

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

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May 2016

Individual views expressed are not necessarily those of the Group

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## AGM Edition



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### Editorial

*An AGM is a little like New Year.*

*A time to reflect on the year gone, and mull over the coming year. A time to take stock. A time to make resolutions and speculate on how many will survive. A time to catch up with people you have perhaps not seen for a while.*

*This year's Neng AGM will be held on June 7<sup>th</sup> so this May edition of Edge will be the last one you get before that meeting. And we need your help. Firstly, we need your attendance so that we are quorate and can operate legally next year. Secondly, we need your thoughts on what Neng should focus on given the many issues that might deserve our attention and the limited resources we have to play with. And thirdly we need you to think about whether you might like to join the Committee. In particular we will be needing a new treasurer next year as Trudi Coleman is giving up the role after much sterling work. This edition therefore comes in the form of a seasonal card reminding you of the year gone and setting the scene for the coming year.*

*Inside you will find an AGM supplement containing summaries of the last 12 months from the perspective of the Committee and the major sub-groups, together with some thoughts about what the coming year might bring. Hopefully this will provide you with key information in a condensed form and also a document you can bring with you to the AGM in case you have questions or comments on the information given.*

*In addition, in the main section of the newsletter, we celebrate some of the great things being done in Nether Edge, whether through Neng or not, and personal articles from individuals on particular concerns which they think Neng might perhaps direct it's attentions to in the coming year. We do this not only to keep you informed but also to provide you with food for thought so you can make your views known. You can do this in two way : at the AGM and/ or by emailing any of the Committee about what you think should be the priorities for the coming year.*

*Hope to see you there. And as a thank you the first drink is on us.*



**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.

**NENG Committee Members and Other Helpers (\*means Trustee/Director)**

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*This edition edited by John Austin & Ruth Bernard*

**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:

**Trudi Colman The Old Bakery, 60 Norton Lees Rd S8 9BZ Tel. 0114 258 1687** [nengtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:nengtreasurer@gmail.com)

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

**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 person or organisation (£5 unwaged / concessions).

I enclose a completed Standing Order form (downloadable from [www.netheredge.co.uk](http://www.netheredge.co.uk)) or a cheque to the value of £\_\_\_\_\_ made out to "NENG".

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

*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. **[DELETE THIS SECTION IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO BE A FULL VOTING MEMBER]***

**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).

Please send signed forms with payment to Trudi Colman.





## Community Awards



### **Chris Venables and Thildy Lowe with their awards and chairman David Pierce with the award for Neng**

There was a reminder of the widespread and often unseen extent of volunteering work in Nether Edge on March 16th when local ward Councillors organised a Community Star Awards evening.

Over 30 people and organisations from across Sharrow and Nether Edge were recognised for work done across a whole range of issues including youth work, luncheon clubs, litter picking and many more. Neng was gratifyingly recognised both at organisational level for its general work in the community and at individual level through two people who have long been associated with Neng: Chris Venables and Thildy Lowe for their work on many initiatives including the Farmers Market, Chelsea Park and so on. Other recognised activities happening in Nether Edge but not directly related to Neng include work to support new and needy mothers, social clubs and luncheon clubs.

It does not stop at those recognised at the Awards event. We are aware of other individuals and groups in the neighbourhood committing considerable amounts of effort and resources to good causes. Some examples of these good works are covered elsewhere in the newsletter. So while it is gratifying for Neng to be recognised in this way it is also humbling to discover so much else that is being done in the neighbourhood in a less public form.

Should Neng be doing more ?

Below we carry an article by John Clifford suggesting that perhaps Neng should have a more active and focused approach to identifying, recognising and supporting such activities.



### **Should Neng be doing more?**

NENG can point to a long record of supporting local causes over the years. No need to rehearse them all here but just to say in terms of direct funding NENG has given money to, among others, local scouts, the General Cemetery Trust, retirement homes, children's homes, Chelsea Park, Brincliffe Woods.

But as a well-supported and well organised group should we be doing more? Do we want to make a difference rather than just helping to maintain the status quo?

There are a number of factors changing the context in which Neng operates. For example the current boundary to the NENG area is arbitrary and was driven by the need to physically deliver the EDGE newsletter . Now however most new subscribers want their copy of EDGE emailed. We have a website that is well visited but Facebook and Twitter are where we will find younger supporters. The wider area too is becoming much more diverse as evidenced by new shops and the re-invigoration of Abbeydale Road.

The residents of Nether Edge are a resourceful and skilled bunch with potential to add value to the neighbourhood and adjacent areas. The success of the Sheffield Antiques Quarter has demonstrated what can be done with imagination and determination. Could NENG do more to better nurture and support small community projects with funds or in other ways?

Perhaps what the Group has done so far is a reflection of the current membership profile. While this is not surprising perhaps we should be reaching out more to the young, old and disadvantaged. There may be more effort involved to ensure funds are used effectively but should we be trying harder than we are currently to engage with local needs both within the traditional boundaries of Nether Edge and beyond?

# Salt Box Cottages

## Salt box cottages mystery

On a recent History group walk an intrepid member of the group fought through the undergrowth on one of the 2 neglected plots at the top of the Psalter Lane rise opposite Baldwins and unearthed a brass plaque fixed to the rock face.

It reads :

IF EARTH BE FLESH THEN I AM BONE  
CONCEIVED IN FIRE MEN CALL ME STONE

-----  
A NOBLE MARKER FOR

*Graham Wardley 1936-2000*

*Ann Wardley 1937*  
-----

ON THE SITE OF THEIR ANCESTORS HOME  
THE STONE SALT BOX COTTAGES



The existence of the salt box cottages is well known as is the attached photograph.



