

EDGE

NETHER EDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWSLETTER www.netheredge.org.uk
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May 2018
Registered Charity No. 1139239



The famous cherry blossoms on Abbeydale Park Drive

Crackers in Spring. That's funny? See page 7

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

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

David Pierce has compiled this month's EDGE. John Clifford will be compiling the June EDGE

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NETHER EDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP - APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

Name _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Tel. _____ Email _____

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

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

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

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

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

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

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

Please send signed forms to our nengtreasurer@gmail.com



Spring has arrived at last. It has taken a long time for those fiercely cold winds to depart and blow themselves out elsewhere but their memory lives on and the damage they caused can be seen in our gardens where plants that have survived previous winters have suffered and died in that blast of cold air. Each of us will remember particular moments when we suffered and complained somewhat flippantly that it was 'rather chilly'. Now though the crocuses have flowered, the daffodils are out and the temperature is rising. Look upwards and we can see that birds are nesting and the trees are about to burst into leaf. It's time to celebrate. And it's time to note that if all had gone according to plan the Council/Amey would have felled hundreds of our trees (most of them healthy) but that thanks to the trees campaign they are still able to play their part in this year's wonderful spring. Consequently, this issue of EDGE celebrates not just the arrival of spring but also the continuing survival of our trees and the significant successes of the campaign to save them.

It's hard to believe that the trees controversy started six years ago and it is three years since NENG became seriously concerned. Since then concern about the scale of the planned felling across the city has grown and actions to delay or prevent unnecessary felling have been initiated by protestors. It is only comparatively recently that Nether Edge has been targeted by the Council/Amey and resistance to their actions has escalated. Legal battles and arrests have been comparatively low profile except for those closely involved with developments. Then in the last few months, following increasingly successful campaigning, the Council/Amey enlisted the help of security guards to overcome growing resistance to their felling programme. Against a background of shocking and sometimes ludicrous incidents there came an explosion of media interest in what has been occurring. Consequently the Council/Amey's programme has been the target of overwhelming condemnation from newspapers and professional journals far and wide and made those responsible 'a laughing stock'. The controversy has expanded to be not only about trees but also democracy and politics.

It is not for EDGE or NENG to comment upon the latter but it can note that in spite of the huge publicity being given to events in Nether Edge the truth of what is happening can only really be appreciated by observing it first-hand. Residents in one of our roads may be quite oblivious to confrontations between protestors and the scores of police, security and Amey personnel in neighbouring roads. It is worth noting and emphasising once again that the campaign has been a peaceful one. This EDGE therefore seeks to illuminate the disturbing state of our neighbourhood as we look forward to another summer through some pictures and comment.

Some may object to EDGE devoting more space to 'trees' but this is the most significant event directly related to NENG's mission to have occurred since we were founded. It goes to the heart (metaphorically and literally) of what Nether Edge is.

In December 2016 there were 228 trees on the felling list in Nether Edge, Sharrow and Carter Knowle.

Of those:

158 are still standing

14 were saved by the ITP process

22 diseased or seriously damaging trees have been felled uncontested by campaigners

Only 34 healthy trees have been felled

CORRECTION

It has been drawn to our attention that in an article about Thildy Lowe in April's EDGE there were two incorrect statements. We are happy to make it clear that the Chelsea Park Bonfire has always been run by the 72nd Sheffield (St Andrew's) Scout Group, not St Oswald's as the article states. The bonfire is also not run by NENG.

Editor

DANCE TO HEALTH

Dance to Health is a new, pioneering falls prevention dance programme. It combines physiotherapy with the creativity, expression and energy of dance. If you have fallen, are worried about falling, or just want to stay steady, then maintaining your health and fitness by strengthening your muscles and improving your flexibility is important. Participants attending Dance to Health regularly report that it eases aches and pains and helps retain independence and quality of life.

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SPRINGTIME IN OUR GARDENS by Bill Atherton



Well, we have made it to May with more than enough drama in the garden! Three significant falls of snow since the beginning of March. So don't be in a rush to plant out your tender subjects, even in a 'normal' year the last frost can be expected mid-month. And our weather has given up on 'normal'. When they do go out, after hardening off, remember to use a cloche or fleece as protection. I have stopped using ordinary panes of glass in the garden. They are too unforgiving. And when they break, not if, you have a fierce mess to clear up that can hurt you and anyone else who comes into your garden. As most of my gardening is done on the allotment I am not too fussed about the decorative nature of what I am doing. I have six-foot long shower door panels made of toughened glass that have been up-cycled for use as cloches. The aluminium frames work to keep them in place.

