

# EDGE

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

April 2020

Registered Charity No. 1139239

## *What is unique about Nether Edge ?*



punctual bus service



off road parking



smooth roads



litter free

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

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

This issue of EDGE was edited by Mazhar Hussain and Ken Lambert. If you want to contribute to the May edition, please contact the EDGE Editorial Board – [nengeditorialboard@gmail.com](mailto:nengeditorialboard@gmail.com)

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**NETHER EDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP – Application for Membership / renewal**

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

\*Please delete as appropriate

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Your contact details will only be used in connection with your EDGE subscriptions or NENG membership.

The annual subscription for EDGE is £8 per household (£5 unwaged / concessions), commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> April each year. Any additional donation to the work of NENG is welcomed.

Subscribers living outside our distribution area will only receive electronic copies of EDGE, or you can choose to receive EDGE by email by selecting this method above.

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



The overriding concern at the moment is the Coronavirus epidemic and how we all get through it. This edition went to "press" just as action was starting to set up street level support groups for those who are self isolating and need help – **see article below**. Nether Edge is a close and loving community and we need to do all we can to support each other in these trying times. Some contact numbers and websites giving out useful information are on the back page. There is no printed edition of EDGE and will not be in the foreseeable future, so feel free to circulate this electronic edition amongst your friends and neighbours in Nether Edge – it does not matter if they are members of NENG or not. Copies will be available on the NENG website <http://www.netheredge.org.uk/> or email copies can be obtained from [nengdistribution@gmail.com](mailto:nengdistribution@gmail.com)

The latest NENG news is that:-

- The AGM has been postponed, but the reports from the various sub groups are in this edition
- The June Farmers Market has been cancelled
- "Open Gardens" has been cancelled, but will be replaced by "virtual open gardens" whereby gardeners submit photos of their gardens with the names of their nominated charity for donations, with the most interesting photos published in a future EDGE. Details to follow.
- The future of the Festival will kept under review

Please try to **support your local shops** (subject to being compatible with personal safety and social distancing). We will all need them when life returns to some semblance of normality.

I hope our little joke on the front cover at least brought a smile to your lips, and when circumstances have improved we will look for your suggestions about what we might do to improve the bus service, have decent roads and parking that does not block the pavement. Litter is less of a problem than it used to be thanks to the dedicated army of litter pickers and the efforts of **Love our Streets**.

If you want to share stories of how you are filling time, kindness showed to you by neighbours etc, please send them to [nengeditorialboard@gmail.com](mailto:nengeditorialboard@gmail.com) We would love to hear from you, but meanwhile, do your best to stay safe and look after each other.

*Ken Lambert NENG Chair*

### Nether Edge neighbours pulling together - by Jay Judge

It all started on Saturday (14 March), I decided something needed to happen so I composed a letter, printed it out and with the help of My sister Tina delivered it to 200 of my closest neighbours. The letter is offering help to anyone who is or may have to self isolate, food, medicine etc, and offering a voice on the end of a phone.

The letter also asks for anyone willing to volunteer to be helpers.

My Sister Tina set up a Facebook site called Nether Edge Help Network which currently has 181 members since Saturday evening and rising by the minute, I set up a helpers Whatsap group which has been really effective.

The whole thing has snowballed in a really great way, more and more letters have been delivered, I have printed off a further 400 which volunteers have delivered, I have emailed the template to other volunteers who are now printing off their own letters and delivering them to their neighbours.

I'm pleased to say we are now receiving phone calls from our elderly neighbours who don't have any way of communicating other than their land line, I have committed to telephoning them every week which they have agreed to, and they know they can phone me any time they want.

If anyone in Nether Edge wants to join our group in any capacity either as a volunteer or as someone who is or may be needing help they can either join the Facebook group or Phone / text me on 07736 843993 or my sister Tina on 07990 903773.

*Lets pull together to look after each other and stay safe.*





# NETHER EDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUP

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

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April at the  
Nether Edge Bowling Club  
Nether Edge Road at 7pm

### AGENDA

7.00 pm Arrival, registration and welcome

7.15 pm Business including:-

Minutes of the AGM 2019

Chairman's Report

Treasurer's Report

Report by sub groups

Election of officers, trustees and

committee members

8.15 Formal business concludes followed

by:-

A presentation and Q&A by Jus

Pettifar – Love our Streets

**POSTPONED**

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

Please do come to our AGM. It will be a relaxed and friendly affair, subject to the minimum of formality, but do note that if there should be a vote, only NENG members are entitled to vote, though non-members are still very welcome to attend.

