

# EDGE

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

Company Limited by Guarantee No. 07414080

Individual views expressed are not necessarily those of the Group

December/January 2020/21

Registered Charity No. 1139239



*Pantomime Dame*

*Oh no, he didn't!*

*Oh yes, he did!*

The pandemic may have halted live theatre performances this year, but Edge readers can enjoy all the fun of Panto by reading David Pierce's account of his role as Pantomime Dame in this issue .

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

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

This issue of EDGE was edited by Edge Editorial Board. If you want to contribute to the February 2021 edition, please contact the EDGE Editorial Board - [nengeditorialboard@gmail.com](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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

Welcome to our extended edition of Edge for December and January. We are sure that many of you have had to dig deep to keep cheerful during this second lockdown, as we have. We would really like to hear about the strategies that you have discovered to help you cope, so please send them in. Hopefully we have provided some cheer. There is David Pierce's story of a Christmas past and seasonal puzzles and games for the whole family. There is the heart-warming story of the plaque behind the wardrobe. If you have any similar stories please let us know. It may be colder outside, but we still need to keep up our exercise regime and so any reluctance to wrap up and get out there should be overcome by the fascinating discoveries you will make by taking David Levine's walk. That there is hope for an improved environment in Nether Edge is established in the two 'Tree' articles. You will read about local projects and businesses, all of whom, whether featured or not, need your support during this difficult time. In this season of giving, we hope that you will remember those who really struggle, particularly at this time of year, some of whom are featured in this edition, and give them your support. And finally, as you would expect, there is food and drink! Hopefully December will give us greater freedoms, but we will still need to care for ourselves and each other. We wish you all a peaceful and happy festive season and very best wishes for a better year in 2021.

## Annual General Meeting - Ken Lambert

In the October edition of EDGE we reported that holding an AGM during the Covid-19 lock-downs was proving to be difficult if not impossible. However, taking the bull by the horns, the NENG Committee has decided that an AGM will be held on Wednesday 24th February, so make a note in your diary now. If it cannot be held in person, it will be held through Zoom. Full details about the meeting will be in the February edition of EDGE, along with reports on the activities of NENG and the growing number of sub groups. We look forward to seeing you in person or virtually.

## Become involved with Edge – your local newspaper

If you would like to send a letter about the contents of Edge, or anything to do with the Nether Edge neighbourhood, please send it to [nengeditorialgroup@gmail.com](mailto:nengeditorialgroup@gmail.com). If you have an idea for an article, please let us know by contacting us at the same address.

### Advertising in Edge

If you would like to advertise in Edge, please contact us at the same email address. Charges are as follows:

EIGHTH PAGE : £20.00 QUARTER PAGE : 40.00 HALF PAGE : £80.00 FULL PAGE : £160

Reduction for advertising in 3 copies of Edge

## 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.





## Bench – the New Bistro in Nether Edge - Jack Wakelin and Tom Aronica

Bench opened on Friday 9th October and styles itself as a 'neighbourhood bar and restaurant serving seasonal dishes with cocktails, natural wines and beers'. There is also a shop selling food and drink to take away. It is owned and run by Jack Wakelin and Tom Aronica, who were previously involved in 'Public', a bar in Sheffield city centre (and which won the 2018 Observer Food Monthly Award for best place to drink in the UK), plus a series of successful pop-ups over the past couple of years.

They want Bench to be fun and informal. The name Bench stems from it being an extension of everyone's favourite dining experience – round one big table with their friends and family. 'We wanted it to be like coming around to our house, grabbing a drink and a bite to eat and just having a good time whilst meeting friends old and new'.

They have planned something like Bench for a number of years, but then came the pandemic. 'Are we still going to do this?' was never a question to be honest, as we had already signed on the shop so the pandemic just came at an awful time for us open a new business. However, we aren't the type of people to sit at home, take government support and feel sorry for ourselves. Instead, we are staying positive and dynamic to ensure we can move with the constant changes to restrictions and remain open. Since the four-week lockdown announcement, we have flipped the concept from restaurant to wine shop and deli. We are also doing something a little fun as well as tongue in cheek and serving kebabs for collections on Friday and Saturdays. Please pop in if you'd like to pre-order one!

'For the time being in lockdown, we are selling sourdough, made fresh in house every morning. We are also selling wines – all natural. This means certified organic or biodynamic, or what are called "zero-zero" wines, where no pesticides, commercial yeasts or fertilisers are used. They can only contain a very small amount of sulphates, unlike most supermarket wines. The wines grow in biodynamic vineyards which is essentially is better for us all! We also sell a selection of deli products such as meats and cheeses, pasta and bread flour. Bench is open from 11am – 7pm Weds to Sat. See the Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/benchsheffield/>) for updates on the products on offer.'

For the short time Bench was open before lockdown, it received 5 star reviews with the comments 'neighbourhood gem', 'lovely ambience', and 'well thought out menu'. 'We hope to be able to re-open as a restaurant on December 3rd, but we will see if the government will allow hospitality venues to re-open. (<https://www.benchsheffield.co.uk/>)'



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## Covid Cook Along – Leah Griffiths

Back in September, after many months of to-ing and fro-ing, the Nether Edge Festival finally came to fruition. This year, thanks to Covid, we really had to think outside the box in terms of events, making sure they were as safe and “Covid-secure” as possible. As such, we had a number of online events, including live-stream gigs, an online piano recital and an exciting “cook along” event, thanks to Ammi's Kitchen.

As a member of the Nether Edge Festival committee, I am not obliged to participate in all our events, but the prospect of a cook along tickled my foodie tastebuds, and so I signed up!

Ammi's Kitchen is a social enterprise and branch of Family Voice Sheffield C.I.C who are based at Common Ground in Nether Edge. The aim is to make money to train local women, who already have excellent culinary skills, to help them get work in the food industry. These women will choose authentic recipes from their heritages and make them into food/recipe packs and, potentially in the future, takeaway dishes.



This recipe kit and cook along for the festival was put together by Azra and was inspired by her Pakistani heritage. The bargain Nether Edge Festival introductory offer included a recipe and food pack for just £10 delivered - less than cost price! It was really easy to secure a pack through the PayPal link provided by Ammi's Kitchen on social media. We received the ingredients & recipe to make authentic Pakistani dhaal & chana pilau (all vegan!) for 5 people, plus the link to Azra's cooking tutorial video was included. The recipe included 14 spices all helpfully portioned out in eco-friendly packaging, delivered to our door.



Everything was beautifully packaged, and the pre-packed spice mixes were so useful. We set to creating the dishes that night and loaded up the handy YouTube links which were included in the pack. As well as the links to Azra cooking the dishes in the Family Voice kitchen, we received a step-by-step recipe sheet for each dish, making it even easier to follow! Very soon, our kitchen smelt completely delicious,

with wafts of onion, garlic and authentic Pakistani spices making us salivate.

