

# Bradway Bugle

*In and around Bradway, Greenhill, Dore & Totley*

## A 70th anniversary

Seventy years ago this year the Peak District National Park became the UK's original national park, designated on 17 April, 1951. With the foundations set by a group of pioneering ramblers some 20 years earlier and the work of campaigners, the Peak District eventually paved the way for what would become a UK network of 15 national parks enjoyed today.

It was set up to protect the landscape's natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage, to promote understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities, and to foster the economic and social wellbeing of local communities.

The celebration comes as more people than ever are believed to be visiting national parks as communities seek a 'green recovery' from the coronavirus pandemic.

Set in the heart of the UK, the Peak District National Park is now a living landscape home to around 38,000 residents, and attracting 13 million visitors a year – its proximity to countless towns and cities often finding it regarded as the most 'accessible' of the national parks in Britain.

For 70th anniversary information head to the dedicated anniversary pages [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/70](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/70) to find out more.

## New Police portal

South Yorkshire Police has launched an online reporting portal to make it easier than ever before for you to contact them.

The online portal, which can be accessed through the 'Report Something' page of their website, houses 50 reporting forms and provides the ability to live chat for the first time. In addition to this, you can also log on to the portal to track the status of previous reports made on the portal and read supporting knowledge items relating to your incident.

If you do report online, your contact will be managed by a member of a new dedicated Digital Desk team. The team will ensure that you receive assistance 24 hours a day, every day of the week. Whether you click or call, they're here to listen.

Sign up for an account here: <https://smartcontact.southyorkshire.police.uk/>



*Peak District landscape - Higger Moods. Picture by Phil Sproson Photography  
70kfor70 success - marking the 70th anniversary of the Park - see page 44*

## Safe Crossings to Green Spaces

"Stop there!" Every day, hundreds of parents have to grab their kids at the edge of our Outdoor City's woods and wait while a succession of cars and vans and 4 x4s whoosh past on their important journeys. And then we take a deep breath and quickly scuttle across so the child can run off again, having learned a lesson.

Lots of people I speak to are quite nervous about crossing City roads to reach local green spaces. When there's no traffic it can take minutes but most days there will be a stream of cars going up and down, often not abiding by the 30mph limit. and making crossing difficult.

On Abbey Lane, in Ecclesall Woods, Friends of Ecclesall Woods member Marilyn Small, counted 474 people trying to cross the 40mph limit road in 2 hours on a recent Sunday lunchtime. "Most people have to take their lives in their hands and charge across if they can," she said.

The Friends have launched a campaign asking the council to help people travel safely through the woods, on tracks and bridleways that predate the road by centuries. ( You can contact them at:

*continued on page 3 ....*

## Our most popular birds are in decline

Eighty per cent of Britain's most popular birds are facing decline, the RSPB has warned after its biggest-ever Big Garden Birdwatch. During the last weekend in January, over a million people across the UK took part, counting 17 million birds, as households looked for a way to spend the weekend in lockdown.

The world's largest wildlife survey, now in its 42nd year, found that 16 out of the 20 most spotted garden birds faced a decline on the previous year. More species face decline than in 2020, when half the birds in the top 20 saw dwindling numbers.

The study found that the house sparrow held on to its number one spot but 16 out of the top 20 bird species showed declines in average counts compared to last year. Only robins, blackbirds, carrion crows and the song thrush saw an increase on 2020. Conservationists hope that this trend for song thrushes will continue; in 1979, the bird was in the top 10, and its numbers have declined by 78 per cent since then. This year, it is the 20th most spotted bird.

There are concerns about the chaffinch and greenfinch, which have been seen in

*continued on page 4 ....*

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## Editorial

As we go to press the country is getting ready to pass its judgement on local authority performance over the last two years and approaching with trepidation or anticipation the easing of lockdown. The majority of vulnerable people have now been vaccinated and partially protected, but the scars of the epidemic will take a long while to heal.

Let's hope that government at local and national level has learnt something from it all and will move to a more equitable society while anticipating and planning for change, rather than just reacting to it.

For example we knew shopping was moving further online long before the pandemic accelerated this trend. But nobody in power had thought through the consequences and a need for example, to rebalance aspects of the tax system. Again the move away from the highstreet with have a significant impact on our urban environment.

The pandemic has also brought about other changes, most noticeably an increased appreciation and involvement with the great outdoors, from the national parks to domestic gardens. People may work and spend more time at home, changing the way we live.

The government has plenty of information to draw on for planning. Not least the latest census for which early results show that 97 per cent of households have responded. By the way, those who have not yet completed the census still have until 17th May to do so online.

Meanwhile amongst our pages you will find items on past memories & local history, on aspects of the environment, on local community groups and personal wellbeing. I hope there is something for everyone.

Stay safe.

*John Baker, Editor*

## BRADWAY COMMUNITY HALL

(Next to the Dore and Totley Golf Club)

Two Halls are available and can be booked either separately or together.

Charges from 1 October 2018 include:

### Main Hall

Self-supporting voluntary/community groups which use the hall regularly: **£5.50 per hour**

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(with a 50p per hour discount for prompt payment)

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Party bookings: **£45** for up to **three hours**; **£15 per hour** thereafter

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Other users: **£4 per hour** (£2 per hour if it is used in conjunction with the Main Hall)

For information about the Hall's facilities and availability, or to make a booking

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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 30th July**

## Councillors Update

It is strange writing this before the local elections for publication after the election. By the time they are over a lot could have changed. It is possible that there will be a change in the administration of the Council or no overall control. The way the Council operates could also alter depending upon the result of the referendum. The present strong leader and cabinet model could be replaced by a committee system that will involve more Councillors in decision making.

One thing that has already been agreed is a return to the Community Assemblies which were abolished in 2012 although this time they will be called Area Committees. We very much welcome this change which we have been advocating for a long time. It means that significant resources will be allocated to local areas and more control given to local Councillors about how and where the money is spent.

A special mention and thank you to the wonderful local team of litter pickers. They are doing a magnificent job of keeping our area clean. However, it should not be necessary if we all took our rubbish home or disposed of it in a bin. It is particularly disturbing that litter and broken glass is repeatedly being found in the playground in Bradway. There are bins there and there is no excuse not to use them and certainly broken glass is a real danger to the users.

Another welcome initiative is that 20 mph zones are being rolled out across the city in residential areas with priority initially to areas around schools. Zones are planned for our area but as yet we do not have a firm date for when and the order in which they will be activated. The introduction of the Area Committees previously mentioned may give us more control over where they are introduced and the ability to accelerate their introduction.

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The local rotary club are financing the introduction of some Swift boxes at schools across the city. One is planned for Dore Primary, This is in addition to the boxes introduced in the Totley area that were financed with a contribution from the ward pot.

All 3 of us have done shifts at the vaccination centre in Dore. A big thank you to our fellow volunteers who are doing a magnificent job. Also to the local businesses who are supplying catering!

As restrictions ease please continue to be sensible in your approaches as the virus is still with us and we need to avoid another wave. That said we are thankfully returning to something like normal and we hope to resume our face to face surgeries in due course. More information on that in the next edition.

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## Voices From The Peak

Poet and recording artist Mark Gwynne Jones is creating a series of audio artworks to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Peak District National Park.

Chapter 1: Burning Drake; Chapter 2: Snow!; and Chapter 3: Kinder Scout are available now.

Voices from the Peak is a poetic soundscape of word and sound featuring the atmospheres, wildlife and stories of this strange and beautiful land of contrasts. Headphones recommended!

Listen to the first three chapters at [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/voicesfromthepark](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/voicesfromthepark).

## 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:

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**Tel: 236 9025 or**

**mobile on 078 1161 4727**

Alternatively you can write to:

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Sheffield, S17 3PP.**

or: [editor@villagepublications.co.uk](mailto:editor@villagepublications.co.uk)

Bradway Bugle is printed by Whittington Moor Printing Works Ltd in Chesterfield. Tel: 01246 221892

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few.abbeylanecrossing@gmail.com)

A lower speed limit, proper crossings, and refuges are all options. But at present, the council has a list of 566 requests for the same sort of thing across the city, and under the current system can only fund a handful every year.

More people than ever have been walking and cycling to local woods and parks over the last year: Google analytics reckoned South Yorkshire saw an 85% increase of visitors to its green spaces last spring. And daily local exercise is now deemed so important that leisure and exercise are seen as economic benefits in their own right.

“Access to green spaces is important for people’s health and mental wellbeing, and so help to access those green spaces is also an economic benefit,” said Peter Bull from the Friends of Parkwood Springs. Here local Jean Armstrong says “Lots of people I speak to are quite nervous about crossing Shirecliffe Road, but that’s where Parkwood Springs is, on the other side of the road.” At the age of 85 she has re-taken up the campaign she began almost 30 years ago for a safer crossing over .

Since the government has announced its intention for half of journeys in towns and cities to be walked or cycled by 2030, many crossing campaigners think the time is right to rethink the importance of simple journeys for local people to their city’s parks and woodlands.

Up to now, we’ve had road infrastructure based on inequality, says Sheffield City Region Active Travel Programme director Pete Zanzottera. “We have a system where we prioritise motor vehicles, regardless of the delay or inconvenience it causes to pedestrians. Anyone walking is presumed to be less important than someone driving. We need to stop that.”

While national government works out its own funding priorities, councils could simply put walking facilities ahead of some other road schemes, he says, and thus drastically speed up that list of



*Taking your life in your hands to cross busy Abbey Lane within the woods*

crossing requests. “We need to value pedestrian journeys for the transformational impact they can have on our local communities,” said SCR Active Travel Commissioner Dame Sarah Storey.

*“Since I had my son in 2014, I have dashed between the woods across Abbey Lane with bikes, buggies, babies and grandparents - I’m fed up!”*

After the petition for safer crossings on Abbey Lane reached over 5,800 signatures, the council have now promised a feasibility study into the options, which will consider possible changes to the road layout and speed limit.

Sheffielders can indicate their requests for safe crossing on the SCR interactive travel map to be found online at: <https://cyclewalkscmap.sheffieldcityregion.org.uk>

*David Bocking*

## Woodlands ‘at crisis point’

A review of the state of Britain’s native woods and trees has found only 7% are in a good condition. While woodland cover is slowly increasing, the wildlife within it is decreasing, says the Woodland Trust. If threats to woodland aren’t tackled, the UK’s ability to tackle climate and nature crises will be “severely damaged”, the charity warns.

The Woodland Trust is among a number of groups calling for legally binding targets for the recovery of nature. “The warning signs in this report are loud and clear,” says Abi Bunker, director of conservation and external affairs at the Woodland Trust. “If we don’t tackle the threats facing our woods and trees, we will severely damage the UK’s ability to address the climate and nature crises.”

Woodland now covers 13% of UK land, up from 12% in 1998. About half is made up of native tree species, such as oak, beech and ash, including centuries-old ancient woodlands. The remaining half comprises non-native trees such as conifers grown commercially for timber.

Despite the small increase in the amount of woodland cover over the past few decades, the trend for wildlife is one of steep decline, said the Woodland Trust. Wildlife is going down - woodland birds, woodland butterflies, woodland plants are all going in the wrong direction for woodlands as a whole. This is down to factors such as pollution, invasive species, deer browsing and fragmentation - woods chopped up into small parcels. All of these need to be tackled.

The report, State of the UK’s Woods and Trees 2021, found that ancient woodlands lock up proportionally more carbon than other types of tree cover. They’re really important in terms of their ability to tackle climate change whilst providing that real specialist and irreplaceable habitat for declining wildlife.

Ancient woodlands continue to be lost and damaged by house building, new road and railways, the report says. It calls for a better balance to be restored by removing non-native trees and invasive plants such as rhododendrons.



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their lowest ever numbers this year. Both birds are impacted by the disease Trichomonosis, which can kill. To combat the illness, it is advised people clean their bird tables and replace seed regularly.

Loss of habitat and food is the reason most birds have seen decreases since the birdwatch first began, and the RSPB has asked people to make room in all their outdoor space, including windowsills, for birds.

Despite the bad news for many garden birds, the RSPB is enthusiastic that the last year has made people develop more of an appreciation for nature, so they may be galvanised to help the birds.

To find out more or get involved visit: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/results/>

## Bradway Birds

As you walk Bradway's pavements, have you noticed that bird droppings are not evenly distributed? For a hundred paces, there will be none then will follow a zone of concentrated spatter. Look up (not at night!) and you will a bird roost.

This might be a tree, bush, telegraph pole or lamppost. Considering the extra shelter given by twigs, the use of poles is surprising, but decisions of even humans are hard to understand. Light fittings might warm the feet a little, but telegraph poles?

Droppings can last a long time, even in rainy spells. Herring gull deposits after a seaside visit need to be removed rapidly from your car or else! Locally, we are talking large birds here too: crows and pigeons are the main depositors.

The number of droppings per patch shows that birds use the same roost repeatedly. Anywhere with an advantage will be stuck to. Nearly all animals are



The Goldfinch



The Greenfinch

creatures of instinctive or learned habit, and too much deviation can be fatal.

As I write in the middle of April, we have another slow and hesitant spring. As in many years, a few mild days are scattered among many cold ones. Snow is far more common in April than in December, yet we still find it hard to get used to and it makes me grumpy. The Cairngorms and Lake District high fells are often well snowed up until May.

Yet flowers have evolved to blossom come what may, and from mid March some pollinators have been around. The larger bumble bee queens are flying, these being the garden, early and white-tailed species. They gain vigour from the nectar on offer. They benefit the plants by pollinating them and have probably started nests and are feeding their young until the young are ready to leave the nest. Small flies are dancing in social parties.

The starling flocks referred to last time have split into pairs. Walk round the Rosamunds, Everards, Longfords and Wollatons, and you will see them. The males sing from chimney pot or aerial, a long, burbling and clicking trill. As he sings, he looks heavenwards, half opens and flicks his wings. It's a charming sight.

Blackbirds and robins defend, very vigorously, two or more gardens as a territory. Not so starlings, which sing to advertise and proclaim no more than a small zone around their nest in a chimney pot or under the eaves. Six houses in a row might each have a singing male and there will be no fighting or chasing.

The birds will share a good local food source, form feeding flocks, especially when youngsters are out, then go back to their tiny nesting patch. Not so the robin,

which will never share good sites feeding with other robins, his partner being the only exception.

Last year was a good one for goldfinches, then most migrated for the winter, to southern England, France or Spain. Those that remain are probably less likely to survive, but on the other hand those that do survive have the pick of breeding sites. Which birds decide (?) to migrate and which to stay, on what grounds or survival calculations is a mystery.

Anyway, winters and migrants are all here now, and our suburb is full of them. Any local walk will be in their company, and their jingling twitter uttered in bouncy flight or from tree tops and wires will be with you all the way.

Greenfinches are much less common now than the goldies, having been hit by a respiratory virus thirty years ago. They all left for warmer regions this winter, but were back in early April. Larger than goldfinches they also sing, a wheezy whistle, jolly, but not beautiful.

Examples can be heard near the Wollaton shops, at the top of Woodland and Prospect Places, and on Rosamund Avenue near The Castle entrance to Poynton Wood. Go and find them!

John Kirkman

## Hathersage Swimming Pool

A lot has change over the last 18 months and its been exceedingly difficult for a lot of people and business during the COVID 19 pandemic. But finally, after a long wait during the most recent lockdown Hathersage Pool has been able to open its door and let the general public use this wonderful facility.

The pool opened with great fanfare on Monday 29th March, with great publicity. Pool Management (Mike & George) became local celebrities with interviews on ITV, BBC, Sky News, as well many radio and newspaper interviews!!!

With this publicity came great demand for ticket for all sessions we were offering. Over the first 2 weeks all sessions sold out on the day of release which was fantastic and shows what great support we have within the local community and beyond.

As lockdown restriction slowly get eased, we are expecting to be able to start up all our usual fund-raising events, from monthly night swims to live music and the ever popular 24-Hour Mid-Summer opening. Here's hoping we continue toward the end of governments road map and then even more swimmers can come and enjoy our wonderful pool!!!!

We would like to thank everyone who has helped support us through out this pandemic and all the lockdowns and we are so glad to have you all back swimming in our pool.

If you would like to book tickets or require more information about swimming or membership, please visit [www.hathersageswimmingpool.co.uk](http://www.hathersageswimmingpool.co.uk)



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## Public Transport

With the easing of Coronavirus restrictions in April, which allowed shops, gyms, outdoor hospitality and more to open and travel no longer being restricted to essential journeys only, there have been changes to bus and tram timetables to restore many services to pre-lockdown levels.

For us here in Bradway, this means in the daytime our 24/25 bus into town sets off from the Redcap terminus up to every 12 minutes on weekdays and up to every 15 minutes at weekends. Two buses per hour extend down Wollaton/Longford. The evening service is also back to normal with bus 24 running generally hourly until about 11pm. Our other Bradway bus, the M17, which shuttles around locally between Dore and Jordanthorpe on an hourly frequency is also back up to the full timetable.

For those that walk down to Abbeydale Road South for a bus, the 218 Sheffield to Bakewell is now on its summer schedule running half hourly 7 days a week. On the trains, the summer schedules across the National Rail network commence from 16th May.

Whilst all are now welcome to travel by bus, tram and train and most services are now back to normal timetables, Coronavirus safety guidelines remain in force, for now including wearing face coverings and reduced capacity for social distancing. It is hoped these rules will be lifted from 21st June. It is expected that the usual January fare changes that were



No 25 Woodhouse via Woodseats

postponed this year will be introduced in the summer, including the introduction of a new "Flexi5" deal aimed at part time commuters offering a discount for buying a pack of 5 day tickets in advance.

It is also expected a new concessionary pass for 18-21 year olds will be introduced for a 1 year trial as a result of Sheffield City Region gaining some government funding.

Information for all local bus, tram and train services including the latest timetables and route maps can be found online at [travelsouthyorkshire.com](http://travelsouthyorkshire.com) or by calling Travel Line on 01709 51-51-51, whilst passes for all buses, trains and trams in South Yorkshire can be bought online at [sytravelmaster.com](http://sytravelmaster.com).

*Andrew Cullen*

## Peat free gardening call

Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust are asking gardeners to demand peat free composts from retailers in a public call for an immediate end to peat product sales.

Calls to end peat use in composts and other growing media began over 30 years ago when people began to realise that peatlands are priceless – recognising them as precious places for wildlife, and more recently as habitats which capture and store carbon if managed well. However progress by retailers has been woefully slow at a time of climate emergency and nature crisis.

A survey of top retailers found only one in 20 says they will eliminate peat this year. And a Government voluntary target to stop peat compost sales was missed in 2020.

This year the Government will decide if new legislation is needed to end peat use in the horticultural sector – but there is still no sign of their long-awaited peat strategy.

Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust are now calling for an immediate end to sales of peat compost – further delay will cause continued destruction of peatlands worldwide.

Peatlands are vital wildlife habitats and it's absolutely crucial that they remain intact to help us tackle climate change. The Government can ensure that these important carbon stores function as nature intended by banning peat sales now.

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## Memories of Granelli's on Broad Street

Sheffield Photographic Society's 2021 Annual Exhibition, traditionally a print exhibition, could not be displayed in the Sheffield Cathedral during March this year due to Covid-19 restrictions. The society switched to digital images and the exhibition of these is posted on the society's own website at [www.sheffieldphotosociety.org.uk](http://www.sheffieldphotosociety.org.uk).

Members are able to enter images in a variety of genres, with one category being "Sheffield. Its Life and Environs". Entries must have been taken within the city boundary within the last 5 years, and show an aspect of Sheffield life or a building or an open space which reflects the current nature of the city.

As a member of Sheffield PS my entry was a shot of the Granelli's Ice Cream and Sweet shop on Broad Street, which was judged to be the best in the category and awarded the Fred Hague Trophy.

With fond childhood memories of Granelli's I was inspired to research its history.

In the early 1870's the Granelli family emigrated from Italy to settle in the old Italian quarter in the West Bar area. The two Granelli brothers purchased a plot of land where the Hampton by Hilton Hotel now stands. (Previously the site of West Bar Police Station), and in 1874 founded their ice cream business. However, it was not long before the premises in Broad Street became available which allowed them to expand the business to sell sweets as well as ice cream.

The Granelli's Broad Street premises is a truly unique historical building. It served not only as a business premise for the sweet shop and the ice cream making facility, but also had stables and storage in the yard through the archway to accommodate their horses and two wheeled delivery traps. It has also been the Granelli family home for successive generations and the current generation Granelli's still live in the premises.

