

EDGE

NETHER EDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021

The Open Gardens Edition



Company Limited by Guarantee No. 07414080 Registered Charity No. 1139239

www.netheredge.org.uk

Individual views expressed are not necessarily those of the group.

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 Peter Machan and Nicole Erlen. If you want to contribute to the July/August edition, please contact the EDGE Editorial Board – nengeditorialboard@gmail.com

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NETHER EDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP – Application for Membership / renewal

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

*Please delete as appropriate

Name _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

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Your contact details will only be used in connection with your EDGE subscriptions or NENG membership. The annual subscription for EDGE is £10 per household commencing on 1st April each year. Any additional donation to the work of NENG is welcomed. Subscribers living outside our distribution area will only receive electronic copies of EDGE, or you can choose to receive EDGE by email by selecting this method above.

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

Signature _____ Date _____

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

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

As I write this, during the first week in May, the rain and hail are hammering on the window and water surges down Kingfield Road in a torrent; and yet April was the driest on record. Gardeners, like farmers, are notoriously difficult to please when it comes to the weather but there can be little doubt left that something strange is happening. Even those who long doubted the science behind global warming are being converted and the weight of opinion that we must all play our part has gained so much momentum that the subject has been reported on TV and radio every single day for at least the last month. This month's EDGE focusses on aspects of our local environment which have been particularly valued during the last year, including details of the Open Gardens event on June 20th when a record number of gardeners will be opening the gates and inviting you to enjoy their handiwork. Local gardeners are on the front line when it comes to combatting climate change, not just by planting trees but by changing long-held habits and no longer using peat-based composts, which, it is reported today, will soon be banned. In this issue ;-

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What's Going on at Sheffield General Cemetery? By Laura Alston

The exciting news is that Sheffield City Council has been awarded £3m funding from the National Lottery Parks for People fund, as part of a four-year programme of repair, conservation, and access improvements for the General Cemetery.

It has been a long wait whilst the project team took time to make sure the best possible plans were in place, balancing the interests of all the different things that makes the General Cemetery a uniquely special place. The project team are very grateful to everyone who has contributed their views and their time to helping the project team develop a scheme which improves access, conserves heritage, and protects and enhances the wildlife value of the Cemetery.

Works are expected to start on site this autumn and will include repairs and conservation of monuments and stabilisation works to the retaining walls and catacombs. There will also be accessibility improvements to make the Cemetery a more welcoming place to discover for a wider range of visitors. It is anticipated that the total works programme will last about 18 months, and the project team will work hard to keep the inevitable disruption to a minimum. The Cemetery will remain open to visitors throughout.



In addition to the repair and conservation works, the National Lottery is also funding an exciting activities programme ensuring there is always something to see and do on site. As a Local Nature Reserve and a nationally listed Grade II* historic landscape, the National Lottery project will run a wider range of events and activities which will celebrate and explore the heritage, landscape, and biodiversity of the site. The project team hopes to collaborate with as many people as possible to make great connections, support the brilliant things that people in Sheffield do and make sure our activities are built from input and ideas by all.

The activity programme is going to be run around several themes based on the history, landscape and nature found on site. Some of these themes will explore how the stories found in the Cemetery tell us more about the varied heritage threads which make up Sheffield's past.

The heritage-based themes include: 'Buried Stories' which looks at hidden and everyday lives in the burials; 'Industrial Connections' which focuses on the connections to industry in the burials and global connections of Sheffield's industrial past; 'Radical Sheffield' which explores stories of activists in Sheffield's political past, and 'Artists and Artistes' which looks at the creatives who can be found on site. The next exhibition to be held on site will be about the 'Industrial Connections' theme. There are lots of famous industrialists with prominent monuments buried at the Cemetery telling the stories of those who worked in or were connected to various industries.

Information will be found on Sheffield General Cemetery Trust's website Events Page: <https://www.gencem.org/new-events>

Pets at Rest vet home visits



 pets at rest veterinary care
 www.petsatrestvet.com
 07866243673
 petsatrestvet@gmail.com

final farewells in familiar places

Chelsea Park Playground - Update from the Friends of Chelsea Park (FoCP).

Chelsea Park has been a quiet and peaceful haven for everyone during lockdown. It's been lovely to see the playground well-used by the children, but the wet winter months caused the ground to become extremely muddy.

