcome people to help us develop our plans for the future. We're currently thinking about how to use our church garden in ways that best serve the community, and we also have some ideas – as yet in their early stages – about how we might respond in practical ways to issues of inclusion and belonging in society as a whole. These ideas go beyond specifically religious considerations, and we would be glad to have people with enthusiasm and experience who might be willing to help in shaping them and putting them into effect.

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Volunteering across Nether Edge



ROSHNI is a resource centre for South Asian women providing a range of activities and services including: advocacy support, training and learning opportunities, help for women seeking employment, empowering and mentoring women. It supports those clients who have suffered/suffering domestic violence, support on issues of safety and security for older women and social and offers recreational opportunities.

More detail can be found on their website at roshnisheffield.co.uk

A COMMUNITY BOWLED OVER

A community cricket cage, has been opened in Mount Pleasant Park. The cage allows budding cricketers the chance to practice their skills and has been made possible with a grant from Sheffield City Council. The original cage had been in the park for many years and was popular with local people but had fallen into disrepair. It has now undergone a transformation with new fencing, cricket wickets and new artificial surfacing.

Shahid Ali is a committee member of the Allama Iqbal Sunday Cricket League, which has six local cricket teams from Nether Edge and Sharrow. He said: "It's fantastic to see the cages back in use by the local community. It will be a focal point once again over the spring and summer and has local people excited at the opportunity of playing cricket in a safe environment, which brings people together. It will be used by young people to play the game of cricket and we envisage fathers and mothers, who play or love cricket, bringing their kids and sharing the space together."

Family Voice

Family Voice works with families in Sharrow, Lowfield and Nether Edge to apply for funding to pay for whatever families need. This could be parenting support, learning English, help at home, improving health, family activities or educational support for parents or children. Whatever families need at the time.

If you would like to help, please contact
<https://www.facebook.com/familyvoicesheffield>



KEEP IT CLEAN!

One thing that everyone can do is to pick up litter wherever you see it. You may not have a bag to put it in that's handy, but just collecting bits and pieces that get blown around after the bin men have been makes a big difference!

There are regular Litter Picking Groups all over Nether Edge. The Madina Mosque runs a regular group. Another group is meeting on Saturday 7th March outside Strip the Willow on Abbeydale Road See *Sheffield Forum* for details.

Laura Riley has also organised "[Louis & Laura's litter Collection Team on Wake, Wath and Woodstock](#) Roads, (facebook.com/groups/382858898832294) They meet monthly and their next collection is 10th February



'Welcome to Sheffield, where intruders come onto your property in the dead of night with handsaws, after you have expressly denied them permission to do so. And your council pays for it. This implausible nightmare vision is true.' Jennifer Saul, in a recent article in the Huffington Post, goes on to explain that many of the healthy trees to be felled in the Council's tree-felling programme have branches overhanging private property and that many of the owners are people who desperately want those trees to stay: in most cases the tree was a key factor in their choosing that house. These branches cannot be cut down without the homeowner's permission and this has never been requested. Many owners have sent letters to Amey or put notices in their windows denying permission to oversail their property, but Amey and Acorn (Amey's contractor) completely ignore this and trespass on their property. During the day, owners (and tree protectors) often come and stand on their own property under the attempted felling and are able to stop it. 'That is why Nether Edge now features roving bands of workers with hand-saws, sneaking onto people's property in the dead of night to chop branches into the road (and sometimes on top of legally parked cars). Horrified residents awaken to the sound of sawing, or - even worse - to a pile of branches in the road. And to

the knowledge that their right to deny access to their property is worth nothing at all in Sheffield.'