Walking into the sweet shop is like walking into a time machine. It has a museum feel about it with the walls lined with a technicolor treat of jars, bottles and trays of sweets of every colour, shape



*Granelli's Broad Street premises have served not only as business premises for the sweet shop and the ice cream making, but also had stables and storage facilities.*

flavour and texture. There are 200 plus types of sweets from a bygone era such as acid drops, dolly mixtures and choc nibbles all mostly locally sourced.

Whilst the pony and trap are now replaced with modern ice cream vans selling the whipped soft ice cream, the shop still sells the old-fashioned hard stuff which is scooped out of the container.

I have fond childhood memories of Granelli's. Raised on a nearby council estate, Broad Street was the main avenue into the city from the area where I lived. In the 1950's it was a very different area from the present which is now dominated by the Park Square roundabout. Broad Street formed a junction with the bottom of Duke Street where the huge Gunstone's Bakery dominated the skyline.

Opposite the equally imposing high black walls of the Canal basin enclosed the area dominated by the city coal merchants. Broad Street, before leading

on from the junction to the open air market commonly called the Rag Market, opened out into a large square opposite Granelli's where a Victorian horse trough stood right in the middle of the road.

My grandparents, who, when I was a child of 7 or 8, also lived very local. My grandmother, in her late 60's was quite frail, and I was often charged with helping her on shopping expeditions into the Broad Street area. She always rewarded me with a visit to Granelli's shop for a bag of spice.

Later as a young teenager I attended the Central Technical School in the city centre.

I often used to walk back home passing Granelli's on the way, and found it hard not to spend some pocket money inside.

Happy days.

*John Gorman  
Sheffield Photographic Society*

## Recycling Centres

The opening hours of Sheffield's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC), have been extended, with all sites now open seven days a week for the rest of spring and the summer. All five sites are now open from 9.30am to 5.30pm every day until Thursday 30 September.

Sites accept a wide range of items household waste for recycling, including textiles, glass bottles and jars, wood, scrap metal, batteries, garden waste, electrical appliances and even engine and cooking oil.

More information about what these sites can accept is available at Veolia Sheffield <https://www.veolia.co.uk/sheffield/recycling-sites/recycling-sites>

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## From your local MP

With the days getting longer, lockdown restrictions easing, and the vaccine roll out continuing, I imagine many are, as I am, looking forward to being able to see friends and family, visit a local pub or cafe, or get out to the Peaks

As we start to emerge from the pandemic I wanted to thank everyone in Hallam for all you have done to help us get through this crisis. It has been amazing to see so many come together to help others - from our vital frontline workers in the NHS and care services, to volunteers delivering food parcels or medicine across the city.

I know that many in Bradway and across the city are still struggling from the aftermath of covid-19. I am still hearing from hundreds every week, from those suffering from bad mental health and unable to access support, to others unable to resume work and make ends meet. I have been working hard in Sheffield and in Parliament to raise these issues and campaign for change.

The past year has reminded us all just how important access to green space is for our mental and physical health. At the time of writing, we have just celebrated the 70th Anniversary of the Peak District National Park, which came into being after coordinated trespasses by working-class ramblers. In honour of their legacy I have been working in Parliament to resist attempts to criminalise our right to roam, so we can ensure everyone, everywhere is able to access green space.

As well as the Peaks, access to nature is important in the city too - I joined campaigners calling for a safer crossing for Ecclesall Woods at Abbey Lane. I wrote to and met with the Council to express my support for their petition, now signed by over 3,000 residents, and asking them to prioritise for a new safe crossing between Ecclesall Woods. The council have now announced a feasibility study into this which is a great success for the community.

I have continued my campaign to ban the damaging practice of peatland burning, an issue which impacts so many of us living close to the moors. Despite proposed government legislation, moors in Sheffield and across the country are still being burnt, ruining habitats and accelerating the climate emergency. There have been 702 reported incidents on Yorkshire's moors since 1st October alone, a 21% increase on the previous season.

I am working with local campaigners to improve the legislation to ensure all peat is protected. I coordinated a letter signed by 30 MPs, including Sheffield MPs Paul Blomfield and Clive Betts, to the Environment Secretary, raising concerns about the environmental impact of burning and calling for stronger legislation.

I know that many in Bradway and across our constituency work in the NHS, social care, and other important frontline services. Over the last year I have been

contacted by many constituents struggling to access mental health support. I have spoken to specialist frontline services working in Hallam who have seen massive increases in demand, and NHS staff left to treat children with eating disorders without specialist training as specialist services are not available.

I have been working with local eating disorder services to push for a ring fenced, emergency package of funding. Ahead of the budget earlier this year I coordinated a cross-party letter, signed by 40 MPs and Lords, calling for this.

Finally the climate assemblies I have been holding with Hallam constituents in the lead-up to COP26, the UN Climate Summit, have gone from strength to strength. So far we have discussed decarbonising: public transport, finance, and food production. I would like to invite each and every one of you to join our conversation. You can find out more about how to get involved here: <https://www.oliviablake.org.uk/hallams-climate-manifesto/>

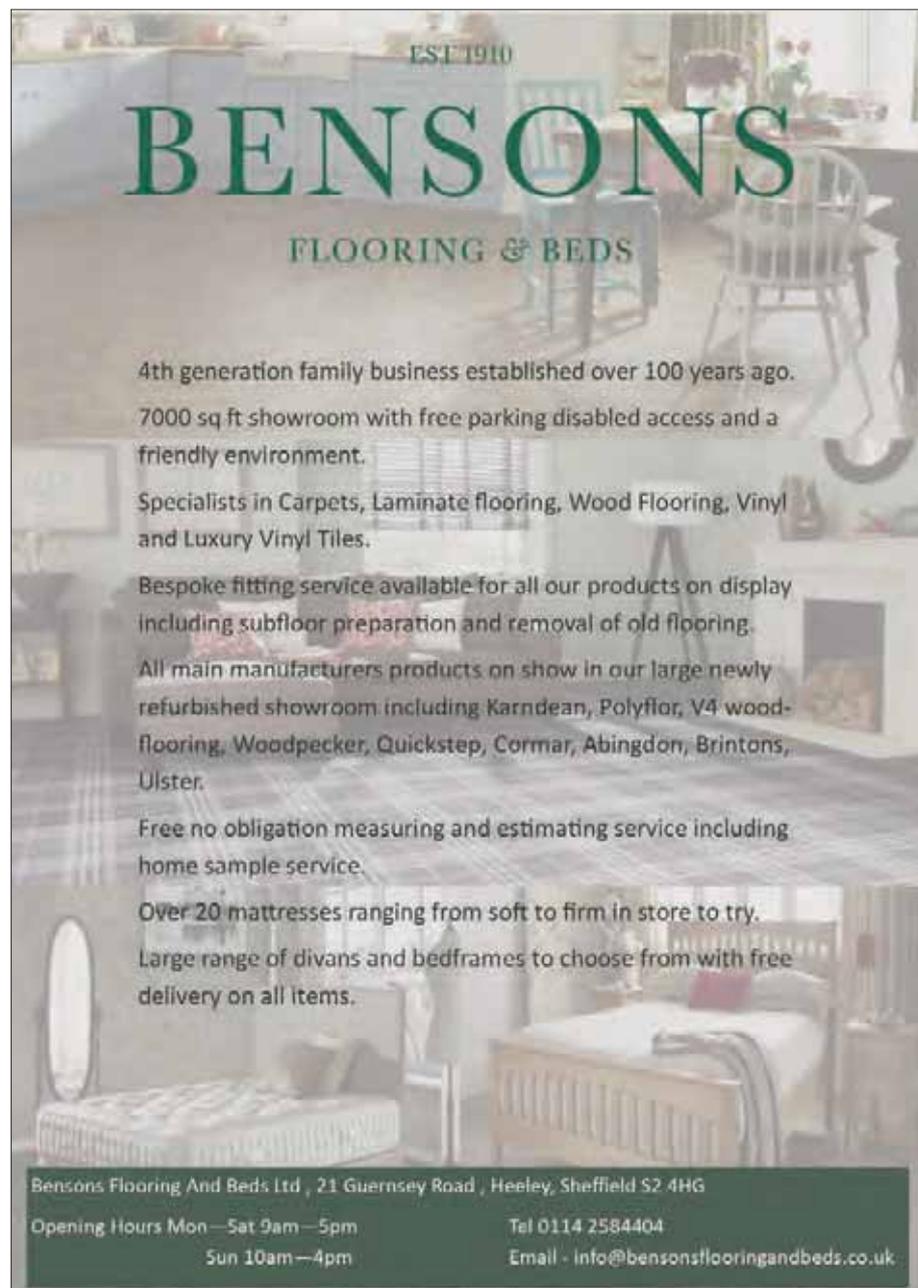
As always, if there is an issue you would like me to raise, or a campaign you would like me to support please do get in touch! If you would like to hear from me more regularly, you can sign up to my monthly email update on my website: <https://www.oliviablake.org.uk/>

**Olivia Blake**  
**MP for Sheffield Hallam**  
[olivia.blake.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:olivia.blake.mp@parliament.uk)

## Keep it green

A new CPRE poll has found that 67% of adults want the protection and enhancement of their local green space to be a higher priority after lockdown (up from 63% in the April 2020 poll). Meanwhile nearly half (46%) of those surveyed said they were visiting green spaces more during the pandemic - an increase of nearly a third in the past year.

CPRE says the government can and must act to stop the loss of Green Belt and ensure greater access to nature and green space in our planning system.



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## Making memories

It was a warm day in 1972 and a lovely afternoon to be outside. My class were doing some sort of sport on the school field but, instead of participating, I had spent most of the afternoon, on my own, sitting in a wooded area, playing with plants and bits of wood and pretending that they were trees.

An innocent enough activity you may think, until I tell you that I wasn't supposed to be there, having slipped off from the lesson. As far as I remember, I managed to play in those woods during lessons several times, because in my primary school years, unlike later in my life, I was willing to do almost anything to avoid the majority of the sport that was on offer.

I have no idea how I got away with it for so long, and maybe the teacher had just had enough of me in his lesson and was happy to turn a blind eye, but my adventures with plants eventually came to an end because of severe rash that developed behind my knee. My mother took me to the doctors to have the rash checked out, the doctor asked me if I had been touching any plants, and the truth came tumbling out, with giant hogweed the likely culprit.

My Mum got in touch with the school straight away and I imagine that there were a few questions asked on the telephone. I've no idea if I got into trouble, but my sports education certainly resumed following the incident.

I mention this story, not because it shows how amazingly lax my school's safety measures were, in contrast to the incredible care that is taken in today's schools, but because of the fact that I still remember these events, albeit hazily, after nearly 50 years.

Much of my time at primary school has disappeared from my memory, but it is fascinating to map the bits I remember since almost all of my memories are linked to school trips and visits, theme days or times when I got in trouble, as in the above example.

When ex-pupils visit Bradway, I like to ask them what they remember about school and their responses are often very similar, in that their memories are usually linked to events which occurred outside the classroom; it can be the time they

## Bradway Primary School

Dates for your diary

**Half term holiday:**

31st May to 4th June

**Summer holiday:**

22nd July to 31st August

went to an activity centre and slept over, their first time in a canoe, when they got told off by a teacher, or perhaps when they had an accident on the playground. Sometimes they remember the time they acted in a play, or played music in front of an audience for the first time.

It seems that memories are formed most reliably by times when one is a little scared, happy or excited. It seems that, so often, memories are formed most readily when there is an element of emotion entwined with the original event.

These sorts of memories of events, and the learning that comes from these events, are a big part of what makes us who we are, and, in my opinion, they are as important as the learning which takes place in the classroom since they develop the precious quality of resilience. They also teach us that the world is an exciting place and that we all have special abilities, interest and talents, although it can take a lifetime to uncover these talents sometimes.

Taking risks and challenging our limits, finding out what our abilities are, gives us confidence and resilience; it creates truly memorable and character forming experiences and that is why we have really missed our visits to outside education centres like Thornbridge Outdoors, a wonderful facility run by Sheffield City Council, set in the Derbyshire countryside.

The Thornbridge Centre gives children an opportunity to take risks in a safe environment, such as high ropes, low ropes, crawling through subterranean tunnels and abseiling.

I challenge any Bradway child to forget the first time they launched themselves on to a swinging rope for example, or climbed into a long dark tube under the ground as they do at Thornbridge. Bradway was one of the last schools to visit their fantastic site before lockdown

in 2020, a site which lies next to the Monsall Trail and which is surrounded by trees and fields.

We are really looking forward to Thornbridge, and other activity centres, opening up again, so that we can give our children at Bradway even more of the diverse and rich curriculum experiences which are key to their continuing development, and to sow yet more wonderful memories. It will always be with a watchful eye of course, since we definitely don't want to find that one of our children has decided to wander off, alone, to the woods, to play with the plants; these events belong firmly in the past.

**Paul Stockley (Headmaster)**  
**Bradway Primary School**

Follow me on

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## Bradway Scouting

The annual census count of our young members showed that we only lost a few during the lockdown, and already the numbers are starting to pick up again.

**The Beaver Section** is increasing slightly in numbers, thanks in part to the unfortunate closure of Greenhill Methodist Beavers who lost all their Leaders, with the other Greenhill Colony already oversubscribed. The new members, from Bradway as well as Greenhill, joined enthusiastically in with the weekly online meetings.

They have all been working on My World Challenge, still on Zoom, and have also been learning first aid and done some Easter crafts. The Beavers also told some jokes for Red Nose Day, raising £22.00 - £1 for each time they made their Leader laugh !!

Face to face meetings finally resumed the Monday after the Easter break.

**Cubs** also continued with online meetings. As the Leaders became more familiar with using cyberspace they changed from the Entertainer to the Photographer Badge. Work for this amidst other more active events has been keenly embraced by the Cubs themselves, and these efforts have been highly praised by most parents.

**Scouts** also started work on the Photographer Badge, quickly showing how much more familiar with mobile phone technology they are than their Leaders. Other theory work covered the principles of sailing and of navigation – this latter culminating in the joint production of a route plan which we may soon have the pleasure of validating out there in the open.

The day after face-to-face meetings were again allowed (March 29th), the Scouts all turned up to a distanced meeting in the Bradway School grounds, culminating in the consumption of hot dogs. The plan was then to supplement further evening meetings during the Easter break with some kayaking on the Sheffield canal: we have enough kayaks



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to cater for half of the Troop on each of the two Tuesdays.

At the time of planning, we were all basking in sub-tropical temperatures but then the weather turned against us. The risk of a novice kayaker capsizing then being pulled out of extremely cold water into the teeth of the north wind, and possibly at some distance from dry clothing to change into was too great. A round walk up and over Totley Moss proved a popular alternative: the sun shone just enough to mitigate that north wind.

Looking ahead, the annual District Camp during the May Day week-end will be yet another online event, because mass gatherings will not by then be permissible. The District Team are putting together what looks like very enjoyable set of activities, with some aimed specifically at the younger members as well as plenty that we can all have a go at.

In June, all government announcements permitting, we shall have an actual outdoor event – celebrating Bradway’s 50th anniversary that we had to abandon last year. We plan to hold this on June 26th, in the school grounds. Former members have been invited to come and see how today’s Scouting compares with how it was in 1970, and to take part in some of the challenges that still face us today.

**Frank Richardson**  
For Bradway Scouts  
[www.bradwayscouts.org.uk](http://www.bradwayscouts.org.uk)

## Obituary – Mark (Chalky) White

Back in the 1990s, Bradway had about 40 boys (no girls in those days) in 2 Troops, but only 4 adult Scout Leaders. An appeal was circulated to all other Sheffield Troops, to see if anyone could help. One Troop based in Pitsmoor was running with 6 boys and 5 Leaders, two of whom volunteered to help at Bradway.

One of these was Mark White who remained with Bradway until ill health forced his retirement in 2019. (His pal Pete Gillott stuck with us until 2004.) When eventually another Leader, also named Mark, joined the Troop, it became easy to distinguish between them by dubbing the “White” one Chalky.

From his first meeting with us, Mark proved a source of knowledge on an enormous range of topics. He knew just about everything to do with Scouting: all the knots and lashings; maps and compass work plus eventually satnav; first aid; the theories of sailing and kayaking; cycling; camping; bivvy building and survival skills; firefighting and cooking; everything a young Scout might need to know.

On top of that, Mark was also endowed with the patience to pass this knowledge on. During his time, hundreds of Scouts benefitted from his knowledge and experience, with many of them gaining the Chief Scout’s Award – the highest of all awards for Scouts

Even outside the Scouting arena Chalky’s knowledge was encyclopaedic,

ranging from e.g. simple skills such as Diablo to the complexities of securing and balancing a loaded trailer - and he was always thirsty for more. His culinary skills were legendary, so it was no surprise that Bradway were never out of the top 3 in the annual District Indoor Cooking Competition during his leadership.

No portrait of Chalky would be complete without mention of his love of wordplay which frequently left us groaning at some dreadful pun he had concocted. He was a great guy to be with on so many fronts.

He died of lung cancer in March this year at the age of 54. We will miss him.

## South Sheffield Church

The Church is now open again for a Sunday morning service (10.45a.m.)

Anyone from the community is welcome. The Church adheres to Government guidelines. Masks must be worn and sadly no hymn singing! There are, however, some beautiful modern hymns downloaded with both words to read, music and singing to listen to.

The Fellowship Group, open to anyone, restarted on April 20th. See the Church advert for times.

It is hoped that it will not be too long before other community activities are able to re start. The notice board outside the church will keep you informed of when this is possible.

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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

*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



*The clean up crew with a lot of assorted rubbish from deep in Poynton Wood*

### Covid-19 and Bradway

It has been a very difficult time since March 2020, nobody needs reminding! When we cancelled our Open Meeting that April we wouldn't have thought we'd not have had another a year later. However, the next is scheduled for Wednesday 7th July, as long as the Covid road map (Road map – surely it's just a plan?) is confirmed and Bradway School are happy to provide the venue and we obey distancing. The Bounds walk should be OK on 30th May as long as we limit it to 30 people. Roll on full relaxation of regulations, maybe by the autumn.

### Poynton Woods paths and other outdoor activities

It's been rather frustrating in that the time we need to work on the paths is the winter when they're muddy and we can see where repairs are needed. However all have dried rock hard and we've still to receive materials to spread over the muddiest sections. If anyone has any material that may be suitable please contact John Sharpe by email – his address is below.

We recently cleared out a lot of assorted

rubbish from deep in Poynton Wood. Goodness knows how it got there, probably to build dens, but it was no longer fit for even that. In doing so we revealed a little of the folly or grotto that used to belong to Abbeydale Hall. When the Hope Valley railway was built it became isolated. Ebenezer Hall who owned the Hall insisted on a bridge to reach it but its proximity to smoky engines must have been too unpleasant and it was soon removed.

We try to keep on top of foliage that overgrows paths, brambles and prickly holly. New shoots are appearing and the bluebells are at their best about now. We meet about 9.30 on Thursdays and tackle what needs doing until lunch time. We'll try to tackle anything that needs doing, so let John Sharpe know if you'd like to join us, or just want to make a suggestion at: [john.c.sharpe54@gmail.com](mailto:john.c.sharpe54@gmail.com)

### Verges!

The clamour in recent years has been to stop people parking or running over verges. In recent weeks another issue has arisen. What do residents like to have on verges when they're not parked over?

For this purpose the verge comprises the grassy area between the footpath and

the road, or the footpath and the property garden wall. It also includes grassy corners at the end and middle of some streets. Normally these areas are laid down as grass and mown by the council as owners maybe 3 or 4 times a year. Many residents mow the section outside their house to make it look better and nobody objects.

Most Bradway streets were laid out with a street tree between each pair of houses but many have been removed. Hopefully a few more can be restored, but they aren't today's issue.

We've been asked what can residents do with the verge outside their house? Strictly, under the terms of the Highways Act 1980, without a licence from the council, nothing! Paragraph 142 (i) says; *The highway authority for a highway may by a licence granted under this section permit the occupier or the owner of any premises adjoining the highway to plant and maintain, or to retain and maintain, trees, shrubs, plants or grass in such part of the highway as may be specified in the licence.*

Sheffield City Council offer the option to individual residents to apply for a planting licence for planting crocus and snowdrops within highway verges and may licence tubs. Any stones, be they loose or bedded in, are not normally sanctioned. The licence is granted to that owner and not to their successor.

Looking around there must be quite a number of households who've obtained such a licence - or the council have turned blind eyes! Normally few would object as long as the tidy appearance of the streets is maintained.

Recently there's been a push to introduce meadow flowers into verges on country roads, rewilding. Some might like to see this on suburban roads. Others would wish to retain neat mown strips. Where do pretty meadow plants end and weeds begin? Whatever, currently they'll be mown several times a year.

