

# EDGE

NETHER EDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWSLETTER [www.netheredge.org.uk](http://www.netheredge.org.uk)  
Company Limited by Guarantee No 07414080 Registered Charity No 1139239

Individual views expressed are not necessarily those of the Group. **February 2021**

Can you spot the children's stories in the windows on Thornsett Road?



**AGM edition - 24th February**

**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 Ken Lambert. If you want to contribute to the March 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

The rather dark and miserable “holiday” season was brightened up for many of us by the imaginative and bright displays in many house windows. As I live on Thornsett Road I am bound to be accused of bias in selecting the representations of children's stories on the cover, but a heartfelt thanks go to all of you in Nether Edge who helped brighten the darkness.

This edition provides reports from me as Chair and from the varied sub groups of NENG who do so much to give this neighbourhood its unique environment. As such, It provides a snapshot of what NENG does. Although some activities have had to be curtailed or done in a different way, all the groups welcome new members, so please do not be shy about asking to join in.

Although the Annual General Meeting will have to be held via Zoom, I hope many of you will be able to attend.

## NETHER EDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP

Company limited by guarantee no. 741080, registered charity no. 1130239

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February via Zoom at 7pm

#### AGENDA

7.00 pm Welcome, introduction and conduct of the virtual meeting

7.10 pm Business including:-

Minutes of the last AGM held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019

@ <http://www.netheredge.org.uk/neighbourhood-group/agm/>

### Chair's Report

### Financial Report

### Reports by sub Groups:-

- Farmers Market
- Festival
- History Group
- EDGE Editorial Board
- Friends of Brincliffe Edge Wood
- Kenwood Community Growers
- Friends of Chelsea Park
- Open Gardens
- Art Group

\*Election of officers

\*Nominations for Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) should be sent to Howard Fry, NENG Secretary at [nengsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:nengsecretary@gmail.com) All nominations must include the names of a proposer and seconder and be accompanied by the nominee's declaration of their willingness to serve.

In order to attend the AGM, you will need to register so as to obtain the Zoom meeting ID and password. To do this, email your name(s) and address to [ken.lambert227@gmail.com](mailto:ken.lambert227@gmail.com) and a few days before the meeting we will send you instructions on how to log in to the meeting.

Regarding membership of NENG, in your email, please confirm that you are a member of NENG so that our records can be checked and updated where necessary.

If more than one member in a household wish to participate in the meeting, please give all the names.

We will encourage participation and questions from members after each of the reports.



## Chair's report – by Ken Lambert

**Where to begin ?** To put it mildly, this has been a challenging year. We were just about to hold the AGM in April last year when Covid-19 appeared on the scene, so, as we said in April edition of EDGE, the AGM was “postponed” (deliberate mistake). The April EDGE had to be transformed at short notice into an electronic only copy. It was only possible to revert to a paper copy in September, and now again, back to electronic.

**Response to Covid-19.** As NENG does not have any premises or staff, it was not really feasible to set up a food bank or soup kitchen as some had suggested, so it was decided that it would be best to allocate some of our reserves for a small emergency fund to give grants to other organisations working in Nether Edge that are best placed to help people who find it difficult to manage.

We therefore set aside a sum of £5,000 for donating to organisations that are meeting urgent needs, which will ensure our cash reserves remain at the desired level.

We have established a small group (Chair, Secretary, Vice-chair and one other) to act on behalf of the Committee to approve any donations. The criteria that this group will use to provide financial support are:-

- The activity will be local and support people from Nether Edge, Brincliffe and Sharrow
- The activity will be based on identified need. The groups needing support may change over time.
- The organisation receiving funds must have a proven track record in delivery.

NENG has so far made donations of £500 each to Family Voice, Shipshape and the Nether Edge and Sharrow Food bank (see article). Additional donations of £500 were made to both St Wilfred's Centre and The Archer Project, which would have been made from the June Farmers Market, had it been possible to hold the event.

**NENG Committee.** After a brief pause and contacting each other via email, online meetings using Zoom have been held every month since June, and after a few initial teething problems, these have worked well (but I would say that wouldn't I). We are always on the lookout for new Committee members, so do consider putting yourself forward – Howard and I are both available to have a chat if you want to know about what being a committee member entails.

**Sub groups.** The activities of the sub groups and their plans for the future are set out in separate reports, which I commend to you. Again, the year posed a major challenge to many activities that had to be curtailed, but as ever I was deeply impressed by the imagination the people showed – the “scarecrow trail” being just one among many that brought a smile to my face. We welcomed the Kenwood Community Growers and an Art group as new sub groups during the period, both of them bringing people together (socially distanced of course).

**Wider activities.** Whilst the core of NENG activities revolve around production of EDGE and those of the sub groups, a few other items are worthy of note. NENG has been an active participant in Zoom meetings of the Sharrow and Abbeydale Stakeholder Forum, notably several meetings with the police in the wake of several shootings, other violent acts and anti social behaviour in the neighbourhood; thankfully, things seem to have calmed down. A submission was sent to the council on the consultation of the Sheffield city plan and one was also made regarding the planning application for building development in the Kenwood hotel grounds.

**Website.** The website has been a little dormant for some while, but we are gradually trying to update it and make it more reactive. If you have any events coming up that you would like to be shown on the website, then do send details to me. Note that we cannot post commercial adverts. A part of the website that is particularly out of date is that relating to activities of the History Group; we have agreed that the History Group can have a separate site for easier and more frequent updating, with links between the two. It will be called [netheredgehistory.org.uk](http://netheredgehistory.org.uk) and live some time in March. Watch this space.