In recent weeks the FoCP have been in touch with Amie Rowland and Bob Parkin from the Parks and Countryside Service at Sheffield City Council and we had a useful site meeting at the playground. Bob Parkin has agreed to start the renovation of the playground in late June or early July 2021. This will mean closing the playground for some weeks, but it should be open again before the school holidays begin. The first stage of the work will be on the Lower Tier.

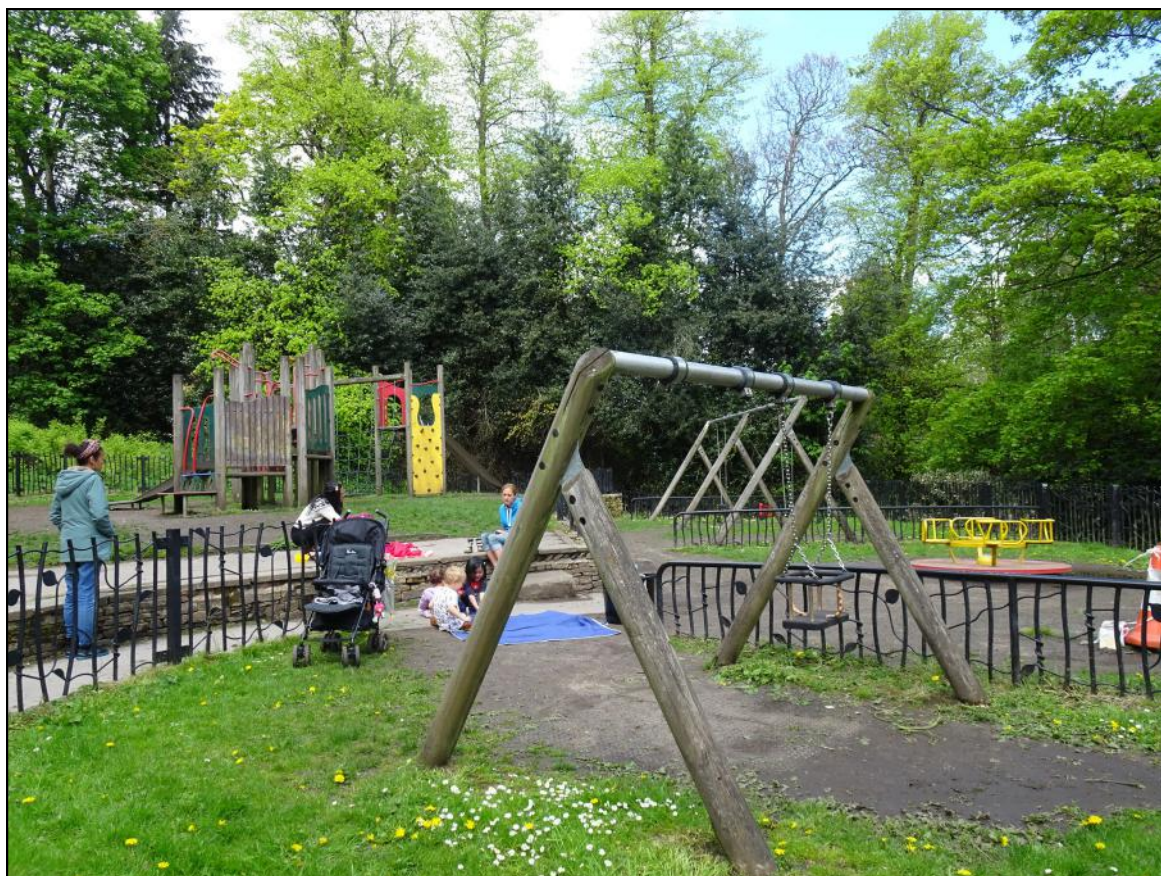
The ground will be drained and new swings installed on a new Sports Carpet surface. The roundabout will be re-painted and put back but, sadly, the Rocking Camel has a

broken spring and cannot be repaired. A replacement will have to be found and Bob is 'on the case'.

Assessment of the large climbing frame shows that it should be good for another few years. A new surface will be needed underneath it and we are in discussion about this.