This is only one example of the state of affairs now existing in our neighbourhood. Hordes of security men intimidate and roughly handle innocent people. Constant videoing of protestors and others. Unannounced road closures. Arrests and failed prosecutions. Dubious health and safety practices. Broken promises and community division. Thousands and thousands of pounds spent with minimal result. Protestors engaged in night patrols and street watch. And many healthy trees still under threat of hit and run attacks. That is the face Sheffield presents to the world today. Limited press coverage means that the scale of what is happening can only be truly appreciated by being on the street to observe for ourselves or by following developments on Facebook. We are witnessing the brutal, uncaring destruction of Nether Edge's unique character and environment. However, in spite of all that is happening protestors are successfully resisting and for 2018 there are grounds for growing optimism for the future of our trees.

* The headline to an article in *Private Eye* about Sheffield's trees controversy

¹ Jennifer Saul, Professor of Philosophy at Sheffield University wrote recently in the *Huffington Post*

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SPRAT'S NINETY EIGHT CROSSWORD.

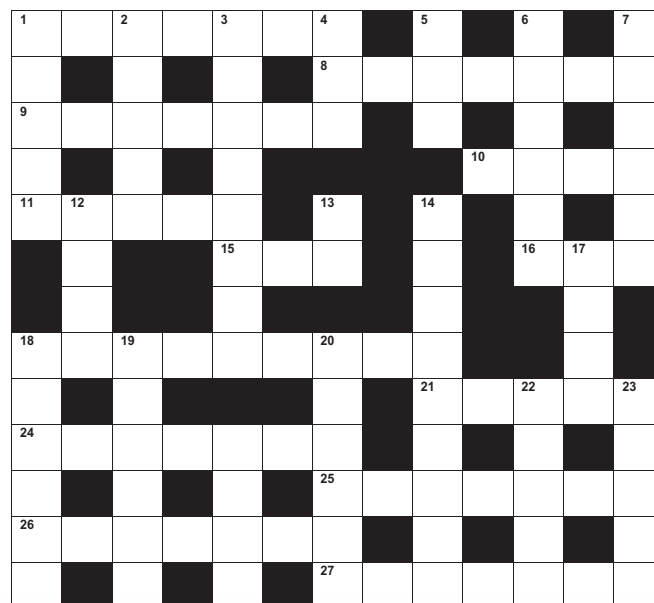
I've put together a crossword with a lot of wildlife references, although I'm the first to admit that some of them are a bit tenuous. They're marked with an asterisk.

Across

1. Very enthusiastic (7)
8. Snake bird* (7)
9. French 15 across* (7)
10. Young sheep* (4)
11. Smelly animal or strong cannabis* (5)
15. Proverbially cunning animal* (3)
16. Recede (3)
18. Small feline (F. chaus) found throughout Asia* (6,3)
21. Can be spotted, striped or brown* (5)
24. Nickname for a turkey* (7)
26. Peewit or green plover* (7)
27. Edible mollusc, more often found in America* (7)
28. Can be yellow, grey, pied or white* (7)

Down

1. British noblemen, between a viscount and a marquess (5)
2. Large South American rodent* (5)
3. Pleased and relieved (8)
4. Informal word for father (3)
5. Bovid, cross between a cow and a yak – beloved of Scrabble players!* (3)
6. Dangerous (6)
7. Characteristic African tree with a very thick trunk* (6)
12. Large antelope with spiral horns* (4)
13. Bovid – headless 15 across* (2)
14. The French might say 'prêt-à-porter' (3,3,3)
17. Species of owl* (4)
18. The Big Cat of South America (6)
19. Native of an ancient region of Southern Egypt (6)
20. Wading bird with downturned beak* (6)
22. Heather* (5)
23. Common aquarium fish* (5)
25. 'Aslan' in Turkish* (4)






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We all do quite a lot of unpaid volunteering in Nether Edge. Parents do it all the time. Grandparents also do it quite a lot, while others go about making themselves useful in a quiet way, without making a fuss. In a civilised place like Nether Edge, there are myriad opportunities for joining groups and volunteering, over and above the day-to-day stuff like parenting, looking after relatives or feeding the neighbour's cat. One can do a shift at a local charity shop or put on the wellies to help maintain Brincliffe Edge Woods or maybe try your hand with a bit of theatricals.

