

EDGE

NETHER EDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWSLETTER www.netheredge.org.uk

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EDITORIAL

This is a photograph of Ingo Gudjonsson who is originally from Iceland. He is on the front page as he illustrates the theme of this month's Edge - the rich multi-cultural nature of Nether Edge. 2016 was a turbulent year, locally and nationally, including an increase in racial attacks. We think, however that the diversity of it's inhabitants is one of the reasons why Nether Edge is such an interesting and vibrant place to live. "While we celebrate our diversity, what surprises me time and time again is that we are far more united and have far more in common with each other than things that divide us." Jo Cox

Inside you will find articles about Ingo (see page 3 for his story), and other residents of Nether Edge who were not born in the UK. They will talk about why they came here, the differences between the UK and their home country, and their experiences, both good and bad, of living in the area. You will also see an open letter from a local resident about the tree situation, and a response from Julie Dore, Leader of Sheffield City Council.

Cover photographs by Alan Phillips



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 Ruth Bernard and Kevin Hickey. March Edge will be produced by David Pierce assisted by Mazhar Hussein and Ian Wilshaw. Any comments about this Edge, or submission of letters or articles should be addressed to David Pierce (contact details below) before the 10th February deadline.

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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

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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 Treasurer, Victoria Imeson.



THE FASCINATING DIVERSITY OF PEOPLE IN NETHER EDGE

Ingolfur Arnar Gudjonsson

Ingolfur Arnar Gudjonsson was born in Iceland and arrived in Nether Edge in the early eighties, via Manchester, where he met his English wife Susan. They came to Sheffield as she was offered a place on the Sheffield University Planning Course, and he was offered a job as a clinical psychologist. They came to Nether Edge because it was at the end of the 97 bus route, a bus that ran past his place of work. Nether Edge, at the time, had a large and mobile student population. Even then, housing in NE was not cheap and Ingo (as he is now called) and his wife were lucky to find a house they could afford, but it did need work. He remembers the DIY shop that used to be on the corner where Oxfam now stands. The shop was able to provide him with most of what was needed for restoring their new house. They had no prior knowledge of NE, but felt at home very quickly.

They sold that house eventually, and moved to another house in Nether Edge and have not moved since. Ingo and his wife made friends with their neighbours, but he felt it took a while to make other friends, maybe because by that time he didn't work in Sheffield. He joined a local tennis club and later became active in NENG and local politics. Ingo did not want to create a 'Little Iceland' at home, and was keen to integrate. He does not feel like an immigrant and, although he has lived in this country for many years, when he meets new people he still has to explain his background. Ingo feels that often he is not seen as a person in his own right, but as a representative of his country of birth, a 'walking tourist bureau'. Ingo says he has developed an 'antenna' for people who are hostile to non-UK residents, and he has felt some animosity in the past, because of his slight accent and more now since Brexit.

Ingo and Susan arrived in Sheffield in the early 1980s, when Sheffield was popularly known as the Socialist Republic of South Yorkshire. He felt the progressive values current in Sheffield at the time did chime with similar values held in Iceland, although gender equality was not so well-established here. When his son was born, his wife went back to work in Iceland. This was common at the time but much less so in the UK. He was very pleased when local shops began to stock food items popular in Iceland such as a yoghurt called Skyr. He uses Skype to call his relatives and this gives him a chance to speak Icelandic, and he returns to Iceland regularly.

Ingo and his wife have 2 children and 3 grandchildren, all living locally. His daughter now runs her own business in Sheffield and his son works in IT in Leeds. He tries to pass on a sense of the Icelandic culture in his grandchildren. For example, by cooking Icelandic food and listening to Icelandic radio.

His favourite place in Nether Edge, apart from Cafe 9 of course, is tucked away on Oakdale Road, where a stream runs quietly behind a block of flats. His least favourite spot is Sainsbury's car park. He thinks Nether Edge now has a stronger identity because of the Farmers' Market and the work of the history group, of which he is a member. Both Ingo and his wife said they felt at home immediately they moved to Nether Edge, and continue to do so largely because of the multi-cultural nature of Nether Edge.

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Ali Qadar



Ali Qadar has devoted his life to serving and working for the local community as a chartered accountant, a councilor and working for a number of charities and community organizations both locally and over in Pakistan.

He first came to the United Kingdom in September 1970 and joined his family in Oldbury in Birmingham where he wanted to study to become a chartered accountant. Through a recommendation from a friend in Sheffield he came to do his articles at Hancock and Ashford on Kingfield road and achieved his full qualifications in 1981.

He was born in Punjab in Pakistan in the Jhelum region in the village of Tangrot and was the son of a farmer. He went to the local primary school but had to travel to Mirpur to achieve his secondary education which is where he was first taught English. He has always lived in

Nether Edge because he says it is 'so friendly'. He established his practice on Abbeydale

Road in 1984 and sold his practice in 2010 and now works as a consultant chartered accountant.

