

Bradway Bugle

In and around Bradway, Greenhill & Totley

Schools become Academies

King Egbert School in Dore is set to become an academy this summer after governors voted by 16 votes to two, with one abstention, in support of the controversial move.

The school should take on academy status within the next three to six months, following a process of due diligence. Conversion to academy status removes the school from local authority control, a break that will see them funded directly by central government.

The move will go ahead despite widespread objections from parents who campaigned for consultation involving all parents of children at the school and those at its feeder schools. Despite some last minute consultation as a result of this pressure, protesters say the school failed to carry out meaningful consultations over the issue. There is a feeling amongst parent protesters that the governing body is being shortsighted in accepting a short-term bribe in return for longer-term financial instability.

Headteacher Lesley Bowes has insisted that such a move be made for financial reasons, to offset the impact of cuts in sixth-form funding. She says that the conversion will not change the school's fundamental principles of inclusion and excellence and a commitment to being an active participant in the Sheffield education community.

Meadowhead school is also hoping to convert next September with head Cath James, saying she is keen to make the most of the financial advantages.



David Walkden -Dad of the Year pg 14



Beauchief Abbey restored

Beauchief Abbey was rededicated by the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, at the end of 2011 after a year long programme of restoration.

The abbey was founded by monks in 1183 and later dissolved by Henry VIII. The small chapel and tower were restored in the 1660s. Since the start of the 17th century, the building has been run by its congregation, who rely on a rota of volunteer priests to lead the weekly services.

It was given to the City of Sheffield in 1932 and last year the council renewed the guttering, plastering and pointing, while the congregation contributed new heating, lighting and decoration. During the restoration, traces were discovered of medieval painting and a stone doorway leading to the tower was uncovered.

Beauchief Abbey welcomes visitors, with its congregation organising services, opening the church for visiting, promoting heritage events and concerts and co-ordinating baptisms, marriages and funerals.

Beauchief Abbey and its green on a sunny winters morning.

Drama at King Egberts

Scenes inside a jail in a new television drama series broadcast at 9pm on Tuesdays will seem very familiar to hundreds of Sheffield youngsters. It's not that they have been in jail but that their secondary school, King Egberts, doubles for the inside of HMP Highcross. 'Prisoners' Wives', a six-part series was filmed in Sheffield, and is about four very different women struggling to cope with their other half serving time.



Peggy Braybrooks 100yrs - see page 5

Elected mayors

Proposals to introduce a city mayor to run Sheffield Council will be put to voters in a referendum staged at the same time as the local elections on May 3. If they receive the go-ahead, an election to appoint a mayor is scheduled for November 15 - the same date as polls for elected police commissioners.

Editorial

Welcome to our first edition in 2012.

You wait for ages for items about Bradway's past and Bradway People to come along, then like buses we suddenly get several. To be precise, three letters from past residents, including two from Scotland, a feature on local personality Roy Drury, some local Blood Donors receiving awards and then a 100th birthday.

So if you enjoy recent Bradway history there is plenty to read in this issue. Likewise if you enjoy or are interested in birds, there are items on pigeons, robins, swifts and owls to ruffle your feathers. You can even find out what to feed them on

While we are in the sky, you will remember that last year Sheffield lost its air ambulance - no doubt the loss of Sheffield Airport contributed to this. Now, after a brief reprieve, Sheffield faces the loss of its police eye in the sky as a result of government reorganisation. You would never think we are the 4th largest city in England. What has Leeds got that we haven't, except more people and our helicopter!

Meanwhile just like last spring, the Village Green saga drags on - only in Sheffield could such a decision take so long. Now it seems that the three applications for land in Dore are being considered first and suddenly after nearly 4 years, the council has discovered that one of those sites is excluded from the legislation as it is held under the Public Health Act 1875. Anybody know on what basis Norton Council acquired the Annex? I bet the council doesn't.

Anyway, lets hope 2012 provides some good memories by the end. Who knows we might yet keep our weekly bin collection and win some gold medals.

John Baker, Editor

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 May (Summer) issue to the address on this page by **Fri 27th April**

Christmas Competition

The prize winners were:

1. Mr C McDonald-Bell £50 vouchers
2. Mrs C Deeks £40 Meat Voucher
3. Mrs G Smithson BBQ Grill
4. Mrs H Moran Treats Hamper
5. Ms N Varney Dairy Book
6. Mrs N Hutchinson Wentworth Book
7. Ms M Hill Chardonnay
8. Mr B Eke Terry's All Gold
9. Mrs P Tetley Liquer Chocs
10. Mrs R Cuttler Book & chocs
11. Mrs S Wilks Book & stocking
12. Mrs Dungey Book & chocs
13. Mrs M Payne Book & chocs
14. Mr S Sawyer Workhouse Book

Charlie Barker

Ghosts & Heroes CD:

Mr M Bloy

Help a swift family

As so many other birds are, swifts are struggling and numbers are falling; yet what magnificent, shrieking and swooping birds they are, arriving from equatorial Africa in May, breeding in June, accelerating away in August.

Loss of breeding sites in modernised houses is part of their problem. None nests in Bradway, but the Totley Rise mob often hunts insects over us. A nest box on your house would provide a new site for them to notice and check out.

The RSPB sells them at £29.99 each, on their website or on 0845 1200 501. They slide under the eaves, and need to be fitted, but will last for years. To avoid overheating the chicks, pick a northern wall.

The website also gives advice on how builders can allow swifts a site if you are having your roof re-fortified, for next to no cost.

A small price to help such a splendid species. Give it a go!

John Kirkman

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Update on 20's Plenty

Sheffield Council's city-wide strategy for 20mph speed limits in residential areas is due to be finalised in March, followed by a lengthy installation programme dependent on funds available.

Areas which have expressed interest should be the first to benefit, while others may have to wait longer. This would be co-ordinated with the major PFI contract about to be awarded to a private contractor to refurbish all the city's road surfaces, footpaths, verges, signs and lighting over the next few years.

Last month the SW Community Assembly began a public awareness campaign on 20mph areas with a presentation and discussion in each of its 4 wards, including Totley Library on 26-January.

A Highways officer gave a slide presentation followed by Q&A's, and then asked local residents to discuss their preferences and mark these on a street map covering Bradway, Totley, Dore and Whirlow. More detailed local consultations will follow after the basic strategy is approved by cabinet.

After considering the benefits and answers to questions, most local residents who attended seem in favour of this development in their own streets. This is now a national strategy, already in place in many other towns and cities.

For more on what's happening elsewhere, there's a wealth of information on the internet if you type 20's Plenty into a search engine like Google, or go to the websites - www.20sPlentyforum.org.uk and www.20sPlentyforSheffield.org.uk.

Alan Kewley

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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mobile on 078 1161 4727

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Sheffield, S17 3PP.

or: editor@villagepublications.co.uk

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Buses: Bradway Losing Out Again

In October 2011 one Bradway resident, who prefers to remain nameless, took a bus ride into the city centre and back. Disgusted at the condition of both the buses on the 25A route, she wrote to First, addressing the letter to the South Yorkshire Customer Services Manager and copying it to various other senior management figures. The letter listed the faults of the buses in no uncertain terms. They were old, noisy with uncomfortable seats that were mismatched and they were filthy dirty.

The letter seems to have been taken seriously. Replies came back from a Customer Service Agent in Rotherham and from both the Customer Services Manager for Yorkshire and the Service Delivery Manager for Yorkshire. All were very apologetic, and they did order action to clean up the specific buses mentioned. They also offered an interesting explanation for the buses on this route being old.

It seems that there is a 'Statutory Quality Partnership' scheme in operation in North Sheffield. This requires minimum standards to be maintained for all buses operating in that part of the city, which requires buses to be below a specified age and to pass rigorous engine-emission tests. So any buses that run through the city centre then out to the north are covered by this agreement,

which is why the buses on the 75 / 76 and 97/ 98 routes are in much better condition than our Bradway buses.

The 25A of course runs through to Woodhouse, which is also in the south of Sheffield. So we are not covered by the quality partnership requirements, and we get the older buses in the fleet; which means that they are more prone to break down; and while they are under repair they are replaced by even older buses. This is what First maintain had happened in October: several buses that normally operate our route had experienced mechanical problems and were in the garage, and in the meantime the oldest buses in the fleet were being used to cover the 25A service.

Both the First Customer Service Agent and the Customer Services Manager promised that the whole Sheffield fleet was in the process of renewal, and that we can look forward to newer buses with low-floor accessibility in the future. They did not agree about when this bright new future would be with us, though: one said by the end of 2011, the other "over the next eighteen months", which would take us to March 2013.

We await developments. In the meantime, if you do experience dirty uncomfortable buses, please complain. Perhaps also someone can tell us why there is a statutory quality partnership for the north of the city and not for the south. Are our comfort and air quality less important? Or is it just politics again?

