



NETHER EDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWSLETTER www.netheredge.org.uk
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June 2016

This month's editor - *Chris Venables*

Welcome to June's issue of EDGE. It is packed full of interesting articles about Nether Edge and its people.

In this month's issue you can find details of the eleven gardeners who have spent hours preparing their gardens for this year's "Open Gardens". As usual I'll be charging round on my bike trying to visit them all. On your way do look at Frog Walk Pocket Park which, thanks to Marian and friends, is looking beautiful with super alliums and geraniums.



Scott and Joan recount their experiences of Nether Edge and Piers talks about his dog. More Festival news is included and I've devised a Photo Trail around Kenwood.

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Looking forward to seeing lots of you at NENG's AGM on Tuesday 7th June 7pm for 7.30pm start, in the Nether Edge Bowling Club

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

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

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This month's Editor is Chris Venables If you have something to say, a comment to make about anything in this magazine, or an article for July/August's *EDGE*, please send it to:- EdgeEditorial@gmail.com or contact **David Pierce** (see above) by the **June 17th deadline**.

Advertise in *EDGE* : Reach over 900 households in Nether Edge and Sharrow by advertising your business in *EDGE* . Rates start from £20 for an 1/8th of a page and you will be helping your local neighbourhood charity in the process. For more information contact **Trudi Colman** (see above)



If you are not already a supporter of the Nether Edge Neighbourhood Group or wish to renew your subscription and support the Group's activities, please complete the payment slip below and return it, with your cash, cheque, or standing order form to our Treasurer:-

Trudi Coleman, The Old Bakery, 60 Norton Lees Rd, S8 9BZ
 Email: trudilou72@hotmail.com

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Annual subscription 2015-16 is £8 per person/organisation (£5 unwaged concession)
 An additional donation to the work of NENG is welcomed.
 Subscribers living outside our distribution area will receive electronic copies of *EDGE* unless a donation for postage costs is included.

Delete if not appropriate:

As a Supporter of NENG, I wish to also become a Member of NENG, a company limited by guarantee, and have voting rights at the AGM. Should 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 one year after I cease to be a member of the company.

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Nether Edge Festival - help needed, please

-Maggie Little, festival chairman



Nether Edge Festival will run from 16th to 25th September, there are events most evenings and many during the day, particularly at weekends. We hope lots of people will come and join in – there are plenty of events, something for everyone. The idea is to celebrate the many talents of people living in Nether Edge and to provide places and opportunities for people to enjoy themselves together. Come along, meet new people, see old friends.

We have had offers of help in general terms so now the organising group would like to pin you down please!! We have identified a lot of different jobs throughout the week and would be grateful for volunteers for specific tasks at specific times. A couple of hours from a lot of different people will be a major help to the steering group who have already put in a lot of time behind the scenes.

Here are some of the things we shall need help with:

- Creating and putting out advance signage - using Leanne's new Festival Logo (see above).
- Transporting display screens – people with big cars and strong arms to move screens from place to place and help erect them
- Supporting the Community Art and Craft Fair at St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church – moving furniture and setting out stalls
- Assisting with the Children's Art Exhibition

We also need helpers for Party in the Park on Sunday 25th Sept. for a range of jobs including:

- Setting up and clearing up on the day
- Moving furniture for the band and other participants (more strong arms please!)
- Liaising with stall holders and others
- Staffing the marquee, offering advice and information
- Assisting with children's street games and activities

If you would like to help please get in touch with either: Maggie Little 255 3146 maggielitt@sky.com or Deni Ennals at deniennals2@hotmail.com and we'll either allocate you a job or put you in touch with someone else who will happily accept your offer. Thanks.

Nether Edge Festival Dinner

-Chris Venables

A new initiative which we hope will appeal to a lot of people is a Festival Dinner on Wed. 21st Sept. at Baldwin's Omega, off Psalter Lane. Tickets will cost under £20 for a special banqueting menu and entertainment including the Yorkshire Teabags.

Baldwin's has an excellent reputation for catering for functions of all shapes and sizes. Regulars and those who have known it's there but never had the opportunity to visit will we hope want to come - either on their own or in small groups. *Further details and information about other Festival events can be found at the Festival stall on June 12th at the Nether Edge Farmers' Market.*





Letters to the Editor

Further to your article in the last EDGE by the Friends of Brincliffe Edge Wood about vandalism done to trees, you also mentioned damage done and locks on gates being broken.

I have had my own lock broken off twice recently. On another occasion I was locked in. I caught a glance of the two teenage boys as they ran off. The hood was pulled over his head so I can not even say what their hair colour was. Only they were thin enough and young enough to run fast and that the hooded jacket was pale grey.