But the inscription raises some interesting questions :

Which plot did the cottages sit on ? The plaque is on the lower plot but this seems small for the building depicted in the photograph  
Who were these people? Are they or their dependents still around?  
Who owns the plot?

And what a great opportunity for it to be tidied up and turned into a restful stopping spot.

## Grow Art Exhibition

A free exhibition celebrating the theme of Growth will be held in the Old Junior School Sharrow from Friday May 6<sup>th</sup>. The event is a joint partnership between Ignite Imaginations and Grow Sheffield and will showcase works from both emerging and established artists.

The theme is growth. As Vicki Wildbore, exhibition organiser says 'As we watch Sheffield come to life again we are reflecting on the growth of plants, people and places.

Works will be for sale with 20% of sales going towards providing free family events in Sharrow.

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### Some of the good work being done in Nether Edge

## Local Organisation Wins National recognition

Baby Basics, based at the Kings Centre in Nether Edge and previous recipients of funds from the Farmers Market, was, this month, called to the Houses of Parliament to receive the runners up award in the Love Britain and Ireland Awards which recognise exemplary voluntary work.

Quite an achievement given there were over 500 nominations. So a reminder of who they are? The organisation was set up in 2009 by Hannah Peck to support new mothers struggling to meet the practical problems of looking after a new baby.

Needy mothers are referred by professional services and are provided with a starter pack of materials, clothes, playthings and toiletries. Most materials are donated from the Nether Edge area, while other appropriate items, such as mattresses, are bought in. The success of the formula is evidenced by the rapid expansion of the organisation. It now has 20 operations across the UK, all staffed by volunteers. Last year it sent out over 700 packs in the Sheffield area. And though many of these go to what might be thought of as the poorer areas of Sheffield, do not assume that Nether Edge is immune from need.

Although recipients details are confidential it is known that a significant number of packs are handed out to people in our area. Indeed, it may be that the local need is greater than perceived. As Hannah explains it is sometimes harder for a needy mother in what is perceived to be a prosperous area to come forward than it is for someone who lives in what is seen as a deprived area.

So, next time you are getting rid of old baby clothes spare a thought for Baby Basics.



## Local Care Home Benefits from Farmers Market

Grange Crescent Residential Home was pleased to receive £100 raised by the tombola stall at the recent Farmers Market. Asha Oliver, Registered Manager explains that the money will go towards providing a retractable awning in the seating area of the garden so that residents can sit out and enjoy the sun and afternoon tea without fear of getting sunburn.

## Local Woman Returns from Earthquake Work in Nepal

A trip to Nepal to help earthquake victims last year has changed one woman's life. She now hopes her story will inspire others to help rebuild the lives, homes and health families in Nepal.

Passionate about international aid Kimberley Shepherd, local licensed acupuncturist, embarked on a mission to Nepal following the recent devastating earthquakes to help isolated communities.

*'Seeing the devastation to the homes was unbelievable – in their place were makeshift camps of 100's of families seeking refuge from the instability and chaos that was left in the earthquakes wake'.*



Kimberley worked to establish a free primary healthcare clinic that offered sanctuary for those affected, both physically and emotionally. Offering traditional acupuncture and working closely with local health authorities, she and another fellow acupuncturist saw over 50 people each day some of whom who had travelled over 4 hours to get there.

It wasn't just victims from the quake that were offered support. The principle behind the clinic was to establish a sustainable, cost effective healthcare system for the people. She raised over £2300 which provided the basic medical supplies for 7 weeks but she is now campaigning for more to be done.

Kimberley will be holding a 'Save Nepal 'treatment day at the Stillpoint practice in Nether Edge on the 21<sup>st</sup> May whereby she will be offering acupuncture treatments in a multi-bed setting on a donation basis and a talk in greater depth about her mission. All on a donation only basis.



# Yard Sale

What do you do if you are a couple of busy people, one a teacher, one involved in creative enterprises, and both with young families ? Obviously, start another venture from scratch that takes up even more of your time.

The result, thanks to Jo England and Sian Thomas, is the Nether Edge Yard Sale Trail, the second of which was held in mid-March. Over 60 people paid £5 for the right to pitch redundant possessions outside their homes, appear on a master map, and receive a welcome pack designed to showcase their location. And several hundred people, it seems, took advantage, proceeding safari like from Rupert Rd in the South to Kenwood Park Rd in the North, and from Lyndhurst Rd in the West to Chippinghouse Rd in the East, checking out the eclectic range of goods on offer, from furniture to clothes to books and games.

Imagine a car boot sale spread over 20 streets and you get the idea.

Why do people do it? To spring clean, to raise money for charity, to help create that sense of community, to get the kids doing something that does not involve electronics (other than selling it), to haggle and banter.



Why do Jo and Sian do it ? Clearly not for the money. 60 stalls at £5 per stall, less printing costs will not get them early retirement. But what counts, as Jo explains, is the pleasure of doing something for the community, experiencing the atmosphere, thinking of the money raised for charity.

Will it happen again ? Jo and Sian hope so. Perhaps a couple of times a year, running parallel with the Nether Edge Farmers Market to create a destination event for people not only from Nether Edge but also from the rest of Sheffield, as happened this time. Of course a few willing hands to help distribute flyers would be useful. Anyone out there interested ?

## Exciting New Community and Craft Fair Planned for Nether Edge

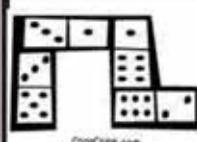
A new event in this year's Nether Edge Festival is a Community and Craft Fair.

The event will take place at St Andrew's Psalter Lane on Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup> from 2.00 – 4.00.

It is hoped the Fair will showcase all the charities, community groups and community events in Nether Edge, and will also showcase arts and crafts by local people.