Stephen George

Changes to Bin Collections

Sheffield Council is about to make big changes to our domestic bin collections to save an estimated £3.9 million a year. Waste black bin collections will cease to be every week, but will alternate with the recycling blue bin collections every 2 weeks. Free collection of garden waste via green bins or sacks will cease, but may be replaced with a chargeable service for those who want to pay. The council has said it will now look to "enhance" recycling services - but has not yet given firm details.

The Cabinet carried out wide and lengthy consultation before coming to this decision, which will be confirmed when next year's budget is set in March. An all-party report was commissioned several months ago and considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 11-January (still available on their website). Budget Consultation sessions were then held for the public to have their say.

This report notes that Lib-Dem councillors withdrew from the consultation process part-way through, and only one resident from our ward attended the Budget Consultation session in the Town Hall on 30-January, when council strategy was discussed. It seems most local residents are unaware of the reasons behind these changes to services which affect us all, and perhaps they should ask who is looking after their interests?

Alan Kewley

Property maintenance and improvement

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Climb your Family Tree!

TV programmes like "Who do you think you are" have done a fantastic job in raising our interest in where we come from and who our long lost relatives were. As well as local family history societies there are more and more internet sites enabling us to access records telling us who our ancestors were, where they lived and what they did for a living.

If you are interested in family history then there can be little to rival the feeling of tracing your forebears back to Tudor times or uncovering an unknown link with nobility. It is not uncommon to discover that you have relatives living in far flung parts of the world and you can let your mind wander about the lives of those ancestors who settled in America, or perhaps the circumstances leading to others who ended up less voluntarily in Australia! You might even find unknown connections with people living now in the same town or even the same street.

Many people will find it quite easy to get started on creating their family tree, needing just a fairly logical mind and of course internet access. Membership of Genealogy internet sites is reasonably priced and you need only join up by the month. Many sites even offer a free trial period where you can look at the Census records dating between 1841 and 1911, along with a variety of other public records such as births, marriages and deaths, parish records and military records too.

Accurately tracking your family isn't all totally straight forward though and you need to watch out for false trails. Remember that standards of literacy back in the 18th Century weren't great and often the Census Officer would write down names as they heard them pronounced. When you think of our local



Greenhill Methodist Church May Queen (Tulip) 1944. Picture provided by Mrs June Besley (nee Turton). June is far left on the back row. Can you spot anyone you know. June thinks the Queen was Brenda Holland or Cynthia ?.

accents it's hardly surprising that some names don't appear where we expect to find them.

Help is on hand for those people who don't know where to start, can't find the time or perhaps don't have internet access. Starting at cost of £10 we can produce a version that shows your family tree and some details of the people on it, going back perhaps several generations.

This will allow you to decide if you want to go any further and give you some leads to follow. Contact your local researcher Glynn Burgin on 07825 137101 for more details.

Hospice volunteer scheme

St Luke's Hospice is looking for a new team of volunteers to work directly with patients and their families. The Companion Volunteers will offer companionship to patients during their stay on the 'In Patient Unit' at the hospice which is based in Little Common Lane, Whirlow.

This will be a challenging but rewarding role, one that encompasses positive interaction with patients to enhance their well being while at the same time maintaining privacy and dignity for the individual at all times.

The tasks that could be undertaken include everything from reading and playing board games to accompanying patients to the hospice garden or arts and crafts area.

Volunteers need to be at least 18 years old and will carry out duties under the supervision of a Registered Nurse at all times. They will also be required to have a current enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check.

To find out more about the Companion Volunteers scheme or call 0114 236 9911 and ask to speak to Joy Wigfield or you can visit the St Luke's website at www.stlukeshospice.org.uk/volunteering

Transport 17

December was a festive month all round with the various clubs that we service celebrating with special meals prior to the more formal Christmas celebrations within their own homes. All Saints for example had a lovely Carol Concert combined with a tea party which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

We are really in need of some reliable, reasonably fit and healthy people to join our team of volunteers as Escorts with the possibility of training to be a driver after a trial period.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer can apply to Michael Finn or John Savournin at our office 172 Baslow Road, Monday to Friday, 9am - 12 noon.

Finally may I wish you all a Very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Felicity Revill

Spring Fayre

Cheshire Home Mickley Lane, Totley.
Wednesday 4th April 10am to 12 noon.
All welcome

John Wade Singers

John Wade Singers will be performing Mendelssohn's Elijah in aid of the 'Debra Society' helping Children with the life changing skin formation disorder.

The two performances are:

11th May Millhouses Methodist Church
12th May St Johns Church Ranmoor.

Both at 7.30pm

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Local 100th birthday

(See picture on page 1)

Congratulations to Mrs L. M. (Peggy) Braybrooks, who has lived in Bradway since 1984 and reaches her 100th birthday on 22nd March 2012.

Leah Myfanwy Braybrooks, but always known as Peggy, was born on 22 March 1912 in Narberth, South Wales where her father worked for the Customs and Excise. The family moved to Sheffield around 1922 where she was educated at the Notre Dame School.

After school she trained at Sheffield Royal Hospital and obtained her diploma in dispensing from the Apothecaries Hall in London, working as a dispenser until her marriage to Dr. Frederick Rodgers in 1937. He was a general practitioner with surgeries in St. Mary's Road. It was here during the war that they were caught in the blitz, fleeing for their lives, with their eldest son John in their arms, as a bomb hit the house next door. Subsequently the surgeries moved to Sheaf Gardens and Chesterfield Road.

They had three sons John, Frederick and William. After the war the family moved to a farm at Coal Aston where, along with looking after the family she did her daily duties in the dairy. Dr Rodgers died in 1969 and Peggy moved to Cranemoor near Wortley to enable her to live next door to her brother. She was a voluntary worker for the Family Planning Clinic in Barnsley and Wombwell. Peggy re-married in 1971 to

Noel Braybrooks, a manager for Boots the Chemist. Peggy, moved to Bradway after Noel's death in 1984.

An active member of Bradway's Towns Women's Guild as treasurer and subsequently an honorary life vice president, she represented the Guild at the annual scrabble championships held in Birmingham until her 90th year. Even today she does the Daily Telegraph crossword and is an avid card player. She was also a member of the WVS and helped serve teas and light refreshments at Hallamshire Hospital. Peggy has 7 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Ed. I guess Peggy must be Bradway's oldest resident, unless someone knows otherwise. We are indebted to her son Bill Rodgers for providing the information above.

Folk for St Luke's

Some of the best known names on the South Yorkshire Folk circuit will be appearing at the annual Peter Burnett Birthday Bash in support of St Luke's Hospice. The popular concert, at Coal Aston Village Hall on Saturday February 18, will feature Judy Dunlop and Jon Scaife, Ray Hearne and Ciaran Boyle Hannah James and Sam Sweeney and the Sheffield Folk Chorale. There will also be support from Spoil the Dance and Pete Garratt and Ken Atkinson.

Tickets cost £10 and are available from Peter Burnett on 0114 235 2344.

Blue Badge Scheme

Major changes to the Blue Badge (Disabled Parking) Scheme came into effect from the 1st January.

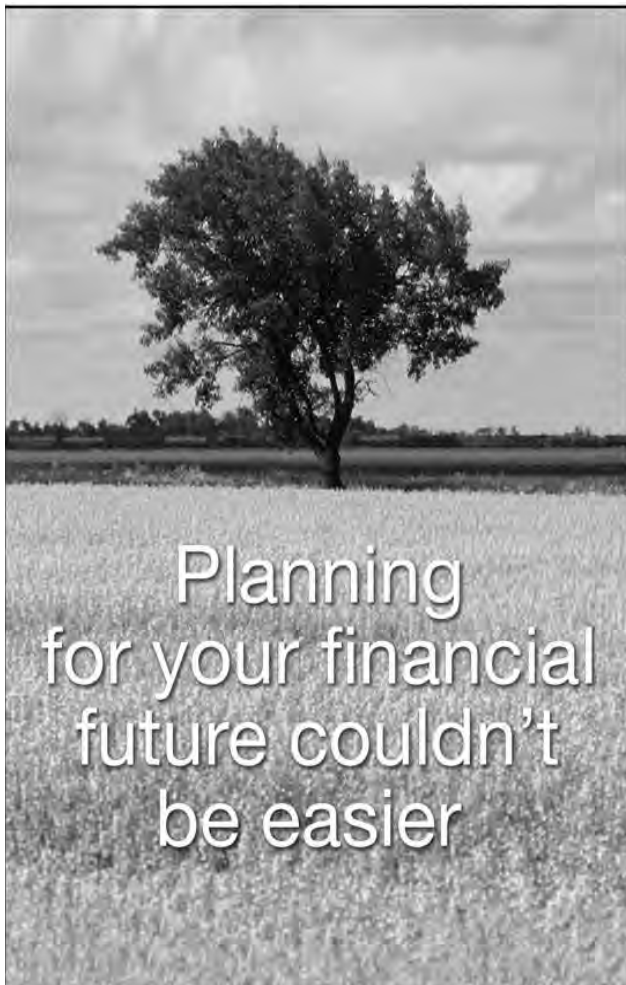
The purpose of the Blue Badge scheme is to help disabled people travel independently, either as a driver or passenger, by allowing them to park as close to their destination as possible. In Sheffield the Blue Badge scheme is administered by the council's Customer Services Section and last year they dealt with some 11,500 applications.