I am not the only person to be locked in like this. Someone has also ripped boards off the outside of the hut where we hold our shows and where the stock of the allotment society is stored. Nothing has been stolen and so far no serious harm has come to anyone. But there is a rash of these events.

I have reported the incidents to the police and would encourage anyone else who is vandalised to do so as well. The phone call takes ages. I would advise you to use the on line reporting mechanism.

<https://www.reportingcrime.uk/SYPreportanincident/>

The officer who contacted me by phone, several weeks later asked me if it was an isolated event. After speaking to my fellow gardeners I was able to give him the crime incident numbers of the events we had suffered. They need to know about it to be able to do anything. Please tell them.

Bill Atherton, Archer Lane Allotment Society.

Given that The Edge had promised to put this subject to bed because it has had such a thorough airing and is such an emotive one, I was disappointed to say the least to see it given another full page spread ('NENG's plea to Sheffield City Council') in the April edition.

I am not the only one to find the large, old, densely planted trees on Sheldon Road dank and depressing, to be tired of struggling not to trip over broken, root-raised pavement on Wayland Road and to have a daughter afraid to walk after dark along Psalter Lane because of the shadows cast by the trees and walls.

Don't get me wrong - I love trees. I love young trees growing amongst mature trees, knowing that they will preserve the green future of our city.

But I'm not so sure that everyone clamouring to put every old tree before house foundations and the right to free and safe passage for the disabled and elderly is such a champion of democracy. Some of us are in despair that the injunction (now lifted) has delayed the programme of pavement and road improvement by months. I have experienced belligerent bullying (without even raising the subject of trees) when canvassing some local doorsteps. I know that our citizens have much to be angry about and have deepest sympathies with frustrations expressed at our political process. But I can't help feeling that this issue is a diversion from the fundamental attacks on our rights to a decent life emanating not from our local elected councillors but from Westminster.

Julie Pearn

Solar Panels for Schools - Michael Miller

Sheffield Renewables, which has installed several solar PV panels on public buildings in the city, has some EU Urban Community Energy Funding to install solar PV panels on a school but they are proving difficult to engage with. Sheffield Renewables have identified about 25 schools that are particularly suitable for solar PV and have written to them but received very few replies. It is very difficult to make contact with the head/chair of governors/Business Manager.

If you have any links with a school in Sheffield that doesn't already have solar PV on the roof, please get in touch with julia@sheffieldrenewables.org.uk and she will let you know if the school is on their list.

It could prove a good earner for them, as it has for the installation at St Mark's Church Broomhill installed by Homeco, the company used by Sheffield Renewables.

The Chelsea Rd Elm Tree - *an update from Paul Selby*

From the late 1960's onwards, a fungus called Dutch Elm Disease (DED) swept through the country killing nearly all the mature elm trees in the UK. By some estimates, over 14 million trees died as a result. The fungus is carried by the elm bark beetle, which is attracted by trees of a certain height/age. Generally, though not always, trees under the age of 20 aren't attacked by the beetle and therefore don't catch DED. It is estimated that there are fewer than 1000 elm trees aged over 50 in the whole country. The Chelsea Road elm at its junction with Union Road somehow survived. It is estimated to be between 100 and 150 years old, which makes the tree a nationally significant one.

There is no certainty about why the Chelsea Road elm survived. Others were killed within 100 metres of it. Now a new wave is sweeping through Sheffield. It killed elms on Lyndhurst Road and opposite Sainsbury's in 2014/2015, but so far, the Chelsea Road elm survives and is healthy. Experts I have contacted have suggested that this is likely to mean that the tree has partial or full resistance to DED. If so, this makes the tree one of international significance and importance for the survival of elms worldwide. Its potential immunity is backed up by the fact that its "twin" across the road also survived the DED epidemic, before being felled by the council in the 1990s.

When the remaining healthy elm tree was listed for felling by Sheffield Council and Amey in December 2015, I immediately wrote to the Council to plead with them to save the tree. I have written a number of times subsequently, and called the councillors directly. I'm afraid to say that 4 months on, I have yet to receive anything other than an acknowledgement. In January this year, with the help of social media and the Save Nether Edge Trees Group, I organised a photo call with the Star newspaper about the tree. I was overwhelmed at the support with over 100 people turning up, something that led ultimately to the national press picking up the story of the tree.



The publicity generated by the article led other locals in Nether Edge to send me photos of a butterfly they had seen near the tree. The photos were of the rare White Letter Hairstreak butterfly - see Bill Atherton's photo above of a female drinking the sweat from his palm! She lays its eggs exclusively on the elm tree and has significantly declined in the last 50 years. Subsequent investigations by the Sheffield Wildlife Trust in late January found eggs that had been laid in August 2015. Those eggs will now have hatched and the caterpillars will be feeding on the flower buds and seeds, ready to emerge as butterflies in July. To have a relic population of this rare butterfly in a suburban neighbourhood is highly unusual. Nether Edge is very lucky indeed.