His political life began in 1989 when he joined the Liberal Democrats; he was elected as a Nether Edge ward councillor in 1996. He left politics in 2012 to focus on his charitable and community work. He has served on various committees including chair of the Area Panel which included Nether Edge, chair of the Finance Scrutiny Board and also shadow cabinet member for finance and resources.

His charity work is broad and varied and in 1998 he was a trustee of the Sheffield Racial Equality Council and later on served as a chairman. He is very active in the Common Ground initiative, with the help of St Oswald's church whose purpose is to promote community cohesion and to encourage all sections of the local community to come together to share views and get a better understanding of each other. Common Ground holds regular multi-cultural events. The Common Ground building currently provides facilities for various regular groups which include music, drumming and prayer groups; Ali is keen to encourage more groups to utilize the building.

In 2001 Ali set up the charity, Sanitation in the Developing World and in February he goes to Vehari a district in Punjab for four to six weeks to do more sanitation and clean water work. The charity has extended its work to India and Bangladesh.

Ali is a school Governor and is a member of the Sheffield Children's Hospital Parents and Children Advisory group and was a trustee from 2007-2013 for the Sharrow Citizen Advice Bureau. He also served as Trustee of Sheffield Mental Health and Advocacy citizen advice bureau and as a governor for Sheffield NHS mental health and social care trust.

Ali comments on the major changes in Nether Edge and his first observation is the number of cars on the roads; there are so many now. Security has also changed a great deal. There was a time when you did not worry about locking your door but now we have double locks on everything. He looks forward to the roads being resurfaced in the coming months in Nether Edge and hopes that social behaviour improves so that all sections of the community show respect for each other, particularly the young for the old.

When Ali is not involved in his community work he loves to walk to Forge Dam twice a week, go to the gym and socialize with his friends and neighbours whom he truly values.



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
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Christmas Market 2016



Father Christmas and his helper



Salvation Army



Jacapella singing group



Busy Market



Dancing at the market

Photography by David Levine

This is an open letter received from Chris Rust who is a Nether Edge resident

Chris Rust is a Nether Edge resident, and Emeritus Professor of Design at Sheffield Hallam University, where his work has included study of the relationship between environment and health. He is compiler of the Sheffield Trees at Risk Map (<https://sheffielddreemap.wordpress.com/>)

I am sorry for Sheffield City Council, trapped in a 25 year highly secret highways contract forced on them by government, with a multinational company whose lawyers have run rings round Birmingham City Council with a bunch of bankers in the background insisting on no deviation from the plan or we'll hear from their lawyers too.

Then treehuggers shout about chopping down healthy trees and question the multinational's gold-plated prices to save trees and get yet more lawyers to take you to the High Court. It's a hard life being an elected representative.

But my sympathy only goes so far, and here's where it stops. Throughout the campaign to save healthy street trees, our Council and their political supporters have been quick to accuse citizens of wrongdoing, to say we are self-seeking NIMBYs, to claim we don't care about poor people. But I have never heard our elected representatives challenge the system that created this mess.

For decades, governments of every political colour have pushed the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) system onto the NHS, Education and Local Authorities. They make questionable claims that only private industry can do the job but actually it's a scam to conceal government debt, with the spin-off that bankers make more profit at taxpayers' expense. Meanwhile the multinational companies involved get 25 year monopolies over our streets, schools or hospitals - a death knell for market forces and free enterprise.

But you won't hear our MPs speaking for Sheffield citizens against this pernicious national system decimating our local environment. Our Council and their political supporters seem unwilling to challenge the government and the chainsaws are still at work across our city. Unless our Council starts to show some imagination and political enterprise I for one will oppose their antisocial plans in every way I can.

Meanwhile I dream of a city committed to preserving our health-giving street tree canopy and creating new canopy in those deprived areas where health inequality is rife. But we need political vision, local and national, to put citizens' wellbeing and scientific evidence ahead of the interests of multinational companies and financial institutions.

Chris Rust's letter was sent to Julie Dore inviting her to respond on behalf of the council. She thanked us for giving her the opportunity and this is her response.

Firstly, I want to reiterate that my council colleagues and I acknowledge that with the operation on Rustling road we got it wrong. It was wrong to start the operation at 5am and the communication with residents was not good enough. This was not acceptable and I have apologised for the Council's role in that, and have committed that work will not be carried out in this way again.

The strength of feeling as a response to mistakes made on Rustlings Road is understandable, but the project itself has been, and remains to be, essential in enhancing and protecting Sheffield's environment and ensuring that we have street trees to be proud of across the city; for the next generation and beyond.