Admission will be free and light lunches and teas will be served. There will be a small charge of £5 per stall, which will include a £2 voucher for refreshments. Any profits made will go to charity.

If you are involved in local charities, community groups, community events or local arts and crafts, and interested in having a stall ( or know of someone who might be ) please contact the organiser Jean Allen [jlallen1812@gmail.com](mailto:jlallen1812@gmail.com) as soon as possible for more details and bookings.



## Nether Edge Nosh & Natter

**New friendly monthly social group**  
**Mondays: 9th May and 13th June**

Union Hotel, 1 Union Rd, S11 9EF

Join us any time noon – 2.30pm

Enjoy chatting?  
Like playing games?  
Bring a friend.

Open to all, and everyone welcome



**Contact:**  
Chris Venables:  
255 0805 or



# **Annual General Meeting Supplement**

## **NETHER EDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP**

Company limited by guarantee no. 741080, charity no. 1139239

### **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**to be held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at Nether Edge Bowling Club,  
Nether Edge Road at 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. start.**

#### **AGENDA**

7.00 pm Arrivals and welcome

7.30 pm Business including:

Minutes of the last meeting

Chairman's report

Treasurer's report

\*Election of officers and committee members

Group reports

9.00 pm Finish and informal gathering in the bar

\* Nominations for officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) should be sent to Ruth Bernard, NENG Secretary, via email: [nengsec16@gmail.com](mailto:nengsec16@gmail.com).

All nominations must include the names of a proposer and seconder and be accompanied by the nominee's declaration of their willingness to serve.

Please do come to our AGM. It will be a relaxed and friendly affair, subject to the minimum of formality. We want to hear your opinions and sufficient attendance is essential to give NENG the authority to continue our work.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

*Representatives of the committee and sub-groups will be at the AGM to answer any questions*

It has been a particularly interesting and eventful year for your NENG committee. Both within our group and beyond it we have been engaged in more activities and made more impact than we feared a year ago. It reflects well upon all those concerned. At the start of the year the Committee decided to restructure itself in an attempt better to manage the increasing amount of work which seemed to be coming our way and threatening to overwhelm us. We adopted a clearer enabling approach, providing support to our various groups where necessary and at the same time allowing people to get on with things if they were able and willing to do so. The number of committee meetings and the length of agendas was reduced as a pleasing consequence. We were then delighted to welcome new members to our committee which enabled us to appoint some of them to formal positions such as Ruth Bernard as secretary and Scott Eldridge as EDGE Managing Editor. Almost every member of our committee has now accepted a specific responsibility.



Significant amongst committee activities during the year have been the monitoring and investigating of a number of planning applications by Helen Willows, the production of our (almost) monthly EDGEs which have been packed full of interesting and informative articles contributed by many people, and serious discussion about what position to adopt concerning the Council's policy on trees. This was followed by a number of considered statements and letters stating NENG's position, all of which was reported in EDGE.

There have also been frequent reports in EDGE about the great work that our groups have been doing. The achievements of the Farmers' Market and Festival committees are the most visible of these activities and a walk through Brincliffe Woods will show the improvements being brought about by the team of very hard working volunteers in the Friends of Brincliffe Edge Woods group. Less visible is what our very active and growing History Group is doing as they research, organise informative walks and plan more booklets about Nether Edge. Also there are those all too easily overlooked members who organise and participate in the Open Gardens day and look after the pocket park and Chelsea Park. Then there are the many distributors without whom EDGE would not be delivered to you throughout the year. When I complain, as I often do, about the shortage of volunteers in our community I sometimes forget that NENG's success over the years has been solely the result of much hard work by many scores of volunteers.

Beyond NENG of course there are many more volunteers helping to improve our community in a variety of different ways. They are unsung but they all matter and we have highlighted some of their work in EDGE. Finally, it is because of the vigilance and energy of volunteers in the Save the Trees campaign that the Council's plans received the publicity and provoked the discussion that they warranted. No doubt those discussions will continue in the coming year. Unquestionably it promises to be another busy and successful year for NENG.

David Pierce

### Treasurer

Nengs finances are in a healthy state but with certain specific issues which need addressing. The balance of funds currently stands at around £15,000, once creditors and debtors are taken into account. Revenues from membership fees, advertising fees and sale of publications continues to cover or exceed day to day expenditure.

At the same time the level of funds available raises the issue of what to do with this money. And some of the processes continue to be clunky and cause needless work.

The coming year offers a good opportunity for a fresh pair of eyes to address these two issues as I have submitted my resignation as Treasurer to take effect at the AGM.

Trudi Coleman



## Friends of Brincliffe Edge Wood

Following the washout that was our March Work Day, our recent April session was once again held with glorious Spring sunshine warming this south-facing slope. The highlight of the morning came when a beautiful mature fox, apparently in fine condition, crossed over the road to enter the wood a few metres from where a few of us were standing. After carefully weaving its way down through the undergrowth, it paused by a tree to look at us before casually making its way along the path. A real treat indeed.

With a smaller number of volunteers than usual, we continued with our Spring planting, including *Arum maculatum* (Lords-and-Ladies or Cuckoo Pint), and our clearing and general maintenance before the rapidly-growing Cow Parsley turns the wood into a sea of glorious white in a few weeks' time. We are also working at improving the Bug Hotel opposite Brincliffe Edge Close, adding bug-friendly materials and a substantial earth roof.

Earlier this year, at their request, FoBEW spoke to St. Oswald's Scouts about our work and how our experience might be helpful to those Scouts who are working towards their Chief Scout's Award, part of which includes an Environmental Conservation Activity Badge. This involves research and the introduction of an environmental project in the area that would benefit the local community. FoBEW's Claire and Ken highlighted the range of our work, events and, of course, the Bug Hotel. We are currently exploring ways in which we might help each other's work.