The two dishes, dhaal and chana (chickpea) pilau, were ready to eat in under an hour – that includes us reading the recipes and pausing to watch Azra's cook along videos at certain points. As there were just the two of us, there were plenty of seconds and leftovers and we both proclaimed as soon as we started eating that it was the best curry we had ever made and eaten. Thanks to the recipe sheets, we have made both dishes again several times since, as all the ingredients in the spice mix were included in the recipes. The dhaal is a certain favourite and is especially warming at this time of year.

The money made from selling the packs is spent on Food Hygiene and kitchen skills training for women who might not have the confidence or opportunity to access this training elsewhere. Family Voice are currently running the food hygiene course with the first cohort of learners by video; COVID may have slowed them down but it won't stop them!

If you would like more information or would like to sign up for the next recipe pack, please email [ammiskitchensheffield@gmail.com](mailto:ammiskitchensheffield@gmail.com) or you can call Janine Dos Remedies on 07599 637889. We can't recommend it enough!







## Nether Edge Community Special Offer

### No room at the inn over Christmas?

For all Nether Edge residents, allow your family and friends to come  
and stay at the Mercure Sheffield Kenwood Hall Hotel & Spa

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(based on two people sharing a room) per night.

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## SPRAT'S 2020 CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

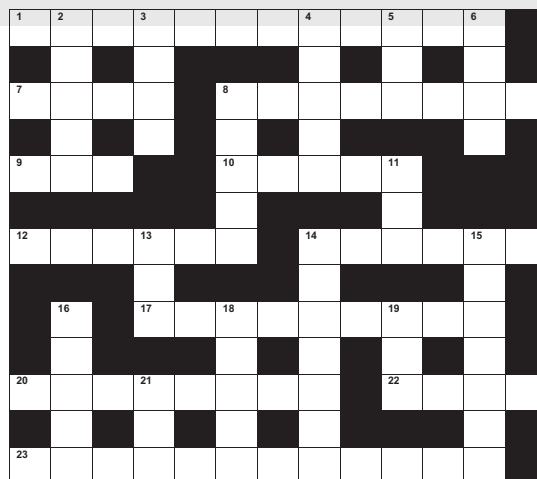
All the clues marked with \* have  
some connection with Christmas  
or the Christmas story.  
I've tried not to make it too  
difficult.

### Across

1. Christmas children's performance\* (8,4)
7. Guiding light\* (4)
8. They get pulled\* (8)
9. Part of a monarch's regalia (3)
- 10 & 22 Small Christmas pastries\* (5,4)
12. Festive bird or country\* (6)
14. Shiny decoration\* (6)
17. They visited the Baby Jesus\* (9)
20. Proverbially cool (8)
23. They also visited the Baby Jesus!\* (5,4,3)

### Down

2. He could be in the pantomime (5)
3. Appearing on crucifixes, it means "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews" (1,1,1,1)
4. Long (5)
5. Currency of Albania (3)
6. Circular skin tent from Mongolia (4)
8. Providing relaxed ease (4)
11. Long time (3)
13. Greek island (3)
14. Common upper garments (1,6)
15. Not Western (7)
16. Mistletoe or Holly decoration (5)
18. Joint or Leeds group (5)
19. Knock (3)
21. Four stringed instrument (3)



## Update About Our Lovely Street Trees - Paul Selby

It is actually now 21 months since the Council announced a “temporary” pause in felling, following the media frenzy of criticism of the Council. This was caused by the revealing of the contract obligation to fell half of all Sheffield's street trees, after the Information Commissioner forced the Council to publish secret contract details.

The temporary pause became permanent soon after, when the Forestry Commission launched its criminal investigation into the alleged illegal felling of so many trees without a licence. That was the final straw, and in December 2018, following mediated talks, the Council agreed to work jointly with tree campaigners on a “new approach.”

This led to the publication of a Sheffield Street Tree Strategy in March 2020, and the formation of the Sheffield Street Tree Partnership Group, of which I am a member, and which is overseeing the delivery of the Strategy, as well as its further development. So where are we right now? And did the street tree campaign achieve all its objectives? I like to split this into three parts, the past, present and future.

### The Past

The Forestry Commission investigation found that the Council probably broke the law. The Local Government Ombudsman found evidence of obfuscation, undue delays, and misleading statements. There is evidence of misleading two judges in three separate court cases. Nearly £2 million of local taxpayers' money was wasted on trying to take campaigners to court on false pretences, and setting up a sham consultation, and yet nobody has taken responsibility, and nobody in the Council has been punished. There is a strong case for a Public Enquiry so that lessons can be learned. We're getting closer to achieving one, but we aren't there yet.

### The Present

At one point, we had 220 threatened street trees in the Nether Edge, Sharrow and Carter Knowle area. About 70 were felled, half of which were uncontested as they were diseased. Of the remaining 150, about 40 are officially safe, and the majority of the rest are unofficially safe too. For example, all the trees on Rundle Road are now safe, following the upcoming road and pavement resurfacing in November.

There are perhaps around 10 more complex trees. These may take a while longer for a decision to be made. They were always a stretch to save given the damage being caused, but let's see, there are still possibilities.

The implementation of the Street Tree Strategy is going well. We're in the process of establishing a network of voluntary street tree wardens, working in partnership with Amey. There is also a new additional street tree planting process, which allows residents and community groups to purchase additional trees. This has already allowed two “test” schemes to proceed. Over this winter, thirteen trees are being planted on our local part of Abbeydale Road, and nine trees are being planted in grass verges and historic tree pits in Nether Edge. This will be the first increase in street trees in our part of Sheffield for around fifty years!

### The Future

There are many possibilities. In terms of street trees, we've located over 2000 potential locations in the area for additional trees. It'll be a stretch to raise the roughly £1 million needed to achieve the goal of planting trees in every possible location. But that is the goal.

In terms of the wider ecology and environment, Save Nether Edge Trees is in its final month before it formally becomes Nether Edge and Sharrow Sustainable Transformation (NESST). Look out for more details in the coming months.



### URGENT CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL

Christmas is a time for spreading hope and joy, and in 2020 this is more important than ever. Many families in Sheffield are struggling to feed their families, let alone provide gifts and presents, meaning that some are now even more anxious about the pressures of the festive period.

Since the beginning of the Covid crisis, **Mums United** and **JOYBANK** have been collecting and distributing pre-loved toys to families in need, whilst **Sharrow Community Forum** have been providing essential food, toiletries, and household supplies to local families; these organisations are now coming together to further support families in the Sharrow area.

Now in addition to **good quality used toys**, we're appealing for **brand new toys** to help us to guarantee that no child in our community is without something special to open on Christmas Day. We are asking for **unwrapped gifts for children between 5 and 16 years of age** (maybe a gift voucher for teens so parents can choose). No present is too small and all will be greatly appreciated. Donations will be safely quarantined before being gifted to a young person in our community.

