Vol. 23 No. 3 *Autumn 2020* ISSN 1464-8148

Bradway Bugle

In and around Bradway, Greenhill, Dore & Totley

Threat to Millhouses Park

As we go to press an application to create a beer garden in Millhouses Park still trundles on through the planning system.

The company that owns the adjacent Wagon & Horses wants to take over some land from the park on lease, fence it off, and put up an outdoor servery, with tables/umbrellas and seating. Three gates into the Park are proposed and several trees would need to be felled or cut-back to make room for access and over the tables and umbrellas.

It seems that Parks & Countryside may approve the move as it will bring in a substantial income for the Dept.

The question remains as to whether it is right that public park land should be sold or leased off to private commercial interests, especially if the purpose is separate to that of the Park? Also would people using the outside space generate noise and nuisance for local residents and users of the park?

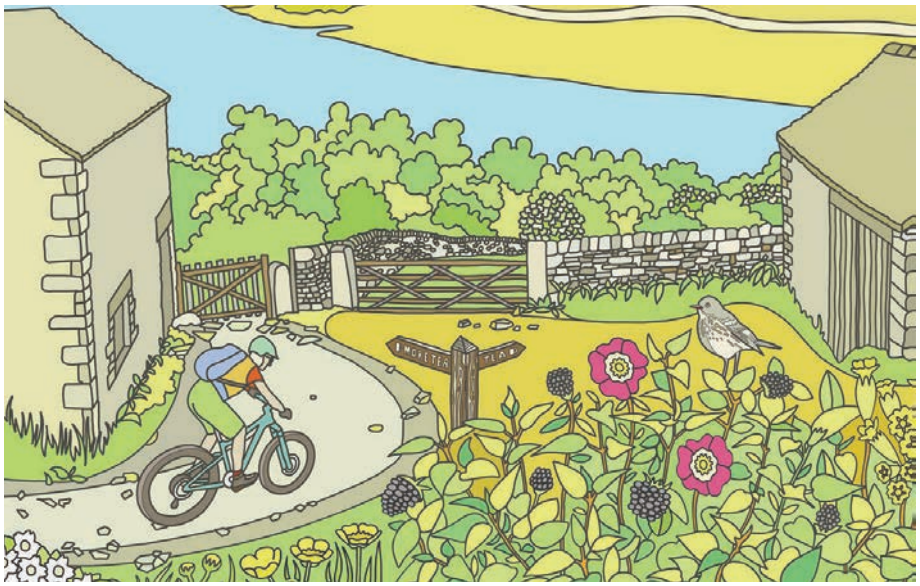
This could be the thin end of the wedge, with moves to lease or sell other public land for private or commercial purposes.

The full Planning Application is on the Council's planning portal. Planning Reference is 20/01667/FUL

Bradway Community Association

There will be no events organised for the immediate future, due to Corvid-19.

Scarecrows in Greenhill. See page 4



Derwent Edge - Time for Tea, by artist Si Homfray. Looking down onto Ladybower Reservoir from Grindle Barn underneath Derwent Edge in the Peak. *See page 6*

St Luke's Covid-19 fundraising campaign

St Luke's Hospice has launched an urgent fundraising appeal as it prepares to maintain its vital work beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. The charity has maintained its core patient care services to the people of Sheffield throughout the international coronavirus crisis.

That means the St Luke's Integrated Community Nursing Team has cared for up to 450 people in their own homes at any one time, while the In Patient Centre team has continued to provide 24-hour specialist palliative care for up to 20 patients at any one time.

St Luke's has provided extra support to families caring for loved ones at home, patients who before the pandemic and subsequent visiting restrictions may have been cared for in hospital. And the St Luke's Clinical teams have been supporting nursing and care homes, using face to face video technology to develop skills and share experience in providing palliative care.

But with the St Luke's shops having closed for more than three months and major fundraising events cancelled, the charity's finances have been badly hit. "The coronavirus pandemic is having a devastating effect on St Luke's financially, and we know its impact won't go away quickly - it is a long term threat," said Kathryn Burkitt, Director of

continued on page 3 ....

Sheffield Local Plan

Sheffield City Council are preparing another new local plan, the draft of which is now ready and shortly due to go to consultation. The Sheffield Plan will be a guide to development in the city until 2038 and will set out the blueprint for the growth and improvement of the local economy, housing, transport systems and environment for years to come.

Their 'Issues and Options 2020' document outlines the key opportunities and challenges for the City, and sets out some issues and options for consideration. Economic growth and the construction of new homes are significant issues that need to be address in order to plan for the future, and in particular they have looked at whether more homes could be built on brownfield land, especially within, or close to, the City Centre.

A 6 week statutory public consultation will be launched on 1 September with a questionnaire available on the consultation portal 'Citizen Space'. In the meantime you can read the 'Issues and Options 2020' document on the council website.

https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/planning-development/emerging-sheffield-plan-draft

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Editorial

As we put this Bugle together it is unclear whether we will face a second wave of Corvid-19, but it is clear that the economic and long term social implications of the disease will be considerable. This is far from the first pandemic our country has faced, and we can draw interesting parallels with the medieval Bubonic Plague – see article on page 26 – and with Victorian Cholera epidemics – see book reviews page 38.

So far our local community has responded positively, acting swiftly to help those most vulnerable to the disease. There have also been significant changes in the way we shop, more locally or online, and in the way we work. Let us hope these continue into what is projected as a 'new normal'.

What has been highlighted is how vulnerable our society is to (let's call it), a natural disaster. The machinery of government had failed to prepare for what had been projected as a potential threat, was far too slow and indecisive in its reaction and reluctant to admit its shortcomings. Let us hope the experience of Covid-19 leads to a fresh new approach to government and that, harking back to the earlier experiences mentioned above, we just don't slip back into the same old ways.

Being in lockdown was incredibly frustrating, but it has given us all the chance to follow up on the things we would like to do but never managed to find the time for. Judging by the pages in this issue of the Bugle, writing articles and letters was on that list.

So we hope you will enjoy our usual mix of news, features and comment in this our 91st edition. And please do support those local businesses whose advertising enables us to keep publishing.

John Baker, Editor

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PUBLISHING DEADLINES

Bradway Bugle is published quarterly in mid February, May, August & November each year. The copy deadline for each issue is near the end of the preceding month. Please forward items for the Summer issue to the address on this page by

Friday 23rd October

Help with bin collections

The Council provide a free assisted bin collection service if you need help to take your bin to the pavement because of a disability, ill health or age. The refuse collectors will collect your bin from your property, wheel it out to the road for collection and then return it after it has been emptied.

Who can have an assisted collection? Only ask for help if there's nobody over the age of 16 at your residence who can bring your bins to the pavement.

If you're 75 or over you can apply for a permanent assisted collection.

If you're aged 74 or under you can apply for a permanent assisted collection if any of these apply to you:

* you're registered blind or partially sighted
* you hold a blue badge for parking
* you receive the middle rate of care component of Disability Living Allowance or enhanced daily living component of Personal Independence Payment
* you receive the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance or enhanced mobility component of Personal Independence Payment
* you receive Attendance Allowance
* you receive the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement
* you hold a CredAble Access Scheme Card

In your application you will be asked to provide evidence to support your application.

Temporary help. You can request temporary help for up to 6 months which can be renewed if needed. This may be due to pregnancy, illness, or recovery from an operation or injury. If you're applying for assistance during pregnancy, you can receive help throughout your pregnancy and up to 26 weeks afterwards.

Call 0114 293 0000 or visit www.sheffield.gov.uk

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Bradway Bowling Club

Well who would have predicted that so much could happen in our lives since the last edition of the Bugle? I was advertising all the great things that we had planned for our centenary celebrations. Unfortunately these have all had to be put on hold.

On the plus side I have quite enjoyed the spare time that lockdown gave me at the beginning and as a consequence my garden has never looked as good. It also gave me a chance to appreciate more of the nature on my doorstep.

Daily hourly walks on the golf course allowed me to witness the beautiful spring blossom; buzzards that I didn't even know flew around here and rabbits really enjoying the peace and quiet. Not forgetting the absolutely beautiful selection of bird songs that we normally don't notice.

But at last the Bowling Club is now open again and there is a slight glimpse of normality returning. Unfortunately it is only slight as the rules do not allow us to hold any matches, functions or any kind of gatherings at the moment. I am not even sure if the Art Group will be able to start in September as it is often a very full room.

As everyone else, we have to be guided by the government and just cross everything that the virus continues to lessen. We will of course advertise any changes as and when they happen on the notice board in front of the club and on our website bradwaybowling.org.uk. So for now take care and stay safe and hopefully we will see you soon.

Jean Morton

Editorial & Advertising

Bradway Bugle is published quarterly by Village Publications, a voluntary group, in association with BAG (Bradway Action Group), a local community group covering the Bradway area. It is delivered free to over 2,500 households in the area and mailed to readers around the country.

If you are interested in submitting an article or letter, have local news to report, or wish to place an advertisement, please contact us:

Editor: ***John Baker***
Tel: 236 9025 or
mobile on 078 1161 4727

Alternatively you can write to:

The Editor,
Bradway Bugle,
8 Thornsett Gardens,
Sheffield, S17 3PP.

or: ***editor@villagepublications.co.uk***

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.... *continued from page 1*

Income Generation, Media and Marketing.

"To keep delivering high quality care through the pandemic we've reduced costs where we can and taken advantage of all available government support schemes but we've still had to dig deep into our financial reserves to ensure we can get through this difficult time. "But this cannot be sustained indefinitely.

The charity's new fundraising campaign points out that a £6 a month donation could contribute to nutritionally balanced food packages that are prepared and delivered to patients at home who are perhaps shielding or unable to cook for themselves.

A £12 a month donation could go towards the cost of the St Luke's community nurses delivering vital care and pain relief to patients when needed, in the comfort of their own homes.

And £18 a month could contribute to the ongoing cost of providing the St Luke's 24 hour specialist palliative care for up to 20 patients at a time at the hospice's In Patient Centre.

"Annual government funding covers just 25 per cent of the money needed to keep St Luke's running and even with additional emergency government funding, we are dependent on the generosity of people across Sheffield and beyond to provide the rest so we can continue to support patients and families. Will you give what you can?"

To find out more about St Luke's and its campaign for monthly donations visit stlukeshospice.org.uk

John Highfield

Councillors update

As we gradually emerge from lockdown we want to thank local residents for the way they have responded to recent events. Although the virus is having a huge impact on our daily lives, residents in Bradway have pulled together and volunteered in large numbers to help our neighbourhood get through the crisis.

The volume of casework that we deal with has also gone up considerably. For example Martin has been working on local business issues to help them bounce back from the crisis and ensure they have access to the relevant grant schemes. Colin has been working on planning issues and organising deliveries to the local foodbanks, where demand for their services has risen dramatically, and Joe has been supporting litter picks. The hard work and generosity of local people we have met during these activities has been amazing. Thank you.

We were concerned to learn recently that Sheffield was in a position to justify "enhanced support" against coronovirus and was the 15th highest council area in cases per head. We understand that this was due to a small number of clusters of cases in other parts of the city. Dealing with local clusters is now the responsibility of the Director of Public Health. Plans are in place should there be any localised outbreaks anywhere in Sheffield. To keep us informed of developments local Councillors attend a fortnightly briefing from the Director of Public Health.

On a different subject we expect the long-awaited Sheffield Local Development Plan will be issued for consultation in the near future. This is a vitally important document that will identify land for new housing over the next 15-20 years. It may also include a review of development sites in the Green Belt. We need to make sure that the views of local residents are taken into account so do please have a good look when it is published.

Speeding traffic has been a concern for some time and during lock down when the roads were quieter the perception was that it got worse, especially in the usual hot spots of Abbeydale Road South, Twentywell Lane and Baslow Road. Data has shown that most of the offenders are local people. Speed restrictions are there for a purpose and vehicles travelling at excessive speeds endanger pedestrians and other road users.

Enforcement measures such as the Speed Camera Van are targeting these hot spots but it is up to all of us to be considerate of others and drive sensibly. As soon as we are able we will be organising more community speed checks to identify offending motorists. These have proved effective when used in the past.

And finally …… On advice from the Council we have taken the decision to cancel our face-to-face surgeries at Totley Library & Dore Old School for the duration of the Covid crisis. We hope you understand. You can still contact us via email so do please let us know if we can help with anything.

Martin, Colin & Joe
colin.ross@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk
joe.otten@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk
martin.smith@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk

Bugle publication dates

Details for the next four issues

Copy Deadline	Publication
23 October	11 November 2020
29 January	17 February 2021
23 April	12 May 2021
30 July	18 August 2020

Beware scammers

It may be hard to believe but for some people Track and Trace is a great opportunity to defraud vulnerable people. Here is advice about what to look out for and how not to fall victim to unscrupulous criminals.

If NHS Test and Trace calls you by phone, the service will be using a single phone number 0300 0135 000. The only website the service will ask you to visit is https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk.

Contact tracers will never:

Ask you to dial a premium rate number to speak to us (for example, those starting 09 or 087)

Ask you to make any form of payment

Ask for any details about your bank account

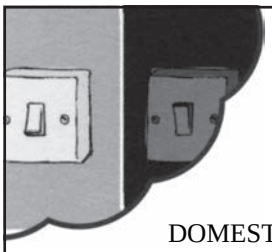
Ask for your social media identities or login details, or those of your contacts

Ask you for any passwords or PINs, or ask you to set up any passwords or PINs over the phone

Ask you to purchase a product

Ask you to download any software to your device or ask you to hand over control of your PC, smartphone or tablet

Ask you to access any website that does not belong to the Government or NHS



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Greenhill Library

A slow awakening

Greenhill Library is beginning to re-awaken from its lockdown slumbers. For a start, three book drop sessions have brought back into the library about 700 library books and over 2000 donations. We are blessed with plenty of space, but for a while every available surface was covered in books laid out for their 72 hour "quarantine" and we've had to stop accepting donations for the moment due to lack of room to store them.

The virtual open gardens video which I mentioned in the May "Bugle" did finally become a reality: 40 minutes of garden tours from 7 local gardeners. A search for "YouTube Greenhill open gardens" should find it.

We've been scratching our heads to come up with outdoor activities that promote both social distancing and reading. We started with a "story walk" in the second half of July. This was a children's story distributed around Greenhill village on story boards. We don't really know how many people have "walked the walk" but several families reported back that they really enjoyed it, and plans are to transfer it to Lowedges.

Then in the first half of August we organised a scarecrow festival which attracted a rather astonishing 33 entries. Sadly, it will have finished by the time you read this. We established an (admittedly tentative) connection to the literary world by suggesting that each scarecrow should be a book character. But for me, the thing that really started to bring the community together was our first outdoor storytelling session session on 29 July with the wonderful Janet Black, which resulted in a lawn full of young families on socially-distanced picnic blankets. Another date is in the pipeline probably 12 August, but as always keep an eye on our web site and Facebook page for the latest.

One of 33 entries.to the Scarecrow festival at the beginning of August

Click and Collect

In mid-July we launched a "Click & Collect" service which allows our readers to pre-order books and pick them up later. Ordering can be done by a simple form on our web site, or a paper form available from Key Homecare (next to Cello), or by phoning the library on 237 7657. Collection sessions are currently on Monday and Friday mornings and you can also drop off returned books at these times.

As of the end of July, we've run three sessions now and fulfilled just over 50 orders including several for hearing aid batteries! For more detail, or to place an order, head over to greenhill-library.org/cc.

Other volunteer-run libraries, notably Totley, are running similar services. The council have plans to launch pre-order service from 5 hub libraries on 10 August; however, there are no inter-library transfers at this stage so you can only order books actually held at the library.

We are extremely grateful to the teams of volunteers who have agreed to return to the library to operate this service. It was good to see even a few folks back in the library and busy after weeks of me conducting safety inspections of a silent, deserted building.

Whilst click and collect is getting books into the hands of our users, we know that it is not the same as being able to browse for yourself within the library. We are slowly moving towards re-opening to allow a limited browsing service but, to begin with at least, it's going to be a rather different affair, with social distancing markers, sanitisation procedures and an emphasis on just selecting books rather than lingering and socialising. More of a "drive through" experience really!

We're hopeful that will start in September but haven't set a date yet. And I know I keep saying this, but keeping an eye on our web site and Facebook page is the best way to know what's going on.

Chris Brown

Post Box

Dear Sir,

I was very moved by the article in the Summer Bradway Bugle by Claire Knight about how the Bradway Community stepped up to the challenge of the Coronavirus by forming the S17 Covid-19 support group. My husband and I have only lived in Bradway for just over a year and are just realising what a wonderful Community it is.

We were pleased to receive a note asking if we needed support together with a telephone number. I replied with my thanks but luckily for us we have a daughter in Lodgemoor and have managed to continue with a Tesco food delivery each week.

Thank you Adam Slade for this initiative. Thank you all the Bradway covid-19 supporters.

Christine Wilson

Dear Sir,

A Reminder of Rural Bradway

Three weeks ago (30th July), no doubt in common with some of our neighbours, I was woken up at the crack of dawn (5.15am) by the sound of cattle mooing. This was something I'd not heard at home for well over 30 years. Intermittent at first, gradually it became more persistent. Thinking the animals might be in some kind of distress, I got out of bed and went to the window to investigate. I could see nothing.

Ten minutes or so later, the mooing became louder so I went to have another look. This time, I was delighted to see the cattle being driven from the fields on Rod Moor Road and around the corner into Totley Lane.

This used to be a daily occurrence when Mary Vickers owned Hall Farm. It was a ritual that must have been going on for centuries. Each morning, Mary and Arnold would escort the animals from the cowhouse in the farmyard (now converted to the mews cottages) and along the road to the fields on Totley Lane, bringing them back again for milking in the late afternoon.

I imagine some of the local residents more recently arrived in Bradway were none too impressed to be derived of their beauty sleep, but for me, it was lovely to be transported back momentarily to those heady days of the mid-60s to mid-80s when we were in our prime and all the children were at home! Happy memories indeed.

Peter Stubbs

Dear Sir

Amidst the ever-present confusion inherent in HM Government's response to a Pandemic that we are going to have to live with and its attendant depressing events i.e. football that is neutered by the lack of spectators; and more seriously the pressures on the men and women of our Police Forces - 'Dammed if they Do - Dammed if they Don't';- the antics of what I understand is the 'Woke Generation' [I wish they would go back to sleep] and the increasing lawlessness in this city some lesser causes for

concern are still worth highlighting.

So it is with what looks like the seemingly forgone conclusion by Sheffield Councillors to follow the recommendations of their planning officers and allow the demolition of a most attractive building which could be retained as apartments. I refer of course to the former Plough public house at Sandygate almost opposite the hospitable Hallam FC ground [I recommend a visit for those weary of the money orientated modern game]. Efforts to retain it as pub by nominating it as an asset of community value - by its links to Sheffield's footballing history - appear to have come to naught. The building will no doubt now suffer vandalism and possibly worse.

The fact is that a building that fits in with its surroundings and is decent architecture is likely to end up as rubble simply to make a great deal of money. One can speculate on the pressures on the Council's planning department for reasons all too often stemming from national government but we will face more of the same as Boris the Builder initiates 'a great leap forward'.

Think I will stick to counting newts.

Ron Clayton

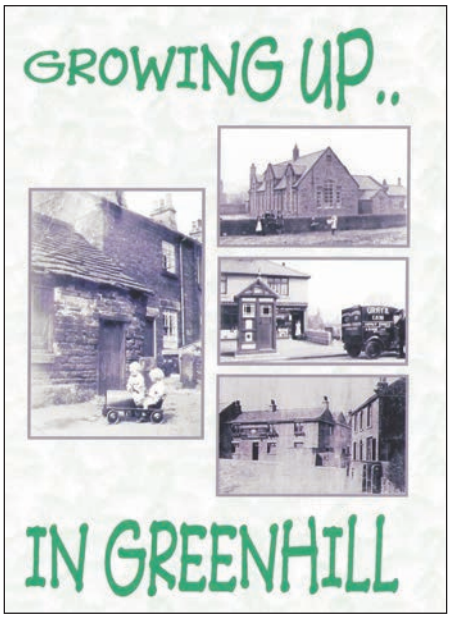
Ed. Not strictly Bradway, but the sentiments can be applied locally.

Growing Up In Greenhill

When I was reminded that the autumn edition of Bradway Bugle would be published shortly, it made me reflect on the first half of 2020 the losses and also what had been achieved. How life had become so reminiscent of those years which were captured on the DVD 'Growing up in Greenhill'.

For those of you who haven't heard of it – this was a collection of memories, photographs and anecdotes collated by a group of villagers who were brought up in the village during the 1950s, which was turned into a DVD by Neil Goodison and the late Derek Wright of Sheffield Movie Makers.

It was sold to raise funds to support the running of Greenhill Community Library – a total of £2,400 has been raised so far. However, due to the restraints of the



Covid-19 pandemic, interest has been renewed in the locale and its history, resulting in the decision to order a new batch and help raise even more funds.

The DVD portrays a walk around the village in 1898 – the subject of a lengthy poem written by William James Firth – an assistant schoolteacher who lived in the village. It mentions the buildings and most of the inhabitants at the time. David Lee reads the poem in a video which follows the route of the walk. Many of the old buildings which are no longer in existence appear on the DVD (and their replacement counterparts!)

Finally, as a result of the innumerable photos which were loaned, the final section is entitled 'Events which shaped our Lives'. Garden Parties, sporting teams, 'Queen and Captain' festivals, concerts, Uniformed organisation activities are all depicted – invoking memories of 'an idyllic childhood' as one person put it and the people we remembered from that time.

As a result of the interest in the DVD, Greenhill Village History Society was formed – holding its inaugural meeting in January 2016. Although (in 'normal times') we hold our regular meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2pm in Greenhill Community Library, we also understand that other commitments take priorities, so to enable a wider audience to enjoy the history of the area, we have introduced 'open meetings'.

