

EDGE

NETHER EDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWSLETTER www.netheredge.org.uk
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October 2020

Registered Charity No. 1139239

September saw some curious visitors to Nether Edge



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

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

This issue of EDGE was edited by the Edge Editorial Board. If you want to contribute to the November edition, please contact the EDGE Editorial Board – nengeditorialboard@gmail.com.

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NETHER EDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP – Application for Membership / renewal

I wish to join / continue to support* the Nether Edge Neighbourhood Group (NENG) and receive the “EDGE” magazine by hand delivery / by email* and enclose / have sent* my annual subscription of £_____

*Please delete as appropriate

Name _____

Address _____ **Postcode** _____

Tel _____ **email** _____

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

The annual subscription for EDGE is £10 per household, commencing on 1st April each year. Any additional donation to the work of NENG is welcomed.

Subscribers living outside our distribution area will only receive electronic copies of EDGE, or you can choose to receive EDGE by email by selecting this method above.

Cheques should be made payable to NENG, but please bear in mind that everyone in NENG is a volunteer, so we would far prefer to receive payment by Standing Order or by bank transfer (Sort code 30-97-51 A/C 36208368 NENG), as this greatly reduces the administration burden on both your local EDGE distributor and on NENG itself. Copies of a Standing order form (you can alternatively set one up online) to send to your Bank are available from ken.lambert227@gmail.com whom you should advise when you have set up a standing order or made a bank transfer so that records can be updated.

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 full voting rights at the AGM, receive regular copies of EDGE and fully participate in its activities. In the unlikely event that the Company has to be wound up, I agree to pay the sum of £1 towards its debts if asked to do so. I understand this liability will continue for one year after I cease to be a member of the company.

PLEASE NOTE: Should you prefer not to become a full member of NENG you still can be just an EDGE subscriber by deleting the section in italics above. This entitles you to receive copies of EDGE but no entitlement to vote. The annual subscription is the same.



EDITORIAL

This edition of Edge is dedicated to Nether Edge's considerable population of performing artists, many of whom have succeeded in devising innovative ways to carry on with their activities notwithstanding the (increasing) restrictions in place. Despite the Festival having to be trimmed down this year to comply with pandemic restrictions Edge wishes to extend its thanks and admiration to the Festival Committee for pulling together such a varied and interesting array of Covid-19 compliant activities. The scarecrow trail has been particularly popular with both the effigy creators and local residents. Happily, one incident of vandalism failed to mar the joy that this event has brought. Thanks to Jack Massey for coming up with the idea. Let's hope that it becomes an annual Festival event. Lucy Marris writes about it in the centre pages and hopefully there will be more about this year's Festival and a report on the reinstated Nether Edge market in future editions. **NENG Editorial Board**

Wot – no AGM !! - Ken Lambert, NENG Chair

The April edition of EDGE contained reports of the activities of NENG and its sub groups during the previous period. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the AGM planned for 16 April had to be postponed (or "Postponed" according to EDGE).

The Memorandum of Association for NENG stipulates that an AGM should be held no later than 15 months after the previous one, which meant mid August was the deadline. However, as you know, such gatherings are not permitted at the present time. Guidance from the Charities Commission acknowledges this problem, and we have advised them that it has not yet been possible to hold an AGM.

The Trustees and NENG Committee have managed to meet regularly online using Zoom, which after a few early teething problems has proved effective in keeping the activities and finances of NENG managed in an orderly way, including signing off the Annual Accounts and submitting to the Charities Commission and Companies House.

We would like to try to hold an AGM via Zoom so that members can be informed directly about NENG activities and can raise areas of concern that they might have regarding the Nether Edge community. If you would like to be involved in such a virtual meeting, could you email Ken Lambert (contact details on Page 2) so that we can gauge the likely demand and make the necessary logistical arrangements.

Wanted – distributors for the EDGE magazine

After being unable to produce printed copies of EDGE for several months due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, we managed to produce printed copies for the September "Pop up" Festival edition.

For a variety of reasons, a few distributors were unable to distribute copies and will not be able to do so for future editions. Although the NENG Committee and EDGE Editorial Board have managed to fill the gaps, it would be more effective if volunteers could step forward to deliver 10 copies of EDGE a year. As noted in the September edition, we do not want distributors to collect subscriptions in cash, which used to be a "traditional" and not always welcome part of role.

The areas where we would like to recruit volunteer distributors are:-

- Quarry Lane and Brincliffe Edge Road (the part by Quarry Lane)
- Birchcroft
- Rupert Road/Herbert Road area
- Nether Edge Road
- Oakdale Road/Oakhill Road

Please contact Ken Lambert (contact details on Page 2) if you think you are able to help.

Annual subscriptions – clarification

In the September edition of EDGE, we announced that the annual subscription (which is due in April) would rise to £10 per household from 1 October. This caused a little confusion, as we did not mean that members should also pay from October if they had already paid. So for example, if you paid your subscription in April, then the next payment will be due in April 2021.

A big thank you to all those who have paid during September, and to many of you who have generously made donations as well. It does help us to keep the various activities running as well as producing EDGE.

For those who have not yet paid, details on how you can do that are on Page 2.

ENJOYING MY MUSIC by BRIAN WITTEN

When I moved to Sheffield and Nether Edge 40 years ago, I never imagined that there would eventually be so many other musicians, not just in the area but in my road – instruments played here include trumpet, cornet, recorder, guitar, double bass, cello, harp, trombone (that's me), and I'm sure that there are others.