Please drop off donations at either of the locations below until 10<sup>th</sup> December;

- Sharrow Old Junior School, South View Road (weekdays 9am - 5pm)
- JOYBANK, 630 Abbeydale Road (Friday and Saturday 12noon - 4pm)

To make a cash donation, please go to [www.mums-united.com](http://www.mums-united.com) and quote 'Xmas 2020' on the donation form.





## Family Voice Sheffield C.I.C. – Kate, Nasim & Janine

### COVID 19 Response for Local Families

Janine, Nasim and Kate set up Family Voice over 4 years ago to provide support for families in the Nether Edge and Sharrow area. We usually run classes for women and community events as well as working with families.



*We are Family Voice, Nasim, Kate and Janine*



*Socially distanced walk at Brincliffe Edge, keeping in touch and keeping moving*

Our profile and work have grown vastly since the pandemic hit. Family Voice is now working with over 200 local families. Our Appeal for “Food and Fuel” has currently reached £3000. This money will be spent on food vouchers and utility bills for local families in need over the winter months. We can't thank our supporters enough - you really make a massive difference to people's lives.

We have a wonderful bank of volunteers who are now mostly delivering nappies and items for mums with young children and babies, vouchers and food. At one point we had about 50 volunteers delivering, sorting, packing and cleaning yards - something the community should be very proud of. But as we enter into the most difficult months ahead - there will be more and different needs. We have been lucky enough to get funding for other support projects too, so there

will definitely be more deliveries needed - if anyone would like to join our delivery team on Wednesday afternoons please see contact details below.

We are no longer accepting physical donations of items. We are focussing on keeping in touch with mums face to face, by phone, on WhatsApp, video and Zoom. And we are running an IT support course face to face, with 30 families receiving a free tablet and 2 years WiFi! We are pleased to have the support of SCC Family Learning, SAVTE and Buzz Sheffield in this project.

Common Ground have been a huge help to us too, they have given us the use of the upstairs space as our office - at a very reduced rate. Now we can't imagine how we ever worked from home!

Somehow in the middle of all this we managed to launch “Ammi's Kitchen” Food Enterprise as part of the Nether Edge Festival - and delivered 75 of Azra's recipe packs. Feedback from customers was very positive, people really enjoyed the flavour and authenticity of the food - so we are hoping to run this again soon.

We have all taken off a bit of time over October half term as we know the hardest part of this pandemic is to come. For all of us. But we will get through it. Together. Thanks again Nether Edgers for all your support which has made it possible for us to help families in ways we have never needed to before. Together we'll get through this winter :)

**If you'd like to join our delivery team - 07951510366 / [familyvoicesheffield@gmail.com](mailto:familyvoicesheffield@gmail.com)**

**One - off donations & monthly direct debits : <https://localgiving.org/charity/familyvoicesheffield/>**

Jenny Wilkinson from SCC Family Learning says: “Family Voice are a small but beautiful dedicated grassroots organisation that are determined to do all they can for the families they serve. I've been delivering learning for them for a number of years, and it's just phenomenal how much such a small organisation has done to help people. You can be assured that every penny they get will be spent on making things happen for the better in the local community.”



*One of our lovely volunteers doing a delivery*



*A set of pictures by a young lady who really misses our classes, we are planning to have an exhibition to show all the lovely drawings she has produced*





## SHEFFIELD PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Hello Everyone,

It's the time of year again for Sheffield Photographic Society's annual Perspectives Exhibition, usually held in the Sheffield Winter Garden. This year because of the Covid-19 Pandemic we have had to follow the example of our Annual Exhibition and the Perspectives can now be viewed online. We sincerely hope that by next year we can revert to our usual practice and that Perspectives 17 will be held once again in the Sheffield Winter Garden.

The exhibition is by 28 of our members showcasing their individual talent. There is also the usual panel of Old Sheffield images from the archive of our elder statesmen Ray Brightman. There is a wide range of subject matter for the exhibition and it is well worth taking a few minutes to take a look. Those of you who have seen one of our exhibitions in the past will know the quality and breadth of the photography. My own offering this year is 6 images of birds that were all taken during the early period of lockdown between April and July this year.

The exhibition can be seen by following the link:-

<http://www.sheffield-photographer.org.uk/Perspectives%2016/gallery%201.htm>

*John Scholey - Exhibition Coordinator Sheffield Photographic Society*

## CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS DAY AND NEW YEAR AT MERCURE SHEFFIELD KENWOOD HALL HOTEL & SPA,

### CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

Celebrate the big day with a magnificent four-course feast with all the trimmings you could wish for.

Kenwood House and the Lakeview Restaurant will be decked out for the big day. On arrival, you will be greeted with a glass of fizz and mouth-watering canapés before enjoying a festive feast for all the family. Santa had also made a visit and each child will receive a present.

**£73.50** per adult

**£36.50** per child

(Children aged 3- 12, 0-2 FOC)

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The evening's celebrations will begin with a drinks and canapés reception. Afterwards, indulge in a six-course meal with coffee and enjoy the sounds of highland piping as the haggis course is piped into the room, with background music by our Resident DJ.

(\*timings and events may be amended due to Government Guideline Updates)

**£79.95** per adult

Please note: this is an adult-only event.

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## Are You Going to Nether Edge (Virtual) Fair?

- Jean Allen

For the last four years I have organized the Art and Craft Fair at St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church (SAPLC) in September, as part of the Nether Edge Festival. In spring I was starting to plan this year's Fair when the world changed. As with much (but not all) of the Festival the Fair was cancelled, to the great disappointment of traders and shoppers alike.

When I heard the Christmas Farmers Market was also cancelled, I wondered if I could do something to help the creative and productive folk of Nether Edge during this tough time.

I thought of an on-line virtual Fair, gathering together websites and publicising them to generate income for traders and give customers a chance to shop locally for Christmas presents and provisions.

After consulting NENG and the NE Festival Committee and receiving enthusiastic encouragement, I began asking traders if they would be interested. The response has been overwhelming! There will be food and drink stalls, every kind of art and craft you can think of (and perhaps some you didn't know about) – an ideal one-stop shop for buying presents for all ages and foodie treats. As a bonus, lots of producers who don't usually have stalls at the Art and Craft Fair or Markets will be represented.

Instead of strolling round the stalls you can scroll through them, visiting old favourites and discovering new treasures. As well as posting goods, many stallholders can deliver locally or arrange for you to collect purchases.

With help from a friend at SAPLC (thanks Alastair) the website is ready, and will be live soon (no doubt by the time you read this). It is at <https://netheredgefair.mystrikingly.com>

Stalls will be added daily, so I envisage this as a website people will go to on a weekly basis to get their local goodies. The Fair will be publicized locally and nationally on social media.

And then I had another idea. Why not make it a permanent website?

Of course, it won't be the same as the real Art and Craft Fair or the Farmers Markets (no wonderful live music for one thing), but it will help to link local producers and consumers during lockdown and beyond.