On May 30, as part of the Sheffield Environment Weeks celebrations, FoBEW will be joining forces with the History Group on their Guided Walk around the Brincliffe area (see What's On for details). We will outline aspects of the Wood's history at various



In early April we were dismayed to find that an attempt had been made to hack through an old but healthy tree at the bottom of the wood (see photo). The damage appeared to have been inflicted with some heavy knife or thin axe-type tool. Shortly after, at least four other trees were similarly hacked. A Council Ranger inspected the damage and has now made safe the damaged trees. We also hear that locks on several allotment gates have recently been broken, damage done, graffiti left, and even a shed burnt down. We wonder if there could be a connection. Users of the Wood and nearby residents, please contact us (or the police) if you see any new damage or can offer further information.

Finally, on a happier note, don't forget our Creative Writing event in the Wood on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May. See ad.

*Our next Volunteer Day is on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May. For more information or to get involved see What's On.*

### Chelsea Park

Since completion of the new path and sculpture trail in 2014, Chelsea Park has seen increased usage by families. The meadow, overseen by Marian Tylecote, continues to blossom from Spring until late Autumn when it's cut and raked over. Friends of Chelsea Park helped rangers tidy the Chelsea Rd border in November 2015. The 72<sup>nd</sup> Scout Troup man-handled the wood as they carried it up to the top of the Park for their super Bonfire & Fireworks display helping minimize grass disturbance before laying new turf over the bonfire site. Neighbours and friends helped set up stalls for Chelsea Park's own Party in the Park – a very popular event during the Nether Edge Festival which is due to be repeated on Sun. 25<sup>th</sup> September.

*Chris Venables*

### Frog Walk Pocket Park

Passers- by continue to admire the wide range of plants flowering on this small piece of land close to Psalter Lane/ Sharrowvale Rd roundabout which Marian and friends have a contract to manage on behalf of the council. Last summer, Mark Doel oversaw the installation of a small plaque acknowledging NENG's work and the historic significance of the Westbrook Snuff Mill which used to operate behind the wall of this pocket park.

*Chris Venables*

### Nether Edge Festival

Last year, the first Nether Edge Festival was held to celebrate the facts that 30 hugely successful markets had been held since the first one was held in 2007 and that as a consequence over £50,000 had been raised for local charities. . Focusing mainly on the arts, the festival celebrated the wide range of talents and activities amongst the people of Nether Edge and a programme was developed with 40 events ranging from a ceilidh to cricket matches, talks and walks about wildlife and our local history, literary and musical events and several parties. With new helpers on board and new events planned we hope that this year's Festival from Sat. 17<sup>th</sup> – Sun. 25<sup>th</sup> September is even more successful.

*David Pierce*



## Planning

2015/2016 has not been a particularly busy planning year for Nether Edge NENG's policy continues to be to monitor all planning applications in Nether Edge, However, we do not generally comment on applications that have no effect on the character of the area (think design, or intensification of use, or change of use).

The most significant issues this year included the proposals for Brincliffe Towers next to Chelsea Park. This scheme to convert the buildings to dwellings and build new houses in the garden/grounds attracted objections from local residents, ward councillors and NENG amongst others. The application was refused, but it does appear that the principle of development (conversion and some new build) is likely to prove acceptable to the council. Also, NENG supported local residents concerns and objected to proposals at Shirle Hill on the grounds of the design and impact on local residents, but planning permission was granted (note, NENG had no objections to the principle of conversion and new build). NENG also objected to a scheme to redevelop a 1950s house on Oakhill Road with a pair of semi detached houses. The first application was refused, but a second application which appeared very similar to the first was granted permission.

With regards to the bigger picture, the Council is currently working on a draft Local Plan which will set out policies and development allocations across the city. The current timetable is for this to be published for consultation in the summer. I do not expect there to be any significant proposals in Nether Edge since we are already so built up but I will endeavour to write something for a future edition of the Edge.

Finally, I am advised by officers at the Council that there is a problem with storage space on the servers for the online planning applications - this means that from time to time, it is not possible to view applications online. A request has been put in to purchase more storage space which should reduce problems with information not being available, hopefully this should take effect within a month. In the meantime, if you experience difficulties viewing applications and are not going to be able to make comments within the consultation period, do contact the case officer and ask for more time - there's no guarantee they'll say yes but its worth a try. Also, I understand that there is to be a general upgrade of software in May which should make the online application maps more useable/increase the search option, but this will require a couple of days downtime.

*Helen Willows*

## Open Gardens



The annual Nether Edge Open Gardens event was held on Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup> 2015, and once again the sun shone and the weather stayed fair. There was a choice of 9 gardens for visitors to enjoy and the variety reflected the owners particular interests. They included formal flower gardens, tiny courtyard gardens, water features, exotic conservatories and meticulously gardened veg plots, and anyone attempting to visit them all would have ranged widely between Bannerdale Road and Psalter Lane. All the owners were on hand to welcome visitors, answer questions and serve tea, cakes or Pimms, and, of course, show off their prize exhibits! We would like to offer hearty thanks to all the volunteers who 'opened up'.

As well as having the pleasure of sharing our gardens with visitors for the afternoon the owners were able to collect for their favourite individual charities and, as usual, the visitors showed their generosity in donating almost £2000 in total to a range of local, national and international charities.

Preparations are now underway for this years event which will be on Sunday June 19<sup>th</sup> from 2pm to 5pm. We are hoping that a similar number of gardens will be open, with some new to visitors and some of the old

favourites, and, of course, that the sun shines once again! We would be very pleased to hear from anyone interested in 'opening up' this year. Please contact [petermachan@hotmail.com](mailto:petermachan@hotmail.com) or [marion.rout@btinternet.com](mailto:marion.rout@btinternet.com) to get involved.