Music was part of my family life growing up, and at school I sang, played the recorder, and then learned to play the trombone; I played in the school band, youth orchestras (and some adult ones), and started a jazz band. At Uni in Nottingham I played in a jazz group, and then in Northampton got into a comedy jazz band which became quite successful. This involved some good jazz and manic humour, including cardboard cut-out politicians who sang the Ying Tong Song, smoke pellets, and explosions; once I found a Hoover backstage and hoovered the stage round our clarinet player who was playing *Stranger on the Shore* – we kept that in the act! We got on *Opportunity Knocks* on TV, made an LP (real vinyl!), and did gigs with the pro bands including Acker Bilk, Chris Barber, Humphrey Lyttleton, and Kenny Ball.

I left all that when we moved to Sheffield for my work. I joined the Keith Peters Band and enjoyed playing at the Greystones and then the Brincliffe Oaks. I then joined the Colin Yates Big Band, and still play with them (in normal times). A few years ago, I got together with two other trombonists to form the Laureate Trombone Trio. One owned a sackbut, which is the fore-runner of

trombones: it was played from the 1400s until technical improvements (a larger bell and subsequently an internal venturi mouthpipe) were made starting in the mid 1700s. We were playing some renaissance music, and so we all bought sackbuts (modern replicas made in China) to get a more authentic sound. So far we've resisted wearing tunics and tights! We've now got a fourth member, and have also added a soprano sax to play cornetto parts – that's not the ice cream, but another renaissance instrument. Recently I've also played classical and contemporary music with the Endcliffe

Brass Ensemble.

Over the last couple of months both the Laureate and Endcliffe ensembles have been able to play together outside in members' gardens in good weather, suitably distanced. Much has been said about possible transmission of the Covid virus by singing and playing brass and wind instruments; results of various studies

worldwide now indicate that, simply put, the amount of 'aerosol' produced is not greatly different from speaking. We are all really enjoying playing music together again, and I am sure that it helps to keep us relatively sane. We hope that emerging revised guidance will enable us to play indoors when winter weather arrives.



[Music History: Costanzo Festa \(1490-1545\) - Sackbut
markalburgermusichistory.blogspot.com](http://markalburgermusichistory.blogspot.com)

[Apr 29, 1974: A Week in Praise of the Sackbut | The Troy ...
troystreet.com](http://troystreet.com)

<https://hubpages.com/entertainment/How-to-Hold-a-Sackbut-The-Grip-of-the-Trombone-Throughout-History>

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Life in the Time of COVID : Jane Linklater

On the 26th March Nether Edge Road joined the rest of the country and came out to clap for carers and to show our appreciation for all frontline workers, for the NHS and for our wonderful postie, the staff at Sainsburys, Nicola and her team at Zeds and so many others who have kept us all going during this extraordinary time of COVID. A couple of years ago Mamie set up a WhatsApp group for a street party in Nether Edge Road and on the 19th March the group came back to life and has been very much alive ever since. We shopped for one another, kept each other up to date with what we knew of this virus that has changed our lives. We discussed food, where to get it, how to cook it – and we exchanged love and photos of our animals and our gardens. We supported one another and helped when we could. It was comforting to know that we can be together virtually, and we could properly connect on Thursdays. And what a musical road we turned out to be! Neil does a weekly bugle call or even trumpet voluntary and latterly Brian has delighted us with the trombone. Clive has a variety of eccentric instruments and Andy joined Neil in a trumpet voluntary. The introduction of the musical instruments seamlessly led into singing as well. All of which has been captured on video by Nicky.

On the 28th May we had the final clap for carers. The Thursday ritual gave a focus to an otherwise unstructured week. We saw one another, glimpsed people we might only have previously seen at Christmas or at Eid. Letting it go felt like a real loss. Nether Edge Road has always been a friendly, sociable community and we didn't want to lose this community spirit. So, we now come out on Wednesdays and sing! A small group, everyone is welcome. We sang 'We'll meet Again' and one of our best efforts was 'Bring me Sunshine' complete with dance routine – this latter revealed those of us who are better at following instructions than others! Dora, Sam's daughter, is our dancing star.

The Wednesday singalong is half an hour of catching up, sociability and fun. The WhatsApp group is very much alive and combines a balance of 'What's going on?' with some serious content of how we can all play our part and make a difference in this increasingly divisive world. The power of community action where we try and come together as one and where all are welcome.

Music Making in COVID Times - Chris Rust

Musicians have been hit hard by COVID. Amateur or professional, not being able to play together, not having the pleasure of entertaining people, has been difficult and demoralising.

Normally I'm playing jazz and folk songs with my musical partner Karen Hisom in our duo, 'Break a Leg!'. When lockdown started we had half a dozen dates around Sheffield and Derbyshire, plus regular folk clubs and sessions where musicians gather to play for each other and our monthly music fundraiser at the White Lion in Heeley. I was due to run the stage sound for the Hope Easter Festival and we had some great guest musicians coming to play at Nether Edge Folk Club. It was an exciting time.

So lockdown was a huge blow and it took quite a while to see a way forward. It was several weeks before we were able to rehearse, distanced outdoors and no way we could perform for others. But as regulations eased, we organised some informal Friday evening concerts on our street and that was great, bringing neighbours together and feeling almost normal for an hour.

But it was sad that, looking around for musicians who might like to come and play at one of our Friday evenings, some really good local players and singers have lost touch with their music and weren't able to come and perform.