And once things are back to normal, the website will continue to connect local producers with customers in Nether Edge and beyond.

Stalls can be added at any time. If you or anyone you know would like to be part of this, please contact me on [jlallen1812@gmail.com](mailto:jlallen1812@gmail.com) for details.



As a result of the market cancellation we have of course informed Father Christmas that his grotto will not be available this year. On the other hand we are sure that children will be delighted to know that we have arranged for a special letter box to be erected outside Wickwire where they can post their letters to Santa. It will be available from Saturday December 12th to Tuesday 23rd December. Santa's gnomes and elves will collect them each night and take them directly to the North Pole. And who knows, we may persuade Santa to visit the letter box himself on one of the days.



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At this time of year, many of us will be missing the Sheffield Carols Sings that take place in local pubs. Sings at St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church (SAPLC) and the Union Hotel have been a great success in recent years.

Undeterred by the lockdown, there will be a Virtual Grand Sing on Saturday 28th November at 7.30pm via Zoom, FaceBook and YouTube:

<http://www.villagecarols.org.uk/events/festival-of-village-carols-goes-virtual.html>



Words and music will be provided. The organisers invite donations, which (after costs) will go to Weston Park Cancer Charity in memory of Chris Lowry.

Chris was a well-known and much-loved resident of Nether Edge. A whirlwind of activity, she was involved in the Eco Church movement at SAPLC and regionally, as well as volunteering widely in Sheffield and being a trustee of the charity Hope for the Future. With her husband Martin Watson, Chris was involved in local folk music and dance.

Her work with past Sheffield Village Carols Festivals makes this event a fitting tribute to her.

## German Whist – Graham Nield

### Ring the changes with this 'Nights In' Card Game

**German Whist** is a variation on classic Whist for two players. Also called "Chinese Whist", the game is most likely of British origin. It is an excellent game for two players and a good introduction to basic principles of trick play.

Deal 13 cards to each player from a pack of playing cards and stack the rest face down. Turn the top card of the stock face up. The suit on the turned-up card becomes and remains trump for the rest of the game.

**Play:** There are two phases to the game. The first continues as long as any cards remain in stock, and the second begins when the stock is empty.

**Phase 1:** Non-dealer leads to the first trick. In the first phase you can play any card, whether leading or following. You win a trick by playing a higher card in the suit led or by trumping it if no cards are held in the suit led. The winner of each trick, before leading to the next:

- Draws the top (faced) card of stock and adds it to their hand
- Waits for the loser to draw the next (which need not be shown)
- Turns the next stock card face up so that both can see which card the next trick winner will get

When no cards remain in the stock, phase 2 commences.

**Phase 2:** the last 13 tricks are played to normal Whist rules. When playing second to a trick, follow suit to the card led if you can, otherwise you can play anything.

**Objective:** to win more of the last 13 tricks than your opponent in Phase 2.

**Play:** German Whist is a good test of memory and judgement.

In the first half of the game you should only win a trick if you think the top card of the stock is better than the one underneath, for example, a trump or a high card in a plain suit. At the same time, you may not want to buy it with a card which itself is higher still, since you need high cards and trumps for the second half.

Below is an example of the sort of things that might happen. Suppose you lead from:

♠AQ64 ♥A105♦KQ63 ♣AQ

With ♠ as trumps and the turned card ♥K. This is a good card and you could probably win it by leading ♥A. A better lead is ♦K. Why? Because if ♥K wins the Ace you will have only exchanged one probable winner for another, and if it doesn't win you will have lost two probable winners. If you lead ♦K and win you will still have made no difference to the strength of your hand, but if it is beaten by ♦A then your ♦Q will be the highest card in its suit.

The basic principles of trick play taught by this game are:

- Never play a card without a specific reason for it
- Remember that any given card is promoted (= increases in trick winning power) when a higher card of the same suit is no longer in play.



## THE DANGERS OF BEING A DAME - David Pierce

A friend persuaded me to tread the boards. He was in a local musical theatre group and explained that they were short of men for their forthcoming pantomime. Naively, I didn't realise at the time that such a problem was not unusual in the world of am dram. I had no experience whatsoever of the theatre but I was tempted. My father had been a panto dame in amateur shows at the Fazakerley Cottage Home in Liverpool where Ken Dodd joined him to entertain the children there as his career was developing. Would I be able to follow successfully in his footsteps? (My father's that is, not Doddy's)

So I went along to my first rehearsal. I felt very much the square peg in a round hole as I tried to make sense of the score whereas I found that I could interpret the libretto better than most. The whole cast met on Monday nights and then the principals who had been selected through an audition would gather together on a Wednesday. Nearer the dates of the show the pattern of rehearsing became more intense. A lot of work, a lot of stress. In spite of my personal skill shortages I was quickly sucked in to the routine and after a year or two became their regular dame, 25 times I think and much else besides: Oliver

Warbucks in Annie, Senex, a dirty old man in A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Colonel Pickering in My Fair Lady, Billy Early in No No Nanette, Admiral Porter in HMS Pinafore, Ratty in Wind in the Willows, Chitterlow in Half a Sixpence, a Tinman, a gondolier and a pirate, Buffalo Bill in Annie Get Your Gun and more. When we did The Stingiest Man in Town, a musical version of Christmas Carol the producer said there was no need for an audition for the leading character and I was given the role of Scrooge. I wonder why.

Looking back, I learned so much about music, acting and stagecraft and of course I enjoyed the applause especially the appreciation and atmosphere at all our last nights. There is a downside to it though. It's not just the stress of trying to learn your lines it's the stress of forgetting them on stage. My pleasure at being given the part of Mack in the wonderful show, Mack and Mabel, was considerably diminished by a series of 'bloomers' on my part. From finding myself alone on the stage and wondering what I had to say next and in a crucial scene with Mabel 'corpsing' in a romantic reunion on a railway station. Not for the first time she rescued me by ad-libbing in her southern drawl 'Did you bring anything with you?' 'Oh yeah', I replied, 'I almost forgot' as I put my hand in my pocket to retrieve our engagement ring. Most of the audience didn't notice, they rarely do, but they certainly did in one of my early pantos as the dame when I hadn't yet mastered the skill of wearing women's clothing. It was dress rehearsal on the Sunday before the show opening on the Wednesday and I was dancing with my chosen man when my heel caught in the hem of my skirt. Down I went in a crumpled heap on the stage. Panic broke out and it seemed I had broken my wrist. The following morning I duly went to A & E. It was January. It was icy, pavements were dangerous and the place was packed with little old ladies and others who had slipped on the ice and had damaged hips and other parts of their bodies. When it came to my turn to see the doctor he took me through a list of questions to answer until he came to 'And how did you do it? I looked at this rather po-faced doctor and hesitated. Dare I answer honestly? I decided quickly and said 'I tripped on my frock'. He smiled broadly. Later that week with my arm in plaster I had overcome the tripping problem. In the dance routine I also dared to successfully run across the stage into my idol's arms. He dropped me. My plastered wrist crashed onto the stage, I delivered a series of words that were not in the script. The curtains came down and the St John's Ambulance people rushed up on to the stage. But eventually, the show went on.