Calling All Children - A New Climbing Frame in your playground is something to think about for the future, but we will need some extra money for this. Perhaps some of you can take part in the NENG Festival Fun Run which will start off our fund raising efforts.

Lots to look forward to - especially those new swings !



Nether Edge Fair is a virtual Fair with over 100 local independent stalls- and it's growing all the time with arts, crafts, food and drink.

www.netheredgefair.com

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AMMI'S KITCHEN TAKEAWAY

A food social enterprise working with local women providing them with jobs skills and experience.

Profits will be used to run community classes



On regular Fridays we will cook a different meal deal bringing you authentic flavours from the best cooks in the house!

Launching soon at Common Ground Community Centre in Nether Edge.

Check Family Voice - Sheffield or familyvoicesheffield for upcoming information



Contact: 07599 637889 and
ammiskitchensheffield@gmail.com



Proud to be back open

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



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Nether Edge Open Gardens, Sunday June 20th.

Pull-out Supplement

In the Nether Edge area there is a remarkably varied collection of gardens and styles of gardening and this year we are pleased that a larger number of gardens will be open than ever before. Most will be open between 12 and 4pm but please check below. Some will be offering plants for sale and refreshments and will be inviting donations for their chosen charities. There are no admission charges. Government regulations restrict the number of people gathering in one location to 30 and sensible precautions will be taken to ensure that you can visit safely. Let's hope that the sun shines!

Use the map overleaf to plan your route. Brief descriptions of the gardens (numbered as on the map) are below.

1. Kenwood Community Growers, Kenwood Hotel Grounds. open from 12-2pm only.

We grow organic veg for donation to Foodworks <https://thefoodworks.org/sharrow/> Any funds raised will go towards supporting the project. People can see how we are getting on in our second year of developing a community veg growing project in the grounds of historic Kenwood Hall Hotel (visitors can also walk around the grounds and see the lake.) There'll be some plants for sale. The site is on a slight incline and is not wheelchair accessible. You can park past the Laura Ashley tea rooms in the hotel car park. We are at the bottom of the slope behind the hedge!

2. Maggie and John Little, 1 Gainsbrough Road, open 12 to 4pm.

Large corner plot with perennial borders and vegetables.

3. Norman and Sue Blaby, 59 Cherry Tree Road, open 1pm to 5pm.

Entry to the garden is via the garage and a corner of the kitchen. From the patio outside the back door there are steps down to the main part of the garden. We have mostly perennial borders around the lawn with the path leading to a vegetable patch and soft fruit area and a greenhouse. We have a gate that leads into the grounds of the Kenwood Hall Hotel where we have a few more vegetable patches and access to the Kenwood Community Growers. We invite donations towards the work of Good News Family Care in Buxton and we will also offer tea and biscuits, (maybe even some cake!) as well as some plants.

4. Peter Machan, 55 Kingfield Road, open 12 to 4pm.

A large, steep garden on many levels. Children's discovery trail. Many exotic trees and shrubs, and water features. Large collection of hostas. Greenhouse on the garage roof. Only the patio is accessible to wheelchair users. Donations to The Children's Society.