**Thanks.** Forgive me if I forget anybody or any group. So many people willingly give their time and expertise to keep the show on the road. The NENG committee continues to provide me with support, especially our indefatigable secretary Howard, the stalwarts of the EDGE Editorial Board (Nicky, David, Ruth and Kevin) and Doc, our always acting Treasurer. A special mention of Mazhar, our vice chair, who has had a poor year with his health, but we are all so very pleased to see him fit and well again. The sub group organisers and all the volunteers play a major role. Many thanks indeed to the distributors of EDGE, in both paper and virtual form; we had several vacancies during the year and I was overwhelmed with the responses of people who wanted to help. Every single one of you helps to make Nether Edge such a wonderful place to be.

## Financial Report on Accounts Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019

The NENG Financial Year ends on 31<sup>st</sup> October each year. The accounts for the period ending October 2020 are still being finalised before sending to independent examiner (Voluntary Action Sheffield - VAS). The summary accounts below relate to activity before the onset of Covid-19. More recent developments are covered in the Chair's report.

NENG had another successful year, making a small surplus of £344, with the overall reserves being £15464 (£17464 less £2000 earmarked for supporting development of the playground in Chelsea Park, though this may now be several years away). Of course, accounts represent only a 'snapshot' in time and we remain financially healthy.

Membership and Subscriptions remained constant, with about 900 subscribers to The Edge Magazine and 390 Members. We printed 1000 copies of EDGE magazine, some of which are supplied as complimentary copies to libraries and local businesses.

The Festival had another successful year and is becoming progressively more inclusive to all residents in our community. We continue to fund the planters at the cross roads, the Christmas decorations in the centre of Nether Edge, support Friends of Brincliffe Edge wood so they can carry on their hard work in the woods and other green-space improvements, all for the enjoyment of local residents and visitors alike. The History Group is becoming increasingly profitable and the sale of books produced by them now easily exceeds the cost of printing. The Farmers Market continued to grow in popularity and demand for pitches remains strong, even though we had to increase stall fees. Whenever possible, we try to foster small, local start-up businesses and we are extremely proud to say that unlike most Farmers Markets which are run for profit, we donate all surpluses to local Charities.

Huge thanks are due to our many volunteers for their hard work in making all this possible.

Income and expenditure		Donations Totalling £8800:-	
Total Income	£30,282	Sharrow Youth Forum	£800
Total Expenditure	£29,938	Sheffield Mind	£800
Net surplus	£344	Twelve Trees care home	£100
Total brought forward	£17,121	Bluebell Hospice	£1200
Designated funds	£2000	Sheffield Environment Week	£400
General funds	£15,464	Kingfield Holt care home	£100
Unrestricted funds	£17,464	Broomhall Girls Club (Churches Together Youth Club)	£1200
		Sheffield Heritage Week (Sheffield Civic Trust)	£800
		Grange Crescent care home	£100
		Heeley City Farm	£700
		Time Builders	£700
		Sheffield General Cemetery	£700
		Prior Bank Care home	£100
		"Love our Streets" – local litter campaign	£100
		Nether Edge Primary School – playground improvements	£1000

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# Chelsea Park Playground update

by Howard Fry

For obvious reasons Friends of Chelsea Park (FoCP) and indeed Sheffield City Council's Parks and Countryside team were stymied last year by Coronavirus. Work was due to have commenced last spring on improving the drainage and surfaces, then replacing swing equipment because the timber supports are rotting.

Fortunately the prospects for the new year are more promising. SCC officers have been carrying out further investigations on the site drainage, which is key to making the playground safe over the long term. They have established that the lower area (where the swings are) had been installed over a layer of hardcore to assist water run-off as we hoped, but that this has probably silted up over time. The plan is therefore to remove all the swing equipment, which needs replacement anyway, together with the roundabout, which also needs to be replaced, and the much-loved camel needs to be fed and stabled then groomed, till it's safe to put him back. The whole area will then be scraped, so that a new layer of clean gravel can be laid, with a membrane to prevent soil and silt from washing down into the drain.

When that's done and a new permeable wearing surface is laid, both the bigger children's and toddlers' swings (making provision for disabled children as well), will be replaced with new metal-framed equipment, as will the roundabout.

The adventure play frame on the upper part of the playground will also need to be replaced as it is also timber-framed and starting to rot, but it possibly has a few more years before it becomes unsafe. We aim to embark on wider consultations with both children and their carers, parents and grandparents to establish exactly what we should replace the adventure frame with?

General opinion among the Friends of Chelsea Park steering group is that this little playground is more suitable for young children than bigger ones, as it is this smallness that makes it safe and special. We therefore intend to continue to focus on play for under 10-year-olds, rather than the more death-defying equipment favoured by older children. I trust that is acceptable.

Unfortunately, financial support for ambitious play ground development in this part of Sheffield is seen as less of a priority for a cash-strapped council than it is for less well-off areas, which we understand. We will therefore need to embark on a serious fund-raising campaign if we are to keep the facility, or maybe undertake other work as well. Fortunately Chelsea Park already has an interest-earning endowment fund, managed by the council, that is dedicated to the upkeep of the park, of about £23,500, which should pay for most of the initial works to the swing area, but that will not be enough to pay for replacement of the adventure play equipment and upper play surfaces as well. This may cost another £15 - 20,000, which the community will need to raise. That sounds, indeed it is a lot of money, but fortunately there are some big charitable trusts in and around the city who may be able to help and we have already received donations of over £2000.

Fund-raising should include smaller more local initiatives as well as big ones. Nether Edge Festival are considering a fun-run to help. Residents may also have other fundraising ideas or suggestions for the playground or indeed the wider park which we would be delighted to hear about. Please contact [friendsofchelseapark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofchelseapark@gmail.com) with your ideas. Please say if you would like to join the FoCP steering group as well. It is already a strong team, but fresh ideas are always very welcome.



The last EDGE Editorial Board report was prepared for the AGM that was to have taken place on 16th April 2020, and appeared in the April edition of Edge. That edition was the first on-line only edition, with rapid changes made by the NENG Chair before the publication date to take account of the lockdown provisions that were in place and the need to communicate useful information to the Nether Edge Community. The May, June and July/August editions were also online only with our distributors unable to deliver to households without breaching government rules and guidance and without placing themselves at risk. The subsequent editions have been available in hard copy and we are most grateful to our enthusiastic and resilient distributors for their sterling work in continuing with their rounds.