A number of organisations that are in full support of my campaign to protect this "celebrity tree" include The Woodland Trust, The Conservation Foundation's Great British Elm Experiment, the Butterfly Conservation and Sheffield Wildlife Trust who have also provided advice and lobbied Sheffield Council to no effect.

The Chelsea Road elm tree remains threatened for felling. Through official correspondence Sheffield Council have refused to engage with me and answer my legitimate questions. Unofficially, fellow group members have been told that the Council and Amey have explored options to save the tree, but that they are too costly, at £50,000 to £70,000. How these costs have been calculated and/or whether there are alternative much cheaper solutions, have not been shared with us.

Two days after I arrived in Sheffield, nearly five years ago, a colleague I had just met with pointed down the length of Brunswick Street from where we were on the University of Sheffield campus, gesturing towards 'leafy Nether Edge' where he lives. I like this description of Nether Edge.

For someone who grew up in the forested hills of Western Massachusetts, it spoke to the neighbourhood's appeal, and in 2014 – after many visits with friends, occasional stays, and meandering weekend walks through the neighbourhood – I moved to 'leafy Nether Edge'.

Ahead of this month's Edge, I was asked if I could draw comparisons between Nether Edge and where I have lived in the U.S. I've spent a lot of time outside the U.S., but have lived in Sheffield more than any other place. But I didn't choose Sheffield for any nostalgic connection – I moved here for my PhD, and was drawn primarily to the reputation of a few of the scholars in my department – so any connection between here and Massachusetts seem to be coincidence. Yet its tree-lined streets remind me of home, as do the small cafes and shops. Coming from the U.S. Northeast there are plenty of easy comparisons in general with the North, but I think the strongest continuity between Nether Edge and those other places I've called home is the sense of community, and this is found in the Farmers' Markets.

This month we'll again see the Nether Edge Farmers' Market line Nether Edge Road. That day every few months when people pour into one niche of Nether Edge is certainly part of this neighbourhood's character. It's something that, in the right light, reminds me of a corner of Northampton – a small U.S. city where I used to live that lies between 'hill towns', farmland, and former industrial and mill cities. It prompts comparisons to many markets in quaint New England towns, and when I'm asked back home what it is like where I live, I draw the same comparison.

I've written a few times in Edge about the idea of community, and Edge's role both giving a picture of the Nether Edge community and NENG's role engendering that idea. Communities are interesting places – they tend to be defined by round-the-



corner shops and cafés (a sense of place), and knowing the people working and living there (a sense of belonging). But communities are also dynamic, and people flow into and out of them, sometimes for their whole lives, and sometimes only for a brief while. Community also stitches together a balance between the personal and the shared. Yes, there's something nice about seeing the people around the corner regularly, but there's also something nice about living in a leafy enclave that means you might not, a place that still makes chance encounters a pleasant surprise.

This more complex sense of community is to me part of Nether Edge's appeal, and it's something that feels familiar to me. It is apparent on market Sundays, when yes, you'll see your neighbour and your colleagues, but you might also run into a friend you haven't crossed paths with for some time, and you are as likely to pick up some coffee roasted in Nether Edge as you are a piece of art made elsewhere in this sprawling city.

The Farmer's Market also feels more intentional, more part of the fabric of the neighbourhood. It's not a chance encounter with a market in town or in a neighbourhood that's not your own, it's a day in the diary you look ahead to. For many people outside of Nether Edge, it has become a destination and a day they know they can meet up with their friends in this part of town.

It makes Sheffield a little bit smaller on those days, and for someone who has time and again found himself in new cities and towns, it gives a sense of belonging and of place, and of community.

Why it's important to vote in the EU Referendum- *Michael Miller*



The Referendum vote is not like an election vote for a particular party or candidate. It's not a party political issue and support for and against cuts across

party lines. Unlike an election it is a decision that will have a major and long lasting, indeed permanent, effect on the lives not only of ourselves, our children and our grandchildren, but also potentially on other EU countries and their citizens.

Thus, it is vitally important that we each try to get past the often partial messages and information given out by some of the media and by campaigning personalities in order to best inform ourselves of the facts in preparation for our own individual decision. Well-informed voters are vital for true democracy. How can we do this?

Key points are to be aware of the range of opinion, to evaluate the quality and truthfulness of each source and whether it has a hidden agenda, and to seek out accurate and unbiased information. So look at a range of newspapers and publications, do not be swayed by "celebrity" or "showman" politician's pronouncements, talk to people of different views and attend local meetings.