Here non-members can come along for an evening of sociability and a shared love of times gone by, to sit back and watch one of the growing number of videos produced 'in house'. Those of you who have joined us at these events know that tickets are usually sold out quickly and we invariably need a 'repeat showing' to accommodate those who were disappointed the first-time round.

With this in mind members have had their 'thinking caps' on. Although our main concern is obviously protecting everyone's health, we are hoping that with some creative thinking, we may be able to re-introduce some activities in the near future, something to look forward to.

Meanwhile, if anyone would like a copy of the DVD 'Growing up in Greenhill' @ £7.99 – these can be obtained by contacting me on either lesley.fox3@btinternet.com or 0114 237 7928 (please leave your name and contact details if no reply).

Lesley Fox, Chair
Greenhill Village History Society

Greenhill reflections

We clapped every Thursday,
That's where it began,
We emerged in unison,
wooden spoon to a pan,

Longer days followed,
New routines in full flow,
New old neighbours smiling,
new old relationships grow,

The cars seemed far fewer,
The queues seemed to stay,
The bird song was constant,
We found a new way,

Talk of street parties,
Of what lay beyond,
Thinking of family,
reclaiming that bond,

Like rain after sunshine,
Like day after night,
We emerge a new creature,
We dream of what might.

Chris Boyle

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Local Public Transport

As the Coronavirus lockdown has been significantly eased the bus and tram service frequencies, operating hours and seating capacity is now much closer to normality and all are welcome to use them, although the wearing of a face covering is now mandatory on all public transport. There are still some other Covid-Safe initiatives on board with some seats out of use, standing not allowed and enhanced cleaning regimes.

Note that your face covering doesn't necessarily have to be a mask - for example a scarf will suffice, but it must cover your mouth and nose. There are exemptions for young children and people with certain medical conditions or disabilities and you can download a travel assistance card from the Stagecoach bus website to show if you are exempt.

You are asked to avoid paying for tickets by cash where possible - Stagecoach and First accept contactless card payment and daily/weekly passes can be purchased online in advance or via the Stagecoach bus app.

In Bradway our main bus services are the 24/25 into town via Woodseats and Heeley (then on to Woodhouse), these currently leave the Old Mother Redcap up to every 15 minutes (less often evenings and Sundays and note not all trips run down Wollaton Road); we also have the hourly local M17 bus operated by Hulleys which shuttles between Dore, Totley, Bradway, Greenhill and Jordanthorpe.

For all the latest timetables visit: travelsouthyorkshire.com or you can call 01709 51-51-51

For Stagecoach bus & tram tickets visit: stagecoachbus.com or download their app

For Travelmaster tickets (valid on all buses, trams and trains) visit: sytravelmaster.com

Andrew Cullen

Ed. Timetables are next expected to change on 29th August.

Derwent Edge - Time for Tea

This artwork on page 1 by Si Homfray looks down onto Ladybower Reservoir from Grindle Barn underneath Derwent Edge in the Peak District. A Meadow pipit sits over Blackberries and Dog roses. Meadow saxifrage, Cowslip and Buttercup are passed by a tea racing mountain biker.

The highly coloured view of the landscape and the naive style are representative of the artists' optimistic outlook and his love for this area of the world.

This is one of several artworks in the Peak District Idylls Range drawing on the villages, the special places, the moorland, the crags, the wildlife and the flora, everything that makes the first UK national park so idyllic.

All these strong visual ideas are reproduced in designs for wall art, household products and giftware, with responsibly and occasional humour.

You can view Si's work at Peak District Design, in Hathersage, which is open online for sales and on the telephone, in fact smoke signals and carrier pigeons are all acceptable forms of a much welcome and 'physically distanced, safe sale.

https://www.peakdistrictdesign.co.uk/
3A Hathersage Business Park
Tel: 07515 903173 or 01433 651562
Email: hello@peakdistrictdesign.co.uk

The Golden Age

The Ancient Greeks were innovators: they had poetry, plays, science, marble temples and flush toilets whilst we still crouched in caves but they harboured memories of a lost 'Golden Age', the halcyon days. Scientists suggest climate change may have altered green fields into the rocky terrain of modern Greece.

After months in lockdown, I am beginning to look back to a 'Golden Age', when I could do as I pleased. I used to pop over to another town to explore the shops, stop for a coffee or have a meal out.

Not now. I only go to Tesco, not far from my home, and my wife has hardly been out of the house since March. Perhaps my Golden Age was the 1960s: a world of new freedoms, flower power and full employment.

I was fresh out of grammar school where the maps were still mostly pink, indicating the British Empire. The girls were pretty. I drove on roads that were virtually deserted. There was nothing to worry about.

As long as you were young and shrewd, "You never had it so good." You got a grant to go to university! A Mini was £400, petrol 5/- (25p) a gallon, Berni Steaks 13/4 (61p), and a pint of beer was 2/- (10p).

The only bad news I can recall was 146 deaths when a coal tip collapsed onto a junior school at Aberfan.

There must have been people out of work somewhere, Great Britain wasn't as great as it used to be, but each time I felt like moving on, I walked straight into another well-paid job; always with a company car.

I bought my first house at 24. It cost twice my annual salary; building societies wouldn't lend you more. How foolish we all were: we thought it cool to smoke, only old people were supposed to die of cancer.

Thalidomide may have harmed 10,000 babies and children but we didn't hear about it until much later. You very seldom saw handicapped children in the streets; I supposed they lived in a 'home' out of sight.

Slavery was for history books. We ignored how black people were being treated in America, or Britain. There was a story about black people not being allowed to drive busses in Bristol. It didn't concern me.

I knew about the steady rise of the I.R.A. from the late 1960s onward but it didn't affect me personally. The Falklands Conflict of 1982 was reported on television every evening, but that was a long way away.

I was working in the South Wales valleys during the miners' strike, watching other people's calamities. Anyone could see that heavy industries like coal, steel and shipbuilding were collapsing, but what to do?

It took Bob Geldof to point out that thousands were starving in Ethiopia, and many other poor countries but it was only

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when boom turned to bust and we had food banks in Britain that it shook my generation. Our Golden Age was well and truly over, especially if you've no job, no house or rely on the foodbank.

And then along comes Coronavirus. This time it's not a thing to merely read about in the newspapers, or see reported on television. Covid-19 is a disaster that affects every single one of us, whoever we are. For the first time in years we're *told* what we must do, and anyone who has any sense follows the rules.

As is usual in any emergency, it brings out the best or the worst in people, there are heroes and villains. We have seen personal sacrifices, people going the extra mile to help others, even if they're strangers. Doctors, nurses, police, dedicated emergency services, and ordinary folk just being good neighbours.

And we have had the usual crop of idiots: those who think they have a right to drive miles to the seaside, to pop away to second homes, drive at 130 mph on motorways, or cause drunken brawls on our streets.

The littering of beauty spots, and other acts I won't detail, only proves some people behave appallingly.

It is a sad fact that people will continue to die of Coronavirus, but lives are ruined in many other ways. One of my friends is in hospital: many weeks of social separation has accelerated an incipient dementia. Another old friend has died in a long-term care home. I had not been able to visit her for several months.

Are we on the brink of a new Golden Age? Will we at last listen to good advice and do the right thing?

Will we ensure that those who have had little or no income for months are helped out of the disaster? Will we comfort those who have lost loved ones, or their job, or their home, or their reason to go on?

Will we think seriously about how we behaved in the past and resolve to do better? I certainly hope so.

Robert smith

Physio clinic opens doors

Activ Physiotherapy based in Totley and Hope has opened their doors to patients again. Director and physiotherapist Andrew Okwera felt that the relaxation of lock down restrictions meant that people would begin to search for face to face treatment to manage their problems. "We understand that there may be an increased demand for physiotherapy services as restrictions are relaxed. So, using government advice and following protocols from our regulatory bodies, we opened the clinic again" said Andrew.

Activ Physiotherapy has been based in the Totley area for 13 years, has a good reputation in the area and has served many of the local community. The risk of Covid-19 still exists, and the possibility of transmission remains, the team at Activ have taken the appropriate steps to minimise this risk. Andrew adds, "We continue to recommend remote consultations via video or telephone but face to face appointments are now available if you have worsening symptoms, conservative measures are not helping, and a remote session is deemed unsuitable."

In addition, Activ physiotherapy is offering a discount to the people who they feel have been significantly affected by coronavirus. Andrew stated "We have all been affected in one way or another by Covid-19 and it has caused distress for a lot of people. As a gesture of goodwill, we shall be offering a **20% discount** for all face to face appointments in both our Totley and Hope clinics."

The people who will be eligible are clarified by Andrew. "We would like to thank all the **KEY WORKERS** who have been caring for us and keeping the country going all these weeks, help care for the **OVER 70'S** who have been disproportionally affected by the virus and shielding because of an increased risk, assist the **STUDENTS** who have had their education put on hold or made more difficult by the lock down and support the **UNEMPLOYED** who are looking for work or have unfortunately lost their jobs due to the pandemic."

The offer runs till the end of August, contact the clinic for more information, terms and conditions 0114 235 2727 or info@activphysiotherapy.co.uk. "We are pleased to re-open and have already seen a lot of people that have needed our help and have restarted their rehabilitation programmes. Hopefully, we can help bring some positivity during these unprecedented times" concludes Andrew.

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Appreciating what we have

During lockdown there have been many dire predictions of how children, particularly children from disadvantaged families, are going to be affected, long into the future, because of learning that they have missed at school. Although there will, of course, be an impact on children's learning and although some of them will undoubtedly find it hard to readjust initially, I do not share these pessimistic predictions.

I believe that children, who are often much more adaptable than adults, will, in most cases, quickly bounce back and make up for the time they have been away from school.

I know that my teachers will weave their usual magic and make the classrooms wonderful places to be, whatever the restrictions they will be working under. It is vital that we approach the new year with our 'glasses half full' with the usual high expectations and aspirations for our children.

This September, like every September, we will have to deal with the almost inevitable learning slump after the summer holidays, and although for some children this will have been a much longer absence from school than usual, we will adjust our teaching to take this in to account.

Every child I have spoken to so far has talked about how much they have missed the routine of school, the interesting lessons and, of course, their friends while they have been at home, and, perhaps for some children, the lockdown has caused them to reassess what school is actually for; I hope so. In more affluent countries, in more 'normal times, it often seems that children simply do not know how fortunate they are, just to have an education, and a really good one at that.

In the past, before the pandemic, we could tell them how they were lucky to have a well-resourced school, with good teachers, but in reality, school was something that they had to do, that every child had to do, so they naturally just took it for granted. Perhaps, at least for a time, there might be a greater appreciation for the high quality education that we have in this country.

For children in countries with lower incomes, they may have a battle just to get to go to school, and they seem to value education in a way that is perhaps hard for us to truly understand, sometimes walking many miles each way to get there, often learning in large classes with limited resources and dilapidated buildings.

In 2010, I was fortunate to visit South Africa during the World Cup, with a group of children, staff and parents from our school, the visit being the winning prize in a football competition organised by Sheffield Wednesday. We visited schools in some of the most deprived areas of Johannesburg, with huge classes and only basic facilities, but the children were incredibly happy to be there. Many of these children lived in shanty villages around the school, whose buildings were constructed out of corrugated iron and other found building materials, crisscrossed with dirt roads and powered by cables illegally attached to overhead powerlines, to which the authorities turned a blind eye.

I remember our group being shown around a settlement like this by one of the teachers and being shocked by the degree of poverty that existed, here in the shadow of Johannesburg's immense skyscrapers. However, I also marvelled at the resilience of the children and their families who overcame these conditions and arrived at school immaculately turned out and ready to learn. According to their teachers, they were delighted to be in school because, for many of them, it was the safest place to be, a place of discovery and, potentially, a route out of poverty.

So, in England, will children have a different understanding about the value of school, now they have been deprived of it for several months? Will pupils, perhaps, go the extra mile with their learning, because they now appreciate what they have? I think that they will.

Many of these children will have done some learning activities at home, some will have done a great deal, but we know that there are a few who, despite many prompts and prods, will have done none or almost none, of the work set. What will be their mindset be as they return, I wonder? Nationally, I am sure that there will be an enormous amount of interest in the answer to this question, as well as a great deal of research in the coming months.

Of course Bradway staff have been planning what the curriculum should look like as all children return to school in September and we are determined to be forward looking and optimistic, with as normal a curriculum as is physically possible, only reflecting on the lockdown if, or when, it becomes clear that it is something that the children want to discuss. We will of course need to assess where they are with their learning and do everything that we can to help them move forward, but then isn't that what every teacher always does when they get a new class?

So in September we will nurture the children when they need it, we will think philosophically about life and we will have fun with our learning, but above all, we will appreciate what we already have.

Paul Stockley (Headmaster)
Bradway Primary School
Follow me on
twitter:@bradwaystockley
Sport Twitter sport@bradway

Please note *that, sadly, for the time being, we cannot make use of our wonderful volunteer workforce in school. We will let you all know when it will be possible for you to return.*

Bradway Primary School Dates for your diary

Wednesday 3rd September
All children return to school
for the **Autumn term**

26th to 30th October **Half Term**

21st December - 1st January 2021
Christmas Holiday

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So, if you have noticed a change in your vision or are having any problems please call 0114 2701423 to come and see us. Please let us know if you are shielding, so we can take further precautions.

I would like to thank our customers, for their patience and understanding in these trying times and we look forward to seeing you soon. Take care and stay safe

From all at Bird's

Wedding day joy for St Luke's couple

Happy couple Elaine and Paul Medley enjoyed a magical wedding day thanks to the support of the team at St Luke's Hospice…and a special dispensation from the Archbishop of Canterbury!

Elaine has terminal cancer and is currently receiving support on the In Patient Centre at Sheffield's only hospice. And when the Handsworth couple decided that they finally wanted to marry after more than 20 years together, the St Luke's team put all their efforts into making it a day for the whole family to remember.

With Sheffield Register Office and the city's churches all closed by the COVID-19 pandemic, however, the St Luke's chaplaincy team had to apply to the Archbishop of Canterbury's Facility Office for a special licence for the ceremony to go ahead in the St Luke's Garden Room.

"It's all been absolutely wonderful and if it hadn't been for St Luke's it would never have happened," said a delighted Elaine, a former nursing auxiliary. After more than 20 years together, I don't think we're going to part with each other now and we just felt now was the right time to finalise things and make sure that everything was properly done".

"It was something we've always wanted to do but it always seemed to get placed on the back burner. I'd been told that if I got to St Luke's I should mention getting married there but I never thought it would happen because of COVID-19 and everything coming to a standstill. But when it was mentioned again, St Luke's set the ball rolling, we spoke to the St Luke's chaplain Mike Reeder who contacted all the right people and it's just amazing that it's actually happened."

Happy couple Elaine and Paul Medley

With the whole of St Luke's working together, staff prepared the garden room for the ceremony, while the St Luke's catering staff also went into action to create the couple a wedding cake.

Between them, Elaine and former police officer Paul have nine children and nine grandchildren, though only a small party of guests were able to attend the ceremony, with everybody observing strict social distancing guidelines and wearing protective equipment.

"I have beaten cancer twice but now it has spread and I know there is nothing more that can be done and that's why this day meant so much to us all," said Elaine. St Luke's is like a wonderful friendly hotel where nothing is too much trouble for anybody. I must admit that I was frightened to come in as I didn't know what to expect but from the minute I walked through the door everybody made me feel so very welcome. The fact that their support made our wedding happen is absolutely amazing and it's a day none of us will ever forget."

John Highfield

Eat out to help out

There is still time to partake. The ''eat out to help out'' scheme aims to provide a boost to the struggling hospitality industry, now that the national lockdown is easing. The promotion gives people a discount of up to 50% when eating or drinking soft drinks in a participating restaurant or other food establishment. It is valid all day Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 3 to 31 August, with a maximum discount of £10 per person.

In participating establishments food and drink will appear on the menu at full price, and the restaurant will deduct the money off the bill and claim it back from the government.

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Bradway Action Group

Chairman: *Chris Morgan*
9, Everard Avenue. Tel 236 9273
Secretary: *Fiona Vallely*
58, Everard Avenue. Tel 236 3991
Deputy Chair: *John Sharpe*
Treasurer: *Jon Smith*
Membership Sec: *Anne Sharpe*
38, Longford Crescent. Tel 236 6388
Committee - elected and *co-opted
Hazel Brand; Les Day;
Nancy Maitland; Ian Robinson;
Peter Smithson;
**John Child* (Community Hall)
**Frank Richardson* (Scouts)
BAG can be contacted at any time by using the form on our website, no need to phone.
Website:http://bradwayactiongroup.weebly.co/contact.html
Facebook: Bradway Action Group

Bradway Fun Day

It is with the greatest regret that we have had to cancel this year's Bradway Fun Day, due to be taking place on 19th September.

The organising committee worked heroically to plan, re-plan, and re-plan again to ensure a safe and distanced event could be held. Much scaled down, no bouncy castles, fire engine, tombola or old bookstall. Lots of sanitiser. Most events free and contactless for what was left.

The Imaginations were working overtime to see what might still be possible. Best mask competitions, maybe an NHS clapathon? The annual dog show survived to the end. The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight's Spitfire (or Hurricane) was considered safe enough.

But try as we might sudden changes in government COVID regulations, both national and potentially local, make it impossible to write a compliant Risk Assessment for such an event – and it might rain anyway! We'd really hoped to provide something to bring good cheer, but are sure Bradway residents and friends will understand.

Nothing daunted, Anne Sharpe and the Fun Day Committee is moving on. They've already started planning for next year's event, on Saturday 11th September 2021.

A typical Bradway Tunnel air shaft. See guide mentioned in Facebook section.

Poynton Woods paths and other outdoor activities

We used to meet about 9.30 on Thursdays and tackled what needed doing until lunch time. Usually it's on the woodland paths but may be on the Old School Field or Recreation Ground and we'll consider other areas. John Sharpe leads this team and we hope to return to work soon.

Like everyone else we've had to complete a new COVID compliant Risk Assessment. In future you should see us out and about in Hi-Viz tabards. We always work very safely and normally keep our distance, of course, so the only other significant change is that we can't share tools – although we normally wear gloves anyway.

Earlier this year there were a number of private hedges that overgrew footpaths around Bradway making safe passing under the distancing guidelines more difficult. When they obstruct the highway, be it public right of way or road, the council have a duty to keep it clear and may cut them back.

Most have now been cut back by the owners. If you think one of yours may be encroaching please consider having it cut back in good time. If left too long it will take a lot longer to grow back. We may consider assisting anyone who needs help, but only if asked. If you might like to join us, or just want to make a helpful suggestion, please contact John by email at; john.c.sharpe54@gmail.com

Streets Ahead – Amey

A truce continues while weightier concerns are resolved!

Planning – the Twentywell Lane Care Home application

The 4-storey building is generally accepted locally as being too big for the proposed position. It's visually unattractive, the parking provision is inadequate and its entrance is potentially dangerous. There have been 147 objections and no submissions of support. To see the strength of feeling look at the Council Planning website and search for application; 20/00492/FUL

It was validated on the 19th February and the intention was for the Council Officers to complete their report by the 20th May. Due to the current situation the date has been pushed back to 31st August. The earliest date they could get it to a Planning Committee meeting would be September or October.

In view of current developments within care homes generally, and also in financial markets, it's quite possible the plans will be changed. It's probable the development may be delayed, but it's likely that something substantial will be built on the site within the next 10 years.

The developers invested a 6-figure sum to get this far and were expecting to commit millions before receiving any income from residents. They had preferred contractors lined up to do the work.

If you want to make an objection it's not too late. They'll be considered right up to the day a decision is made, but the sooner the better. To do so just go to; https://planningapps.sheffield.gov.uk/online-applications/

Beware. The application could be withdrawn, or revised. This site will need to be carefully monitored. We may think it's a bad idea and the planning laws should agree with us. The developers know what they're doing very well. The paid for confidential pre-application consultations they had with the planning department, which has given them a very big advantage. Most developers get what they want, eventually. But not all get all of it, or always.

BAG website

The BAG website is at; http://bradwayactiongroup.weebly.com/ Use the contact us Form or Chairman link to get in touch.

BAG Facebook Group

If you're on Facebook ask to join our Facebook Group. Currently we're adding a lot of new names Lots of lively information, news and opinions about Bradway, its history and residents. Latest hot topic is, of course, COVID-19 in and around Bradway. Information on what's going on and assistance for all manner of things.

Facebook member Alec Willis and I have been researching Bradway Tunnel construction. Alec prepared an illustrated guide that's been linked to the group page. We've viewed 7 of the brick airshafts, but couldn't find the 8th.

Construction was quick. Act of Parliament to authorise passed June 1864, tunnel completed December 1868.

Men worked in both directions from each shaft, but No 0 was opened out to become a cutting at the Bowshaw end. Several of the shafts are on private land and may be too dangerous to view. There will be more about the tunnel in a future Bugle.

We've temporarily relaxed our no advertising rule to help local businesses to get back on their feet and advise of new opening hours and revised facilities.

It has been good to see the exchange of information through the Group during this difficult period. All the old favourite topics about litter, dog poo, bonfires, suspicious characters, offers and requests for help, and more. Almost all has been polite and understanding, unlike some other groups. We try to ensure all applicants either live in Bradway or have a close connection. We also ask them to read and accept some basic rules. Currently 850 people are members of our Facebook Group.

FULL MEMBERS

Many thanks to all who set up standing orders to pay their membership subscriptions for 2020. The small amount of income received allows us to commit to modest projects within the community. Our only other income is any surplus from the Fun Day (hollow laughter in 2020) and voluntary donations. Paid up members have the right to vote at General Meetings and are eligible to be nominated for committee positions.

To join BAG please go to; http://bradwayactiongroup.weebly.com/membership.html or contact Anne Sharpe as above. It's only £2 a year, £3 for households.