Since the last report was submitted the Board has met, either in person (sometimes in quite chilly conditions) or via Skype on 10 occasions. During the period of lockdown it was felt that the purpose of EDGE may change somewhat to focus on providing a list of resources, but in fact it was possible to produce an EDGE that included both useful information and, we hope, entertaining and interesting articles. There was a concern that the readership may fall off as not all NENG members have access to the internet, and whilst undoubtedly some readers did not receive EDGE for those months, many more had access to it as distribution was not limited to membership during this period. It is not known whether that wider distribution led to any increase in membership, but it did lead to increased engagement by the readership with EDGE, particularly the invitation to submit photographs of gardens in lieu of the Open Gardens event which had to be cancelled (although a smaller version took place as part of the Festival in September). Although some readers have expressed a preference to receiving an online version only, many prefer to

receive the paper edition that has been re-established and will continue to be delivered, whilst the government allows and distributors feel safe.

EDGE is the primary reminder to NENG members to renew their subscriptions. With not all subscribers receiving EDGE and in the absence of additional reminders from distributors, subscriptions fell. Happily, the saving in printing costs ensured that production of EDGE was still affordable. Although some of our advertisers suspended their advertisements during lockdown, they have all been loyal to EDGE and clearly the revenue this generates contributes towards the running costs.

Although the engagement of the readership has been extremely pleasing, we have continued to struggle to identify individuals or organisations willing to edit an edition or make a substantial contribution to EDGE. This has resulted in the Editorial Board taking responsibility for editing the editions for March, May, July/August, October and the December/January editions. This is not sustainable and we are asking people to contact us to let us know what contribution they would be willing to make – however small. We are particularly concerned that EDGE should be more diverse. An attempt was made to widen membership and participation by delivering copies of EDGE to certain Nether Edge streets. It is not clear the degree to which this was successful in attracting new membership.

We continue to be most grateful for the subgroups of NENG which contribute an edition of EDGE every year and extend our thanks to Sprat, our crossword writer. We could not do without them. In addition, we would like to extend our thanks to all those who have sent us articles, letters and photographs throughout the year. Please keep them (and more) coming.

# Farmers Market by Howard Fry

Looked at positively, we did have three very successful markets during this financial year: December 2019; March 2020 and again in September, though we lost June and the Christmas market. The better news for stallholders (and our community as well) was that Jean Allen set up Nether Edge Fair website (<https://www.netheredgefair.com>), which has been wildly successful as a virtual marketplace for local makers. It will be open all year, not just at Christmas and is an invaluable source of both 'goodies' as presents and essentials for eating, drinking or just wearing.

We hope we will be able to hold our spring market this year on **Sunday 21st March**, but time will tell if it will be safe to do so. **Other market dates for 2020 are Sundays 20th June, 12th September and 5th December.**

In December 2019 we were able to donate £500 each to Salvation Army, Samaritans and SALT (Student Associates in Learning and Teaching)). In March 2020 we donated £700 each to Saffron (Women Counselling and Therapy) and Mums in Need as well as £200 for Free Cakes for Kids. We also purchased a big new gazebo and 6 new tables for our NENG stalls. In September we donated £500 each to St Wilfred's Centre and the Archer Project.

Nether Edge Farmers Market always focuses on local charities, so in 2021 we plan to make donations to:

- Emmaus (working with the homeless);
- Sheffield Mencap;
- SToRMS (a suicide helpline in Sheffield);
- Ashiana (working with minority and refugee communities in Sheffield);
- Sage (working with adults experiencing mental health problems)
- Sheffield Futures (helping young people to achieve their full potential)

The Farmers' Market team can be contacted at:-

[nengfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:nengfarmersmarket@gmail.com)



## Open Gardens 2021 by Howard Fry

With any luck, Open Gardens will be back bigger and better than ever on Sunday 20th June 2021. Everyone has had a lot more time on their hands over the last year to muck about in the garden and try out new ideas. We also hope that many more people will volunteer to 'Open Up' and let their neighbours see what they've been doing this year. Open gardens don't have to be immaculate or grand, in fact they are most interesting if they are of an average sort of size and a bit like everybody else's gardens. Maybe with a splash more colour, a hint of the unexpected and a bit of a tidy up before hand as well. No one is going to judge your garden or criticise it, but old hands at open gardening are available to offer advice if you want it.

We would especially like to introduce some interesting small front gardens as features of the garden 'trail'. Again, they don't have to be big, but ideally they should incorporate an imaginative use of surfaces and plants and possibly a theme or colour that gives the garden a focus. They are even keeping garden centres open for you this time around! Front gardens can usually be enjoyed from the street, so you don't necessarily have to be hanging around to talk to people about your garden, unless you want to. A further advantage of opening your front garden is that your back garden can remain private, so you don't need to have strangers wandering around it. If you would like your garden to be included in the Open Gardens tour, please call or text me on 07798 801670.

We like to provide a very brief description of every open garden in our tour guide, not only to tell people where it is and encourage people to visit, but also to let visitors know how suitable access will be to those with mobility issues. NENG's insurance policy includes 'third party' cover for events such as open gardens, should a visitor trip on an uneven surface, provided that reasonable precautions have been taken by you to make your garden safe for visitors who are not familiar with it. The event also provides the opportunity for you to raise money for your favourite charity, by way of voluntary donations to a collection box. A lot of money was raised at our last Open Gardens

Looking at other people's gardens is one of our favourite pastimes, no matter if they are grand National Trust properties, skilled National Gardens Scheme (NGS) examples of horticultural expertise or just friends and family. There is always something to admire, and while you may sometimes wonder why they have (or haven't) done quite what you would have done, there is always the joy of colour, blossom and interesting ideas to take home.