Since the start of the streets-ahead project 600 more trees have been replanted than removed across the city, and an additional 14 woodlands have been created. Professor Rust rightly states that we need to preserve the green spaces and use an evidence led approach for this, as such it is important to outline some of the facts around the Streets Ahead Project:

An independent roadside tree survey for 2006/7 reported that around 75% of our trees were approaching the end of their natural life. In the 'outline business case' to the Department for Transport for funding, it also clearly states that of the 35,100 highway trees, 25,900 are mature and over mature, and that a large proportion of these are ready for replacement. It also goes on to talk about tree root damage to footways.

A project specification for potential bidders for the contract was drawn up in 2009 by the Liberal Democrat administration, stating that "A significant improvement in the standard of tree maintenance will be required, with large numbers of over-mature trees being replaced by more appropriate species, and others pruned, crowned or otherwise maintained in a safe condition."

Of the 35,100 highway trees, we replaced around 6,000 trees, all of which have been classified independently as dead, dying, diseased, dangerous, damaging or discriminatory. It is a myth that we are removing 6,000 'healthy' trees around the city. This is about making sure that Sheffield has large numbers of healthy trees not just now but in the long term to secure a green and safe future for our streets and roads.

Nether Edge residents are right to be proud of their trees and at no point has the council ever accused Sheffield residents as being "self-seeking NIMBY's". We too are proud of the city's green heritage, which is why we are so determined to take action to make this project a success and make sure our city has a green future equal to this.

The council has never supported the PFI model; however, the government insisted that we would have to use this model to gain the £1.2 billion of investment. This means that to secure the huge amount of investment central government have made into the city's highways we were required to use PFI and if we did not we would have been turning away huge amounts of funding and would not have been able to carry out the work transforming Sheffield's roads and pavements.

Sheffield has been at the forefront of fighting cuts from central government, we are doing this because the cuts are so damaging to the future of local services that people depend upon.

Sheffield council will continue to work with residents, support groups, charities and independent surveyors to make sure the Streets-Ahead project protects the environment and safeguards the green future of our city.

Julie Dore

A GREAT NIGHT OUT

Imagine the scene in the Union pub 25 years from now. It's packed, people have been looking forward to the event for weeks and now, just a week before Christmas, people have flocked there from all over Sheffield to join the locals in Nether Edge. It's a very informal gathering. Some have arrived early and have managed to find a seat and order their drinks. The majority are standing and as it's a fine evening others are outside the front door of this long-established pub doing their best to join in with the hearty singing within. The songs are traditional and well-known to most of those present. For others, the organiser has had the words printed and is selling them for just one New English Pound. The tunes they'll have to pick up as they sing along. It's been like this for as long as most people there can remember, the annual Sheffield carols night at the Union. The man who organises the event says a little about the history of the local carolling tradition. He explains that most of the carols date back to the 19th century and that they have always been sung in the villages and pubs around Sheffield and that they differ from place to place. Sometimes the same carols are sung but often new singers are told 'Oh, we don't sing that one like that here.' The organiser says a little about each of the carols before they are sung and reflects on how the tradition of annual 'sings' spread through villages around Sheffield including Dungworth, Worral, Stannington, Eyam, and Bradfield as well as some suburbs like Dore and Ecclesfield before they were adopted by Nether Edge. Someone in the assembly asks when and how the tradition spread to Nether Edge but the organiser doesn't know. 'It was a long time ago' he says 'and it just spread as it did from place to place for years before'. But then one man in crowd calls out 'Oh no it didn't', echoing another Christmas tradition. 'It were John Austin' he said, 'He started it. He used to live in Meadowbank Avenue'.

And so the facts became known for it was indeed John Austin who organised the hugely successful event in the Union on December 22nd last year. In doing so it may be that he single-handedly changed the course of local social history. There can be no doubt that he provided a wonderful evening's entertainment for all those who filled the Union that night and, who knows, will do so again next year.

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Brigitte Pemberton



Brigitte is a very lively and dynamic seventy year old who has lived in Sheffield since 1964 and is currently studying for Masters in fine art at Sheffield Hallam University which she is thoroughly enjoying.

She comes from Holland and was born in Gulpen a small mining village on the German and Belgium border. She admits to being a 'rebel' as a youngster and left grammar school without any formal qualifications. Her parents were Catholics and the house was filled with encyclopaedias and books about Nobel Prize winners. Looking back to her childhood she remarks on her father's intense curiosity about life and the world outside the mining village where he spent most of his life. Brigitte admits that she has inherited that same intense curiosity and need to travel the world and experience other cultures and ways of living.

She came to England to work as an au pair in Totley to further her English language and to absorb the Dickensian culture that she had read about. She looked after three children and the family became firm friends and gave her away at her wedding. Brigitte settled with her husband on Chelsea road and had two children. She gained qualifications and studied Sociology at Sheffield University and went on to gain a PhD in philosophy. She was employed by the Sheffield City Council in the Employment Department and worked with the Creative Industries and the setting up of the Science Park.