This can be a very emotive issue and BAG members have varied views. There was a case in the Loxley area a few years ago when the owners of a cottage put in a lot of effort to develop what looked like

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a regular garden on 'their verge'. It seems someone reported it and officialdom demanded the plain grass to be restored. Petitions were started to keep 'their garden.'

If anything is placed on the verge other than grass be aware that if it hasn't been licenced and gets noticed the owner may be asked to remove it. It's unlikely anyone would object to some of the small strips in front of garden walls. As long as they don't impede mowing.

### Planning – the Twentywell Lane Care Home application

Work has yet to start in earnest but must be imminent. The surreptitious attempt to add a gate onto the ginnel between Kenwell Drive and Bradway Drive was spotted and after protests a retrospective planning application was submitted. It received many objections. At the time of writing the applicants are trying to withdraw the request.

### Forthcoming major work on the railway

Finally given the go ahead by the time of the next issue we should have a lot more detail of how work is to proceed. We now know early work may start in June, but major site preparation probably won't be until January. The main work sites will be on the railway triangle and station car park with a smaller one by Westview Lane.

We hope to have a preliminary meeting with the Project Manager in early May. The major construction contract is from April 2022 to September 2023 with land

## Bugle publication dates

Details for the next four issues	
Copy Deadline	Publication
30 July	18 August 2021
22 October	10 November 2021
28 January	16 February 2022
22 April	11 May 2022

restoration at its conclusion.

Separately vegetation is to be cut back on the mainline from Beauchief to Dronfield between May and October. This has to happen from time to time to prevent the tracks being overgrown and reduce the risks of falling trees and leaves on the line. We're assured wildlife will be protected as far as possible.

### 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

We've over 1000 people in our Facebook Group and add new names every day. Lots of lively information, news and opinions about Bradway, its history and residents. It enables local residents to keep in touch with all sorts of local happenings. Just explain your Bradway connection and accept the simple rules and you should be admitted.

### Full Members

Many thanks to all who set up standing orders to pay their membership

subscriptions for 2021 on 1st January or soon after. The income allows us to commit to modest projects within the community. Paid up members have the right to vote at General Meetings and are eligible to be nominated for committee positions.

It's not too late to renew or join now. **We'd greatly welcome more fully paid up members.**

**To join BAG**, or to renew your subscription, 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

Outside work most Thursdays, see details earlier in this article.

Committee Meetings are now by Zoom.

If Covid rules and regulations allow we'll try to hold an Open Meeting for all members on; 7th July.

The Bounds of Bradway Walk should be on 30th May, rules permitting.

The 2021 Fun Day is on Saturday 11th September. The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight has been asked if they can fly by and we hope they will.

Our AGM should be on October 6th.

We'll have Christmas lights on the Twentywell Lane shops – the show must go on whatever happens with the pandemic!

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

*Chris Morgan, Chairman*

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*A selection of new board books for our very youngest Greenhill Library customers*

## Greenhill Library

### A slow awakening

After my somewhat dismal report in the last “Bugle” I am in better mood now, and delighted to announce that we re-opened our doors to the public on 12 April, with sessions from 2-4pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and an extra session from 10-12 on Saturdays.

It would be an exaggeration to say that we’re “back to normal” as we have a one-way system in place, and zone markings to enforce social distancing. We’ve also removed all the seating, making it more of a “drive-through” experience rather than the “stay as long as you like” atmosphere we usually offer.

But it’s a start. Public internet access, printing and photocopying are also available, and the book shop is open. On Saturday mornings we’ve also introduced “family browsing” sessions, though at the moment we’re asking you to book ahead for that by calling us on 237 7657.

We’ve also made significant progress on re-establishing our library in Lowedges, with our move to the former Terminus Café premises now underway. (Volunteers Paul, Rob and Michael are redecorating even as I write this!) We don’t have a firm date for opening yet but expect it will be in the second half of May. We’re excited by the prospect of working with The Terminus Initiative.

The same painting team has also been busy redecorating the children’s library at Greenhill, which is now looking much fresher. And we’re rather pleased with the poster we designed (see photo below) encouraging youngsters to take care when using social media. It fills an entire notice board and is prominently displayed in the children’s computer

corner.

The book team and front-of-house volunteers are busy (as always) managing book loans, handling click & collect orders, processing donated books, restocking the bookshop, and buying new stock. In fact, we’ve bought rather a lot of new books in recent weeks, including a selection of board books for our very youngest customers (see photo), and books designed to help parents trying to explain about coronavirus and lockdown to young children.

There are other signs of our re-awakening. On Saturday 22 May from 10-12 we’ll be holding a book sale on the front lawn (weather permitting). The following week (29 May) we’re planning outdoor storytelling sessions with the wonderful Janet Black. To ensure we comply with government restrictions, we’ll be asking you to book for the storytelling so please keep an eye on our website or Facebook page a bit nearer the time if you have young ones who would like to attend.

Our Open Gardens weekend is now firmly in the calendar for 10/11 July. If you’re interested in opening your garden and live within a 15-minute walk of the library, please email [gardens@greenhill-library.org](mailto:gardens@greenhill-library.org). And encouraged by the considerable success of our scarecrow festival last year, we will also be asking Greenhill residents to get creative again for this year’s competition, pencilled in for 7-21 August.

In the absence of in-library meetings, we’ve had some success running free evening talks via zoom, including a talk by David Templeman on “Ancient Suburbs of Sheffield” which attracted over 80 attendees. On 21 May Sylvia Dunkley is speaking on “Always Friends,

always together: The Story of the Links between Sheffield and Bapaume”. You’ll find the zoom link on our web site.

As you’ll observe from all that, our focus at present is on outdoor and on-line events. We’re still unsure exactly when, or how, we’ll restart all the indoor stuff like story time, knit-and-natter, evening talks etc. As I said, we’re re-awakening, but we’re not back to normal yet.

*Chris Brown*

## Totley History Group

The experiment of holding meetings by Zoom went well with encouraging attendances. In February Penny Rea’s talked about the Zion graveyard in Attercliffe, in Ann Beedham talked about “The History of Stained Glass” and in April Pauline Burnett talked about “The History of Holidays”.

On Wednesday 23rd June we have arranged a new 2 mile history walk around Totley in the company of Pauline Burnett and other members of the Totley History Group committee. Strong shoes and suitable clothing should be worn and dogs are welcome (on leads please). We will be meet at the Cross Scythes Hotel, Baslow Road, for a 2 pm start. The walk will be repeated at the same time on Sunday 27 June. As ever non-members are welcome.

After Penny Rea’s talk, in February, about the Zion Graveyard in Attercliffe a number of people expressed an interest in visiting the cemetery. This visit has now been arranged for Sunday 25th July at 2pm. The graveyard is the final resting place of pioneering anti-slavery campaigner Mary Anne Rawson (1801-1887), as well as a number of the City’s early industrialists and influential non-conformist Christian radicals. If you are coming by car, there is a free car park opposite Ace Janitorial (694 Attercliffe Road, S9 3RP) which is close by. If travelling by public transport, use the X1 bus and disembark near Staniforth Road or opposite the English Institute of Sport.

Assuming that all goes well with the “Roadmap to recovery” we are hopeful that we will be able to hold our much postponed AGM, which will be open to both members and non-members, on September 25th. After the AGM Stephen Gay will be giving a talk entitled “Sheffield to the East Coast by Train Part 1” which is about the history of the line and the countryside it passes through.

For updates on our activities please visit [totleyhistorygroup.org.uk](http://totleyhistorygroup.org.uk).

*Norman Rolfe*

## 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 you support.

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## Welcome to my island

False promises, fake news, fictitious offers, fabricated statistics, forged documents, fallacious claims...

I am beginning to think that I wouldn't recognise the truth if it bit me. You really do have to watch out. And there is a new falsehood around: 'It's a good thing if people work from home.' I say no! It's not!

It's easy to be blinded by the advantages: stay in bed later in the morning, no more crowded commute, you can work in your pyjamas, have a coffee if you fancy one, and you can hide from the boss for days! It will soon be impossible to sell a house without a home office even if it's the cupboard under the stairs.

Now let's look at the real reasons: the cost of running big office blocks in big cities has got out of hand. You can rent a country cottage cheaper than a square metre of 'The Shard' and no office is cheap to run. Companies can save rent, rates, electric, and the wages of cleaners, guards, and the girl on reception.

If it catches on, you'll be on your own, working hard, because the computer is measuring your activity. There will be no coffee machines and no water coolers, unless you install one in your kitchen.

No buxom girl with a basket of buns coming round at lunchtime. No laughs with the window cleaner. There will be no girly gossips, no laughs with the lads and less chance to learn from experienced people. Who is going to organise collections when somebody retires, or to send flowers if somebody is unwell?

No more bringing in a box of cakes on your birthday, no more 'Secret Santas', no more making friends.

The days of typing pools and browbeaten humble clerks were gone, but the computer shows no mercy. If you make a mistake, there will be less chance of putting it right. Once an email has gone, it's gone!

Your job will be less secure: who is going to notice when Fred stops

appearing at the Zoom meetings?

I have never lived in a monastery and I've not been locked up in prison (although some say I deserve it), but it is going to feel very much like it, if I'm stuck on my keyboard alone all day in the back bedroom. And if I'm not alone... ever-loving wife, six kids, and the dog bouncing about... will that be any better?

You are not going to believe this, but YOU ACTUALLY ENJOY GOING TO WORK EVERY DAY. You'd like a bit less pressure, an easier commute, shorter hours... but the truth is that you enjoy it! Getting out of the house every day is good for you; we all need human contact; it's part of being alive.

I feel for people who are really ill because of loneliness, all the broken hearts and missed opportunities.

Students need to go to university; it's part of growing up. Young mums need to get out and socialise. Kids need to go to school, even on wet days, to meet their friends. We all need a walk to the shops.

I dread to think what a world we will create if we are reduced to buzzing like bees in our little boxes. Robinson Crusoe will look like a party animal and at least he had the sun, sea, and sand to run on.

Most of us meet our eventual life partners through work. If you're not there, it isn't going to happen.

Yes, YOU WANT TO GO TO WORK, and one of life's heaviest burdens is not having work to go to.

*Robert Smith*

## The Gardening Life

What a great start to the year it's been! The weather has been on our side (during the daytime at least) and it's been great to welcome so many customers back to the nursery. Some of you have been thinking about garden projects for months and now want advice and planting suggestions, others simply want a change of scenery and to potter around. And some of you just want to come and chat, which is fine with us!

With spring in full swing plants are now

flying out the door. When we did our annual stock-take at the end of March we counted nearly 5,000 pots but I suspect it's a lot less than that now. Demand seems to be outstripping supply across the horticultural world and we seem to be in a "perfect storm". With so many of you now gardening, but growers not having produced as much last year and various Brexit-related issues, it's going to be yet another interesting year!

### Battling Jack Frost

Writing this in April, we've been swinging between lovely sunny days and freezing cold nights. Typical spring weather really, but the plants in our gardens and greenhouses don't know if they're coming or going. Like many of you we're keen to get sowing and potting, yet are struggling to keep things frost-free overnight.

Which is why we love... Fleece!

Fleece is like a thin white blanket that you can throw over tender plants, seedlings, anything really, to help protect them against frost and insulate them against winter cold. It's amazing how effective it can be - we've had temperatures of -4° in the tunnel, yet plants under the fleece are happy and unfrozen.

And frost can strike even until the end of May, so it's best to be prepared. As they say, "Ne'er cast a clout...!"

### Tomatoes, the fruits of summer

Are you puzzled how to get the best out of your tomatoes? Perhaps you've grown some from a packet of seed, or maybe bought some ready-grown plants from the garden centre. Either way, now you've got them, what do you do to get a decent crop?

Many people will tell you that tomatoes are hard work, but this largely depends on the type that you grow - trailing or upright.

**Trailing tomatoes** are great for pots, hanging baskets or window boxes as they can be left to get on with the growing. Sometimes called 'bush', 'tumbling' or 'determinate' types, they form a natural dome shape and don't really need any fussing with. The tomatoes they produce are typically the small cherry types and are great for children to experience their first 'grow-your-own'.

**Upright tomatoes** need more attention, as the idea is to grow them as a single tall stem tied in to a cane. Often called 'cordon' or 'indeterminate' types, you need to actively remove ('pinch out') any side shoots that form between the main stem and the leaves to keep it growing upwards. It is also recommended to remove leaves as the plant matures so that the sun can ripen the fruit. Phew, that sounds like a lot of work!

Whichever type you grow, the main things to remember are that tomatoes are hungry and thirsty plants, so water them regularly and feed once a week with a tomato feed once the first flowers have set their fruit. And don't forget that fleece on a cold May night!

### Ringing the Sweet Pea changes

For many of us, sweet peas are the

## Entries Invited for Auctions

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essential English summer climber. Holding their heads high against blue skies their delicate blooms bring a perfume to the garden that is unmistakable. But they have their downside as well – flowering stops if you don't pick them, and they can be susceptible to mildew in hot summers. Which is why we've been experimenting with other annual climbers for the past couple of years.

Our 'top pick' at the moment is Rhodochiton, the purple bell vine. It's one of the longest flowering climbers you'll find, being smothered in masses of rich purple hanging bells from midsummer through until the first frosts. And what we've found is that it's even better as a hanging basket trailer than it is as a climber!

Another of our favourites you might want to try is 'Spanish Flag' (or Ipomoea lobata, if you're trying to impress the neighbours). Quick-growing, and with flowers that go from flame-red at the tip to yellow-orange below, it's great on an obelisk or pergola.

Need more ideas? Well lots of our customers love the "Cup and Saucer vine", Cobaea scandens, a very vigorous climber. And this year we're also trialling the "Chilean Glory Vine", Eccremocarpus scaber. Watch this space..!

**On The Nursery**

Running out of words. So in one word. Busy!

*Millthorpe Nursery*



**Hovis for Tea**

It can often take a subliminal memory to take us on a journey through time to remind us just how fast time can pass.

It is nearly 50 years ago since Sir Ridley Scott ( him of Alien and Gladiator fame ), music from Dvorak, a hill in Shaftsbury and a 'Boy on a Bike' came together to make what is often referred to as Britain's most iconic TV advert - 1973's 'the Hovis Bike ad'.

The advert was based on a 'nostalgic' reflection on pre war Britain and at Sheffield Auction Gallery on March 11th the Toy auction featured another iconic British brand from the 1930's, Dinky. The 28 series van above, dating from the 1930's, finished in white and bearing the advert - 'Hovis for Tea'.

In overall good condition, but showing early signs of distress-, the van headed into the sale with a £150- £250 estimate, which auctioneer John Morgan soon

surpassed with the final sale price of £806 (inc 24% commission) being achieved.

"Iconic brands coming together, Dinky and Hovis, always a recipe for success" commented John after the auction, "...Anyone for tea?"

Items are invited for future auctions. Visit [sheffieldauctiongallery.com](http://sheffieldauctiongallery.com)

**Want to improve your health?**

Then head for a national park, and absorb the sounds. Wind blowing, birds singing, rain falling -natural sounds inspire us and connect us to nature. New research by a team of scientists shows that natural sounds are also good for our health.

The team found people experienced decreased pain, lower stress, improved mood and enhanced cognitive performance. The sounds of water were most effective at improving positive emotions and health outcomes, while bird sounds combat stress and annoyance.

The study, "A synthesis of health benefits of natural sounds and their distribution in national parks," is published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences a USA non-profit, non-governmental organization. The findings are just as true for UK national parks.

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## Beauchief Dam Part 2

In February's edition of Bradway Bugle the working life of Beauchief Dam was featured.

Such a large area of water situated on the turnpike road to Baslow became well known, and was frequently used as a reference point when local stories were reported in the Sheffield and Derbyshire press. However some of these stories were about the dam itself.

### Fishing

The many dams serving Sheffield's forges were used as trout fishing ponds, but to fish them required a licence acquired from the Water Bailiff.

Leasing a mill and its dam for manufacturing purposes did not necessarily give the tenant any right to fish the water, which was clearly illustrated at Whitely Wood Dam. William Tyack (1781-1858), the tenant in the early 19th century, on more than one occasion was fined by the water bailiff for fishing without a licence.

William became the tenant at Abbey Dale Forge in 1849 and it appears the poacher eventually became gamekeeper.

When the dam's fish were being taken by a number of poachers Tyack's son-in-law (Benjamin Turner) set out to catch the offenders. Together with the local constable a trap was hatched and they were able to surprise a group of men in the early hours of one Sunday morning. Although some escaped, the police and Turner managed to detain two of them who were charged with illegal fishing and subsequently taken to court.

Giving evidence, Benjamin Turner expressed surprise that although the defendants claimed to be poaching there for the first time, their bated lines were in the water where fish were known to be most plentiful! This, he felt, indicated the men had a well-informed knowledge of the dam.

The men, Walter Price and Ernest Piercy, stated they were out of work and only trying to catch a Sunday dinner. Each was fined ten shillings, an amount they must have found almost impossible to pay if their plea was genuine.

### Ice Skating

The winters of the late 19th and early 20th century were frequently much colder than those we experience nowadays. As soon as ice formed the newspapers would publish advice on which dam had the best conditions.

It wasn't just a case of how cold the weather had been, it also depended on local conditions such as exposure to winds during the freezing process, maybe resulting in an uneven surface.

Newspapers published daily notices informing readers which dams had the best ice, which were safe to skate on, and any impending dangers due to changes in the weather.

At Tyack's dam, Beauchief, which on Saturday was only safe at the southern end, some hundreds of enthusiasts enjoyed the exhilarating pastime. The danger zone was during the daylight



*Abbeydale Hamlet and Tyack's Dam, pictured in autumn colours.*

*quite clear, and the result was the skaters kept a safe distance away from the northern end, which is 15ft deep, and where the water always freezes more slowly owing to the presence of a miniature whirlpool.*

*During Saturday night however, the continued keen frost had the effect of converting the whole stretch of the dam into a splendid piece of ice, and yesterday there were crowds of people enjoying the sport. The ice is, indeed, like glass, and in one portion it is so clear that the shrubs can be plainly seen underneath.*

Sheffield Daily Telegraph  
13th January 1908

*Following a thaw overnight skaters are particularly requested to notice that the ICE on ABBEYDALE DAM IS NOT SAFE*

Sheffield Daily Telegraph  
13th January 1887



*People took advantage of the ice to enjoy the sport whenever the winter weather proved cold enough, and this picture shows that the fun was still continuing in 1936...*

*The danger sign was one warning of deep water, not weak ice!*

A lengthy spell of cold weather could take on a festive atmosphere with vendors selling hot drinks, soup and snacks. Skaters were charged a small admission fee and the proceeds given to local charities, Tyack's often choosing to give to Sheffield's hospitals, with their appreciation being published in the newspapers:

*The Weekly Board of Sheffield General Infirmary beg to acknowledge, with best thanks, receipt of £10 from Messrs. W. Tyack, Sons & Turner, being part proceeds of a charge made for skating on the Abbeydale dam.*

Others to benefit that winter of 1887 were Sheffield Public Hospital and Dispensary (£10) and Jessop Hospital for Women (3 guineas).

### Illegal gambling

In 1881 a large group of youths ended up in the water as they tried to escape from the police who were trying to stop orchard scrumping and illegal gambling taking place in local fields. This time it was their pride and best Sunday clothes that came to grief, and those who were caught were required to face the magistrate on Monday!

### Drownings and Suicides

The dam has unfortunately claimed a number of lives, both those whose intentions were to commit suicide and others who died accidentally. Examples of the many deaths reported in the newspapers can sometimes give an insight into the social conditions and attitudes of the day.

### Attempted Suicide at Tyack's Dam

*A great amount of excitement was caused in the neighbourhood of Beauchief by rumour that a woman had thrown herself in the dam. A large crowd collected, it being just the time when people were on their way home from church.*

*Some of the bystanders, after much exertion, succeeded in bringing the would-be suicide to the bank. She was in an exhausted condition and was attended by Dr Thorne\*, and afterwards removed to her home in Bradway.*

It was stated that she was temporarily insane.

Sheffield Evening Telegraph  
May 19th 1890

\* Dr. Thorne was the son-in-law of Joshua Tyzack (one of the brothers running the business). He was a GP and surgeon living with his wife and family at The Glen, opposite Dore and Totley station. His house is now the nursing home.

Until 1961 committing or attempting suicide was a crime and a verdict 'of unsound mind' or similar could avoid a criminal record for any survivor, or allow a Christian burial for a deceased victim.