We would like to hear your opinions about our work and sufficient attendance is essential to give NENG the authority to continue its successful activities.

### Chair's Report

As the new chair, it has felt uncomfortable in some ways stepping into the shoes of David Pierce, and I am very grateful for the support he has given me and his contributions at the Committee. Indeed, may I thank all the members of the committee for their support and many ideas to improve the work that we all do on a voluntary basis. There is a sense both of stability but also a desire to have more of an impact regarding the many issues that occupy the residents of Nether Edge. On the financial issues that gave some difficulties in the previous reporting period, I am very pleased that Tayab Fayaz has taken on the role of book keeper, which is key for the organisation; this has very much eased the work of financial reporting.

The activities of the various sub groups continue to flourish and are reported on in the pages that follow this report. In the September edition, we set out three new objectives for the year:-

Firstly, to run a pilot scheme in a few streets where there are only a few EDGE subscribers/NENG members to see how we might best engage with the residents living there. As a pilot scheme, the March edition of EDGE was delivered to residents on Wath Road with an insert explaining what NENG is and what it does. It is perhaps too early to evaluate any results from this exercise.

Secondly, to establish a Friends of Chelsea Park sub group. Howard Fry has done a great deal of work to set up what is a very active group, and the work to improve the park is reported on in these pages.

Finally, to raise awareness of NENG. There is a feeling that we "hide our light under a bushel" and remain too much in the background. A revamp of the website should help raise awareness, but it remains an area where we need to do more.

Ken Lambert



## FARMERS' MARKET by Marion Gerson

What is so amazing about the Farmers Market in Nether Edge? That it was one of the first (if not the first) in Sheffield? The wide variety of stalls? That at Christmas this year we will be having the 50<sup>th</sup> such market? That it is run by a small team of people?

The thing that really makes it stand out from other markets is that, after a few small expenses, ALL the money raised is given to small local charities and causes that support local people. From the four markets in 2019 alone we were able to donate £8,400.

Some of the individual stalls are also raising money for local charities such as the Whirlow Farm Trust, children in hospital and Ben's Centre, a place of sanctuary for the vulnerable in Sheffield. The amounts raised this way can be quite substantial.

Visitors to the market often aren't aware of that, nor do they need to be. What they see is a wide range of stalls and some excellent entertainment, the latter given free by some lovely local groups. It really is a market for farmers and growers and you will find lots of fresh produce for sale. That's not just meat and pies but also vegetables and plants of all kinds (micro-greens were a new offering in March), mushrooms, honey, cheese and even soap and cosmetics made from the milk of local goats.

Some people have complained that there are too many street food stalls. But the variety of cooking styles provides

for all tastes and there are many people who regard the market as a great opportunity to eat and drink while perusing the various stalls selling art and crafts of all kinds. Some of the craftspeople use repurposed materials – did you see the stall selling objects made from used horseshoes last time? The Jewellery Quarter (our name for the collection of stalls towards the lower part of Glen Road) and shops selling clothes, accessories etc. are excellent places to look for gifts, whether for oneself or for others.

Then there are the bread, cake and chocolate stalls. I have to try to walk past most of them, but I never succeed entirely. Some cater for vegans and people with gluten intolerance; all look tempting.

We are very fortunate – we get enough applications for each market to more than fill the available space. We aim to bring along local start-up businesses, some of which don't last long but some that flourish and grow. The downside is that we must always make some hard choices and say 'no' to a number of applicants, including regulars sometimes.

In the end there are two really important ingredients for a successful market. One is the weather, which we can do nothing about. The other is our wonderful visitors who come to look, enjoy the entertainment and spend their money. Without you there would be no market.

So thank you all.



The Editorial Board has been established for over a year and the board members are: Ruth Bernard, Nicky Erlen, David Pierce and Kevin Hickey. We meet approximately every six weeks and report back to the NENG committee.

Our aims:

- To ensure the Edge is produced and delivered ten months of the year and on time.
- Provide support and guidance for Edge Editors.
- Ensure nothing appears that is unlawful or inconsistent with the aims of NENG.
- To oversee the quality of content and ensure that Edge is an entertaining and a useful publication, pertinent to Nether Edge issues and people, with as diverse a content as possible.
- To be responsive to local views and comments and report back on new initiatives and developments and share stories.