Now is the time to plan for what to be putting into the local Allotment Show. Archer Lane Annual Show is a friendly affair and is held at the end of summer, September 1st this year. The main condition for entry is membership of the society. All you have to do is get to the "Pavilion" on a Sunday morning and pay your £5. So that won't break the bank. The schedule for the show is available there too and there is a Facebook page. 'If you want to shine, go where it is dark.' Last year there were no entries in the lettuce, gladiolus or chrysanthemum classes; asters, roses and carrots were scarce. Or if you want more competition, potatoes, runner beans and tomatoes will give you that. The 'domestic classes' of cakes and preserves are a place to excel for some and there were no ketchups last year.

If shows are not your thing will you consider planting for the benefit of insects? Hoverflies need open flowers to feed. They will use the daisies in your lawn but the single asters have more colour variation, are taller and look better in a vase! The larval stage of the hoverfly eat greenfly by the thousand. So help them to help you by giving the adults something to eat. I had a patch of these last year that was buzzing with life until the first frost. Verbena Bonariensis is a dramatic plant that will attract butterflies in the same way as Buddleia and it takes less room. Apparently it can be an invasive weed in the southern states of the USA but our weather will keep that problem in check. There are other variants, not as tall. I have seen them used effectively in plantings in National Trust properties where there were Comma, Red Admiral and Peacock butterflies on it.

NB. If you had the foresight to plant some seed trays with lettuce seed last month rather than pricking all of them out as individual plants just crop them off with a pair of scissors and eat them as a 'baby leaf salad'.



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A NEW YEAR FOR NENG, but how does it operate?

By the time you are reading this NENG will have held its annual general meeting, new officers and a committee will have been elected and they will begin to develop their plans to build upon last year's success. For those who may not know then it is a very suitable time to explain what NENG is and how it works.

Our purpose in the community is easy, it is written in our Articles of Association and can be summarised as: to improve the conditions of life especially of those living or working in the (neighbourhood) in a common effort to advance education, to improve the environment and to provide facilities in the interest of social welfare for recreation and leisure time activities. We are both a charity and a limited company and the full articles are available on NENG's website.

The Trustees are the over-arching body for NENG but the management committee is the co-ordinating body for all NENG's sub-groups viz: Farmers' Market, Festival, History, FOBEW and other less formal groupings. It organises membership and collection of subscriptions, the production and publication of EDGE, contact where needed with other bodies and occasional donations to some.

The sub-groups manage their own affairs but they all recognise the value to their own work and to the community by being part of the wider community group, NENG. The groups enjoy insurance cover from NENG as well as banking facilities. Any monies raised by a sub-group should be expended in ways determined by the group provided it is consistent with NENG's aims and approved by NENG's officers.

And what does NENG actually do?

NENG has 888 subscribers 332 of whom are members (Members have voting rights within NENG whereas subscribers do not)

EDGE, its monthly magazine, is distributed to all subscribers and members. It is produced by committee members (and occasionally others) and is highly regarded in the neighbourhood for its variety of content and high quality appearance.

THE FARMERS' MARKET celebrated its tenth birthday in March. It is held four times each year and offers a changing variety of at least 80 stalls accompanied by entertainments for all. In spite of extremities of weather, like the Windmill, it has 'never closed'. It has established itself as a very popular and enjoyable community event and would be missed by many. It has raised £70,000 for local charities and is looking forward to increasing that amount to £100,000 in a few years' time.

THE FESTIVAL is three years old and was created as a way of marking the success of the market when its donations to charity hit £50,000. A highly eclectic event 'to celebrate the wide range of talents and activities amongst the people of nether Edge' it has been very successful with few 'glitches'. From the Party in the Park to history walks and talks, from festival dinners and quizzes to literature and musical concerts it is likely to firmly establish itself alongside the market.

THE HISTORY GROUP has grown substantially in recent years in terms of both its membership and activities. The enormous challenge of producing Aspects of Nether Edge has been taken on and resulted in an astonishing success with over half of the 1000 print run already sold. Their plans for the future are impressive with more local research, more publications, talks and walks.

FOBEW is almost as old as NENG itself and has also thrived in recent years. The task of tidying and improving such a large and difficult area of woodland is obviously a daunting one. But with a growing number of volunteers and a well-planned approach to their work the improvements are obvious to any regular visitors. Under the NENG umbrella there are many different kinds of opportunities for volunteers.

NENG MEMBERS engage in other activities away from the limelight such as tidying Chelsea Park, creating and caring for the pocket park and litter-picking. NENG has recently (thanks to a committee member with relevant qualifications) renewed its interest in local planning matters and commented on plans as appropriate. The committee gives small donations to local organisations when it can and is renewing its attempts to strengthen links with other community organisations. (Common Ground is increasingly involved with Festival activities).

WITH MORE WILLING VOLUNTEERS much more can be done by NENG. Improving our links with other relevant organisations is high on our agenda. To make the best use of available people we are trying to distribute some of the officer roles in order to spread the load and build upon our past success.