Private individual effort is to be cherished; but so is a bit of communal resolve, as by working together we can do remarkable things. But the downside of cooperative enterprise is that it requires a degree of organisation to achieve the desired result, though this may not be everyone's cup of tea.

Each to their own, but I want to sing the praises of getting involved and doing the slightly unfashionable thing of joining a committee! Meetings can be brief and sociable, since everyone uses communication media all the time and we are all better informed, so they are not restricted to old folk with nothing better to do. People may have wildly different (sometimes unfathomable) opinions as a result, but there's less need to kick the neighbour's cat when you get home, which the cat also feels better about.

We live in unsettled times, what with Brexit, Carillion, trees and doubts about the very fundamentals of politics; so community engagement becomes ever more important as something of a life-raft to cling to. I've become fairly passionate about NENG. I think it does vital work to make Nether Edge a pleasant place to live in and somewhere that can accommodate a wide range of opinions and priorities, without everyone falling out. Now NENG needs to find a few more people to keep it going, with fresh ideas, but an ability to understand constraints and yet still get things done.

The Farmers' Market is a great example of an individual with a relatively whacky idea, but the conviction that it could work. I don't know if Thildy Lowe ever imagined the Market would become such a feature of the community when she first thought up the idea, but residents have joined in and followed it through over the years. NENG has held it together, so it remains as fresh and lively now as 10 years ago. Local charities are also £70K better off, which is another good reason for doing it. The Festival was another splendid idea, which is now becoming a permanent fixture in our calendar. The Festival committee also needs more people with commitment as well as good ideas, both to spread the load and to make the 2018 Festival even better.

Howard Fry

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 RACHMANINOV: Piano Concerto No. 2
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CONDUCTOR: Juan Ortuño
SOLOIST: Ben Powell

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What's on in February?

Every Wednesday 8.30-11.00pm. Nether Edge Folk Club, singer's night. Nether Edge Bowling club.

Every Wednesday at 12 noon-1.45. Psalter lane Lunch club and cameo activities at the Salvation Army, 12 Psalter lane, £3.50. Tel 266 8127

Thur 1st Feb 7.30-10.30pm. The Lamplight Club. 2015 Celtic Connections award winners, Pons Aelins young instrumental sextet, contemporary and traditional folk music. £9. Regather Works. Tel 2731258.

Thu 1st Feb 8.00pm. The Lost Brothers performing at the Picture House Social, Abbeydale Road. Tickets £9.90.

Fri 2nd Feb 7.00-10.00. Film Nite- Jurassic Park reworked and distorted by comedians, theatre makers, writers and musicians. Regather Works. Tel 2731258.

Fri 2nd Feb 8.00pm. Luxury Death performing at The Picture House Social, Abbeydale Road.

Sat 3rd Feb 7.30pm Sheffield Symphony Orchestra play Brahms, Rachmaninov and Tchaikovsky at Ecclesall Parish Church

Sun 4th Feb 2.00pm. Historical Tour. Discover the history of the cemetery and its residents. Meet at the Gatehouse, cemetery Avenue. S11 8NT.

Tue 6th Feb 7.30pm. Mo Kenny performs at Cafe#9 Nether Edge Road. Tickets £11 .S7 1RU.

Fri 9th Feb 7.30-10.30pm. Regather Comedy Club with Phil Kay and supports. Tel 2731258.

Sat 10th Feb 9.30-4pm. Introduction to Woodland coppicing and pollarding. More information telephone 235 6348. Woodland Discovery Centre, Ecclesall Woods.

Sat 10th Feb 7.30pm. Red Tail Ring play original folk music and traditional ballads at Cafe#9. Tickets £11. S7 1RU.

Sat 10th Feb 8.00-10.30pm. The Brother Brothers +guests. Identical twins Adam and David Moss perform. £10. Regather Works. Tel 2731258.