Some of the media do try to provide accurate unbiased information and I would suggest the BBC website as a reputable source. For example their EU referendum issues guide, "Explore the arguments" at www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-eu-referendum-36027205 sets out side by side pro and anti claims and arguments on a whole host of aspects including the cost of membership, immigration, policing and security, energy and environment, sovereignty and laws, trade and economy, and more. Other useful websites are: www.bbc.co.uk/realitycheck www.infacts.org www.richardcorbett.org.uk/category/mythbusters

So now it's up to you to make your own informed decision and then to cast your vote on 23 June, and please encourage others to do so too. Your vote really does count.

Safety Advice - South Yorkshire Fire Service

Serious house fires are thankfully quite rare. But if a fire does start, it can quickly cause a lot of damage and put the lives of you and your loved ones in danger.

Our top 10 tips for staying safe at home are:

1. Make sure you have **smoke alarms** on every floor of your home
2. Smoke alarms save lives, but only if they are working. Please **test smoke alarms** regularly.
3. Take extra care in the kitchen and **never leave cooking unattended**
4. **Never, ever use a chip pan** or any other pan filled with hot oil
5. **Don't overload electric sockets**— most can only take a maximum of 13 amps
6. Keep matches & lighters away from **children**
7. **Keep clothes well away from heaters** and open fires
8. **Put out cigarettes properly** and dispose of them carefully
9. **Don't charge things like mobile phones, tablets or e-cigs overnight**, or longer than the recommended charging time.
10. **Plan an escape route** and make sure everyone in the house knows how to get out in the event of a fire.

See website <http://www.syfire.gov.uk/safety-advice/>

Space for Cycling Big Ride 11th June

As the **biggest nationwide cycling event in the UK**, Bike Week encourages over half a million people to join in events, rethink their everyday journeys and switch to cycling as the most convenient way to get around.

Sheffield's 6km "Big Ride" will begin and end in Devonshire Green. It will be a fun and relaxed event, suitable for everyone including families with children and regular commuters alike.

The aim is to show Sheffield that cycling is a fun and normal part of everyday life.

See www.bikeweek.org.uk/event/sheffield



Kenwood Photo Trail

– Chris Venables

Answers available at NENG's AGM



NETHER EDGE OPEN GARDENS – 19 June 2016

All venues will be identified by balloons.

Brian and Helen Palmer	30 Wostenholm Rd	11.00am – 4:00pm
<i>Level access to front garden and one very small step through to back garden.</i> Delightful cottage-style front and rear gardens with a vast range of perennials from the natural and wild to the exotic, including ferns, grasses and euphorbias and a pond with marginal plants. Many interesting specimens in pots. Light refreshments and plants for sale. Donations in aid of St Wilfrid's Drop-in Centre		
Paul Carnell and Lucy Kitto	41 Rupert Rd	12.00pm – 5.00pm
<i>Level access.</i> Designed as a productive garden with chickens and organic vegetables combined with cottage garden planting. Small pond and large greenhouse. Special focus on composting. Tea and cakes and home-made soup and rolls. Donations in aid of South Yorkshire Eating Disorders Association		
Natalie Glass	134 Psalter Lane	2:00pm – 5:00pm
<i>Access (including for wheelchair) from Sandbeck Place (to rear of house).</i> An all-year-round, Victorian ribbon garden packed with interest. In mid-summer, many roses, a collection of phloxes, fruit trees and bushes and a wide variety of cottage plants. 2 wildlife ponds. Refreshments and a few plants for sale. Donations in aid of RSPCA		
Peter Machan	55 Kingfield Rd	2:00pm – 5:00pm
<i>Level access to rear patio area.</i> A true plantsman's garden, steeply terraced for a mystery tour of all types of plants. Pond. Spectacular collection of hostas. Greenhouse. And new features this year! Plants for sale. Donations in aid of Village Aid.		
Marion Rout	78 Kingfield Road.	2:00pm – 5:00pm
<i>Flat access to front garden and rear patio area before steps lead up to main garden area.</i> Large garden approximately ¾ acre originally designed for R. J. Stokes of Stokes Paints fame with a mixture of hard and soft landscaping, herbaceous borders, tree specimens and pond. Donations in aid of Médecins Sans Frontières		
Alison and John Lapish	94 Union Rd	2:00pm – 5:00pm
<i>Flat access to much of the garden.</i> Wonderful, large Edwardian garden with mature trees with woodland under-planting. The garden is divided into different areas which include raised veg beds, an orchard, a rose tunnel and herbaceous borders. Greenhouse and conservatory. Teas and maybe plants for sale. Donations in aid of Roundabout and Tools for self-reliance.		
John and Maggie Little	1 Gainsborough Road	2:00pm – 5:00pm
<i>Level access to good vantage point for those with mobility difficulties or in a wheelchair.</i> Medium-sized cottage-style garden with a vast range of shrubs, roses, herbaceous perennials, vegetables and fruit and a small pond. Light refreshments. Donations in aid of Friends of Sheffield Children's Hospital		
Sue Bolger	37 Montgomery Road	11.00am – 3.00pm
<i>Level access (inc. for wheelchair).</i> A plantswoman's garden full to the brim with masses of hardy perennials likely to include hardy geraniums, campanula, inula and much, much more. Many of the plants have been grown from cuttings etc from friends and family. Some plants for sale. Donations in aid of Pancreatic Cancer charity.		
Alan Sanderson	74 Chelsea Road	2.00pm-5.00pm
<i>Level access to front garden</i> which is planted with an interesting collection of plants and trees, many unusual. Somewhat restricted access to long rear garden featuring many unusual trees and shrubs. Donations to Smile.		
Barbara and John Shuker	Audrey Cottage, 83 Union Road	12.00pm -4.00pm
<i>Level access to patio, gravel driveways and lawns</i> with plant borders on three sides of this very attractive house dating from the mid-nineteenth century. Please note that, because of ongoing building work, there is no access to the stream area at the end of the garden. Donations in aid of Weston Park Hospital.		
Anne and Marc Brew	18 Moncrieffe Rd	2:00pm – 5:00pm
<i>Access via steps - those with mobility difficulties, use back entrance from Bank Close to gain decent vantage point of garden.</i> A large number of different kinds of vegetables grown in a modestly sized town garden. Light refreshments. Donations to the Motor Neurone Disease Association.		