Sheffield University offered her a research role in Regional Development which led to her working in Siberia to look at Social Economic Development. Brigitte says her eighteen months in Siberia was very positive and she had a wonderful and fulfilling time finding strategies to address the problems faced by unemployed miners.

Brigitte is a confirmed socialist and has challenged injustice and unfairness in society and has devoted her working life to address inequality. She has worked and lived in a number of countries including Ukraine and Azerbaijan. She then spent two years in Yemen whose people are 'wonderful and happy who put few demands on life, all they want is food and peace'.

In Ukraine Brigitte fell in love with her interpreter and they moved back to Sheffield and have been happy together ever since. All her family live in Nether Edge and she has an excellent relationship with her ex-husband. She did not like the 'Upper' end of Nether Edge and is much happier in the 'Lower' end as she calls it close to Abbeydale road and access to the buses and shops.

She loves living in a mixed community, where we live as a support to each other, exchange food, talk about family life our children and grandparents. Her favourite place in Nether Edge is Cafe#9 where she can catch up with her friends. She enjoys the Bowling Club, Antiques Quarter and the delicious food at the Broadfield.

She enjoys and values the way Nether Edge celebrates all the seasons and this has much to do with the splendid trees that we can enjoy all the year round. Her hopes for 2017 are to complete her Masters in Fine art. Her art has enabled her to express her political concerns and struggles and believes art is less elitist and to pursue creative endeavour is a good way to live your life.

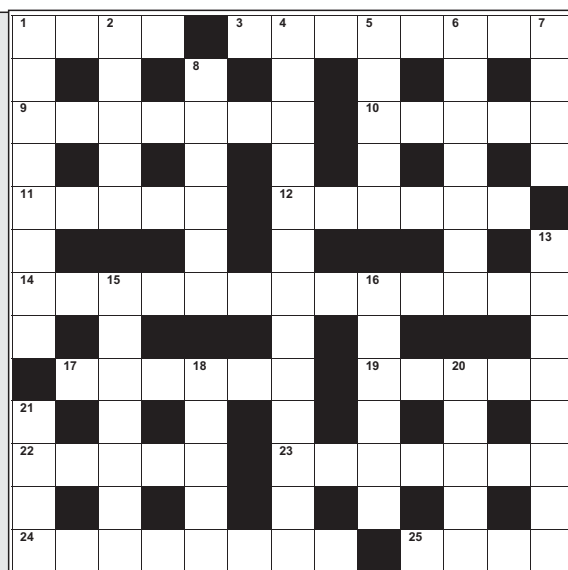
SPRAT'S EIGHTY SEVENTH CROSSWORD

Across

1. Cheap Indian cigarette (4)
3. He sells supplies for a ship (8)
9. Continuing (7)
10. Creole soup, thickened with okra (5)
11. Smallest in amount (5)
12. Background artistes (6)
14. What Esau sold his birthright for (4,2,7)
17. Torvill and Dean skated to it (6)
19. He had a hundred eyes (5)
22. Indian yoghurt drink (5)
23. It smells sweet when burned (7)
24. Tea, flavoured with bergamot (4,4)
25. Old-fashioned collar fastener (4)

Down

1. A plumber or decorator might use it (8)
2. Rigid belief system (5)
4. It should go with a bang (4,9)
5. Between sunset and sunrise (5)
6. Sensual Brazilian dance (7)
7. Crow or castle (4)
8. Small inexpensive restaurant (6)
13. It holds a mattress, pillows, sheets etc (8)
15. Liverpoolian (7)
16. Roof covering (6)
18. The Dallas family (5)
20. Catlike carnivore (5)
21. Fruit of the Blackthorn (4)



Answers to crossword on page 16

Tree planting in Chelsea Park



In November 2016, two commemorative copper beech trees were planted in Chelsea Park by the family and friends of two former NENG Chairmen - Joan Flett (local historian and holder of various NENG committee roles from 1974 - 2003) and Peter Frost (former member of NENG's planning committee and restorer of our historic gas lamps).
Chris Venables.

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An Evacuee in Nether Edge

The story of Ann Brown's move to Nether Edge is a very different one from that of most people.

Bombed out of her city centre home in 1940 as an eight year old evacuee girl, Ann Brown, along with her family, moved to Machon Bank Road. They were allocated the ground floor of a house together with a £300 allowance for furniture.

Above them on the upper floors was a family in identical circumstances.

This type of arrangement was not unusual in Nether Edge. Ann remembers many families being similarly evacuated to Nether Edge at this time, the consequence of 2 factors: the size of the houses which allowed for ready conversion into multiple occupations, and the fact that so many of the houses in Nether Edge were for rent. It was relatively easy therefore for the Council to take up these rentals and convert them for the use of evacuees.