The changes include: Increasing the fee for a 3 year permit to £10 to cover the costs of administration, production and postage - this is the first time the fee has increased since 1983; Changing the design of the badge to help enforcement by making it harder to tamper with or forge.

Customer Services no longer produce the actual disabled parking badges, but authorise these to be issued from a new nationally operated service which will provide secure printing, personalisation and distribution of the new badges.

You can apply for a Blue Badge or renew online via the special website www.direct.gov.uk/bluebadge. Or more information is available on the council website www.sheffield.gov.uk

If you have any questions about these changes to the Blue Badge scheme you can email carbidge@sheffield.gov.uk, call (0114) 273 4897 or visit First Point, Howden House in the city centre.



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Post Box

Dear Sir,

In the Summer 2000 issue of Bradway Bugle you ran an article in the Local History section entitled "Rural Bradway 1911". It referred specifically to Poynton Villas which I recall clearly from my childhood in Beauchief.

Prior to the Second World War my father worked at the Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-Operative Society branch in Totley, until he was drafted into the Sheffield City Police Force during the war and then he returned there following the cessation of hostilities. He used to walk to work every day, six days a week in those days, from our house in Old Park Road, Beauchief, passing along the footpath by the side of Poynton Villas.

He became friendly with Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs who lived in the house on the Totley side and my twin brother and I used to visit them with my mother, generally when we went to meet our father on his way home from work. I don't believe that the Gibbs had any children and they used to make a real fuss of my brother and I.

Mr. Gibbs was a railway signalman and a very keen gardener. He worked in the signal box at Dore and Totley South Junction where the line to Manchester via Totley tunnel diverges from the Chesterfield to Sheffield Line, forming the south side of the Dore and Totley triangle. The box was some 400 yards from the mouth of Bradway tunnel.

When I started train spotting in 1948, until the family moved to Leicestershire in 1950, the triangle used to be one of my favourite locations.

After moving away we lost contact and it would be nice to discover any events after this date.

John Smith
(now in Hereford)

Ed. Received by email. If you knew John or more about the Gibbs family, please get in contact via the address on page 2.

If you have news or memories of Bradway why not drop us a line.

Dear Sir,

Bradway Memories.

As a former pupil of Bradway School, I wonder if you might be interested in this recollection from my childhood?

I grew up in the Bradway area, going to school in Bradway village. As an impressionable five year old, I had an unforgettable encounter with the old derelict brickyard that was sited just past the Castle Inn off Twentywell Lane.

That summer of 1948, a gang of children from the "Circle" at the top end of Westwick Road decided to go out exploring. This was to be my first adventure away from home and I totally trusted the leaders of the "gang", two brothers called Graham and Roger Asquith. They told the group that they knew of a "secret place" some distance away.

It was a hot summer's day and we set off down Beauchief Drive, across the top of the golf course and then down the old steps to join Twentywell Lane and down to join the track past the Castle Inn.

There stood the "secret place", the old derelict brickyard. I was five and it was frightening.

There were deep pools of strange coloured water, derelict ovens for the brick making and tall chimney stacks. It had been abandoned for some reason; trees were growing in cracks in the building and rampant weeds and grasses covered the spoil heaps. It felt a bad place.

That day when I was five, I remember being in that brickyard. I had on a summer dress and a little rust coloured blazer with silver buttons. Then it started to thunder and pour with rain. I was terrified. We were a long way from home and I had no idea how to get back.

Somehow, we ended up at Tinker's Corner (I later learned) miles away from Westwick Road. We were all drenched through and very cold as we began the long trek towards home via Bradway Road.

Thereafter, I always thought that brickyard to be a dark and sinister place though I did go by it on future occasions

as it provided a significant shortcut to my Grandpa's house in Totley via Bradway Bank.

Ultimately, the brickyard was levelled and houses were built on the site. The Castle Inn remains.

Jeanne Blantern,
Kircudbright, Scotland

Ed. Does anyone recollect the history of that brickyard.

Dear Sir,

Bradway Memories.

I just came upon your Bugle website, and to my amazement I recognised many of those named in an article. I lived at 244 Bradway Road from 1959-1968.

I spent most of my time on the 'Rec' playing football. My best friend used to live at 202 Bradway Road, a boy called Nick Holboro - love to hear from him again. I used to deliver papers up Bradway Road (for 4 years,) and along Totley lane - Peter Levick, with his Bryll creamed hair at the first house, the big dog at the second.

I remember back breaking work at the farm gardens down Prospect Lane, making 'Brise Blocks' surrounded by dogs, on a Saturday. Waiting to act as a Golf Caddie for 10 shillings for 3 hours carrying the clubs. Does any one remember the 'tree den', and quarry up behind the beginning of Prospect Lane, long before the building of the school. Does anyone remember the 'smogs' we used to have?

In those days you had your evening meal, and helped with the washing up, then after homework went out anywhere you wanted, as long as you returned by 7,30 pm, no restrictions at all in those days. Short trousers and dirty cut and bruised knees when you returned. No questions asked. Father smelling your fingers when you came home to see if you had been smoking, bath, Emergency Ward 10 on the tiny TV, flickering away, all crammed around the coal fire, and bed at 8 30pm. No Questions asked, kissed your mother and father goodnight.

Always remember my father with his pipe, sitting in the biggest seat, me and my sister sitting cross-legged around him and mum. No 59 bus then. No 114 to High Storrs Grammar School, for 7 years. Went off to Birmingham Uni, qualified as a Doctor 1970, then off to Rhodesia. All over the World since then.

But that first 10% of my life in Bradway served as a firm, lovely foundation for the rest of my very boisterous life. What lovely memories I shall never forget for the rest of my life, how lucky we all were in those days. If only I could do it all again.

Best wishes to all my old mates. With a tear in my eye.

Pete Cameron
Stornoway, Scotland

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Dear Sir,

Many of Sheffield's secondary schools such as King Ecgbert's and Meadowhead are seeking to become academies, often without meaningful consultation, and, in the case of King Ecgbert's, against the clear wishes of many parents. Parents of children at primary feeder schools are also often not informed of the proposed changes, let alone consulted, and, indeed, nor do they need to be, thanks to the legislation rushed through Parliament in 2010.

The teaching unions' protests against academisation of schools is far more wide reaching than just the fact that the terms and conditions of teaching staff are changed, being taken out of collective professional national pay bargaining, pensions schemes and years of service accrued - all entirely without consent.

This is in itself an appalling treatment of professionals. However, it should greatly worry all parents more that our state education system is being dismantled before our eyes, as one academy after another looks set to roll out across Sheffield. And yet the vast majority of parents have little idea of the potential ramifications for their children.

Firstly, according to the 2010 Academies Act, academies are allowed to select up to ten per cent of their pupils on the basis of their 'aptitude' for the specialism of that school, and are only required to take 51% from catchment. Academies' exclusion rates are on average double those of local authority

schools, and are especially higher for pupils on free school meals or with special educational needs.

These facts mean that academy status gives a school the potential to stop being an exclusively local community school. It also means that other local schools, who would have to take in any excluded pupils, will struggle more and more with those pupils academies don't 'want'. This very much begs the question: if all schools in an area become academies, as now threatens to be the case in the Dore and Bradway area, where do the excluded children go? This is especially a worry as, in academy schools, parents lose the right of appeal to a local authority.

Local authority run schools have access to shared provision such as for supporting pupils with a special educational need, running IT platforms and subject specialist advisors to help with the continued professional development of teachers helping them stay at the top of their game. Heads and governing bodies of academies have to make decisions as to whether or not to buy into these services, and may choose not to, taking away the support networks that both staff and pupils need.

In addition, academies have 50% more senior staff on salaries in excess of £80,000 than local authority run secondaries, according to a 2010 National Audit Office report. Academies' accounts are not overseen by the local authority, are not bound by the national pay framework, no longer have to

publish their accounts through the Charity Commission, and only 38% have ever filed a detailed financial return to the DfE. Do we really want our local schools with Heads on mega salaries of over £150K that could have paid for 3 extra teachers or many extra teaching assistants?

Effectively, each academy is an island, without the parental right of appeal, free to do whatsoever the Head and Governors wish. Whilst any current management and governors may well elect to maintain the status quo in any of the issues detailed above - from school intake and exclusions to teachers' pay and conditions - there can be no guarantee that any future management and governors will also do so, as, once a school is granted Academy status, there is no going back.

Pupils learn best when teachers' morale is high. Teachers work best when staff are encouraged to share good practice and feel professionally valued. Parents feel secure knowing there is a right of appeal beyond the school should they ever need it. Academies take all of this away.

Government lauds the right of the choice of parents. If all secondary schools become academies, where is that choice? To me, it comes down to this. Do we believe in a collectively responsible, comprehensive education system for all? I do. Schools that turn voluntarily to an Academy status do not.