Future BAG Activities

Our Annual General Meeting should be at Bradway School on 7th October at 7.15pm.

Whether this can happen is too uncertain to say, but we'll try to arrange a suitably distanced and safe event. What else we can arrange is hard to say. Keep your eyes open for updates on our website, our Facebook page and in the Twentywell noticeboard.

Bradway website is at; http://bradwayactiongroup.weebly.com/ or contact Chairman as above.

Chris Morgan
Chairman

Distanced street party for VE75 Day. No traffic or pollution and look at that sky!

Coronavirus Government grants

Under the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grants Fund businesses and charities involved in those activities with a rateable value of £15,000 or less qualify for a £10,000 grant, and those with a rateable value of between £15,001 and £51,000 for a £25,000 grant. With the grants being 'per hereditament' a local charity with several charity shops is entitled to a grant for each shop.

The Small Business Grant Fund provides businesses in receipt of Small Business Rates Relief or Rural Rates Relief, that is with rateable values of up to £15,000, with a £10,000 grant. Eligibility under both schemes for a grant is not affected by the organisation's financial position. The grants are being administered by local authorities.

At the beginning of last month about 1,600 Sheffield retail, hospitality and leisure businesses had not received a grant, largely because they had not applied. To find out more and to access the online application forms log on to www.sheffield.gov.uk/coronavirus.business

Grants are being paid directly into eligible businesses' and charities' bank accounts within a few days of applications being submitted.

St Luke's Hospice

St Luke's is still here and still caring for Sheffield despite many challenges to the way we operate. From acquiring PPE, to providing support for care homes and the homeless, St Luke's teams have been finding new solutions to maintain and improve services across Sheffield.

Our teams are busier than ever, still visiting patients in their homes as well as here at Little Common Lane - today we are supporting 426 patients plus their families and carers across the city. And whilst we're still faced with many concerns and uncertainties about the future, with the public's support we can get through these tough times.

A huge 'thank you' to everyone who has taken the time to share their good wishes with us, and to the many people and organisations who've sent us everything from surgical masks to pizza and chocolate, and of course much needed financial donations – including a steady rise in regular gifts being set up which are a very effective way to support St Luke's and secure our future.

These kind gestures not only lift our spirits but also help us to maintain our ability to care for patients with terminal illness, both now and in the future.

Peter Hartland
Chief Executive

History of House Names

This article was first published in issue 363 of Current Archaeology (June 2020), www.archaeology.co.uk

There is something distinctively Pooterish (mundane) and suburban about the house name 'Sunnyside', and yet a newly published British Academy monograph by Laura Wright reveals that land tenure records dating back to AD 1200 frequently use the name to distinguish between the sunny side and the shaded side of cultivation plots.

The phrase was adopted by Nonconformists during the Reformation as a metaphor for counter-establishment values, and as a sign of being blessed or saved - crossing from the dark side to the light. In the 18th century, the use of 'Sunnyside' was still restricted to a network of Quakers who used the name as a coded signal to fellow religionists.

As late as 1859, the Londoners using this name were all of a Nonconformist bent. Only in the sun-worshipping decade of the 1930s did the name blossom as an expression of a cheery and optimistic approach to life used by those innocent of its earlier dissenting symbolism.

Laura's book *(Sunnyside: a sociolinguistic history of British house names)* is a revelation, packed with entertaining and revealing facts about house names, which prove to be a rich field of study, despite past neglect by place-name scholars, historians, and linguists as if, says Laura, the Fernleas, Oakdenes, and Fairholmes were not worthy of systematic study.

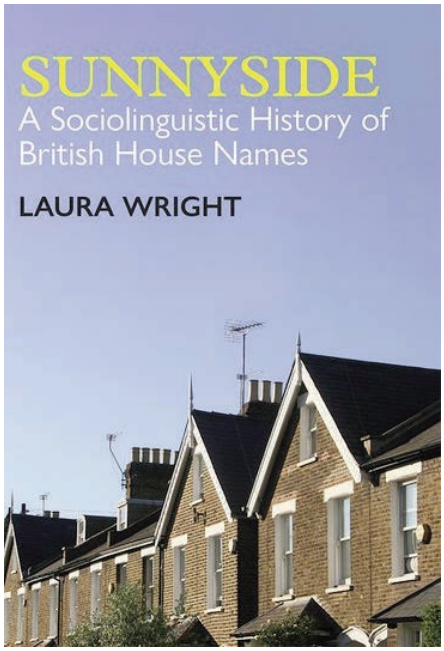
House names are found in medieval deeds and wills, a few dating from before the Norman Conquest. Early examples tend to be named after an owner (Sabelinesbir: Sabeline's House), a distinctive feature (Brodedor: Broad Door), or a function (Taninghus: Tanning House).

This pattern held good until the 14th century, when heraldic emblems (lions, crowns, boars, swans) were routinely used as house names, reflecting the rise of middle-class merchants and manufacturers who used such symbols on their seals and adopted heraldic devices for personal use that had previously been used for dynastic purposes by the nobility.

Aspirational Names

Brewers, too, used these names and symbols for public houses, which is where they now survive, whereas medieval building names were largely abandoned in the capital in favour of numbering after the passing of the London Street Act of 1762.

With the growth of the railways and of urban housing estates from the 1840s, new house names were adopted that mostly fell into one of five categories: a name transferred from a previous property or estate (Hanover Lodge); a nostalgically rural or nautical name (Orchard House, Elm Tree House, Primrose, Fairwinds, Treetops); a



commemorative name (battles, such as Trafalgar; people - including family members, such as Adaville and Shirleydene - and role models:

Wycliffe House was so named by a theologian in Twickenham after John Wycliffe, the translator of the Bible into English); names associated with the nobility and upward mobility (Grosvenor House, Claremont, Windsor); and names reflecting the latest fashions or literary best sellers (Gothic House, Waverley, Manderley, Cranford, and Sleepy Hollow - the latter a popular story by Washington Irving (1783-1859), better known for his tale 'Rip Van Winkle').

House Names Today

Today you can call your house whatever you like, within the bounds of decency (a personal favourite is the - sadly fictional - Australian outback farm called : 'Didjabringabeeralong'), but the name has no official force: the street name, number, and postcode are what enables your address to be located swiftly and accurately by the emergency services, Royal Mail, and other authorities.

Numbers tend not to work in the countryside, where yours might be the only house in the lane, so names still prevail. But apostrophes are banned from address databases and satnav systems, to the fury of the grammar purists.

In Wales, much debate surrounds the use of English names: Welsh-language activists have demanded a law requiring home and business owners to seek planning permission before changing a Welsh name to an English one. Since this would fall foul of human rights legislation, it is never likely to happen but the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales does maintain a register of historically attested names (*historicplacenames.rcahmw.gov.uk*), that is much drawn upon by local authorities for naming new streets and housing developments.

Laura's book includes a gazetteer of all the dated historical examples of the use of the name Sunnyside, which she illustrates with clips from maps of various dates

Christopher Catling

Sunnyside: a sociolinguistic history of British house names is published by Oxford University Press, 250 Pages with 209 figures and illustrations, price £65 ISBN: 9780197266557

Ed. My house name is Amberley, after Amberly Castle in Sussex, which I once grandly hoped to own. Have any readers new or different house names with an interesting background story?

Local Pubs and Beer

Lockdown closed the pubs entirely other than being permitted to operate as an off licence selling drinks and food to enjoy at home. With the vast majority of brewery's business wiped out overnight, those that could adapted to cater for the drink at home market and are still doing so.

Locally Abbeydale Brewery sell online with home delivery of beer in cans and mini-kegs, whilst Drone Valley Brewery are taking orders for their bottled beers via the Brew2You app. Delivery is also available from Eyam, Bradfield, Triple Point, Peak Ales, Thornbridge and Chantry Breweries for those wanting locally brewed beers that cannot be obtained from Supermarkets.

If you are wanting your beer a little quicker then don't forget our local specialist bottle shops such as The Beer Stop in Dronfield, Mitchells at Meadowhead and Archer Road Beer Stop in Millhouses remain open. Or for an immediate delivery (at a premium cost!) there are a number of pubs, bars and restaurants offering delivery via the Citygrab app run by City Taxis.

Since 4th July some pubs have been able to reopen, however going out for a drink is a little different at the moment with publicans creating a Covid-Safe environment in line with government guidelines.

Key points are you must have a table unless outdoors, offer contact details for NHS Track & Trace and observe social distancing requirements (which includes maximum party sizes of 2 households indoors and any 6 people outdoors). And you should remain at least a metre apart. Some venues have opted to move to table service (how civilised!) and/or implemented one way systems around the premises to aid social distancing.

Locally the Castle Inn and Shepley Spitfire are both back open serving food and drink with choices of tables indoors and outdoors. If you are looking further afield volunteers from the Campaign for Real Ale have been adding reopening dates and social media links for more information about individual pubs on their national online pub guide whatpub.com

Andrew Cullen

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Neighbourhood Watch

We are well into the pandemic now and about the only good thing about Covid19 is the reduction in the crime around our area. Not only have most of our residents been adhering to the lockdown but the criminal element as well.

Our local Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) have been very active during the lockdown especially in the Sharrow and Endcliffe areas as shown by the newsletters they produce. We have a new temporary Inspector Louise Kent, along with Sergeant James Marshall at Woodseats and PCSO Katie Gavin has taken over the Bradway area whilst PCSO Ken Blake has now responsibility for Jordanthorpe. Details of all our PCSO's contact details are now showing on our Facebook and web page.

Now as we enter the next phase with restrictions being relaxed and local businesses reopening, social distancing becomes of prime importance for our elder residents. Unfortunately, the sense of invincibility the youth benefit from can lead to potential dangers for others.

Most of those I have come across are behaving extremely politely but a few have been causing some problems on the recreation areas and parks. The images we have seen on television of the mountains of litter following days out at the beach or the Peak District are being replicated by a small element locally. Of more concern apart from the rubbish are the number of gas canisters and balloons left behind, indicating a more sinister past time. Please warn your teenagers of the dangers.

The main criminal activity in Bradway in recent months has been the number of incidents involving theft from vehicles. Over a two-week period over seven cars had things stolen from them, many had not been secured and often the owners did not report them to the police but posted the incident on Facebook. Please always report the crime whatever the reason so the police can direct their activities to stop the criminals where possible.

On a few occasions the crime was captured on CCTV although the participants have become much more aware and generally cover their faces. However, it is sometimes possible to identify them from any distinctive clothing or footwear if the images are clear enough. We have made representations to hopefully have a dedicated link to the police for CCTV footage involving criminal activity like that for Dashcam footage, we await some response.

Hopefully we will be able to resume our lock checking activities soon, to those of you who have already contacted me I have not forgotten you and will hopefully have seen you by the time you read this.

I am sure most of you will have received some sort of potential scam during the lockdown, with many starting to get them on your mobile phones as well as landlines and computers. Some are so obviously scams that they can quickly be ignored or deleted, whilst others have become much more sophisticated and therefore potentially dangerous.

Not all the rogue emails are so obvious, but many try to get you to click on a link which will almost certainly infect your computer or give access to it. Many involve messages saying your message service needs updating or your account has been closed and to click a link to rectify the problem. Never do so, it is the simplest way to infect your computer.

When was the last time you changed your email password, all our members got an email from me recently warning that a bogus email had been sent out supposedly from myself? One member even queried if I had sent it and got a reply saying yes from the hacker. Luckily my wife got the same bogus email and checked with me.

It turns out my email account had been hacked and I had to change my password, which I had been using for just over a year. It prompted me to review all my passwords that were over a year old.

Please be aware and stay safe.

Regards

Les Day
07985 424363
Les_nhw@hotmail.com

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The Bodger takes the Stain

Despite the easing of lockdown restrictions, and being in the "at risk" age group, I continued being reluctant to leave the house during the summer. Already getting a bit fed up with gardening and small DIY jobs, the poor weather at the start of July prompted me instead to spend more time inside on the computer.

One task was to make further progress with a book I'm writing about a subject close to my heart. It's been in the course of preparation for some years, but is now nearing completion.

Having pretty much completed my research, I spent many hours proof reading and adjusting the formatting. Although I still have the index to finalise, inevitably the last job, for security I decided to save a copy of what I'd produced so far to a DVD. Disaster struck!

I must have inadvertently pressed something I shouldn't, for all at once the formatting went completely awry on both the original document and the copy. So far as I could see, all the content was there, but gaps had appeared all over the place and the document was now about 40 pages longer than it had been. Of course, if I'd had my wits about me, I could just have pressed the "undo" button a few times, but I'd been at it for much of the day and it was late. Utterly distraught, I switched off and went to bed.

Needless to say, I couldn't sleep. Mulling it over in my mind, I recalled that the problem seemed to have occurred as I was separating the draft index from the main part of the document to save just the latter, when, for some reason, I lost the page numbers. Although I'd managed to get them back again, perhaps that was where the problem lay.

I got out of bed and started again. Looking at the document more closely, I noticed that the bottom two lines of text on the first page had transferred to the top of page two. Then four lines of the original had transferred from page two to page three, and so on. What had caused me to lose two lines of text on each page? I then discovered that in restoring the page numbers I had mistakenly added space for headers and footers to each page. I tried deleting them, and bingo, the formatting was restored!

Much relieved, I went back to bed and slept soundly, apart, of course, from the usual problem of having to get up two or three times during the night!

But that wasn't the end of my troubles! Another consequence of being confined to barracks has been the inability to get hold of greetings cards to send to familymembers. Reluctant to resort to emails, I've instead taken to making my own. Having completed the design my latest effort, I switched on the printer, only to receive a message that I had to replace one of the ink cartridges.

Surprisingly, I was actually quite pleased about this. A few weeks earlier, I'd had to replace another of the cartridges, but had forgotten to give it a quick shake before doing so in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. This was an opportunity to rectify matters. After removing the empty cartridge and shaking and inserting its replacement, I removed the one I'd changed earlier and gave it bit of a shake. What a disaster! Ink everywhere! It never occurred to me to put a cap on it.

There were drops on my desk, all down

my leg (luckily, I was wearing shorts at the time) and worst of all, all over the carpet. My legs and desk cleaned up easily enough with soap and water, but trying to remove the ink from the carpet just made matters worse. I got rid of much of it eventually, but the stain will now be there as a permanent reminder of my stupidity. (I bet you thought the heading was a misprint!)

Thoroughly unnerved by this experience, it then took me three attempts to print the card so that the greeting inside was in the right place and the right way up! I hate computers!

The Bradway Bodger

Sheffield Photographic Society 2020 / 2021 Season

Weekly Programme Of Events

The Society's new season of weekly meetings will commence in early September 2020, but the Covid-19 situation prevents us staging meetings in our venue at St Peter's Church, Greenhill.

After successfully completing a series of summer meetings via the on line Zoom Video Conferencing system, it has been decided to hold all our meetings for the first part of the season (September to December) on the Zoom system.

Visitors are welcome to join us on any of these zoom meetings. For a copy of the programme, plus details on how to join our zoom meetings please contact:

John @ gorman.j@blueyonder.co.uk

Totley History Group

As we have seen, hopefully, the worst of Covid-19 and the country begins to get going again the Committee has been considering the future activities of the Group. We had hoped that we might be able to resume with our planned September meeting followed by an AGM in October.

However, as we are getting more information regarding the shape of the post-pandemic world it would seem that plan will prove to be optimistic.

It seems unlikely that the Library, or any similar venues, will be available to hold meetings for some time because of the continuing need to meet social distancing requirements. As a result of this the Committee has decided, reluctantly, to cancel all meetings for the rest of the year. At this stage we are hoping that we can resume our meetings programme from January onwards but we will be keeping abreast of the guidance available as the year unfolds.

Had the AGM gone ahead in October an important agenda item would have been the future of the Group. Whilst the Group's activities remain popular, and we are in a sound financial position, there is an urgent need for new people to come forward and help with the management of the Group.

The current committee members all have been in post for a number of years and recent requests for new members to come forward have fallen on stony ground. A majority of the current members had been planning to retire in April, had the AGM gone ahead then, and in the absence of any new committee members coming forward the Group may have had to consider dissolving itself.

The Committee is now hoping to be able to hold the AGM in April and the future of the Group will be the main topic for discussion. Those Committee members intending to retire this April still intend to retire whenever the next AGM is held.

In view of this the meeting will be open to non-members and we hope that anyone who might be interested in helping to ensure the Group's future will be able to come along. The eventual date of the meeting will be made known via our website, www.totleyhistorygroup.org.uk and the Bugle

If anyone would like more details about what being a member of the Committee entails please contact me at n.rolfe@btinternet.com.

Norman Rolfe

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Down at the Farm

Like so many local charities, there's more to Whirlow Hall Farm Trust than first meets the eye. Our focus is on helping challenged youngsters from across the city make the most of their potential – whether that's finding ways to keep a troubled 6 year old engaged with school, helping a 12 year old understand and control their emotions, or ensuring a 22 year old avoids the isolation that can be a fact of life for many youngsters with autism.

We help dozens of such children and young adults each year, changing their lives for the better. In addition we host thousands of children on day and residential visits, giving them new experiences and the chance to bond with classmates and teachers.

However, providing effective services in a safe environment is now an expensive business. So at Whirlow Hall Farm Trust the operation enabling our charitable work is a complex one that extends way beyond 'education provider'.

By necessity we're also a proper working farm - it's the outdoor space, meaningful physical work and livestock that make our educational and nurture programmes so effective for kids. The farm is productive, but we're small scale and so selling into the national food chain is never going to be viable, and anyway doesn't fit with our 'keep it local' ethos. So we are also a shop and butchery enabling us to sell home-reared produce direct to local customers, a service that is increasingly difficult to find.

The open farm environment also makes us a popular place to meet, or for weekend and holiday visitors; the play areas provide a welcome distraction for kids. Hence we're also a café that has become well-known for great coffee, breakfasts and Sunday lunches. But even that isn't enough to balance the books, and so we are an event organiser too, hosting open days, wedding receptions and comedy nights in order to raise the funds needed to make ends meet.

With all of those activities going on, we are also a significant local employer, with a core staff that is doubled by those who help out with the seasonal activities such as Christmas Tree sales. Our diversity means we can offer employment opportunities to those starting out with their first weekend job, all the way through to those who have 'been there, done that'. That's a great mix to have. We're also lucky that there are so many wonderful volunteers who do all manner of tasks week in, week out. So as well as an employer, we are a place where others can meet and 'give something back'.

So it will come as no surprise that the restrictions needed to control the Covid pandemic have had an enormous impact on the Trust – not a single area has been unscathed.

Most worrying has been the effect on the youngsters we help – breaking routines, distancing the positive influences and increasing isolation. Our education team has adapted our Alternative Provision programmes for young adults to provide as much support as possible on line and through socially-distanced home visits. Where need is greatest and we can effectively manage

New bull calf Skirrid part of a new small herd of Dexter beef cattle.*

the safety issues, we have provided carefully controlled attendance at the Farm. But the framework to support 'at risk' primary and secondary school kids disappeared when schools closed, as did the demand for day and residential visits to the farm. That has been incredibly sad.

And of course we had to close down almost all of our activities, losing a huge proportion of our fundraising ability; no weddings, no Summer Fair, no off-site events, no café, no playground - no income. Like so many businesses and charities, that puts us in a perilous position. We've also had to close the farm to volunteers and ask visitors to stay away.

For many, time spent at the Farm each week has been an essential part of their social routine for years, and the impact of its removal only increased as lockdown continued. We have tried to keep folk connected by sending out regular updates on farm life, but they are a poor substitute for the real sights, sounds and smells!

Thankfully we have been able to keep the shop open throughout, and this has proved a lifeline to customers and a vital source of funds for the Trust. When it became obvious that we could do more to help those who were isolating, we quickly got a home-delivery service up-and-running so folk can order and receive great local produce without having to leave their homes.

Now we are gradually reopening our other activities, albeit we're having to adapt; normal' is still a long way off. We will continue to expand our Alternative Provision for individual youngsters, but it will be months before school groups return – there is so much catching up to do in the classroom that trips away are way down the list of priorities.

Our café is now offering takeaway drinks, cakes and ice-creams, and the hot food service has been replaced with a weekend BBQ stand. We've opened the Hall Garden so that, as well as our Bottom Yard picnic benches, there is plenty of room to spread out. We've taken our shop online to make ordering easier for customers.

The old way of showing visitors the Farm – in groups of 20 or more – is no longer workable either and so, thanks to an incredibly generous donor, we now have a small tractor and trailer to take 'bubble' groups on tours instead. These have proved a godsend to families who want to get out and do something for fun. Finally, our farmer has bought a small herd of Dexter beef cattle – that's our smashing new bull calf Skirrid in the photo - to add interest for visitors to both the farm and, in due course, the shop.

But despite the gradual progress, the future remains extremely uncertain. As a result we have been forced to take some really difficult cost-saving decisions, particularly those that have led to staff redundancies. The team have been incredibly selfless and pragmatic, but it's been a horrible process, particularly for those whose connections with the Trust go back many years. The rest of us owe it to them, as well as to the kids we support, to work flat out to ensure the Trust survives the difficult times ahead.

We hope that the diverse nature of what we do, and the great support of people from across the region, will ensure that this local institution – which offers so much to so many – will be here to help the region's youngsters for years to come.

Ben Davies
Chief Executive
Whirlow Hall Farm Trust, Whirlow Lane, Sheffield, S11 9QF
Tel: 0114 2250 161
www.whirlowhallfarm.org

*Ed. * The Skirrid is a hill in Monmouthshire, a place of myth and legend and strong religious connections.*

TOADS

Hello everyone. I hope you are all keeping safe and well, and managing to cope with the lock-down. It's certainly been interesting. If you're anything like me you now have very tidy cupboards and very clean rooms!