What was Nether Edge like in these uncertain times? Ann remembers it as a rather snooty area, 'on the way down, a process we (the evacuees) helped'. The social upheaval consequent in all this is added extra piquancy by the realisation that other established families in Nether Edge were at the same time evacuating their children out of the area.

The febrile atmosphere must have been further added to by the regiment of black motor engineers working in the old tram shed, where Sainsbury's now sits. Ann remembers looking down on the scene from her vantage point in the house.

Ann's sojourn in NE was a relatively long one, lasting 10 years before the family were allocated a Council house. A reminder that the impact of the war lasted much longer than the simple years of fighting.

Ann Brown now lives in Dronfield where she is active in the local history group. The Nether Edge History Group hopes to invite Ann to give an extended talk on her wartime experiences in NE later in the year.

Jo Bertzeletos

Jo was born in Australia, and moved to Sheffield 22 years ago to study at Sheffield University. Her parents had emigrated to Australia following the military coup in Greece in the 1970s. However, Jo's family frequently moved back and forth between Greece and Australia when she was young, and she says she doesn't feel tied to one country or culture but feel more like a 'citizen of the world'.



Jo did not want to return to either Australia or Greece, when she finished studying, as it would have been difficult to find work in either country at that time. She liked Sheffield because, like Goldilocks, she found it to be just the right size - big enough for plenty of cultural activities, but not too big to be alienating. The first house she stayed at was in Nether Edge and, although she has moved a few times, she has remained here.

Jo likes Nether Edge for several reasons. She found it easy to make friends through her work as a yoga teacher. Jo likes the local shops, although she does miss the post office and other favourite places are Bragazzi's, Brincliffe Woods and the Lantern Theatre. She also loves the large, rather dilapidated house on Rundle Road.

Jo does miss the sea and sense of space that she had in Australia, and all the lovely fresh fruit and vegetables available in Greece. She dislikes the amount of litter in Nether Edge and the number of cars that are parked on pavements. She thinks there is a strong feeling of community in Nether Edge, and feels the markets and various street parties have improved integration. However, following the Brexit vote, she was told to 'get out of the country' by two young white men. She does, of course, intend to remain.

Mrs Twigg-Flesner

Mrs Twigg-Flesner moved to Nether Edge from Germany in August last year to be with her daughter and granddaughter. She first came to Sheffield in 1967 as an exchange student, where she met her English husband. They became engaged and moved back to Germany where they lived until recently, both working as schoolteachers. They visited the UK frequently and their 3 children all live here. Together with her husband, she had planned to retire to the UK but, very sadly, he unexpectedly died last year.

Mrs Twigg-Flesner remembers her initial visit to Sheffield very fondly, the university staff were extremely welcoming, and very helpful. She only met one example of hostility, because of her German background. She still finds local people very friendly and helpful, but not intrusive. Standing at a bus stop, she will often have a conversation with her fellow travellers.

She describes Sheffielders as feeling 'comfortable' in their city. It does not feel like a big city, she says, with its many parks and tree-lined streets. She often walks through the General Cemetery, a green oasis a stone's throw from the centre of the city. She also mentioned how impressed she is by the commitment of the local activists who are protesting about the trees.

One of her favourite things about NE is the market, and her and her daughter always went to the market on her visits in the past. Most villages and small towns in Germany have weekly, open-air markets selling fresh produce, and large towns will have Christmas markets. The worst thing about Nether Edge is the amount of litter in the local streets.

There is not too much Mrs Twigg-Flesner misses from Germany, apart from her friends, but she has met people through the church and through taking her granddaughter to school.

Dahlia Tayel-Brown

I was born in my beloved city of Alexandria, Egypt which was a very multicultural and cosmopolitan environment to grow up in. In our local area we had a Greek restaurant, French patisserie, Italian college, English DIY shop, a Pakistani tailor and of course a wonderful mix of Turkish and Greek food which we enjoyed.

As is usual in my family I received a French education; I thoroughly enjoyed it and go so far as to say I 'loved' my school. As naughty pupils we would use the highly polished corridors as ski slopes and it was particularly slippery with wax on a Monday morning but we had to avoid being caught by the nuns. I remember one morning one of our more scary nuns caught us in full flight and the whole class was reported and put in detention, we didn't mind we had had fun!

After finishing school I studied French linguistics and literature at Alexandria University and became a French teacher; I enjoy my work. I used to come to England visiting my sister who was married living in Sheffield. Last holiday I met my husband and got married and have lived here ever since.

I like Sheffield and especially Sharrow and Nether Edge as it reminds me of my Alexandria but without the sea which I miss. The diversity of culture in Nether Edge is fantastic. As you walk along London and Abbeydale Road it has a mix of aromas from all over the world; garlic, herbs and spices, fresh French bread and fruit and vegetables.