## Nether Edge Farmers' Market

The Nether Edge Farmers' Markets continue to be very successful. These quarterly events are visited by hundreds of Nether Edge residents and from further afield. Other areas of the city have copied our initiative, it continues to be very popular and it is described by stallholders as the friendliest event they attend. The range of stalls remains constant with old favourites supplemented by new ones as more people try selling their wares. The same small band of helpers ensures that the markets run smoothly and we are grateful to the local householders whose access is disrupted four times a year. The market atmosphere is enhanced with singing and dancing freely provided by local groups and the opportunity to sit out and relax amidst the delights of the Nether Edge Bowling Green. There are no plans to make any changes to the successful formula of the past years but more helpers are needed.

*David Pierce*



## History Group

2015/2016 has seen a steady but recognisable consolidation of the History Group. Most satisfying achievements include a successful walks programme with as many as 50 people attending. This coincides with the republication of the walks brochure which continues to sell steadily.

In addition we decided to start a Nether Edge archive. This came out of a realisation that we were gradually accumulating materials which had no real home other than temporary accomodation in Committee members homes. Since then however we have had several contributions from people offering books, maps, house deeds and oral testimonies. This presents us with a pleasant problem which is how to find a permanent home for this as it accumulates.

The September Festival gave us the chance to share our interest in history with talks, walks and a structured 'Tell us your memories of Nether Edge' exercise with contribution books left in pubs, cafes, hairdressers, care homes and other varied sites.

The vehicle which drives all this is an informal bi-monthly open meeting held in The Union in an atmosphere which is invariably lively, sharing and eclectic.

Our ambitions for the coming year centres on the amount of undiscovered or forgotten Nether Edge history out there which never ceases to surprise us. We hope to continue encouraging people out there to get involved whatever their level of experience, to move significantly forward on at least two new publications, to continue the walks, and to contribute a set of credible activities to the coming Festival in September.

Interested? Come and join us.

*John Austin*





# The Litter Conundrum

How do you imagine Nether Edge as a community ? Does it correspond to my image ? A community with a strong social ethos. Morally aware and collectively conscientious. Considerate of social responsibilities. Sensitive to global issues. Keen to discharge its obligations to fellow citizens. Proud of its physical ambience.

If this is so, I keep asking myself, why does it so spectacularly fail in one particular aspect, that of litter. Why, at times, is it such a dump ? Walk the streets of NE and you will daily see a profusion of everyday discarded packaging. Pass the private gateways where accumulated litter collects and stays week after week. Look under the hedges. Note the fly tipped piles in the corners. See the tidily merchandised shops, with abused frontages.

The recent Star Community Awards recognised a local individual who every day except Christmas Day, walks Crescent Road and Empire Road, picking up litter. I asked how often he had days when there was no litter to pick up. The answer.....never.

A resident near the crossroads whose garden fronts a major Nether Edge thoroughfare despairs at the amount of rubbish he finds in his garden and not just small scale rubbish. A microwave, a hazardous materials bag full of used adult nappies.



I have been given various theories about why this state of things should be :

- Government policies are hitting the poor and undermining the social contract they have with society
- The council, strapped for cash, cannot do what it should do, clear our litter up for us
- There are far more important issues in the world that allow no time for such local matters
- There are not enough bins
- The packaging industry is out of control

The problem I have. How long do we have to wait for the poor to become prosperous enough to renew their social contract, for the council to have the funds to send out permanent litter patrols in our area, for there to be litter bins on every corner, for the world to become a better place so we can turn our attention to more local concerns, for the packagers to mend their ways. And why, if all this applies, do other places in the UK and beyond, seem so much more



tidy despite the same challenges. Exactly what sense of community do we have that allows us to tolerate living in such a mess.

I know I am not alone in my concern. I know there is a city wide initiative to address the issue. I know there is a monthly litter pick organised around the cross roads. I know other individuals and small groups who carry out similar activities .I know of individuals who pick up litter as part of their everyday activities. But these are sticking plaster measures.

Is there nothing we can do to change the mindset of those who for not only drop litter unconsciously but seem to do so deliberately. Is there any appetite out there for a concerted push on this ?

**John Austin**





# How Representative is Neng?

Mazhar Hussein, a Nether Edge resident for over 20 years recently joined the Neng Committee.

He brings with him a pride in Nether Edge as a 'vibrant, diverse, and enriching place'

He brings with him also a particular interest in integration in the community.

As he says...' a very important and challenging reason for me to join Neng was to try and break any barriers of misunderstanding and negative perceptions among different community groups. The easy option is to deny that this exists and to carry on painting a rosy picture. My vision is to try and develop mutual respect, positive understanding and to create a truly interactive community where everyone is valued and respected'

An interesting comment given that, in the past, Neng has been accused of being recognisably unrepresentative of the wider Nether Edge community. Certainly though membership of Neng remains open to anyone and is committed to working for everyone in Nether Edge regardless of 'sex or race...' simple reflection suggests its membership has limited representation compared with the population of the neighbourhood generally.

Consider some simple estimates. There are around 20,000 living in Nether Edge. Assume, for simplicities sake an average family size of 3. That gives a figure of 6000/7000 households. At the same time around 900 receive Edge either as members or as subscribers. Around 15% of the total. Not insignificant but not overwhelming.

Further simple reflection suggests that these Neng households are primarily white, professional and disproportionately clustered in the higher South-Western parts of the community.