We have made good progress with several initiatives, and the guidelines for editors have been revised and updated. Deadlines are being met and Edge is being delivered to distributors on time. Edge is now printed in full colour which has been well received by our readers. There are some regular contributors in place and new ones emerging and our income from advertising is increasing.

All editions of the Edge are put onto a memory stick by the editors ready for the printers, which has improved liaison and communication between ALD printers and the Editorial Board. In order to increase the diversity of the subscribers we have given free copies of February and March editions to Wath Road and Brincliffe Gardens. Several articles in the March Edge were produced by residents of Wath Road and surrounding area in order to increase the diversity of contributors.

We do have some regular editors including, The Chair, History Group, Festival Group, Open Gardens as well as members of the editorial board as and when required.

The challenges for the future are to increase the number of regular editors and contributors, and strive to produce a high-quality publication with greater diversity of contributors, editors and readers.

Areas for consideration for the future:

- Should the subscription be increased, particularly as Edge is now in colour?
- Do we need to actively seek more advertising and/or more subscriptions?

### Friends of Brincliffe Edge Wood

There was a two page summary of the 2019 work programme in the February edition of EDGE

For those not familiar with the woods, here is the explanatory map







We were worried last summer, when we thought the playground might have to close because the ground was boggy, the frames to the play equipment were going rotten and we didn't have the £40,000 that would be needed to put everything right. Then SCC Parks and Countryside discovered that Chelsea Park received a substantial endowment some years ago, the interest from which will be enough to replace the swings with better (more robust and more inclusive) equipment, which is the most urgent task. We can also tackle some of the drainage and SCC will be undertaking the work to the area this spring.

Unfortunately the endowment fund won't stretch

to refurbishing the upper part of the play area, where the adventure play frame is, but fortunately, that piece of kit probably has a couple of years' life left in it, even though it is showing signs of decay. The community will need to raise perhaps £20,000 more to refurbish and improve that area, but we have a couple of years to raise the money.

Friends of Chelsea Park (a sub-group of 40 local parents and carers with an active steering group of 10 members) have taken responsibility for raising the necessary funds over the next 18 months. We hope this will be achieved through a mix of profile-raising local activities and appeals to major funders. The first stage is to consult the community, to establish what is wanted, in addition to the new swings. We think that one of the main attractions of the play area is that it is relatively small, quiet and safe for toddlers and small children, so we have written to local primary schools to get ideas from the children themselves

and may have an exhibition of their proposals.

Having got the ball rolling, we don't want to ignore the needs of older children, so we may try to do more with the informal football pitch at the top of the park, subject to agreement from the Council. Nether Edge Festival are planning a fun run in aid of the playground, which sounds great and we may capitalise on that idea, though Chelsea Park is probably too small for serious runners. If you have any suggestions, please contact [friendsofchelseapark@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofchelseapark@gmail.com)



## The future of the Festival this year will be kept under review

It's hard to believe that this year sees the sixth annual Nether Edge Festival. The Festival Planning Group is already in full swing organising and coordinating events. The Group has welcomed new members this year and is hoping to have an even greater diversity of events, building on the 50+ that we enjoyed in the 5<sup>th</sup> Festival last autumn.

The aims of the Festival are simply to celebrate the brilliance of Nether Edge – the talents of its residents, the diversity of its peoples and the joy of everything it has to offer for those of us fortunate enough to call it home. The hope is that people will come to as many events as possible and meet people from all over our Nether Edge community. The Festival is a social event as much as an enjoyable cultural one.

It has become a tradition that the Festival's opening and closing events span the geography of Nether Edge – from the Carnival at Common Ground (junction of Empire Road and Machon Bank) on the first Saturday (12<sup>th</sup> September) to the Party in The Park at Chelsea Park (20<sup>th</sup> September). In the days in between there is a wonderful variety of events, some established – such as the Ceilidh, an Arts and Crafts fair, competitions (painting, poetry and young people's art), lots of walks, talks, meet the author and music and the September Farmers' Market – and many new events, too. These new events become established, too, like last year's Urban Street Party organised by *Lotte's on the Edge* in conjunction with *The Union*, a great success that will be repeated this year. Amongst new events in the planning stage this year are a 6k Run (to celebrate our 6<sup>th</sup> Festival), a Fun Run and a number of events that we are referring to as 'Festival Fringe' in which a cluster of events, one after the other, will be held in neighbouring sites to give us a bit of *Edinburgh-in-Sheffield*! Already in the calendar is a series of high-profile concerts at St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church which includes Kaoru Bingham (piano recital) and Mishra (global folk collective) – the latter concert is a new collaboration with Sheffield-based *Talking Gigs*.