David Pierce

Nether Edge Festival 2018

Saturday 15th to Sunday 24th September



The festival helps to bring the residents of Nether Edge together to show Sheffield what a vibrant multi-cultural community we are lucky to live in.

Featuring a week of many events :-Food, Music, Arts and Crafts, History, Performance, Literature, Socials, Sports and Walks and much more.

A LETTER TO EDGE from Michael Miller

It dismays me that reporting about the Sheffield tree renewal scheme is so one-sided, giving voice only to the save-the-trees campaigners. As a Nether Edge resident who has been a member of the Woodland Trust for 20 years, I try to take a balanced view. The main problem is that many local trees were planted en bloc up to 150 years ago when roads needed only to allow for the occasional horse and cart. This means that, unfortunately, large forest tree varieties were often planted very near to kerbs and consequently in their maturity are inappropriate for their urban location. I have photos showing how some of them have grown so large that they block half the pavement width, have humped up pavements as much as 30cm, pushed kerbstones out into the roadway with some leaning out into the road space, sometimes at risk of being struck by larger lorries. It is thus plain common sense that these should be removed and replaced by smaller varieties in slightly altered locations before road and pavement repairs. So it is not simply a case that all the healthy trees should be preserved regardless of other considerations.

Yes, the mature trees do add attractiveness to the streets and contribute to curbing global warming, although research finds that in some cases avenues of trees actually contain pollutants such as particulates because they prevent their wind removal. In a forest trees grow, eventually die and are replaced by new growth, and this is what the council are trying to replicate with a managed policy so that future generations will enjoy a succession of tree growth and renewal; it is not wanton wholesale destruction as campaigners claim. Meanwhile Amey are doing an excellent job of renewing roads and pavements, making driving and walking safer and more pleasant, and it is sad to see this good work being delayed by unreasonable protesters, let alone the funds wasted by their obstruction and consequent legal actions."

There is a need to take the bigger, longer, wider view looking to the future of our trees. Myopically trying to save everything now is not a good, or economically sensible solution to ensure a long term progression of mature trees for future generations as well as our own.



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ON SENTRY DUTY by John Haigh

Six o'clock on a winter morning. Dawn nearly two hours away. A full moon scuds through the bare branches of the tree I am defending. A cat emerges from under a car and looks at me suspiciously. I unfold my garden chair as quietly as possible – people are sleeping only a few yards away – and take up my position.

The six-till-eight shift is not likely to see the yellow-jackets in action, but twice this week they have driven past in their flatbeds, like sinister carnival floats, three of them crammed in the front, not smiling, eyes averted, each glued to a phone. They have slowed down, unresponsive to my friendly wave, just long enough to make that fateful decision; "tree manned by protester, find another to attack".

The real action is half a mile away where there are clusters of trees for them to go at, where they can hope to outnumber the protesters, at least for long enough to get the barriers up. If the protesters are there first they can gecko* and, in a game like chess, prevent the work. It is mildly dangerous and when all the residents are not on your side it is unpleasant and upsetting. I am glad that in my road we are uniformly popular.

My magnificent plane tree, its bare winter branches stretching over the road, leans gently across the pavement verge. This is its crime; to slightly block the machinery that the company use to re-lay the road. To save them fifteen minutes work a 100-year-old tree must go. Before the action started there was an independent panel which examined the list of condemned trees and found no just cause for most of them to go. The Company ignored this result.

Sitting quietly I examine my personal motives for being here. I like trees. I hate wanton purposeless destruction. I hate the cynical manipulation of public property. I especially hate those in temporary authority riding roughshod over public resistance. A war memorial, an avenue of trees with Christmas lights, a little girl's favourite tree, all weigh nothing in the crude financial balance and can be treated with contempt. A peaceful, legal, fairly courteous protest is the least that can be done. And I get to see another dawn over Chippinghouse Road.

*Gecko, v. int. to take a position against a garden wall close to a tree, to vitiate the positioning of barriers and prevent cutting.



One of the best (or worst) things about Christmas is the crackers. Of course they look pretty and they enhance the appearance of the Christmas dinner table. It's fun to pull them too. But the jokes that they contain are guaranteed to produce more groans than laughter. Nevertheless all in all it wouldn't be Christmas without them. So how about extending the fun from the depths of winter to the spring that has at last followed it. How about some spring jokes? If not for you then for the children.

Does February like March? No, but April May

What season is it best to go on a trampoline? Spring time

What do you call a rabbit with fleas? Bugs Bunny

What goes up when the rain goes down? Umbrellas

What month of the year is the shortest? May (only 3 letters)

How excited was the gardener about spring? So excited he wet his plants.

Name a bow that can't be tied. A rainbow.

Why did Cinderella get kicked off the rounders team? She always ran away from the ball

Why is everyone so tired on April 1? Because they've just finished a long, 31 day March!