And this reflection perhaps opens the wider debate about how integrated Nether Edge is. Certainly it is a rich mix of different communities, but to what extent do these different communities mix or simply occupy the same geographical footprint?

In these respects, Mazhars comments raise some interesting challenges for Neng : are these initial perceptions actually the case? Does it matter? And if so should we be doing something about it?

Mazhar believes it does matter : 'in this 21<sup>st</sup> century 'Global Village' it would be very naïve of any one person, group or community to live and work in isolation and segregation. Neng could be a wonderful platform where we all can enhance each others understandings and share our common moral and social values without compromising our personal cultural or religious identities'.

In the past Neng has debated the wisdom of a strategy to increase membership especially among those communities which are underrepresented in the organisation.

Is it time to reopen the debate?

**HOPE FOR THE FUTURE**

**Climate**

**Change -**

**Whose responsibility?**

Speakers:

**Andy Atkins** CEO of A Rocha

**Rt Rev Steven Croft** Bishop of Sheffield

**Jo Musker-Sherwood** Hope for the Future

**Nick Nuttgens** Carbon Conversations Facilitator

**Monday 16th May 2016 7.30-10 pm**

**St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church Sheffield (S11 8YL)**

**REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED**

**Donations to Hope for the Future & A Rocha**

A Sheffield Environment Weeks event organised by Emmanuel Church Waterhope, Environment Group and St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church Eco-Congregation Group



## Creative Writing in Brincliffe Edge Wood

Join Suzannah Evans and the Friends of Brincliffe Edge Wood for a creative writing workshop inspired by the woods in Spring and their wildlife, landscape and history.

There will be time to write in the woods\* at intervals during a short walk.

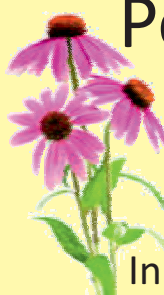
This is a wonderful opportunity to benefit from tuition from an expert who loves the woods and is acclaimed for her own work.

(\*A wet weather alternative will be arranged)

**Saturday 14 May 10am to 1pm £10**

Numbers will be limited to 15 so e-mail Suzannah to book your place (evans.suzie@googlemail.com) or phone 0773 7766940

Suzannah Evans is a poet-in-residence at Bank Street Arts and a Nether Edge resident. She was also one of the directors of the 2015 South Yorkshire Poetry Festival and has taught creative writing for many organisations including the Poetry School, Museums Sheffield and Leeds University. Her pamphlet *Confusion Species* was published in 2012.



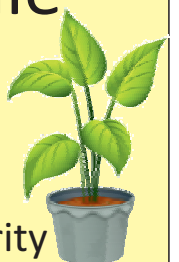
## Perennial Plant Sale

**Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup>**

**1.00 – 4.00**

**37, Montgomery Rd.**

**In aid of Pancreatic Cancer Charity**



## Obituary



Shirley Harrison, who had a longstanding attachment to Nether Edge, has died of cancer. She was born in Bradford but moved to 72 Nether Edge Rd when she was five years old, and attended Abbeydale Primary School and High Storrs School. Shirley lived and worked in various cities until a post at the University of Sheffield brought her back to Sheffield in 1984, when she met and married her husband, Rob. She was delighted when a house appeared for sale on Brincliffe Edge Rd, and often told how she walked in the house, saw the view and proclaimed 'I'll have it!' Shirley & Rob's beloved son, Jake, was born in Nether Edge Hospital in 1990.

After retiring from academia in 1992, Shirley made an outstanding contribution to public life both nationally and locally. She served as Chair of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority and Chair of the Human Tissue Authority. She was a fierce advocate of patient's rights as a lay member of the National Cancer Research Institute and Cancer Research UK. Locally, Shirley served as chair on the South Yorkshire Probation Board, was a member of the Sheffield Hospitals NHS Trust Board, as well as being a magistrate for many years.

Shirley had many interests outside of the public sphere. She prioritised family life with Rob & Jake. Many local dog owners may recognise Shirley and Monty, the family dog, from frequent walks in Chelsea Park. She was a very keen gardener, and was responsible for the gorgeous display on the verge of Brincliffe Edge Road.

We women of the Nether Edge Book Group knew Shirley as an irreplaceable and committed group member. She was exceptionally well-read and intellectually curious. Her generosity with her existing knowledge and insight co-existed with an open mind and readiness to listen and learn from others.

Shirley's literary taste was eclectic, embracing classical and contemporary works and crossing many genres. She loved Lee Child, but next week could be found reading Thomas More's 'Utopia' or the biography of Samuel Pepys. Shirley's capacity to produce a cogent, appealing summary of a book she may have read several years before was legendary. Her "reviews", positive or otherwise, were always entertaining and insightful. She was glamorous and elegant, and her outfits occasionally caused more discussion than the book.

We miss Shirley greatly and can only imagine the extent of the loss felt by her husband Rob and their son Jake.

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## Sheffield Environment Weeks Activities

Sheffield Environment Weeks were started in the 1990's with Government support. It is now run by a Committee of volunteers supported by the Council.

Organised events have greatly expanded over the years and now run over several months. This years core programme runs from 23<sup>rd</sup> April to 5<sup>th</sup> June.