#### Suicide

In October 1923 a James Wilson drowned himself two weeks after losing his job at Samuel Laycock & Sons Ltd, Bradfield. He and his wife had worked there for over thirty years, and she had also lost her job some months earlier.

Since the 1880's Laycock's had been a successful company making carriage fittings for trains. Following the death of its founder in 1916 it was bought by a French company, but was heading for bankruptcy when an attempt to enter the car and aero manufacturing industry failed. This had probably led to the reduction in staff numbers.

Mrs Wilson said her husband had been depressed but not talked of taking his life. On the morning of his death he had told her he was going to the Labour Exchange, but by 2pm his body had been discovered in the dam. One wonders if he did call at the Labour Exchange only to find no work and was overcome by despair.

#### Verdict

- Suicide whilst of unsound mind.

Despite suicide being a criminal offence, readers of the papers could be affected by the dramatic reporting and sad circumstances that lead to a person's death. On one occasion money, postal orders and even gold coins were sent to the newspaper to help 'the poor wife and children of the man who drowned at Abbeydale'.

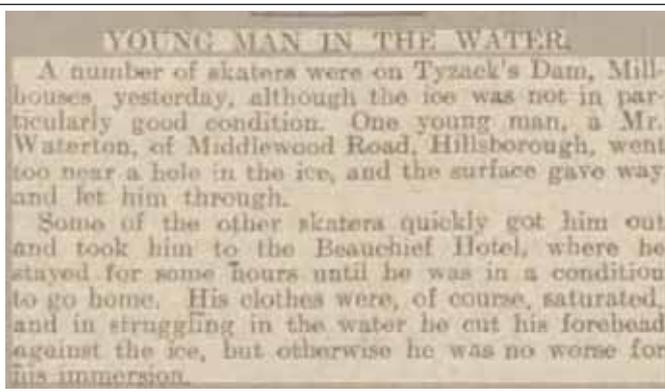
Over the years there are reports of many bodies being recovered from the water, some who sadly were never identified.

#### Accidental Drownings

These appear to have been less frequent than suicides. Nevertheless they did occur and this very sad story of an accidental drowning was reported in November 1876...

James Naylor was a scythe grinder working at Abbeydale Forge and living in one of the cottages on site with his parents and wife, Sarah. They had a toddler and Sarah was about to give birth to their second child when her husband drowned.

It was a Saturday and James had spent the afternoon in the pub. Taking a short-cut home across the weir and dam, it was thought he slipped in the darkness and met his fate. Despite a search on Sunday, his body wasn't found until the following



*There were mishaps when the ice wasn't strong enough to take a person's weight, as in this account: The Sheffield Telegraph 1st February 1909*

day. A sad fact revealed at the inquest was that James had fallen from a path known to be dangerous and recently banned from use by Tyzack.

His death and the birth of his new daughter are registered in the same quarter of the year.

In the census of 1881 Sarah is still living with James' parents and receiving Parish Relief. The four year old daughter, born so close to the death of her father, also died that year.

Sarah did marry again, another scythe smith, and lived in Dore for the rest of her long life. She had a further five children.

#### End of industry

In 1933 the dam that had served the needs of the forge for one hundred and fifty years (and been used and abused by the community) became redundant when Tyzack's lease came to an end and the firm finally moved all their production to their Heeley site.

However, Abbeydale Forge's history was secured when J. G. Graves Charitable Trust bought the site and gifted it to Sheffield Council to preserve and develop as a museum. 1935/36 saw the creation of Beauchief Gardens on the heavily silted southern end of the dam, but little else changed.

The Sheffield Model Yacht Club did

investigate the possibility of using the dam instead of their pond in Millhouses Park, when this was proving too small for racing their boats, a popular pre-war hobby. However it appears permission was refused by the Council due to a large amount of work being necessary to make it suitable for their needs, and the proposal was dropped.

Repairs to the retaining wall and shuttles have been necessary over the years but the

dam remains almost unaltered since its construction in 1785. Just reduced in its overall size by about one acre, due to silt.

The water has always attracted bird life, and newspapers would report anything they considered unusual, as when a pair of swans took up residence. The arrival of seagulls was even considered worthy of a mention in the nature column of one newspaper - maybe they were less common inland one hundred years ago.

Today the dam still attracts wildfowl and can be fished with a licence or club membership. It presents a picturesque and peaceful oasis alongside the busy A621. The water still turns a wheel at Abbeydale, but now only for visitors to the museum.

*Pauline Burnett*

#### Wording of the press cutting above

##### YOUNG MAN IN THE WATER

A number of skaters were on Tyzack's Dam, Millhouses yesterday, although the ice was not in particularly good condition. One young man, a Mr Waterton, of Middlewood Road, Hillsborough, went too near a hole in the ice, and the surface gave way and let him through.

Some of the other skaters quickly got him out and took him to the Beauchief Hotel, where he stayed for some hours until he was in a condition to go home. His clothes were, of course, saturated and in struggling in the water he cut his forehead against the ice, but otherwise he was no worse for his immersion.

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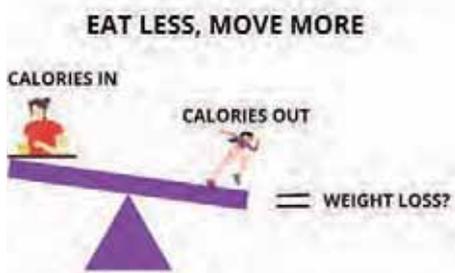
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## HAVE WE GOT IT WRONG ON WEIGHT LOSS?

As we all know, there has been a huge rise in the incidence of obesity in the UK in the last 50 years, corresponding to a huge change in our food environment that has seen us eating more ultra-processed foods, ready-meals and takeaways. These calorific foods contain large amounts of hidden sugars and unhealthy fats that tamper with the appetite control mechanisms in the brain and lead to over-eating.

### Calories in, calories out theory

The conventional response to weight-loss is to reduce our intake of calories whilst increasing our expenditure, the so called 'calories in, calories out' theory of weight loss or the popular 'eat less, move more' idea. This conventional approach seems logical, after all, it makes sense that eating less calories than you are burning ought to lead to weight loss. And initially it does.



However, ask the many thousands of people who have faithfully applied this theory over many years by diligently sticking to various low calorie, low fat diets if it works for the long-term and you will hear a resounding no! In fact, most people who 'diet' in this way actually end up gaining more weight over the years despite having enormous willpower and making huge nutritional sacrifices.

### Why doesn't it work?

Well, the calories in, calories out theory takes no account of the source of the

calories. Calories come from the foods that provide us with energy, the macro-nutrients – fats, carbohydrates, and protein. The way our body deals with each of these macro-nutrients varies enormously. Carbohydrates, our main source of energy, are digested into sugars before being absorbed into the blood.

These sugars, raise our blood sugar which stimulates the hormone insulin to be secreted. Insulin helps sugar to pass into cells, particularly in the liver and muscles, where it is used for energy. Any excess sugar is stored as glycogen or turned into fat and stored around the belly, hence insulin is also known as the fat storage hormone.

### Hormones matter

If carbohydrate consumption is low and blood sugars don't rise, then insulin levels stay low and we begin to burn fat for energy instead. Fat burning is only possible when insulin levels are low and insulin levels will only be low if blood sugar levels are low. Insulin is a hormone, hormones matter!

Since a typical diet is composed of about 55% carbohydrates, 30% fats and 15% protein, simply reducing the number of calories consumed without changing the composition of macronutrients will not lead to a reduction in insulin levels and hence will not allow fat burning to take place normally.

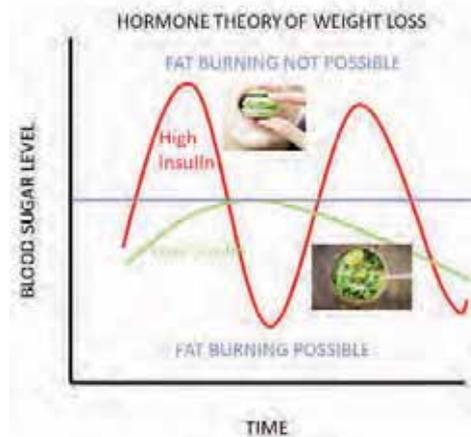
In fact, your body will respond to the calorie drop by lowering your metabolic rate to conserve energy and increasing your appetite to make you eat more! This leads to food cravings, tiredness and brain fog and eventually you will cave in and start eating more calories again, putting the weight back on and more!

### Hormone theory of weight loss

However, if you change the macronutrient composition, by reducing the carbohydrate intake and increasing the fat intake (counterintuitive, I know), your insulin levels will remain low and allow your body to burn its own fat. This will lead to consistent, sustainable weight loss without leading to hunger or

lowering of metabolic rate, so you will continue to have lots of energy whilst losing the weight.

There are now literally hundreds of research papers that champion this 'low carb' diet approach and millions of people around the world who testify to its success.



### How to do it

There are many resources on the internet and many low carb cookbooks to help you get started with a low carb pattern of eating, but the main rule of thumb is stop (or massively reduce) your consumption of sugary foods and drinks (including fruit juice), refined carbohydrates (bread, flour, rice and pasta) and starchy vegetables (most root vegetables), and eat plenty of green, leafy vegetables and other vegetables that grow above ground.

Restrict fruit intake to 1-2 portions per day (berries have less sugar) and increase consumption of healthy fats (olive oil, butter, coconut oil, full-fat yoghurt and oily fish). Protein should come from meat and fish, eggs or dairy or legumes and pulses if you are vegetarian or vegan. Protein at every meal will satisfy hunger sooner and help you to stop snacking.



Please note, this article constitutes information and not medical advice. If you want to try a low-carb diet then please discuss it with your health provider, particularly if you are diabetic or on prescribed medications.

**Sue Wharton and Isabel Hemmings,**  
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## On The Beat

Greetings!

As I write Spring is well on the way with the new shoots are everywhere. With it comes a slight sense that maybe we are entering a new phase of our battle with COVID and there is a very faint light at the end of the very long tunnel we have been in for the past 12 months. I'd urge everyone to keep following the rules as and when they relax over the next few months, as in previous columns if anyone is unsure about what they can and cannot do please drop me an email and I will try to find answers for you.

Please try and make sure you know where your children are and who they are with, especially if they have to leave the house in an evening. Whilst restrictions on meeting people have already been relaxed, the rule of 6 or 2 households outdoors still applies as I write.

Unfortunately we have seen some more damage and littering recently especially around the top of Twentywell and we are continuing to see reports of anti-social behaviour from a number of locations locally.

We are trying to give these areas as much attention as we can given the size of our area and the ups and downs of our shift pattern and since having Totley returned to our remit at the end of last year, as you know Bradway was also added into our patch.

As stated in the last issue 2 of us PCSOs now cover an area which also includes Whirlow, Bents Green, Ringinglow,

Millhouses, Greystones and Ecclesall. Please bear this in mind when wondering why you might not have seen us as much or when making requests for our attendance at events that are not crime or ASB based.

The most common sentence I hear must be the one that begins "you should have been here last week/month etc.", unfortunately we can't be everywhere at once!

Talking of the last year can I just say a public thank you to the wonderful brigade of S17 (and further afield) litter pickers. Litter seems to have become so much more of an issue in recent months, I'm sure analysts could come up with a reason although it's not immediately apparent to me.

Whilst litter is not strictly speaking a police issue we do get lots of complaints still and I hesitate to think what the streets would be like without these willing volunteers. Remember anything you drop does not magically disappear, please try and find a bin or take rubbish home with you as I'm sure the majority of the people reading this do!

Crime wise we are still seeing low numbers of residential burglaries but a high number of shed/garage break ins where, in particular, cycles are being stolen. If you have a bike in a shed or outbuilding consider adding security by chaining the bike up or fitting anchor points as well as making sure the security on the access to the building is adequate for the purpose.

Garage bolts can be bought at hardware

stores and will help to stop the door being forced. Conversely if there is nothing of value in the shed/garage leave it open or unlocked, nobody will try and break into something they know has nothing valuable in it.

We also had an evening or two of thefts from vehicles, this seemed to be particularly targeting the Seat Mii/VW Up/Skoda Citigo type cars with the detachable dashboard module. Again please make sure nothing of value is left in a vehicle, open the glovebox when parking so anyone looking in can see there is nothing for them inside.

If you do want to keep abreast of any emerging crime trends locally please remember to sign up for SYP alerts, send me your name postcode, house number and email address and I can do this for you.

Once signed up you will receive localised information relating to burglaries and other useful messages relating to frauds, scams and other crime prevention information.

As ever if you wish to contact me at [adrian.tolson@southyorks.pnn.police.uk](mailto:adrian.tolson@southyorks.pnn.police.uk) or my colleague at [paul.harran@southyorks.pnn.police.uk](mailto:paul.harran@southyorks.pnn.police.uk) or via the work mobile 07787 881945. Please do not use this to report incidents, 101 / 999 or the online portal should be used for this.

Thanks for reading

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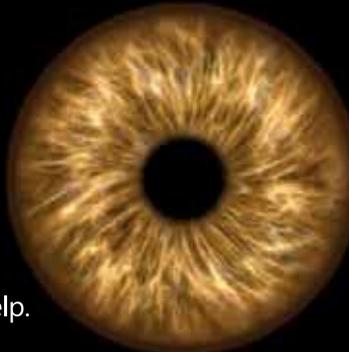
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## NOW and THEN

Where it's all in the  
(ummmm...) Timing

### YOU HAVE ONE NEW MESSAGE

Come with me to a land where the essential ingredients of an inevitable future would be robots, casual space tourism and a two hour working week; where atomic, self-guided cars would fly like arrows down Motorway 1 while their drivers played a hand of Bridge with their passengers and where everyone would wear tin foil clothing. A land where all doors would slide and hinges would be no more and food would cook itself. A land, though, where adults would all remain as intensely curious as to what occupation six year olds had chosen to follow.

Welcome to the Bradway of 1962

I'm not suggesting that there was a high proportion of prognosticators amongst baby-boomer-producing Bradwegians back then, but suffice to say, that then as now, children were repeatedly asked what they wanted to be when they grew up.

An interesting question to ask a child unencumbered by knowledge of the world at the best of times, but ask it of a generation who were still wondering how many peas they could stick up their nose, I suspect that it failed to illicit many interesting answers

The future was obviously calling our name, of that we could be sure, but even without the constant questioning five decades ago, there were fewer distractions to divert attention away from those moments when Tomorrow might dial our number. We weren't scanning the horizon looking for a Vocation exactly, but we knew that we would be communing with the Future at some point because the grown-ups were obviously expecting that we would be.

When the call came, it could, of course, have been a wrong number or worse, a phone scam; somebody just claiming to be the Future when really they were no more than static on the line; short term reflections of immediate hopes and dreams rather than our True Purpose. Oddly enough though, even six year olds recognise a Thing They Have To Do in their lives when it reaches out for them.

On the other hand, it's not like the vocational options back then were fewer. I stood on the footplate of a gently simmering Master Cutler, and claimed I wanted to be an Engine Driver, even though I knew my heart wasn't in it.

I wanted to be helicopter pilot every time 'Whirleybirds' hovered on our tiny TV screen. And there were more loosely defined occupations like adventurer, secret agent or even greengrocer (whatever that entailed). Eventually, I realised my collection of toy cars could only point to one possible outcome; I was going to run a garage. And the Future is never wrong.

Nay sayers may raise footling objections to this assertion, pointing out that I don't run a garage or a car dealership and never have. They will rightly vouchsafe that I have no mechanical engineering knowledge whatsoever, couldn't sell thermal underwear to Alaskans even if I was their sole supplier and find most motorsport more effective than Valium. Yet while all these things are true, they are also too literalist.

Here is the secret of what the Future knew. I loved the way cars looked and their astonishing variety. Aesthetics were everything but more to the point, the Future could tell that a garage possessed the siren call of mystery. To me a garage was a large creosote and oil infused outhouse crammed to the rafters with drawers and tools and widgets and cans and tyres, where only a wizard in khaki overalls knew how to get broken cars to move again as they should. Cars were poetry and if they were not in motion they were just words piled up behind a full stop.

Most of all though, everyone in Bradway would need such a magician, nudged the Future. Marion M and her veterinarian father who drove a dashing cream-coloured Sunbeam Talbot with a metal sunshine roof, or Mark G's father, who's love affair with Jaguars started at the Mk 8 and went on to the S Type; they would all have to leave their vehicles with me.

I would clear the throats of their coughing, hiccupping motors and of course take them for a test drive. From the humblest Austin A30 to the mightiest Bentley Continental, Twentywell Lane would be their test track / hillclimb. My skills would make other hearts leap like mine did when I simply stood and looked at cars.

Who else would I share my dream with but my Father? In his thoroughly practical way, he thought it would be a good idea if I got better at sums if I was

going to run a garage. He quickly realised his well intentioned but misguided attempt at incentivising as we both watched my dreams slide away downhill with the handbrake off. Maybe the Future had dialled the wrong number after all, because unlike my Dad, I found numbers harder to handle than a pedal car in the snow. Multiplication tables were my Kryptonite.

In kindly haste, my Father offered to come round and do the books for me when it was needed. The dream nudged into the gutter and rolled to a halt by dint of rubbing the sidewalls along the kerbstones. No one was hurt, but mentally, I left it parallel parked, stalled by Reality, thinking I would pick it up later.

And I would have done so, had I not picked up another person to person call from Tomorrow instead. A few weeks later, in Greenhill Primary, we were given printed books full of exercises and puzzles to do with 'Comprehension', the forerunner of English Language and Literature. Our instructions were to take the books home and bring them back the next day having done the first Chapter.

As usual, the instructions were lost on me. I couldn't believe that school work could actually be fun; so much fun that I couldn't put it down. I handed it in the next day completed from cover to cover, not as a brag but because somehow, I couldn't help myself. If it was Words vs Numbers in the Great Learning Slamdown and I was the referee, there was no doubting whose arm was going to be held aloft at the end of the bout.

I've never forgotten about the dream of running a garage; it's essentially joyous and giving spirit keeps me in touch with a simplicity of innocence that is a worthy touchstone. My love for vehicles has since been tempered by congestion, environmentalism and possibly an allegedly adult sensibility, but they will always be important because through them, in a roundabout way the Future took the wheel and pointed me at writing.

How and when the Future calls is worth remembering when, paused in progress, the route ahead feels more Sat than Nav. Is that the phone ringing?

*Chris Sheldon*

## Crown Green Bowling

Looking for a new interest after lockdown? Why not try Crown Green Bowling at Abbeydale Park Bowling Club. Our Open Days are on Saturday 29th May & Sunday 30th from 10am to 1pm.

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## Gilbert & Sullivan Society.

I was wondering what I was going to write about this time round as we are not close to rehearsing yet, so have no immediate prospect of even a concert let alone a show. We still hope that 2022 will see our 50th show in the April of next year and it is to be Pirates of Penzance, that best loved of romps.

Unfortunately, however, another past member has passed on but at least I can write about this one with some fondness and a little humour. He was Jim Laurie who used to live on Totley Brook Road until the last few years when he lived in Meadow Grange Care Home. Jim died in Ashgate Hospice on 9th February aged 91. I attended the funeral on March 2nd on the Society's behalf and I am so glad I was invited.

Ian, Jim's brother introduced me to his 3 sons and their families which was lovely. The service itself was excellent what with Jim's eclectic musical taste and sense of fun. We entered to a Hallmark of Harmony Barbershop piece and had another later in the service (Goodbye Suzie goodbye) and finished with the Goons Ying Tong Iddle I Po.

I think that these musical choices tell you a lot about Jim. He had been a member of the Sheffield Barbershop chorus as well as having had 16 years with us.

Being born in 1930, he was too young to have fought in the war but he did do his National Service and spent some time in Austria where I believe he was a noted marksman. He was also a big cricket fan and had been a slightly unusual spin bowler. He bowled slow left-arm round the wicket which made him difficult to play.

He was a G & S member from 1990 until 2006 and as far as I can remember never missed a show during that time. He was never a one to take principal parts but was a stalwart member of the chorus though I remember he did take one principal role as Old Adam in Ruddigore.

He was a dry wit but always fun. How he lived to the ripe old age he did is beyond me with the cigarettes he smoked. His smoking caused us occasional consternation as Richard Cotton will attest. Jim was always



*Jim Laurie ready to perform*

nipping out for a fag!

One occurrence was somewhat startling for those on stage. It all happened during a production of Patience in 1993. Jim was one of the Dragoon Guards and had got the marching off to a tee. During one of the performances however, he popped out for a quick cigarette. Unfortunately he lost track of time.