Deborah Banks

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In 1897 Abbeydale Golf Club began leasing land from the owners of the Beauchief Estate, the Strelley-Pegge-Burnell family. However, by the time that the rest of Britain was readying itself for the First World War, Abbeydale's golfers and the Committee in particular were already having battles of their own.

The relationship with the land owner's agent, Farmer Sampson had deteriorated to the point where there was much aggravation and inconvenience to golfers, often with horses and cattle roaming across parts of the course. There was also a growing view amongst the committee that the club was paying too much in ground rent. At almost £300 each year this was double what some other local clubs were paying and the club began to consider its options.

A 'window of opportunity' emerged in 1922 when the whole 503 acres of the Beauchief Estate was put up for sale and bought for £29,310 by Frank Crawshaw, a Sheffield property developer. Representatives of Abbeydale quickly approached Mr Crawshaw about buying the land they were golfing on, but the new owner's priority was to develop new housing stock - most of the houses on Abbey Lane for example were yet to appear. Abbeydale were however offered a different tract of estate land between Twentywell Lane and Cockshutt Farm.

The decision to relocate was not taken lightly by an organisation contending with a declining membership and a post-war economy as that would mean building a course and clubhouse from scratch. Ambition won the day and the committee went about raising the £18,000 needed to create the new course and infrastructure through subscriptions, banks and private loans. Many new members were attracted by the opportunity to play golf on a Sunday, requests for which had been repeatedly

Getting into the swing

Abbeydale Golf Club

Our last edition told of the earliest years in the Club's history which began at Rycroft Farm in 1895, before spending around 30 years on the site of the present day Beauchief Golf Course. This time we bring the story up to date.

refused on the old course due to its association with the Abbey.

Herbert Fowler was once more engaged to design and lay out the new course, which he confidently predicted would be the finest in the area. The majority of the work was soon completed, seeing the golf course ready for use by mid 1924 and a grand opening ceremony took place in June of that year. The clubhouse though took considerably longer to complete due to a series of squabbles with the builder, a builder's strike and bad weather. It would not be open for business until the following February.

The 1930's were a difficult decade financially for Abbeydale, however through developing innovative ways of paying for the new development they kept their head above water, just. Talking of water, one of the means of cutting costs in 1936 was the investment of sinking a bore hole deep underground, around 450 feet down to tap a natural source of water that still serves irrigation needs today. Another Abbeydale 'watery tale' occurred in 1970 when 'pop up sprinklers' were installed across the course. It seems it took some time for this system to bed down and to get the sprinkling and popping up functions entirely synchronised, leading to some soggy putting conditions!

Golf continued relatively unabated during the wartime years and Abbeydale made its own contribution to the war effort as 12 acres of the course was given over to the "dig for victory" campaign. Wheat was the main crop, whilst two acres were used to grow market garden produce, generally tended by local schoolboys and a handful of Italian PoW's who were being held nearby. The potatoes were apparently first class!

Charity events were regularly organised by the club which raised funds for several organisations, in particular the Red Cross. The course suffered from a handful of stray German bombs during the December 1940 Sheffield blitz and trenches were deliberately dug across several fairways to prevent enemy aircraft from landing.

The Club received a welcome Christmas present in 1945 when the current owner of Beauchief Hall, Arthur Kingsford Wilson, his predecessor William having died in somewhat tragic circumstances in 1927, gave a small patch of land containing a copse of trees situated on the corner of the first hole to the club. This patch of land had up to then been "out of bounds", a matter of great inconvenience to golfers as it was very findable by the slightest wayward shot! Perhaps a more interesting point for

non-golfers is that the footpath going across the course at this point provides a public right of way going back many years, linking Beauchief Drive with Twentywell Lane.

In keeping with these ancient footpaths it is fitting to recount the story of a late Abbeydale member, Harry Andrews. Harry celebrated his 90th birthday in 1969 by following his usual Tuesday/Thursday routine of taking a bus from his home in Carter Knowle Road to the bottom of Twentywell Lane from where he carried his half bag of clubs up the Lane before cutting up the aforementioned ancient pathway to the Clubhouse. After his game of golf, Harry would then walk back up the first hole to pick up the footpath to Beauchief Drive and Abbey Lane where he'd catch the bus home. I'm not sure they make many golfers like that anymore!

Some of the most celebrated golfers of their day have visited Abbeydale, not least in 1933 when the top class American duo of Walter Hagen and Danny Shute with seven Open Championships between them played in an exhibition match. The course has also welcomed the legendary, three times Open winning British golfer Henry Cotton in another exhibition event, this time in 1957 the very year that saw a home victory in the Ryder Cup Lindrick. In more modern times the course hosted the 1977 Bank of Europe Pro-Am and attracted the likes of Nick Faldo, Sam Torrance, Mark James and Howard Clark, all players with a rich Ryder Cup pedigree.

The course and clubhouse has continued to develop and improve throughout the years and has probably always had a reputation as rather an 'elitist' golf club. Its earliest members would have included many of Sheffield's most successful retailers, entrepreneurs, industrialists, bankers, accountants and lawyers, many of whom 'belonged' to the club rather than played. It isn't too long ago that paid caddies earned a crust at Abbeydale, a practice that continued well into the 1970's.

The Club had long negotiated with Sheffield City Council over taking the Freehold of the land rather than paying for a pretty expensive Lease. These efforts finally came together in 1993 with the help of a substantial brewery loan plus further calls on the members to dig deep and Abbeydale at last became owners of their own course.

Finally, as a footnote to this article, it must have been a poignant moment as described in John Furniss's book - 100 Years of Abbeydale Golf Club - when, as part of the Centenary celebrations in June 1995, Abbeydale's Captain of that year ceremonially struck a golf ball over the fields of Rycroft Farm. That would have been a fitting tribute to the many dedicated members and officers who throughout over a hundred years had contributed tirelessly to making Abbeydale a 'great' golf club.

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When I took over as Chair of BAG at the AGM in October, I made it clear that I did so with reluctance because nobody else had come forward to take on the task, and I did not want to see the future of BAG put at risk at a time when it seemed to me to be more important than ever that we have a representative voice for Bradway.

Despite the best efforts of BAG, in the space of little over a year we have lost a range of facilities that contributed to the viability of our community. The Bradway pub has closed permanently, the newsagents and shop on Wollaton Road has closed; the NatWest bank has closed; and the 293 bus service has disappeared. If we are not to see the progressive decline of Bradway as a thriving local community, we need to do what we can to arrest this process.

Worse may be on the horizon. Changes introduced by the coalition government to the planning regulations, despite official assertions to the contrary, do put the onus on local authorities to show good reason why plans for development should be turned down - the so-called "presumption that the answer will be Yes".

Sadly, there is little that we can do directly, but it is necessary to have a group like BAG that can monitor what it is going on and try to alert residents to it early enough to make a difference.

Peter Stubbs worked tirelessly on these sorts of issues, and on lots of others that arose over a number of years; but eventually even Peter, with his boundless optimism and enthusiasm, began to flag. It is all just too much for one person to carry, and in all honesty the Committee (myself included) was often prepared to leave Peter trying to carry more than he

Bradway Action Group

New chairman Stephen George reflects on the role and priorities of the group.

Summary

* *Bradway, in common with all neighbourhood communities, faces big challenges.*

* *BAG has identified five priorities on which it believes it must focus.*

* *Progress is being made on some of these, but is proving difficult on others.*

* *We need the widest possible membership to give legitimacy to our efforts.*

should have.

I have made it clear to the members of the new Committee that I will need more support from them if I am to survive long in this post. In addition, though, we have made a decision to involve more BAG members who are not members of the Committee in the work that comes in, including representing us at meetings, which seem to proliferate at an alarming rate.

The other thing that I believe we have to do is prioritise, and focus relentlessly on our priorities, ignoring all the hares that run across our path every week. There is a danger in this of course. We may ignore a running hare that turns out to be a sign of something very significant that is going to affect us. So we need the membership to keep us alert to concerns.

What are our current priorities? At the first meeting of the new Committee in November, we identified the following:

1. planning issues affecting Bradway, especially the defence of open space and our applications for village green status;
2. the Bradway Bugle as a key tool of communication with the local community, a pointer to our web site, and a source of revenue;
3. engagement with the Dore & Totley Ward Forum, although with considerable revision of its structure;
4. fund raising, with the specific target of securing sufficient funds to resurface the playground on the Old School Field;
5. enhancing the local environment and keeping it clean and pleasant.

To expand on each of these in turn:

1. The defence of open space must be our top priority because in 2007-8 BAG conducted an extensive public consultation under the title of Bradway: Past, Present and Future. The clear conclusion of this exercise was that what local people valued most in Bradway was its open spaces. In this context we now need to increase significantly the pressure on the Council to deal with our applications for village green status, and the protection against development that comes with it, for the Old School Field and the Recreation Ground.

We must also remain vigilant against threats to smaller but valued areas of green space, and we must watch out for proposals for inappropriate developments by monitoring the weekly planning lists.