Related events in or near Nether Edge for May include :



- Morning Song. An RSPB led walk to see and hear the bird life in the General Cemetery. This will be on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 10.00, starting from the old Anglican Chapel on Cemetery Rd.
- A Walk organised by the Nether Edge History Group on May 30<sup>th</sup>. This will visit parts of Nether Edge looking at some of the houses and gardens in the area and hearing about former residents of the neighbourhood. There will be some recognition of the environmental relevance of these as befits the occasion and the Friends of Brincliffe Edge Woods will be there to help in this.  
The walk will follow a circular route from the no. 3 Bus stop on Union Rd. starting at 2.00 and finishing around 4.30.  
For more details contact Chris Venables on 07950.432487
- A Discussion on Climate Change and who should take responsibility for this. This will be led by well known speakers including Rt Rev Steven Croft the Bishop of Sheffield and Andy Atkins, CEO of Rocha.  
Among the issues discussed will be the role of religion and churches in the Climate Change movement, an open discussion which should appeal to sceptics and believers alike.  
It will be held at St Andrews Church Psalter Lane, Monday May 16<sup>th</sup> 7.30 – 10.00.  
Entry is free but donations to A Rocha and Hope For the Future welcomed.

For more information on Sheffield Environment Weeks see [www.sheffieldenvironment.org](http://www.sheffieldenvironment.org)

## Letters to the editor

I was bemused by Councillor Jayne Dunn's response to the "Asked & Answered" section of the March edition of Edge Magazine with regard to the number of car parking spaces required in suburban developments.

As I write this letter, I am looking out across Oak Hill Road at a 'development' of two, 4 bedroom, semi-detached houses which has been allowed by Sheffield City Council Planning Dept. despite each residence only having one car parking space. According to Councillor Jane Dunn's answer in Edge, each residence should have 2-3 spaces.

This 'over-development' was allowed despite many Objections by residents of Oak Hill Road and initial rejection by the Council Planning Officer on the grounds of 1 car parking space per residence being inadequate for the size of the development.

Shortly after this rejection a second Planning submission was mysteriously "Permitted" despite there being no change in the 1 car parking space for each residence. So in this part of Oak Hill Road, we will be welcoming at least an additional 4 cars on the road, and probably half-parked on the pavement, as has become the fashion!

So beware readers of Edge, Information from Cabinet Members of the Council might not be entirely accurate.

Alternatively, maybe Cabinet Members from Housing and Planning don't talk to each other!

**Rae Magowan**, Oak Hill Road resident.

### Editors Note

Does the above letter point up a wider parking issue in the neighbourhood?

Is it just us or has there been a recognisable increase in commuters using Nether Edge as a car park parking cars in the neighbourhood before travelling on into town or Ecclesall Rd. Certainly the numbers of daytime parked cars on Cherry Tree Rd, Kenwood Rd and Montgomery Rd seems to be on the increase. And presumably as the population of Sheffield increases ( 60,000 more people in Sheffield in the next 10 years according to a recent report ) and as pressure to build on spare land increases, so presumably the pressure will grow. Are our perceptions correct ? Is it an issue which should concern us ?



### Nether Edge and World War 1 : An appeal

I am researching the involvement of Nether Edge in the First World War, with a view to presenting a talk as part the History Groups contribution to the Nether Edge Festival in September.

Of course there is a good amount of material available already thanks to previous hard work : the local VC, the work done by St Andrews on those commemorated on the Parish memorial, the housing of Belgian refugees in Shirle Hill.

And this year holds a particular relevance as it is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle of the Somme in which the Sheffield Pals brigade played a significant part.

What I am looking for is any information about these or any other aspects of the connection :

Stories of families, friends, employees etc. who were from Nether Edge and connected to the war whether serving abroad or on the home front

Photographs of people who were involved

Documents : diaries, letters, postcards, scrapbooks, newspaper cuttings

Memorabilia : medals, trench souvenirs, uniforms

General information about people, places, and buildings in Nether Edge which were involved with the war.

Of course anything offered will be treated with the utmost respect and returned to contributors.

If you can help, please contact : [malcolmhaigh@hotmail.com](mailto:malcolmhaigh@hotmail.com)

### Garden Plots Available

Kenwood Hotel have spare land including 2 large raised beds, close to the Cherry Tree boundary, which they would be pleased to offer to any budding, or experienced, gardeners out there.

Anyone interested ?

If so contact Richard Humpeby at the hotel :

0114.258.3811

[richard.humpeby@principal-hayley.com](mailto:richard.humpeby@principal-hayley.com)



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

Our lovely clients are looking for likeminded people for support and companionship at home.

Do you have a few hours spare (2-20 hrs p/w) to become a Home Instead CAREGiver and enjoy a rewarding part-time career while helping people in your community.

Find out more at  
[www.homeinstead.co.uk/sheffield](http://www.homeinstead.co.uk/sheffield)  
or call 0114 250 7709



# Crossword

## SPRAT'S EIGHTIETH CROSSWORD

Something different this month. The grid below contains all the letters of the alphabet (Except 'Z'. Sorry, Z!) No clues. Just fill in letters to make a proper crossword. There isn't just one solution. So long as it works, you've solved it. Best of luck.