An interfaith centre in Shirley house on Psalter Lane hosts events of friendship between different faith and non-faith groups to help the community to get together and share their beliefs and views.

I feel as if I have settled well into the community as I have more knowledge, understanding and respect of our community and I am now on the committee of Shirley House in order to continue to support further integration across the neighbourhood.

I miss our post office on Washington Road where we would meet and gossip and exchange news rather like a scene from Coronation Street or Emmerdale which are my mother's favourite soaps even though she does not speak English. Now our meeting place is the Waitrose coffee shop where I go often with my husband and have chat with the regular customers.



Nether Edge and Photography as a Fine Art - Part I

I came to live and work in Nether Edge in 1972 having swapped a job as an industrial photographer in London, with a three hour daily commute, for a lecturing post at Psalter Lane's Art College and a 10 minute stroll to work

My colleague at Psalter Lane Roger Taylor, now retired as Emeritus Professor of Photographic History, researched and published a booklet on Samuel Bourne a 19th century photographer working in India in the 1860's, just twenty years after the invention of photography. We curated an exhibition of Bourne's images at the Psalter Lane Gallery – the first time that Bourne had been exhibited anywhere, and viewers were astounded at the images of Northern India and the Himalayas. This was at a time when the infant photographer required large glass plates to be coated *and* processed on site thus employing a team of horses and 30 to 40 porters: remember this when you click that button on the iPhone. We also discovered a record of “The Pencil of Nature” held in the Sheffield Central Library. This was the first ever book illustrated directly with photographic prints and was produced by William Henry Fox Talbot, the English pioneer of photography, in 1844. As only fifteen copies exist in the world this is an extremely valuable and fragile item which is kept in the Central Library strongroom preventing further deterioration to the fading images through light and pollution.



At the launch of the Nether Edge Neighbourhood Group I met another photographer, Mike Ryalls who then lived on Ladysmith Avenue. We produced a “photo-quiz” to challenge folk over the location of architectural details in the area and later formed a four year collaboration to produce front of house pictures for the Crucible Theatre.

This year the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, a major holder of historical and contemporary photographs in its huge collections, sent Catherine Troiano, a researcher, to Sheffield to investigate photographs in the Sheffield Collections. These photographs were collected largely due

to the enthusiasm of the late Frank Constantine. An exhibition “Street View”, containing some of the Collection's original prints, is on show at the Graves Art Gallery until March 11th 2017 so if you want to see an original Henri Cartier- Bresson or a Bill Brandt taken in Sheffield, the Graves is the place.

Four of my urban landscapes are on display. The researcher had great difficulty tracking me down (old photographers fade away) and she finally located me via a Google search when my name came up under ***Friends of Brincliffe Edge Wood***. I was dragged from the shrubbery on the 24th November and gave a paper at a Symposium held in the Millennium Galleries where a national initiative with the aim of protecting and fostering UK photographic archives was also launched.

So does that make Nether Edge the centre of the photographic fine art world? Maybe not, but the students from Psalter Lane who studied and lived here brought an excitement and energy to the area.

Ken Phillip



SAVE OUR TREES - MAKING HISTORY

David Pierce
Chairman, Nether Edge Neighbourhood Group

2017 will be a historic year for Nether Edge, the City of Sheffield and beyond. But in what way will it be recognised? Will this be the year in which the City of Sheffield's Council ignored the groundswell of public opinion and the strength of the arguments made about its tree felling plans and pushed on defiantly and stubbornly to change the face of Nether Edge for generations to come? Or will it mark the coming of reason and understanding into the Council's activities? Will the Council acknowledge the dreadful mess it has created and work with others to find a solution? Will the unique character and environment of Nether Edge be conserved and enjoyed by future generations? Will common sense prevail?

There can be few other urban communities which have been angered so much by its elected representatives as those in Nether Edge have been during the past year. Throughout 2016 NENG has reflected and echoed the work and views of the Nether Edge Save the Trees Campaign. Eight similar groups have arisen to protect trees in other parts of the city. Our position has not changed and it is a simple one. We are motivated by one of our principle aims: 'to improve the environment'. It follows that we must oppose any unnecessary actions that would do harm to it. Nether Edge's trees play a critical irreplaceable role in creating that environment which has been enjoyed by its residents and others for many years, is still valued and praised by most people and concerned organisations and allegedly also by the Council. We must do all we can to maintain and retain it for future generations. We recognise that some trees should be felled if they are a real danger or seriously diseased. We do not accept that minor disturbance to pavements or the alignment of kerbstones justifies the felling of mature beautiful trees. We know that all over the world other cities have implemented simpler solutions to such problems.