The Way of the World (in Nether Edge) - Simon Simple

TRAVELS IN LONDON

London Underground has launched an experiment at its tube stations to stop passengers from walking up the escalators. The custom has always been that people who don't want to walk should stand on the right, leaving the left side free for others to walk up. Apparently scientists at a local university have proved that changing this practice will reduce congestion by 30%. Many passengers are in revolt and insist on their right to walk on the left. A friend of mine is one of them. He's a fell-runner and likes to keep fit. His life in cities is governed by two mantras. First, never use an escalator (or lift) when there is a staircase available. Second, always keep on walking if you encounter a travelator. I agree. I hope that next time I go to London we will still have the freedom to 'walk on the left'.

TRAFFIC WITHOUT TRAFFIC LIGHTS

How would you feel if the traffic lights at the Nether Edge junction were removed? There is a growing movement across Europe which argues that roads would be much safer without traffic lights. That may well be but would it overcome the most frustrating habits of some drivers who stop in the right-hand lane but only when the lights have turned to green do they bother to indicate that it is their intention to turn right. In Sheffield such a problem is made worse by the number of bus lanes preventing us from passing such vehicles on the left. In Liverpool they have abolished most of their bus lanes. A further thought; why can't we turn left at traffic lights showing red. It works in many other countries.

A BRIEF ENCOUNTER

Two friends were crossing one of the busiest roads in Sheffield the other day. One of them, a big outspoken sort of character and a bit short tempered, had need of a walking stick. When the pedestrian crossing indicated that they could cross they were confronted in the middle of the road by a huge crowd of pedestrians coming from the opposite side. This can cause problems at the best of times but these days one is apt to encounter someone with their head down looking at their mobile phone and oblivious of people coming towards them. So it was on this occasion. The slightly disabled one, afraid of being knocked over, shouted at the young man about to bump into him, 'PUT YOUR MOBILE DOWN!' It had no effect but to make him even angrier because the offending pedestrian also was wearing headphones.

MOOR COSTA

I had mixed feelings when I noticed that a Costa coffee bar is to open on the Moor. I share some of the views of those who complain about the ever-widening spread of these huge coffee chains and I enjoy the varied decors and coffee qualities I find amongst the many independents. On the other hand it does at least offer a standard experience. You know what to expect. And might it indicate a revival of the Moor? At the moment it doesn't offer the most sophisticated shopping experience in the country and with the new Primark and cinema complex soon to be completed perhaps we will find Sheffield's shopping centre catching up with other northern cities. We can only hope.

Susan Elliot Wright's Book for the Nether Edge Festival **"The things we never said" - Richard Taylor**

As part of the September festival the book club that meets at Nether Edge Bowling club have decided to invite a local author to speak. They are also inviting all local book clubs and readers to join them when they discuss the book.