The Guards were to march on in single file and do two circuits of the stage before lining up to sing a chorus number. As we were about to go on no Jim was to be seen in the wings - \*@!?!\* - We'll have to do it without him we said. So off we set. One circle completed sans Jim and as we were half way round the second one who should pop in from the wings and join the back of the line but Jim of course, totally unconcerned.

How we didn't burst out laughing I have no idea. I doubt half the audience even noticed but we nearly corpsed. Thereafter we gave an award for the biggest gaff during a performance.

The award was a profile silhouette of Jim's face and of course we named it after him. The Jim Laurie Award has been won by many of the members including

some illustrious ones including Mark White, David Bramah and, not surprisingly, me.

Jim enjoyed the joke enormously - another sad loss but with many happy memories.

Now that the vaccines are underway at a fair old pace I am hoping that we might, just might be able to rehearse in time for a winter concert. I am keeping my fingers crossed that the populace behave themselves enough to avoid yet another string of restrictions. We'll all end up the loony bin if we have to go through this again next winter.

In the meantime, enjoy the summer, meet up with your friends and family within the rules, behave sensibly and stay safe.

*Derek Habberjam*

## Bradway Bowling Club

Well after three months of doing very little hopefully life is just starting to improve. The Bowling club will be opening its doors again on the 18th of May and I am sure there will be a lot of eager people waiting to go in for a drink.

Also, more good news is that competitive bowling will commence from that date as well. I think that it might be a while yet before we have everything up and running exactly as before but we will also be able to use one of the snooker tables and play darts.

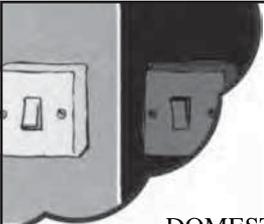
Small steps but it really does seem that we may be actually getting so somewhere this time. We are also eager to recommence our art group, games nights, bingo and Saturday entertainment evenings where we have some excellent singers and hopefully this will all be permitted later in June.

As I've said before, this is a private members club and we are always ready to welcome new members so if anyone is interested in joining our friendly club please pop in and have a look around.

If you have any enquiries e-mail [bradwaybowling.or.uk](mailto:bradwaybowling.or.uk) or phone 0114 236 3129 or you can always contact me Jean Morton 07900 220696.

Take care everyone and fingers crossed for a lovely summer.

*Jean Morton*



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## Family Walks

In normal times, 'going for a walk' didn't sound that exciting to the average nine year old. But how many kids have worked out over the last year that heading to the woods is far less stressful than another eight hours with their fellow householders in front of their phones, TV and laptop screens?

"Just this morning, we spotted a group of deer in the woods, only 10 minutes or so from home," said Anna Lowe from Move More Sheffield. "We've discovered new paths close to home and new areas to explore. Walking has been an absolute lifesaver during lockdown. With two young kids and two lively dogs, getting outside is absolutely essential."

The family that walks together copes with the stresses of the pandemic together, say many Outdoor Citizens.

"Walking has always been part of our family's together time," said Lucy Watkins from Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust. Walking gives Lucy, her partner and two young daughters a 'blank slate' to discover the local countryside together, she says. "In my mind when we're in no-one's territory, it resets us as a 'team' and has helped us feel connected with each other, with nature and with our local area."

Lucy's favourite spots have been Stanage, Derwent Edge, the Little Don catchment around Langsett and

Wharnccliffe and Greno Woods. Family exploring ideas include imagining the history of old walls, buildings and gate posts, and following moorland streams down off the moors into local reservoirs.



*A family walk at Redmires in the late snow*

"Sheffield has not got the name 'the Outdoor City' for nothing; there is so much on our doorstep, or at the end of a tram or bus journey," she said. "Over this last year we discovered we can walk further, we found new paths, linked ancient tunnels, and if you take time to plan, you can enjoy the same routes but in a different light or weather."

GP Jo Maher walks with friends in all weathers, and particularly enjoys the feeling of 'forest bathing' at Wyming Brook. "How many other cities have a site of special scientific interest like Wyming Brook within their boundary?"

she said. "And in lockdown 3 I managed to get my 14 year old son out at lunchtime for a quick trip from Redmires to Stanage Pole. It was good for both of us to get a bit of fresh air in the middle of the day."

Ted Talbot from the National Trust said his favourite family walks are from their own front door straight out into the Rivelin Valley. "This is an incredibly special valley to have on our city's doorstep, steeped in industrial heritage as well as working farms, woodlands, wetlands, grasslands and heathlands where local wildlife has reclaimed the valley's old mill ponds and grinding wheels," he said. "There are so many paths to follow that we can do a route to suit our time, and on a full day out can reach Rivelin Valley rocks or Wyming Brook."

Psychologists say that the act of walking leads to creative thinking, and stepping along side by side, without distractions, and with less eye contact, often allows families to talk and listen more easily together. Ted has three students in his household, and says walking through nature helps everyone open up more. "Humans are nomadic creatures, and there's something primeval about families walking through landscapes together," he said. "So it's not surprising we're calmer there than in the world of noise and technology."

*David Bocking*



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## Dore & Totley Library

**Lockdown:** The publication of the "Roadmap to recovery" gave us the green light to start planning the reopening of the Library, the critical factor being volunteer availability. The services that were offered during the latter part of 2020 were provided by a very small number of volunteers which means that most of our active volunteers will not have been involved in a shift for over a year.

A plan was formulated so that all returning volunteers have access to appropriate familiarisation and refresher training and, as part of this, we were pleased to recommence an "Order and collect" service on 22nd March. In doing this we are keeping in step with Sheffield Libraries and other volunteer libraries.

The Library reopened for limited browsing and Public Network computer access on 12th of April. Initially the opening times are as before, from 2pm to 4pm on Mondays and from 10am to 12noon on Wednesdays and Fridays. The plan is to increase opening hours and days as soon as possible, but this will be entirely dependent on volunteer availability.

During the recent lockdown the opportunity was taken to refurbish and redecorate parts of the Library that would be difficult to do if it was open. In particular, the office was completely cleared and redecorated and recarpeted and much unwanted material has been disposed of. New blinds have been installed in the main library areas and the foyer recarpeted.

**New books:** Another activity that has continued during lockdown has been the purchase of new books. These include new bestsellers by your favourite authors, a range of books for adults and children around health and wellbeing and

books for children about COVID. You can search for the books we have in stock at Totley Library by going to the website [www.totleycric.org.uk](http://www.totleycric.org.uk) and following the links in Our Books.

**Plant sale:** Our gardening volunteers have continued to plan for a plant sale this year which will be on 22nd May. The precise organisational details will depend on the COVID restrictions that will be applicable. As soon as they are known they will be publicised on our noticeboard, on social media and at [www.totleycric.org.uk](http://www.totleycric.org.uk).

**New volunteers:** We have been fortunate to receive expressions of interest from several potential volunteers during lockdown and have been able to give them some idea of what volunteering at Totley Library entails by having Zoom conversations. These volunteers will be integrated with the process of retraining existing volunteers as part of a drive to increase active volunteer levels which enable us to expand opening hours.

We are still keen to encourage new potential volunteers, so if you would like to know more about the roles that are available and what they entail, please email your details to [totlelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:totleylibrary@gmail.com). We will get back to you to arrange an introductory chat but will be unable to offer a formal induction until the Library is up and running again.

**The future:** The amazing speed of the vaccination roll-out and the encouraging uptake rate give cause for some optimism that a resumption of community activities will be possible later this year. We cannot be certain that everything will go smoothly over the next few months, but we are ever more confident that Totley Library will once again become a vibrant and active part of the local community. As a start we are hopeful that some activities involving smaller groups can resume in June.

*Norman Rolfe*

There is no charge for taking part in the online group, which is run by a trained volunteer, but those who wish to can make a donation to Alzheimer's Society (optional).

At the group: we do fun vocal warm-ups and sing a wide variety of feel-good songs - from old-time favourites to more up-to-date music, including musicals, pop songs, folk and classics.

100% of people who take part in Singing for the Brain sessions say the group has improved their life in some way. You can express yourself, feel positive and make new friends

If you enjoy singing and would like to join, please get in touch to find out more. Contact ne Anne the group leader by email on [anne.sftb@google.com](mailto:anne.sftb@google.com) or look us up on Facebook "Singing for the Brain South Yorks and N E Derbyshire." The groups run on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 2pm.

Anyone can join in, however, priority will be given to people with dementia and their carers.

If you are unable to join us on Zoom but would like to attend a group in person when they restart please contact us to be added to our mailing list.

Best wishes

*Anne Dargue*

## New faces - James State



Whittington Goddard are pleased to announce and introduce you to their new Financial Planner, James State, who joined at the beginning of February. James' career in Financial Services began in 2005 upon leaving University. After a number of years working for a major local insurer, he began advising clients in 2017. James works as a Financial Planner in all areas of Financial Services including Retirement Planning, Investments, Inheritance Tax planning and Protection.

We continue to pride ourselves on the friendly and approachable nature of our advisers and staff and James is no exception to this.

We look forward to seeing you all again face to face in the near future, please continue to stay safe and well, best wishes from all of us at Whittington Goddard Associates Ltd

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## Singing for the Brain

Did you know that singing can improve your brain activity, wellbeing and mood? You don't need to be a good singer to benefit.

Singing for the Brain groups (provided by Alzheimer's Society) bring people together to sing a variety of songs they know and love, in a fun and friendly environment. We also do fun vocal exercises that help improve brain activity and well-being.

For many years we had been holding groups twice a month at the Quaker Meeting House in Sheffield. However, due to the pandemic, we were no longer able to come together to enjoy our singing sessions in person. So, we now offer a virtual Singing for the Brain service using Zoom, all you need is some means of accessing the Zoom app via a smartphone, laptop, computer, or tablet to join in.



# New Investors Spring into Action

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**With interest rates plummeting to record lows, savers are discovering that cash is not always king. This is encouraging a new band of investors to dip their toes in the investment market.**

While some families have suffered financially during the pandemic, many have saved significant sums due to a reduction in spending on non-essential items. Official data<sup>1</sup> shows the UK household savings ratio soared from 9.5% in the first three months of 2020 to a record 27.4% in the second quarter and has remained historically high since.

### Save or invest?

Bank of England data shows £125bn was squirrelled into savings accounts last year and that figure is expected to rise substantially during the first half of 2021. As a result, many people have seen their savings balances grow at a time when ultra-low deposit rates offer little in the way of return, prompting many to consider alternatives to holding cash and take their first tentative steps into the investment market.

### The value of advice

With so many funds available, the investment process can appear daunting and new investors often find it difficult knowing where to start. The key is to formulate a sound investment plan with sensible goals and to seek advice. A study seeking to quantify the value of financial advice, found that people have better financial outcomes when they have an ongoing relationship with an adviser, 'Those who reported receiving advice at both time points in our analysis had nearly 50% higher average pension wealth than those only advised at the start.' Benefits were greater for less-affluent investors, with a 'just getting by' group enjoying a 24% (£35,054) boost to their pension wealth across the ten year study period<sup>2</sup>.

### Marathon not a sprint

Before investing, it's important to establish a savings

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safety net and commit to investing over the long term, meaning at least five, preferably ten years. Historically, although investing in equities has delivered better returns than cash, there is inevitably a risk the value of investments can fall; we therefore need to establish your risk tolerance before recommending any investments. Whether you're thinking about your pension, establishing an investment portfolio, a stocks and shares Individual Savings Account (ISA), or perhaps a Junior Individual Savings Account (JISA) for under-18s in the family; if you're looking to make your money work harder this spring but need help getting started, we can help you begin your investment journey.

<sup>1</sup>UK Parliament, 2021

<sup>2</sup>ILC, 2019

*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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As many readers are aware, Greenhill has been in existence in some form since the 12th Century, where it was mentioned initially in the Beauchief Abbey Charters as Grenhilleg. Recording the development of the village and the people who lived here has relied on using old deeds and census records, in addition to local folklore, to produce a social record of the village and its residents.

Local historians have often, initially relied on memories. Unfortunately, as we all know, these can become vague or confused over time, leading to 'facts' which are not strictly correct.

Even some of the great local historians have made some of these mistakes. Part of the role of Greenhill Village History Society is to take some of this information and by checking primary sources, enable an accurate record of the area to be preserved.

An example of this is in the introduction to 'Growing up in Greenhill' – a video based on the memories of villagers who grew up in the area. Beauchief Lodge was known as 'The Toll Cottage' by the residents of Greenhill - probably due to the fact its design was in the style of the many toll cottages which grew up on the toll roads built in the early 1800s.

Many of you will have passed the Old Wesleyan Chapel on Greenhill Main Road. We know it was built in 1823 and then refurbished in 1888 due to the dates engraved on the building. Further information concerning this interesting old building can be found in 'A Journey in Faith' by Shirley Truswell Ellins who compiled the book to commemorate the bi-centenary of Methodism in Greenhill.

#### **'Chapel cottages'**

What about the row of cottages adjacent to the chapel? – Nos 81 – 75 Greenhill Main Road? Nos 77 – 81 were originally called 'Chapel cottages' - verified by deeds. They were built by John Birtles, a local mason and landowner, on the adjacent parcel of land to the chapel – also a garden owned by James Seston. They were most probably built at the same time as the chapel in 1830, but as the earliest available record of these cottages is from John Birtles' will, this cannot be stated definitively.

No 81 – named Lily Cottage was in fact named after a lady who lived in the cottage. Lily Hemsworth and husband Sidney (a taxi driver) lived in the cottage in the late 60s / early 70s. The cottage was named Lily Cottage by a later owner and may also be an acknowledgement to the lilies which grew in the front garden.

During the 1940s – 60s, previous residents were the Wallers who came from north Sheffield. Mr Waller was a farm labourer at Greenhill Hall Farm, which was situated across the road. After a distinguished career in the army, where he achieved the rank of Major, son

## **Identifying fact from fiction**

Clifford came home to live in 81 with his mother. He later married Freda Elliott, who lived at the farm. Upon leaving the army, he became a solicitor's clerk. He was a proficient artist, exhibiting at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition.

No 79 – The first occupier was Hannah Shawcross Birtles – daughter of John



*Greenhill Old Chapel and cottages 1910.*

*By kind permission of Greenhill Village History Society*

who built the properties and his wife Mary. Hannah was a schoolteacher who later married Richard Hogson. The properties were sold on to various landowners, who rented them out to villagers until the mid 20th Century. It is interesting to note that one of the owners of the properties is listed as Mrs Emma Peace. An initial thought was could this lady be any connection to the infamous Sheffield murderer Charlie? However, this was soon discounted.

No 77 – is less well documented, but in the 1940s – 50s occupants were Jane and Ronald Harolds. Jane (nee Reaney) had been in service at 75 Greenhill Main Rd with Mr and Mrs Harold Savage until her marriage to Ronald. After her retirement, she continued to live at No 77 until a ripe old age and eventually moved to live with her sister Ruth in one of the cottages opposite 'the Swan'.

No 75 – was built much later than its neighbours. Built in the 1850s and according to the deeds called Ivy House. Residents at the time of the 1891 Census were Robert Douglas – a silversmith designer, his wife Mary and son Randolph.

Randolph is the subject of a book by Ann Beedham, which relates his life story and connection with Harry Houdini for whom he designed illusions. In the book the house is referred to as Yew House. However, it must be remembered that Margaret's sister was Katherine Osborne whose family's Greenhill home was called Yew House.

In the 1940s the house is once again known as Ivy House when the Savages lived there. Their daughter Peggy,

married into the Ingram Tea family.

By this time, the three cottages (77 – 81) were in the ownership of the estate of James Smith Andrews, who lived in Greenhill Hall from 1900 – 1927. The properties were inherited by his heirs. However, in the 1960s, they were gradually purchased by the individual owner occupiers.

A number of people who have in their possession old deeds and records have kindly loaned them to the Society, enabling members to research in more detail about the owners and tenants of the properties in the village.

An outline account, with an accompanying map was produced by Martin Olives from the 1804/5 Fairbank records. This gave a base for researching both pre and post 1800 residents. Census records have added yet more detail and on occasion we have been loaned photographs of residents which all help produce a fuller, true reflection of the village and its residents.

If you have any information which you feel may help, please contact: Lesley Fox (Chair) Greenhill Village History Society. Tel: 0114 2377928 or: [lesley.fox3@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.fox3@btinternet.com)

#### **Keeping in touch**

During the last year, members of the Society have kept in touch, continued with research projects and hopefully, very shortly, we will be able to commence our afternoon meetings. Initially, they may be held outdoors – members have commented about the number of planning applications which have been approved during the last year and one of our first activities will be an audit of these permissions. Obviously, the speed and volume of traffic through the village has not yet reached its optimum, but concerns are being raised about what is going to happen with regard to all these vehicles?

Like a number of similar Community groups, Greenhill Village History Society has had to take stock and although the members want the group to continue, it needs to move forward. Consequently, it has been decided to work in a temporary partnership with Norton History group – a well – respected group which has produced a number of books on the locality in the past.

Both groups have impressive collections which combined make a valuable resource for the local historian. We have already worked together in the past – some readers may remember the appeal for information on the men whose names appear on the Norton War Memorial – these accounts have now been completed and will be on display at our latest presentation 'The other RAF station' – an account of the Lightwood Balloon Barrage site which we hope to be able to show before the end of the year.

*Lesley Fox (Chair)*

**Greenhill Village  
History Society**

## A Welcome Diversion for the Bodger

Over the last couple of months, the weather has certainly played a few tricks on us. Just as we thought that spring had sprung, we had to endure some extremely cold spells. These were most frustrating; keeping we older ones hunkered down indoors when many of us would have much preferred to get outside for a while during lockdown. On the other hand, as you may recall, at the end of February we were blessed with a few days of unseasonably warm weather. Although not my favourite job, I decided it was a good opportunity to rake the lawn.

Our lawn is on the north side of the house, so for much of the year it doesn't get much sun and is prone to the infestation of moss. However, it's only quite a small area, so not too onerous to rake it by hand. Having retrieved the lawn rake from the shed, I set about the task with reluctant determination. Almost immediately, the head came off! It transpired that over the years, the end of the wooden shaft had started to rot, and the pressure of raking caused it to break.

Glad to have something else to do, I set about repairing it. It didn't take too long to remove the broken section of the shaft from the head of the rake and to trim off the remaining rotten wood. I then had to fashion the end of the shaft into a conical shape to fit into the bracket on the head, but by using a chisel to remove the bulk of it and my surform tool to finish it off,

this was easy enough.

I then remembered I had a couple of other repair jobs that needed doing. One was to refix the top of the handle of a border spade that had come off when the screw holding it into position fell out, again due to some rot developing around the hole. This was even easier to resolve; I simply turned the handle round through 180 degrees and put the screw in the opposite side!

The final job was a bit more challenging. This was to refix the head to a small axe that I use for chopping sticks. As with the lawn rake, this had broken off due to a small amount of rot near the axe head, no doubt exacerbated by rather over-enthusiastic chopping the last time I used it.

Removing the end of the shaft from the axe head was more difficult than I expected, and I had to resort to using my drill and a thin chisel to get it out. I then had to reshape the end of the shaft so that it would fit into the hole in the axe head. Again, this was no mean task. The hole was oval shaped, and I had to carefully mark out its profile on the end of the shaft.

As I obviously needed to ensure a tight fit, I had to pare away the excess timber very carefully, never being quite sure that I was maintaining the profile correctly. In the end I was reasonably satisfied that it was time to have a go at re-fixing the steel head.

It soon became apparent that I hadn't removed enough wood for the shaft to fit

into the head, but at this stage it was easy enough to remove the head and trim a bit more off the shaft. After repeating this process a couple of times, however, it got to the point where the shaft was too firmly wedged in the head to get it off again, and I still had about another centimetre to go.

I then decided to resort to the old technique used by wheelwrights and used my blowtorch to heat up the axe head in the hope of expanding it sufficiently to complete the job. This was only partly successful, but I did manage to get the head to within a couple of millimetres of the desired position. Not perfect, but near enough, I decided.

All in all, a most enjoyable day sitting outside in the warm sunshine pottering about. I'd achieved a few outstanding little jobs and avoided having to rake the lawn, although I did force myself to do it a couple of days later. It wasn't even as though I really needed to repair either the spade or the axe, as I have plenty of spades as well as another (steel shafted) axe. I did it just for fun. That's what comes of watching too many episodes of *The Repair Shop!*

*The Bradway Bodger*

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## Pubs and Beer

From 12th April hospitality venues such as pubs, cafes and restaurants were permitted to open for outdoor table service and the majority of pubs in our area including the Castle Inn, Shepley Spitfire, Cross Scythes, Crown, Cricket Inn and Devonshire Arms have done so. Opening hours and table booking requirements are different so you should check with the venue ahead of a visit.