2. On the Bradway Bugle, we are lucky

that John Baker, who started the magazine and has to date been its only editor, has decided that he can continue to produce it himself for a while longer. We still need to undertake precautionary succession planning, in case of a sudden change in John's circumstances (the spectre of that bus under which people sometimes appear to fall), but for the time being we can rely on this valuable means of communication continuing to appear.

We do, though, need more ideas for articles of local interest, or even the articles themselves. Also, we have now exhausted our list of reserve deliverers, so if you think you can help please contact me directly (not John: he produces the magazine, but BAG handles the distribution).

Massively important though the Bugle is, delivered free to every house in Bradway and beyond, it cannot be our only means of communication with local people. It only appears four times a year, and staggering though it may seem to those of you who are reading this article, some people who receive it do not read it. We need to find other ways to get our channels of communication open.

If residents join BAG and provide us with an email address, we can send information out through that channel. We would also like to see more people access our own expanding web site <www.bradwayactiongroup.org>.

This is maintained by long-standing Committee member John Pritchett, and contains a lot of material, both current and archived. If you have not done so recently, please take a look at it.

3. Engagement with the Dore & Totley Ward Forum is something that was very much on my mind when our Committee meeting was held. That is because almost as soon as I became Chair of BAG I was told that it was our turn to organise the next scheduled meeting of the Forum. The meeting was arranged, and took place in Bradway Primary School on 29 November 2011.

It proved an onerous task to organise the meeting, though, there being no constitution, no data base of those who should be informed, and no funds to pay for the hire of a room. In the event, BAG paid. This struck me as an unsustainable arrangement, and so at the meeting I sought and was granted a mandate to call a meeting of the representatives of the three local community groups (BAG, Dore Village Society, and Totley Residents Association) with the local councillors to discuss the future of the Forum.

At that meeting it was agreed that the Forum had been useful as means of informing the Ward Councillors of the views of local residents, and that the work of the Focus Group on traffic and highways had led to some productive debate and exchange of information and ideas. On the other hand there were several problems with the existing format:

- i. the meetings had often become bogged

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down in the discussion of issues that were either not of interest across the whole Ward, or in some cases were better discussed at the Councillors' regular surgeries;

ii. the purpose of the exercise had been to find a way in which the views of residents could be communicated to the Councillors, yet the format of regular public meetings allowed individuals who were not answerable to local residents to play an inordinate role in the framing of positions;

iii. there were severe practical difficulties for the community groups in regularly organising large public meetings (e.g. lack of central secretarial support, co-ordination problems in rotating the roles of Chair and Secretary, cost of hiring meeting rooms), and it was unlikely that the groups would be able to continue to do this;

iv. it was felt that it was really the role of the community groups themselves to organise public meetings for their own residents, and that having a second layer of public meetings risked generating confusion about where responsibility lay.

In the light of these considerations, the representatives of the three groups decided that they would in future prefer to feed in the views of the groups and their residents through consultations held between representatives of the community groups and the local Councillors ahead of each Assembly meeting.

An open meeting has been arranged at which people who participated in the Ward Forum over the last two years (and indeed anyone else in the Ward who wishes to have a say on these matters) can discuss with the groups and the councillors how the new arrangements will operate. This meeting will be held on 28 February in Totley Library from 7.30 to 9pm.

4. The provision of a playground and all-weather pitch on the Old School Field is probably the achievement for which BAG is known and respected more than any other. While we are certainly not just the "Friends of the Old School Field", we do take a special pride in what we have achieved by making a community facility out of a space that was previously little used. But we have to acknowledge that

Bradway Action Group

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33, St Quentin Drive, Tel 236 4564
Secretary: *Andrew Tabor*,
83, Rosamond Avenue, Tel 236 0906
secretary@bradwayactiongroup.org
Website:
www.bradwayactiongroup.org

the condition of the surfacing, fencing and (to a lesser extent) the equipment have deteriorated more rapidly than we anticipated just five years ago when the facility was officially opened by the then Lord Mayor of Sheffield. This is largely a problem of success: the facilities are used far more than we anticipated.

For the last five years we have been squirrelling away money from membership fees, from the revenues from the Bugle, and from the proceeds of the annual Fun Day. Yet the cost of getting done the work that is needed has risen ahead of our ability to raise funds. We were recently quoted £9,500 (incl. VAT) for replacing the surfacing on the playground alone (although that is with a much tougher material than the original).

Clearly if we are to get the work done that is needed to refresh the facility, we need to try for some more grants. Working on the principle of delegation, I have asked Dorothy Astle if she will head up a small working group to investigate the availability of grants and to initiate applications. I am sure everyone will remember that Dorothy, when she was Chairwoman of BAG, was responsible for the original fund-raising efforts, and was spectacularly successful.

This is not to put undue pressure on her shoulders, because we are all aware that this time we are operating in a much colder financial climate, but if anyone can wheedle money out of people, Dorothy can. She will be working closely with the BAG Treasurer, Peter Smithson.

5. Our final priority is the local environment. This is something that is important to all of us. It is no good retaining open space if it is not maintained. So we shall continue to perform litter picks and other

environmental improvement schemes such as the planting of trees. BAG Committee member John Kirkman has been in touch with the Sheffield City Council's Woodlands Officer, John Gilpin, about issues in the maintenance of our local woodland, and we have invited him to speak at our next Open Meeting in March.

Of course it is dispiriting at times trying even to keep this limited agenda going, especially when we have to deal with a system that seems to be biased against residents and what they want. That is why we need to support of as many residents as possible. Membership of BAG costs just £2 for an individual or £3 for a family. There is a registration form on our web site at: www.bradwayactiongroup.org

Just go to Documents from the menu along the top of the page, then choose 2012 Application Form.

Please join us in trying to keep Bradway such a pleasant place to live.

Stephen George
Chair of BAG

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Bradway People

Roy Drury - A Man of Letters

Roy has lived in Bradway all his life and, before retirement, was always connected with the Post Office. It was almost inevitable that his career should follow this path, for both his grandfather Arthur and father Kenneth were steeped in Post Office culture. Members of the Drury family had run the Post Offices at Apperknowle and Marsh Lane, so although Arthur started life as a farmer, it wasn't long before he was tempted back into the 'family business', opening the Post Office on Hutcliffe Wood Road in 1929.

The Post Office in Bradway used to be located in a semi-detached house on Bradway Road, more or less opposite Elwood Road. There is still a post box there to this day, though not the original, which was built into the front wall. In the 1930's it was run by a Mr and Mrs Earl, with the Post Office doubling up as a wool shop. Roy's father took it over in 1939 after Mrs Earl died, expanding the business to include sweets, newspapers and a few groceries.

The post used to be sorted on the premises and delivered by Charlie Tyrrell, the postman. After he retired, Charlie became the caretaker at St Peter's Church, Greenhill. For a number of years after the war, Roy's father and grandfather used to grow vegetables on the small field behind the Bowling Club. This had earlier been divided into allotments, no doubt as part of the "Dig For Victory" campaign.

As an infant, Roy attended Bradway School, the building we now refer to as The Annexe. He remembers taking part in maypole dancing, but not in an active capacity. He was evidently regarded as too clumsy to do the actual dancing and, with three other similarly afflicted children, was made to sit on the base of the maypole to stop it falling over! After a couple of years, Roy moved up to the school in Greenhill Village where the junior children were taught. He passed his 11+, and became a pupil at the City Grammar School in Sheffield.

Roy soon became involved in his father's Post Office business, helping out



Roy Drury - A man of letters

behind the counter and delivering newspapers from a young age. The newspaper round extended all the way from Hemper Grove, along Hemper Lane and Bradway Road, and down Prospect Road - in those days little more than a cart track - to Mrs Gomm's cottage. This was close to where the Old Mother Redcap pub is today.

The round effectively covered the whole of Bradway, for none of the newer estates had been built by then. Having delivered the newspapers, Roy then had to return at the weekend to collect the money, and so got to know everyone in the village. Despite having done the job for several years, at the age of 14, the legal minimum for such work, he had to undergo a medical at Orchard Street to demonstrate his fitness!

Roy remembers Prospect Road being widened and surfaced. The work was finished off by a steam roller. The driver used to park his machine, complete with gypsy-style caravan, at the top of Prospect Road near to what became Bradway Close, and walk down to the Post Office to collect his wages. In the winter, Roy and his friends used to go sledging down the fields that were later developed as the St Quentin Estate. The run used to extend all the way down from Prospect Road to the Castle Inn, and was known locally as "The Alps". In the summer, Roy used to help out with

haymaking at Adlington's farm across the road from the Post Office, occasionally driving the tractor.

As a young man, whilst continuing to work at the Post Office, Roy became heavily involved in activities at the Church (Community) Hall, teaching at the Sunday School in the late 50s, having been on the receiving end of such instruction at the hands of Mrs Guard in the late 40s, when lessons used to be held in the mission hall (the small brick building in front of the Community Hall). In the early 60s, he worked as a projectionist and general factotum for regular Wednesday evening film shows.