Sadly there has been no Toads' play to keep us occupied during this time, no lines to learn, no props to source, no set to design and build, and it looks like this will continue for the foreseeable future.

We have had to cancel any thoughts of a play in November, as things are far from stable. This is the very first time that I can remember – or even EVER – that Toads has been unable to put on a play for a whole year!

However we are still your very own local am-dram society and God willing, we'll be able to put on a play in May 2021. We are all keen to get going again. So don't forget us. To coin a phrase "WE'LL BE BACK" !!

Anne Bettridge

Bradway Scouting

Overview.

Not being able to meet face-to-face has presented some challenges. Fortunately, there was a lot of help on the Scout HQ website. One initiative in particular asked us all to take part in a "hike to the moon" by logging the miles that we each walked on St. George's Day. The reported miles were added together and associated donations raised more than £700,000 which was shared by Children in Need and Comic Relief.

The result got English Scouts not only to the moon, but also back again: the average distance to the moon is 238,855 miles and Bradway contributed more than 100 towards the grand total of 471,843. OK, that didn't get us the whole of the way back, but gravity helped us on the final lap.

Group Jubilee.

The planned celebration of our 50th anniversary on June 20th, as advertised in earlier editions of the Bugle, obviously could not happen and so it has been postponed until June 19th 2021, when once again we shall invite anyone who has had any connection with the Group across those 50 years to come along. However, the specially commissioned T-shirts had already been produced. Once these had been distributed they provided a stimulus to holding an on-line event, involving Beavers, Cubs and Scouts wearing them – in their own homes and not on the school field with hundreds of former Scouts.

In the week leading up to Friday 19th, the youngsters were set challenges. One was to camouflage themselves against a background of their choice and to submit a photo: interesting interpretations included one wearing all white hidden in a bath, one disguised as a cushion on a sofa, and one in a Spiderman suit hidden among other Spiderman paraphernalia. Another challenge was to make a paper plane to a set design and report how far it could fly both indoors and outside.

The final challenge was to pitch or construct a "tent" to sleep in overnight on Friday, either outdoors or inside. And finally, they were asked to produce a small video of themselves catching their neckerchief thrown from their right, then throwing it on to their left. These were all stitched together into a sequence that appeared to show a single necker being thrown around multiple Group members. The resulting hilarious short film is worth watching and a copy has been sent to the parents of every Beaver, Cub and Scout.

A combined Zoom meeting of all the youngsters kicked off on the Friday evening with an inevitably lengthy review of submitted results from these challenges. With more than 30 participants most of the time, it was tricky keeping everyone focussed – but that was part of the fun. Nick Taylor's Fruit Salad Solar System calmed us all down, before a "wide game" was presented, consisting of asking the youngsters to gather certain objects around their "tent" where they were to be photographed - with their feet in water.

Some obviously slept so soundly in their tents that they didn't wake in time to join in the Saturday morning pancakes-for-breakfast challenge (modified in one case to a waffle) – again all sharing their efforts on Zoom. The event ended with a review of photos available at that point. These, plus others that came in later, have now been loaded onto the Bradway Scouts website. The Scouts then had time to recover so as to be in good form to spoil their dads the following day – Fathers' Day.

Other Activities (not many)

Apart from all that, the absence of face-to-face meetings on Tuesday evenings led to Scouts holding the meetings on Zoom. So far we have not risked using this technology for break-out groups, which will allow them to work in teams instead of simply as individuals: there are some safeguarding issues for the Leaders to resolve before we embark on that.

Meanwhile, it seems that it is not simply the activities provided on these evenings that pulls them in, but also the opportunity to "see" all of the others at the same time, and to interact with one another or merely to witness how the others are interacting - a small, early release from lockdown.

Cubs and Beavers also kept going with occasional activities e-mailed out, to be completed in their own homes. We have been advised that age-related movements from Beavers to Cubs, and Cubs to Scouts may be deferred if that will give time for the youngsters to complete certain badge work.

Very late news is that we have completed the risk assessment process required by Scout HQ which allows us to resume face-to-face activities but only in small groups and only out of doors. We are now arranging Leader cover for days out throughout the school summer holidays – taking in cycling, hiking, water activities and possibly even a short camp.

It will be great to be back.

Frank Richardson
For Bradway Scouts

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Finding Peace In A Garden

A local stately home has reopened: only the garden, by timed ticket and with social distancing in place. I don't mind a few restrictions so, anxious to experience a bit of fresh air and to see plants at their best, I set out for a pre-booked visit, complete with my camera, a face covering and my own food and drink.

I only had a few miles to drive, day-long outings are impractical and everything was properly organised. The car park was nearly empty, there was contactless entry, and helpful signs directed my route round. All I had to do was follow the rules, enjoy the plants and flowers, and experience a remarkable garden.

The site is divided up into garden 'rooms', each with its own planting scheme and separate personality. These include formal areas with carpet bedding, herbaceous borders, a lake and a wild 'forest' garden. The set route meant that I followed, at a safe distance, an elderly couple who hesitated at each feature.

Couples do not match, like china dogs. In this case the lady was fit, alert, the gentleman much less well.

I'm sure he enjoyed the outing, in his own way, but his moves were hesitant and the lady took his hand. Keeping my distance, I could not help but overhear her describing many of the flowers, for his benefit.

"Smell this dear, I'm sure it must be Hidcote lavender. See the lupins; remember we had some like that?

Such wonderful alchemilla and peonies, beautiful sweet peas, the roses, foxgloves, a white wisteria…" The gentleman, probably her husband, enthusiastically received each piece of information and nodded.

"Yes, dear. Most interesting... Yes, dear. Thank you for your help. Yes, dear. What a delightful day."

There were begonias, geraniums, antirrhinums, lobelia, petunia or poppies but always the same answer.

"Yes, dear. Most interesting... Yes, dear. Thank you for your help. Yes, dear. What a delightful day."

The listing of plants went on; some of them were not to be seen, but always the same polite response. "Yes, dear. Most interesting... Yes, dear. Thank you for your help. Yes, dear. What a delightful day."

The lady was entertaining her companion by sharing gentle conversation. It didn't matter what was said.

There came a point where the paths separated; being more agile I could do nothing other than go ahead. I greeted my fellow plant lovers as I passed; the lady was immaculate, the gentleman's tie a little askew.

She smiled but it was clear that the gentleman was not of this world, his mind had moved on elsewhere.In response to my "Lovely day!" he went to reply. "Yes, dear. Most…" but she gently patted his hand.

How we cherish conversation, companionship and the closeness of a loved one, despite any difficulties. I had seen and heard something more precious than all the expensive treasures inside that stately home.

I have a condition which means I cannot cry but I hurried through the kitchen gardens to the lake and found refuge beneath the weeping willows. They descended into the dark ripples of time, as will we all.

That couple were making the most of each moment; I hope that they have many more outings together.

It's good to find folk who are loving, gentle, polite, grateful even, when the energy of youth has flown. I wouldn't be a guide next year, telling school parties that the mansion was built on the Slave Trade.

There were monsters in centuries past; we still have monsters today, but you can find peace in a garden.

Robert Smith

Robin on peanut feeder.

Bradway Birds

Shielding, eh? From March through June, I wasn't allowed out because I was in the shielded group; if I caught COVID-19, I would probably die of it. Even from July I have had little more freedom, because I couldn't allow myself to meet the virus head on. In any case, The Castle was closed and Abbeydale Brewery was doing home deliveries.

So first hand nature experience was limited to the garden and a view from the back bedroom of Rosamund Avenue's lowest curve. By leaning further out Totley Moss could be seen, exotic in its tropical distance.

A mass of dry, sunny weather helped, as did day after day of above average temperatures. It was good to see butterflies in the same high numbers as in the previous two years. Especially encouraging was their number this year, because the previous seven months had been mild and so wet as to break lots more local records. Such conditions are bad for pupae to survive and hatch-out, because mould and decay can run rampantly.

Peacocks and Small Tortoise shells danced in April, Small Whites appeared from May, together with a few dainty Holly Blues. Above all, the Orange Tips had a long season, starting early in April and still visiting into June. The all white females were looking for sites to lay eggs. Then they died, and that's it until the new adults of spring 2021.

We had a drawn out and tense battle with squirrels. The squirrel-proof nut holder finally succumbed after five years of constant effort and biting fit to break anyone's teeth. We hung it on a string from a branch, impossible to reach. The beast managed to leap on, from four feet below and at a forty-five degree angle. Another scrambled down the string!

We tied the nuts to a tall feeder with a central pole and a host of metal curlicues six feet up. No problem. The squirrel waltzed up the pole. Next came an expensive baffle, wide and overhanging, four feet up. More flying leaps and squirrel made the top of the baffle and headed up to the nuts.

Up went the baffle to its highest point and pole and baffle were coated with horrid slimy Vaseline. After much geometrical assessment, squirrel gave up jumping. It tried hard to climb the pole, reaching out to get finger tips on the baffle rim and haul itself up, but Vaseline was the magic addition. Too slippery, and clearly disgusting to the squirrel as it shook its paws, tried to clean them and scowled.

We realised that two wood pigeon pairs are roosting in the garden. One pair is always in the back, and takes great exception to either of us sitting out. Each dusk two more arrive in our front cherry tree and scramble around clumsily before finding the right sleeping spot.

One back garden pigeon gave me a sight I've never seen or heard of before. Pigeon was sitting on an exposed branch when a sparrowhawk flew in to the same branch. Female hawks are large, and will kill pigeons. Males are smaller and rarely tackle pigeons.

Nevertheless, to be on the safe side all birds panic in such circumstances and flee. Not so this pigeon. The hawk landed next to the pigeon, a hand breadth away, but pigeon seemed unperturbed, and eye-balled the hawk. After a slight pause, the hawk flew off. Well done, pigeon.

The wood pigeons manage to use the feeder, teetering, reaching out and down, nearly falling off but taking some food. The ferals, though lighter and sleeker, never use the feeder. To the annoyance of small birds, a wood pigeon will often use the feeder as though it is a bush, providing a handy "relax and watch" point.

Our garden always contains blackbirds, one of six or so species that are never absent. They don't use the feeder or even try to, though they do eat bits dropped by birds above. A song thrush, however, landed every day for weeks, standing on one of the metal arms and lunging at the fat. I was pleased, because on the ground blackbirds routinely chase thrushes and must reduce their breeding success.

Crows are always around as well, but despite their intelligence and adaptability, thought the curlicues were

beyond them. Not so the magpies, which hung on with one leg and madly rotated the opposite wing whilst seizing fat. Lots fell to the grass for the blackbird.

Jackdaws also appeared, a pleasant surprise and evidence of how birds reconnoitre their localities. They were able to hang on like giant blue tits, after a bit of practice.

Coal, blue and great tits are all adept on every part of the feeder. We even had visits from a marsh tit, in sober black and grey, a species on the red data list, ninety percent down in forty years. I knew some live in Dore, but it was lovely to see one just a few yards away.

The dunnock wasn't very good at following the tits, but the sparrows and the robin were quick to learn and showed plenty of skill. Full marks to the robin, a plump bird with thin legs.

A sunflower seed hanger with two access points attracted a pair of showy goldfinches, which took a side each in considerate marital fashion. Every day they arrived, but showed no interest in the half coconut of fat.

In the May issue I was very gloomy about the Everard Avenue starlings. However from mid-May, after months of absence, increasing numbers turned up in the garden. They probed the lawn for small worms and grubs, as is their fashion. After many an upward glance, they had a go at the bird feeder. For a bird primarily adapted to running and poking, they were impressive. Not equally so, for some remained at the stage of lurching and widely flapping. Most learned to hang and feed acrobatically.

Goldfinch on bird feeder.
Picture: Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

In the last ten days of May, they brought their young and we had a squalling mass of up to thirty birds. Babies started by standing near and pushing at parents, squawking with wide open beaks. Soon they learned to feed themselves, and at times a bunch of a dozen juveniles would be on the feeder by themselves. They allowed us to watch them from two or three yards away. All used a flight line directly to and from Everard Avenue, and their recovery is welcome. Most adults brought three young with them, which is a fine breeding success, and coming early in the summer should be followed by a second brood.

Our blue tit nest box has been used successfully for years. As usual, a pair was in and out dozens of times daily until May 22nd. Then came avoidance, but without a weather, squirrel or woodpecker problem. Closer inspection showed a takeover by tree bumblebees, which have been in Britain for twenty years. Unlike American Cray fish, they brought themselves here and seem to be benign enough. However, they do like nest boxes and the blue tits weren't putting up a fight. The bees have a white bottom and a back of lovely chestnut fur.

The tits are still around, and are flying around a disused great tit box. We hoped breeding might be rescued. It was. On June 2nd, baby blue-tits were all over the garden, eight of them. This is excellent, for the parents changed location and still brooded in double quick time.

Ironically, the bee nest failed at roughly the same time as the blue tits appeared. Conditions for bees have been perfect, with so many flowers so full of nectar. I suspect the queen died and that would finish the nest. She integrates and motivates the whole community. There must be a tree bumble bee nest somewhere close, because they were in our garden all through June.

On the feeder, all the small birds gave way when the woodpecker zoomed in. It was top of the small bird pecking order. When a magpie or jackdaw appeared, the woodpecker left. It was bottom on the big bird pecking order.

John Kirkman

Murphy's lesser known laws

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

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Beauchief Environment Group

Despite the many difficulties over the last few months, the largely favourable weather during the period gave those able to leave the house the chance to enjoy our environment. Environmental benefits from the unprecedented conditions included more wildflowers and more audible bird song than usual.

After our last Monday morning session on 16 March, we resumed on 20 July under conditions agreed with Sheffield City Council to minimise the risks associated with the virus. These conditions include the volunteers being split into sufficiently small working parties, and measures to ensure social distancing regarding both ourselves and the general public.

Since the resumption, we have worked in the area around Beauchief Allotments, where activities included the following:

* removing invasive dock flower heads and ragwort;
* trimming grass and other vegetation encroaching on saplings to encourage growth;
* litter picking.

In addition to continuing with similar activities, our work in the near future will include trimming grass and other vegetation encroaching on the public footpaths in the area, with the help of the Council.

We will continue working under current conditions on Monday mornings from our base at Beauchief Abbey Barns until guidance changes. We occasionally run working sessions and events at other times but none are scheduled during the next few months.

Please see our website www.beauchief-enviromentgroup.co.uk or call 0114 236 9876 for more information on the group, including news, events and how to become a member.

Jon Smith

Tree monitoring Volunteers

Sheffield Street Tree Partnership is seeking volunteers who are passionate about trees and wildlife in general, to help on Sheffield's new exemplary Street Tree Strategy, which they will be delivering.

Sheffield is known nationally for its street trees, many of them planted over 100 years ago by the far-sighted community leaders of the time. However, maintaining and increasing the canopy cover of those street trees, taking into account their increasing age and the emerging disease threats to them, requires the support of the whole community.

The network of volunteers will help monitor the health of existing street trees, including supporting the planting and care of new young trees. They will also help to influence the planting of additional young trees, their location and species selection, contributing to an improvement in the environment of your neighbourhood, and Sheffield as whole.

Volunteers will be asked initially to commit to 30 hours per year to deliver core responsibilities, but there is scope for more should individuals choose.

Information on what the role involves and how to express an interest can be found on the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife trust web site,

https://www.wildsheffield.com/sheffield-street-tree-partnership/

Bearded Vulture over Howden Moors
Picture by Will Bowell

Our overseas visitor!

The last UK record of a bearded vulture was on Dartmoor in 2016. The bird that has been spotted in Derbyshire is an immature wild bird which we believe it has come from the Alps.

It is the rarest vulture in Europe and is listed endangered, so getting the opportunity to see it here in the Peak District has been an amazing experience for bird watchers.

It is normal for young bearded vultures to range across huge areas, often outside of typical breeding habitat for the species in mountainous areas such as the Alps or Pyrenees.

As long as the bird continues to find food and a safe roosting site, it might not feel the need to move on for the moment. There is however a real concern for its safety due to raptor traps set by game keepers and possible disturbance by sightseers.

Sign up to take action for insects today and you will receive a free wildlife gardening download from Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust. Packed full of easy to follow advice and tips to help you create a wildlife and insect-friendly garden, plan your garden and choose the right plants. Advice to stop using harmful chemicals inside your home and in your garden and make lifestyle changes that will benefit insects.

For more information and to sign up visit wildsheffield.com/afi

Go peat free for wildlife

Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust are urging people to go peat free in their gardens to help wildlife. As part of their Action for Insects campaign, which aims to change the future of insects, the trust are asking people to make small changes in their gardens, homes and lifestyles, that will help insects and other wildlife. Peat has been a major ingredient of the compost used in gardening for years.

Peat is made up of decayed organic matter and vegetation, developing slowly under particular, wet conditions over thousands of years. Peat is found in wetlands such as bogs and moors, and its composition makes it home to a unique ecosystem. This peat is dug out of wild places, damaging some of the last remaining peatlands in the UK.

When it comes to climate change, peatlands are vital. The excess carbon in our atmosphere is causing the planet to heat up. Peat bogs act like a sponge, absorbing carbon from the atmosphere and storing it like a sink.

But sadly, more than 94% of the UK's lowland peat bogs have been destroyed or damaged, and a wealth of wildlife has disappeared along with it. This vital habitat isn't easily replaced.

Insects are arguably the most important species on the planet for the essential ecosystem services they provide, from pollinating the majority of our food crops to providing a key food source for many other animals. Sadly, insect populations are now suffering worrying declines, with 41% of species currently facing extinction.

We now have a critical chance to reverse these declines by creating better insect habitats in our gardens and reducing our use of pesticides, or even better by going pesticide free. But we also have an opportunity to protect important places for wildlife every time we buy our gardening supplies.

By committing to only buy peat free compost, you will also be helping to protect these precious wildlife habitats and vital assets in the fight against climate change.

Peat bogs are home to all sorts of plants, including colourful sphagnum mosses, insect-eating plants, and curious plants such as 'butterwort' and 'bog myrtle'. They also provide an environment for rare dragonflies, spiders and other invertebrates, and a feeding ground for birds, such as golden plover, meadow pipit and skylark.

So before buying compost, always ensure it's peat-free – this applies to potted plants too.

Well Dressing Diary 2020

Regrettably, many planned events in 2020 have been cancelled as part of precautions against the spread of the covid-19 coronavirus. You can find out more at www.welldressing.com where details are regularly updated.

The Gardening Life

It's been a rollercoaster gardening year so far, and life at the nursery has been full-on since the last issue. We've raced from shutdown (would we ever open again?) to home deliveries (can we keep up?) to re-opening (a manic few weeks) and a frantic bedding season (we actually sold out!). Everything was fast moving except compost, for which we had endless waits!

Luckily, just as we were thinking that we couldn't keep up the pace, the Great British Summer arrived. Wind and rain, grey skies and cold soon dampened everyone's enthusiasm and meant that we could find some time to catch up on outstanding jobs and get some potting done. To be honest it almost feels like autumn is fast approaching - the whole year seems condensed into a few frantic months.

In with the new. Whether you've been taking out old plants, or simply filling gaps in your beds and borders, it's been a tricky year to establish new shrubs and perennials. The hot and dry spring meant the soil was bone dry; more recently, the wind has given things a battering and the weeds are just loving the rain.

Whenever you are putting in new plants we do try and encourage you to prepare your plant and the soil it's going into. Here's what we do:

*Soak the plant in a bucket of water while you get the ground ready. This ensures the rootball is really moist and able to sustain itself while its roots grow out.

*Using a fork, thoroughly dig over the planting area, breaking up the earth and removing weeds and large stones. Prepare an area wider than the plant's rootball, as this will make it easier for the roots to get going.

*If you have it, dig in a little compost too - as well as enrichment, it'll help with water retention during the early stages of establishment.

*Now, using a spade or trowel, dig the hole for your plant and pop it in.

*Water well. This is very important as it settles the soil around the plant and ensures the roots have good contact.

*If you're planting a tree or something else tall, now is the time to add support. This doesn't have to be a tall stick - what you're actually trying to do is stop the rootball from moving in the soil as the top of the plant sways naturally.

Slugs. Many of you seem to have been plagued by these this year - it must be a combination of the mild winter plus the damp, warm conditions since. One customer has collected over 250! The question is - how do you stop this happening again next year?

Bowden's Hostas, Chelsea Gold Medal winners, have some useful advice. They say they put down pellets once, on Valentine's Day, to catch the first batch of slugs. Thereafter they use a garlic wash – simply boil garlic in water, strain, cool and spray onto the plants. Give it a go!

Planning for spring. Now is the time to consider your spring garden and think about popping in some bulbs – daffodils in Sep/Oct and tulips in November. With careful planning you can have colour from January through to May!

On the nursery. All our tunnels are now empty as it's just too hot – 40 degrees on a sunny day! So we work outside as much as we can, but have had to spend some time indoors sowing biennials and perennials for next year, e.g. Lupins, Foxgloves, Hesperis. These will be overwintered in 9cm pots before being potted up next year for spring sales.