5. Helen and Brian Palmer, 30 Wolstenholm Road.

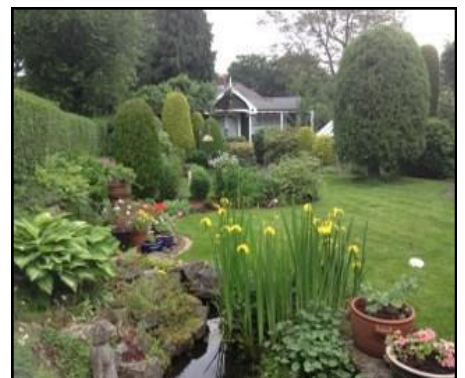
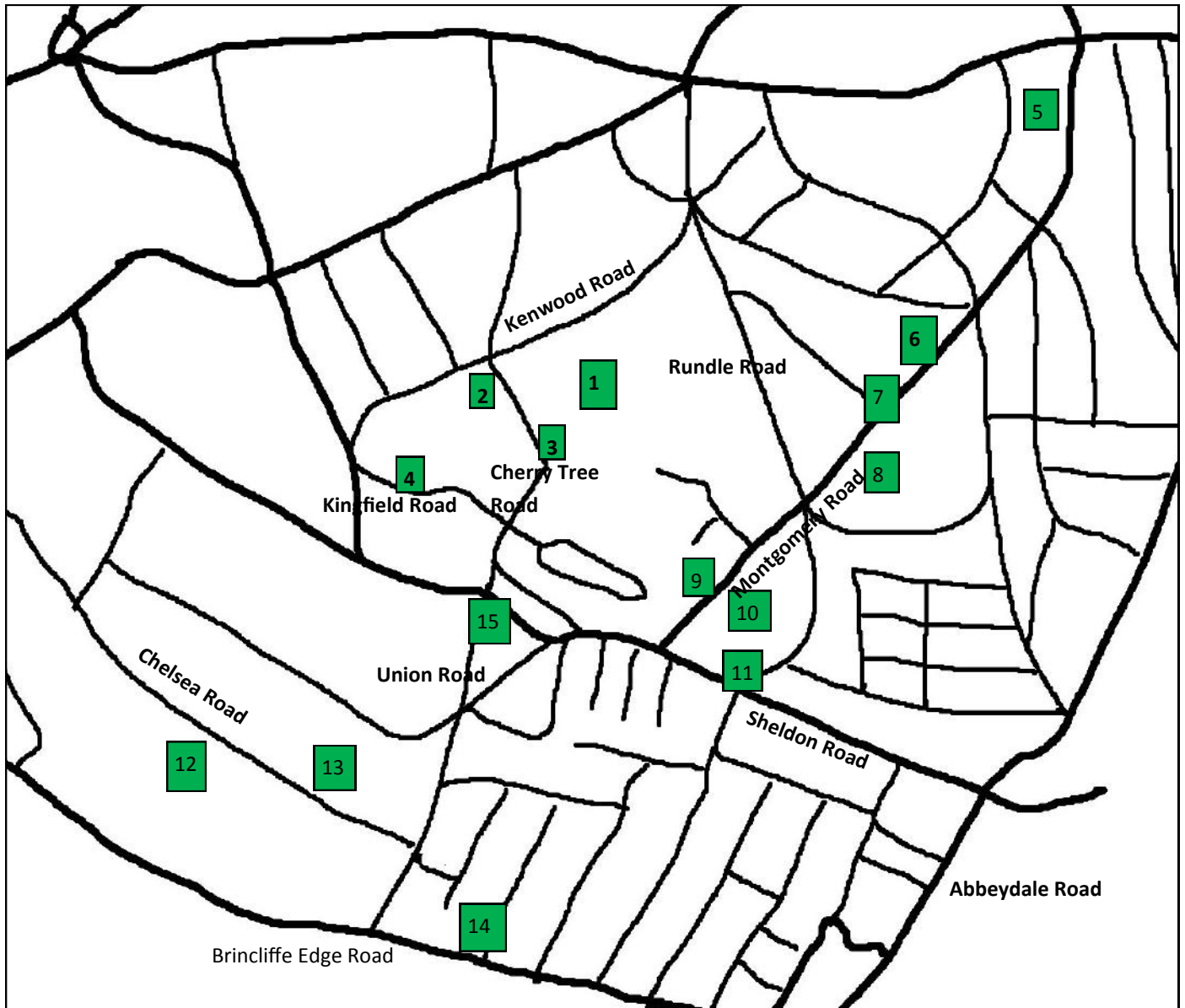
Very pretty small cottage garden with pond.

6. Richard Knowles, 24A Montgomery Road.

My garden is mostly woodland with exotics. I am raising money for a girls rugby team in Thorne. The local rugby club gives the girls a place to exercise and gain confidence.

7. The Potting Shed 34 Montgomery Road.

A micro plant nursery based at the bottom of Kenbourne Rd. The Potting Shed is a part of the charity Grow, a youth development charity based in Sheffield. Our mission is to inspire hope and unlock potential in young people through nature. We grow a range of plants from seed, cuttings and by dividing established plants. We also sell plants grown by other nurseries who share our commitment to growing plants organically and in peat free compost! We open every Monday 10 to 6pm.



8. Sue Bolger, 37 Montgomery Road, open 12-4pm

I grow mostly perennials, will have some plants for sale, will offer tea and biscuits, in aid of Emmaus. Flattish, so ok for wheelchairs. Tea, coffee and biscuits. Handy lavatory!