What flowers grow on faces? Tulips (Two-lips)!

Why is the letter A like a flower? A bee (B) comes after it!

What do you get when you pour hot water down a rabbit hole? A hot cross bunny

What do you call a girl with a frog on her head? Lily!

What does the Easter Bunny order at a Chinese Restaurant? Hop Suey!



The 'battle' to protect healthy trees in Nether Edge has been going on for three years and has become increasingly bitter. In recent months the media has been awash with reports about the confrontations in and around Nether Edge and the political background to them. Modern technology means that as events unfold everybody appears to be filming everybody else. Social media is packed with video reports of these disturbing developments.

WHEN WI

Sheffield union leaders urge rethink on tree-felling in U-turn over protest camp



Yorkshire Post

Chainsaw gang felling one 25ft cherry tree are protected by 48 guards as huge protests meet Sheffield Council's £2billion resurfacing plan
Daily Mail



INTER
AFTER

City secretly planned to chop down half its trees
The Times



Sheffield Council confirms contract containing 17,500 tree-felling figure won't be changed
Yorkshire Post



She
The T



...L IT END?

The pictures and headlines on these pages can only scratch the surface of the coverage nationally and internationally, the vast majority of it sympathetic, supportive and shocked. Here in Nether Edge efforts continue to arrange talks aiming to bring this controversy to a sensible end and although as EDGE goes to press there is a welcome pause in the felling of trees we do not yet have an answer to the question WHEN WILL IT END?



Sheffield Council blames 'increasingly dangerous' protesters as partial tree-felling halt called
Yorkshire Post



Woman with a plastic toy trumpet and a 5ft church missionary are arrested during protest over felling of trees
Daily Mail

**NATIONAL SHEFFIELD TREE CAMPAIGN GROUP SET UP
GLOBAL DONATIONS MADE TO PROTESTORS**
The Yorkshire Post

Workers' tea 'poisoned' to save trees from felling
The Times



Sheffield's tree-felling rampage halted by protests



TWO CHEAP RECIPES TO FEED A FAMILY

There's no need to spend a lot in order to eat well. My family has always loved these easy to prepare inexpensive and nutritious dishes. Now my children serve them to our grandchildren. Amusingly, for a long time some members of our family thought that the first recipe was called Porpoise Casserole.

PAUPERS' CASSEROLE – feeds four

(For a long time some members of the family thought that it was called Porpoise Casserole!)

Ingredients

- 50 g (2oz) butter
- 50 g (2 oz) plain flour
- 600 ml (1 pint) milk
- sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Freshly grated nutmeg (optional)
- 4 large onions, peeled and very thinly sliced
- 4 large potatoes, peeled and very thinly sliced
- 125 - 225 g (4-8oz) bacon rashers, rind removed and cut into strips (or a pack of bacon lardons)



Method

1. Make a white sauce by melting the butter on a low heat in a small pan, stir in the flour and gradually whisk in the milk
2. Bring to the boil stirring all the while, once smooth and thick, reduce the heat to a very low simmer, add the seasoning and nutmeg and leave it ticking over while you prepare the rest of the ingredients.
3. Grease a casserole dish and build up in layers of onion, potatoes and bacon bits, ending with potatoes
4. Pour the white sauce over the top and jiggle well to distribute the sauce evenly
5. Cover and bake in a pre-heated oven for 1 hour at 200° C (400° F - gas 6), uncover and reduce to 180° C (350° F - gas 4) and cook for 1 final hour

Serving suggestions

Serve with winter vegetables such as squashes, sprouts, cabbage or even bok choy.

TUNA FISH CASSEROLE – serves four

Method

1. Mix a tin of mushroom soup with a tin of tuna. Add 3 sticks of chopped celery and half a chopped onion.
2. Add $\frac{3}{4}$ mug of cooked rice, 3 oz of grated cheese, $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of mustard and salt and pepper.
3. Mix ingredients together, then transfer them to a shallow oven-proof dish. Sprinkle more grated cheese on the top and decorate with a few halved cherry tomatoes.

Cook in a pre-heated oven at 180 C for 20- 30 mins.

Let me know if you enjoy these cheap recipes, Margaret



TREES – a few reflections By Jack Massey

Until recently, R J Stokes had a paint factory on Little London Road and Mr Stokes kept bees on the slope behind. The resultant honey was sold over the counter and I always used to buy a jar. I once asked Mr Stokes where his bees found their honey and he told me that most of it came from the lime trees in Nether Edge! It seemed ironic that I was buying back my own honey!

Bees aren't the only insects that appreciate our trees. In summer, they are alive with aphids, which shower the district with honeydew and turn unwisely parked cars into something resembling a toffee apple. The aphids in turn attract bats and in summer it's usually just a case of looking up to see them. A pipistrelle will eat three thousand midges in a night, so our lime trees are a vital source of food for them.