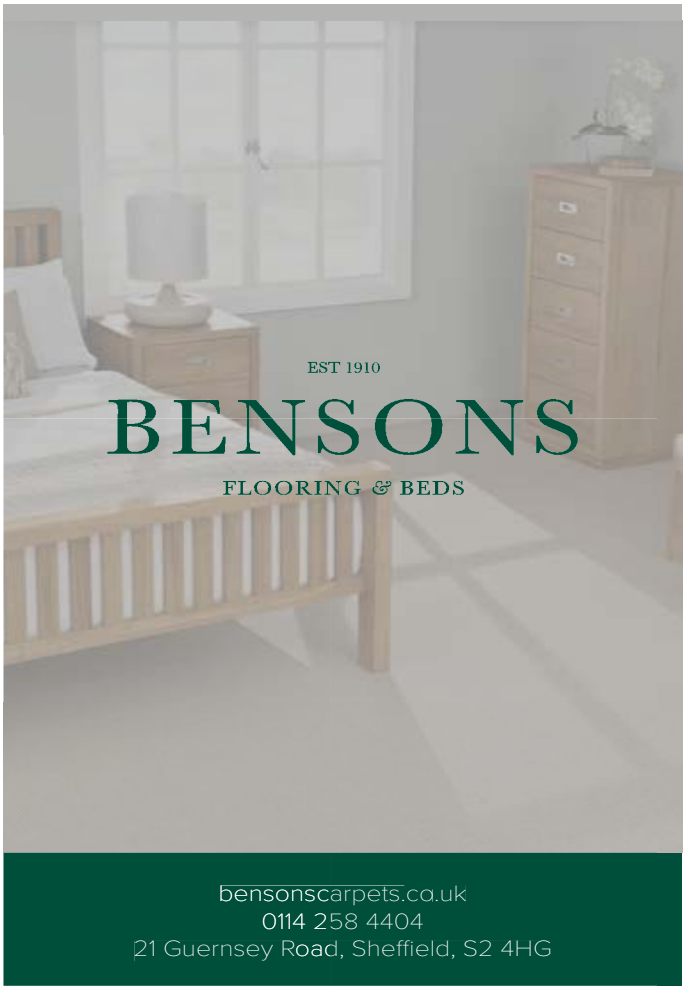
A bit more time on our hands has meant that we can get into the garden to weed, fill empty spaces and rework other bits. It was planted four years ago now and we now have a chance to review whether all the plants are working hard enough – like you, we have our troublesome areas too!

Millthorpe Nursery

Longshaw Sheep Dog Trials

In order to guarantee that the event from the 3rd to 5th September can follow Government Safety Guidelines, access to the site will be restricted to competitors, members, patrons and life members associated with the event.

The organisers greatly value the support of the public and are very sorry that you will not be allowed onto the trial field this year, but sincerely hope to be able to welcome you back in 2021.



The Steelmen of Sheffield
Thomas Jessop

Many readers of the Bradway Bugle may feel a connection with this 19th century Steelmaker if they were born at the Jessop Hospital, although you may have little idea just how great a legacy this 'steelman' left behind, particularly for the women of Sheffield.

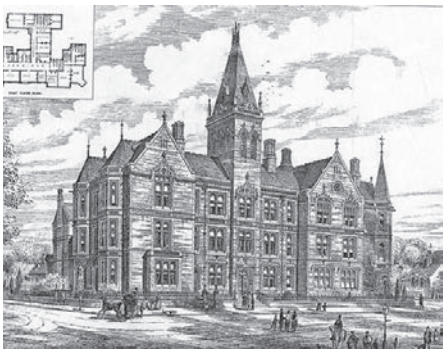
The Jessop name has been associated with steelmaking in Sheffield as far back as 1774. Thomas Jessop was born in Sheffield on 31 January 1804, one of seven children born to William and Rebecca Jessop. His early years were spent at Blast Lane, near the current Victoria Quays where the Jessops lived in a cottage adjoining the family crucible steelworks which William had founded in the 1820's.

Thomas began an apprenticeship as an Edge Tool Maker but as his father's business grew he, along with his brothers were found roles in the firm. William made sure that all four of his sons were given a good grounding in the trade and this seems to have paid dividends as the William Jessop and Sons family business thrived. They specialised in making cutlery steel for the rapidly expanding North American market.

William died in 1835, from which time it was largely Thomas and his younger brother Sydney who took the business forward. By 1871, Thomas was the only surviving son and largely through his aggressive approach to business (several competitors had been bought out and taken over) the Jessop steelworks had grown to be one of the largest in Sheffield. It had relocated to a huge site at Brightside covering 30 acres, featuring six waterwheels and 28 steam boilers.

Thomas married Frances Yates Hope in 1848 and they had six children; a son and five daughters. Their home was Endcliffe

Thomas Jessop (1804-1887)



Jessops Hospital for Women

Grange, already a substantial building which, through further extension work, became one of the most desirable residences in the wealthiest suburb of Sheffield.

Thomas dabbled with local politics from 1843 when he was Councillor for the Park Ward until 1848, when he retired from the town Council to concentrate on the business. He returned to politics to serve as the Lord Mayor of Sheffield between 1863 and 1864. He was also the Master Cutler in 1863, which made him the first 'steelmaker' rather than a 'cutler' to be awarded that honour.

Thomas inherited Thornseat Lodge, another substantial property, built at Bradfield in 1855 following the death of his brother Sidney, in 1871. Thomas spent several summers there, using it as a shooting lodge and the location for regular 'high society get togethers'. Thornseat Lodge had witnessed an earlier disaster at the nearby Bradway Reservoir. This was the 'Great Sheffield Flood'. A poorly constructed embankment gave way on the newly constructed dam as it was being filled on Friday 11 March 1864.

The failure of the 30 metre high Dale Dyke Dam led to the reservoir emptying in less than 50 minutes, causing the deaths of up to 300 people as almost 700 million gallons of water raged closely past Thornseat Lodge, through the Loxley and Don Valleys then into Sheffield. Coincidentally at that time, Thomas was the Lord Mayor of Sheffield and he quickly set up a relief fund that raised almost £50,000 for the families of the disaster. It is said that Queen Victoria personally contributed £200 to the fund.

Despite all of the several good causes that Thomas Jessop was associated with, it will almost certainly be his role in establishing the Jessop Hospital that makes him known by so many Sheffielders. A small six bed hospital aimed specifically at the poorer women of Sheffield had been set up at Fig Tree Lane in 1864 by a group of medical practitioners, led by the Ecclesfied based GP Dr James Aveling. However, it was Thomas Jessop's £30,000 donation that allowed this to be relocated at a larger site at Leavygreave Road and growing as it did.

Opening on 22 July 1878, The Jessop Hospital for Women developed into a famous medical institution, eventually becoming renowned as a maternity hospital. The hospital had been a centre of midwifery training since the 19th century and gained a great reputation for its maternity services and in 1978 it became an approved NHS School for Midwives. There have been several extensions over the years, culminating with a final phase of building during the 1970's that took capacity to over 200 beds.

Medical services moved out of the building in 2001.However, the name still lives on as the maternity hospital at the Royal Hallamshire is called 'The Jessop Wing' meaning that the new born of Sheffield can still be referred to as a 'Jessops Baby'. Sheffield University now owns the site and after partial demolition of the newer buildings in 2007 all that survives are the two earliest buildings, which have Grade II listed status.

As well as founding The Jessop Hospital for Women, Thomas was a co-founder of Sheffield Technical School, an early version of Sheffield University and contributed to many other causes.

Thomas died at the end of November 1887, at which point Thomas' son, William took over the running of the company until he died in 1905. Since then the business continued to develop, undergoing mergers with other companies and was one of the few large steelworks not to be nationalised during the 1960's. The Brightside Works was closed in the 1980's, demolished in 1992 and is now the site of the Jessop Riverside Business Park.

It was said that all of Sheffield seemed to mourn his passing, with up to 1,000 people attended Thomas Jessop's funeral. That number included around 700 of his workers from the Brightside works, walking down Brocco Bank and up Ecclesall Road, making it one of the largest funeral processions that Sheffield had ever known. He was buried, like many of his steel owner contemporaries, at Ecclesall All Saints Parish Churchyard.

Thomas Jessop clearly has his place on the list of Sheffield's most important and generous benefactors. Next time we look at the contribution of another famous Sheffield name, J G Graves.

Glynn Burgin

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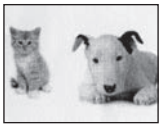

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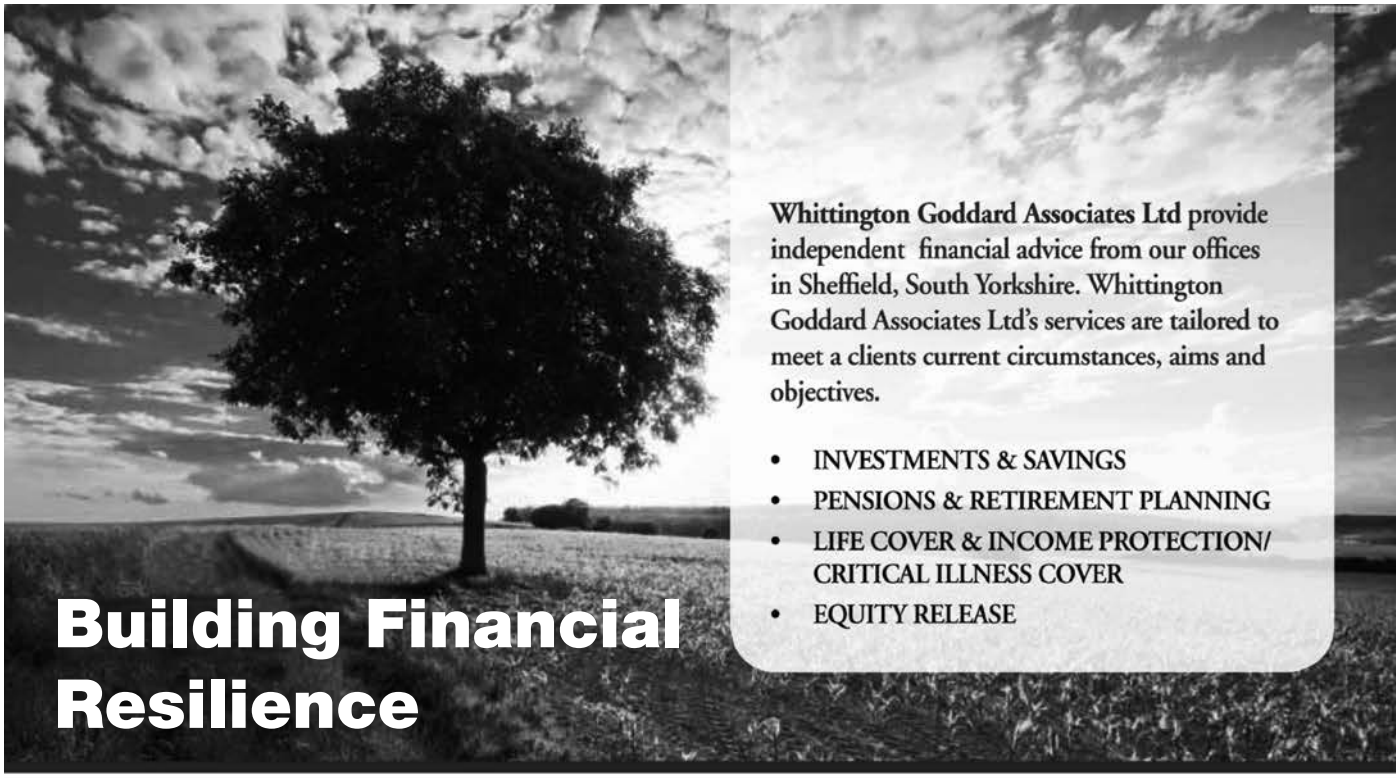

Building Financial Resilience

One notable theme evident throughout the coronavirus lockdown has been 'back to basics' with people displaying an increased appetite for the simpler things in life. While not everyone has fully embraced Tom and Barbara's 'Good Life' philosophy, home baking, gardening and knitting have all enjoyed a notable renaissance.

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Lockdown lessons

Back to basics has also become a key personal finance theme. The economic impact of the pandemic has clearly resulted in many people's finances becoming severely stretched. As a result, a significant proportion of consumers have sought to change their financial habits by reducing expenses and becoming more mindful spenders.

Dealing with debt

While good budgeting skills have become a necessity, it's also important not to ignore debt. Many have benefited from mortgage and other debt payment breaks, but these will not last forever. Going forward it's vital to keep up with repayments or, if you are struggling, consult a debt adviser. When it comes to lingering debt, the worst thing anyone can do is nothing.

Financial fragility

Sadly, for some people, the pandemic has highlighted the fragile nature of their financial safety net. The last few decades have seen the burden of responsibility increasingly shift from state to individual, which has increased the importance of protection products in order to maintain both your and your family's financial security in uncertain times.

Rainy day funds

The pandemic has also highlighted the need for emergency savings. If you don't have any, regular savings schemes can be a particularly good way to accumulate rainy day funds. If you do have savings, make sure you shop around for the best available rates rather than leaving funds stagnating in poorly paying accounts.

Long-term goals

Although it's extremely easy to focus solely on short-term financial needs, it's also important not to lose sight of other financial goals. While finding money to fund longer-term plans such as retirement savings can be difficult, the cost of delay can ultimately prove even more expensive.

Help at hand

The last few months have shown we never really know what's around the corner and also demonstrated the importance of being financially prepared for what may lie ahead. If you need assistance strengthening your financial resilience, please get in touch.

The value of investments can go down as well as up and you may not get back the full amount you invested. The past is not a guide to future performance and past performance may not necessarily be repeated.

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Keith Hill 1938 – 2020

We are sorry to report that Keith Hill, Dore & Totley ward councillor for 15 years, died in June.

Keith was born in Hull and educated at Hull Grammar school acting with contemporary Tom Courtney in school plays. After studying history at university he qualified at a teacher working in Hull and Stoke on Trent before moving to Brussels to teach at the American International School. It was there at the Brussels British Squash Club he met his wife Angela, marrying in 1967. Subsequently they relocated to Zurich where Keith again taught at the American international School.

In 1971 they returned to the UK as Keith wanted to teach in the Comprehensive School system. After working in Telford, Keith became a Deputy Head at a school in Quorn, Leicestershire before coming to Sheffield in 1980 as Head at Beaver Hill School. He was there for 7 years followed by a further 7 years as Head at Carter Lodge School. Keith retired in 1995.

After retirement Keith became involved in local politics and most people will know him from his time as a local Councillor. His motivation was to help his local community rather than any deep seated political ambition, being first elected in 1999 before retiring in 2014.

Keith served on a number of committees including as Chair of the South West Community Assembly when these had a large budget and influence on the way money was spent in the local areas. He also served as a Governor of King Ecgberts for a long period. But it was case work he most enjoyed with many local organisations and individuals benefitting from his help.

His acting career had a revival during his time as a Councillor most notably starring in party Pantomimes. Keith was also as talented artist, his doodles in long meetings often portraying other members in the meeting, but not always in the most flattering light! After stepping down from the Council he was able to devote more

Keith Hill 1938 – 2020

time to this hobby and as a member of a local art group he exhibited some of his work. He was also able to spend more time with his supportive wife Angela on their narrow boat navigating the canals of England.

Keith was a stalwart in the community and will be very sadly missed. He leaves wife Angela and children, Dan, Alex and Ben

Colin Ross

Agewell Leisure Club

Meetings continue to be suspended due to Covid-19 and at present there is no date set for their resumption.

When and if we are able to return to normal (or the new normal) all members will be contacted individually and advised on the measures we will be putting in place to allow social distancing and a safe environment and the role they will need to play to achieve this.

Our return to the new normal may not depend only on government rules but also when members feel confident to return, but let us hope that time is not too far away.

In the meantime, please all stay safe, keep well.

Stuart Sawyer Tel. 236 9830

Totley Library

Totley Library opened as planned on Monday 13th July for the new "Order and Collect" service. We were the first library in Sheffield to welcome back library users and what is even more remarkable is that the service is run entirely by a committed group of volunteers.

At the time of writing we have just completed our first two sessions and it has been lovely to see so many familiar faces. We have had a steady stream of customers returning books, checking out how the new system works and placing orders for new books. In just two short sessions we have made up orders for 36 library users and dealt with many enquiries. It is early days and we are continually reviewing how we can adapt the new service to meet the needs of the local community.

We recognize that is it disappointing for our library users not to be allowed into the library to browse for books, use the computers or attend community events but be reassured that we are actively looking at how we can move on safely to the next phase of opening up in line with Sheffield City Council and Government guidance. In the meantime, we have a great stock of books including lots of new best sellers and you can view what we have available by going to the website www.totleycric.org.uk. For details about the service, see below.

How the service works: Initially, we are only able to lend books (maximum of 5) from the Adult Library. Our opening times for the service are Mondays 2 - 4pm and Fridays 10am – 12 noon.

You can search or browse online for the books we have in stock at Totley Library by visiting the website http://www.totleycric.org.uk and following the links to Totley Orange Sticker Catalogue and the Sheffield City Council libraries Catalogue. Order forms are available at the library or from our website. If possible, please email your requests to totleylibrary@gmail.com. You can also order by telephone during opening hours (tel. 0114 236 3971).

Please do not use the council system to place holds on books as this service is currently not operating and we only have access to books held at Totley. It is important that when searching for books, make sure you set the search location to 'Totley Library'

We will do our best to fulfil your request but in the event of your book choice not being available, we reserve the right to offer you an alternative. If you need help in choosing suitable books our library volunteers are happy to make recommendations based on your previous borrowing history.

Collecting orders: Monday orders will be ready for collection on Friday. Friday orders will be ready for collection on the following Monday.

Please bring your library card with you when you come to collect your order. If you are asking someone to collect books

for you, please ensure that they have your full details and library card number.

Following current Government and local guidance in relation to COVID-19 we have had to make many changes in the way we operate to ensure everyone's safety. Totley Library is a voluntary run organisation: we are currently operating with a reduced number of volunteers, and we ask for your patience as we try to establish the new service.

Please note that -

- Books should be returned and collected from the foyer of the Library.
- You can browse for books online via our website but you will not be able to browse in the Library
- Books will be quarantined for a period of at least 72 hours when they are returned
- We have Risk Assessment in place and will follow current guidance to ensure that the service operates in a safe manner both for our library users and volunteers
- We ask you to respect the social distancing signs
- PN computers, printer and photocopier will not be available for use
- The public toilet will not be available
- We are unable to take any book donations until further notice.

The future: This service is the first phase of a plan aimed at a full restoration of library services. Another objective of this phase is to increase the availability of volunteers to the level that will be needed to operate later phases. The second phase will allow greater public access and will include limited browsing and access to Public Network computers, along with photocopying facilities. Plans for this phase are still being formulated and a critical factor will be the level of social distancing and other hygiene factors required at that time. It is unlikely that this phase can be implemented before September.

The third phase which will be the "new normal" allowing fuller use of all library facilities and a restoration of community activities. The timescale for achieving will depend on the successful controlling of the Covid-19 pandemic which cannot be predicted accurately as yet. The advice received suggests that earliest likely implementation date for this will be January 2021.

We hope in the near future that we will be able to extend the opening times and provide books to our younger readers. We look forward to welcoming you back and hope you will again enjoy borrowing new titles, old favourites, audiobooks and large print books.

Totley CRIC website We will endeavour to keep everyone posted about any new developments through our website – keep an eye on it at http://www.totleycric.org.uk/

Summer Festival of Fun

Sheffield's Children's University are offering free activities for children up to 28th August. For more information go to http://sheffieldcu.blogspot.com/

Phil Harris

Jenny Bland

Gilbert & Sullivan Society

It's all very strange, No concerts or shows to publicise but the Society does have some very sad news. In the last edition I reported on the loss of Ken Jones's wife and now I have another loss I am so sad to report. It is that of Jenny Bland.

Jenny was a pillar of strength in everything she did. She was a very talented lady who worked with me to set up The Troubadores, the concert party arm of Dore G & S society. We set it up so that those talented performers who did not get a principal role in a show had an outlet for their skills.

It served several purposes; it helped the society to hang onto these people until the next set of auditions, It gave us a focus during the period between shows and has helped to raise several thousand pounds for a variety of charities including St Luke's, The Helen's Trust, Barnardo's, The Children's Society and supported many church funds.

The Troubadores would not have existed without Jenny who was well known in Dore and Totley having lived with her 3 lovely daughters for many years on Causeway Head Road and later on the corner of Glover Road, Totley Rise once the girls had flown the nest. She was also vice chairman of the Society for many years

She set up a project called The History Van which visited schools with interactive teaching of history and which is now run by another G & S member, Kathryn Parkin. Jenny died of Motor Neurone Disease, a devastating illness but she never gave up fighting it and was active and supported many activities as well as Gilbert and Sullivan societies until the disease won. We will all miss her very much.

Jenny is not the only friend who has died of MND. Her funeral was an unusual affair in that we could not attend in person but there was a webcam feed from the crematorium which we plugged into so were virtual attendees. It was an excellent service with her three daughters each contributing to the memories; a difficult job done extremely well. I hope a cure for MND can be found soon.

Let us hope also that a vaccine for this nasty covid19 virus is not far off so we can all get back to normality. The day that we can gather to rehearse can't come soon enough.

The society's plan is to begin rehearsals in January if we are allowed with a view to performing the show at The Merlin Theatre in April 2021. The show will be "Patience" the operetta which we were supposed to have performed this year. Fingers crossed. Until then, stay healthy, keep busy and enjoy what you can when you can.

Derek Habberjam

South Sheffield Church

This Church has now opened its doors again on Sunday mornings. Safeguarding procedures are in place so that anyone from the community wishing to attend can feel safe. Everything is up on screen and hymns can be listened to even though the singing of hymns is still banned. Unfortunately, weekly community gatherings are still not able to commence.

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Journal of the Plague Year by Daniel Defoe

The last time there was an outbreak of bubonic plague in Britain was in 1665, when thousands of Londoners died. Samuel Pepys famously talks about it in his diaries, and Defoe wrote a whole book on the subject, which was published in 1722. Academics argue about whether his Journal is a novel or non-fiction, as the story has a first person narrator who apparently is the author and witness to events; Defoe was only 5 in 1665, so it cannot be his factual description.

However, the text is signed by H.F. and Defoe had an uncle, Henry Foe, who was a saddler in London, whose journal may provide the basis for the book, so it could be a transcription.

It is the events which are interesting to us today. As with Camus' The Plague, there are many similarities in the reaction of the authorities to the outbreak, reactions which we recognise today. Isolation of infected people, along with their families, was mandatory. They were locked into their homes, and watchmen posted at the door.