9. Gina and David Pierce, 96 Montgomery Road, open 12 to 4pm.

A beautifully maintained garden with pond and a large summerhouse. Mainly level. Refreshments available.

10. Richard Taylor, Ryle Road. Open from 11 to 3

A lovely, small, courtyard garden. Tea coffee and cakes, there will also be some artwork on show. There may well be a table top sale. A one way system which includes 3 steps which can be avoided.

11. Anne and Marc Brew 18 Moncrieffe Rd, open 12 to 4pm.

Normal access to the garden is through the front gate and up the steps. Access for those with mobility issues is at the back of the house via Bank Close which runs up the right hand side of the house. Light refreshments such as tea and squash and the charity we will collect for is The Motor Neurone Disease Association. Our garden consists mainly of vegetables(30+ varieties) and soft fruits all grown in raised beds and containers. Happy to discuss compost making with anybody willing to listen!

12. Adam Pemberton, 41 Chelsea Road

My garden is on a gentle south facing slope. There are two sets of steps, both with handrails. There is a large level lawn with gazebo and seating. Above the lawn are two ponds, containing newts, toads, frogs, tadpoles and sticklebacks, and fresh water clams, with seating beside ponds. There are flower beds scattered at random. There are fruit trees, raspberries, and in my greenhouse a peach tree (which might have fruit), a variety of tomatoes, strawberries, loganberries and hop vines (for beer making). There is a large vegetable plot . Those in season may be available to buy. At the top of the garden I keep my hens (eggs should be available). They will also perform tricks in return for a reward. Hope to be able to supply very light refreshment. Donations for S.2 Food Bank please.

13. Kath and Howard Fry, 20 Chelsea Road,

We have a small wild life pond, which is maturing nicely, while at the opposite end we have productive soft fruit and vegetables in big raised beds around the terrace. The gardens in-between are constantly changing as we try to make up our minds if the drainage (and the climate) are good enough for a proper Mediterranean theme or if we should stick with an eclectic mix of shrubs and perennials with the occasional surprise. We are trying to create distinct areas with places you can sit and enjoy the view, but mostly we just enjoy the journey and hope you do too. We'll have plants for sale in the greenhouse - mostly succulents and will have teas and coffees, provided the weather's fine.

14. Jenny Cork, 40, Edgehill Road. Open 12- 4pm.

Thanks to the talent and hard work of our predecessors, we inherited a very beautiful yet practical garden. Edgehill is a steep road, but we have a large flat space, a walled vegetable garden (formally an orangerie), mature shrubs and some beautiful grafted Ash trees. The garden is, in the main, accessible to all. Though there are a few steps to enter the vegetable garden. Refreshments with donations to South Yorkshire Community Foundation. We hope, if rules permit, to have some live music in the garden.

15. Barbara Shuker, Audrey Cottage, 83 Union Road.

Lovely garden around the house. Lots of colourful annuals and borders around lawn. Small stream at the end of the garden.

Pictorial Meadows by Peter Machan

Travelling down Cemetery Road on the way to Waitrose or Aldi between July and October you can't fail to be impressed by the vibrant display of meadow flowers that attracted the attention of the press and TV last year on the corner patch of ground in the shadow of Landsdown flats. This was an initiative by the local residents association to brighten this otherwise dull and misused piece of land. What you might not know is that the seeds they sowed are one of the revolutionary perennial mixes developed by Pictorial Meadows, a unique partnership between Professor Nigel Dunnett of the University of Sheffield and Green Estate at Sheffield Manor Lodge.

The initial project was to develop beautiful meadows that would thrive on average garden soils that would not need the 'starvation' regime normally associated with traditional wildflower meadows. A radically different approach to meadow landscapes emerged and experimental plots established in Sheffield provided a way to continually improve designs. Acres and acres of derelict land and urban highway verges throughout the country have now been transformed into colourful meadows, attractive to insects as well as people.

To experience the full splendour of a Pictorial Meadows planting you have only to visit the Manor Lodge on Manor Lane where the historic site is transformed throughout the summer with stunning meadow displays, a lavender labyrinth in the ruins, and fabulous borders within the walls. You can also purchase your own packet of seed to transform your own patch.