Meanwhile indoor events will be a problem for a long time. We might be allowed 15 or 20 people in a large space like the Nether Edge Bowling Club, but we need 50+ to be viable for professional guest musicians. However I was looking at the number of people livestreaming performances from their homes and the missing element was the spontaneous relationship between performer and audience.



Lantern Theatre : Kevin Jackson

If anyone had said during our sell out Christmas show in 2019, The 39 Steps, that we'd be closed throughout 2020, we wouldn't have believed them. Yet here we are at a time when we'd normally be six productions into the year, well into rehearsals for the next Christmas show and the theatre doors are firmly closed. They'll likely stay that way until spring/summer 2021 at the earliest.

The last time actors performed here was during the New Writing Festival in February. Since then the stage has remained dark and the auditorium seats eerily empty; longing for the sound of the audience's laughter and applause.

Not since before the doors reopened in 1957 has the theatre been unused for so long. Our members are missing it greatly as are the friends of the theatre who love our events. What really touched our Lantern hearts is that from the moment the doors closed, we had messages of support from so many people; along with donations sent to the charity.

But just because our doors are closed it doesn't mean the theatre grinds to a halt. Bills still have to be paid, maintenance must be taken care of, accounts need to be filed and most importantly - we have a community of creative members and audiences who are longing for something theatrical to enjoy. So we began to think about what that might look like, even though our doors remain locked. The Creative Team approached our talented members for new writing that we can film remotely, or socially distanced, to release online. This means that the Lantern will have new productions for you and can still spread some Christmas joy, even if it can't be live on stage. We'll also bring you updates and interviews through Facebook Live. As a small independent charity, being closed is incredibly difficult for us. We rely on our income to support our community projects, creative programme and to maintain this important historic building – Sheffield's oldest surviving theatre. We're hoping the online projects will be enjoyable for everyone involved and maybe bring some donations to the charity, from viewers, for the upkeep of the venue.

If you've enjoyed visiting us before, believe in the importance of our work and are able to support us at this challenging time, we'd greatly value your help to safeguard our future. For more details visit our website:

www.lanterntheatre.org.uk



Proud to back open

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This offer is available on Afternoon Tea, Brunch and Tea and Coffee too if you just fancy popping in for a hot drink! Our opening days will be Saturday – Wednesday 12pm-4pm.



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One Thread Unbroken – Lyn Carruthers

Before lockdown I was singing with the Sheffield Socialist Choir. Occasionally I sang in a duo called 'The Wheezy Sisters' performing at open mics and social gatherings. I had just enjoyed performing at the Nether Edge Farmers' market in a duo 'Rod-y-Lyn' in March. I was also playing alto sax in a swing band called 'The Class Act'. We'd just started doing performances supporting charity events which was great fun and much appreciated by the audience who danced and sang along.

Sadly Covid lockdown put paid to all these enjoyable activities. I found the first two weeks of lockdown, quite stressful as I was still going out to work. I filled the musical gaps by joining Garath Malone's Great British Home Chorus on YouTube. I began to properly appreciate how important being part of a singing group was to me. I felt so much better physically, emotionally and psychologically singing along with Gareth and thousands of others everyday. It was an essential part of helping me adjust to lockdown.

Sheffield Socialist Choir started their sessions again virtually via Zoom so I dropped out of Gareth's YouTube sessions and got back to learning new songs, enjoying old ones and socialising virtually with my choir.



I have not yet resumed singing in my duos or playing in the swing band as yet due to Covid restrictions and miss them a lot.

My favourite moments have been writing and performing songs and chants with my co-conspirator and Wheezy Sister. We have co-written and performed several four part chants designed for audience participation; including one on Knitting and one on Trees.

We led the chant on Trees at an event in Nether Edge celebrating the Lovely Limes on Montgomery Road. We wanted to share our love of trees and some of our favourite characteristics of them, including the humming of the wasps and bees on the lime flowers and the dancing dappled shade and light through the trees.

'One Thread Unbroken' our four part knitting chant evolved and developed over several years. It started as a backdrop to one of my art installations. It then became a five part chant (including a drone) taught to, then sung by an audience whilst we sang two lines over the top in harmony. The performance shares our love of knitting and how important it has been in ours and other peoples lives. It includes how knitting is passed on from one generation to the next, our love of textures, colours and the love and skills that are shared with others through knitting. One performance even involved participants knitting pieces that we wore when performing (see photo).

We are looking for new members to come and join us



Shirle Hill Cohousing are looking for new members to join their still developing community of 15 adults and 2 children in 10 different units. Set in lovely tree-filled grounds in Nether Edge, Sheffield, a 3 bedroom flat is for sale. If you are enthusiastic about living in a cohousing community where you will have your own living unit, but also share some wonderful communal spaces, then why not contact us. Shirle Hill Ltd, 6 Shirle Hill, Sheffield, S11 9DY

Contact helloshirlehill@gmail.com, or Oliver on 07909-924947



Nether Edge Scarecrow Trail for NENG September 2020 - Lucy Marris

Seen any good crows lately? Chances are, if you live in Nether Edge, probably not. Even our very own Russell the Crow (see what we've done there) who dive bombed walkers intruding on her territory in Brincliffe Edge Woods during the nesting season has been nowhere to be seen. The reason? Scarecrows. Everywhere. A veritable fright of them!