The most obvious 'tree-users' in our area are of course the birds. One of my favourites is the often overlooked Stock Dove. We have a bird table on our bedroom window ledge and a few years ago a pair nested underneath it. I don't want to hear any accusations of anthropomorphising but we called them Bill and Koo. They're often mistaken for feral pigeons but if you know what to look for they're quite common in Nether Edge. The British Trust for Ornithology did a survey some years ago to find out why this should be so. Their conclusion? Our trees.

When my wife retired, we treated ourselves to a balloon trip from Endcliffe Park. The wind took us over Nether Edge and we were struck by how it was almost like flying over a forest. Nether Edge without its trees? It would be like a smile without teeth.

A PLEA FROM MARION

At last, at last, Spring appears to have arrived..... So it is time to pick up the hoe, order the seeds and pray for sun!!

I have a few gardens lined up for this year's Open Gardens event on 24th June, but it would be really good to have some new entries! So I wonder if any of you might be up for a good day opening your garden and enjoying the company of neighbours. Or do you have a neighbour who might be persuaded to join us?

If you or any of your neighbours is interested please contact me on this e-mail address or telephone 258 4999.

It's a great day to enjoy. Let's make it even better.

Marion Rout

JAMES BIRD LANDSCAPES

EDGE has been asked to assist in counteracting adverse publicity resulting from a recent BBC News story. We are happy to publish the following statement.

On March 22 BBC News ran a story on the felling of thousands of trees in Sheffield - most of which were in Nether Edge. Three minutes into the programme the footage - while showing the tree campaigners' patrol of the area - pans across to a James Bird Landscape van which happened to be in that road. The footage was misleading and, even worse, goes against James Bird Landscapes' values as staunch supporters of the campaign against tree felling.

James Bird Landscapes has nothing to do with the thousands of trees being felled across the city - especially in Nether Edge. James Bird, the company's director, said: "I was worried when I saw the footage as I think the tree felling is outrageous - we're nothing to do with it. It's crazy that the council have authorised the mass destruction of Nether Edge's natural architecture. These trees define our city, especially in areas like Nether Edge, where I was brought up and where I live now."

'Rather, the company responsible is Amey, Sheffield City

Council's sub-contractor. Amey is paid to manage our streets - including repairing the thousands of crater-like pot holes - as part of a 25-year £2.2bn contract. Quite how a 25-year contract provides value for public money is another conversation. But either way, we're stuck with Amey for another twenty-odd years and felling trees is high on its agenda. The council claims some of the trees are 'diseased', 'dead', 'dying', 'damaging' and even 'discriminatory' though one wonders how a tree can be 'discriminatory'. James Bird said: "I have no idea why so many trees are being felled. Many are not diseased and not dangerous. They just require regular pruning - in the same manner as many of the tree-lined streets in Paris are maintained."

"Furthermore, we need trees to provide clean air. There are parts of Nether Edge where the level of nitrogen dioxide is above the European Union threshold. But what does our council do - cut down our only natural defence!" The programme's online video alone has attracted more than 100,000 viewers - many may now believe it is James Bird Landscapes which is responsible. "It couldn't be further from the truth. Short of chaining myself to a tree, I can only say that I support those who are campaigning against the mass tree-felling that is taking place in our city."



COMMON GROUND COMMUNITY CENTRE – LARGE HALL & ROOMS FOR HIRE!

For 15 years Common Ground Community Centre at the former St Peter's Church Hall and grounds has been run by local people as a resource and community facility for the residents of Sharrow, Nether Edge and Brincliffe. We have a new spring in our step and are improving the hall and grounds to provide an inclusive, affordable space for hire for the benefit of everyone in the local community.

We have improved the hall to enable Sheffield Futures to run the youth club again, every Friday 6pm - 8pm.

Open to everyone as long as your 12-17 years old!

We have a lovely large hall with a kitchen and stage as well as 2 meeting rooms for hire. We are getting more a more bookings now for a range of activities, such as:

- Birthday Parties;
- Music & Arts;
- Health & Fitness;
- Markets / Fairs;
- Wedding Parties;
- Faith Groups;
- Performance Stage....and more!

Hire is cheap and is currently £15/hr for the hall and £8/hr for the rooms. Even cheaper for regulars! We also have a well-established Gardening Group that is open to all & meets every Saturday at 10am. We look after the raised beds, cut the grass, litter pick and maintain the open space. This is all looking lovely now. We have some great regular user groups too so please check out our Facebook Page to see what's going on.

Common Ground is run by a small, friendly team of local residents & we are always looking for helpers so please get in touch if you'd like to lend a hand sometime – even if just for an hour or two!

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

Get in touch via Facebook or via our email address commongroundabbeydale@hotmail.co.uk or call 07958 629 881.