Common Ground Carnival



The Festival is not-for-profit and receives some financial support from the city council, donations, and the sale of raffle tickets (please dig deep when asked!) – with local traders generously donating raffle prizes. Mainly, of course, the Festival works because of all the time and enthusiasm given by volunteers. If you would like to volunteer in any way please contact:

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

Last year we basked in eight days of unbroken sunshine until the final day; but a little rain didn't dampen the spirits at the closing Party in the Park. The Festival will go on whatever the heavens provide, so make sure you're in Nether Edge from 12<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> September. See you there!

**Mark Doel and Richard Taylor, Festival co-Chairs.**

Party in the Park dog show





It seems whether you like singing, exploring unknown aspects of Nether Edge history, unearthing undiscovered information or simply raising your understanding of historical events, the local History Group has something for you.

Over the past year we have led walks on local celebrities, relived the Blitz for local schoolchildren, presented the story of Mary Queen of Scots to a large and appreciative audience, organised 2 lively evenings of Sheffield Carols in The Union, produced, and sold out of, a calendar of old photographs of the area, taken stalls at Heritage Fairs and local Markets, started a research project to identify local information on World War 2, and

commissioned research into the gathering stories of migrant communities in the area. Amongst other things.

The success of these efforts is reflected in a number of ways: the approaches made to us by other groups such as the newly formed Banner Cross History Group; the attendance at our events; and more prosaically, the net financial contribution made to NENG coffers as well as the several hundreds of pounds donated to the Chelsea Park improvement project as a result of Chris Venables' work on the calendar.

Our aim is to continue working on active and imaginative projects that contribute to the sense of community in Nether Edge by reminding people of the collective history that bonds us. We are hoping soon to place a series of History Boards around the area, we have planned a series of major talks open to the public, as well as pocket talks to those attending the Open meetings we hold in The Union. Plans are already in place for us to contribute to the Nether Edge Festival and Heritage Week, and dates are similarly in place for this coming years Sheffield Carols event...only 9 months to go. The World War 2 Research project continues to unearth the hidden history that exists of how the War affected our neighbourhood, a particularly pertinent subject given that August marks the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the War.

An exciting year awaits.

Of course we have challenges. We are still trying to get to grips with the archives we are collecting, our lack of permanent premises continues to hinder us, the number of ideas we can pursue is still limited by the lack of hands we have. So here is a suggestion.

The Admin team can organise, plan, publicise but none of this would be worthwhile without you attending our meetings, coming to our talks, contributing your stories, lending your voices.

So, if you imagine the History Group as a select group of dry academics, poring over dusty documents, or that everything to be known about Nether Edge must have been discovered by now then think again. And if you want proof, look no further than Andy Beezer. Less than a year since moving to Cherry Tree House from Buckinghamshire he has managed to unearth a treasure chest of information about the house that was previously unknown. This includes a print of the pleasure gardens that once stood on the site. If you were at the Open Meeting in March you will have heard the story from Andy.

So, why not check us out or leave your memories or questions on our face book page : <https://facebook.com/groups/netheredgehistory/>



## Forgotten Sacrifices John Austin

Does the name Eric Alsop mean anything to you ? Or Brian Teather ? Alan Cantrell ? Derrick Cantrell ?

My guess is almost certainly not and there is good reason.

All were local Nether Edge men who served in WW2. And there must have been many more serving in a wide range of roles. Yet, so far as we can discover, there is no record of who did serve, and even more surprisingly no record of those who died. We think this is something that should be addressed and it is the aim of the History Group, in the year of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW2, to compile a list of those men and women from the area, who served, whether in the Armed Forces, Civil Defence or Voluntary Organisations. We would wish also to include those whose principles led them to become Conscientious Objectors and the sacrifices they made as a result.

Can you help ? Do you know of any such people ? Were your parents, grandparents such people ? Have you heard stories of such people ?

If so, we would love to hear from you and bring some recognition to a group of people whose names deserve to be remembered.

Please get in touch... John.austin1@btinternet.com



**Please do not attempt this now, but keep this in mind for later, when it becomes safe**

Normally, I don't have a good word to say about a bus company. Why anyone would think we should have to take two separate buses to get from Nether Edge to the centre of town is beyond me. I imagine the folks in Wybourn feel much the same. There is of course an exception, and that is the 218 service. I think they must have slipped up here, because it's BRILLIANT! You'll have read David Levine's article in last month's EDGE about the 218-based walk from Bar Brook Bridge to the Cross Scythes Inn in Totley. I've walked quite a bit of it, but never as a complete joined-up walk, so I'm looking forward to doing this if ever it stops raining!