In spite of problems like that one panto-time at Christmas was always an event to look forward too. You can ad-lib with the audience or if you've forgotten your line you can blatantly announce 'I've lost me place' and someone will come to your aid, except when I missed out a whole scene, allowing the audience to go home early. But it's the presence of Brownies or Rainbows in the audience that really lifts my spirits. They stamp their feet, shout out as required, 'He's behind you', or 'Oh yes he is'. They boo and hiss and cheer. They and I have a whale of a time. That's show-biz.



### Dear Edge Editorial Board

I'm writing on behalf of Kenbourne Rd residents. For years now the exit from both ends of Kenbourne Rd has been difficult and dangerous- a mixture of fast vehicles and cars and vans parked right on the corners. Ironically the new surface on Rundle is going to make this worse. We've written to the councillors and Alison Teale is taking this up. We wondered if you'd be able to promote the petition?. It's getting fairly urgent as the work is going on apace! And this would be a great opportunity to make the changes while the work is going on. Obviously it is local to us but we aren't the only people using the road.

<https://sheffieldcc.moderngov.co.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?id=10222>

Thanks for your attention. Sally Weston



## A walk through Norfolk Heritage Park and its environs – David Levine

This article is the third in a series describing circular walks to follow during a pandemic when the Government advice is to exercise locally. The route of about 3.5 miles goes through three areas of historical interest: Norfolk Heritage Park, City Road Cemetery and the Cholera Monument Grounds (there is overlap with the Norfolk Heritage Trail).

The walk starts at the entrance to Norfolk Heritage Park on Norfolk Park Road behind Sheffield College, a ten-minute drive from Nether Edge. There should be enough car parking near the entrance, in the laybys on the one way section of Norfolk Park Road off Park Grange Road. City Road Cemetery is open daily from 9.00am and 10.00am on Sundays.

**Norfolk Heritage Park** opened to the public in 1848 and was a gift from the Duke of Norfolk who owned the land. During the medieval period, the land formed part of Sheffield Park, the deer park of Sheffield Manor. It was the first public park in Sheffield and is one of the oldest in the country. In 1909 it was taken over by Sheffield Council. The park retains many of its original features including the circular carriage ride, the expanses of grass and the avenues of lime and turkey oak.

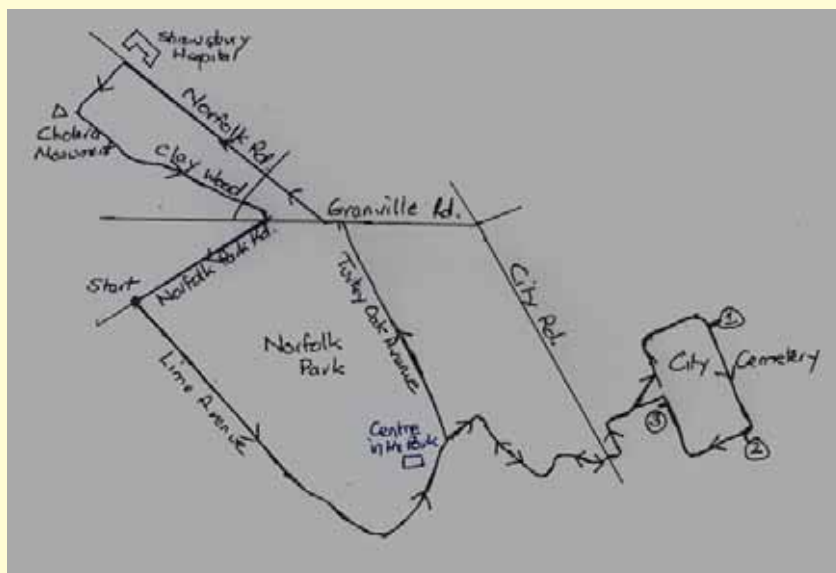
From the entrance walk along the Lime Avenue (planted in the 1840's as part of the original design of the park) for about 800 metres avoiding turnings on the left and right. Then keeping on the main avenue, curve round to the left passing an archway (built in 1912 as the entrance to a refreshment pavilion) and the Centre in the Park, both on the left. After passing between two playgrounds, leave the park using a footpath on the right, up some steps to St Aiden's Avenue.

At the top of the steps cross over the road (St Aiden's Avenue) and turn left walking up the hill to the main road (St Aidan's Road), cross over the main road and walk up the hill until you have passed St Aiden's Drive which is the first left. You will see the clock tower of the cemetery between the houses on the left. Walk up the next set of steps on the left onto a path between the houses. The pavement curves round to the right and you will see a clear road sign "FOOTPATH TO CITY ROAD". Take this footpath and turn right at the top to cross at the lights and then through the pedestrian entrance to the cemetery, by the bus stop.

**City Road Cemetery** is designated as grade II and was opened in 1881. It is a good example of a late Victorian public cemetery for an expanding industrial city.

On entering the pedestrian entrance, turn left and walk to a board by the main entrance and clock tower where there is a map of the cemetery. The suggested route in the sketch visits three war memorials:

- 1) the Belgian war memorial next to a derelict chapel (in plot HH)
- 2) the Sheffield Blitz garden and
- 3) the 1st World War memorial (plot M).



Norfolk Park Road Entrance



Main entrance and clock tower

When Belgium was invaded by Germany in August 1914 about 250 000 refugees fled and many thousands came to the UK. Sheffield accommodated about 3000 Belgians. Both Shirle Hill and the Ecclesall Bierlow union provided temporary accommodation for Belgian refugees and injured soldiers. The memorial commemorates 44 Belgian men and women who died in Sheffield during the war.

The Sheffield Blitz garden is a communal grave for 134 victims of the Sheffield Blitz on the 12th and 15th December 1940. Many of the victims were killed in a direct hit whilst sheltering in the cellar of the Marples Hotel on December 12th, the worst single incident for loss of life in Sheffield during the whole war.

### City Road Cemetery War Memorials



*Belgian War Memorial*



*World War I Memorial*



*Sheffield Blitz Garden*

After visiting the three memorials, make your way back to the pedestrian entrance and retrace your way back to Norfolk Park. Fork right on the steps to meet the main avenue and walk straight along the Turkey Oak Avenue (The turkey oak is native to South Eastern Europe and Asia and was introduced in the UK as an ornamental tree in the 18th century. The avenue is the longest double planted turkey oak avenue in Europe).

If you wish to shorten the walk by missing out the Clay Wood and Cholera Monument section, take the first left along the wide path which will take you back to the Lime Avenue and the Norfolk Road entrance. To do the full walk stay on the main avenue to reach the entrance on Granville Road. Cross over Granville Road and walk along Norfolk Road for 500 metres until you reach the entrance to the Cholera Monument Grounds on your left.