## Friends of Brincliffe Edge Wood report by Ken Phillip

Like many over the past year we have been all over the place with "it's on", "it's off" when sending out messages to our Supporters and Volunteers. We were, however, able to manage some work which kept the Wood tidy and help those who use it for their ever-more essential recreation

.Here are some titbits:-

11th May 2020. From Claire Bygate. "Spring has been busting out all over. The Cow Parsley is high and mighty now and the woodland tracks engulf you in a miasma of soft greens and delicate whites. I've never seen so much Jack 'i' the Hedge, aka garlic mustard. I've also never heard so many singing male Blackcaps in the wood before. The Song Thrushes are really going at it as are the Nuthatches and Chiffchaffs. Two pairs of Greater Spotted Woodpeckers must now be on eggs as they have gone quiet. Crows not yet a problem, but could be soon (defending their nests last year they attacked walkers and drew blood, so watch out).

7th July 2020. From Ken Phillip. "We hope that you are keeping fit and safe and that you have been able to enjoy the Wood despite missing those group working sessions. We have kept in touch with Sheffield City Council to see when it might be appropriate to start our volunteer work again but, after viewing a complex Risk Assessment document, we have decided not to put our Volunteers or ourselves at risk until we are more certain that we can safely carry out our tasks with confidence. There would not have been a work morning in August and so September is the most likely starting date."

2nd October 2020 "What are the jobs to be done? There will be the ever popular litter picking, tidying the edges of Needham's Field, trimming the beech hedge close to Brincliffe Edge Road and some planting. On Wednesday October 21st we are to plant some daffodil bulbs and on Wednesday 11th November we will add some tulips along with the other jobs we need to do before we break for winter. Snowdrops have also been donated to the Group and these will join the other plants so that there will be a heart-warming display next Spring."

As always our working relationship with Parks and Countryside has been excellent and the Ranger's assistance was particularly valuable when litter and fly-tipping became a problem. It looks like some

miscreants (not the first) decided that the Wood was a good dumping ground for items that they couldn't be bothered to deal with legally. The response was swift and effective and thanks should also go to the sharp eyed Wood users who have advised us about illegal tipping when on their walks round the Wood.

Our aim was to to start our 2021 Wednesday morning work programme during the first week of February but this now looks unlikely. Instead of meeting as a group of Volunteers we will continue to operate as individuals and keep the essentials of our wood management going. [For information about the work of the Friends of Brincliffe Edge Wood, visit <http://www.netheredge.org.uk/neng-activities/brincliffe-edge-wood/>]



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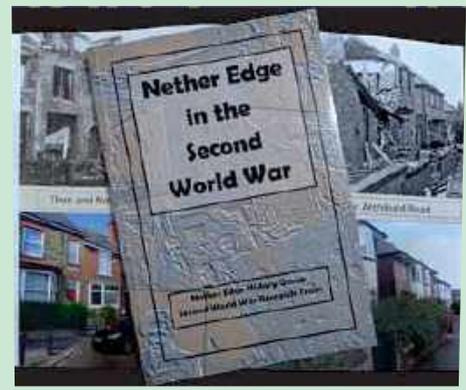
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- ✓ Wait outside the building until collected for your appointment.
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Bannerdale Osteopaths is a healthcare setting so you will NOT generate any contacts within the clinic. You will also not become a contact of ours for tracing purposes. This is because of the PPE we wear, the infection control measures we take and the training all of our Osteopaths have completed.

This means the risk of transmission is so low that if either yourself, your osteopath or another patient test positive following a visit to the clinic there is no need for anyone except the person testing positive to isolate.

We take our patients' & team's safety seriously and will never compromise on that. We hope you feel safe within our clinic.



Pre Covid, Nether Edge History was looking forward to a bumper year of activities. Our 2020 calendar was packed. We had planned further mini presentations at our regular Union Hotel open meetings. We also had booked outside key speakers to follow on from the success of Peter Machin's talk on *Sheffield Manor and Mary Queen of Scots'* at the Bowling Club in 2019. We also had planned more of our very popular guided walks. All these activities were postponed and postponed again even into 2021. We do, though, intend to start up again as soon as it is safe to do so.

However, we have not been idle. A new book was published costing £10, '*Nether Edge in World War 11*', and even without the help of our usual Farmers' Market stall it has been selling well. We now have the splendid news that on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec the sales of *Nether Edge in World War 11* paid off the loan from NENG to cover printing costs. This is a record for any of our publications.

Outside of lockdown Richard Taylor, John Austin and other members have been conducting World War 11 walks to link in with the new book. Sadly these are now suspended.

We were able to turn a guided Nether Edge Family Trail into a self guided one. Colour illustrated sheets were left in a prominent place, together with a guide and advice to walk responsibly, just one family 'bubble' at a time. They all disappeared in a matter of days.

There is now a virtual 'stall' for all our publications on [netheredgefair.com](http://netheredgefair.com) and it is proving a most useful outlet. If you would like any of our publications please go to [nenghistory@gmail.com](mailto:nenghistory@gmail.com). So, on the whole we are cheered by what we have managed to achieve in 2020 and look forward to welcoming you to our activities in better times.

### “Green Nether Edge” Calendar 2022

The Nether Edge History Group is aiming to produce a calendar for 2022 on the theme of “Green Nether Edge”. The idea is to showcase the wonderful range of green spaces in our neighbourhood including parks, gardens, street trees, woods and allotments. Images will reflect the changing seasons and don't have to be new but please make sure any image you submit is in colour and that the location and month are provided, along with your contact details. It must be your own work and not taken from other sources.

The deadline for submissions is the end of August and the calendar will be on sale from September.

Images should be sent to: [photos@netheredgehistory.org.uk](mailto:photos@netheredgehistory.org.uk)

## Kenwood Community Growers report by Alison Teal

(See September EDGE for more information about the creation of the Kenwood Community Growers and/or visit <http://www.netheredge.org.uk/neng-activities/kenwood-growers/>)

The kitchen garden site is now part of a planning application as the Kenwood hotel owners are seeking to section off part of the hotel grounds to build executive homes. So far, there are 102 objections to the development, with a great many people citing the loss of the Kenwood kitchen garden as a major aspect of their objection to the proposal.