For those of you who have inexplicably missed it, the annual Nether Edge Festival had to reinvent itself this year to keep things covid safe, events were reimagined, moved on line or – in the case of the Nether Edge Scarecrow trail given their debut. I saw the announcement in the NENG newsletter. The principle seemed simple enough 'It's just for fun. The idea is that you make a scarecrow and display it where people can see it. Then, if you let us know, we'll put together a route, so that people can follow the scarecrows around Nether Edge and admire them.'

There wasn't a theme as such, so you could do whatever you wanted. I went for 'The Spirit of parkrun' as that seemed the most obvious to me – parkrun is what I've missed during lockdown.

The creation involved some local skip-diving and donations from neighbours of raw materials and Ian, my neighbour, to assist with the construction. As such, it became a community endeavour and it turned out to be a lot of fun

During our labours, various neighbours came over to express if not actual interest, then incredulity. Even better, a passing couple (here's waving at you Maggie and John) told us of their own scarecrow plans on Gainsborough Road – well that would be two scarecrows at least on the trail! They were a-gathering!

A trail map of the scarecrows was produced and made available on the Nether Edge Festival Facebook page, as well as displayed in Oxfam. Some of the creations were not so much improvised offerings of hastily assembled garden detritus, but labours of love on universal themes that were more immersive stage sets than impromptu scares. Special mention to 'Life in Lockdown' in Quarry Lane and the amazing marine landscape for 'The sea creatures of Brincliffe Crescent'. The detail in each was remarkable.

Spiderman (*front page*) actually flew on Edgehill Road, Spider man at the Kings Centre had fired a web across the railings, Dad on the Beach at Milton Rd even had his own mini caravan at Alnwick as well as inflatable ring and Bermuda shorts. All were excellent.

It seems whoever came up with the genius idea of the scarecrow trail inadvertently tapped into a latent burning desire to create effigies. No prize incentive or theme required, just the nudge of an idea, and the people of Nether Edge 'made it so'.

There were scarecrow groups:

There were scarecrows aloft:

There were cool dudes,
blushing brides, and
chancers and more:



And there was a full-on scarecrow quartet at the Sharrow Vale roundabout that must have been a group endeavour. Worth going round the roundabout a couple of times to appreciate the full effect.

Each and every construction a marvel, with a story behind them too I'm sure. However, I have a special place in my heart for the late arrivals, the self-seeding scarecrows that popped up unexpectedly perhaps as a response to seeing others, or maybe just too late to be on the official map. These were bonus sightings out and about.

It was so much fun going walkabout to discover the scarecrows, and in the process, discover new hidden corners of our neighbourhood, perhaps even discover the hidden corners of our neighbours' psyche, but I'm not qualified to comment on that.



So thank you Nether Edge Festival organisers, you did a great job of bringing the community together despite these strange times, and here's hoping that the 2020 Nether Edge Scarecrow Trail is but the first of many. Meantime, if you dear reader can't wait that long to get creative, there's always bonfire night coming round soon! Don't have nightmares... Lucy Marris, Oak Hill Road.

Jazz under Covid - Rod Aiken

We were five gigs into our fortnightly residency playing lounge jazz and some great American songbook tunes for the entertainment of the good folk of Apperknowle, Derbyshire, at a lovely traditional pub. I'd been invited to join the original piano trio on guitar and vocals and was beginning to find my feet. We worked without a set list, which was a bit scary. I chose the vocal numbers but Mike our leader and piano player, who seemed to know every jazz and blues tune ever recorded, liked to call instrumental tunes as the mood took him.

"Do you know this one, Rod?", handing me a chart featuring a lot of improbable chords.

"Er . . no."

"It's up tempo swing OK. 1, 2 1, 2, 3, 4."

And we'd be off on another literal white-knuckle ride. Happily, the regular audience, though small in number, seemed to really enjoy what we were doing, and we were all having a good time.

But then came the corona virus. After some discussion on whether we should or shouldn't, the next gig was cancelled/postponed and then lockdown made all our discussions irrelevant. Worse news was to follow. Much worse. A couple of weeks later I heard Mike was very ill, in hospital with Covid 19. The following week, he died. RIP Mike Carter – a lovely man and great musician.

For many years now my Saturday mornings have been spent at the jazz workshops run by Sheffield Jazz at King Edward VII school. This fantastic Sheffield institution has been educating musicians of all abilities in the arts of jazz for generations – highly recommended for anyone with an interest in playing any style of jazz. But, of course, the pandemic has also brought a temporary stop to this.

So, quite suddenly, it seemed I was cut off from any other musicians. No gigs, no workshop, no jam sessions.

Attempts to get friends together to play virtually via Zoom, Facetime, WhatsApp were all very unsatisfactory as the inevitable delay over the internet would throw off our timing enough to reduce any tune to chaos. But just as I was becoming resigned to spending the next few months practicing my scales and arpeggios in isolation, we discovered JamKazam. This software requires a little investment in an audio interface to connect your instrument to the computer but miraculously reduces the delay when playing over the internet, if not completely, at least enough to make playing together possible. So now I am regularly playing again with friends in Sheffield, Wales and Cornwall. Hurray! Sometimes the right technology can really make a difference. Of course, it's not the same as playing in the same room but, for me, it has made the last few months much more bearable

SINGING IN LOCKDOWN Alison Bloxham

Our choir, Sheffield Singers, has been running for 6 years.

We currently have 70 members ; we have an inclusive ethos and everyone is welcome although tenors and basses get an extra special welcome!