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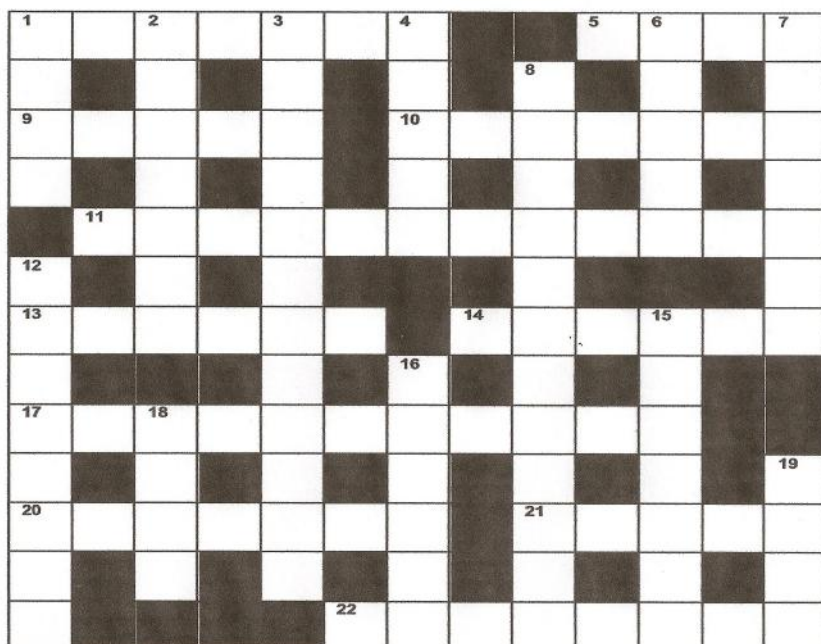
Second Nether Edge Community Library

Many of you will be familiar with and will have got good use out of the Nether Edge Community Library placed at the Nether Edge crossroads. Jo England, who designed and made our current library is ready to make a second one for our community. Do any of our readers have a spot where the second library could live or do you have suggestions for a suitable spot?

Please let us know by emailing your ideas to nengeditorialboard@gmail.com



PRAT'S ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY FIRST CROSSWORD



Across

1. He worked at Shepherd's Wheel (7)
5. Exchange (4)
9. Guide or bullock (5)
10. Laurel (3,4)
11. Beefeater (6,6)
13. Salt water lake (6)
14. Sturdy Australian animal (6)
17. N. American tree, with medicinal properties (8,3)
20. Obsolete small German coin (7)
21. Abbreviated horned animal (5)
22. Deer-like African animal (8)

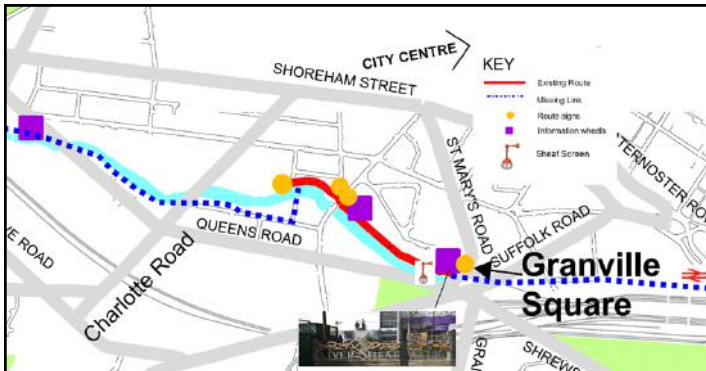
Down

1. Sudden rush of wind (4)
2. It sank the Titanic (7)
3. Sturdy semi-wild equine (8,4)
4. Christmas bird (5)
6. The Earth (5)
7. French pantomime character (7)
8. Maple, with winged seeds (8,4)
12. Place of hedonistic living (Exod 16:3) 8
15. Small Latin child (7)
16. Mythological Welsh creature (6)
18. Mountain goat (4)
19. Burrowing animal (4)

Missing Links of the River Sheaf Walk: Sheaf Gardens.

by Sheaf and Porter Rivers Trust

For regular readers, you may remember we started our Missing Links series in the March edition of EDGE and in April we took you through the missing link from Little London Road to Broadfield Way. This month we are highlighting the re-opening of the Sheaf Gardens section.