Thanks, Jake Hurst

Sheffield & District Family History Society

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FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

Saturday 9 June 2018
10 am – 4 pm

Sheffield Wednesday Football Ground
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Introducing Your Committee

HELEN WILLOWS. I've lived in Nether Edge for nearly 20 years and we're definitely staying put. I'm the planning rep for NENG, a role I took on about four years ago when NENG was casting around for anyone who could help.

I work for Barnsley Council in the planning policy section. We are preparing the Local Plan which sets out the land allocations to meet development needs until 2033 and the planning policies that will be used to help decide all planning applications. (Sheffield says it will start consulting on its Local Plan this year (they previously committed to start in Jan 2017...) so that will be something for NENG to consider commenting on).

I live with my husband Pete, (cyclist and old car nut) three sons and dog, Preston. My hobbies mainly seem to consist of shouting at the dog in local parks, sorry but his recall isn't great.

JOHN AUSTIN. I am a firm believer that the health of any community is dependent on the active involvement of those living there. So as someone who has lived in Nether Edge for 27 years and close by in Carter Knowle for 16 years before that, it is almost a matter of personal obligation for me to be engaged in NENG. I have been involved in various ways over the years : including Committee member, Trustee, Vice Chair, litter picker, and member of the History Group, trying to add value through the experiences gathered throughout my life in a variety of sectors : the steel industry, education, academic and not for profit, and in running and eventually selling my own business. This year I am stepping down as Trustee on the basis that a periodic influx of new blood is good for any organisation. I hope to continue as a member of the Committee and the History Group.

KEVIN HICKEY. I was born in Birmingham into a traditional Irish Catholic family. One of five sons, once I completed and survived my school education I went to study art and design at Central St Martin's in London and Bath Academy of Art where I met my wife Lynne who was studying Fine Art. I started teaching in higher education while Lynne was doing her post grad. It was a very exciting time to be in London in terms of art and culture. We moved to Yorkshire in 1975 to teach in further education. I worked in a number of colleges in the region and retired in 2012 as deputy Principal at Chesterfield College. I was employed as an OFSTED inspector for ten years and an external consultant for the Quality Improvement Agency. We have two sons and three wonderful grandchildren who live in Sheffield and they keep us happy and fulfilled in so many ways. I am very committed to the work of NENG and believe it does contribute to social cohesion in the community and neighbourhood and but there is much more to be done in the future.

LAURA FITZGERALD. We came to Nether Edge in Christmas 2004 while I was working as Head of Public Relations for Sheffield Hallam University. Frustratingly 2006 brought relocation, but an enjoyable couple of years living and working in Cardiff followed before we returned to Sheffield in 2008 and focused our house searches for a move back to this area. We have 9 ½ year-old twin boys. I've been delivering Edge magazine locally with them since they were a few months old and subsequently joined the NENG committee. I now work on a freelance basis and having some html coding experience and (slightly!) more flexible timetable, I agreed to help out with the website in 2012 and have been overseeing it since then.

PAT ROGERS. I am a southern softie but have lived in Nether Edge for the past 40 years and feel it is a great place to be. When I came to Sheffield I taught at the now defunct Abbeydale Grange School. After a break when our two boys were born, I taught children with severe and complex learning difficulties at Norfolk Park Specialist School for 23 very happy years. I am now enjoying a fairly hectic retirement!

RICHARD TAYLOR. I have lived in Nether Edge or close to it all of my life. I was educated at Greystones and High Storrs schools and later qualified as a dentist and practised at Hunters Bar for many years. My partner Denise and I love to travel to other places as much as we can. Since retiring 3 years ago I've enjoyed time with my daughters and grandchildren and immersed myself in a number of community activities. I play bowls at Nether Edge Bowling Club where I served on its committee for 8 years and for 4 as its President. More recently I have established an art group and a book group at the Bowling Club that are open to all and thriving. Within NENG I am a member of its History Group and I have also played an active role on the festival committee. This year I am a co-chair and looking forward to organising another successful festival in September.

MAZHAR HUSSAIN. I have lived in Nether Edge since I came to this country 30 years ago. I have been working in Education for the past 28 years in secondary, primary and adult education and finally into Special Needs 10 years ago. This sector was the most enjoyable and rewarding of all. I am actively involved in several local and citywide organisations that focus on building for the common good, care, mutual respect and understanding for each other regardless of people's ethnic, cultural or religious backgrounds. Of course I like meeting new people from all walks of life and backgrounds and learning about them, their communities and cultures. I am very pleased to be involved in NENG where I have met a lot of caring and friendly people with their commitment and dedication to try to do what is good for Nether Edge. There is still a long way to go so I strongly encourage our readers to join NENG and contribute in whatever way you can.