Our talented and experienced conductor Helen Cowen has encouraged and inspired us over the years . We enjoy performing a wide range of music, including baroque, classical, opera, world folk tunes, musicals and pop music. We've sung in several languages including Welsh, Italian, Latin, Korean and Czech!

The choir is such an enjoyable activity for us with friendship and mental health benefits. Consequently, after lockdown we really missed singing together.

Undeterred by the technical challenges, Helen set to work setting up a Zoom choir which now " meets " weekly every Friday afternoon. Typically 25 -30 attend Zoom sessions.

It isn't possible to sing all together like a live choir on Zoom due to the sound delay so we have vocal warm ups and rehearse with each singer muted. Each of us sings along with Helen or with accompanying backing tracks.

During lockdown we were fortunate to create two virtual choir recordings, each singer recording their individual part at home, which Helen and her son spent hours editing

Two recordings are now available on Youtube..."You raise me up" <https://youtu.be/vPkRCQaJReQ> and Cherubini's " With Joyful heart and Voice"...<https://youtu.be/-2o7t1uaK3k>

We fully intend to keep Zooming together as well as socially meeting up in lovely outside spaces until we can sing together again properly...hopefully in 2021!!



WILL THEATRES SURVIVE ? – FELICITY SKELTON

Almost 400,000 people are employed in the cultural industries, which includes publishing, film and television, music recording, and the performing arts, music, ballet, opera and theatre. Altogether, the Treasury receives £2.8 billion a year in taxes from their work, and the economy makes almost £9 billion when everything is included. The theatre brings tourism, supports catering outlets, city centres, and gives expression to the nation's imagination and identities.

Theatres have closed before. In 1592 London theatres were closed for most of the next two years because of an outbreak of the bubonic plague. Acting companies left London and toured the provinces, but that is not an option in today's pandemic. When the Puritans closed the theatres in 1642, there were some secret performances, but the actors could be arrested, and audience members could be fined. At the start of World War II, London theatres were closed by the government, but it was quickly realised that gathering together to watch a musical or a play was good for morale, and they reopened.


In theory, theatres have been able to re-open since the beginning of this month, but with social distancing. The fact is, that for most theatres, unless the audience is somewhere near capacity, it costs more to perform than not to. A performance is not just the actors and the audience. There are box office staff, front of house staff, electricians and lighting engineers, sound engineers, set builders, scene shifters, stage management, wardrobe staff, props makers, scene painters, as well as actors, directors, designers, and administrative staff. All are essential.

The Crucible and the Lyceum will not be re-opening until next spring, and in common with many other theatres, they are being forced to make some of their staff redundant. Sheffield Theatres have announced that 'due to the continuing impact of the global pandemic, it will not fully reopen until spring 2021. The Theatres plan to produce a pop-up season of work throughout the autumn which will take place outside and inside the Crucible Theatre. Due to the fact that activity and audiences will be significantly reduced for the foreseeable future, the Theatres have also entered into consultation with staff, placing 29% of its workforce at risk of redundancy. There is more information on their website.

Will theatres survive? There are some buildings which will have closed their doors for the last time. According to industry leaders, as many as 70% of the UK's theatres may go bankrupt and close for good. But if we mean theatre people, then yes, it will survive, because the majority of those who work in theatre do it

because they must, it is who they are. They certainly don't do it for security, money, fame, for an easy life. Something like 95% of British Actors' Equity, the theatre union, is out of work at any one time, in normal circumstances. But in the foreseeable future there are bound to be even fewer jobs, fewer opportunities, more small-scale productions, and smaller audiences in smaller venues.

In Tom Stoppard's play *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, when the title characters have tiptoed out of a performance, the Player explains 'We can't look each other in the face! You don't understand the humiliation of it – to be tricked out of the single assumption which makes our existence viable – that somebody is *watching* ... We're *actors* – we're the opposite of people! ... We pledged our identities, secure in the conventions of our trade; that someone would be watching. And then, gradually, no-one was. We were caught, high and dry.' Actors, musicians, comedians, dancers, all need to have an audience. If they didn't, there would not have been as many free online shows during the last few months. Theatre companies will start up again, but they may be performing in pubs, in village halls, in abandoned office buildings perhaps? It is certain, it will take years for the country to recover what it is losing of its cultural soul. ©Felicity Skelton 2020



Bannerdale Osteopaths

We wanted to say a massive thank you to all our loyal patients for making our first months back in clinic so positive while we adjust to the new safety procedures.

We have loved getting back to what we do best and can't wait to see more of you over the coming months.

All our clinical staff have undertaken training by World Health Organisation on Hand Hygiene, Infection Prevention Control for Covid-19, How to Put on and Remove Personal Protective Equipment and Waste Management and we have implemented new policies to ensure Bannerdale Osteopaths is a safe clinical environment.

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As I write this in mid-August, as Covid-19 continues to wreak havoc across the world, and with the looming possibility of a second spike in the UK, I wanted to use this month's thought for the month to reflect on the nature of the pandemic's power – both to bring us to our knees, but also to bring change.