All customers are required to sign in with NHS Test & Trace, wear masks when not seated and follow any measures put in place to facilitate social distancing. All licenced venues are table service only and groups are limited to 6 people. Also since 12th April hospitality venues have been allowed to sell alcohol to take home which during lockdown this was restricted to home delivery only

The next stage of easing Coronavirus restrictions allows hospitality venues to open up for indoor service, again with the above rules in place and this should see venues that could not viably open for outdoor service only start trading again. Target date for this is Monday 17th May.

In other local news, a new micropub called Tunnel Tap is being planned for Totley Rise shops. At the time of writing planning permission has been granted and the process of getting the premises licenced was underway. A micropub is a small shop unit size bar that generally focuses on a small but interesting range of drinks and conversation is king! Ahead of the premises opening, they are promoting home delivery of the range of beer brewed at Little Mesters of Meadowhead that have been relabelled with Totley area themes!

All the breweries in our area have either reduced or suspended production during lockdown as the majority of their sales are cask or keg beer to pubs that have



*Howard Bayley and his dog Ben in the Porter Valley*

been closed, with hospitality slowly opening up the breweries are also starting to brew to supply them again so look out for those local beers appearing again! If you aren't likely to be visiting a pub soon don't worry, some breweries are still selling cans and bottles online for home delivery.

You can read more about breweries in our area on the Sheffield Campaign for Real Ale website - [sheffield.camra.org.uk](http://sheffield.camra.org.uk).

*Andrew Cullen*

## Explorer walks

"I leave the front door, stand at the gate and think: 'Where shall I go today?'"

Terry Howard, after half a century of campaigning for access to the countryside around Sheffield, says Sheffielders should follow his example by taking the local exercise directive we've followed over the last year as an opportunity to explore their Outdoor City. "What I have seen and found is quite astonishing from just my front door," says Terry, who lives in Crosspool.

"The remnants of large gardens made by Sheffield industrialists who had their massive houses built around Ranmoor. Remnant ancient woodland and ancient trees. The sources, routes and tunnels of local streams. Old walls telling the story of old coal mine workings and quarries, or with their tops decorated with broken grind stones, steel crucibles and 'crozzle'.

Holy wells, and ancient roads, such as the 'Racker Way' which pass through the area. Each and every unplanned walk can develop into a mini expedition."

Sue Beardon, who writes local walking guides says she's been keen on discovering what's on her own doorstep since long before the pandemic. "I live in Heeley and we are blessed with extensive woodland stretching out across the Moss Valley: I can walk all the way to Chesterfield through lovely countryside," she says. But during lockdown she's been exploring some 'fascinating nooks and crannies' of south-east Sheffield.

"I especially like to walk over to The Manor, taking in Heeley Green community garden, Black Bank, Norfolk Park, City Road Cemetery, Arbourthorne Pond or Buck Wood and returning home via Hang Bank Wood."

And there's plenty to explore at the Manor itself, she says. "From the building ruins, with its gorgeous lavender maze, downhill to the Rhubarb Shed Café, there are wonderful wild flowers through spring and summer, and some animal sculptures to remind us of the land's agricultural past.

The other side of the cemetery is Manor Fields, with wild flowers, and a network of little streams and ponds, which is a delight to walk through. I've even seen a woman collecting watercress from one of the streams. It's great to see a place so well used and loved."

Howard Bayley explores the Porter Valley from his home in Greystones, with his dog, Ben. "Unsurprisingly there has been a big increase in the number of people walking over the past year so I've enjoyed getting off the beaten track and exploring the many footpaths which cross fields and streams in the Porter and Mayfield Valleys," he says.

"It's been lovely to see the changes through the year from the spring flowers and sunny summer days through the stunning colours of Autumn to the beauty and silence of the recent winter snow. There's a wide variety of birdlife to look out for and it's always a magical experience to watch a kingfisher catching fish on one of the old millponds."

As a member of Friends of Wardsend Cemetery, Howard is keen that all Sheffielders have the chance to safely explore their local parks and countryside on foot. He says: "I'm very conscious that safe places to walk aren't equally distributed across the city and while there has rightly been a lot of talk about cycling infrastructure recently, I would like to see the same consideration given to ensuring safe access for all to good quality footpaths and nature."

*David Bocking*



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## I'm sorry for your loss

We've sadly lost the Duke of Edinburgh, somebody who has been in the news for all of my adult life. It's always sad when you lose a father, a grandfather, a husband, a wife or, saddest of all, lose a child.

It has been an awful year for many; if you have said goodbye to a loved one then I'm sorry for your loss.

I am sorry if you've lost your job, or your family business, or lost money through no fault of your own.

I regret that we've missed chances to see parents, friends, grandchildren, a new baby, even a neighbour. We have lost over a year of our 'normal' lives and you cannot turn back the clock, we must move on.

I'm sorry that we weren't better prepared but nobody saw the Coronavirus coming. How could they?

We are having to spend a fortune to cope with the consequences, some of the money probably wasted, so I understand your frustration if you think you could have organised everything better, but I couldn't.

It grieves me to think that there are people spreading false rumours about anti-Coronavirus injections. Any medical treatment carries risk and I'm troubled by activists using it as an excuse for violent protest. There are very dangerous extremists encouraging German children to riot, only to gain political power.

I am unhappy that many pubs, restaurants, cafes, cinemas, theatres and little shops will not open again. A bustling town centre will become so rare that the National Trust will have to buy one and preserve it.

You've probably lost for ever the thrill of a departmental store, queuing up to see Father Christmas.

It is a great shame that you have missed out on your holidays abroad or weekends away, sports fixtures, trips into the country or nights at the pub, but I have no sympathy for selfish idiots who break the rules. If you think your right to 'do as you please' is more important than people's lives, then you are wrong!

I feel sorrow and anger that there are people ready to oppose Covid regulations, attacking key workers like the police, nurses, and other medical staff, and being rude to shop workers - even spitting at them. I hardly know what to feel about people who filmed inside hospitals illegally to 'prove' Covid is a hoax.

It's a crying shame that children had such a muddled year of education despite teachers doing their best. Heaven knows that their education is necessary; we have more than enough fools in the world already.

I met one in Tesco, at the height of lockdown, when staff had sensibly had introduced a queuing system. A superior 'city' type went to take my turn but Tesco staff firmly directed him to the back of the queue, before I was aware of what had happened. He cursed and marched

out, leaving a full trolley behind.

I am sorry the 'gentleman' lost a few minutes of his valuable time - but wonder what he told his family.

We've all lost something: lost patience; lost our temper; but hopefully not our consideration for others.

We must view with misgivings delayed hospital appointments, and lost opportunities for intervention. Sorry, but, for a few patients diagnosis and treatment will be too late. Remember them in your prayers.

*Robert Smith*

## Streets Ahead Resurfacing programme

The council's highways contractor, Amey, restarted their 2021 resurfacing at the beginning of April, with roads and footpaths across the city set to be improved.

Taking advantage of the Easter break, Streets Ahead began resurfacing some

roads and footpaths closest to local schools, whilst traffic and footfall was reduced.

All planned resurfacing of roads and footpaths, once agreed, are added to an online map which can be viewed at: <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/roads-pavements/streets-ahead>, this map is subject to regular updates.

Please note that residents will receive written notification approximately 2 weeks before works are due to begin locally and on-street signage will be in place approximately 5 days before works start.

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact Customer Services [streetsahead@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:streetsahead@sheffield.gov.uk), [www.sheffield.gov.uk/streetsahead](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/streetsahead) or by telephone on (0114) 273 4567.

As well as resurfacing works restarting, the grass cutting programme has also begun across the city. A schedule for this can be found online at: <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/roads-pavements/grass-verges-planting-damaged>



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## Beauchief Environment Group

Although our Monday working sessions were suspended under lockdown we remained active in other ways. In particular, our committee member Jennie Hinton liaised with Sheffield City Council following a joy-riding incident in the large field at the junction of Beauchief Drive and Hemper Lane on 9 February. The Council responded quickly to alerts from Jennie and other local residents notably Paul Winter, to rectify the damage to the field. There are ongoing discussions between Jennie and the Council on preventing similar damage to the field and improving its environment in the future.

Monday sessions resumed on 29 March subject to conditions agreed with the Council to minimise the risks associated with the virus, including working in appropriately small groups. Activities undertaken since then include:

- \* scraping mud and other debris from various footpaths and steps in Ladies Spring Wood and Park Bank Wood;
- \* repairing broken revetments and steps on public footpaths in Park Bank Wood;
- \* resuming repair of the fence behind the deer park at Beauchief Hall;
- \* litter picking across the area.

On Sunday 6 June, we have organised a guided walk entitled Beautiful Beauchief for Sheffield Environment Weeks. The walk will start from Beauchief Abbey at 2pm and look at wildlife in the woods, hedgerows and meadows and the work undertaken by the Group. The walk should finish around 3.30pm. It is open to all but may not be suitable for very small children. Dogs must be on leads. Please note that the event may be cancelled or postponed if restrictions on gatherings are in place.

Please see our website [www.beauchief-environmentgroup.co.uk](http://www.beauchief-environmentgroup.co.uk) or call 0114 2369876 for more information on the group, including news, events and how to become a member.

*Jon Smith*



*The gardens at Whirlow Brook Park as maintained by members of the Sheffield U3A*

## Whirlow Brook Park

Want to do something new in your local area? Interested in joining a Friends of Whirlow Brook Park? Want to help restore the park to its former glory?

Whirlow Brook Park covers 39 acres of land owned by Sheffield City Council situated just off Ecclesall Rd South. It is home to Whirlow Brook Hall which was built by Percy Fawcett in 1906.

In 1920, the house came into the possession of Walter Benton Jones and his wife Madge; they were keen gardeners and along with six staff developed the grounds to a very high standard, with advice from the RHS.

After Madge's death in 1938 the house, along with the grounds, was sold to a consortium which included the Town Trustees, the Graves Charitable Trust and Sheffield Corporation for £15,000.

The grounds were opened to the public in 1951 as Whirlow Brook Park, the house is now a venue for weddings, conferences and events.

The park itself has been neglected over recent years and although a lot of work has been done in the rock garden by the Sheffield U3A, there is still lots more to

do in the rest of the park and areas of the Limb Valley. So we need volunteers!

We are holding an open consultation meeting at Whirlow Brook Hall, Ecclesall Rd South on Wednesday 19 May between 4pm-8pm. Come along anytime and give us your views on what you would like to see and like not to see in this lovely local park.

And maybe sign up to the new Friends of Whirlow Brook Park?

No need to book – just come along!  
For more information email: [friendsofwhirlowbrookpark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwhirlowbrookpark@gmail.com) or visit our Facebook page [@friendsofwhirlowbrookpark](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofwhirlowbrookpark)

## Cauliflower and potato curry

Ingredients:

- 4 tablespoons of vegetable oil
- 1.5 teaspoon cumin seeds
- 1-2 whole green chillies
- 20-25g root ginger –shredded
- 1 tablespoon ground coriander
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 0.75 teaspoon turmeric
- 1 teaspoon garam masala
- 400g cauliflower florets
- 250g potato chunks
- 1 teaspoon ground mango powder (optional) or 1 chopped tomato
- Chopped coriander leaves

Method:

Heat oil in a large pan, add cumin seeds and cook until aromatic. Add whole pierced green chillies and julienned root ginger, and cook until the ginger starts to colour. Now add ground spices, coriander, cumin, turmeric and garam masala, and some salt. Cook for one minute.

Tip in cauliflower and potato cut into chunks, and two table-spoons of water. Stir to coat. Cover and cook gently for about 15 mins.

Stir in dried mango powder or chopped tomato and a handful chopped coriander leaves.

Adjust seasoning and serve.  
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## Fighting Fit During Lockdown

*A Case Study for  
Community Wellness Services.*

S17 resident Sarah decided to not let her heart condition deteriorate during lockdown, and so has been completing her exercise online.

“At 48 years old in 2018 I was unexpectedly diagnosed with dilated cardiomyopathy, a serious heart muscle condition. Running my own business in Dore and a busy mom to a 14-year-old, my world was turned upside down. I was devastated by the diagnosis, as being self-employed I was worried I wouldn't be able to continue my business.

I started medication straight away and underwent a cardio rehab programme through the NHS; exercise was positively encouraged and I was told to keep exercising. Once I had completed the rehab course, I was free to exercise without constant supervision. This was when I was introduced to Clare Wasden, a Specialist Cardiac instructor and Operations Manager for Community Wellness Service.

Sadly, their therapy centre and fitness facility on Ecclesall Road had to temporarily close due to lockdown 3, but I have been able to continue to exercise throughout lockdown because of classes being on zoom. This has kept my heart condition stable and I continue to be well and work. These sessions have been kindly commissioned through the S17



People keeping Well Network run by AgeUK.

I have had the opportunity to experience other classes such as mindfulness and yoga/Pilates, and being supervised and supported whilst doing the sessions makes me feel reassured and comfortable. Members of staff at CWS are extremely knowledgeable and there is such a great feeling of inclusiveness. It does not matter what level of fitness or ability, as everyone is made to feel warmly welcome.

I have benefited from a range of free sessions during lockdown. CWS have been terrific and I cannot thank them enough, being able to continue to exercise has literally been a lifesaver! Thank you CWS.”

## Totley Open Gardens

Totley Open Gardeners are planning to open their gardens this year on the weekend of 10th and 11th July from 1-5pm. It will be the 19th year that we have been running this event.

There will be about 14 gardens taking part, with a great variety of styles. There are gardens full of colour, a woodland garden, gardens with lots of shrubs, quirky gardens, gardens with sculptures, gardens growing fruit and vegetables, an allotment and children-friendly gardens.

Entry for the event is by programme, with a charge of £4 per person. All monies raised will go to support the local community organisations that we have supported over the years. We also accept donations to help us raise a good amount. Two gardens will be selling cream teas, and there will be plants, books and other things for sale in other gardens. So if you have just taken to gardening since lockdown, put the dates in your diary and come along - you will find inspiration, ideas and information everywhere.

At this stage we are not yet sure what social distancing measures we will be operating over that weekend, but these will be advertised nearer the time, and in the programmes.

For more information, or if you live in Totley or know someone who does and would like to open your garden, please contact me either on: 07527-929-592 or [jennie@hadish.f9.co.uk](mailto:jennie@hadish.f9.co.uk)

*Jennie Street*



### 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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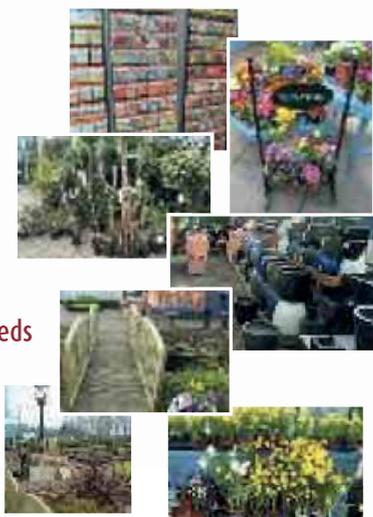
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Despite having lived in this area for twenty-six years, it was only through joining 'The Time Travellers', a local archaeology group, that I became aware that our moorlands of the Peak District are "alive" with the remains of the dead!

Hidden within the heather and bracken of our moors we can find Neolithic enclosures, cup and ring rock art, Bronze Age hut platforms, burial cairns and of course the most mystic of them all: stone circles!

These relics of our ancient past have been protected to a certain extent by lying on land long since "farmed out" and never put to the plough in over two to three thousand years.

Overgrown and hidden from view; forgotten by some, unknown to others. Even so over the years many of the monuments have been robbed of stone or disturbed by looters and the ravagings of the early antiquarians.

Our prehistory, for the last eight thousand years prior to the coming of the Romans, has been broken into four periods: the Mesolithic (8000BC-4000BC), peopled largely by hunter gatherers; the Neolithic (4000 - 2500BC), a period associated with the development of settled agriculture; the Bronze Age (2500 to 800BC), seeing the assimilation of a new culture known as the Beaker culture bringing with it metallurgy, brewing, weaving and possibly the horse. The Iron Age followed from 800BC to 43 AD, ending with the beginning of the Roman period.

These periods only provide a very general framework and should not be considered definitive, as new archaeological evidence provides examples of earlier settlements within the late Mesolithic Period and a gradual evolution from hunter gatherer to agriculturalist from the Mesolithic well into the Neolithic period.

We also know the Bronze Age would have been a transition over many centuries with flint and stone tools still being used throughout the period.

The stone circles of the British Isles come in a number of guises ranging from

## Stone Circles Surround Us

the extraordinarily tall, up to six metres high, standing stones of Stenness in the Orkneys to our iconic Stone Henge in Wiltshire. There are magnificent Henge Monuments, one big enough to now



*The Nine Ladies stone circle on Stanton Moor*

incorporate a small village, Avebury, which would have had a surrounding inner ditch 33 feet deep and outer bank 22 feet high and of four hundred metres in diameter, to the smallest nine stone ring located near our very own Strawberry Lee Grange in Totley, only three to four metres in diameter.

In between these extremes we find stone circles of many other sizes, often



*The iconic Stone Henge in Wiltshire*

not perfect circles. Many are more elliptical and some show evidence of purposeful astronomic alignments. There are ring banks of stone known as ring cairns, some surround an inner circle of standing stones. There are stone circles

set within earthen banks described as embanked stone circles. Some surround central mounds or cairns.

The huge henge monuments tend to consist of a massive standing stone circle sometimes incorporating other smaller stone circles or a cove of standing stones surrounded by an inner ditch and outer bank; not what you would expect for defensive purposes. Importantly these massive monuments are largely found to have originated in the Neolithic period and would have required millions of man hours to build using rudimentary tools. This clearly suggests that "the big society" was originally a Neolithic concept.

It is extraordinary to think that in these prehistoric times there was such a conformity of culture throughout the length and breadth of the British Isles and the will and power over a community to encourage it to dedicate such significant amounts of "non-productive" time to the creation of these magnificent monuments. But for what purpose?

Clearly, we believe these monuments to be for ceremonial or meeting/gathering purposes. None demonstrates this more than Stone Henge where the recent Riverside Project has proven that people came from all over Britain to attend ceremonies. Pilgrims from as far afield as the Orkneys made the trip herding cattle as their contribution to the feasting that accompanied these ceremonies.

The next question is always "What sort of ceremonies were held?" Unfortunately, the stones are reluctant to give up their secrets. We can only get glimpses, shrouded in uncertainty, about what went on in these mystical monuments.

Again the Riverside Project has found evidence at Stone Henge of burials of hundreds of cremated remains over the millennia of its use. Although the number sounds large, over these long years it is likely that these were some form of elitist burials of either ruling classes or possibly ceremonial leaders.

As we moved from the Neolithic to the



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Bronze Age many smaller stone circles appeared across Britain. Small enough to be erected by small groups rather than the massive enterprises of the huge henge monuments. This does tend to reflect the movement from the communal long barrow burials of the Neolithic to the more personalized smaller burial cairns of the Bronze Age, a change associated with the coming of the Beaker culture.

Across the British Isles we probably have well over a thousand stone circles and henges of all types. In our local region we have examples of the large older Neolithic henge monuments at Dove Holes where we find evidence of the henge ditch and bank. Alas, the stones no longer exist, possibly removed to de-paganise the site as is known to have occurred at Avebury.

Then we have Arbor Low where the "standing stones" lie quite flat enough to cause argument as to whether they ever stood or not. My personal view is that they probably did stand, or if they never stood it was only because they were "work in progress". After all, what would be the point of a stone circle if not to stand!

Apart from these large henge monuments in our local area we have many smaller stone circles with orthostats (standing stones) of two to three feet high, ranging from perhaps three to fifteen metres in diameter. Among the better known are The Nine Ladies on Stanton Moor, which is in fact

at least ten, one fallen lady, and there may have even been an eleventh. Yet on Stanton Moor alone we can find with a little help from our GPS four additional stone circles, three in the form of ring cairns which may have surrounded a ring of standing orthostats and a mysterious



*Avebury Stone Circle in Wiltshire*

one to which you would need to be guided. Across the road we can find another Stone Circle called Doll Tor.

Interestingly, these are set amongst a large Bronze Age burial cairn field and within two of the ring cairns multiple cremations and beakers were found, suggesting ceremonies involving the dead during at least some period of the circle's use.

Again across Ramsley Moor, including Barbrook and Big Moor, we find another group of five circles made up of three ring cairns and two standing stone circles. Two of this group are set within

an area known to be burial cairns; the rest I believe to be of the same nature even though there is no proof positive.