Can I make another 218-based suggestion? Take the 218 to Bakewell and then walk back to Baslow over the tops. I'm keeping the instructions brief, but if you've taken David's advice and got a copy of OS Explorer map OL24 1:25000000, you shouldn't have any problems. (And if you haven't, however do you manage?) Cross the river via the blue lock bridge and head off up the hill, past the cattle market, and over the old railway line and the golf course. Straight up through the wood, then diagonally right to a peaceful pond. This is Calton Pastures and you follow the ridge downhill until you see a gate in the wall to the left, leading through a narrow wood. Emerging, you will see, and I quote "one of the fairest view in all of England". It is, of course, Chatsworth. From here, you can't really go wrong. Head for Edensor church, then diagonally across the hillside to that famous bridge, that's on all the pictures of Chatsworth. Cross it, and follow the path left along the river towards Baslow. You'll soon pass the cricket ground, negotiate the revolving 'kissing gate' and emerge in Baslow village. The 218 bus stop back to Sheffield is by Goose Green, opposite Sweet Gene's, which by the way, is well worth a visit. This walk is part of the Peak Pilgrimage, which I may tell you more about on another occasion. Happy hiking.





What is fasting in Islam? Can you drink water? Can you eat fruit? How do you manage in summer around 17 hour days? These questions start popping up in most conversations with Muslims during the Month of Fasting which is due to start at the end of April 2020.

You might find the following article helpful and informative, particularly if you are living amongst Muslim communities or working with Muslim colleagues.

The fasting month is called Ramadan in Arabic and is the 9<sup>th</sup> month of the Islamic calendar. Islamic months start with the sighting of the new moon. Hence, depending on what method people use to establish the birth of the new moon, there may be two different (consecutive) start dates. Islamic months are minimum 29 days and maximum 30 days. Ramadan ends with the

Eid celebration known as the small Eid to many people.

Fasting starts roughly an hour before the sunrise and it ends at the sunset. A fasting person is not allowed to eat, drink or take any supplements by any source during fast.

Who is exempt? Pregnant women, people with illness if it is dangerous to fast, children, people lacking capacity/people with severe disabilities and if you are on a long journey.

Why Fast? The utmost reason for Muslims is that it is an obligatory act, prescribed by Allah (God) to people since the creation of humanity. Fasting teaches discipline, patience, contentment and tolerance. It also fosters empathy and care towards those less fortunate and allows us to experience how the poor and needy live. It promotes generosity, caring and sharing principles and ethos.

There are enormous physical benefits proven by many studies. Fasting is a detox for the body and gives the body some rest for a month. Fasting is known to be prescribed in many non-Muslim countries as part of some treatments especially for obesity i.e. China, America, Japan Giving a portion of your wealth in charity is obligatory upon Muslims. Many Mosques and Islamic organisations invite non-Muslim neighbours to Iftar (Opening the fast) parties with free traditional food from different countries and regions.



## Curious 3-year-old (Yahya) questions why people throw rubbish on streets?



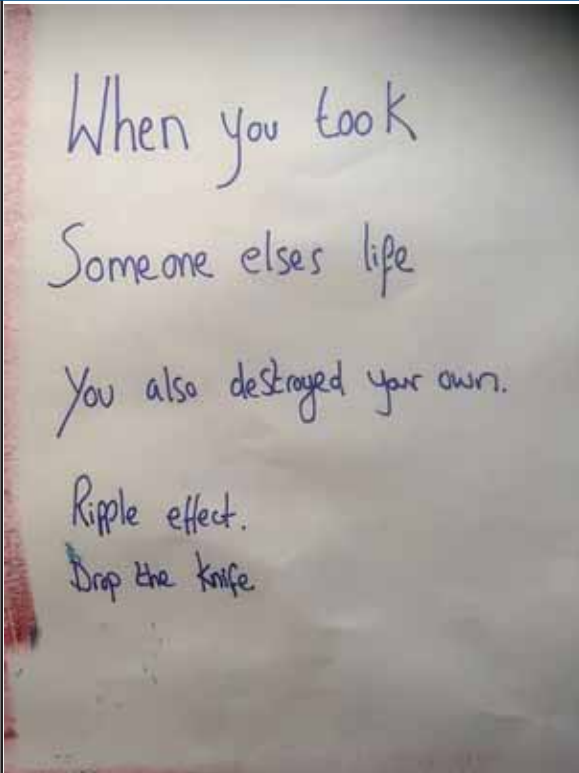
On a windy rainy Saturday morning I set out on a journey with my 3-year-old grandson (Yahya). We set off with a litter picker and an empty shopping bag on Rundle road and surrounding streets.