For those unfamiliar with the River Sheaf Walk, the route currently starts just behind PureGym at Sheaf Gardens/Granville Square in the city centre, where the Sheaf Screen is located. This is just upstream of where the river disappears into almost continuous culverts until it joins the Don at Castlegate, therefore is an important access point for users.

The Walk has been closed for over a year whilst the Environment Agency (EA) worked on the £3 million upgrade. The Sheaf Screen traps debris and aims to stop blockages of rubbish occurring in the River Sheaf culverts, which can cause flooding of the station. The below photo, taken in October 2020 by one of our members, shows a build-up of mostly natural debris when the screen is not functioning. However the screen also gathers large items such as mattresses, tree trunks and bikes.



Prior to the upgrade, the screen required regular clearing using a manually operated mechanical arm in poor condition. The upgrade project, which began in early 2020, involved replacing the screen and installing new, modern features (two automatic remote controlled 'grabs' via the overhead monorail) to make clearing debris from the screen easier and reduce the resource intensive manual labour work.

The majority of the upgrade project is now complete. Thanks to the Environment Agency and contractor JN Bentley, the Trust was able to suggest improvements to the walk and the highly canalised river; including improving visibility to the entrance, refurbishing the artwork, planting wildflower meadows and general repairs. Still to come, we hope, is channel 'naturalisation' upstream including a fish pass on Clough Wheel weir above and a new map of the whole walk.

More information about the Sheaf Screen and the Environmental Agency can be found at gov.uk.

If you would like to offer support, get involved with our Missing Links campaign or any of our other projects, please get in touch via Facebook @SheafAndPorterRiversTrust or info@sheafportertrust.org.


Wild Swimming by Sally Brown

I embarked on my wild swimming journey in June last year. I bumped into a friend and she asked how I was coping with lockdown, and told me she was wild swimming and how it had changed her life. I thought this sounded like the tonic I needed, so armed with my swimming costume and a bobble hat off we went. On my first swim it was pouring down with rain, and everyone thought I was mad. I borrowed my friend's neoprene gloves and socks (which you need). I managed to stay in for 10 minutes or so and this is where the journey began. I forgot about the rain, and as I struggled to get dry couldn't get over how amazing I felt. I was hooked!! I have been twice a week ever since. If you asked me what I love so much about wild swimming I'd probably say being with nature and the amazing feeling I have after I've done it. I'm the first one to admit it involves lots of faffing - finding the right spot to get changed etc, etc. I have a great waterproof mat, gloves and shoes, which are a must, lots of layers, a warm drink, and lots of hysterical laughter as you shake so much while trying to stand on one foot to put your socks on. The after drop happens to me about 10 minutes after getting out of the water.

At the end of October I bought a wet suit which has enabled me to swim through the winter. Not everyone does this. I appreciate that wild swimming can be dangerous, especially if you have any health issues. We don't stay in too long. I think they say that you should stay in for one minute for each degree the water is. They say the health benefits are massive, helping with mental health, dementia, the immune system etc and I'm also conscious it has become very fashionable recently. I must point out it isn't really allowed in our local reservoirs but this doesn't seem to stop us. I would urge you to



try it if you love the outdoors and cold water! There is a lovely wild swimming community and there is a local Facebook group called SOUP, who have an incredibly informative face book page. You can find people on there who will meet you for a swim. All other wild swimmers I have met along the way have all been so friendly. This has certainly made me braver! I would recommend any new starters to wait until the weather is warmer and don't go alone. There are lots of websites giving information. I'm certainly no expert. Try it, you might like it as much as me!



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Gardens to Delight by Nicole Erlen with photographs by Peter Machan

Having spent a lot of time in our own gardens over the last 15 months, many of us are ready for a change of scene. We are so fortunate in having so many beautiful gardens within easy reach. With restrictions on travel being lifted now is the time to visit some of these gardens whilst they are at their best. We thought we would share with you some of our favourites for a day out or for a relaxing interlude on a longer journey. Please note you will probably have to book entry in advance of your visit, so please check the websites for each property.