Sat 10th Feb. 10.00-4.00pm. Pyrography for adults (the art of writing with fire). £85. Woodland Discovery Centre, Ecclesall Woods. Tel 2356348.

Sat 10th Feb - Louis & Laura's Litter Collection Team. See p 11 for further details

Sun 11th Feb The 10.30 service will be followed by a 'Soup and Puddings Lunch' to raise funds for the Church Action on Poverty 'End Hunger' campaign. St Andrew's Church Psalter Lane.

Mon 12th Feb 12.00pm-2.30pm. First Nosh and Natter of 2018 at the Union Hotel, Union Road. Pop in for a chat and something to eat.

13th – 16th Feb: Betrayal at the Lantern Theatre

Wed 14th Feb: 9.30am-12 noon: Friends of Brincliffe Edge Wood first Volunteer Morning of 2018. Help us show that we 'Love the Wood' this St. Valentine's Day! Pruning, planting, clearing and tidying in readiness for the Spring surge. The site is steep in places so we recommend footwear with a good grip. Meet at entrance at top of Oak Hill Rd. Contact Ken on phillipk@vip.solis.co.uk or 07756891802 or just turn up. Find us on Facebook too.

Sun 18th Feb 13.30 – 16.30. 'Visit my Mosque' at the Jamia Masjid and Usmania Education Centre. See the inside of a mosque, learn about all activities and watch a live prayer taking place.

27th Feb – 3rd March: We Are the Lions Mr Manager at the Lantern Theatre

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Answers to Sprat's 98th Crossword



Happy 10th Birthday, Nether Edge Farmers' Market

Well, doesn't time fly! The next **Farmers' Market on Sunday 18th March** will be our 10th anniversary, so I spoke to Chris Venables who, with Thildy Lowe and Huw Evans, was instrumental in following up Thildy's original idea for a market, then developing it over the years to create the great event we all know and love.

When they started, back in 2008, Sheffield hadn't any other community street markets, so no one at the Council really knew what consents would be needed to allow such an event to take place, or who should be consulted. Fortunately Pete Vickers from SCC Highways was very helpful and to this day, we continue to receive positive support from Highways and now Amey as well as PCSO Sarah Hague. Many of the original stallholders have been equally faithful. Thildy braved the winter weather to personally visit and persuade local farmers, smallholders and crafts-people to join us and set up at our first market on Sunday 9th March 2008.

With Huw's help, 30 stalls were set up along Nether Edge Road, together with the essential blend of free entertainment, music, dance and street food that continues to this day. Although members of the Nether Edge Bowling Club were expecting some increase in footfall, the crowds were so great that they somehow 'exploded' onto the Bowling Green to sunbathe and demand beer at the clubhouse, which took NEBC rather by surprise. Fortunately no damage was done and they are still speaking to us!

Having expanded down the top half of Glen Road, we now have space for around 80 stalls, but regularly receive applications from many more, so we have to turn good applicants away for want of space. We continue to maintain Thildy's original ideas of fresh food with locally made produce and affordable crafts whilst "pepping up" each market with new stallholders especially fledgling businesses – one of which has subsequently expanded into the USA!

Generally speaking, the market has been blessed with good weather (*touch wood*) but it hasn't always been so. A few years ago we had deep snow, so Kelham Island and Lincoln markets were cancelled – but that's not the way of Nether Edge marketeers! One of our farmers bought his tractor and (with a lot of help from volunteers using pick axes to clear the pavements) the roads were cleared to allow the show to go on, even if some produce ended up being displayed on mountains of snow.

We are grateful to a great many people for their part in ensuring the market remains a success. Local residents and businesses have been exceptionally tolerant of stalls across their frontages, even though we always ensure they are not completely blocked in and leave space for the emergency services to get through when needed. Our stallholders are a great bunch of friendly, enthusiastic people, but most of all, it's the regular visitors, like you, who keep the show on the road.

HF