In true toddler fashion, he led me down the endless road of “but why baba?”, wearing down my mental resolve. The discussions started with “baba why do people throw litter on the streets?” I hastily replied, “because people are not responsible”. He quickly corrected me, “no baba only some people are not”, I was left with no choice but to agree, “Yes Yahya you are right”. It was a very enjoyable and interesting trip, we collected a half bag full of usual plastic bottles, wrappers, and cans of drinks. The streets were relatively less littered. A regular litter picking walk around keeps the area tidy and the mind clear.

Baba means Grandad  
Mazhar Hussain (Grandad)



## Peace March Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – Nicky Erlen



This was the second march organized by Mums United in under a year. Mums United is an organization the aims of which are to support mothers, raise awareness and empower action. It is based in Sharrow. The first march took place in May last year following a spate of shootings, stabbings and anti-social behaviour in the Sharrow area. This second march was arranged earlier this year following the fatal stabbing of a young person in Norfolk Park on New Year's Day and subsequent shootings. There was increasing concern that the same issues faced young people city-wide and there was a need for urgent solutions. Members of communities across Sheffield were invited. The event was supported by South Yorkshire Police, Sheffield Wednesday Football Club and De Hood Gym. Local Labour MP, Paul Blomfield, and Green Party Councillor, Alison Teal, attended.

The format of the event was altered following an adverse weather forecast. So, a few chilly circuits of Mount Pleasant Park were followed by a meeting in the Highfield Community Centre, chaired by Kate West of Family Voice, featuring a number of speakers. These were a vicar from St Mary's Church, a student councillor, a member of the Jewish Reform Community, a member of the Nether Edge Quakers, a member of the local community who focused not only on the impact of violent crime on the victim and their family but also the perpetrator and their extended family, and a representative of Mums United. Suggestions were made as to how to move forward. One aspect was the strengthening of

communities regardless of faith. Another was the need to recognize and address problems faced by excluded school children and the importance of schools in offering appropriate support to help young people understand the issues that they faced, and that this should be a focus despite the lack of funding. It was acknowledged that awaiting formal steps to be taken at government level would simply be to allow the situation to continue and that this was not acceptable. Action had to be taken now. There was concern about the glamourisation in the various forms of media of drugs and crime which encouraged young people to carry knives and this too had to stop.

The event was well attended and was filmed by a crew from the BBC which is producing a programme on drug crime in Yorkshire which will initially be online on BBC3 but subsequently be aired on one of the other BBC Channels.

The event finished off with delicious curry for everyone. Let us hope that actions in this case speak louder than the very wise words that were spoken and we can look to a better future for our young people and a reduction in crime on our streets.



## Abbeydale Road Trees By Joe Shute

There are three facts about Abbeydale Road that have inspired our new community action group.

**One** - as readers will know – it is a thriving high street and place to be proud of.

**Two** - the air quality is at dangerous levels making it one of the worst hotspots in the whole of Sheffield.

**Three** - there is not a single street tree.

We want to change that and are urging the council to adopt a dedicated tree planting programme along Abbeydale Road to make it a better place to live and work.

We are focusing our efforts on a one-mile stretch between Bannerdale Road and Mount Pleasant Park. Here there are two primary schools, a wonderful – and growing – array of independent cafes, shops, pubs and local businesses, the Abbeydale Picture House and numerous churches and mosques.

So far we have distributed a questionnaire among more than 60 businesses along this stretch and put up posters urging residents to get in touch with their thoughts.

The response has been overwhelming with the vast majority of people hugely supportive of our plan to help transform Abbeydale Road; citing pollution, lack of green space, litter and pavement parking as an everyday blight.

We want any planting scheme to be dictated from the bottom up with as many people having their say as possible so we can decide on any future plans together.

As well as street trees – planted in appropriate places and of appropriate sizes to avoid root damage and blocking the pavement to prams and people in wheelchairs – people have also mentioned planters, urban wild flower meadows, sustainable urban drainage and local street art. We also



hope any tree planting will be part of wider transformative action to reduce traffic along the street.