Over the months NENG has called for sensible discussions to find ways of saving the trees. We have watched with dismay the situation deteriorate as dawn raids were organised in Rustling Road, people protesting legally were arrested and charged and the recommendations of the Independent Tree Panel were ignored. At the same time one of our locally threatened trees, the Chelsea Road Elm, came second in Channel 4's Tree of the Year Competition and more and more people expressed their support for the campaign and their outrage at the Council's and Amey's actions. NENG hopes that such opposition will ensure that common sense will prevail and the infamous contract between the Council and Amey will be reviewed and seriously amended. In the meantime though, the threat to Nether Edge's trees is a very real one. Tree felling crews may arrive in any road at any time to fell trees as quickly and secretly as possible. You can help in many ways

Find out how by contacting www.savesheffielddtrees.org.uk
or the Nether Edge campaign at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/969911106414893/>

YELLOW RIBBONS

Most of the 172 trees in Nether Edge that the Council intends to chop down have now been decorated with yellow ribbons. Some people are under the impression that the ribbons have been placed there by the Council/Amey. This is not the case. They have been decorated by local residents to indicate to us all the frightening scale of what is planned. Look along Montgomery or Rundle Road and it is easy to visualise what those roads would look like without the trees. Walk along the roads and judge for yourself whether any damage to pavements or kerbstones would justify their removal. Yellow ribbons show that we love and value our trees. Keep them there.



All of us connected to Nether Edge School were very pleased to read the positive comments by one of our parents in the recent edition of EDGE. We are very proud of our school and the Outstanding judgement made by OFSTED in January 2015.

The school has come a long way in the past 11 years. Over this period the school has been redecorated, refurbished and generally renewed so that it is a bright and cheerful place. We have gone from a vacancy level of 120 to full and then as a successful school, we were chosen to be expanded even further - our extra capacity has now also filled up. We are consistently in the top 5 in the city for progress and results at the end of Y6.

We are particularly proud of the lovely outdoor play facility developed two years ago for the youngest children. They love the enormous sand pit and spend as much time outdoors as weather and time permits. We have more ambitious plans for creating an even more attractive resource for our Early Years which will also enable us to have level access to the hall.

School opens every morning with Breakfast Club from 8am and there are after school clubs every evening so we can offer "wrap-around" care. The clubs book up very quickly so the children must enjoy them! We ensure that children enjoy life as well as work hard. Last summer several classes went on residential visits to Derbyshire and Year 6 had a fantastic trip to London.

The run-up to Christmas is an especially busy time. All classes went to see a theatre show or a pantomime, some travelling as far as Leeds to see 'The Witches'. All children were included in our Christmas shows, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs for the older pupils and a traditional Nativity Play for the younger ones.



We are always looking for ways to enhance the children's experience and broaden their minds and this year the school choir will once again have the privilege of performing in the Young Voices concert at Sheffield Arena. Last year it was wonderful to see the children growing in confidence and glowing with pride, in themselves and in the school, as they took to the stage alongside professional artists in the massive Arena.

We have children of many cultural backgrounds; most of our children are bi-lingual in both English and one of over 20 other languages spoken by families using the school. Within school everyone speaks English all the time including playtime. Our multi-cultural school provides an excellent preparation for life in an increasingly diverse world.

Some of our parents run a Toddler Group which meets on a Wednesday, 9.30 to 11.30 am. Pre-school children and their parents are all very welcome.

The school has a good hall which can be hired for classes and other activities. There is already an English class, mainly for local mothers.

There is a very positive atmosphere in school. Both teachers and parents are aspirational, we want to give our children the best possible start in life. And for many Nether Edge parents we are right on your doorstep!

Maggie Little

**We are always happy to show prospective parents around our school.
Ring 0114 255 0926 to make an appointment.**

Graffiti and Junction Boxes - Update

In the November issue of Edge, concern was raised about the graffiti on the telephone junction boxes. Helen Willows, a member of the NENG committee, spoke to BT Openreach about the graffiti on two cabinets on Union Road (at the junction with Machon Bank Road and at the junction with Lyndhurst Road). These junction boxes have subsequently been cleaned. Helen was also told that if the engineer noticed graffiti on any other junction boxes in the area, s/he would inform BT.

The boxes appear to belong to either BT or Virgin. To distinguish the boxes, we have been told that a BT box has a triangular lock but if a box has no distinguishing marks then, probably, the best thing to do is contact both BT (Openreach) and Virgin and report the graffiti and see if they accept responsibility.