We can find many other ring cairns and standing stone circles across most of our Moors: Ramsley Moor, Stanton Moor, Eyam Moor, Bamford Moor, and near some of our Edges, for example Gardoms Edge, Brown Edge, Froggat, Hordrons Edge, and this is not an exhaustive list.

Here they vary in size and design. Some have evidence of cremations buried within, some surrounding banks, others inner cairns and cists. Then there is Barbrook II, different again, where its well-researched reconstruction shows the standing orthostats incorporated into the bank itself.

So here on our doorstep we are surrounded by the mystical stone circles of our prehistoric past.

Within these stone circles there may have been a number of different meetings and ceremonies enacted. Possibly fertility ceremonies in relation to the land, ceremonies to the ancestors or newly dead, or ceremonies to mark the turning points in the depth of winter or height of summer to help dictate when they should plan for sowing or harvest.

If you would like to see them for yourself need a little help, and once Covid restrictions allow, look out for the regular guided walks led by a member of The Time Travellers which you can find posted on their website [www.thetimetravellers.org.uk](http://www.thetimetravellers.org.uk)

**Robert Allcroft**

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## Friends of Dore & Totley Station – FoDaTS

In the last issue I said that rail recovery would be patchy. That's proving to be very true. Writing towards the end of April it's clear that few commuters are returning. Their numbers are still no more than 20% of the previous normal. TransPennine's hard won 6 coach trains have masses of room. Working from home and travel by car is now well entrenched. Journeys from Manchester Airport are few so the direct connection has been suspended and a change at Piccadilly is necessary. If you were a commuter, please come back and try an all but empty train!

On the other hand, Northern's stopping service along the Hope Valley may be busier than ever on Saturdays, making up a little for the lack of commuters and the generally quiet times during the week. If using the Saturday morning trains from Dore go to the south end of the platform, beyond the canopy, and board the normally less crowded first two carriages.

East Midlands have added a tool to their website to check how busy their trains are likely to be all the way along their routes. Have a play with it from; <https://bit.ly/3dK2Nuh>. All their London trains look to be very quiet thanks to all those Zoom and Teams meetings!

### Spring is here.

The daffodils we've planted over the last four winters have done us proud. We should be filling more of the gaps in late autumn for 2022. Most of the crocuses we planted last year were identified by squirrels or other small creatures, carefully extracted and eaten! No more for them in future. The cherry blossom opposite Dore Road looks great and the saplings we've planted are slowly getting established.



*The daffodils planted over the last four winters have done us proud.*

### The second platform really is coming

Neighbours of the railway have had letters advising that work will be starting in June 2021 until September 2023. We understand site preparations will start in 2021 but physical preparation of the main work camp on the railway triangle probably won't get going until January-March 2022. The main contract with Volker Rail for the construction work is for 15 months, April 2022 – September 2023. Final landscaping will follow completion. All this is dependent on weather, but allows for most of the heavy work to be done over the summer.

It's inevitable that there will be noise and disruption. There will be one long blockade of 9 days when no trains will run and several other weekend blockades and periods of night work. At the time of writing we're trying to get a meeting with the recently appointed Project Manager in early May so they can better understand our issues and we theirs. Network Rail will be trying to keep the local community in the loop throughout. There will be some trying days ahead! More details as we get them.

What's certain is that rail services should start to improve from mid-2023 when the bulk of the construction work will be complete and the second track available. Reliability of existing services must come first. Little details like stopping the 13.14 and 21.14 out of Sheffield have to be at the front of the queue.

### And now

Let's get our masks on and start using the, mostly, quiet trains. Take a short trial ride to Grindleford and walk up Padley Gorge to try the new National Trust cafe at Longshaw. Or for a flatter walk try the Peak Forest Canal between Marple and New Mills stations. See Britain by train

If you're a Facebook user, you can find and join us by searching for FoDaTS. It's a very active group and is regularly updated with information as received. If you're not on Facebook and would like more information please send an email to our Secretary; [njbarnes@outlook.com](mailto:njbarnes@outlook.com) There's also lots of information on our website at: [www.fodats.net](http://www.fodats.net)

*Chris Morgan,  
Chairman*

## Financial sky dive

What do you need to raise £5,000 for St Luke's Hospice? For six intrepid adventurers all it took was a head for heights!

Roseanna Newsam, James Slater-Purcell, Honey Longden, Corey Costello, Kimberley Checkley and Catherine Pashley all had one thing in common - a determination to support St Luke's. And by the time they had completed their tandem skydive challenge, they had raised a total of £5,000.

"Our tandem skydive event is always popular, but for this group the pandemic meant some of them had to wait a very long time before they could reach for the skies," said St Luke's Events Coordinator Rachel Spofforth.

"We were delighted when lockdown restrictions were eased enough for them to be able to take the leap and between them they have raised a fantastic amount. "And for anybody who fancies doing the same, please do keep looking at our website for information about our next skydive in September."

*John Highfield*

## Fancy a game of Bowls?

Well, here's your invitation...

De La Salle Bowls Club – situated in the fantastic setting of Beauchief Hall - is welcoming anyone interested in playing bowls to come along and give it a try.

Bowls is a fun game offering exercise, fresh air and friendly competition. Our Club is small and sociable with an even gender split. We are one of the few Sheffield bowling clubs open all year.

If you are keen to try, with no obligation to join the Club, then why not come along to one of our regular free taster sessions.

Bowls are available to use on the taster session and all you need are flat shoes i.e. no sharp heels.

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## Neighbour Hood Watch

How often does your phone ring and if you are lucky, it is only a cold call about the accident that you never had or trying to sell you double glazing. Recently I have been getting daily calls from "an international number" or "number withheld" all of which I let go to the answerphone and guess what? - they hang up. These then get added to our blocked calls list even if we have not actually got a visible number. Unfortunately, the numbers are being generated automatically by criminal elements whose only role is to relieve you of your money in a variety of ways. They use a multitude of ruses, some that are obviously suspicious or blatantly scams, others can be very clever and plausible to the unwary.

Typical scams include claims that your bank account or credit card has had some suspicious transactions and that you need to contact them to prevent your account being suspended. There are often instructions to "press 1" to speak to an agent who will resolve your account problems. Then you are expected to give the scammers your log in details to protect your account or to move your money into a new safe account, which they control. Whichever ruse they try, it will lead to you losing a lot of money if you fall for their patter.

If you answer any of these calls NEVER follow their instructions. If it is a real person, not a recorded message, tell them you will contact your bank / credit

company direct and hang up. That depends on if they even identify which bank / credit card company they say they represent, often our members tell me they get these calls about a company they do not have an account with. Whatever you do "do not get into a conversation with them" put the phone down. Leave the phone for about five minutes then check that the line has been disconnected and you get a dial tone.

If in doubt phone your bank or credit card company using the number on the back of the relevant card, this is the only time you should use the number keyboard to select which service you can select to safely talk to customer services. NEVER give anyone your "PIN" number over the phone, none of the banks will ever ask for it.

We give advice and contact details on our website, on how to report scams & fraud, with lots of other useful contact details for the council and its services. [www.s17nwa.co.uk](http://www.s17nwa.co.uk)

Now as summer approaches the evenings are getting lighter and wonder of wonders, we can actually go to the pub for a meal or venue for a show after months of lockdown. It also means that the teenagers are out trying to find some entertainment of their own. We have all in our dim and distant past had a bottle of beer and first cigarettes in similar situations but always took the bottle back as they had a deposit on them to reclaim from the local off licence.

There is no doubt that there is very little for the youths to do in any of our three

communities, so gatherings in the parks and recreation fields is to be expected. Unfortunately, this does tend to result in a large amount of litter being scattered around after they have left. Some of which is proving to be dangerous for the younger children whose playgrounds have been covered with broken glass.

We are extremely fortunate in S17, that we have Julie Gay, as a marvellous example, with her group of pickers who regularly clear up these areas and elsewhere on a regular basis. It would be appreciated if the teenagers could at least put their refuse in the bins and not break any bottles where they are going to cause potentially serious injury to the little ones or pets. Perhaps a quiet word by the parents will have some effect on their behaviour.

If you are not a NHW member already why not join the group and help keep the area safer. There are no membership fees or requirement to take part in any activities. We provide weekly incident reports and warnings provided in cooperation with the local Neighbourhood Policing Team based in Woodseats.

We have a Facebook Page: S17NWA NHW Group | Facebook. Our website where you can find the membership registration form to join NHW online: [www.s17nwa.co.uk](http://www.s17nwa.co.uk)

We look forward to you joining our happy group.

Regards

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## Organic Wildlife Gardening

Spring is a time of renewal and, hopefully this year, better times ahead. We have all had to make the best of lockdown, which is perhaps easier for some than others. One cannot help but despair at the number of people who have died from Covid-19, and be aware of how careful we all must be. Many people have turned to their gardens for relaxation and maybe some have found a new and rewarding hobby.

The particularly cold spell in February held up the appearance of spring flowers. The first to bloom here were some non-native snowdrops, which were removed. Then the wild daffodils appeared. The clumps are extending and others have appeared all around the garden which bodes well for the future. They are so delicate and a breath of fresh air in contrast to the cultivated daffodils that are everywhere now. The wild primroses are also flowering, and looking very pretty.

There were masses of small bees on the many wild flowers that bloomed here last year. I would love to be able to identify all the different species of the insects that visit the garden, but even with a book on the subject it is not always easy.

However, the bee that I saw outside the lounge window on the 24th of March was a member of the bumble bee family, which was a surprise as it was quite a cold day. It could have been a mated female looking for somewhere to raise a new colony (according to my book!). Two more bumble bees were spotted buzzing around piles of dead stalks that were decaying under a hedge.

March 22nd was a very special day here, as there was much activity in two of the ponds. The frogs were busy producing masses of frogspawn. We will



*Beautiful and rare wild daffodils*

have to watch where we walk when all those tiny froglets emerge.

Much work is being done around the country to replace conifer woods with broadleaf trees. Conifers were planted for various reasons, one being the need for telegraph poles, but they do not support nearly as much wildlife as broadleaf varieties and I think only one is native to England and that is juniper. Some conifer woods are privately owned and are being opened for natural burial plots, along with a choice of native trees, shrubs and flowers....very peaceful, personal and environmentally friendly.

Now is not the time to be planting trees, but in late autumn a mini-wood could be planted at the top of most gardens, with taller trees at the back, and smaller trees and then shrubs in front. Saplings from specialist nurseries are produced from our own indigenous seed which is vital to protect our biosecurity. Buying through the Woodland Trust would ensure that, and while supporting the Trust, it could also be very helpful to those who need advice.

Large trees include oak, ash, elm, silver birch, downy birch, rowan, and alder. Smaller trees include hazel, holly, hawthorn, wild cherry, bird cherry, crab apple and field maple. It is important to have a variety of trees rather than a lot of the same species as they all support different wildlife in different ways which increases the variety of wildlife that is supported.

Hazel and holly are both excellent small trees. Holly provides cover for nesting birds and the dry leaf litter is bedding for hibernating hedgehogs and small mammals. The flowers provide pollen and nectar for early bees, and the leaves are food for the caterpillars of the holly blue butterfly, and the yellow barred brindle moth, while the berries are for birds and small mammals.

Hazel is also very good for wildlife. It provides food for the caterpillars of several moths that eat the leaves, eg the large emerald. When coppiced, the open area below encourages the growth of wildflowers, which support butterflies

especially fritillaries. and also ground-nesting birds such as willow warblers.

The hazelnuts are popular with woodpeckers, nuthatches, tits, jays, and small mammals such as dormice. The flowers provide pollen for bees, but they find it difficult to collect, and can only gather small amounts at a time. The pollen is wind blown, so is not sticky and the grains repel each other so they can disperse easily in the wind.

In front of the trees, suitable shrubs include dog wood, spindle, wild privet, buckthorn, and dog rose, while broom, field rose, and sweet briar are lower growing. In time, honeysuckle and clematis look lovely climbing up amongst the smaller trees and shrubs.

Among and in front of the shrubs, many shade-loving wild native flowers will grow well, eg wood anemone, bluebell, bugle, lesser celandine, wood forget-me-not, yellow pimpernel, wild primrose, sweet purple violet, sweet woodruff, wood sorrel, wood cranesbill, foxglove, herb Robert, red deadnettle, white dead nettle, wild daffodils, wild primrose, red campion, Solomon's seal, lily of the valley, hedge woundwort, garlic mustard and nettle leaved bellflowers.

Even a few of these flowers will look



*Pretty wild primroses*

lovely though the more varieties grown and the larger the area covered will affect the amount of wildlife supported. In fact, in the wild this is known as the ecozone and is considered to be the most environmentally friendly wildlife situation you can find in this country, which makes it extremely important.

All the flowers can be sourced from specialist native flower producers, but it is such a shame that they are not also grown by local nurseries and garden centres to provide a handy source. They are beautiful flowers, which need all the help they can get or they will join the list of extinct plants in this country which would also mean the loss of pollinators and other insects that depend on them. Depending on the variety, most trees take a long time to mature, but it is one way in which most of us could leave a more environmentally friendly area for the benefit of future generations.

*Marian N Tiddy*

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## TOADS

Hello everyone

I hope that this finds you all well and enjoying the lovely weather.

I am very happy to tell you that TOADS are hoping to produce a play in November! As you can imagine after all this time, we are raring to go! More details soon.

Meanwhile TOADS have been meeting via Zoom every Tuesday evening for quizzes, chats, play readings, reminiscences etc. During one of these events Jeff Bagnall, who many of you will know as our front-of-house manager, ticket secretary, set designer and builder, and all round general factotum, regaled us with back-stage stories.

It was so interesting that Jeff has given me permission to present it to the local publications. I hope you enjoy his memories as much as we did.

*Anne Bettridge*

### *It's not just about acting, you know....*

Some of you will know me as "the man who builds the scenery" or "that bloke who stands at the door for every play and constantly moans that you haven't left the promised tickets for customers who have had to blag their way in" but one or two of you will know that I have been known to act as well; but only in extreme circumstances.

Take "For Better, For Worse" in April

1991. This was a complicated setting involving one scene set on the apron with curtains masking the main stage which was the set for the rest of the play. The apron scene was deliberately kept simple and represented the lounge of a house. Everything on the apron had to be struck in a short break.

The main scene was an empty flat which was let by a dodgy estate agent to a young couple. Subsequently all the furniture was brought in by two removal men and this included a bed, a pouffé, a standard lamp, two tea chests, a step ladder, a settee, two armchairs, a dining table, a kitchen cabinet, a wardrobe, a sideboard, a bookcase and two dining chairs. All this furniture had to be kept in exactly the right place backstage and in the dressing room so that it was ready to come on in order.

A choreography list was pasted on the wall outside the kitchen and no less than 11 members of the cast and crew were involved in moving bits and pieces on and off stage etc. etc. And, of course, the entire process had to be reversed at the end of the play so that the stage was set for the following evening.

So a lot of organising and building work was required by yours truly capped off by a request from the director (or first removal man as he was known) in the form of a politely worded request "would you be prepared to play the second removal man?" Fortunately, very little dialogue was involved and revolved principally around repetition of the

phrases uttered by "the boss".

Moving on 18 months and I was faced with a request to play "The Lord Chief Justice" in the preface to "Night Must Fall" by Emyln Williams. Again this was a scene played out on the apron with the judge sitting behind a large "desk" to give the judgement on a case which was the core of the production. The director was horrified when I refused to learn the part but if you have ever been involved in a court case, and I hasten to add that my part was as a juror, you will know that a judge always READS his judgement so as to avoid any errors.

As I was also stage manager for the production my costume was a waist-up job, high wing collared shirt, sumptuous red robe and a full bottom wig (often mistaken for a Dolly Parton because it was a cheap hire and you only get what you pay for) with my working clothes below as they would be hidden. In an idle moment a member of the cast was heard to observe that "we all know what those judges wear under their robes" and mention was made of suspenders and stockings amidst much merriment from the company.

Now said member of the company was playing a very serious part of a lady in a wheelchair and she had to be just offstage at the beginning of the play proper so one evening on his way to the judge's chair, the learned judge discarded his jeans, played the prologue then exited past the lady in the wheelchair pausing only to

.... *continued overleaf*



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'Your decorating work is spot on – so quick and efficient too! We rely on you now.' Mrs A. (Dore)

'Thanks for decorating our flat throughout; your attention to detail; finishing and helpful attitude is great' Mrs B. (Netheredge)

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throw the robe aside in full flasher mode to give her quite a start. And if you look carefully at your screen you may spot the lady herself with tears coursing down her cheeks! Touché, Lovely Anne.

I was persuaded to tread the boards again in 1998 as Edward, a faded actor with a drink problem in “Kindly leave the stage”; a part which required that I churn out great chunks of King Lear. I got that part through merely sitting in at early readings and reading the part. The director was impressed and insisted that I had done Shakespeare before. “Not so” said I to which he rejoined “but you read it so well”. I pointed out that anyone can read long chunks of the bard’s work if they only pay attention to the punctuation.

Trouble was, I got the part which was fine until he asked that my make-up should make me look 20 years older. Thank you my dear wife for showing me how to apply that make-up and thank you Sarah for spraying my hair grey every night; it took three lots of shampoo every evening to get rid of it. And it was all fine until an over-zealous stage manager tried to clear a sticking main tab by pulling the cord very hard, apparently you could hear the runners popping off the track in Millhouses.

Picture the scene, it is the main interval, an “elderly” actor (in full costume and make-up) enters with step ladder, climbs said ladder and proceeds to sort out the curtain and its track. It was probably only about 10 minutes but it felt like a lifetime. It looked OK so down the ladder to test the curtain which thankfully worked. After a second test to make sure all was OK the audience broke into spontaneous applause – you will be pleased to know that I took a bow before exiting Up Stage Right for a well-earned cup of tea.

I don’t remember which year it was but I was certainly still at work so it is over 25 years ago. It was in the days before we had the sophisticated lighting equipment which we enjoy today; all of which, incidentally, was researched, specified

and acquired by Mike who so ably operates the equipment these days. I am talking of the days when the Stage Manager had a slightly different job.

Not only would I have to make sure that everybody was ready for their entrances etc. but the “lighting man” would often say “I can’t be there for the production but it is not a difficult lighting plot so you can do it from the side of the stage”. Our quite small lighting control board would be perched on the side of the stage where it was operated by the SM through the hole for the curtain cords – in those days the hole was about 15 inches square. OK, we can cope with that.

The SM was also responsible for sound effects and incidental music which was produced on a tape deck mounted on a box under the apron – I would record each separate instance on a blank tape with a lot of dead run out after the required noise sequence. Everybody prayed that I would remember to turn the tape off before it produced embarrassing noises.

Anyway, for whatever play we are talking about the director commented that the incidental music was very nice but could I just fade it down as the curtains are opening. The dilemma we now have is that you need two hands to operate the curtain with no means left to operate the controls on the tape deck and I suspect that I probably mentioned this fact quite forcibly.

Undaunted the director decided that she would operate the tape recorder herself and it is an abiding memory that at the start of the play and after the interval I had to operate the curtain by standing with my legs wide apart whilst a lady of uncertain age knelt on the floor between them and operated the tape deck. Whilst that may sound a little funny there was a funnier corollary.

Apparently after the initial request I was heard backstage chuntering on about the demands made by directors. In this case, operate the curtains, control the lights and make the sounds effective. I am told that I opined that if I stuck a broom in my

backside I could sweep the stage at the same time. The very next day a kind member of the cast presented me with a small gift and suggested that it may ease my problems which is why, to this day, there resides in my garage a small jar of Vaseline petroleum jelly.

*Jeff Bagnall*

*Ed. We will continue Jeff’s reminiscences in our next edition.*

## The lunacy of English

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of language

We’ll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes, but the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes; one fowl is a goose, but two are called geese, yet the plural of moose should never be meese;

You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice, yet the plural of house is houses, not hice. If the plural of man is always called men, why shouldn’t the plural of pan be called pen? If I speak of my foot and show you my feet, and I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?

If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth, why shouldn’t the plural of booth be called beeth? Then one may be that, & three would be those, yet hat in the plural would never be hose; and the plural of cat is cats, not cose.

We speak of a brother & also of brethren, but though we say mother, we never say methren. Then the masculine pronouns are he, his & him, but imagine the feminine: she, shis & shim!

Let’s face it – English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren’t invented in England.