We are all aware of the negative impacts of Corona Virus – on 'normal' life, health, isolation, mental health, education, employment and economics etc. We have seen some of the secondary effects too – tensions between world powers, struggles for justice and competition to provide solutions. Although the virus does not discriminate, those who are poorer, older and already struggling with health are disproportionately affected. For the frail a nasty virus becomes a killer. For those living in closer proximity the spread of the virus is more likely. For those without gardens socialising is more difficult and the impact on mental health is more severe. For those with less options for education, the impact of closing schools creates a widening opportunities gap. For those on the bread line it doesn't take much of a recession to put them in a foodbank queue. Hence, Corona Virus makes me angry, because it disproportionately affects the poor, the elderly and the weak. It exacerbates the injustices which already exist in our society. None of this is good news! It has brought many to our knees in prayer. If Corona Virus doesn't bring us to our knees it is hard to imagine what will.

But where is the hope for the future? Scientists and healthcare professionals will hopefully find a way of immunising us against this deadly foe, but the injustices which have exacerbated its effects will still remain if we don't do something about it. Every disaster brings about an opportunity to do things differently – the power for change. World War 2 was the last great shake-up we had in this country. Few of us would choose to return to that time of turmoil and yet it was from the ashes that Clement Attlee's government innovated one of the greatest tools for justice our country has known – the NHS. This shows that good can triumph in adversity, brave new worlds can emerge from pits of despair. So what new things are springing up and what can we do to join in?

What I am seeing is a re-evaluation of our priorities in life. I have seen people forced to set aside busy rush around schedules and long commutes to find that Zoom meetings were possible, pollution levels dropped and the birds could be heard singing sweetly in the trees. I have seen streets coming together to socialize together more than ever before and look out for each other like

never before. I have seen overwhelming support and appreciation for our keyworkers who have often gone unnoticed and undercompensated. I have seen global uprisings such as Black Lives Matter challenging the injustices which continue to persist in subtle and entrenched ways. I have seen much of the world weaned temporarily from its dependence on air travel to reveal new possibilities for the combat of global warming. Where there is a will, there is a way! And hence in the midst of unsettling circumstances we have the power to make changes for the long term good. What could we do?

In the first month of the crisis my church (King's Centre) quickly partnered with ShipShape in Sharrow to open a new Food Bank. It has helped feed over a hundred families a week ever since. Many of you I'm sure already volunteer for organisations and charities doing fantastic work amongst the poor and marginalized. Many of you have jobs in the NHS, the care sector or education which are already on the front line of combatting injustice, closing the poverty gap and making life better. All of us have neighbours and neighbourhoods that we can reach out to and support in their mental health. We can all do our bit to call out institutionalized racism when we see or hear it and those of us in power have the opportunity to ensure that it is not corrupted and that it does not corrupt. We can all campaign for and vote in politicians and counsellors who act for fairness rather than campaigning on a ticket of an economy which feathers our own nest. And so in the midst of a pandemic and an ensuing economic crisis there are opportunities to be hopeful and reasons to be cheerful – this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to change society for the better.

Rooms for hire!

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For more information or to book a room, visit our website: <https://www.standrewspalterlane.org.uk/hiring/>



Free Defibrillator Training

We are planning to install a defibrillator outside Shirley House for the benefit of the community.

We are looking for volunteers to learn how to use it.

If you would like to be involved please contact the Church Office at office@standrewspalterlane.org.uk

NENG TREASURER

We are still desperately searching for a new honorary Treasurer for NENG. The job is not particularly demanding or time-consuming, but some experience of accounts and an organised mind are required.

NENG's income is generated mostly from Membership and Edge subscriptions, as well as stall fees from the Farmers' Market. Both maintain good records and accounts, which simply require oversight by the Treasurer. Outgoings are relatively infrequent, but mostly regular, such as print or marketing invoice payments; skip hire for the market or events organised by the History Group or Nether Edge Festival.

Ideally the new treasurer would join our Management Committee, which oversees all NENG activities, and meets about 10 times a year. This committee acts as an umbrella for the range of self-accounting sub-groups, that help to keep our community so vibrant, including:

- Edge Editorial Board,
- Nether Edge Farmers' Markets
- Nether Edge Local History Group
- Nether Edge Festival,
- Friends of Brincliffe Edge and various 'green' initiatives, such as Open Gardens and Kenwood Community Gardeners

Annual accounts are set up on a 'Sage' system, managed by Tayab Fayeze, our honorary accountant, then independently reviewed, as we are a registered charity with an annual turnover of more than £25K. Unfortunately Tayab is heavily committed during the week, which is why we need a treasurer to coordinate our finances during the year. A copy of our last Financial Report is available and will provide the best insight to our structure and finances.

Above all, we are a relaxed and friendly, but reasonably professional team. If you might be interested in joining us as our treasurer, please contact Ken Lambert or Howard Fry for more information and a chat.