		G			R		S
	B		C				
	J			O	V		
					E		
	H						D
	T		K				U
			Y				
		Q					
					M		F
						W	L
					I		
A		P		N			X

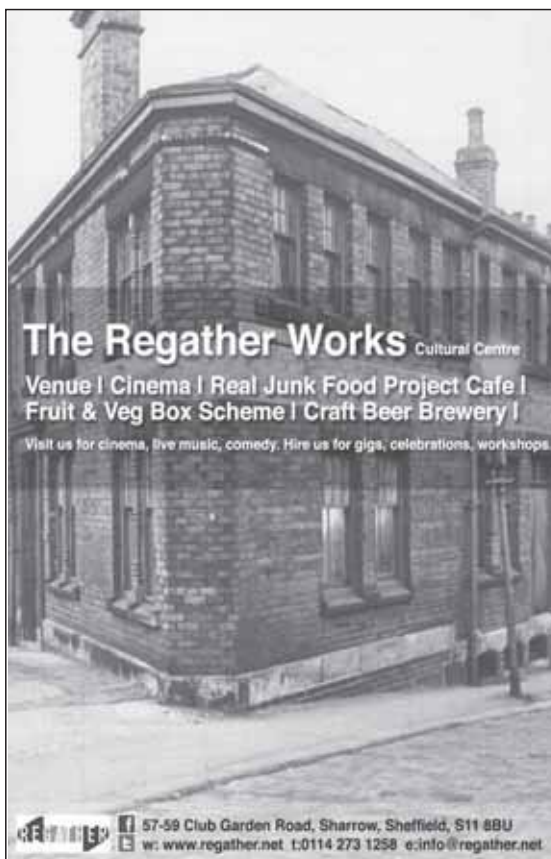
### SPRAT 79 Answers

#### ACROSS

- 1 Ache
- 3 Baccarat
- 9 Testudo
- 10 Enjoy
- 11 Geese
- 12 Adroit
- 14 Run out of steam
- 17 Gimlet
- 20 Flute
- 23 Ashet
- 24 Apricot
- 25 Hornpipe
- 26 Heel

#### DOWN

- 1 Autogiro
- 2 Haste
- 4 Avocado
- 5 Clear
- 6 Rejoice
- 7 Toys
- 8 Bureau
- 13 Emmetal
- 15 Neither
- 16 Safari
- 18 Lit up
- 21 Uncle
- 22 Oath



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

INTERESTED?

PLEASE CONTACT

Micheala Yelland

ON 07891132806 or 0114 2211006

[michealabaker@gmail.com](mailto: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.

29th June for 4 weeks.

Families will be paid a weekly allowance which is under negotiation

### 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 page 2)

# Some of What's On In and Around Nether Edge in May

**Sunday May 1st / Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> / Sunday 15th / Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> / Monday 30<sup>th</sup>, 1.00 – 5.00.**

Abbeydale Miniature Railway Open Days. Free Parking. Rides £1.50 each. Refreshments available.  
Abbeydale Rd, c. 1/3 mile beyond Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet

**Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>. 10.00.** Morning Song. RSPB led walk in Sheffield General Cemetery.  
Meet at Old Anglican Chapel on Cemetery Rd S11 8 NT.

**Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>** Dore Male Voice Choir. Sheffield Oratorio Chamber Choir.  
St. Andrews Church, Psalter Lane. Tickets £10.  
Details [www.enquiries@doremalevoicechoir.com](http://www.enquiries@doremalevoicechoir.com)

**Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup>. 10.00 – 1.00.** High Storrs Car Boot and Plant Sale.  
Popular Annual PTA event. Car Boot, stalls, Refreshments. Entry 50p.

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May**  
Brincliffe Edge Woods Volunteer Day, 9.30 - 12.30 Info from [phillipk@vip.solis.co.uk](mailto:phillipk@vip.solis.co.uk)

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May.** Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trusts, Spring Stroll.  
Ecclesall Woods : Ancient Woodlands Spring Flowers.  
For booking and details contact Jenny King 0114.2634335. email; [j.king@wildsheffield.com](mailto:j.king@wildsheffield.com)

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May.** Forgotten Fiction : Words and Music from the Edge.  
Words by Jenny Hockey and Mary Marken. Music by Finlay Stafford.  
Nether Edge Bowling Club, Nether Edge Rd.  
Tickets £3. Contact Michelle [nebc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nebc@yahoo.co.uk) 0114.2819563

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May** Creative Writing in Brincliffe Edge Wood  
10.00 - 1.00 £10, limited places see ad.

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May.** Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet.  
Family open weekend. Family entertainment and traditional crafts and skills.  
Adults £4, under 16's free.

**Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup>.** Sudden Death: Mania and Mayhem. Sensational Stories  
Guided tour around Sheffield General Cemetery. Meet at Gatehouse Cemetery Avenue S11 8 NT

**Monday May 16<sup>th</sup>.** Climate Change. Whose Responsibility ?  
St Andrews Psalter Lane Church. 7.30 – 10.00.  
A speaker led discussion on who should take responsibility.

**17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May.** The Lantern Theatre.  
September in the Rain by John Godber. Tickets £7 - £10.  
Details [www.lanterntheatre.org.uk](http://www.lanterntheatre.org.uk)

**Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>.** Save Nepal Day Treatment Day. The Stillpoint Practice Nether Edge.  
Acupuncture treatments in a multi-bed setting on a donation only basis plus a talk on a recent visit to set up a free primary healthcare clinic in Nepal.

**Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>** Spring Market / Fair. Salvation Army Citadel Psalter Lane / Sharrow Vale rd. 11.00-3.00.  
Stalls and Entertainment including school choirs and bands, Morris dancing, Constance Grant Dancers. Refreshments from 10.30am Outside if fine, inside if wet.

**22<sup>nd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May.** The Lantern Theatre.  
The Debt Collectors by John Godber.  
Details at [www.lanterntheatre.org.uk](http://www.lanterntheatre.org.uk)

**May 27<sup>th</sup>.** St Andrews Church. The Greatest Cosmic Experience ever Conducted.  
Live story telling performance by Niall Reb Mahc.

**Monday May 30<sup>th</sup>. 2.00 – 4.30.** Nether Edge Historical walk for Sheffield Environment Weeks.  
Exploring the history of some of the gardens, houses and former residents of area, assisted by Friends of Brincliffe Edge Woods.  
Meet at no.3 Bus Stop, Union Rd. Contact Chris Venables for info. 07950432487

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June.** Make Your Own Stick Monster. Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet. Abbeydale Rd. South S7 2QW. Part of Sheffield Environment Week Activities.

**Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup>** Perennial Plant Sale. 1.00 – 4.00. 37, Montgomery Rd. In aid of Pancreatic Cancer Charity