### Shrewsbury Hospital, the Cholera Monument Grounds and Clay Wood

Opposite the entrance are the Shrewsbury Hospital almshouses. When Gilbert Talbot, the 7th Earl of Shrewsbury and a step son of Bess of Hardwick died in 1616, he left instructions for the establishment of a hostel for 20 of Sheffield's poorest which was built near Park Square. In 1827 it was moved to its' current site and is still used as almshouses.

In the early 1830s the second cholera epidemic (1826 to 1837) reached the UK killing over 50 000 people in London alone. The disease reached Sheffield in 1832 claiming over 400 victims of whom 339 are buried in the Cholera Monument grounds including the Master Cutler, John Blake whose gravestone is close to the monument. The land was given by the Duke of Norfolk so that victims could be buried quickly to help reduce the spread of the disease.

. From the Cholera Monument turn left to take the main path back to City Road through Clay Wood, an ancient woodland, and cross over Granville Road, making your way along Norfolk Park Road back to the start.





When the History Group recently published 'Nether Edge in the Second World War' we expected, and hoped, that in bringing the story to the general public new information, new stories, new images would come to light. Our suspicion was that, despite the passage of time, there is much information, still undiscovered, that would add to the story. And indeed several people have already contacted us with new tales to tell, stories we hope to pursue once things settle down.

One part of the story in particular was missing...a comprehensive record of the people of Nether Edge who served and, in some cases, died in the War. For all our efforts, all our appeals, we unearthed very few names, no official lists, no memorials. Nothing to match the memorial tablet to the fallen of the First World War which is now displayed in Shirley House. A rough estimate suggested to us that in an area the size of Nether Edge there must have been hundreds serving and scores killed, yet by the time the book went to press we had only found the names of just over 30 people who served and the names of 5 who died, all stories which are in the book.

Enter Danny O'Keefe, the hero of this particular story. Years ago Danny was called to investigate a water leak in the grounds of Abbeydale School shortly after it was closed. Leaning against a wall, ready to be discarded, was a grubby Memorial Board. One name stood out. George Portas. The name of Danny's wife's brother. Intrigued Danny read the wording :



*Nether Edge Grammar School  
To the Glory of God and in Sacred Memory of  
Old Boys of this School who  
Gave their Lives for their Country in the  
World War 1939 - 1945*

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He read also the 54 other names of those from the Grammar School who had given their lives in the War, three long columns starting with William Atkins and finishing with William Weaver. Not knowing what to do with it, but reluctant to see it thrown away, Danny took it home and stored it behind a wardrobe. There it stayed until years later, and only weeks ago, Danny saw the Sheffield Star article reviewing the book and got in touch.

The Board is now in the possession of the Nether Edge History Group waiting a decision on how it can best be protected and stored...or displayed. At this time of remembrance it seems particularly poignant that the names of so many of those from Nether Edge who gave their lives have disappeared. Our aim, in the New Year, is to research the names on the Board and renew our attempts to identify all those who served and /or died and whose names must be out there somewhere. Do you know of any? Did your father, mother, grandparent leave Nether Edge to serve? Are they one of those whose names have disappeared from recorded history? Don't they deserve to be recognised?

If you have any information or wish to order a book please contact...[john.austin1@btinternet.com](mailto:john.austin1@btinternet.com)



## Swedish Glögg Recipe - Ann Gregg

The following recipe was inherited from my father, John Gregory.

In the RAF during WW2, he was posted to the British Legation in Stockholm. Crossing the North Sea and Norway via the bomb-bay of a Mosquito fighter-bomber, as gently as could be managed he was dropped onto the tarmac of Stockholm Airport. Here began his love of all things Swedish and Scandinavian. He used to tell me he was a spy, but I've so far been unable to find out exactly what his 'spying' entailed. He would have been 100 on the first of December 2020, and I'm so sorry I neglected to ask him more detail about his war story when he was alive.

Christmases when I was growing up were always filled with Julfest, Santa Lucia and having permission to choose and open one present from under the tree on Christmas Eve; as was the way in Sweden, so it was in our house every year. In the morning my Dad would start making the Glogg and so I will always associate the aroma of this warming drink with my happy childhood Christmases – although I wasn't able to enjoy the taste until I was much older!

In these times of isolation and separation, I do hope you'll enjoy making and tasting this drink. Raising a glass to all your loved ones, those with you, and those missing you, 'Skål'



John Gregory, Ann's Father.

### Swedish Glögg

Makes 2 pints

1 bottle dry red wine

8 oz sugar

1 stick cinnamon

5 cloves

6 cardamom seeds, crushed

Rind of 1 lemon, peeled in 1 piece

8fl oz aquavit or brandy

4 oz slivered almonds

3 oz raisins

Mix together in a saucepan the wine, sugar, cinnamon, cloves, cardamom seeds, lemon rind. Cover and leave for 3-4 hours.

Heat gently, taking care not to boil the liquid. Prepare heatproof glasses by putting a few almonds and raisins in each one.

Poor the brandy or Aquavit into the wine, light with a match and whilst still burning, taking good care, pour into the prepared glasses.



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## Abbeydale Road Street Trees Campaign Update - Abbeydale Road Trees

It has been a bleak year in so many ways but the response to our plans to plant street trees along Abbeydale Road has provided a real glimmer of hope and community solidarity. Since we last reported on the progress of our group on these pages those plans have - if readers will pardon the pun - truly started to take root.

In the summer Abbeydale Street Trees was awarded the inaugural 2020 Transformation Prize established at the Centre for Alternative Technology to celebrate national environmental projects which support local community cohesion. And following that success we have had a raft of good news coverage in the Yorkshire Post and BBC Radio Sheffield.

Most importantly, in August we launched our crowdfunder to raise £15,000 to get 30 trees planted along Abbeydale Road. At the time of writing

we have raised in the region of £5,000 which is enough for us to embark on stage one of our planting plans (more below).

It has been an extraordinary community effort to raise so much money so quickly and we want to thank everybody who has donated or offered their help in other ways. The support has been truly inspiring, including two 15-year-old pupils from King Egbert School, Sisi and Hetty, who cycled every day to school and back to raise £500. The Nether Edge Neighbourhood Group has also kindly donated £500.

Prior to lockdown 2 we were able to host a few socially-distanced fundraising events, including a successful fun run along Abbeydale Road taking in some of the notable trees of the area and hosting a stall at the Nether Edge farmers' market where we sold our lovely Abbeydale Street Trees t-shirts (we still have some available so if you would like to buy one for £20 do get in touch).

To remind readers, earlier this year we identified with the council's highway contractor, Amey, 30 locations between Bannerdale Road and Mount Pleasant Park that could potentially accommodate street trees subject to exploratory work. Roughly it costs around £500 per tree to plant one in the pavement (and about £200 to plant one in a grass verge or where the pavement doesn't need to be excavated). All of the potential locations require digging up the pavement which is why we are aiming to raise £15,000 in total.