These were full-length feature films, and attracted a good audience. The other members of the Church Hall Committee at that time, along with Roy, were Oswald James, George Wainwright and Jack Rodgers. He well remembers an incident at around that time when there was an explosion in the new workshop at the back of the filling station that blew the roof on to the bowling green!

By the late 60s, Roy used to supplement his income by working behind the bar at the Bradway Hotel for "Lawrie" and Jane Lawrence. According to Roy, the best place to be in a pub at Christmas is behind the bar, where there is more room to enjoy the festivities!

They knew their regulars so well, that by the time the pub opened up on a Sunday lunchtime, their drinks were already lined up on the bar! The pub boasted a non-standard sized snooker table. This was approximately 7/8ths of the normal size, but the balls used were full size, making play particularly challenging!

In the early 70s, Roy was the steward at the Bradway Bowling Club, and remembers a big regular annual event involving a visit by a team from Rolls Royce at Derby. The post-match social featured a dance accompanied by a trio of musicians.

By 1973, the Post Office was beginning to feel the effects of competition from the supermarkets, and income dwindled. Roy decided to become a postman, initially delivering rounds in the Greenhill area. His father retired from the business in 1976, and the Post Office moved to where the S17 cafe is now, under new ownership. Roy went from strength to strength, however, becoming responsible for training Post Office employees, a job that took him all over the country. However, he declined the offer of a job in London, preferring to remain in his beloved Bradway. He finally retired from work in 2002, but still lives quietly "in the village", as he puts it.

Peter Stubbs

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Tree Clearance

In early January several residents contacted the Bradway Action Group about the work taking place on the railway embankment alongside Twentywell Lane, so I went down and spoke to the site foreman.

He told me that the work was being carried out by Construction Marine Ltd (CML), a Leeds firm, on contract to Network Rail. Initially they had to create access space for their equipment, and to put up a prefabricated site building. Their actual contract was to clear all the vegetation from the banking sloping down to the railway line.

In creating the access route the foreman promised to try not to remove mature trees unnecessarily, but they were required by Network Rail to take out everything on the banking itself. He said they would try to complete the work as quickly as possible and to leave the site tidy.

BAG knows from the correspondence that we undertook in 2009, when Network Rail stripped the railway banking around the triangle at the bottom of Twentywell Lane, that there is nothing that we can do to stop this. Legislation allows Network Rail to do whatever they want on their own land without seeking planning permission or consulting with local communities. As one local resident said, this is fundamentally undemocratic, but it is the law. You can write to your MP about it, but again we know from the last time round that it is unlikely to get you anywhere.

At least we can say that on this occasion the contractors were sensitive to the upset that the work might cause locally, and were sympathetic to the request that they minimise environmental damage, even if there was not much they could do. Also, Tony Smith informs me that in clearing

BRADWAY ACTION GROUP

OPEN MEETING

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7.30pm at

Bradway Primary School

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the shrubs and trees to allow access for their equipment, the contractors have revealed the original line of Twentywell Lane, which was moved when the railway was constructed in the nineteenth century.

Stephen George

Dad of the Year

(See picture on page 1)

Bradway resident David Walkden has made the final 3 for the 'Dad of the Year' competition in Practical Parenting Magazine. He was nominated by his wife Lorna after he saved the life of his daughter Elsa. Lorna takes up the story.

"Elsa, was born in June 2011, but on her first night at home she stopped breathing. I found her blue in her Moses basket, so I immediately checked her mouth and started slapping her back thinking something was stuck.

I screamed for my husband David and he came running upstairs. He took her from me and starting slapping her back too. This wasn't making any difference so he lay her on the floor and started doing chest compressions while I rang for an ambulance.

The operator talked me through CPR and I passed the instructions onto David. He calmly did what he was told and on his fourth attempt at mouth-to-mouth, Elsa started to cry. It was the best sound in the world. The paramedic then arrived, closely followed by an ambulance.

David says that he'll have a good story to tell when he gives a speech at Elsa's wedding!"

The issue of Practical Parenting magazine with the story and a photo in, was published on Wednesday 1st Feb. People can vote for David to win at: <http://www.madeformums.com/competitions/big-thank-you-awards-2012/711.html>.

The closing date for voting is the 11th April.

Bugle publication dates

The following are the deadlines and publication dates for Bradway Bugle issues during 2012.

Copy Deadline	Publication
27 January	15 February
27 April	16 May
27 July	22 August
26 October	14 November

New to Bradway

Recently the corner building at the junction of Twentywell Lane and Bradway Road has witnessed the arrival of a new shop 'Sew Unique', offering a clothing alterations and repair service, ironing and a curtain & blind making and alteration service. The concept of 'Sew Unique' is to provide "the complete Professional Alteration Solution" all in one convenient place.

The shop is owned and run by Ali Akcay, a professional alterations specialist and tailor for over 10 years. Having worked at one of the most exciting neoclassical hotels in North Cyprus, Ali has altered many a famous Turkish celebrity's outfit and has been commended for his high quality, neat sewing and attention to detail. Ali believes that everyone can feel great in a perfect fitting outfit! Whether it is for a social event, a wedding or work, whatever you need, Ali has all occasions covered. With his calm, patient and accommodating manner, Ali prides himself in delivering excellence at an affordable price.

Pop in and see Ali Monday to Friday 9.30 - 5.30pm, Saturday 9.30 - 2pm.188 Bradway Road, Tel: 0114 236 2313

Private Eye: The First 50 Years

The first indication that this will not be a conventional, self-congratulatory coffee table slab comes from the inside flap of the dust jacket. Where normally a reader would find a short summary of the content and some recommendations, there are instead the thoughts of some of those upon whom Private Eye has turned its unflattering gaze.

The magazine and its personnel are described as "a bunch of retarded public school failures"; "a sort of general disease within the press"; "...one of the greatest offences of modern life"; and "a lying organ. A disgrace to journalism." Whether or not you agree with these opinions, whose authors include Robert Maxwell and Piers Morgan, you'll find something to interest you if you carry on reading.

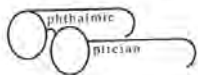
Set out as an A-Z of the key features, people and events of the 50 years since Private Eye first hit the newsstands, the book is, for the most part, an easy and absorbing read. All the personalities associated with the magazine are covered in some detail, from Peter Cook and Willie Rushton to the current editor, Ian Hislop, who comes across as more thoughtful and modest than his TV persona suggests. Hislop was a protege of former editor Richard Ingrams, and had been writing for Private Eye since 1980, while still a student. He was Ingrams's personal choice to take over when he retired in 1986, and took on the editor's role aged only 26.

Key events in the Eye's history include

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the £600,000 libel damages awarded to Sonia Sutcliffe in 1987, which would have put it out of business had it not later been reduced to £60,000 on appeal, along with famous feuds with Robert Maxwell, James Goldsmith and others, leading to long-running and costly court cases.

It is often overlooked, however, that the magazine has played an important role in exposing hypocrisy and downright criminal behaviour among the powerful and influential in British society and politics. For example, it was the first publication to print the rumours circulating about the events which later became the Profumo scandal, and in May 1992 reported on very high rates of mortality in the paediatric cardiac surgery unit in Bristol - the subject of a

public enquiry in 2001, which concluded that care was "less than adequate" and that between 30 and 35 babies had died there unnecessarily.

While its stance on allegations of links between the MMR vaccine and autism was less well-informed, it did at least highlight the difficulties faced by parents trying to get at the truth about what was happening to their children, against obstruction and obfuscation from the medical establishment.

Of course, Private Eye is best known for its satire and humour, and its often spectacular rudeness (see "Moron, Piers, campaign against Ian Hislop"). It's true that there is a blokish (some would say sexist) tinge to much of the content of the magazine, but at its best it has featured

some sparkling work from writers including Germaine Greer (who briefly wrote a gardening column under the pseudonym Rose Blight), Spike Milligan, John Wells and Craig Brown

Private Eye is never going to be everybody's cup of lapsang souchong, but despite its staff of "rather bitter, mainly drunken, sad, twisted ex-public-school boys" (Morgan again), it remains the only easily available alternative to the mainstream press, and under Hislop has extended its reach.

Long may it continue - here's to the next 50 years of Lord Gnome and his estimable organ. As to the last 50, this book will tell you all the news that's fit to print, and quite a lot that isn't.

Amanda Barling

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Neighbourhood Watch

In early December, two men wearing white boiler suits entered the Co-op Travel on Twentywell Lane just as it was about to close. They placed an axe on the counter and demanded money. They then made off in a stolen vehicle, which was later abandoned in another part of the city.

Incidents like this send a shock wave through a small community like ours, especially coming soon after the last edition of the Bradway Bugle had given prominence on its front page to a "ram raid" at the Bike Tree on Abbeydale Road South and the theft of a safe from the Dore and Totley Golf Club. One of my neighbours said that he felt as though he was surrounded by criminals; another demanded to know why there had been no mention of the earlier thefts in my Neighbourhood Watch column in the same edition of the Bugle.