Introducing Your Committee - continued

DENI ENNALS I have lived in Nether Edge since 1996 and have been on the committee for about four years and the festival committee for two. My background is in health visiting, working with deprived families, teaching and management. In recent years I have sat on Employment and Personal Independence Payment tribunals, developed and set up S2 Food Bank and am now Co-Chair of The Food Bank Network in Sheffield.

I believe passionately about equality, promoting women's involvement, celebrating diversity and eradicating poverty. I can offer my skills and experience to help NENG in many ways. On a more personal level I love learning about art, walking in Derbyshire and visiting different countries and I have a deep interest in politics.

JOHN CLIFFORD I have been a NENG member since the late 80s, I have lived half my life in Nether Edge (30+yrs) and can remember when Sainsbury's was a second hand car showroom. My children were educated at Abbeydale Primary, now Nether Edge Primary, and subsequently Abbeydale Grange, now gone. I am keen to help NENG in all it does across the breadth of the community.

DAVID PIERCE My employment record is an unusual one embracing industry, the civil service and some involvement with higher education. My claims to fame centre mainly on musical theatre (in particular many performances as a panto dame) and trying to perform well as a fell-runner. In recent years I have tried to make a contribution to our community through various roles in NENG, its festival, farmers' market and EDGE.

Please note that following the AGM there may be more names to add to this list of committee members.

Help Wanted!

Nether Edge History Group will have a stall at the Sheffield and District Family History Fair on the 9th June. This is a really big event, more details are on their flyer.

We will be promoting the group and selling our publications, notably the republished Walks Around Nether Edge booklets and the new 'Aspects of Nether Edge' book.

If you could spare an hour on the day to help us we would be most grateful.

Please contact
Kath Fry 07759145306
kath.l.fry@icloud.com

SPRAT'S ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST CROSSWORD

Across

1. Between John and Romans (4)
3. Non-native resident (8)
9. Higher ground (7)
10. Seaside golf course (5)
11. Australian wild dog (5)
12. Great comfort (6)
14. British butterfly (5,4,4)
17. Light-hearted romp (6)
20. Mother-of-pearl (5)
23. Greenfly (5)
24. Two-wheeled vehicle (7)
25. Diana Ross's group (8)
26. Guinea pig (4)

Down

1. Bridge carrying a water course (8)
2. Claw (5)
4. Type of pasta (13)
5. Sepals of a flower (5)
6. Crossbred dog (7)
7. Coarse file (4)
8. Free (6)
13. Burial ground (8)
15. The Hindenberg? (7)
16. Madness (6)
18. Cup-shaped spoon (5)
21. Flat-bottomed fishing vessel (5)
22. Sweet planet (4)

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What's on in and around Nether Edge in May 2018

28th April-10th June. Sheffield Environment Weeks. Visit www.sheffieldenvironment.org/events.

Tues 1st May 6-8.00pm. Nether Edge History Group open meeting at the Union Hotel. Opportunity to learn what the history group is doing, find projects you can get involved in and share details of your own historical interests. All welcome.

Thur 3rd May. 7.00-10.00pm. Aspergers are Us + Autism and Rhetoric of Scientific Sadness. A coming of age documentary film produced by the renowned Duplass Brothers. Regather works. www.regather.nett.

Fri 4th May. 8.00pm. Leeds City Stompers performing at the Nether Edge Bowling Club. Phone Michelle 077427839 or email nedgebyyahoo.co.uk.

Fri 4th May. 7.00-10.30pm. Festival of Debate- Making local Food Work in Sheffield. Regather works. www.regather.net

Fri 4th May. 7.30pm. Tom Brosseau an American songwriter performing gentle acoustic guitar and male vocals at Cafe#9. £11.

Thur 10th May. 7.30-10.30pm. Regather Comedy Club featuring Paul Currie, described as a "one man Monty Python". Regather works. www.regather.net.

Thur 10th May. 7.30pm. Ma Polaine's Great Decline take inspiration from 1940's jazz performing at Cafe#9. Tickets £11.

Fri 11th May. 7.30-10.30pm. Lamplight Club featuring Kadialy Kouyate. A Senegalese kora virtuoso. Tickets £10. www.regather.net.

Fri 11th -12th May. Fri 5.30-9pm, Sat 2.00-9pm. Heeley City farm Beer Festival. www.heeleyfarm.org.uk.

Sat 12th and Sun 13th May. 10.am-4pm. Amazing Abbeydale 2018. Join us as we celebrate National Mills Weekend! Enjoy family entertainment, traditional crafts and skills and a chance to see restored waterwheels and newly displayed heritage buildings following completion of a £1 million Heritage Lottery funded projects to revive the Hamlet. Normal admission applies. Tel 0114 272 2106.