Renishaw Hall and Gardens

These delightful Italianate gardens were established in the 19th century by the eccentric Sir George Sitwell. Beautiful topiary. There is also one of the most northern vineyards (enquire about tours separately). <https://www.renishaw-hall.co.uk>



Wentworth Castle Gardens

The gardens were established in 1695 by Thomas Wentworth in an attempt to outdo his cousin who to Thomas' fury, had inherited Wentworth Woodhouse. It is South Yorkshire's only Grade 1-listed landscape. You will find laid out gardens as well as extensive parkland complete with mock castle and restored glasshouse. wentworthcastlegardens@nationaltrust.org.uk

Brodsworth Hall and Gardens

English Heritage have undertaken considerable restoration of the gardens which were designed as a collection of gardens in miniature which include formal gardens and pleasure grounds. There is a fern dell grotto, wild rose dell and the recently restored 1864 garden privy, Victorian game larder and Edwardian flower beds of the Target Range where young ladies would practice archery. English-heritage.org.uk



Clumber Park

A visit to Clumber is good for a family day out especially as you can also take in the now RSPB owned and run Sherwood Forest at Edwinstowe or the activities on offer at Sherwood Pines. The Clumber estate was designed for pleasure and recreation. Its main focus is the bucolic lake with its swans and other birdlife. The walled garden, with the longest greenhouse in the country, is a treasure trove for rhubarb lovers!

clumberpark@nationaltrust.org.uk

Rufford Abbey Country Park near Ollerton

The grounds of a former 12th century Cistercian Monastery (the ruins are managed by English Heritage) offer 150 acres of park and woodland. <https://www.visit-nottinghamshire.co.uk/things-to-do/rufford-abbey>



Felley Priory, just off M1 Junction 27, north of Nottingham

This compact garden, half a mile from the M1 motorway, boasts fabulous bursts of colour from its densely packed flower beds and superb topiary. It also has a well-stocked nursery and tea rooms. <https://www.felleypriory.co.uk>

Newstead Abbey, Nottingham

A short hop from the M1 this former Augustinian priory was given a Victorian and Gothic makeover by successive owners. It is best known as the ancestral home of Lord Byron who lived there between 1808 and 1814. Formal gardens, lakes and 300 acres of parkland. www.newsteadabbey.org.uk



Biddulph Grange Garden

Grange Road, Biddulph, near Congleton

Described by the National Trust as 'a formal Victorian horticultural masterpiece and a quirky, playful paradise full of intrigue and surprise'. Lakes, tunnels and wonderful Chinese garden. Great day out for children. biddulphgrange@nationaltrust.org.uk

Calke Abbey

Ticknall, Derby, Probably better known for the house which has been preserved in its state of neglect, this is a good destination for a picnic with ancient oaks, secluded ponds and a beautiful walled garden. calkeabbey@nationaltrust.org.uk



Lyme Hall and Park, Disley.

Superb gardens with a lake and an outstanding tropical hothouse set within an extensive deer park. National Trust.



Answers to the crossword on page 11

A year ago our family did a crazy '26 laps of Ashland Road' (the Marathons were cancelled). What started as a silly idea to raise money turned into something quite special for us. Lots of people on the road came out to watch and cheer and many made contributions to the charity. So we planned another escapade,

I suddenly realised that between four members of our family we have chalked up over 100 years of living in Nether Edge. We moved here in 1988 when our son Ben was one year old and Emma was, as my mum would say, 'just a twinkle in the eye'. And we've been in the same house ever since. We loved Nether Edge the minute we saw it and thirty something years on that love has only increased. In that time much has changed, but pretty much all, I think, for the better. The kids have now departed for exotic places but they are Nether Edge

through and through. So I guess I feel ok to ask you to join in a wider celebration of this beautiful place that is Nether Edge.

My son Ben and I had an idea. He had just turned 33. I was 66. Until May 29th 2021 he would be exactly half my age. We wanted to celebrate and came up with the idea of doing the 15-mile Sheffield Round Walk together. We will set off from Ashland Road, head up to Brincliffe Edge and follow the sign that says 'Sheffield Round Walk'. It is a great way to embark on an adventure. The walk will take place on 28th May. And me being a big fan of the water charity Dig Deep, and Ben being the Director and the charity being Sheffield based, I thought we could maybe ask people to celebrate their work as well.

If you would like to check up on what they are up to, go to www.digdeep.org.uk/