We have chosen the first stage of planting to prioritise as the stretch of road between Nether Edge primary school and Cole's Corner. This central stretch incorporates the school, picture house, a large number of businesses as well as the busy junction with Broadfield and Sheldon Road (see attached map).

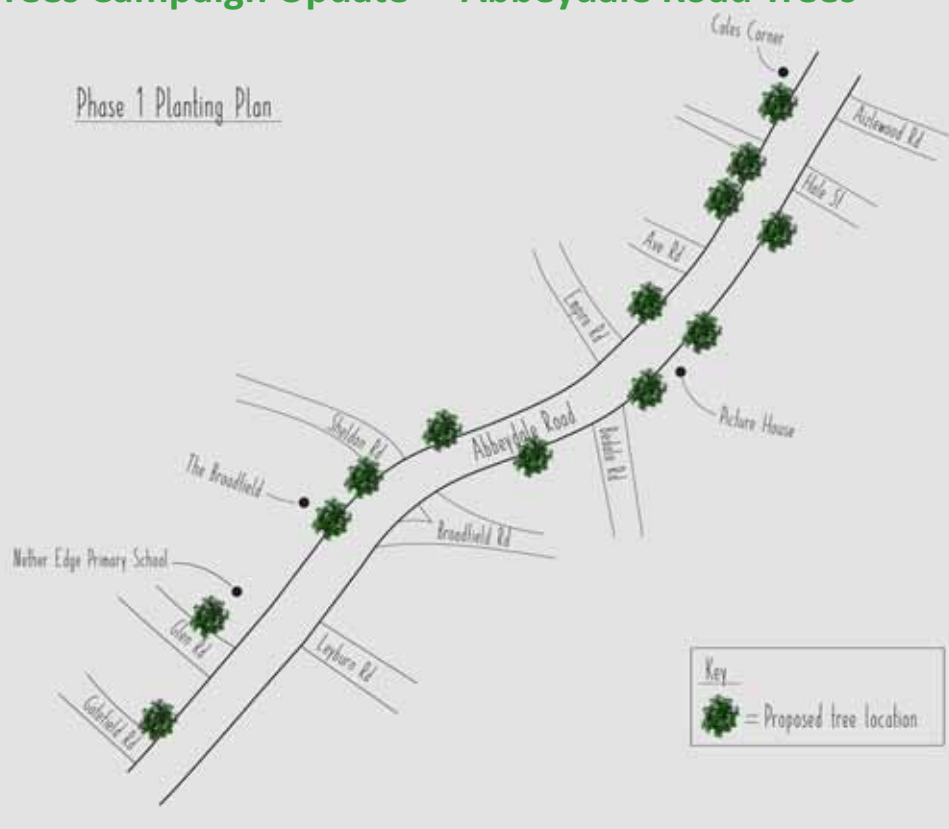
We have submitted our plans for the first 10 trees to the council and are awaiting their response. Our hope, although this remains to be seen, is that the first trees can go in this winter.

We are not yet able to say what species of trees will be going into the ground as this relies on Amey's stock and discussions with the council but will let you know as soon as we find out and, hopefully, will be able to have a discussion with local residents and businesses to get a good sense of what would work best. Reducing air pollution and boosting biodiversity along the street remains our priority.

Once the lockdown lifts, be assured we will continue with our fundraising efforts and are also in discussion with various external conservation bodies who might be able to offer financial support.

We are genuinely amazed by the reaction we have had to the campaign so far from residents and businesses along Abbeydale Road so thank you to everybody who has offered their support. By planting the right trees in the right places we hope it will have a transformative effect on the road, combating air pollution and starting a green transformation of our lovely high street.

If you would like to be kept up to date with the campaign or order a t-shirt please email us at [abbeydaleroadtrees@gmail.com](mailto:abbeydaleroadtrees@gmail.com). If you wish to donate to the crowdfunder please visit <https://uk.gofundme.com/f/help-plant-more-trees-on-abbeydale-road>



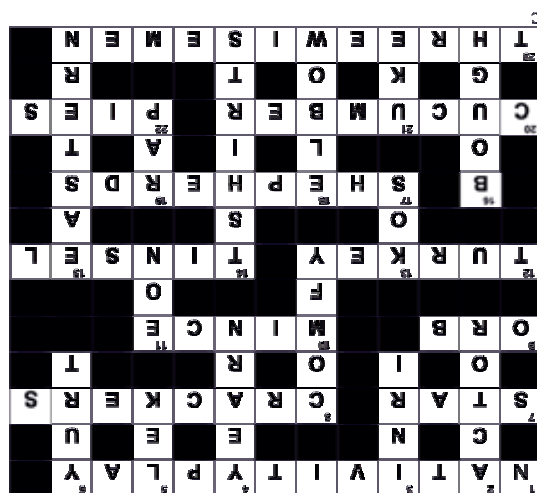
## SANTA'S PUZZLES - Jack Massey

1. Santa has eight reindeer – Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen. Assuming that Dasher and Dancer always have to go at the front, how many ways are there for the remaining six to be arranged?
2. Santa is a keen wildlife photographer. One day he walked ten miles south, ten miles east and ten miles north. He ended up where he started from and photographed a bear. What colour was the bear?
3. Why don't polar bears eat penguins?
4. Five of Santa's Little Helpers can make five toys in five minutes. How many Little Helpers would it take to make a hundred toys in a hundred minutes?
5. Santa wants to deliver some toys through a window, because there's no chimney. He has a 25 foot ladder, and when he puts the base of the ladder 7 feet from the wall, the ladder just reaches the window ledge. How high is the window?
6. Santa has decided to buy Santa Claus Jnr his own sleigh. He has decided to pay 40% of the total price, plus 100% of all the taxes relating to the purchase. The sleigh is for sale at £1400 plus taxes of 18%. What is the total price of the sleigh plus taxes and how much will Santa have to contribute?
7. Santa has a large fish tank of 5 000 litres, which needs its water recirculated every forty five minutes. The catalogue offers a choice of three pumps, A @ 6 000 litres, B @ 6 500 litres and C @ 6 750 litres. Which pump should he choose?
8. The other day Mrs Claus Mrs Claus bought a pound of fish and a pound of potatoes, paying a total of £4.20. Today, Santa Claus bought two pounds of fish and three pounds of potatoes. Given that a pound of fish costs £2.30 more than a pound of potatoes, how much did Santa Claus have to pay?

## Christmas Quiz 1 – John Barthram

If you take the first letter of these answers you will get a 9 letter Christmas themed word. A cryptic clue to the word is '*Linger under this and you can expect a smacker*'.