To both of my neighbours my answer was the same. There is no need for ordinary householders to fear criminals who target businesses. They are professionals who have planned their robberies carefully and expect rich returns. They will not randomly break into homes on the off-chance of finding something worthwhile. That is why the police do not include these professional robberies of commercial premises in their reports to Neighbourhood Watch. There is no reason to worry residents unnecessarily.

So far as domestic burglaries are concerned, the level in Bradway really is very low indeed. As discussed in previous columns, this is for a combination of reasons. First, the standard electrical items that used to be taken by the amateur opportunist thieves are no longer worth stealing. Thanks to the success of the Chinese economy in

reducing their price, standard televisions and recording devices are cheap enough that most people can afford to buy them new without taking the risk of getting one from a car-boot sale, or down the pub, which is where they were usually sold on. Second, our local police have been very active in promoting crime prevention. And so far as Bradway is concerned, our residents have been very responsive to the police campaigns and have largely stopped leaving their homes unsecured and leaving valuables on display in their parked cars.

There was a slight increase in reported incidents in Bradway in December over preceding months, but overall 2011 had the lowest number of reported crimes for at least three years. Adding all types of crime together, there were 17 fewer reported incidents in 2011 than in 2010, a reduction of 32 per cent.

One type of crime that is still common in the area is the theft of mountain bikes from sheds or detached garages. There is a solid second-hand market for all types of bicycles, and so if you or your family have bikes, especially expensive bikes, it is important to secure them when they are not in use.

We have also seen a spate of thefts of Land Rover Defender vehicles in the south of Sheffield, including one that was taken from the St Quentin estate and another from Bradway Grange Road.

At the turn of the year two white vans were broken into on Prospect Road, although nothing was taken. The thieves were probably looking for workmen's tools, but the vans were both empty. It is an unfortunate fact that professional workmen expect to get their tools stolen, often from their vans in broad daylight while they are working nearby, and some of them tend to replace the tools by buying second-hand from the very people who are doing the robberies.

We also had a sneak-in burglary in early January when a lady returning home left her purse in the kitchen while she sorted out some things, only for an opportunist to walk in and take the purse. Of course, the problem is that the door was not locked. It is difficult to accept that when you enter your own home you need to lock the door behind you, but the opportunist amateurs are still around, and we only do not get more such incidents because more people are remembering to take care. It could happen to anyone, though, unless you develop the habit of securing the premises as soon as you are inside.

Which brings me full circle, really. Even saying that you need to lock your doors raises the fear of crime in some people's minds. But there is no need to be afraid. Just be careful. And if you do see someone acting suspiciously, please report it to the police on the new non-emergency number, 101. It may be nothing, but it could lead to the prevention of a crime.

Finally, on a more positive note about that robbery at Co-op Travel: when the editor of the Bugle emailed Lindsey

Allen, the manager of the shop, to express his concern and ask how the staff were coping in the aftermath, she said in her reply, "Everyone has been so supportive ... but that's Bradway, everyone seems to pull together, we've had loads of well-wishers!" Getting robbed is a horrible experience, but well done the people of Bradway for the support that was spontaneously offered. And, still on a positive note, the police have arrested a 34 year old man in connection with the robbery and he has been remanded in custody.

Stephen George

Chair: Bradway Neighbourhood Watch

Email: s.a.george@sheffield.ac.uk

Tel: 236 4564

Library self-service

More libraries in Sheffield are to introduce self-service systems this year. Already customers can check in and check out books electronically at ten libraries including Greenhill and the technology is due to be installed at another 12 by the middle of 2012.

Although the libraries service had to save £1.4m this financial year and is looking to save more over the next two years, the council says the switch from books being handled by staff is not financially motivated. Self service allows a quick and easy way to borrow and return items and means with issue desks gone library staff can use their time to work more closely with customers. The installation of these machines also offers the opportunity to reconfigure and improve the layout of libraries.

In response to big cuts in government grants, libraries have already been hit by reduced opening hours and job losses. The opening hours for Greenhill Library are now:

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Anagrams - Clever!

Someone out there must be "deadly" at Scrabble. When you rearrange the letters for each word you get:

Presbyterian - best in prayer
Astronomer - moon starrer
Desperation - a rope ends it
The eyes - they see
The morse code - here come dots
Dormitory - dirty room
Slot machines - cash lost in me
Animosity - is no amity
Election results - lies - let's recount
Snore alarms - alas! No more z's
A decimal point - I'm a dot in place
The earthquakes - that queer shake
Eleven plus two - twelve plus one
Mother-in-law - woman hitler

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We welcome this opportunity to thank the readers of the Bradway Bugle for their kind donations of good quality furniture and household items, voluntary time and financial donations during the year.

Our furniture store recycling project is now the only service provider of this kind in Sheffield who can offer free help to vulnerable families and individuals referred to us by a wide cross-section of statutory and voluntary social agencies across the city. Whatever forms of hardship our clients are experiencing the

majority have no means of purchasing those items necessary to furnish their new-found homes.

Each year we help over 3500 families and individuals including single-parents with babies and young children, the elderly and infirmed, ex-offenders trying to get their lives back on track, asylum seekers given legal status by the authorities and many more people who, mainly for no reason of their own find themselves in a crisis situation. Since we started in 1987 it is estimated that over 73,000 people have received our help.

Addressing the needs of those we help is only made possible by the dedication of our staff and volunteers, we run two

transit vans with driving teams who collect items of donated furniture etc. each morning, then they are given away to referred clients in the afternoons. The projects costs last year were £164,000. We are in partnership with the Sheffield City Council who provide us with a grant each year to cover approx. 35% of our running costs.

If any Bugle readers would like to know more about this vital work we give in our city or volunteer a little of their time at the store an information pack can be sent to you on request.

Please contact Ralph at the furniture store on 0114 270 3994 or email info@svpfurniturestore.sheffield.org.uk



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Take a break

Awesome Orlando !

I can't say Orlando is my dream holiday, however, it sure makes me smile a whole lot ! With it's perfect climate for a winter break and magical theme parks that turn anyone back into a child, it ranks fairly high on my list and 51 million visitors a year can't be that wrong ! So, with park passes in hand we headed off for some winter-fun-shine, basing ourselves in the Lake Buena Vista area central to almost everything. Yippee !

First stop was Sea World with a mix of roller coasters, shows and all round family fun, sometimes even bumping into Hollywood stars, not that my other half knew who Rupert Grint was. He was in town for a special Wizarding World of Harry Potter event, although when we saw him he was taking time out in the VIP area of the Shamu show, what a small, small world !

Building up courage we headed to Manta, where you become a flying ray. Once onboard the seats rotate into a face-down position before reaching speeds of 56mph, with 4 inversions and spins, a close call with a waterfall and a wing dip just inches above the water - all in an exhilarating 3 minute ride - this is a top 5 pick for any thrill-seeker !

Busch Gardens was next, albeit an 80-minute drive from Orlando, this unique blend of wildlife, wilder rides and exotic shows is not to be missed. Heading first for the newly opened Cheetah Hunt, you climb high above the African landscape, briefly leaving your seat as you reach the precipice, before plunging into the rocky gorge as the coaster races along - wow, a breathtaking start to the day.

Time for something a little less adrenalin pumping, with a stroll around the Edge of Africa. Here you find a plethora of animals, from a clan of spotted hyena to a unique view of the hippos above and below the water, not to mention a magnificent pride of lions and some overly cute ringtail lemur, to name but a few.

Ready for a little more excitement we headed to SheiKra, a ride not for the faint hearted ! This floorless dive roller coaster climbs a mere 200 feet to the edge of a pure 90-degree drop before plunging at 70mph followed by a loop and a second dive into an underground tunnel with a final splashdown which is sure to drench onlookers - if that doesn't do it, nothing will !

Time to slow it down again with a jaunt on the Serengeti Express meandering through the African savannah plains and chance to get up close to the different African animals as they wander free. If you're imagining Knowsley Safari park without the monkeys eating your windscreen wipers, you're not even close!

The thrills of a water-park were next, with a jaunt to Aquatica blending serene to extreme, with something for everyone to enjoy, including the park's signature attraction where riders plunge in a clear



tube through a crystal-blue lagoon home to black-and-white Commerson's dolphins - I was more at home on the lazy river!

All too soon our time in Orlando was over, we've been thrilled by the rides, drenched by the water-parks, flexed our plastic in the malls and thoroughly enjoyed every single minute. Will I be back, most certainly and probably sooner than I'd like, as the sheer excitement of the place just takes over. From the very young, to the very old, Orlando has something for everyone and then some ! Here's to the next awesome adventure !

Lindsay Allen
The Co-operative Travel, Bradway

Women's World Day of Prayer

Women's World Day of Prayer, 10.30am Friday 2nd March at Totlely Rise Methodist Church. Speaker Rev Louise Growberg. Refreshments provided. Everyone welcome.



Hazel Lale with one of her recent works.

Killer whales perform spectacularly for the excited crowds at Sea World in Orlando.

All in the colour

Bradway resident Hazel Lale is a busy and successful Sheffield based artist, much in demand as a teacher. With an eclectic mix of influences, Hazel's pictures have won wide acceptance, and a number of public bodies have commissioned works on a large scale.