THREE CHORD WIZARDRY - It was the caps that did it! - Adam Pemberton

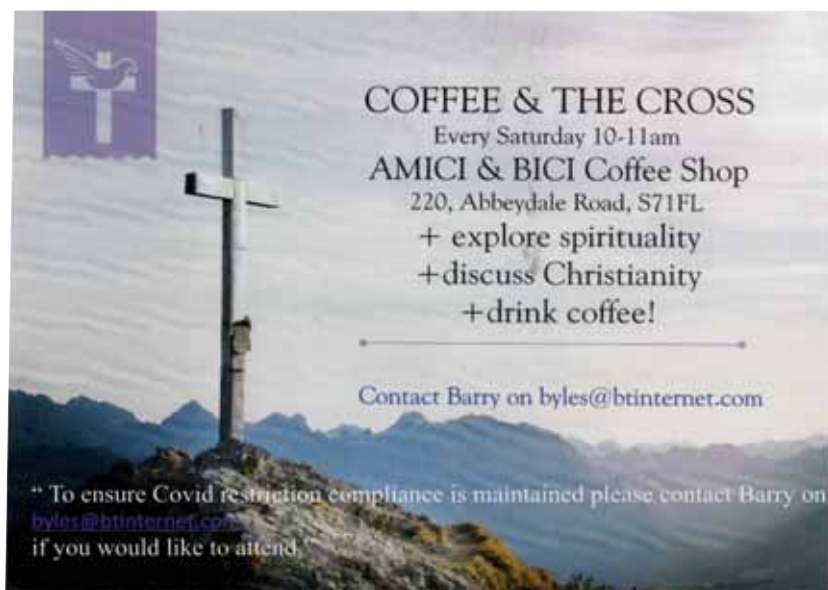
In 2004, after retiring from life as a lawyer, along with Dave Aspinwall on washboard and trombone, Christine Bellamy singing harmony vocals and playing musical saw and me on guitar, we became the YORKSHIRE TEA BAGS SKIFFLE BAND. Dave, who collected many things, just happened to have a collection of Yorkshire Tea caps. We tried them and found they fitted perfectly. The band had a name. So off we went to our first gig at the Rutland Hotel, wearing them proudly, having rehearsed together for a month or two in my front room.

A week before performing, the hotel made it clear that before we played a note they needed sight of our Public Liability insurance (just in case the incendiary nature of our singing and playing burnt the place down). As the cost of this was more than the fee we were to be paid, I learnt very quickly that performing in front of an audience was beset with surprises, some of which could cause distress.

After we jumped our first hurdle at the Rutland, (getting a clap or two from the audience and leaving the venue still standing and our insurance policy unneeded), the next hazard became obvious. What if our namesake the Yorkshire Tea Co. were unimpressed by our artistic endeavour, hated skiffle music, and felt that there was a real risk that our antics would cause the tea drinkers of Sheffield to spurn them? Might they bankrupt us? A trip to Harrogate to meet the management seemed a good idea.

After we had given them a short description of skiffle—a “simple form of popular music played on cheap, often home-made instruments, by those of limited musical ability”, and played our demo disc—to my astonishment the Company rather liked the novelty and silliness of what we were doing and for twelve years thereafter supplied us with packs of tea that we distributed amongst our audiences. Initially, Christine would throw the packs into the audience when we sang HAVE A DRINK ON ME. This was not a complete success!

After her tea missiles hit first a babe in arms, in the eye, and later knocked a man's pint into his wife's lap, causing audience participation of a sort we had not planned, we became more careful with our distribution of largesse!



Earlier this year I wrote about the importance of the 5 animal welfare needs. In this month's issue I will explore the importance and misconceptions around the welfare need of diet.

There is a recent trend with pet owners moving away from heat-treated, manufactured pet food for dogs and cats towards raw diets. This has been driven by suspicion of the former and perceived health benefits of the latter. There is a lot of very vocal support and opposition of both types of diet and yet there is little evidence to say that one diet is superior to another.

Formal evidence does exist for claims by raw-feeding proponents of an altered intestinal microbiome and (subjectively) improved stool quality. However, there is currently neither robust evidence nor identified plausible mechanisms for many of the wide range of other claimed benefits.

There are, however, documented risks associated with raw feeding, principally malnutrition (inexpert formulation and testing of diets) and infection affecting pets and/or household members. Salmonella has been consistently found and a recent study has also identified a number of cats that have been infected by Mycobacterium Bovis. There is also a risk of introducing antimicrobial-resistant bacteria.

As there are currently more proven risks associated with raw feeding over heat-treated diets, my advice along with a large part of my profession would currently be to avoid raw diets, especially if you are not experienced with the food or if you have any individuals with poor immune systems within the home.

When it comes to choosing the right heat-treated pet food, there can be an overwhelming amount of choice and so the following principles may help in making that choice.

There are little nutritional differences between dry and wet food with the primary difference being the amount of water in the diet. Unless the dry kibble is a specific dental biscuit (e.g. Hills T/d) it is unlikely to keep your dogs teeth clean. Dogs and cats don't need to be fed both types of food although many pet owners feed both for the variety/flavour of the wet food and the convenience of dry kibble.

The main difference between the cheaper foods e.g. Whiskas/Pedigree Chum and the more expensive foods such as Hills/Waltham is how the food is manufactured. Often the more expensive foods will have closed recipes that are produced to the same standard year in, year out. The cheaper diets will conversely have an open recipe that may change its source of protein, etc. This doesn't normally cause any problems for pets but may be one of the reasons why a pet may go off the food or occasionally have intestinal upsets.

Finally it's important to not forget our rabbits or guinea pigs as diet plays a huge part in their overall health. Both pets should be eating their body size in hay as fibre is an essential part of their diet. The rest of their food can be made up of fresh vegetables and only a small number of dried nuggets. It's always better to feed the pelleted foods rather than the muesli-style foods to avoid selective eating.

In next month's issue I will explore the importance of certain diets in managing our pets health conditions.

About Rob: Rob is the senior veterinary surgeon at Sheffield's PDSA charity hospital. He also provides an independent evening and weekend service through his business, 'Pets at Rest', supporting families at home when the difficult time comes to say goodbye to their companion.