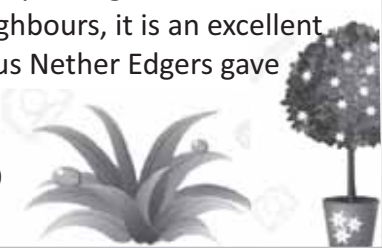
If you would like to report graffiti, ring BT Openreach on: 0800 023 2023 (the call is free), for Virgin go online at: Cabinet&PlantMaintenance@virginmedia.co.uk

The following information is needed to help identify the boxes: Cabinet number (if one exists), street name, postcode and nearest house number. If anyone has any more information about graffiti on junction boxes, please write to Edge or email neng.sec16@gmail.com

OPEN GARDENS

"As you read this, we are probably all shivering under grey skies, a blanket of snow or chilly winds. However, with some certainty, we shall very soon see the early shoots of snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils and Spring will be upon us. And so time to think ahead to the warmer days of summer and the possibility of opening up your garden for the annual Nether Edge Open Gardens event,

This year Open Gardens will be held on Sunday 11th June and I do hope that you might feel able to join us. Apart from the pleasure of sharing your garden with friends and neighbours, it is an excellent opportunity to collect some money for a favourite charity. Last year, generous Nether Edgers gave over £3000 to charities chosen by the gardeners.

Please contact Marion Rout marion.rout@btinternet.com tel 0114 258 4999 or Peter Machan petermachan@hotmail.com tel 0114 255 4137)." 



For the past 8 years I have volunteered for ASSIST, a Sheffield-based charity which supports destitute refused asylum seekers in the city. You may have seen our stall at the Nether Edge Farmers' Market. This secular charity is supported entirely by public donations and has nearly 200 volunteers. Our clients, who have fled war and religious and political persecution, come mainly from Africa and the Middle East.

Their claims for asylum in the UK have been rejected and they are now completely destitute. They are not allowed to work or claim any benefits and many can't go back to their home countries either because they would face death or further persecution or because their countries refuse to issue travel papers. Some have professional or semi-professional backgrounds – they were teachers, accountants, chefs, tailors, business people etc. ASSIST provides some minimal financial support to a hundred or so of the most vulnerable. We also have six houses (leased or given by donors) and there is a night shelter. A number of Sheffielders host a client in their home – and some of these live in Nether Edge. One of the worst things about their situation is isolation and we work with many different organisations which offer free food and engaging activities – foodbanks, conversation classes, English classes, football, gardening, cooking and more.

When new asylum seekers (not Assist's client group) register their claim they are dispersed around the country. When they arrive they frequently have no idea where they are – they know London and may have heard of Manchester or Liverpool because of their football teams! Volunteers from City of Sanctuary Sheffield welcome those who come to Sheffield and they are then housed by G4S in a shared house until their claims are resolved. There are a few of these houses in Nether Edge. So a 'Hi' or a 'Al-salamu Alaykum' would be welcome I'm sure!

If you would like to know more about ASSIST visit our website at assistsheffield.org.uk

Elizabeth Clough



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

Wed 1st Feb 8.30-11.00 Nether Edge Folk Club, Singers Night, Nether Edge Bowling Club www.netheredgefolk.club

Thur 2nd Feb 7.30 pm Mambo Jambo at Cafe#9 Nether Edge Rd Tickets £8.80

Fri 3rd Feb 20:00 .Cabbage//The Shimmer Band. The Picture House Social, Abbeydale Road
email hello@picture-house-social.com

Sun 5th Feb 2.00pm History Tour first Sunday of each month.A guided walk introducing you to the history of the cemetery and residents. Meet at the Gatehouse, Cemetery Avenue.www.gencem.org.

Thur 9th Feb 7.30 pm Tom Townsend, Paul Baxter and Adam Carpenter at Cafe#9 Nether Edge Rd. tickets £8.80

Fri 10th Feb doors open 8.30.pm The Grand Plan performing at the Lescar Sharrowvale Road. Tickets £5.50
www.wegottickets.co.uk

Sat 11th Feb 7.30 pm Lewis and Leigh at Cafe#9 Nether Edge rd. Tickets £11.00

Sat 11th and 25th Feb Wild and Wooley Knitting and Craft Group for adults held every fortnight. The community room Heeley City Farm, Richards Road, Sheffield S2 3DT info@heeleyfar.org.uk

Mon 13th Feb 12.00-2.30 pm Nosh and Natter Union Hotel.

Mon 13th-Sat 18th 7.30.pm (6 evening performances) Steel Magnolias by Robert Harling at the Lantern Theatre tickets 01142551776.

Tue 14th Feb 6.30-8.30. Second Tuesday of every month Heeley City Farm's Dementia Department hold a carers group for people caring for someone with Frontotemporal Dementia .

Thu 16th Feb Jeremy Kay (Morman) to talk about My Faith Journey. Shirley House Interfaith Centre, St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church.

Fri 17th Feb 8.30pm. Club Shefficana performing at Nether Edge Bowling Club www.netheredgefolk.club

Thur 23rd Feb 11am-3pm February Farm Fun is a great day out for the family. Children's crafts, exotic animals, farm animals, refreshments and Whirlow BBQ.Adults £2.50/Kids £3. Under2's free, family ticket £10. Book online at www.whirlowhallfarm.org



CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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