Despite the uncertainty we face as we look towards Spring, it is our intention to raise seedlings in the greenhouse and hopefully begin planting in the raised beds as soon as the worst of winter is over.

Thanks to the efforts of one of our volunteers we are now the recipients of a Co-op Community Grant. Co-op members can nominate community groups to donate 'points' to over the course of a year. Already we have raised £150 through donations to the garden. We will be using the funding to buy propagators for the greenhouse and seeds.

New volunteers are always most welcome (contact [kenwoodcommunitygrowers@gmail.com](mailto:kenwoodcommunitygrowers@gmail.com) ). During the winter months we are a little less active but there are still plenty of jobs to do !



## The Nether Edge Fair 2021 – Onward and Upward! By Jean Allen

NETHER  
EDGE  
FAIR

In the last issue of EDGE I wrote about the beginnings of the Nether Edge Fair (NEF) in November 2020 – a virtual fair created to fill the gap left by the cancellation of the Farmers' Market and the Festival Art and Craft Fair. Just as at these events, there are stalls - over 110 familiar names and newcomers - with everything from food and drink to art and crafts.

It's been a huge success for traders and customers alike, and the decision to make it a permanent Fair seems prescient, since we are once again unable to go to shops, fairs and markets to buy things in real life. And since (after website costs) every penny goes to charity, everyone wins!

The website <https://www.netheredgefair.com/> has been upgraded, and has new features: you can search by category (Art and Jewellery; Body and Bath; Crafts and Clothes; Eco and Charity; Food and Drink; Garden – Outdoors; Home and Toys) or search by stall name or individual item. With lots of special celebrations coming up (Valentine's Day, Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day, birthdays, anniversaries and more) shopping at the NEF is an easy way to find quality local arts, crafts and produce. Stallholders will post items to anywhere in the country, so you can send things directly to the recipient. I was told of someone in a far-flung country who did all their Christmas present shopping online at the NEF and had the presents sent directly to friends and family in the UK,

So the Fair has a worldwide reach!

There is now a blog, where I will be spotlighting individual stalls and letting you know more about the stallholders and their wares.

I have also introduced a new free service: Personal Present Shopping! If you are not sure what to buy for someone, just contact me, answer a few questions about the person, and I will suggest some presents from the NEF. Then if you like any of the suggestions you go to the stall yourself and buy them. This service has had great feedback – why not try it?

And let's face it, at the moment we need to celebrate where we can!

Contact Jean Allen [jlallen1812@gmail.com](mailto:jlallen1812@gmail.com)

## Census 2021 will provide a snapshot of modern society

Households across Nether Edge will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941. It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

“A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed,” Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said.

“This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That's why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them.”

Census day will be on March 21, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March.

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

For more information, visit [census.gov.uk](http://census.gov.uk).

*Mandy Holden | Census Engagement Manager West Sheffield | Office for National Statistics*



## The Census – a historian's view by John Baxendale

Historians are nothing if not nosy, and what better aid to nosiness could there be than a detailed record of who lived where, taken at ten-yearly intervals over the past two centuries? That's the Census, and a new one is nearly upon us, Covid permitting, in March. NENG has been asked to help raise local awareness. Here is the perspective of the Nether Edge History Group.

The first British Census was in 1801, when people were astonished to discover that there were more than ten million people in the UK. In 1841 the Census began to gather detailed information about individuals – age, birthplace, occupation, relation to the householder, and that's when it becomes interesting to posterity. As will happen this year, a printed form was left to be completed by each household, and collected by the enumerator who copied the information into a book. It is these books which we can now read online, and search by people's names or streets via subscription websites like Ancestry and Findmypast, or free at Sheffield Libraries.

You have to wait a hundred years to read people's personal details, so the 1921 census is scheduled to come online in January 2022. It will be the last to appear for a while; there was no census in 1941 because of the war, and the 1931 records were destroyed by wartime bombing. However, shortly after war broke out in 1939 a Register was compiled of all adult civilians, recording their age, address, and occupation – much of the information we would get from a full census. The Register was used to issue identity cards and ration books, conscript troops and direct labour, and after the war, duly updated, it became part of the NHS records. It too can now be searched online, except for people who might still be alive.

No historical source is perfect, and the Census is no exception. There may be errors in transcription by the enumerator, or in the form filled out by the householder, and either of them might have illegible handwriting. There could be lapses of memory – or even untruths - about birthplace or age. House numbers could be a rarity in some times and places; street names were sometimes absent, or incorrect. More important, each census was a product of its time. Notoriously, the role of the male head of the household was taken to define the whole family, and the occupations of other family members, such as women's domestic work, or outwork carried on in the home by women or children, were often not thought worth recording. Even a wife running a household with three or four lodgers might well appear as having no occupation, her status defined by that of her husband. Attitudes and beliefs of the time distort what we are able to know and who we are able to know about. But you could say as much about any historical source.

This year's Census is not just for the benefit of nosy historians in 2121. But the availability of earlier censuses online, along with other public records and the massive searchable British Newspaper Archive, has transformed local historical research beyond recognition, and made it possible for more people to find out about their families, communities, streets and houses in the past.

39 Kenwood Park Road in 1891.

What does the Census tell us about this unusual household?