Defoe describes them climbing out of windows, leaving by back doors and climbing into neighbours' gardens, sending the watchman on shopping trips for food and then breaking out, so isolation was not as complied with as it is today.

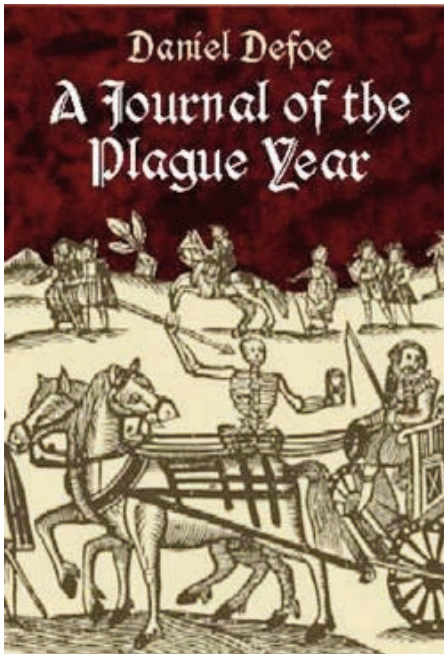
On the other hand, the mortality rate was somewhere between 70% and 90%, so perhaps it is no wonder that no-one wanted to be shut up with anyone who had it, particularly if it was a servant, for example, but even in the case of one's own blood relations. It was a sentence of almost certain death.

Later, the narrator describes the growing suspicion that some people were asymptomatic but still infectious which made locking up those with symptoms less than efficacious. He discusses the possibility of testing people by better methods than searching them for 'buboes', or smelling their breath.

In one paragraph he suggests 'by the party's breathing upon a piece of glass, where, the breath condensing, there might living creatures be seen by a microscope ... ' which sounds perfectly sensible to our 21st century ears. The sentence goes on, however, ' ... of strange, monstrous, and frightful shapes, such as dragons, snakes, serpents, and devils, horrible to behold.'

The narrator is sceptical about the process, and other suspicions grow. He begins to wonder whether early cases may have been hushed up, and whether some of the poor may have been 'foolhardy and obstinate', desperate for work of any kind, and feckless. He praises the Lord Mayor and aldermen who collected and distributed money and food to those who were in need.

The rich had mostly left the city as soon as the outbreak was confirmed, and retired to their country houses. Others also ran away later, but villages outside



the city often blocked the roads and refused to allow Londoners to pass through.

As the numbers of weekly deaths began to come down, survivors began to mix freely, and there was a second wave of cases, but not on the same scale.' A kind of herd immunity had possibly been reached. The narrator says that afterwards 'anyone that had seen [the people] then would have thought they would have come together with another spirit at last', but no.

It was not long before class, wealth, religion, and general competitiveness returned and society went on as before.

Felicity Skelton

Ed. Sounds familiar today.
Note in particular that last sentence!

WEA classes

We're still here, if not in the flesh!

As we move into the height of summer, some of our thoughts start to turn to the autumn and what we might want to learn this coming year. While the WEA took the difficult decision to suspend all face-to-face classes nationally for the autumn term, we have also been practising all summer with hundreds of online presentations.

The autumn term promises many of the usual classes, plus a number of other projects which have been tried and tested over the last few months.

So what does this mean for our language students? Well, instead of our usual venue, St John's, Abbeydale Road South, a good range of courses will be available online, in Spanish, French and Italian. Of course, you will also be able to access other courses from all over the country in many subjects, as the online world is opened out to you.

But should you choose to maintain the 'local' presence, in preparation for the day when we are able to return to the physical classroom, please contact me to discuss which courses are originally Sheffield-based. And please talk to me if you're not sure how you feel about studying online.

To talk to me about the available 'local' courses, email me at sylviamay@gmail.com or phone/text me on 07958 940821. To book by phone, call 0300 303 3464 or go to wea.org.uk (but don't put your postcode in or you will miss the wide range of subjects available online). You never know, you might find something completely different to study - as well, of course, as your favourite local language class!

Sylvia May

NOW and THEN

Where Nostalgia for the Future Is Not As Forecast.

PLATFORM SOUL

Among the many things about which one has the time to muse these days, is the catchpenny quality of television 'content warnings'; the more they strive to be clear about the content they are warning you about, the more they seem like an indirect challenge.

What pray are 'Moderate Themes' for example and why would we need to be warned about them if they are moderate? It's true that 'Somewhat Less Than Adult Themes' might be just as accurate if somewhat misleading, but in groping for clarity, it's clearly possible to circumvent viewer discretion and cross the line into enticement.

Such warnings are a relatively modern phenomena of course. The television programming available to Bradway residents in the 1960's (courtesy of the BBC, Granada Television and the ABC Network) relied instead on a mixture of limited material, the notable absence of home video recording equipment, 'watersheds' and even 'parent amnesties' to put the brake on the most voracious child's imagination.

On weekdays, the early evening golden hour of children's shows ended abruptly in a buffer zone of boredom (the six o'clock news followed by more talking heads). Whether by design or accident, it was enough to drive the kiddies into the arms of other more localised and tangible entertainment away from the cathode ray tube.

We were, however, still sponges for moving pictures. During those years, the televisually deprived (i.e. everyone under the age of 11) were known to frequent local shopping parades on a Saturday morning in the hope that they might catch a BBC2 trade test transmission through an electrical retailer's window. I watched the Zambesi dam being built so many times, I probably know it better than the original surveyors.

All this is to ensure that when this column issues its own, low key, sensitive and thoughtful 'reader advisory', it has expunged every last vestige of potential reverse psychology. If you don't want to know the final score, look away now.

It's not working is it; you're all still here

Let me put it another way - some of you might be reading while indulging in the Double Rich Tea Biscuit Integrity Test (Dunking Division), eating sardines out of the tin or enjoying some other guilty pleasure involving a little known and from your unique perspective, underappreciated food combination. If you are, perhaps it might be best if you skip the next paragraph and join us again at the one after that.

You won't miss anything graphic, but sometimes, no matter how sensitively handled and no matter how apposite the anecdote, the past can produce a memory or a picture that lingers unwanted. That image almost always has something to teach us, or it wouldn't keep coming back. But at least I can now rely on your own discretion to choose your own time and place to meet it, if at all.

I don't know then, if your continued reading into this paragraph makes you hardy, inquisitive or just a sceptic. Suffice to say that the anecdote in question proves a relatively innocuous point; that community is what people do, not what they live in.

I learnt this on the open platform of a Sheffield Corporation double-decker bus in 1961, returning from a trip into the city with my Mother. We had sat upstairs at my insistence to enjoy the view. As smokers were then herded upstairs by order, the heightened perspective came at the price of swimming through a thick blue haze nicotine drenched smoke which on this occasion induced a general lowering of childish intestinal fortitude to the point of queasiness. My Mother was quick to pick up on the situation but our stop, almost outside our house on Bradway Road, was already the next one.

She eased me down the swaying stairs in front of her as we passed the bottom of Birchitt Road in the hope that the fresh air of the open platform would delay matters, and we nearly made it in time. Nearly. Ultimately, 'nearly' was not good enough for anyone attempting to board or alight by leaping across the spectacularly emetic evidence of an upset stomach. The key to this story however is what my Mother did next.

Clearly mortified but with great presence of mind, she asked the driver to pull up outside our house some fifty feet away while she fetched a mop and bucket from our kitchen. I don't remember if the rest of the passengers gave her a standing ovation when she had thoroughly cleansed the platform, but the conductor would cheerfully have lead such spontaneous acknowledgement of community spirit.

And so it was that at a tender age, I learnt that the essence of community is its non-volitional nature. It took me longer to work out that if you start to choose with whom and how you are communal, what results is a network rather than a community. But the first seeds of understanding were laid in my Mother's actions that day. Luckily for me and hopefully for you dear reader, it is her actions that linger rather than the memory of what caused them.

Now that many are working from home, the chances that networks will be conflated with communities of people is rising. We often claim that we know the difference between the two but that was when we could keep them safely separate in discrete areas of our working and domestic arrangements.

Networks, even social networks, have a more pragmatic approach to shared interests, focused at the shallower level of what is defined as desirable; an interest, a goal or sometimes a demand. Contrast this with communities who are at their most visible when they come together over more fundamental matters, such as the shared elements of survival; warmth, food, medicine.

These days, health is communal while work demands more of networks (electronic and professional) than ever before. Yet, when the demands of one clash with those of the other, it is the communal that claims the most attention and has the most immediate need. This is proof, if proof were needed, that broadband, Big Pictures and wide screens are no defence against narrow definitions of what is most important.

More to the point, now we've all got platforms we can take a stand on, if we accidentally make a mess of it, it's good to remember that a big heart and a mop and bucket can go a long way to cleaning things up.

Chris Sheldon

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Organic Wildlife Gardening

During lockdown, many people have spent more time in their gardens and some TV garden programmes were geared to suggestions as to what they could do. I watched some of them out of interest, but found them very boring and at times quite silly. None of them were much help or related to wildlife gardening. It seems most people couldn't wait for garden centres to open - mainly so that they could buy bedding plants to fill all the empty spaces in their gardens.

Previously, there had been a news report saying that if the wholesale nurseries growing these plants were not able to deliver them to the garden centres because of the Coronavirus Pandemic, they would lose millions of pounds. There are many of these wholesalers, some with land covered huge areas, with some of it under glass. These plants will need regular watering and, in all likelihood, fertilising during their growing season. When they are ready, they are distributed to the hundreds of garden centres and other outlets on huge juggernauts, covering long distances.

The production and transport of what must be millions of these plants will have a huge Carbon Footprint but, in the autumn, most, if not all of them, will be thrown away. What a waste, and with no real benefit to wildlife. This land could be used in a much better way by producing organic food or being allowed to return to a more natural state or, even, re-wilded.

In my garden the wild Daffodils, Wood Anemones and Primroses appeared in March. In April 18 other varieties of native flowers bloomed, including Wood Forget-me-not, Greater Stitchwort, Greater Celandine, Red Campion, Wild Garlic, and Ladies Smock. Sweet woodruff, a hedgerow plant, had seeded itself between some logs where Lesser Celandines should have appeared, which was rather a shame, but they did look nice and the Celandines had seeded elsewhere, though only as single plants.

Fungus on a tree stump with fading Jacobs Ladder, Foxgloves and a single White Deadnettle which has escaped from its patch

The area of White Deadnettles had increased to three fairly large patches and the shade loving Yellow Archangel that bloomed in May had gone on the rampage. They are both extremely popular with bees, but will need some control before they take over the whole garden! However, while it all looked somewhat chaotic, it also looked very spring-like and natural. I particularly loved the unplanned arrangement of Herb Robert, Greater Celandine, Wood Forget-me-not and Bugle in a small area around the base of one of the felled Alders!

I will certainly be happy for nature to take its course in future, while restricting the bullies if necessary. Nature seems to be able to produce much more delightful results than any garden designer.

While many different native flower species (53) were blooming in my garden by the middle of June, the amount of fauna was disappointing. Having said that, more Orange Tip Butterflies were around in a greater number by the end of April this year compared to last year. There were also holes in the leaves of the Garlic Mustard plants on which they lay their eggs and on which the caterpillars would have fed. Many small bees visited most of the different species of flowers including Bugle and Brambles, which are both very good plants for wildlife. However, there were only a few Bumble Bees.

One day, I noticed a tiny moth among the meadow grass by the pond and, later, what I think must have been a Cricket. I was surprised and delighted, but it flew off towards a Hawthorn tree and then, much to my amazement, a Dunnock that was on a nearby hedge flew across and caught it on the wing. Amazing and disappointing at the same time, but nature has to take its course!

More uplifting was that, after several years, it was good to see a hedgehog in the garden again one evening and I am hoping it will stay around.

I was pleased to read an article regarding the plight of our insects from the local Wildlife Trust in the last Bradway Bugle, encouraging us to support insects in our gardens. They gave a download link to their information pack "Your Guide to Taking Action for Insects" (available from the Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust website) in which they outlined some the actions we can all take - in particular, keeping hard-standing to a minimum and planting native flowers.

There was a list of planting ideas, but I was surprised and disappointed that, according to the "Collins Photoguide to Wild Flowers of Britain and Northern Europe by the late Oleg Polunin", quite a few of these were not native flowers which really are the best option for our idigenous species of insects and for preserving the UK's very specific ecosystems and biodiversity.

Cats have been a serious problem in my garden again recently, especially to the birds, and it has been difficult and time consuming to block off spaces under the hedges without closing access for Hedgehogs. I do wish owners would fence off their gardens like a neighbour did here some years ago. Her fence was so high I actually wondered what sort of cats she was keeping!! Cats do so much harm to birds and other wildlife, killing millions of them each year and their droppings are very unpleasant too! They may make lovely pets, but our wildlife is more important to our survival.

Springwatch this year, like many TV programmes was on "lockdown", but was excellent. Filmed in different locations from Scotland to Cornwall, the presenters, including Chris Packham, gave viewers a huge amount of very interesting information on the wildlife in their home areas and the photography to accompany them was outstanding.

I was particularly pleased that Iolo Williams, another Springwatch presenter who was based in Wales, mentioned the importance of native wild flowers to our wildlife, and explained that, having evolved together over millions of years, they are able to support each other in the best possible way. He urged us all to plant them in our own gardens.

With so much land locked up by mostly intensive farming but also many human leisure activities (eg golf courses and race courses), wildflowers have nowhere to go other than nature reserves. Gardens cover a huge area and could help to arrest this dangerous decline of our wildlife. We have knuckled down to protect ourselves from Coronavirus, but wildlife

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supports us in so many ways. No native wildflowers; no pollinators; no food?

Pictures of wildlife gardens are delightful and inspiring. I have always loved those showing a mown grassy path through meadow grass. This spring, I realised I could have one here between a moon shaped patch of long grass by the large pond on the left and the long grass edging a border on the right. The path is now established and looks very nice and relaxing.

I am hoping to develop spring and summer meadow areas and also to stop mowing the "pathway" in May to allow low-growing plants to flower. Theoretically, it should look lovely. Mmmm . . . watch this space!!!!

Marian Tiddy

Japanese knotweed on your property

For those looking to sell their property, lockdown has provided some with the perfect opportunity to work on the finishing touches. From deep cleans to re-decorating, it's well known that some simple changes can increase the marketability of your home.

But what's that hiding at the bottom of the garden? Could it be Japanese knotweed? It's only a few small shoots so it's not going to be a problem is it? Wrong.

If you intend to sell your property and you have Japanese knotweed growing on your land then you have a legal obligation to declare it. It will almost certainly have an impact on the value of the property and in the worst cases, make it impossible to sell.

Japanese knotweed (Fallopia japonica) is an herbaceous perennial, native to Japan. It arrived in the UK in the 19th century, valued as an ornamental plant in large gardens, but it's highly vigorous nature soon became apparent. A hundred years later and it is well established throughout the UK, colonising riverbanks, railway lines, vacant plots, and making its way into gardens and allotments.

Wherever this invasive plant becomes established it will impact upon the local environment. Its thickly matted stems can reach 3 metres in height, reducing biodiversity by outcompeting all native plants. Its underground structure of rhizomes slowly expand, exploiting any cracks or voids. Once established, it can be very hard to control and will exacerbate any existing weakness in structures, such as drains or patios.

In the UK, Japanese knotweed is seen to pose a significant risk of damage to buildings that are within seven metres of the plant's visible parts. 'It's not uncommon to see Japanese knotweed on a property, that upon further investigation, has grown so much underground that it's actually present on neighbouring land also.

A large number of home buyers require a mortgage and many lenders simply refuse to lend against a property that has a Japanese knotweed problem. Those that do will usually expect to see evidence of a comprehensive eradication plan in place and being carried out by a qualified Japanese knotweed contractor.

As it is a legal requirement to disclose if the property has, or has ever had, a Japanese knotweed issue, being dishonest about the matter can lead to legal action once the buyer becomes aware of the infestation.

Surely Japanese knotweed can just be removed?

Sadly, cutting Japanese knotweed down can simply cause it to grow back rapidly, and leaving it to grow will only make it more difficult and costly to eradicate. Ideally, Japanese knotweed should be removed by a qualified contractor. Japanese knotweed is also classed as a controlled waste, meaning it can only be disposed of at a licenced landfill site by an approved waste carrier.

There are several treatment options available for Japanese knotweed depending on your timescale, budget and the extent of the infestation. Excavation involves digging out the entire area which can prove costly and disruptive but it can remove the plant in just a few days. Chemical treatment is typically less expensive but can take a number of years to complete.

So, it's not all bad news! Japanese knotweed doesn't have to stop the sale of your property, providing it is declared and an eradication plan is in place.

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The Time Travellers Virtual Excavating

At this time of year the Time Travellers Archaeological Group would normally have been very active – walks, talks, trips and, especially, excavating at a number of exciting sites in and around our local area. All these have been put on hold until the situation changes for the better.

As those of you who are members and live in the area will know we have tried to keep archaeological enthusiasm going with quizzes, cartoons, mystery object identification and, of course, pointing out that there have been some marvellous archaeological themed TV programmes on 'the box'.

But there is nothing like 'mud on hands and trowel out for a bit of a dig!'

So when one of our members asked for help in dating and identifying what she was digging up on her allotment this might be a great way for you and your children to occupy your summer gardening time, and increase our understanding of what has happened in our area over time.

Kathy Keron sent in the photo on this page of recent finds from her allotment in North Sheffield. Many of you will have been closely inspecting the surface layers of your gardens and allotments recently and it is quite likely you are spotting something similar. You may have already wondered what the little white fragments of clay are. Why are you unearthing so much old looking pieces of pottery?

You could set up a proper archaeological test pit. Dig a one metre by one metre test pit in a promising part of your garden. It needs to be as deep as to when it hits bedrock …or feels unsafe! Luckily here bedrock is quite close to the surface. Close to dry stone walls can also be rewarding. Once examined care does need to be taken that you replace the soil removed in the same order you took it out. Adult supervision is obviously required.

This is pint-size archaeology! The white clay fragments are pieces of broken clay pipe. They can tell us so much. You can do the first dating bit very easily. Kathy seems to have pipe stems of various dates. The oldest pipe stems will be rough textured, quite large and with a large hole in the middle. These date from 1700 onwards to about 1800. By 1800 the stems are thinner and smoother but the hole is asymmetrical: 1800s to 1850s. After 1850 mechanisation was happening and the hole becomes perfectly central.

A selection of pottery from a North Sheffield allotment

If you find any bowls then they too give a clue as to age. Very small rounded bowls are very early – when tobacco was expensive. The patterns also can be used to fine tune your dating. Certain patterns have a very short time frame. Look out for any stems or bowls with a small Cross of Lorraine. This was the Sheffield mark. There are lots of articles on the internet that will allow you to date your finds more closely.

What about the black stem? It is a clay pipe stem not a Victorian slate pencil which would not have a hole. Any of your stems that appear either blackened or reddened may be from a pub where pipes filled with tobacco were available to customers. At the end of the evening the stems would be put in the dying embers of the fire to disinfect them ready for the next day.

Kathy found these on her allotment hence the discovery of pieces of Victorian pottery. But if your house is either Victorian in age or a more modern build on a former bigger house then you too will expect to find both clay pipes and broken pottery. Rather than being the result of heavy smoking and careless crockery use they are evidence that material from the middens of Sheffield had been used on these allotments and dug into gardens. Broken pottery was used as a soil texture lightener and, unfortunately many of the clay pipe fragments will have arrived along with the night soil collectors bringing human ordure to use as fertiliser.

Allotments all over Sheffield often have mother of pearl fragments, introduced for their calcium content. The original source is from the pearl handle making of the cutlery industry from which off-cuts were then used in the pearl button industry. Sometimes the outline shape of the button can still be seen.

So what can you share with us? We would be happy to look at any of your finds and try to tell you more about what you have unearthed*. Of course it is perfectly possible that you might find something much earlier. Maybe a coin? Or even a hoard of coins? This area has been continuously settled since prehistoric times. There is an Iron Age fort in Ecclesall Woods, the Romans were very busy in the area round Whirlow Hall Farm and as the stone on the village green in Dore tells us, this where England became one country.

Happy excavating!

Dorne Coggins
(Secretary of The Time Travellers)

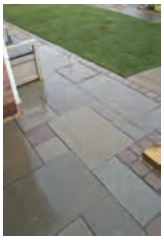
** Just in case you do unearth something amazing, you are obliged by law to contact the Portable Antiquities Scheme*

Friends of Graves Park

The Friends of Graves Park have been unable to hold their AGM this year, because of the ongoing effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. This would have been our 20th anniversary celebration; we will have to wait for a double celebration next year instead. The Friends have been in touch with the Charity Commission regarding the postponement of our AGM and they have explained that they will not be taking regulatory action. In the meantime, we will, as requested by the Charity Commission, review our decision when we as trustees believe it is safe to do so, otherwise we will plan to hold our AGM next summer.

The recent Covid-19 lockdown has also meant that we have not been able to raise funds for our charity in the usual way. Thankfully, JustGiving asked us to take part in the 2.6 Challenge fundraising activity, which raised over £300 for our charity. Thank you to everyone who donated. Any further donations and

Apple paving & landscapes



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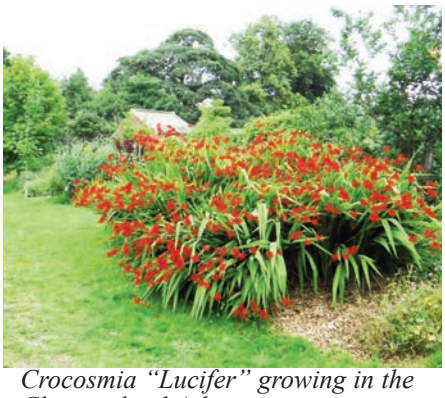
membership subs will be gratefully received. For more details, visit our new heritage website.