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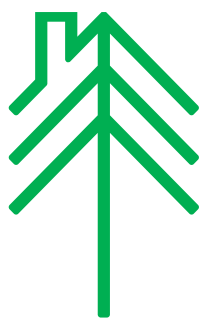
Sheffield Local Plan - Helen Willows

Sheffield has started work on a new Local Plan for the city - called the Sheffield Plan. The Plan will set out the housing, employment and other land allocations to meet the City's development needs until 2038, as well as policies to be used to help the Council determine planning applications and areas to be protected (eg green belt, heritage and environmental assets). It is expected to take around three years to produce the finished document and will involve at least two stages of consultation and then examination by an independent Planning Inspector. The Council have started with an Issues and Options 2020 document which is out to consultation now, until 13 October. As the name suggests, it doesn't make all the final decisions, but sets out the Options that the Council is considering.

The headline in local plans is nearly always the amount of housing and where it will go. The Options set out for consultation include whether the Council should promote higher density development in the City Centre and the surrounding areas (more and higher apartment blocks in Nether Edge maybe?) or whether the Council should review the Green Belt boundary to make land available for development that is not meeting the green belt purposes to a strong degree. The Council is asking for our comments on the Issues and Options. Please find the consultation documents, and a link to the consultation on Citizen Space at <https://www.sheffield.uk/sheffieldplan> Please do remember, if you wish to make comments to make them before 13 October.



We were amused by this as we were walking to the shops yesterday. Perhaps you may wish to use it in the next edition. Maybe you can think of a caption.
*Donald and Andrea Watts
Montgomery Road*



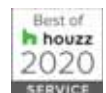
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Letters to NENG

Barry Johnson wrote:

The Government is considering introducing a ban on pavement parking across England under proposals published recently. The final preferred option may not be an all-out ban but it is still likely that whatever is decided will have a dramatic effect on road and pavement users as well as property owners. Residents of Nether Edge will need to be ready to participate in local discussions as to what is best for the local community as a whole and our councillors need to prepare us well for what is likely to be one of the most tangible changes to our neighbourhood in recent times. Some of our narrow streets will be significantly affected and it is likely that property owners will no longer be able to park their vehicles outside their homes or indeed in their streets. The policing of any new parking restrictions will be difficult and charging for restricted parking for residents only may have to be introduced on a zonal basis as it is done currently in London. The needs of wheelchair users and people with visual impairments need to be strongly represented as do those of the emergency and refuse collection services. Let us hope that whatever is eventually decided is done transparently and by democratic decision making.

From Helen Ward - Subject: *Annie Bindon Carter*

I was interested to see the reference to Annie Bindon Carter's (ABC) home at Kingfield House in your article about gennels around Nether Edge. I wondered how many of your readers know who she was or about the very crucial role she played in the history of Sheffield in the first half of the 20th century.

Born in Nottingham, she studied at the Art College on Psalter Lane. When WW1 started she was part of a group of women who volunteered at Wharncliffe Hospital with severely disabled ex-servicemen. Her great contribution was in finding ways to enable men who had lost hands and arms to do meaningful and productive tasks, for example by taping paint brushes to their arms. This resulted in the setting up of Painted Fabrics and employing them in the company. Throughout the 1920's and 30's the company produced a wide range of garments and household items with stencilled and painted decorations all of which were aimed at and bought by wealthy and fashionable customers, including royalty. Whilst there were many similar organisations supported through the Hague Fund, Painted Fabrics was unique in its approach to disability. During the Second World War, not surprisingly, it produced camouflage but did not really recover after the war.

Sheffield Museums has a small collection of items made by Painted Fabrics, some very striking and beautiful but sadly almost no records appear to have survived about the designs, materials or techniques used. Sheffield Archives has Annie's personal archive, disappointingly, from a researcher's point of view, mainly relating to letters from titled people and an invitation (outside stand only) to the Coronation of George V and Queen Mary. Sheffield University also has a collection of private press books bought with a donation from ABC. The name of the company lives on as the name of a Sheffield City Council housing complex at Meadowhead built on the site of the factory. Some people may also remember Painted Fabrics featuring on an episode of "Flog It" when Paul Martin was shown the Museum's collection by its curator, Clara Morgan. And, Annie also has an entry in Wikipedia.

Nether Edge rightly celebrates its links with some well known artists. Annie Bindon Carter was an artist too, but in my view, more importantly, she was a very strong, determined woman and a pioneer in being positive about disability and in making a very unique contribution to Sheffield and its creative industries.

Response from our Planning Advisor

The government has published a consultation on managing pavement parking. The results of the consultation will depend to a large extent on what people say in response. The options put forward by the government include:

1. A pavement parking ban like that currently in London.
2. Making it easier for Councils to prohibit pavement parking
3. Giving Councils the power to fine offenders.

The consultation can be found <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/managing-pavement-parking>. It's important that if you have views on these options now that you make your comments known in response to this consultation. Whatever the conclusion of the consultation, it is clear that local councils will have to work with local residents to implement any nationally approved scheme – but if the results of the consultation don't reflect the views of the nation because we don't respond, then the Council have to implement something even if we (or the majority of us) don't want it.

From Mavis Barnes - For Peter Vaughn

I was very interested to read your article on 'Giant Hogweed' in September Edge. I had a similar experience earlier this year. I watched a new plant in my garden grow. It looked like cow parsley and began to flower. When it was 6 feet tall and looking quite threatening I became suspicious and decided to investigate. Yes, 'Giant Hogweed' a very dangerous plant. Luckily, I'd realised great care had to be taken to get rid of all the remains so no harm done but it's good to make everyone aware.