We are currently in positive discussions with several private landowners to plant trees and native hedgerow (fantastic for biodiversity and soaking up pollution) along stretches which would not require digging up the pavement. The charity Trees for Cities is supportive of our plans and agreed to provide expert advice to ensure any planting strategy will work for all.

So what next? We are presenting the results of our consultation to the council to demonstrate the strength of feeling along Abbeydale Road and discuss funding options.

We will then arrange a public meeting to discuss as a community the next steps we should take. Even with council support both the planting and maintenance of trees is going to require a dedicated community effort.

There is great potential to achieve real change along Abbeydale Road and – we hope – create a blueprint for community action which can be replicated all over Sheffield.

If you would like to be kept up to date and haven't done so already please email us at

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

### Dear Editors

I am writing to object to the letter in the February edition of EDGE from Marion Gerson. People will have differing views on the tree campaign, which is understandable. A sensible debate with arguments from either side is a good thing.

This however is a personal attack on someone and is not I feel in the spirit of neighbourliness of NENG.

Please edit letters such as this or even don't print them.

I feel strongly about the media being used to publicly shame or attack individuals and although an extreme example, Caroline Flack as someone who was hounded by the press shows how much recipients can be affected. Surely EDGE of all publications can adopt her plea to "Be kind"?

**Sally Weston**

### Reply from NENG Chair

**Ken Lambert**

*Thank you so much for this letter. The world does seem such a turbulent place at the moment, so fostering a kindly approach is indeed what we ought to be doing. Letters that contain attacks on individuals or groups will not be published in future editions on EDGE.*

The proposed endeavour is a firmly party political free zone.

We are in the midst of a climate emergency and there are lots of groups springing up wanting to take action and they have justifiable concern about the lack of leadership from all levels of government.

After a very successful campaign to protect local street trees the Save Nether Edges Trees group is gradually going to be winding down and some of us want to continue our local environmental work. We are currently exploring options, one of which is to become Nether Edge and Sharrow Sustainable Transformation (NESST).

Here's a sketch of what we envisage, and how we might create a big umbrella for any number of possible groups. In the spirit of Think Global, Act Local, we have some ideas about focusing on local actions in response to the Climate Crisis. This is a multifaceted plan, and I imagine there'll be quite a number of existing groups which will all benefit by being connected.

Some possible activities for groups:

I increasing the number of green spaces in our ward	I bee keeping - honey production
I increasing local food production	I planting verges and increasing tree cover (particularly fruit trees)
I protecting and increasing biodiversity and wildlife	I skills sharing and training - cookery, clothing, repairs, woodwork, people skills ...
I recycling / upcycling / reusing / repairing (lots of potential for training and arts and crafts, etc)	I business / social enterprise skills development
I professional talks (good for learning, and fund raising)	I car sharing scheme / increasing pedestrianisation
I allotment sharing and private garden cultivation (by agreement!) for the community	I cycle routes
	I local energy production
	I cafe / shop - with local produce and products

If there is enough interest, we are imagining growing much more food locally, and ultimately creating a surplus. Surplus food could be used to make products like jams and relish, for example, or could be used in a community cafe.

Sharrow Community Forum (SCF) could be a good location to be a physical link uniting multiple projects in the ward of Nether Edge and Sharrow. We have discussed this with the Director Jonathan Roberts and he is really keen. Through the production of food, there can be training opportunities, in learning to grow food, making products, marketing and selling, etc. The SCF commercial kitchen could be the place to do this, as well as the cafe. The recycling / upcycling / reusing / repairing hub could be housed on the SCF site, and also offers opportunities for training and business opportunities.

The site of SCF could be made considerably more sustainable and attractive by removing the car park and replacing it with a green space containing edible gardens and fruit trees, and open the cafe up to a seating area. SCF could be the 'home' of Nether Edge and Sharrow Sustainable Transformation, hosting many of the activities which require a meeting space to support the activities of the numerous smaller groups. For example, talks about bee keeping. Showing films / documentaries for fundraising and education. Classes on bread making. There are hundreds of possibilities!

It's hard to say just how many groups might be created, but there is a lot of potential for community cohesion, tackling loneliness, improving fitness, mental health gains and getting young people involved.