The Chantreyland Meadow and the Arboretum continue to be cared for by the working group of volunteers (socially distanced of course). We are in desperate need of more space; the friends have repeated a request to SCC to start the third section of the nurseries restoration to parkland. Thanks to the generosity of supporters, we have some funding to get us started and already have a plan of the next section. Initial plans are to restore this next section to more of a woodland garden. As soon as we are allowed to start work, we will let you know.

The volunteers who work in the park give so much back to the park and to the people of Sheffield. One of the lessons learned from the terrible Covid-19 pandemic is that our parks and open spaces are of vital importance to everyone's health and wellbeing. Without volunteers working in the park or on our committee, we would not have been able to achieve what we have done over the years.

FOGP New Heritage Website

We spent a significant amount of lockdown time on preparing and launching our new heritage website. This will focus on the history, archaeology and ecology of Graves Park and will eventually have all the information and research from our "Finding Lost Norton Park" project, as well as the results of ongoing surveys and studies. The site



Crocosmia "Lucifer" growing in the Chantreyland Arboretum

also displays some of our other items, until the main website can be updated.

https://friendsofgravespark.org/

The Friends will continue to put together "stories" of our projects, to be shared on the above website. Our work is also available to view on Facebook, where the Friends will continue to post information:

Friends of Graves Park: Finding Lost Norton Park

We are still trying to raise funds to support the next stage of our research: Finding Lost Norton Park: Digging Deeper. If you want to help us, you can find our latest project fundraiser on Just Giving, at: https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/FindingLostNortonPark

Graves Park's Ancient Woodland

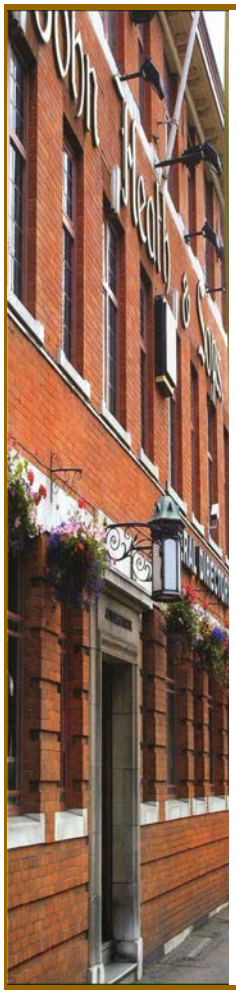
One of the few positive aspects of the Covid-19 pandemic has been the opportunity for many to escape from busy life. People have become more appreciative of their natural surroundings, especially when an hour of essential exercise has allowed them to explore outdoor spaces, such as Graves Park. As one of the country's largest urban parks, Graves Park has a variety of landscapes. Its ancient woodland is one of the focuses of the Finding Lost Norton Park project, during which many AWIs (Ancient Woodland Indicators) were recorded and mapped.

Now that the lockdown has eased slightly, the woodland can be explored at a leisurely pace. In February 2020, the Friends surveyed the first of four old charcoal hearths (probably at least 400 years old) and intend to survey the others next winter, social distancing permitting. Exploring these woods is very much akin to being a time traveller, with the proximity of modern civilisation seeming strangely far away. The Friends will continue to document their findings on the heritage website. Please do visit regularly to find out about our latest activities.

Caroline Dewar
Chair, Friends of Graves Park

Concert cancelled

The annual Hallamshire Military Concert Band Remembrance concert, at St Peters Church Greenhill due on October 24th 2020 has sadly been cancelled due to Covid 19.



Sometime…

You will probably have the responsibility of making funeral arrangements. No one looks forward to this responsibility, but the death of a family member or a friend brings with it an obligation that must be met. These are people who can help you meet this responsibility. We have been helping people combine the different aspects of a funeral service for over one hundred and thirty-five years.

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Friends of Dore & Totley Station – FoDaTS

2020 may be the year when railways are effectively renationalised, although that's not what it will be called.

Keith Williams was appointed in 2018 to complete a Review of the structure of the whole rail industry. His report was due early this year but has been overtaken by events. Transport Minister Grant Shapps has made it clear that the likely way forward will have to be different. Until the end of September existing Train Operating Companies (TOCs) are running largely empty trains on what are called Emergency Measures, Agreements; effectively being paid for by the government. They are likely to be continued well into 2021. That's not a sustainable situation.

At the time of writing most services at Dore & Totley are running to the timetable originally planned from this May, apart from fast services not going through to Manchester Airport so requiring a change at Piccadilly. Sunday services are only 2 hourly. Many lines and stations aren't doing as well. Early indicators suggest the Manchester Airport links will be restored from 14th September and we should get a Northern stopping service on Sundays of 2 in every three hours. Always check timetables online carefully before setting out as plans may change at short notice.

Thanks to relentless lobbying by many groups, including FoDaTS, our situation is arguably better than it has ever been - with the noteworthy exception of services to and from Sheffield! However Northern stopping services are usually 4 coaches and there are 6 coaches on most TransPennine Express trains to make distancing easier. To ensure this can happen Northern have retained a dozen old Pacers and we may see one on an occasional evening trip – creating excitement for train spotters!

Overcrowding for Manchester commuters is history. A sample journey on the 8.15 revealed only 17 leaving at Piccadilly – from 6 coaches. In January 40 might board at Dore & Totley alone. Masked passengers are currently able to select a carriage and find plenty of space. Northern day time trains are busier with leisure users. They usually have most room in the front two coaches.

Those coming to the station by car will have no difficulty finding space in the car park; the maximum number of rail users' cars seen post COVID is still below 20 in the 129 spaces. At present we can't see it being full of rail users before 2021, although visitors to Hair Union and the Summer House are taking full advantage. SYPTE's feasibility study for more car parking may prove difficult to assess in the new circumstances.

Generous donation by Abbeydale Rotary

Last autumn Abbeydale Rotary Club came to meet us and asked if there was anything we needed, with planters in mind. In the good old days BC (before COVID) we saw travellers arriving by train and having to wait for Uber, City, Network or family taxis. Some may have waited half an hour or more**.** Fortuitously a couple had just arrived from a long way away to visit their relatives in Dore. Their timings for pick up had gone wrong and they had to wait at least 15 minutes. The seed was sown. Why don't we have a seat somewhere beside the drop off/pick up zone for such users, AND a planter?

Inside a well distanced TransPennine rush hour train to Manchester

A talk was given about the construction of Totley Tunnel and the Hope Valley line, opened 125 years previously. A project was agreed with a new teak bench to seat 3 with a specially constructed planter just beside the entrance. Originally we thought it might be ready for 1st February, the 150th anniversary of the Sheffield-Chesterfield line, but it was winter. Easter became the target date. It didn't happen. VE75 day? No way, the COVID curse had struck.

FoDaTS volunteers were barred but the team from Rotary were very careful. Their plaque correctly records that pictures were taken in June - phew, that was close! Since 30th our volunteers have been able to water the planters. Sadly, Northern's rules (set by HMG) say half the bench is to be out of use due to social distancing, however users seem to have removed the tape!

A very big vote of thanks goes to the Abbeydale Rotary Club and all their members who generously supported this project.

Station surroundings

It's now 5 years since FoDaTS was established. From the start we struggled to discover what Northern was supposed to maintain on the platform and around the car park. Eventually we were given a specification set by Northern when it was a Serco and Abellio joint venture. The work was sub-contracted to ISS but wasn't being fully done. The franchise transferred over to the Arriva group. At first ISS continued but after a few months the contract went to Capita – who went bust. ISS were asked to come back. Along the way the specification was totally overlooked. The chap responsible for doing the work appears to have thought the grass and hedge along Abbeydale Road South were the responsibility of the council. They're not.

In March Northern finally confirmed that it was their responsibility and was covered under the terms of their contract with ISS. The grass and hedging was cut. Then COVID struck and it was considered non-essential work, but monthly cuts happened in June and July. Watch that space.

From March until 30th June volunteers were forbidden to do any work on the station. Even now only two of us are allowed to do very strictly prescribed duties, taking full COVID safety precautions. The planters have been refreshed, but the red, white and blue displays intended to commemorate VE75 and VJ75 on 15th August didn't happen but bunting is up.

Hope Valley Capacity Improvement Scheme

The latest information we've received from Network Rail about the redoubling and second platform says...."the contract for design and build is out to tender – the information went out in January, with response received last month (May). We have been evaluating the 4 bids and are now at the stage of clarification / questioning of the tenders. All this is with a view to letting the contract at the end of this calendar year. At this stage we are not undertaking any further design works on the station – it won't be until the first quarter of next year that we might do that."..... "All being well, we hope to have finance approved in September or October, though our programme could accommodate that being as late as December."

This should mean work could start by Spring 2022 with completion by late Autumn 2023. That may not be in time for new services to be introduced in December 2023 (the aim) but hopefully by May 2024. Reliability of all services should improve as soon as it's complete. Who knows, it could even be finished ahead of these dates but still a long time after 2018 as suggested in the public consultations.

Network Rail's surveyors checked the propped up canopy and an extra support midway along has been installed.

Restoring Millhouses and Heeley stations

The Restoring Your Railway Fund was announced late last year and immediately taken to mean restoring lots of Beeching era cuts of branch lines and stations. Dore & Totley may not fit into that category because the station wasn't closed, but we did lose tracks and platforms. Other

parties in Sheffield wan to restore services to Heeley and Millhouses.

In 1997 SYPTE commissioned a feasibility study into opening a new station at Millhouses. In 2015 they and Sheffield City Council arranged another into reopening all four platforms at Dore. Neither happened. A station at Totley has previously been mooted. Extending the Supertram or a tram/train our way has also been suggested. A full review of the Sheaf Valley rail corridor is needed and may include a segregated cycling route. We'll take an active part in consideration of any developments.

Olivia Blake, our new MP, is very much into this but we should urge caution. Reinstatement of the old stations is only part of what's needed. There used to be 4 tracks from Dore into Sheffield but now there are only 2. Achieving all on the wish list would require at least one but preferably two old tracks reinstating down the valley. That would cost a great deal of money and require a lot more work than some realise. Not least because Tesco and a number of smaller units have been built on the old track bed!

Completing existing pipeline projects and preserving the facilities we still have may limit the scope for many reopenings.

Committee and other meetings

Our AGM was due in April. We have no choice but to defer a year and combine two years in April 2021, all being well by then. Committee meetings used to be held at Totley Library but we're experimenting with Zoom.

One blessing of the lockdown period is that we've been able to co-opt two excellent younger members to the committee, one with particular interest in overflow parking near the station, the other in increasing cycle and walking links. As we move out of lockdown we look forward to what more can be done to improve the station, it's services and surroundings.

If you're a Facebook user, you can find and join us by searching for FoDaTS. It's a very active group. If you're not on Facebook and would like more information please email our Secretary, Nick Barnes; njbarnes@outlook.com There's lots of information on our website at; www.fodats.net

Chris Morgan, Chairman

Jo Maher and Andy Douglas

Cycling Doctors

Two local doctors have plenty of stories to tell after their 105 mile 'Move More NHS Tour de Sheffield' five weeks ago, when they visited dozens of medical practices and three hospitals to find out how the city's medics are shaping up as promoters of exercise as medicine.

"We met so many people doing so many different things, and lots of them said 'we're not doing enough!'" said Dr Jo Maher, who covered the longest ride she'd ever made on the Tour de Sheffield, at over 50 miles. "But I said to them that collectively the power of all those small things is immense!"

Jo and colleague Dr Andy Douglas met medics who've sold their cars after buying an e-bike, doctors who've rediscovered their childhood love of riding a bike after a cycling confidence lesson with local cycle trainers Pedal Ready, and a GP who told the story of a 23 stone patient who lost ten stones after starting to cycle and is now an official cycle ride leader.

"There's so much evidence that cycling to work is good for all kinds of conditions, and there's also evidence that doctors are very good role models as public figures," said Andy Douglas. "Advice from a doctor does transition into behavioural change."

The doctors are keen to promote the power of 'social prescribing' which allows doctors to 'prescribe' activity like walking and cycling to patients when it will benefit their physical or mental health. And the public are interested, said Andy. "Once one or two people start walking or cycling to work, other people start talking about it and thinking about how they can do it themselves. But you do need basic facilities, like somewhere to lock your bike safely, and a shower."

A good 'landing point' is crucial if people are being encouraged to run, ride or walk to work, he added, meaning an easy to access secure storage and washing facility that people will enjoy using. "You want to make people prefer to travel actively. If you invest in good facilities, it becomes more enjoyable to ride a bike to work. You want people to say that this is preferable to driving."

"There has been a big increase in e-bikes among doctors and other health professionals," said Andy. And biking or e-biking GPs are in a unique position to be role models for the general public, due to their long relationship with patients, said Jo.

"The advice we give is usually well received, but it does sometimes take a while for that advice to land," she said. "We can give a clear consistent message about the advantages of walking and cycling and active travel, and to talk about what people can do, rather than what they should or shouldn't do."

Jo said she'd like to see more high level support within the local NHS to help more medical staff to switch from cars to walking and cycling for some of their work journeys, with good storage facilities on NHS sites, and lobbying for local routes so active travellers feel safer on their journeys.

"It's a benefit to staff and to patients to have less traffic congestion and fewer cars at a surgery or hospital," she said.

Jo and Andy work as GP leads for the city's Move More activity initiative, and will continue to promote the benefits of walking, running and cycling as transport around the Outdoor City. "In a few years I'd expect every GP to be promoting active travel," said Andy Douglas. "And if we can reduce those barriers like poor routes and insecure parking, I think it will really take off and snowball."

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Take a Break

This time, sailing down memory lane with reflections on a past holiday memory.

It all began as we boarded our majestic floating resort in exhilarating New York City, meeting up with our jetsetter friends, Marcus & Ryan. With the boys leaving the glitz and glamour of their current home town of Dubai and following on from their whistle stop adventure which included Devil's Tower National Monument, Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial and the United States' first National Park, Yellowstone.

We had less lavishly arrived from little old Manchester Airport in Blighty! They'd always been ahead of us in the glamour stakes, however, whereas this was the last leg of their fabulous adventure, for us it was only the first! Hurrah!

As we eventually sailed away on that glorious evening, passing New York's infamous sights, a must for any enthusiastic cruising geek, we passed one of the World's most recognisable symbols, The Statue of Liberty, skirting around the undeniable New York skyline. The impressive ship, with decks spilling over with eager travellers, headed out under iconic bridges, as the beckoning sunset made for a stunning backdrop, ready for our exciting week's itinerary to begin.

For us the invigorating ports of call on any cruise itinerary are extremely important, alongside a mix of interesting excursions available, so when Marcus suggested this alluring option out of New York and along the coast up to Canada and back, we jumped at the chance, adding in a second week to explore the state of Maine, as well as meet up and stay with a friend I met online!

What we didn't realise, was that the plethora of onboard entertainment would play a HUGE role in our enjoyment, particularly the electrifying hypnotist performance, which Marcus insisted on becoming an integral part of the stage show, as he'd always wanted to be hypnotised!

Wow, who knew? This was to be an awakening of sorts, not only for our excited friend Marcus, but the rest of us, as we watched in speechless awe, mesmerised by his astonishing and hilarious actions, as he drifted off into the unknown and became the ultimate star of the show! Despite our initial scepticism, it was hard to stifle our embarrassed guffaws, as we watched him play out building non-existent sand castles, take off his shoes, as to not get sand in them and then casually start to strip off the remainder of his clothes, thankfully halted by the witty host, as the audience burst into hysterical laughter!

He was soon reacting to others, also performing under the hypnotic influence in this farcical extravaganza and became a little bullish as they accidentally knocked over his sand-castle masterpieces! Hilarity ensued and as quickly as it began the participants were back in the room!

As the days passed we realised Marcus had become quite a celebrity, recognised by many of the other cruisers who

New York skyline as we leave the city

partook in the audience that evening, with many clambering to make his acquaintance, much to our initial unease, then pride at his bravado!

We often laugh about it to this day,

Out onto the high seas looking forward to our next port of call.

regaling on the incredible fun we had, although, I'm still a sceptic!

Now our jetsetter friends have given up the bright lights and glitz of Dubai for a much more serene life in Devon, taking on a fabulous self-catering rental business at Blackadon Farm Cottages near Ivybridge and adopted 3 miniature Mediterranean donkeys! As with us all at the moment, their travelling days are over for a while!

Lindsay Allen

Your Big Day

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Your Big Day is an innovative video gift for celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, and more. And every bespoke film of newsreel memories is narrated by acclaimed former BBC and ITN newscaster Sir Martyn Lewis, who is also a vice president of national organisation Hospice UK and a patron of St Luke's.

Sir Martyn is founder and executive chairman of Your Big Day, which uses ITN and Reuters archives to produce birthday and anniversary videos covering most of the last century. And for every £19.50 order with the special code STLUKES, a £6 donation from the Your Big Day team will go to St Luke's.

Whatever date and year - covering most of the last century - which family or friends are celebrating, there is a 5-6 minute video to match, culled from the archives of ITN and Reuters going back as far as 1917. Celebrities, royalty, news, fashions, cars and even house prices – it's all captured on film along with a personal message to the recipient embedded in the opening titles of the video.

Ordered online and delivered online via an email link on any date and at any time of day, the sender also receives a copy of the finished video at no extra cost.

"We are delighted to be continuing our association with Your Big Day, particularly at a time when so much gift shopping is being done online," said St Luke's Head of Fundraising, Joasia Lesniak. "This is an imaginative new way of sending a special greeting - and one that can be done from the safety of your own home".

"People will be fascinated to see how their own lives are so closely tied to the events, names and places of world history. And at the same time this very special gift will make a difference to the lives of our patients, thanks to the donation from the Your Big Day team."

Check out Your Big Day at https://www.yourbigday.tv/stlukes - it's a direct link that already has the St Luke's promotional code already entered for you, triggering the £6 contribution to St Luke's fundraising.

John Highfield

Lock and Learn

"I want everyone to know how devastated I was," says NHS worker Rayna Foletti. "My bike was like my best friend, and its loss was terrible."

Like a disturbing number of NHS staff across the UK, Rayna came out from a busy and stressful day to find her bike had been targeted by thieves as she worked through the peak of pandemic.

She had locked her treasured road bike in a bike cage outside the Royal

Hallamshire Hospital in Sheffield, and planned a gentle ride home through the local countryside to relax after work on a Covid ward. But the bike was gone.

As more people follow NHS guidance to cycle more often (with many choosing e-bikes costing £1,500 or more), bike thefts are increasing - up almost 50% in June from last year according to the national cycling database BikeRegister.

"People are increasingly seeing that e-bikes are the answer for hilly cities like Sheffield, but they need proper secure parking at work, just like cars and motorbikes," says Jack Windle from the local Love to Ride active travel network, who along with Tony Butterworth Cycles, helped Rayna replace her stolen bike. "And for locations like the city centre and transport interchanges we need cycle hubs like the excellent one at the train station," said Dexter Johnstone from Cycle Sheffield.

For locking in public places, the first tip is to use more than one lock, including a robust 'D Lock' ideally accredited to 'SoldSecure' gold standard. Using different locks delays and deters thieves, says Angela Walker from the A Different Gear bike shop.

"You should always use the D-lock through the frame and an immovable object — ideally through the rear triangle and rear wheel. You should always keep the lock high off the ground and snug to the frame to make it more difficult for thieves to get tools around the lock. And if you have a quick-release front wheel

NHS worker Rayna Foletti with her touring bike, now stolen

use a secondary cable threaded through the D-lock, but don't use the cable as your primary lock — they are easy to cut through with bolt croppers."

The second tip for e-bikes is to store your bike inside whenever possible, and take the battery away with you after parking in public, not least because batteries (and other accessories like lights) are valuable in themselves. And thirdly, don't hide your bike round a quiet corner.

Russell liaises with local and transport police about bike theft, and says many bikes stolen in one city are shipped to other towns and cities to be sold: Sheffield's stolen bikes may end up in Manchester, while Manchester's are often sold back across the Pennines. Expensive bikes are often stripped for parts which can be sold more easily than a distinctive bike. So making sure your bike is properly insured is crucial, he says.

Cyclists from Sheffield University warn that staff with expensive bikes have been targeted by more traditional means, after being seen on their regular commute and then followed. Try and vary your commute route, is the advice from the University cycle forum, and maybe have a quick look before finishing your journey to see if anyone is paying particular attention to you and your bike.

We should expect to see more and more Sheffielders cycling in future, says Jack Windle of Love to Ride, who are working with hundreds of local companies to help cycling staff. "Knowing you're going to be able to ride home again once you've cycled to work is pretty crucial," he says.

"Staff tell us that security of expensive bikes and e-bikes is one of the first things they think about when choosing to cycle to work, so we're asking local companies to recognise that investing in secure, access controlled cycle storage at the workplace is going to pay them back with a fitter, more productive workforce," he says. "Telling staff they can lock their £2,000 e-bikes to the fence by the boiler room is not going to work these days."

David Bocking

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From RFC Airfield to City Suburb

100 Years of History at Meadowhead and Norton

The project funded with money awarded by the Lottery Heritage Fund follows on from the successful 'Norton's Flying Legacy' project of 2016/17.

With the current easing of restrictions, it is hoped to get back on track with the project and events in the next few weeks. This will take the form, initially, of small outdoor meetings round the area to tie in the review of the archival material with what is there 'on the ground'.

Re-reading and re-examining some of the archives are starting to answer some of the questions but as usual throwing up some new ones as detective work continues. However, we're now fairly certain that the current STSC sports ground is the site of the WW1 camps' recreation ground; we've pieced together the chronology and location of the 'Cinderhill Camp' built in WW2 initially for soldiers manning the defences at Norton/Jordanthorpe which became the ex-POW camp at the end of the war and then temporary housing for Sheffield residents in the late 1940s/early 1950s. (The site is now under Bochum Parkway); and the history around Little Norton is a little more complicated than first thought.