Susan Elliot Wright has agreed to join us for the evening and will be willing to answer any questions Susan lives in Sheffield and has had a number of

novels published. She did an MA on the prestigious "Writing course at Hallam University".

The novel has been described as "Written in beautiful compelling prose, it is by turns revealing, witty and moving".

Please make a note of the time & date in your diaries - Tuesday September 20th at 7.00 pm in the Nether Edge Bowling Club.



In Praise of Man's Best Friend-finder - *Piers Proctor*

The first dog to come into my life was 'Misty', a wonderful Golden Retriever who joined our family in 1981. Some years later after two rather more challenging rescue dogs we now have our second retriever 'Billy'. Why do I love my dogs so much? The health benefits associated with dog ownership are fairly obvious. Those three walks a day and all that fresh air benefit the owner just as much as the dog, and it's generally accepted the companionship helps to reduce stress levels and loneliness. Walking your dog is a great way to discover new areas and backwaters that you didn't know existed. Nether Edge is full of interesting little hideaways and such a diversity of houses and gardens. Even after 45 years of living in the area we still make new discoveries. Recently we walked around Huntingdon Crescent (off Sharrow Lane) a road we didn't know existed.



Perhaps though the greatest benefit of dog ownership is the way it leads to so many introductions. I may, as my neighbour puts it, be of 'a non-threatening age' but there is no way that half as many people, young or old, would be happy to chat to me were it not for the common denominator, our pets.

We all know Nether Edge is a particularly friendly 'village' but take your dog to Chelsea Park or Brincliffe Edge woods or along our tree-lined streets and you can't fail to make new acquaintances. My wife and I have met many lovely people some of whom we see regularly as we make our way along varying dog-walking routes. We may not know their names but invariably we know the names of their dogs. And it's not just fellow dog owners who stop to chat when they see Billy carrying our paper back from Steve's, the newsagents, but people who used to have a dog or would have a dog if their lifestyle permitted it.

I recently discovered that the owner of a shy little whippet who always looks out for Billy when she walks past our gate was the sister of someone I went to school with back in the '60s. We even bumped into the young owners of the lovely Pebbles in the tiny village of Applecross, North-West Scotland.

Almost without exception dog lovers of any sex and every age love to chat about their pet's idiosyncrasies. Whilst I appreciate a dog is not for everyone, (they are a big commitment), the company provided by your Billy or Bobby and their friend-finding service should not be underestimated. There is one downside however. That five minute walk to the shops invariably takes three times as long when you've got your best friend with you.

Climate Action: Why it's important to build a relationship with your MP - Jo Musker-Sherwood

Editor's note: Jo, one of the inspiring speakers at last month's Environment Weeks' event hosted by St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church, explains how she gains the support of others.

Hope for the Future was founded to make it easier for people to contact MPs about climate change. We have spent the last two years working with MPs and their constituents to help foster constructive conversations that result in action. We have encouraged churches, local groups and individuals to contact their MPs about climate change. The campaign has its origins in Sheffield, where Paul Blomfield MP encouraged people to write in, in order to give him a mandate for action in parliament.

For many who feel their concerns are not heard by their MP, or that meeting with them would be a waste of time, we work to overcome this. We have had the opportunity to meet with politicians across the political spectrum, including key cabinet ministers, and through patience and persistence, we have begun to see real change.

What we have learned so far can be summarised in five points:

Build the relationship: Climate campaigners don't always have the best reputation among politicians. If all you manage to achieve in the first meeting is a good rapport and a sense that you can work together, this is a huge achievement! Start with small steps, and as you build trust and the relationship develops, you will see what might be possible in the long term.

Find common ground: In our experience, it is best to avoid topics you don't agree on in the first few meetings. You are unlikely to change your MP's mind in an hour and your time is better spent trying to work together.

Interest before policy: One can spend an awful lot of time debating climate policies with very little result! Try to establish interest before attempting to debate policy.

Don't assume knowledge: It can feel daunting to meet with your MP, but chances are they will know far less than you do about climate change. We have found it best to use our time with MPs to help them learn more - that climate change is happening now, and that its impacts are very real.

How are you talking about climate change?

Discussions around climate change can devolve into an 'us and them' argument. If the climate crisis has taught us anything, it is that we need to work together. We often fall into the trap of blaming the very people we are trying to get on board. An invitation to participate is much more likely to get a positive response than a challenge to prove you wrong!

We are always looking for groups and individuals to work with who are interested in engaging MPs on climate change. For further information, please contact Jo on jo.hopeftf@gmail.com or go to www.hftf.org.uk.

Would your family like to host a Spanish student this July?

INTERESTED?