- 1 **Words.** What 3 letter prefix can be added to day, wife and riff to create 3 new viable words?
- 2 **Rail journeys.** The original Orient Express travelled from Paris to which Eastern city?
- 3 **Clothing and death.** What item of clothing cost celebrated dancer Isadora Duncan her life in 1927?
- 4 **Connections.** What is the connection between Christmas dinner and ten pin bowling?
- 5 **Books.** What is the surname of the Englishman who was responsible for bankrupting Barings Bank in the 1990s and whose autobiography was called Rogue Trader?
- 6 **Films.** In which 1990s film did Cate Blanchett play a British monarch?
- 7 **History.** Which More was a famous 16th Century lawyer and statesman who was the subject of the film A Man for All Seasons?
- 8 **Connections.** What connects seafood with a way of paying for public transport in London?
- 9 **National Parks.** What is the name of the only National Park in the UK to begin with a vowel?
- 10 What word is spelt out by the first letter of each answer?



Crossword Answers



## Christmas Quiz 2 - John Barthram

Can you name these Christmas films? And add the description from the cryptic clues below that best fits the film.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



Which of these best describes the films? Just add the appropriate letter to your answer

- A Kermit meets Vorderman at this time of year?
- B Stab Dana? You mixed up naughty man!
- C If you're on your own, you might as well be here
- D It's a splendid three score years and ten
- E Romance? Yes, really
- F Self - less the plural
- G Hotel offering a white Christmas
- H What the Dickens is this!
- I For more, just add water
- J Saint Nicholas to some, but a film for all



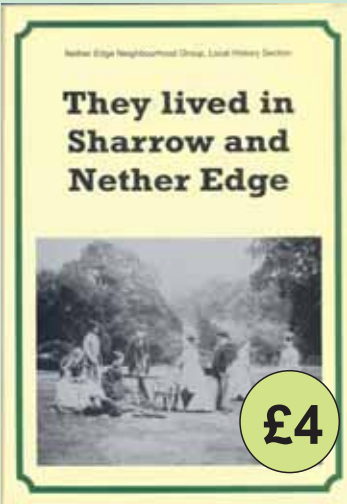
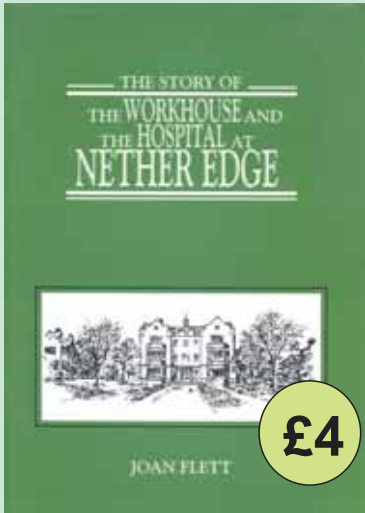
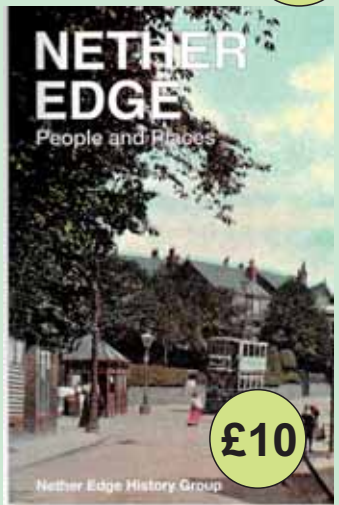
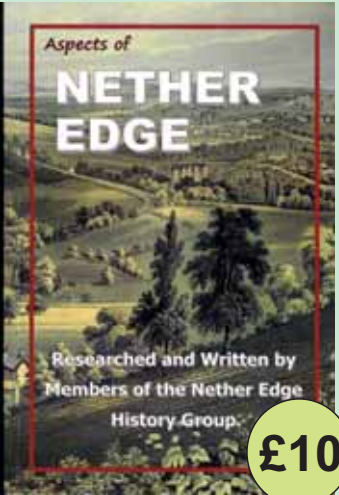
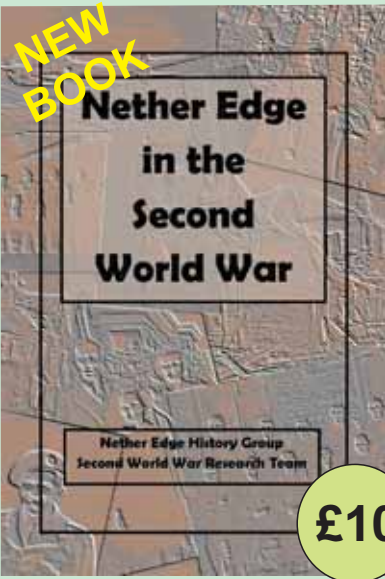
Christmas Shopping

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1.	Elf	F. Self - less the plural and ten
2.	It's A Wonderful Life	D. It's a splendid three score years
3.	Bad Santa	B. Stab Dana? You mixed up naughtly man!
4.	Holiday Inn	G. Hotel offering a white Christmas?
5.	Scrooged	H. What the Dickens is this!
6.	Gremilins	I. For more, just add water
7.	Santa Claus the Movie	J. Saint Nicholas to some, but a film for all
8.	Love Actually	E. Romance? Yes, really
9.	The Muppet Christmas Carol	A. Kermit meets Vordeerman at this time of year?
10.	Home Alone 2	C. If you're on your own, you might as well be here

Christmas Quiz 2 Answers

1	Mid
2	Istanbul
3	Scarf. (Got tangled in her car wheel)
4	Turkey (Three consecutive 'strikes')
5	Leeson (Nick)
6	Elizabeth
7	Thomas More
8	Oyster
9	Exmoor
10	Mistletoe

Christmas Quiz 1 - Answers

1 - 720 There are six candidates for the next space, five for the space after that and so on, so  $6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1 = 720$ .

2 - White. The only place where this could happen is with Santa starting at the North Pole, so the bear must have been a polar bear.

3 - The silly answer is that they can't undo the wrappers, but the real answer is that polar bears live in the Northern hemisphere, whereas penguins live in the Southern hemisphere, so never the twain shall meet!

4 - Five. The five Little Helpers make a toy every minute, so in a hundred minutes, they would make a hundred toys.

5 - 24 feet. It's Pythagoras. Height of window<sup>2</sup> = Length of ladder<sup>2</sup> - Distance from wall<sup>2</sup>.

6 - Total cost is £1652. Santa's contribution is £812.

7 - In forty five minutes, Pump A delivers 4 500 litres, Pump B delivers 4875 litres and Pump C delivers 5062.5 litres, so only Pump C delivers the required flow rate.

8 - £9.35 Let P be the price of a pound of potatoes. From Mrs Claus's shopping,  $P + (P + 2.3) = 4.2$ .

$2P = 4.2 - 2.3 = 1.9$

$P = 0.95$ ,  $F = 0.95 + 2.3 = 3.25$

Santa's bill comes to  $(2 \times 3.25) + (3 \times 0.95) = 6.50 + 2.85 = 9.35$ .

Santa's Puzzles – Answers Jack Massey