If you want to find out more or have your own contributions, then please get in touch via our usual email address christine@hallamec.plus.com or the contact form on our website.

https://www.ukeconet.org/norton_2.html

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Oasis from 10.00am & 11.30am
1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month
Coffee morning - Hobbies - Free Activities

Quest Tuesday 6.30pm for years 7-9

Kids Club Wednesday after school 5.00pm
Craft, games, stories & drinks

Toddlers Friday 9.30am-11.30am (in term)
For Babies toddlers, parents and carers

Cafe Service 6.30pm last Sunday monthly
Songs - Quizzes - Buffet meal - Short talk

Tuesday Group at 2.30pm each week

Bible Study Wednesday 7.30pm. Repeated on Tuesday morning at 10.00am

EVERYONE WELCOME

For more information **Call (0114) 348 3702**
or visit **www.sseconline.com**

The hylaeosaurus coin (pictured) is the third and final in the Dinosauria Collection produced by the Royal Mint and Natural History Museum

Dinosaurs in your pocket

The Royal Mint has released a new range of 50p coins celebrating Britain's contribution to the discovery of dinosaurs, which feature augmented reality technology for the first time.

The Brilliant Uncirculated edition uses the latest colour techniques in order to represent the three dinosaurs, megalosaurus, iguanodon and hylaeosaurus, in vivid detail. On top of that, the range acts as an educational guide, so that when collectors scan the coins' packaging into the Royal Mint's Activate app, they can discover facts, clips and images about the dinosaurs. Prices range from £10 to £1,020 per coin depending on the material with which it was made.

Most of us will have to make do with the plain old silver edition of the dinosaurs which has gone into circulation.

Fossils from the three dinosaurs featured on the coins prompted British anatomist Sir Richard Owen to coin the term dinosauria in a paper in 1842.

Heritage Open Days

England's largest festival of history and culture will take place this year between 11-20 September. For the first time, the Heritage Open Days (HODs) programme will comprise a mix of in-person and digital events. Communities will celebrate the stories of the places and spaces that are important to them while staying safe and adhering to current social distancing measures.

This year's theme is Hidden Nature, which offers an opportunity to discover the nature that exists on our doorsteps, as well as the built heritage. Areas of the countryside that aren't normally accessible to the public will be opened up and events will reveal the hidden history of not just our natural landscapes, but also gardens, green spaces, urban parks, orchards, vineyards, farms and forests.

For full details please visit www.heritageopendays.org.uk/

Transport 17

Despite the blinds being closed and the buses parked up there has been a lot of work going on behind-the-scenes at Transport 17 over the last few months. This is the first time (holidays excluded) that Transport 17 hasn't operated since its inception by Alan Jockel way back in 1984, a fact I feel certain he would be disappointed about but equally he would understand the extraordinary reasons why. The last few months will have had an impact on all our lives, but one thing is certain and that is that Alan's vision for our community transport service is more relevant now than ever.

One of the benefits of the lockdown has been that the Management Committee has been given an opportunity to look at the organisation and its place in the community in the 21st century and to consider what is required to keep the wheels turning for another 30+ years. So, as we embark on a new era for Transport 17, how can we best serve the community within which we are based?

Fundamentally, all the principles underpinning Transport 17 are there to be built upon. We have been looking at the different activities Transport 17 has facilitated since 1984 and it would be great to extend the scope. To this end our association with People Keeping Well is central to our development.

The lunch clubs we support are at the core of what we do but we want to find opportunities within our schedule to provide transport for those who find it difficult to get out and about to socialise through other activities as well. Through People Keeping Well we were able to take the Sporting Chatter group to visit the Football Museum in Manchester and it would be good to be able to enable other such outings.

Peoples' interests are so varied and it is good to know that a whole range of activities are now being set up for the lonelier and more isolated members of our community. But we know that very often the success of such initiatives hinges on accessible transport solutions.

Central to the development of Transport 17 is the appointment of a full-time employee as Coordinator. It will be an exciting opportunity for someone to shape and deliver Alan Jockel's vision, collaborating with other locally-based community organisations to help those who need a helping hand to get out and about. We have already begun the process of filling this vacancy and as you read this article the post will have been advertised through Voluntary Action Sheffield and the Age UK Network. Both of these organisations are supporting us with the recruitment process and we will be involving our volunteers in appointing the right person to this important role.

As well as recruiting a full time Coordinator, we need to begin to build up our bank of volunteers of drivers and passenger assistants so we can function effectively. Since January we had been relying on our current group to carry out

extra duties which they all stepped up to .where they could but going forward, we need a bigger pool of volunteers to call upon. Lockdown has given us all opportunities to try new things. Perhaps you have enjoyed doing some volunteering, feeling the benefits of this both for yourself and the community. We would love to hear from you if you think Transport 17 might provide an opportunity for you to volunteer in our community. If you would like further information about these opportunities or have any questions about anything, please do get in touch via admin@transport17.co.uk or leave a message on 0114 236 2962 and we will get back to you.

Recently we have been in contact with all the lunch clubs we currently serve to find out the position they are in as regards re-starting after closing because of COVID-19. It was great to speak to them all. One or two are keen to get going as soon as possible in the late summer/early autumn if it is safe and practical to do so and they are working at plans as to how they can achieve it.

A number are feeling that realistically it will be 2021 before they're able to open their doors once more and others are falling somewhere between the two. Others commented that the grant they received from the Council to help to run their club had been stopped in March and without it they would be unable to re-open as it paid for the Transport 17 service. It has been difficult for them to get any information about this so we are going to look into that for them.

All the clubs have been in regular contact with their members to keep the connections going in different ways as they are all missing the social contact that the clubs provide. In thinking about re-opening their priority will clearly be the health and safety of their members and their organisers as many of them are in the highest health risk categories.

Many of the clubs are held in church premises and this also means they are multi-use venues, bringing further complications; certainly, none of this is easy to manage. Hopefully, those who feel they are able to start operating sooner will provide examples of good practice to help others for whom opening up isn't a possibility until the new year.

Similarly, we have been in contact with all our volunteers. Generally, they are looking forward to getting back when it is safe to do so. They have missed the friendship, camaraderie, involvement and routine it puts into the week. So, it will be good to welcome them back when we can.

Sadly, Dick Butterworth and Clive Leech have decided not to continue as volunteers. Between them and Colin Price (who should shortly be moving to Eastbourne after pandemic-related delays), they have given over 50 years of their time to serving the community through Transport 17 so they deserve an enormous 'thank you'. We know that they will all be missed, and we wish them well for the future.

So, now we need to look at what will have to be done for us to restart our service. The safety of both our volunteers and the vulnerable people we transport to the activities they so enjoy is paramount. To ensure we achieve this we will be utilising information provided by the Community Transport Association and liaising with other community transport organisations to share good practice. There will also need to be maintenance checks completed on the buses. Given the information received from the clubs it would seem that a phased return is likely and this will reduce some pressure on getting the buses ready for action. The key is for us to be ready to provide our service when we're needed once again.

As regards our postponed AGM, we have not yet set a date for this and it is likely that the earliest that it will be held will be the Autumn. We have arranged for an extension to the submission of our accounts to the necessary authorities so that these can be agreed when we hold the AGM and subsequently submitted.

Many of our fund-raising events in the community, have had to be cancelled. The impact of all this on our income will be quite significant and we won't be the only ones in this position. However, on a more positive note, we have applied to be one of the Co-op's Local Causes and we have our fingers crossed that we will be selected again. Also we have now set up a Just Giving account following the closure of the BT online facility. Look out for links to this from our Facebook page and our website. We will also be posting another local quiz to help to keep you occupied so look out for this too. Now we can only look forward to the Christmas Fayre on 14th November - hopefully a date for all our diaries.

As the lockdown starts to ease, we know that it isn't going to be simple for many to get out and about. We all have a role to play in putting the health of everyone first and in helping all members of our community to feel safe and comfortable outside their homes. Transport 17 will continue to provide accessible transport for those who need a helping hand, adapting our service as needed so that the wheels on the buses continue to turn.

Sandra Longley (On behalf of the Management Committee)

S17 Community Network Guide

During the Covid 19 pandemic the existing South West People Keeping Well partnership reached out to new local partners including the Covid19 S17 support network, local businesses and a diverse range of service providers to create a cohesive network.

This collaboration resulted in the creation of the S17 Community Network Guide, a copy of which was delivered to every house in S17 during the last week of July.

The Guide has been designed to look at ways of supporting the community as we move out of lockdown. It contains lots of information and useful advice, along with the promotion of local activities and services. It includes local business adverts to encourage people to shop locally and help get independent businesses back on their feet.

It also contains details of how to access key citywide services and how to get involved in volunteering to support our most vulnerable residents.

Most of the names of English towns, hamlets and villages began as simple descriptions of the location; some identified its founder, marked territorial limits, or gave tribal people a sense of their place in the grand scheme of things.

Many date as far back as Saxon times, likewise a number of settlements were established and named by French Normans following the Conquest, but many are even older and are derived from Roman placenames. Some hark back to the Vikings who invaded our shores and established settlements in the eighth and ninth centuries.

Whatever their derivation, placenames are inextricably bound up in our history and they tell us a great deal about the place where we live. **A History of English Place Names** by John Moss offers a detailed guide to the history, but also a gazette of names by region. Sadly, Sheffield – field by the Sheaf seems to have escaped the list. Chesterfield from the Saxon word for Roman Fort 'caestre' and the Old English 'feld' meaning field, does not.

Published by Pen & Sword in hardback, 408 pages price £25, ISBN: 9781526722843

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Writing Your Family History. This practical step-by-step guide is designed for anyone who wants to bring their ancestors' stories to life. Author Gill Blanchard looks at ways of overcoming the particular problems family historians face - how to deal with gaps in knowledge, how to describe generations of people who did the same jobs or lived in the same area, how to cover the numerous births, marriages and deaths that occur, and when to stop researching and start writing.

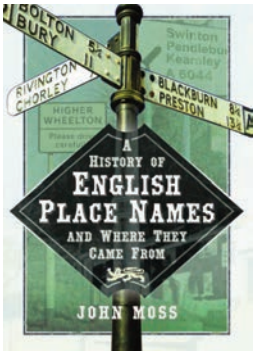
She also offers advice on key aspects of composition, such as adding local and social history context and using secondary material. he focus throughout is on how to develop a story from beginning to end. There is guidance on the various formats a family history can take and how to choose the appropriate one. Production and publishing are also covered - books, booklets, newsletters, websites, blogs and ebooks.

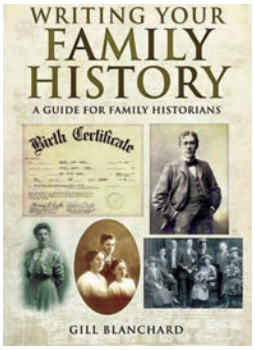
Published by Pen & Sword in paperback, 160 pages price £12.99 ISBN: 9781781593721

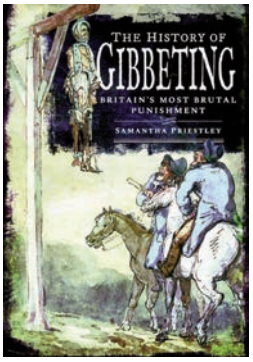
****

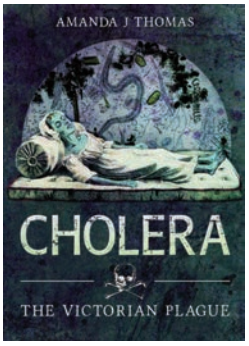
This book by Samantha Priestley tells the story of one of Britain's most brutal forms of punishments, the hanging of criminals in a body shaped metal cage as a warning and as a form of justice. From the folklore of live gibbetings to the eerie historical documenting of this weird post-execution tradition, **The History of Gibbeting** examines how and why we dealt with murderers and other serious criminals in this way.

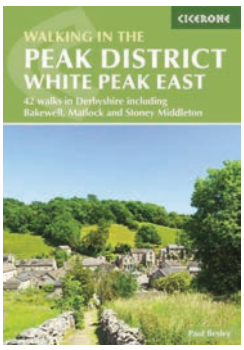
The book uses case studies through history and takes a look at how the introduction of the Murder Act shaped our relationship with gibbeting for years











to come, and how we as a society demanded the most shocking post-mortem treatment of criminals.

Whether gibbeting was ever a successful deterrent, it is still a fascination today and gibbet cages remain on display in museums all over the country. Look and you will find street names, monuments, plaque and hills all named after the gibbet or the men that hung there as a reminder.

Published by Pen & Sword in hardback, 150 pages price £19.99 ISBN: 9781526755186

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Sheffield like many cities has its own Cholera Monument in memorial of the 402 victims of a cholera epidemic of 1832. This book **Cholera the Victorian Plague** outlines the story of the disease that devastated the Victorian population, and brought about major changes in sanitation. Drawing on the latest scientific research and a wealth of archival material, author Amanda Thomas uses first-hand accounts, blending personal stories with an overview of the history of the disease and its devastating after-effects on British society.

This fascinating history of a catastrophic disease uncovers forgotten stories from each of the major cholera outbreaks in 1831-3, 1848-9, 1853-4 and 1866. Interestingly Victorian theories about the disease were often closer to the truth than we might assume, among them the belief that cholera was spread by miasma, or foul air. Contaminated drinking water and human transmission may not be the whole story.

This book provides a complete overview of cholera in Victorian Britain, taking a new, accessible approach to a topic previously covered predominately by academic researchers.

Published by Pen & Sword in paperback, 248 pages price £14.99 ISBN: 9781526781819

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This handy pocket guide is in its third edition and includes 42 half-day and day walks in the limestone landscapes of Derbyshire's White Peak. One of two volumes, this book covers the east of the region, with potential bases including Bakewell, Eyam, Castleton, Birchover, Matlock and Wirksworth.

Walks are gentle and follow well signed public footpaths where possible. The distance and estimated time is given for each walk, along with a map, description of the terrain, where to find refreshments, where to park and pictures of interesting places or sites along the way.

Walking in the Peak District White Peak East is your key to exploring and enjoying an area rich in human and natural history.

Published by CICERONE in paperback 232 pages price £12.95 ISBN: 9781852849764

Abbeydale Miniature Railway

As a result of the difficulties entailed in running the miniature railway for the public under the virus regulations, we shall not be opening at all this year and there will be no Santa Specials at Christmas.

Age UK Bradway Shop

The shop on Twentywell Lane is open but with some changes to ensure a safe environment for customers, staff & volunteers:

Opening times are now 10am-4pm Monday to Friday. Customer numbers are restricted to 3 in the shop at a time.

When visiting the shop we will ask you to please:

* Queue outside the shop and wait to be invited in
* Use the hand sanitiser upon entry and wear a mask
* Stay 2 metres apart within the shop
* Pay with contactless card where possible

Donations:

We can only accept a certain amount of donations because we must wait 72 hours before opening any donated bags of items. Therefore, donations are limited to maximum 2 bags per person/family, per day.

Yes please to: Women's clothing; Men's clothing; Shoes, bags & other accessories; Children's clothing, toys & books; Books; Bric-a-brac

No thank you to bedding; cushions; CDs & videos; Furniture; Electrical items; earrings for pierced ears.

Impacts of Covid19 survey

Public Health Sheffield have developed a population level questionnaire to support their understanding of the positive and negative impacts of Covid19 in Sheffield. The survey will run until 31 August.

This questionnaire asks a range of questions (mainly multiple choice) about how the experience of Covid19 has been in terms of loneliness, mental health, employment, income, health behaviours, active travel. Also access to services, where people get their information from on Covid19, digital inclusion, home schooling, people's experience of shielding or having Covid19. Plus information about health conditions and managing these during the pandemic, and finally future concerns people may have about the virus.

To complete the questionnaire visit https://sheffield.citizenspace.com/performance-research/coronavirus-rapid-health-impact-assessment

It should take around 10-15 min to complete the questionnaire.

Hard copies can also be requested from DPHOffice@sheffield.gov.uk and returned to: Sarah Hepworth, C/O Director of Public Health Office, Town Hall, Sheffield , S1 2HH

When Insults Had Class

These glorious insults are from an era "before" the English language got boiled down to 4-letter words.

A member of Parliament to Disraeli: "Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease."

"That depends, Sir," said Disraeli, "whether I embrace your policies or your mistress."

"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." - Winston Churchill

"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure." - Clarence Darrow

"He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary." - William Faulkner (about Ernest Hemingway)

"Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it." - Moses Hadas

"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." - Mark Twain

"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends." - Oscar Wilde

Reader feedback

We are always pleased to hear from readers, whether letters on local issues, snippets of local history, or information about local or charitable organisations.

Just drop a line to the address on page 2, give us a call or drop us an email

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Sheffield Photographic Society

It was the 16th March when the society's 97 members received the President's email informing them that the Society was going into lockdown, following Government directives on the Covid-19 pandemic. The final 8 weeks of meetings were cancelled plus sadly the society's Annual Exhibition due to commence just 4 days later. In addition, the entire summer programme of visits were also cancelled.

Anxious to keep the society functioning during those early frightening days our Council examined the Zoom Video Conferencing system, and an initial three zoom meetings were organised. These meetings, by a guest speaker and two members, were very successful with up to sixty members logging into each meeting.

Thus, encouraged the weekly zoom programme was extended through the summer ending with the society's first ever AGM via zoom on the 28th July.

This was made possible thanks to a donation from member Manju Sarkar (Ray) in memory of her late husband Dr Pradip Kumar Sarkar. Thanks to Manju's generosity the society maintained its high standard of meetings with members enjoying many high quality guest speakers from all parts of the UK.

The disappointment of not being able to display our Annual Exhibition to the public was alleviated somewhat by an arrangement made with the Sheffield Telegraph. Commencing 26th March, the newspaper featured a double page spread of 10 exhibition images, in the Thursday publication, for 16 consecutive weeks. Some 85% of the exhibition images were displayed.

Throughout this period our retiring President, Gareth Morgan, worked very hard to keep the membership active and entertained. He maintained his weekly news email throughout often including details of non-society photographic opportunities which were available.

He organised regular on line photographic quizzes, as well as utilising the Society's On Line Forum to hold a weekly competition based on the Olympic Games, titled the "Olympic Torch Relay Challenge". To start the relay the President chose a theme for members to submit digital images.

At the end of the week he chose a winning image, and its author choose a theme for the following week and so on. The challenge ran for 13 weeks with the last week coinciding with the week when the Olympic torch would have arrived in Tokyo. The two images displayed are from that final week which had a theme of "A Composite Image" (made up of 2 or more individual images).

A major problem the society had to face up to was the season 2020 / 2021 due to commence September 2020 through to April 2021, with a programme that had been organised well in advance. However, due to the uncertainty that still prevails with Covid-19, it has been decided to run the weekly programme up to December 2020 as zoom meetings, whilst keeping the 2nd half under review. A decision as to when we can put on the Annual Exhibition is also in abeyance.

John Gorman

Best friends on tour by Trevor Unwin

Star gazing by Gareth Morgan

Extreme litter picking

Litter hotspots in some of the Peak District's most challenging terrain are being targeted in a new initiative by national park rangers.

Extreme litter-picking involves full-time and volunteer rangers tackling some of the hardest to reach areas, including rock formations and caves, throughout the national park.

As Covid-19 restrictions have eased, the Peak District has experienced a huge increase in both visitors and litter. Now, as volunteer rangers return to duties, a new push is underway to target problem areas.

Ranger Anna Jennings explains: "Our volunteers are vital in helping us to look after the Peak District National Park and at the moment are engaged in two key roles – fire watch duties and 'hotspot' volunteering.

"Fire watch duties include looking out for fires and use of camp fires and BBQs - which are not permitted anywhere in open countryside throughout the Peak District - and speaking to people about the risks. Hotspot volunteering includes some rights of way work such as clearing vegetation from paths and litter picking – some of it in difficult-to-reach areas.

"All our litter picking is risk-assessed and conducted within government Covid-19 safety guidelines, observing social distancing and using personal protective equipment. The more extreme litter picking is done by full-time rangers.

"The amount and range of litter we're finding is staggering – broken bottles, cans, dirty nappies, dog poo in bags, burnt out campfires and camping equipment, food packaging, fruit and hypodermic needles. As well as spoiling our beautiful countryside, litter can pose a serious safety risk in terms of fire or injury to other visitors, livestock and wildlife."

Outreach conservation volunteers assistant Harriet Saltis adds: "We urge all visitors to take home their litter and leave no trace of their visit. That would be the ideal solution. Lots of visitors and local residents are also litter picking and are playing an integral role in helping us to look after the national park. We're really grateful for their support.

"Our partners, including the National Trust, also have teams of volunteers and staff clearing litter – we're all in this together."

St Luke's needs you

St Luke's Hospice is appealing for new volunteers to assist as it continues its programme of re-opening its shops and retail operations across the city.

The charity has an award-winning chain of shops as well as a Donation Centre - accepting items for sale - and its popular Amazon and eBay sites. But as more shops welcome back customers, St Luke's is now looking for volunteers to help in all areas of the retail operation.

"The decision has been taken not to ask our volunteers over the age of 70 and under 18 years to return to a volunteering role in the first instance," said Head of Volunteering Joy Wigfield. "In making these decisions, we've responded to Government guidelines in considering our duty of care to staff, volunteers and members of the public and their safety".

"Volunteering continues to play a vital role at St Luke's into the future, but we must reintroduce it in a way that is safe for us all. With these considerations in mind, though, we do now need to seek out new volunteers, whose support is vital in getting our retail operations running across the city".

If you are looking for new opportunities, a chance to be part of a fantastic team, develop new skills and support a great cause, then email: volunteer@hospicesheffield.co.uk or call 0114 235 7548 or 0114 235 7542.