We take English for granted, but if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square; a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

Why is it that writers write, but fingers don’t fing, grocers don’t groce & hammers don’t ham? Doesn’t it seem

### Two views of Totley Rise shops in the early 1900s

*On the left are some Highland Cattle destined for the butchers shop that was in the parade opposite. In those days they were slaughtered at the back of the shops.*



*The original Baslow Road ran in front of the shops where the car parking now is. The Beer & Stout sign is visible in both shots. The Mappin Brewery has long since gone. Below the sign is J.W.Morrison the family grocers.*

crazy that ...you can make amends but not one amend? If you have a bunch of odds and ends ...and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?

Sometimes I think all people who speak English should be in an asylum for the verbally insane. In what other language do people recite at a play, and play at a recital? We ship by truck but send cargo by ship ...We have noses that run and feet that smell; we park in a driveway and drive in a parkway.

And how can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down.

I give up. Or should that be down?

## Confectionary Quiz

Name your favourite sweets:

1. Different Shapes and Sizes
  2. Bright Kids
  3. It had a mutinous crew
  4. Conversation killer
  5. Fruit windfalls
  6. 9pm onwards
  7. A crumbling log
  8. Singing insects
  9. Dairy products north of the border
  10. Grapes in the mouth
- (Answers below don't look!)

Answers:-  
 1. Liquorice Allsorts, 2. Smarties, 3. Bounty, 4. Gobstopper, 5. Pear Drops, 6. After Eight, 7. Flake, 8. Humbugs, 9. Butterscotch, 10. Wine Gums.



## Problem Chelsea tractors

Drivers in crowded cities should think twice before buying a big SUV, says Steve Gooding, from the RAC Foundation. "We should all choose the right vehicle for the right trip to cut the size of our carbon footprint. It is right to question if suburban drivers need a car capable of ploughing over rivers, across fields and hills just to pop to the shops."

His comments come as research confirms most SUVs are bought by urban drivers with three quarters of those sold in the UK registered to people living in towns and cities. It shows that large SUVs - often known as Chelsea tractors - are indeed most prevalent in places such as Chelsea. They face complaints from other road users - especially during the school run.

The report from the think-tank New Weather Institute said: "The numbers stand up long-held suspicions that these vehicles ostensibly designed for off-road are actually marketed successfully to urban users where their big size and higher pollution levels are a problem."

## Run on Garden Gnomes

Supply chain issues and the popularity of garden centres during lockdown are causing a shortage of garden gnomes. The ornaments are in short supply with raw materials hard to come by and the recent blockage of the Suez Canal contributing to the national shortage.

There had been a "massive upswing" in sales and this has caused issues with the availability of many popular items. Gnomes of all types are in short supply

## Translation mistakes

I found your items on Hilarious Press Cuttings and Those Tricky Typewriters in the winter issue very amusing. I have earned a living as a translator for the last twenty years and come across various lists of translation mistakes.

Here are just a few examples:

Paris hotel elevator: Please leave your values at the front desk.

Athens hotel: Visitors are expected to complain at the office between the hours of 9 and 11am. daily.

Moscow hotel room door: If this is your first visit to USSR, you are welcome to it.

On the box of a clockwork toy made in Kong Kong: Guaranteed to work throughout its useful life.

Copenhagen airline ticket office: We take your bags and send them in all directions.

Acapulco hotel: The manager has personally passed all the water served here.

Japanese road detour sign: Stop: Drive sideways.

Bucharest hotel lobby: The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time we regret that you will be unbearable.

*Chris Whitehouse*



The butcher was Colin Thompson. You can see the meat display in their front window to the left and below the beer sign. The post office was the next shop on the left.



## Book Shelf

flehS koob

If you have ever wondered about the history of your house or perhaps one occupied by your ancestors, this guide is invaluable. At the same time a house is nothing without gaining an insight into the lives and story of the people who have lived in it.

**Tracing your house history** equips you to do just that, with 7 chapters to take you through sources of information, how to date a home, sources of local knowledge and even how to write and present what you have found. Appropriate websites are listed throughout and indexed at the end. Author Gill Blanchard's experience will also enable you to demystify some of the obscure records you may come up against in your research.

In all a comprehensive practical handbook that would find a well justified place on anyone's bookshelf.

Published by Pen & sword in paperback, 212 pages price £14.99 ISBN: 9781848842540

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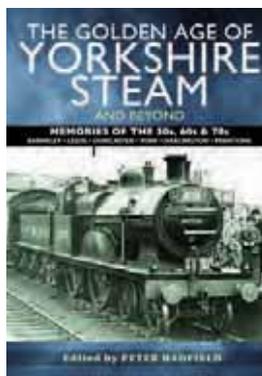
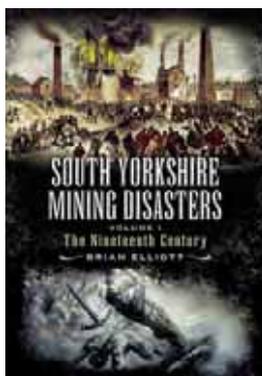
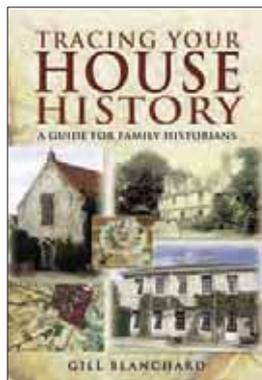
Living in South Yorkshire today it is all too easy to forget its mining past and the impact this had on the lives of those swept up in the coal mining industry. Mining disasters wrecked the lives of thousands of South Yorkshire families and devastated entire communities, as did the eventual more recent painful end of the industry.

**South Yorkshire Mining Disasters: Volume I The Nineteenth Century** tells the harrowing tale of the main disasters but can only hint at the daily stress of working underground and the numerous unrecorded individual incidents. Victorian society was often shocked by the scenes of grief, mourning and remarkable heroism recorded in the press but was slow to react at a political level

Now this story is pulled together in one book, essential reading and a valuable resource for research, for anyone whose ancestors worked in the coal mining industry or researching the history of South Yorkshire.

Published by Pen & sword in paperback, 192 pages price £12.99 ISBN: 9781903425640

\*\*\*\*



**The Golden Age of Yorkshire Steam**, by Peter Hadfield, includes a wealth of unique memories and experiences from a collection of eight railway enthusiasts, who in their youth were fascinated by the steam locomotives that ruled the rails when steam was king. It provides a fascinating insight into a railway system now long gone, of train spotting and journeys with soot in your eyes.

All the main locations and routes are covered with 150 black and white illustrations to stir your memory or imagination. Sadly diesel and electric locomotives now rule the rails, but steam still lingers on in the Flying Scotsman and steam specials powered by preserved locomotives. Fortunately the past is preserved for us all in these old photographs.

Published by Pen & sword in paperback, 168 pages price £14.99 ISBN: 9781526765888

## Well Dressing Calendar

This year in some cases events will not take their usual form, instead for example, a number of small boards will be displayed at the Fountain in Youlgrave from 19th to 26th June.

It is important to check events near to their planned date. The calendar at [www.welldressing.com](http://www.welldressing.com) will be kept up to date as changes are notified.

## Birds of prey breeding successes

The Peak District Bird of Prey Initiative has published its 2020 final report, showing encouraging breeding successes for several bird of prey species in moorland areas of the Peak District, thanks to collaboration between landowners, gamekeepers and raptor workers during COVID-19.

Peregrine falcons had their best year in a decade, with all six known nesting attempts being successful, resulting in a record 14 fledged young.

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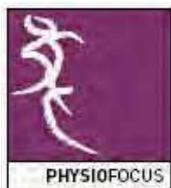
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## Wedding dream comes true for St Luke's patient

A Christmas wish became a reality for Sheffield couple Jess Richards and Dave Stewart thanks to the support of the St Luke's Hospice team. Dave proposed to Jess on Christmas Day, though the couple had no idea how they would make a wedding work in a pandemic.

Hospitality worker Jess, was battling against cancer and a patient at St Luke's, where the team pulled out all the stops to ensure that a ceremony could go ahead. "Christmas is Jess's favourite time of the year so this year her Christmas present was an engagement ring and I actually proposed on Christmas Day," said 33-year-old Dave, who is a lecturer at Hillsborough College.

Jess had first become aware of a health issue when the couple were spending a year travelling, but it was only when the couple arrived back home that Jess was diagnosed with breast cancer and went through a full programme of surgery and chemotherapy treatment.

When the St Luke's team heard how much Jess and Dave wanted the wedding to go ahead, they started the process that would make the dream a reality. 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.

Flowers for the big day were provided by city florist Valerie of Dore, balloons

were donated by Above and Beyond Balloons and, at the bride's request, the St Luke's catering team created a special celebration cheese cake. Then, with just Jess's parents, Dave's mum, his best man brother Jamie and Jess's bridesmaid friend Heather Eggleton in attendance in line with current COVID-19 regulations, St Luke's assistant chaplain Mark Newitt conducted the ceremony.

**John Highfield**

*Sadly Jess has since passed away, but would want people to know the effort the staff went to at St Luke's for her.*



*The giant Patagonian bumblebee (Bombus dahlbomii), now an uncommon sight. Credit Eduardo E. Zattara*

## Disappearing bees

A quarter of known bee species haven't appeared in public records since the 1990s

Researchers in Argentina have found that, since the 1990s, up to 25% of reported bee species are no longer being reported in global records, despite a large increase in the number of records available. While this does not mean that these species are all extinct, it might indicate that these species have become rare enough that no one is observing them in nature.

With citizen science and the ability to share data, records are going up exponentially, but the number of species reported in these records is going down it's not a bee cataclysm yet, but what we can say is that wild bees are not exactly thriving.

While there are many studies about declining bee populations, these are usually focused on a specific area or a specific type of bee. These researchers were interested in identifying more general, global trends in bee diversity. "It's important to remember that 'bee' doesn't just mean honeybees, even though honeybees are the most cultivated species," say the researchers. "Our society's footprint impacts wild bees as well, which provide ecosystem services we depend on."

The team state that "Something is happening to the bees, and something needs to be done. We cannot wait until we have absolute certainty because we rarely get there in natural sciences. The next step is prodding policymakers into action while we still have time. The bees cannot wait."

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## Transport 17

It seems a lifetime since the middle of March last year when we held our last coffee morning and there was much rumbling about the virus that has had such an impact on all our lives. What a year it has been!!!! We now have a roadmap and people are beginning to look forward to how things might be. Some will feel really comfortable about this for others it will be quite unsettling.

As we plan to go forward we are conscious that we need to build our bank of volunteers and this seemed an ideal time to give our current volunteers a voice. They were all asked if they were willing to jot down some of their thoughts and comments about being a volunteer.

Something which would give a feel for the role, what they enjoy about it, why they decided it was a role for them, the buzz they get from it, perhaps what they have missed about it during the last year. Anything they might say to somebody else to encourage them to give volunteering for Transport 17 a go.

The response has been really great and the words that follow are those of our volunteers. It is a very different article to the usual narrative and you may find yourself dipping in and out of it. Some sent back quick notes others penned a paragraph. The wonderful thing about them all is a common thread which really

communicates what Transport 17 is all about. We hope you enjoy meeting everyone.



**Steve Westnedge** (Passenger Assistant)  
Help people to get out and socialise, many would be housebound otherwise. Meet lots of people, many with interesting pasts. Good fun. The appreciation shown by passengers makes you feel good knowing you have made a difference to their day. Made good friends at Transport 17. All very rewarding.



**Andy Birch** (Driver)  
I was recruited to T17 by Bob and Colin at Totley Show in 2019. I had been retired since the end of 2017 and was looking for some sort of voluntary work. I started out as a passenger assistant to begin with but now I am a driver.

I love the job and have really missed it during the lock down. The ladies and gentlemen who we take to the lunch clubs appreciate what we do and I look forward to seeing them each week.



**Phil Kirkup** (Passenger Assistant)  
Now retired but continues to help in the office)  
I was approached by my old friend Dave Longley to become a driver for

T17! This was some months after my 70th birthday! Unfortunately after some weeks I was found not to be medically fit to drive a public service vehicle and I therefore became a passenger assistant.

I worked for several years with Darryl but the whole operation of T17 is so full of lovely kind people and just to witness the passengers when they've had a day out at the lunch club or wherever and to know how much pleasure they have had as a result of the T17 is wonderful.

I would recommend anybody to get involved, it only takes approximately 4 hours of my day and just to see the results of happiness of our passengers makes it all worthwhile. Keep up the good work.



**Diane Ellis** (Passenger Assistant)  
Being a volunteer gives me great pleasure to know that I can bring so much happiness to others by giving up a few hours of my time each week.

By volunteering for Transport 17 as a passenger assistant, it enables a lot of elderly people to get out to the Lunch clubs. It is something for them to look forward to each week by having a lovely meal and time to spend with friends and make new ones, which otherwise they would be unable to do.

Taking into account the small amount of time I give, I get an enormous amount of satisfaction from volunteering and meeting these lovely people who are so grateful for the time we willingly give



**David Longley** (Driver)  
This has been one of the most satisfying jobs I have done. We meet a lot of people who are so grateful for what we are doing which gives one a great sense of achievement. The hours are reasonably flexible so I can fit the job around holidays and social life.



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**Stuart McDonald** (Driver)

Having always been brought up to help wherever possible others less fortunate than myself and having conducted my busy professional business in a similar manner it was somewhat devastating to find that following the sale of my business that I had extended time on my hands with the dilemma as to what I could do.

It was only when travelling back from Baslow that I passed the distinctive offices of Transport 17. An approach was made to offer my services if these were acceptable. At my first visit I was asked if I could act as a companion to one of the drivers and assist in the pickup and return of those passengers who were attending their respective luncheon clubs, all of which are held at various church halls run again by devoted volunteers.

The experience was quite humiliating realising that these outings were without doubt the highlight of many of our passenger's week following their confinement in their homes, in which, in some instances they felt trapped. How they have been coping during the epidemic I hate to contemplate.

The gratitude of all those elderly and obviously lonely passengers is sole destroying and my fellow drivers and companions appreciate the fact that we are able to devote even a small part of our time to provide some relief to those lonely individuals that we are able to serve.

I cannot wait for the luncheon clubs to reopen, not for the free lunch we are

provided with, but in order that we can resurrect our services to those requiring our assistance and who rely on us for transportation. I am sure there are others in the immediate area who may have time to offer a worthwhile service to those wishing to escape from the confinement of their homes and mix with their friends and acquaintances made from previous outings, which has been far too long in its resurrection.

I am aware that there are areas in the administration team that require some voluntary partial assistance, so you do not need to drive.



**Peter Marquis** (Passenger Assistant)

Being a volunteer is a very rewarding job as I enjoy meeting, caring for and helping different people in the community.



**Dave Ireland** (Passenger Assistant)

I have been a volunteer at Transport 17 for 7 years. I am a Passenger Assistant which means I help people from their

home onto the transport and make sure they are comfortable.

I work one day a week and occasionally "fill in" on other days if required. It is very enjoyable chatting, having a laugh and getting to know the passengers as we travel along picking people up to have lunch at their Lunch Club.

I hope we are able to return to normal service soon.

**Mike Roberts** (Driver and member of the Management Committee)

I got involved with T17 after I retired in 2004 having heard about it from Peter Gauntlett. I have enjoyed being involved, I like driving and I get a real kick out of seeing our passengers or "customers", as I prefer to think of them, getting together with their chums at the various coffee mornings and lunch clubs we facilitate.

There's often lots of friendly banter with the passengers and my fellow volunteer passenger assistants and it is really rewarding to see people who may not otherwise be able to do so, getting out and enjoying themselves.

Over time I have met many great characters and had lots of interesting conversations and I can truly say that I wouldn't have missed it for anything. Who knows, one day I might even have the chance to be a back seat driver myself!

### In conclusion

We wanted this article to illustrate the face of Transport 17, for you to meet the people who play such a big role in the organisation and to get a better understanding of what Transport 17 is. We hope we achieved that.

It would be even better if the words of our volunteers had laid a seed in your mind that being a volunteer for Transport 17 might be for you. At the moment we are not operating but as the summer progresses we plan to be back in action and the need for your help will be very real.

If you would like more information or would like to register your interest please leave a message on 0114 2362962, e-mail [admin@transport17.co.uk](mailto:admin@transport17.co.uk) or visit [www.transport17.co.uk](http://www.transport17.co.uk)

**Sandra Longley**  
(on behalf of the Management Committee)

## Sheffield Photographic Society

### 2021 Annual Exhibition

A print only exhibition, was scheduled to display in the Sheffield Cathedral during March 2021, following a judging day in early February where a visiting judge would have selected the images worthy of inclusion.

Although these plans were destroyed by Covid-19, the Society was determined to go ahead with the exhibition and opted to hold it in digital image format. The excellent photographic lecturing team of Colin and Chrissie Westgate from Essex were invited to judge the images which were despatched to them 2 weeks before the planned zoom meeting on the 6th February.

At the meeting the judges critiqued each selected image and nominated images for commended, highly commended and trophy status. 38 members entered 253 images across the various categories with 171 images accepted into the exhibition.

From the accepted images the judges awarded 26 images commended status and 22 images highly commended status reflecting the high standard of members' work. Finally, the judges awarded 10 images best in their category winning the appropriate trophy.

The exhibition is available to view now on the Society website [www.sheffieldphotosociety.org.uk](http://www.sheffieldphotosociety.org.uk)

### Meetings Update

Because we will have no summer programme (trips locally and further afield) the current season is being extended with a further 5 zoom meetings to early July. All this seasons' programme (2020 /2021) has been conducted via zoom and has been remarkably successful.

This is in no doubt due in part to us being able to attract top quality guest speakers, who would not normally be accessible for live meetings because of travel. Thus we have had speakers from Ireland, Wales, London, the North and even the South. One of our speakers in June will be presenting his zoom talk from the USA.

During this season the society has also set up its own Facebook and Instagram pages. In addition our two exhibitions, normally print, were changed to digital process images with both exhibitions posted on our web site.

Our new season (2021 / 2022) will commence in September and the programme has been arranged on the basis that we will be back in our St Peter's premises. We are not sure at this time whether social distancing will allow this to happen so consequently a back-up programme has been arranged to carry on with zoom meetings if necessary.

The summer programme trips remains in doubt until the impact of unlocking is clearer.

**John Gorman**

See us on Facebook and Instagram at Sheffield Photographic Society



### March 21 Trophy Winners

Above: *Gelada Huddle* by Jonathan Elliott - Nature Trophy

Aside: *Flower Fireworks* by Marcus Offinger - Photo Essay Trophy



### 70kfor70 success

A very happy birthday as Peak District National Park Foundation celebrates #70kfor70 success. It was launched to mark the 70th anniversary of the Peak District National Park – with an ambitious plan to raise £70,000 in its inaugural fundraising project. Now the Foundation is celebrating not only reaching, but almost doubling its target – with £130,000 raised from the campaign.

The money raised is already supporting a range of conservation and engagement projects. These include 'Moors for the Future' moorland restoration, conservation work on the Monsal and Tissington trails, woodland restructuring at Stanage North Lees to improve bird habitats, conservation work in the South West Peak and access work with 'Miles Without Stiles'.

The Foundation has also kitted out Junior Rangers and supported Peak District Mosaic to help make the National Park more accessible to BAME communities. It has funded Fit for Work, which helps offenders on licence to develop conservation skills. And it has supported Year of Green Action community grants and Ride Sheffield/Peak District MTB volunteer conservation projects.

Foundation chair, Jen Lowthrop, said: "We're thrilled with the amazing support we've received throughout our campaign. We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has helped us beat our first major fundraising target.

#70kfor70 was just the start for the Peak District National Park Foundation. We have ambitious plans for future fundraising to care for the National Park and to make it accessible for all. Visit <https://www.peakdistrictfoundation.org.uk/support-us/> to find out how you can help us in future."

### St Luke's Golf Day

It's time to head for the greens and tee off as St Luke's Hospice gets back on the fairway for its 2021 Golf Day.

The popular sporting challenge will be back at Abbeydale Golf Club on Friday, June 11, sponsored by Sheffield data protection specialists Bruce and Butler.

Open to teams of four players – from scratch to 24 handicap golfers – the day costs £275 and includes dinner and prizes for team and individual competitions.

"We are delighted that our 24th Golf Day is set to go ahead as planned, with all appropriate Covid-19 safety guidance in place at all times," said St Luke's fundraiser Clare Collingworth. This is always a very successful day and we would recommend anybody who is interested in getting a team together to make contact with us as soon as possible."

To register or for more information call Clare on 0114 235 7556 or email: [c.collingworth@hospicesheffield.co.uk](mailto:c.collingworth@hospicesheffield.co.uk)

**John Highfield**