Catherine Wood	Head	Wid	54	Living on own means			Retford Notts
Charlotte Grant D <sup>o</sup>	Serv	@	24	Kindergarten Teacher	Employed at Home		Sheffield Notts
Alice D <sup>o</sup>	do	@	25	do - do	do	do	do - do
Francis Sydney D <sup>o</sup>	Son	@	19	Med. chemical Engineer	Worker		do - do
Annie Eliza Furness	Serv	@	38	Cook (Domestic)			do - do
Mary Hannah Tomlinson	do	@	18	Housemaid (do)			Staveley (Derbyshire)

# A tale of two trees by Ken Lambert

Now that the Save Nether Edge Trees (SNET) campaign has been wound down and a way forward regarding street trees agreed between the Sheffield City Council and Sheffield Trees Action Groups (which itself has now developed from an umbrella group formed of representatives from each local group, including SNET, to an open membership group), I thought it worth looking at respective fate of two iconic trees.

Firstly, the Chelsea Elm, an historic and possibly unique tree, was saved from felling by concerted action by tree campaigners, mostly from the local area. It now bears a plaque, put in place jointly by Amey and SNET, represented by the indefatigable Paul Selby. As you can see from the photo, this has potted information about the tree, with a QR code giving more detailed information.



This should work from the photo if you align your camera with the code (it worked for me!). If not, go and visit the tree!



The second tree is sadly no more. That was the 120 year old plane tree located outside the Sheffield Bridge Club on Thornsett Road. The destruction of what was a magnificent tree featured in the BBC documentary "The city at war over its trees"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUT5A11JdPQ> . I think it hardened the resolve of many who watched the tree being felled bit by bit.

In its place is this sapling, still alive and decorated by a thoughtful local resident.

Makes you think.

## Back Garden Musings by Anthony Ashwell

Anna's and my back garden at 51 Kenbourne Road is small and filled with 20<sup>th</sup> (!) century living: a large concrete shed (ex-garage), a small patio, a swing-hammock patch, a garden miscellany area, a garden bit roughly 13 by 7 paces without a lawn, and all overlooked by the trees of Rundle Road and Spring Lea. A conservatory runs along the back of our house and there we sit to eat and drink, to converse, to watch and to doze. In fact the last is difficult because the garden is full of wildlife.

Ready animal access is available courtesy of holes under fences and gaps under gates. Our garden is now a thoroughfare for cats (one of which is ours) and foxes, which with badgers are regulars on the road. Our cat regularly brings in large dead rats and small live mice which he lets go in our sitting room..... He leaves the many grey squirrels alone, to allow them to forage for precious bulbs and to dig up conkers, which they think they may have stored somewhere nearby. All this of course is a challenge to the serious gardener. There are insects in the season too, but it's the birds who dominate and provide constant entertainment during the day. Here are some of our local species: magpies, crows and jays, wrens and 4 kinds of tit, dunnocks and house sparrows, a diurnal hooting tawny owl and calling herring gull, one-off visits from a lesser redpoll and mistle thrush, occasional flyovers from buzzard and heron, and many more. There is, of course, something I have missed.

We throw breadcrumbs onto our garden paths and down come Wood Pigeons, alone or in pairs and groups. They treat each other with a little respect, eat messily, waddle happily, are easily disturbed but remain resplendent with their white collars reminding me of vicars (I am a retired one of these). They are beautifully yet subtly coloured and can live into double figures, shotguns and sparrow hawks permitting. Soon after we moved here (2015), I noticed that the occasional wood pigeon lacked a "dog collar". I took this to be a juvenile until my participation in a local birdwatch last spring corrected this. I heard that behind the tuneful cooing of many wood pigeons, there was occasionally a monotonous and continuous coo from something else. A reference book pointed me to a Stock Dove and the illustration confirmed the identity of our collar-free pigeon.

Last November a stock dove arrived in our garden and stayed around. She was a bit smaller than a pigeon, more hunched, just as waddly, and nowhere near as shy; the vertical panic take-off was rarely for her. We named her, rather unoriginally "Stalky". Her breast was more ruddy than pink, her neck shiny, and she was content to perch in one of our 3 small trees for long periods. We liked Stocky but soon after the beginning of December she made off to gardens new, perhaps just a road away. We wish her a safe New Year..



# My Media Encounter by David Pierce

Some weeks ago, NENG received an email from a national newspaper. It was about the property portal Zoopla and the list it had developed about “the most searched streets” in each region of the UK. Nether Edge Road came top in the Yorkshire and Humberside Region. Their property correspondent (Melissa, I later discovered) wanted to visit and was looking for someone to show her around. I agreed to act as an informal Nether Edge Publicity Officer and Guide.

Melissa replied and explained that “many of the streets that have come up top in the list in other regions have shown up simply because they have very expensive homes, or a lot of new development. Nether Edge Road stands out because of the local Farmers Market, and because it is clear that the neighbourhood has a really strong sense of community.”

She was hoping to visit with a photographer in order to meet someone who could talk about “what makes Nether Edge a great place to live”, and ideally would love to meet a couple of people who live on Nether Edge Road specifically. So I arranged to meet her, take her on a walkabout of Nether Edge and find two couples who lived on Nether Edge Road who would like to be interviewed. Happily I found four willing neighbours and a few days later I met Melissa and her photographer in a local café (Homemade) to tell her something about the area.

## **The Farmers Market**

I was still in a mild state of shock as I reflected on the findings of Zoopla's work. I could endorse the opinion about our area's strong sense of community, its diversity and pleasant environment, but I was puzzled at the discovery that Nether Edge Road was so popular and sought after. Why that road amongst so many others, I wondered. I had no reason however to hesitate as I launched into my 'sales pitch' for Nether Edge. The Farmers Market I explained had been inspired by a stone plaque on the outside wall of the building above us. NETHER EDGE MARKET, it reads and it has been there since 1870 (?). It's easy not to notice it but twelve years ago one of our residents, Thildy Lowe, did catch sight of it and it prompted her to ponder “why don't we have a market here again?” Shortly after, her dream had become a reality and the first Farmers Market was held in March 2008 with 30 stalls. The hope had been that it would become truly an opportunity for farmers to bring their produce from local farms to sell direct to customers in the heart of

Nether Edge. It quickly became clear that we would need to diversify for it to become bigger and better. Nevertheless, that first market made £775 to donate to Bluebell Hospice. Since then it has raised over £90,000 for a wide range of local charities. It now offers a varied selection of 80 stalls and is held four times a year. Entertainment is provided free by Morris dancers, jazz bands, drama groups, community choirs, folk musicians, swing dancers, belly dancers and much more.