PLEASE CONTACT

- **Micheala Yelland**
07891132806 or 221 1006
michealabaker@gmail.com

Heart of England Courses Ltd are looking for friendly host families for Spanish students (aged 14 to 19) attending a Summer course in Sheffield from approx. 29 June for 4 weeks.

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Forthcoming events

Sheffield
Symphony
Orchestra

Conductor: Juan Ortuno
The Octagon
University of Sheffield S10 2SE

Strictly & Symphony Dance Concert

TANGO THEATRE DANCE
LIVE ORCHESTRA
FLAMENCO
DISCO CAN-CAN
ZOUK
ARABIAN WALTZ

Sunday 26th June 2016 3.00pm

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Online at www.sheffieldsymphony.org.uk
SSO Ticket Secretary on 07948 116427
Orchestra members or on the door

Sheffield
Symphony
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their 60th
Anniversary
with a great
family show
on Sunday
June 26th,
3pm at the
Octagon,
Sheffield
University.

If you like popular, classical music and dance, if you're a fan of TV's Strictly, or would like a chance to get your feather boa and sequins out of mothballs, even if you feel like taking to the dance floor to Abba, then you'll enjoy this 'Strictly Classical' concert.

Come and listen to a well-loved local orchestra, with several players from Nether Edge, conducted by Juan Ortuno playing a wide selection of dance music with several dancing schools. The finale, an appearance by two giants with their own band, will indeed make it an afternoon to remember.

Tickets: 07948 116427 or on the door or online
www.sheffieldsymphony.org.uk

Escapade Chorale

SUMMER CONCERT

Saturday 2nd July 7.30pm

St Andrew's Psalter Lane church

HENRY PURCELL'S *DIDO & AENEAS*

+

O SING UNTO THE LORD

plus madrigals and songs from 15th to 17th
century including

Henry VIII's 'Pastime with Good Company'
and John Farmer's 'Fair Phyllis'

Purcell's tragic, powerful opera is his first and only all-sung work. It is believed the first performance of *Dido and Aeneas* took place in 1688. It tells the tale of the legendary Queen of Carthage, Dido, and the Trojan refugee prince, Aeneas. When Aeneas and his crew become shipwrecked in Carthage, he and the Queen fall in love. In the meantime, witches plot Dido's destruction. The choir will be accompanied by a small string orchestra and harp-sichord and we continue our support of young musicians with our Associate soloist Lindsey James.

Come and enjoy this summer evening of music and enjoy a glass of wine or orange juice in the interval! Tickets available on the door £10 (£8 concessions, £4 students, accompanied under-16s free) or in advance ...

Tel Ann Kingdom 2369548 or email through choir
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www.whirlowhallfarm.org

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This is a 18+ event only
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Nether Edge Nosh & Natter
Friendly monthly social
Mondays 13 June & 11 July



At the Union Hotel, 1 Union Rd, S11 9EF

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Join us any time 12noon – 2.30pm

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At this time of year Elizabeth likes to tend to her flowers in her garden, which is just down the road from Nether Edge.

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Frances Joan Lee (nee Wragg) talking to John Jenkinson

Joan was born in 1920 and for five years her home was at 100 Ranby Road. In 1925 the family moved to 4 Clifford Road, where Joan lived until her marriage to Harry Lee in 1947, at which time they set up house at 110 Wayland Road. A move to 70 Banner Cross Road later followed and then in 1984, she and Harry returned to Nether Edge when they bought a bungalow, 17 Cherry Tree Drive. Following Harry's death in 2015, Joan moved to Twelve Trees Nursing Home in Priory Road.

"I remember sledging in winter in the fields in Lyndhurst Road, where the new houses are now, and where, during the war, the army parked their lorries. There was an army transport school in the area.

First of all I went to Clifford School, but when I went home with splinters in my bottom from the wooden benches, my parents took me out of school and thereafter I went to Hunters Bar!



The large building standing high up next to our house in Clifford Rd was an annexe to the Central School, first for girls and then for boys. When High Storrs School opened and the Central School closed, 2 Clifford Road became a business school. During the war soldiers were billeted there. My parents befriended one of the soldiers who was very homesick and he came to our house every evening for a cup of cocoa. When Brian, my brother came home on leave, he was not very happy to find this stranger warming his feet at our fireside!

My friend Joyce Homer and her mother were both killed by a bomb which dropped on their house, 52, Kenwood Park Road. On the morning after the Blitz I had to walk from home to work at the City General Hospital because there was no public transport. I went down Fargate and High Street, where Walsh's shop was on fire and through The Wicker where I saw two tramcars that were destroyed. A pair of houses on Psalter Lane, (92/94), were hit by a bomb. Soldiers were billeted in one of the houses.