Feel free to share your ideas / thoughts / constructive criticism. Please share with people you think will be interested in getting involved. **I really hope that you can consider getting involved.**



## Do you have a question for a veterinary surgeon?



*Then look no further. We are pleased to introduce Rob, a local Sheffield vet who will be working with us regularly to offer advice about our "furry friends" In his first article, he outlines the 5 welfare needs of pets.*

With 9.3 million dogs, 10.3 million cats, 1.1 million rabbits and many other species owned as pets in the UK, it's reassuring to know there are laws protecting their health and happiness. Unfortunately, recent PDSA 'Pet Animal Wellbeing' reports show some worrying trends including a decrease in animals being vaccinated and a rise in behavioural problems. With the specific needs of each pet varying, it is important owners understand the 5 basic animal welfare needs.

**Health** – protection from pain, injury, suffering and disease, including treatment if they become ill or injured

**Behaviour** – the ability to behave naturally for their species e.g. play, run, dig, jump, climb, fly etc.

**Companionship** – to be housed with, or apart from, other animals as appropriate for the species i.e. company of their own kind for sociable species like rabbits or guinea pigs, or to be housed alone for solitary species like hamsters.

**Diet** – a suitable diet. This can include feeding appropriately for the pet's life stage and feeding a suitable amount to prevent obesity or malnourishment, as well as access to fresh clean water

**Environment** – a suitable environment. This should include the right type of home with a comfortable place to rest and hide as well as space to exercise and explore.

In future issues, I will explore these welfare needs further and cover specific topics of interest through answering questions which readers have sent to the editor.

*About Rob: Rob is the senior veterinary surgeon at Sheffield's PDSA charity hospital. He also provides an independent evening and weekend service through his business, 'Pets at Rest', supporting families at home when the difficult time comes to say goodbye to their companion.*

## Annual Subscriptions

**Annual EDGE subscription / NENG Membership payments for 2020-2021** (£8 or £5 concessions) are due in April, and a few payments for 2019-2020 still remain to be paid. Subscriptions cover the cost of producing 10 copies of EDGE a year, but all subscribers need to pay promptly if we are not to dip into the reserves. The Committee has considered raising the subscription, but has decided against this for 2020-2021.

Many subscribers to EDGE have traditionally paid by cash or cheque to their local distributor, **but in the light of the Coronavirus epidemic, we will not make door to door collections.** So, if at all possible, you are asked to make payment

**By annual standing order.** Forms to send to your bank are available from Ken Lambert (contact details below).

Standing Orders can also be set up online or through a mobile banking App using the following details

- Sort Code 30-97-51 A/C 36208368 NENG

**By Bank Transfer** using the above account details

*Either way, let Ken know when you have done this, giving your name and address, so that the bank account and subscriber records can be reconciled.*

Thanks you to the increasing number of you who have already set up a Standing Order.

If you do not have the facilities to pay by Standing Order or Bank Transfer, then you can post a cheque made out to NENG to Ken Lambert.

Please do not rely on your local distributor to take the initiative for collection of your subscription, as they have been advised not to do so. **Ken Lambert contact details: email [ken.lambert227@gmail.com](mailto:ken.lambert227@gmail.com) text 07518 118789**

**32 Thornsett Road, Sheffield S7 1NB**

**We all hope that normal service can resume sooner rather than later, but meanwhile please observe correct social distancing of 2 metres - or 6 foot 6 if you prefer**

## **Coronavirus – some useful contact information**

*Nether Edge Help Network (Covid-19 Mutual Aid) Facebook Group*

This provides local information as well as details of street level groups already set up in Nether Edge. You can volunteer to be a street coordinator.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2257972117638744/>

*Voluntary Action Sheffield (VAS) COVID Support Map*

Shows the various support groups in Sheffield and what support can and cannot provide.

<https://www.vas.org.uk/sheffield-covid-support-map/>

*NHS Coronavirus site*

The official information – beware of dubious information on social media sites

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

*Official UK Government site*

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

*Sheffield City Council*

Changes to council services

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/your-city-council/coronavirus>

*Age UK in Sheffield*

Regularly updated page of information

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/sheffield/about-us/helpful-resources/>

Phone (0114) 250 2850

*Sheffield Rethink Mental Health Support*

<https://www.rethink.org/help-in-your-area/services/advice-and-helplines/sheffield-helpline/>

Phone 0808 801 0440

*Sheffield MIND*

<https://www.sheffieldmind.co.uk/news/covid-19-and-sheffield-mind>

*The Silver Line helpline for older people*

<https://www.thesilverline.org.uk/telephone-friendship/>

Phone 0800 4 70 80 90

*Domestic abuse helpline*

Sheffield 0808 808 2241 National helpline 24/7 0808 2000 247