## **The Festival**

My mug of hot chocolate was beginning to cool by now and the photographer had left us to take some photographs of the shopping area. I was told later that he had been particularly attracted by Cafe#9, both inside and out. But I wanted to mention the Nether Edge Festival before we finished our conversation. Five years ago, when the Farmers Market had by then raised £50,000 for charity, we wondered how we could mark such a significant milestone. We quickly realised that there was little we could do at the forthcoming market, we were much too busy on the day and there was no space for anything special. And so, to mark our achievement, the Nether Edge Festival was born.

## **To the woods**

By now, the photographer had returned from his wanderings and it was time to begin our walk up Nether Edge Road. I hurriedly mentioned the work of our very active history group which publishes books, organises talks and guided walks and much else, the evening of Sheffield Carols in one of our pubs and the recent welcome growth in litter-picking groups. Then we set off up (the rather steep) road which had apparently made its mark on the property market. As we walked we paused occasionally as the photographer took pictures of the road and particular houses that appealed to him as well as shots of the view down the hill to the city centre. At last we arrived at the top where it meets Brincliffe Edge Road and peered over the old stone wall to see the lovely woods and the view to the west. Our visitors were clearly impressed to see our edge dropping precipitously to the valley and the allotments below. It gave me the opportunity to mention our “Friends' of the woods who tidy, improve, conserve and generally take care of them to benefit our neighbourhood and the wider environment.

## **The photo shoot**

Then came the proper photo shoot. I've had my photograph taken many time over the years but I have never experienced such a long and intensive session as



this one turned out to be. As he took care with his angles, fiddled with the focus and his shutter speeds, directed me to raise my head or lower it, turn this way and that, I felt I was the star of a Vogue fashion shoot. All this in the middle of the road junction, a dangerous corner at the best of times, with curious drivers negotiating their way around us. It took so long that we agreed to cut short our planned walkabout and instead go to interview the residents of the road.

They were expecting us and we were welcomed into the first home. As Melissa was introducing herself the photographer excused himself saying "I think I'd better get some more of my equipment out of the car". He returned with a photographic lamp and umbrella on their tripods and proceeded to assemble and arrange them to take pictures of the "happy couple" while we went down the road to the second volunteering couple. "This photography is a serious business", I muttered to Melissa, "I thought you'd just use your mobile". There was just time to take a short walk around part of the area before she had to catch a train back to London. I gave her a lift to the station where she thanked me effusively before departing.

I thought the day had gone well and that Melissa must have gained a favourable impression of Nether Edge and its community. The next day I received an email from her which confirmed my impression. "It was a joy to meet you" she said, and included in her thanks the residents she'd interviewed, "it was gratifying to see that the Zoopla data really does stand up".



## Nether Edge and Sharrow Food Bank by Marion Gerson

Outside the main door to the Abbeydale Picture House on a Wednesday evening you will see a couple of young men looking after a small, socially distanced queue. Enter and you will find Nighat Basharat at a table providing parcels of food to people who need it. She's been running the Nether Edge and Sharrow Food Bank since the start of the pandemic.

There are other food banks and kitchens in our area, notably at Sharrow Community Forum, but this is the only one set up mainly for, and run by, people from our local Asian community. The food that is provided is more appropriate, especially for those who need halal food, and there is a great sense of looking after each other.

The work is supported by Thalassaemia South Yorkshire (Thalassaemia is a debilitating and painful genetic condition that largely affects people from South Asia) for whom Nighat works. Funding has come from those better off in the community but the need continues to grow. Originally they got some supplies from a local branch of Aldi but that ceased and now Morrison's supplies some food etc. But they are struggling to get enough; when I met her, Nighat said she was thinking of using all her own salary.

It was set up initially for the families of our local Asian population, many of them of Kashmiri origin. But Nighat says the need of other people has also grown among those most affected by the loss of jobs and income over such a long time, so no-one is turned away. When I was there I saw several men collecting either for themselves or for their family, and a group of three young women. For some families, tampons sanitary towels, toothpaste and other personal hygiene items are also essentials.

There is a delivery service to those people isolating who have no way of getting to the Picture House while most weeks boxes of hot food are provided either by a local take-away or by individuals cooking at home. This is especially valuable for single people who have little or no cooking facilities in their one-room accommodation and have lost their means of support, sadly not unusual in our ward.

Each new person is asked about their situation and, wherever possible, advice is also given on how to get financial support or who else can help them.

If, like me, you have a reliable income or a pension, then you might be interested in supporting this effort on behalf of us all. Go to [www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com) and search for Nether Edge and Sharrow Food Bank. They and their clients will be hugely grateful for any donations.



*Postscript. The NENG Committee agreed to make a donation of £500 to the food bank just in time for the Christmas holiday period, when many people were more vulnerable.*

# From rough to smooth by Ken Lambert

A year ago I took the photo below of Rundle Road and all the potholes. Indeed there seemed to be more holes and patches than road.

Just before the Christmas holidays the road was transformed into the smooth surface it is in the second photo. The resurfacing included laying some new curved kerb stones to allow for new tree pits to be prepared (all deemed impossible a few years ago when the iron rule was straight kerbs or the trees get it).

Rundle Road always was a cut through from Abbeydale Road to Psalter Lane/Cemetery Road, but as the potholes acted as speed bumps, drivers tended to be cautious about losing their shock absorbers. Now that the road is smooth, speed has increased dramatically, though at present the actual number of cars using the road has reduced due to Covid-19.



Kenwood Park Road is likely to receive the same treatment before too long, and residents there as well as on Rundle Road have expressed concern about the danger of speeding traffic. It seems that speed bumps are beyond the pockets of the council, but 20mph speed limits might be a possibility – there are already several examples in the area, Albany Road, Steade Road and Nether Edge

Road to name a few.