In 1949 our daughter Christine was born at Shirle Hill which was then an annexe of Nether Edge Hospital. Visiting times very limited and strictly enforced! A home for nurses was in the grounds of Shirle Hill, and where the new houses were built much later on Clifford Road there were allotment gardens.

As a child I went to the pantomime at The Chalet Theatre on Kenwood Park Road. Later this became The Lantern Theatre where as an adult I saw many productions by The Dilys Guite Players. It had seating upstairs for 20 and 80 downstairs. After the death of Dilys Guite it fell into disuse for a while but is now in use again.

Our family went to Psalter Lane Methodist Church for a little while. The congregation there were very posh and no one spoke to us very much, so at the invitation of my cousin we went to her church, Endcliffe Methodist, (Horizon and now The Well), and I was a member there until it closed in 2015.

My friend Bunty Norton lived in Ingleby Lodge, the corner house on Williamson Road. That was very posh. The Tyzacks lived in a house on Williamson Road and that was posh too. Argyle House at the top of Williamson was a nursing home and there were lots of blackberries in the grounds which we used to pick.

A Mr Heath of John Heath's Funeral Directors lived on Psalter Lane at the corner with Kingfield Road. If he saw me waiting at the bus stop on my way to work he would give me a lift in his Rolls-Royce as far as their depot."

What's On In and Around Nether Edge : MAY 2016

Wed. 1 June 10am - 12.30 Make your own stick monster at Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet, Abbeydale Rd South, S7 2QW. Suitable for 3-10 year olds. www.simt.co.uk

Wed. 1 June 7.30-9.30pm Annual Seedling Exchange with members of South Pennine Group of Hardy Plant Society. Bring spare plant pots, compost and labels to take home new seedlings. Shirley House, Psalter Lane www.southpeninehps.co.uk

Fri. 3 June 9am—11am Moths for Breakfast. See results of General Cemetery's night's moth trappings (9am) plus winged inspired crafts (10am). £3 donation suggested to support the Trust. Meet The Gatehouse, Cemetery Ave. www.gencem.org

Sat 4 June 10am "Plants & Mosses". Walk led by Ambroise Baker. Meet at Forge Dam Cafe.

Sat 4 June 12 - 4pm Summer Clothing Exchange at Regather Works, 57-59 Club Garden Rd. £3 entry. Bring a bag of clothes in good condition. Take a bag away.

Sun 5 June 1-4pm Sue's Perennial plant. 37 Montgomery Rd. In aid of Pancreatic Cancer Charity.

Sun 5 June 2pm Guided walk. Discover the history of the Sheffield General Cemetery and residents. Meet at The Gatehouse, Cemetery Ave. S11 8NT. Free but £3 min. donation suggested. www.gencem.org

Tues. 7 June 7pm for 7.30pm start. NENG's AGM at Nether Edge Bowling Club, Nether Edge Rd

Sat 11 June 12-8pm Peace in the Park, The Ponderosa (opp. Crookes Valley Park)

Sat 11 June 7.30pm 'Voices and Bells for a Summer Evening', concert featuring the Sheffield Chorale and hand bells. Tickets £10, (£8) on the door or phone Jan B 07522 944194.

Sun 12 June 12noon - 4pm Nether Edge Farmers' Market/ Summer Fair. Over 80 food and craft stalls along Nether Edge Rd and Glen Rd plus live entertainment & activities on Nether Edge Bowling Green.

Sun 12 June 1- 5pm Abbeydale Miniature Railway opp. 283 Abbeydale Rd South S17 3LB. Rides £1.50 each.

Mon. 13 June 12noon - 2.30pm Nether Edge Nosh & Natter at the Union Hotel. Tel Chris 255 0805.

Sat. 18 June 12noon - 5pm Heeley City Farm Festival, Richards Rd, S2 3DT tel 258 0492

Thurs 23—Sat. 25 7.30pm + 2pm Sat. + Sun 26 6.30pm Shakespeare's The Tempest at Botanical Gardens. www.heartbreakproductions.co.uk Unique outdoor experience. £15/ £10 child/conc. +£3 for covered chair.

Fri. 24 June 8pm Grand General Knowledge Quiz, at Nether Edge Bowling Club. Why not put together a quiz team and enter this popular event? All proceeds to charity. John Barthram, quizmaster.

Sat. 25 June 7pm Beer & Bangers Comedy Night. Whirlow Hall Farm Trust, Whirlow Lane, S11 9QF 235 2678

Sun 26 June 3pm Strictly and Symphony Dance Concert for families, Octagon, Western Bank, S10 2TQ

Sat 2 July Summer Fair at Clifford School, Psalter Lane

Sat 2 July 7.30pm Escafeld Chorale Summer Concert. St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church. Tickets Ann 236 9548