Sun 13th May. Abbeydale Miniature Railway trains run between 1pm and 5pm. Tickets £1.50 per person per ride. Abbeydale Road. Unlike last year they will not be open on Bank Holiday Mondays. www.sheffieldsmee.co.uk

Mon 14th-Sat 19th May. 7.30pm. When we are Married by J B Priestley. A Yorkshire farcical comedy. Lantern Theatre. www.lanterntheatre.org.uk.

Wed 16th May. 7.30pm. Devarrow. A singer songwriter who blends simple folk with sophisticated pop performing at Cafe#9. Tickets £11.

Thur 17th May. 2-4pm. Kenwood - A Victorian Garden Suburb Environment Weeks Walk. Led by the Nether Edge history Group. Join us to explore the Kenwood Park estate and its developments since the 1850's. We finish with a walk around the grounds of the Kenwood Hall Hotel (George Wostenholm's house). Traditional Afternoon Tea in the hotel at 4pm for the special price of £10. Meet beside the bench at the mini-roundabout, Montgomery Rd/Rundle Rd junction.

Fri 18th May. 7.30pm. Jess Norman who draws her inspiration from British and American folk performing at Cafe#9. Tickets £11.

Fri 18th May. 7.30-10.30pm. The Lamplight Club present Cath and Phil Tyler who will play Anglo-American folk music using guitar, banjo voice and fiddle. Tickets £8. www.regather.net.

Sat 19th May. 7.30-12pm. Cassetteboy. No-one is safe from the cut 'n' past skills of Cassetteboy. Best known for their riotous YouTube videos which have attracted millions of views. Their live show on the big screen at Abbeydale Picture House is part of the Festival of Debate programme. Free.

Thur 24th May. 7.30pm. The Black Feathers a contemporary Folk Duo performing at Cafe#9. Tickets £13.

Fri 25th May. 7.30pm. Support Your Local Idiots at this fund raising event. A tale told by the Idiot Theatre Company through music, comedy and miscellaneous entertainment. Lantern Theatre. www.lanterntheatre.org.uk.

Sun 27th May. 7.30pm. Two written by Jim Cartwright. A gritty yet heart warming look at Northern life filled with pathos and humour. Presented by the Reform Theatre company. tickets £10. Lantern Theatre. www.lanterntheatre.org.uk.

Wed 30th May. Between 4.00-8.00pm. Carbon Footprint Drop-In. What is a Carbon Footprint? Can I save money? Drop in to Shirley House, 31 Psalter Lane and have a look at some carbon footprint calculators and find out how you are doing. Everyone welcome-Refreshments provided. A Sheffield Environment Week's event.

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Answers to Sprat's Crossword



MARY AND GEORGE REMEMBER 'LITTLE AUDREY'



For the first of an occasional feature about long-standing residents of Nether Edge we talked over a coffee and biscuits to Mary and George Beeley. Although they had lived in Norton and then in a rented flat in Kenwood Road it was 1961 when they bought the house in which they still live in Montgomery Avenue. 'It was a very genteel area in those days', Mary says. 'In other parts of Sheffield they'd say 'Don't they talk posh – must come from Nether Edge''. Posh or not they don't think the area has changed significantly since then and they'd still recommend it as a place to live. They like the

look of the area and its closeness to the city, the variety of house design and the generous gardens. It's more diverse and bohemian than when they arrived and they like that. They can recall shops (after some disagreements about which was where) that have long since gone, the chemist with the big coloured jars where Cafe9 is now, the butcher's shop and the wool shop where Homemade is, the sweet shop and the grocer's with its pneumatic cash transfer system.

They were both teachers. George taught English at Hartley Brook and Wisewood schools before moving to Silverdale School as Head of Department whilst Mary specialised in needlework at Hartley Brook, Shiregreen, Wybourne and finally Abbeydale Secondary School. George and Mary can recall many amusing incidents from the Nether Edge of yesteryear. Mary tells of a doctor's surgery where she was waiting her turn to see the doctor. Suddenly the door to the consulting room burst open and the doctor ejected a man with the words 'and don't come back again'. He explained to Mary, 'That man was complaining of a cough – he smokes forty a day!'

George recalled the times when the Union pub was managed by a gentleman called Irving Barwell with a wife, 'little Audrey' who had very clear ideas about who could drink in the pub. She kept sketches behind the bar of the kind of people who wouldn't be allowed, mostly 'bearded, long-haired types'. Nevertheless 'it was a nice pub. No music'. In more recent times George, who could be seen walking around to the newsagents every morning wearing an open-necked shirt in the coldest of weather, regrets the retirement of Steve. 'I miss him', said George, 'I always enjoyed our daily chats but I don't bother to go to Sainsbury's for my Guardian. It isn't what it was since it became a tabloid'.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

One of these photos was sent by Michael Miller to illustrate his comments on page 6. This tree would be felled. The other photo was taken by a holidaymaker in Funchal where they allow trees to grow and build around them where necessary. This tree would not be felled.

PHOTO 1



PHOTO 2