**If you would like NENG to make representations on your behalf, and/or have other comments or suggestions about traffic calming, do get in touch. My contact details are on Page 2.**

## Art Group Report by Richard Taylor

Nether Edge Art Group were really happy to become affiliated to NENG in the summer of 2020.

They have been in existence for 7 years and before the lockdown met regularly every Tuesday afternoon at Nether Edge Bowling Club. During lockdown we were confined to small groups sketching outside or in member's gardens or allotments. We displayed and shared our efforts by WhatsApp.

We have a membership of around 15 people and are multi-talented with varying degrees of ability.

In the festival we ran an Art Trail around Nether Edge exhibiting in our gardens. We hope to repeat this in September 2021.

We run a varied programme of art topics using all types of media and hopefully rise to all challenges. In normal times we organise speakers, trips to exhibitions and art festivals.

From April people will (for £10) be able to join the Art Group, not necessarily to paint with us (we are limited in numbers), but be eligible to be placed on the database for cascading information about local events etc. An obvious opportunity for networking.

There is so much really good art happening on our doorstep and to celebrate this the May EDGE will be totally dedicated to ART. If you would like to write an article about what you are doing please contact me on [richardtaylor635@icloud.com](mailto:richardtaylor635@icloud.com)

## Nether Edge Festival Report by Richard Taylor and Mark Doel

The Festival Committee started 2020 with great enthusiasm. In early March this initial surge was dampened by the onset of the coronavirus epidemic. However, we continued to meet by Zoom and occasionally in gardens whenever the rules permitted. By July we realised the 2020 festival would never happen in its normal format. Hence the Pop Up festival

September came and we changed the format of the festival – no paper programme – no raffle -no Indoor activities - outdoor activities to be limited.

We were to rely on digital advertising which was exciting but scary at the same time.

We were really grateful for the generous sponsorship from two local firms Rosalind Watchorn (Solicitors) and Steve Ojari (Osteopath) - without these two income streams there would not have been any festival.

September came and the sun shone. People were allowed to meet outside and so we persevered. Casualties were the Carnival, Art and craft fair, World War 2 Concert and Party in the park. Successes were the Farmers Market, the Scarecrow Trail, the yard sale and the World War 2 walks. Digitally St Andrews church presented two first class concerts and over 1000 people watched and donated.

The Scare Crow Trail received great accolades from everyone – to be repeated this year. The 2021 festival is already in the pipeline – the newly formed committee have already met and early decisions about the shape of this year's Extravaganza have already been made. There will be more outdoor events around walks and trails –more emphasis on Digital presentations be they talks or concerts.

So watch this space –information is available on the Festival website, Facebook and Instagram. We are so lucky to have so many loyal followers.

Thanks must be made to the fantastic committee and I am happy to name them all:-

Jean Allen and Gareth Jones  
Maggie Little (Treasurer)  
Chris Venables  
Kate West  
Kate Houseden  
Andy Beezer  
Vicky Phillips  
Carly Honeycombe  
Leah Griffiths (Media)

Mark and I have Co-led on the past 3 festivals – we said that last year was to be our last – however as last year was only Pop Up we have agreed to continue for another year.

We are looking for successors and enthusiastic like-minded people from Nether Edge. If you feel that you could contribute in any way you are more than welcome to join this fantastically motivated committee.

## Sources of inspiration by Michael Bayley

20 Look at the flowers. I sowed them in the middle of our lawn at the start of the lockdown. They were such a joy. The bees loved them. Every morning when I woke up I looked out of our bedroom window and saw them and my spirits rose.

But this was happening all over the place in Sheffield. There was a big patch at the bottom of Cemetery Road next to the council flats. There were lots of sowings in imaginative places on the Manor Park council estate.

And it is happening in lots of other places too. Rotherham has been sowing wildflowers beside its dual carriageways which are a joy to behold and also save them money in grass cutting. Look at this clip. It lasts for 53 seconds (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-48954147/rotherham-s-wildflower-verges-give-roads-splash-of-colour>)..

There are lots of ways we can make our gardens more wildlife friendly. One brilliant book is Dave Goulson: *The garden jungle: or Gardening to Save the Planet*.

It is not just flowers and gardens. The importance of trees and forests as a vital part of ecosystems and also for human well-being is also being recognised increasingly. The book by Peter Wohlleben: *The Hidden Life of Trees* and also Diana Beresford – Kroeger's: *To Speak for the Trees* are just two inspiring examples of this.

We, humankind, are gradually realising that our relationship with nature needs to change. One important expression of this is the rewilding movement. An inspiring example of this is the book *Wilding* by Isabella Tree, which describes how she and her husband transformed their 1400 hectare farm in West Sussex by letting go. “Today, Knepp is a rich, diverse, yet still productive landscape in which Longhorn cattle, wild ponies and Tamworth pigs roam freely in a habitat that is rapidly recovering its former biodiversity, with a wide range of plants re-establishing themselves and a profusion of insects, bats and birds, including nationally threatened turtle doves and nightingales.” (Carolyn Steel, Sitopia, page 279) There is a very impressive 50 minute illustrated talk by Isabella Tree at [youtube.com/watch?v=kvD1DGSS8Aw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kvD1DGSS8Aw)

Knepp is important because it shows how nature can regain its natural diversity, abundance and beauty if only we will let it. But you don't need 1400 hectares to do it. We can start by just sowing a patch of wild flowers in our own garden.

The instructions on the packet were: “Wild flowers prefer a poor soil with low nutrients. Before sowing remove all existing weeds from the area and prepare the soil to a fine tilth. Sowing times can be any time during the period mid-March end of October, the ideal time being autumn, but avoid the hot summer months.” In the autumn you need to give the flowers the time to drop their seed before you cut them down and put them on the compost heap.