A few years ago Hazel decided to make painting a full time career. Since finishing her degree in Fine Art, she has exhibited in many one woman shows, nationally and locally. Last year she has invited to show alongside an established young fashion designer at the London Fashion Week at the Metropolitan Hotel in Park Lane, London. This is the first time that London Fashion Week has invited an artist to exhibit.

Painting in watercolour Hazel Lale brings her reaction to the natural and man made shapes within the Derbyshire landscape. Influenced by the simplicity of line and the minimal brush strokes of Japanese Art, and the American artist Mary Cassatt, who with Monet and the Impressionists are so noted for their treatment of light and tone, Hazel focuses on intensifying local colour and experimenting with form through negative space and line.

As she explains "I am attracted to themes which allow me to break free of outlines: it is not so much the subject but the light falling on a pattern, a gesture, a discordant colour and a memory which fits in with a fleeting image".

Hazel offers encouragement, guidance and demonstrations at workshops catering for all levels, based on her studio at Back Lane in Bradway.

You can find out more details on her website: www.hazellale.co.uk

The Hawk and Owl Trust

Founded in 1969 originally to help save the peregrine, the Hawk and Owl Trust is a national charity which now works for the conservation and appreciation of all wild birds of prey and their habitats, both in its own nature reserves and in partnership with others. Working with other organisations, farmers, foresters and landowners, the Trust researches, restores and manages nesting, roosting and feeding habitats and encourages greater understanding and appreciation of these very special birds.

By conserving the places owls and other wild birds of prey nest and feed, they also support many associated species - from field voles to skylarks, dragonflies to grass snakes - in a whole variety of habitats.

One way to support the work of the trust is to join their "Adopt a Box" scheme yourself or to gift this as an ideal present for anyone who cares about wildlife and the environment. Nestboxes really are important for many owls, at the last official count there were only about 4,000 breeding pairs of barn owls in the whole of Britain, and it's estimated that four in every five of them now nest in boxes - because of the loss of so many traditional sites like hollow trees and old farm buildings.

To compensate for this loss, a key part of the Hawk and Owl Trust's conservation work has been putting up nestboxes in areas with plenty of prey for barn owls, tawny owls, little owls and the once-common, but now declining, kestrel.

When you adopt a box you receive a gift adoption pack, which includes a colourful guide to British owls and the secrets of the pellets they cough up (great clues to their diet). The pack also contains "Adopt a Box News" (there are two a year), a colourful owl sticker, two illustrated fact sheets about conserving and helping owls to survive in the wild, and a barn owl bookmark, the first in a series to collect. A report about what's been happening in your adopted nestbox will be sent towards the end of the year.

Putting up large wooden nestboxes,



Above - An unusual picture of a Barn Owl in flight.

Left - A classic Barn Owl pose.

Pictures from www.blueskybirds.co.uk

a year. You can sign up online at www.hawkandowl.org or call 0844 984 2824. Adoption forms, are also available from: Adopt a Box, Hawk and Owl Trust, PO Box 400, Bishop's Lydeard, Taunton TA4 3WH (please enclose a stamped addressed envelope), email: enquiries@hawkandowl.org.

By joining the Trust you will have the satisfaction of helping to ensure that owls and other birds of prey will continue to fly free over our countryside.

Bradway Community Association

Forthcoming Events

Feb 25th. Murder Mystery Night

Mar 4th. March Ramble

Mar 24th. Beetle Drive

Apr 1st. April Ramble

Apr 11th. AGM

May 6th. May Ramble

Badminton 8.30 pm Bradway Scout

Centre Thursdays John Child 237 6577

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236 9876

which for barn owls are about the size of an old-fashioned tea chest, is carried out by trained fieldworkers. Specially licensed conservationists then check the nestboxes during the breeding season which is why the Trust is able to give adopters a national overview and also let them know what has happened in their adopted box.

Although the nestboxes are designed specifically for barn owls, tawny owls and little owls or kestrels, other fascinating species may also take up residence.

An Adopt a Box subscription costs £18

Landscaping awards. Green fingered James Bird, of Totle, has scooped two top national awards to add to his impressive haul of trophies, establishing his company's growing reputation as one of the leading landscapers.

James, aged 42, was the principal winner of the prestigious BALI (British Association of Landscape Industries) award for the best project on a domestic garden costing under £20,000 and one of five main winners in the domestic garden between £20,000 - £50,000 category.

The under £20,000 project was for a contemporary garden design at Wales, Sheffield, with retaining walls, a water feature, paved and border areas and lighting. For the second project, James and his team excavated 600 tons of soil and rock to create a sunken garden at the rear of a house in Wadshelf, near Chesterfield.

The company, which employs 13 people, undertakes projects of all shapes and sizes, including small ones, in South Yorkshire, Derbyshire and North Notts from its Sheffield base.

£20-50,000 award garden at Wadshelf, near Chesterfield.



On The Road Again

After decades of campaigning, The Driving Standards Agency has at last announced that during 2012 learner drivers will be allowed on M class roads with driving instructors. This will end the stupidity of a situation where drivers could pass their driving test in the morning and drive without any motorway training, unsupervised at high speeds on the motorway network in the afternoon.

One might at this stage speculate that when the details are finally announced we may also see motorway driving included in the driving test, where test centres are near to motorways. Given the near proximity of the M1 to our closest test centre at Sheffield Parkway this is could well be a new consideration for our Bradway learners.

While this is very welcome news and will reduce considerably the number of drivers on our motorways without adequate training. I understand that for safety reasons such training will not be available to learners supervised by family and friends.

A less welcome piece of news is that from January 2012, the DSA will no longer publish lists of potential questions for the theory test. This means that overnight any CD Rom produced for the purpose of practising for the test is of no use and all of the training materials in the shops produced by such as the AA, BSM and Focus is worthless.

You may be able to detect a pattern here. First we had a test of competence to drive which was developed over the years to also include parking and maintenance checks. Then we had the theory test closely followed by the test of hazard perception awareness. Very quickly the hazard perception test was deemed too easy and was made harder to pass. After this the agency announced that they would no longer publish test routes, which was useful to instructors who need to create structured training plans.

We then moved on to the inclusion of an independent driving segment in the practical driving test where the candidate is either given a route map to follow or a verbal description of a route. The test candidate is the asked to follow the route independently.

Never fear though. The DSA have announced a new training aid for the theory test which you can buy from their official website. Alternatively you can just read up on the subject from publications also available from them.

My view on the subject is that the new test favours the more academic driving student. This is a shame when driving is essentially a very practical skill. I wonder if any of the DSA examiners would have been able to earn a driving licence if they had to face the obstacles that today's learners have to?

Safe driving.

Your Questions Answered:-

Q - Are you ever scared?

A - No. If I could be scared during driving or teaching I would be the wrong person for the job. Injuries or fatalities are extremely rare during driving instruction which is reflected in the extremely low cost of insurance for training cars.

Q - Why do the DSA charge so much for a driving test?

A - I wish I could give you a good answer to that question. When I took my driving test all those years ago, the test was roughly the same as one hour's driving tuition. Now the practical test is £62 or three times the average cost of one hour's tuition. This is very hard to justify given that all they have to provide is a trained examiner with a clip board and the driving schools provide a car, insurance and fuel. I suggest you write to your MP.

John Barker DipM DAS ADI
is a local driving Instructor.

Please send questions to him at john@johnbarkermotoring.com or call 0114 236 8855.

Funds at last

Government funds have finally been secured to construct the park and ride at Dore and Totley station with £400,000 going towards a 139-space car park on the site of the former garden centre. Work should start this year.



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 twenty-five years.

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Driving - whose decision!?!?

It is surprising how many drivers forget the fact that when they take to the road they are in charge of what is potentially a lethal weapon. An example of this situation was recently documented in the 'Telegraph' newspaper, where despite the request from police to a man aged 87 that he should surrender his license, he refused to do so. In the event several weeks later he crashed his car into a wall trapping a young girl aged 19 who subsequently died from her injuries.

I surrendered my license voluntarily nearly 30 years ago when I was convinced by my wife that the occasional mild seizures I suffer from might seriously impair my ability to drive. I had in fact driven for 20 accident free years and like the elderly driver I felt I was capable of driving, as did my G.P. who knew that as a Primary School teacher I enjoyed a healthy lifestyle.

On the few occasions that I did experience a seizure he felt it did not warrant informing the DVLC. I firmly believe this to be the case with many other drivers, whether they be diabetic, epileptic, elderly or even infirm. To take away a person's driving license can have far reaching implications, but should a doctor or seemingly responsible adult wait until a serious accident occurs before making the decision to stop someone from driving.

In Sheffield we have relatively good bus services, people over 60 have free bus passes and it cannot be overlooked that to drive on Britain's roads demands a high level of concentration and very quick action should it seem that an accident might be going to occur. During the last year I have known of several accidents occurring as a result of elderly folk in particular using bad judgement.

I even know of one elderly lady who only uses her car for short journeys and does not use the car at night for she has not yet worked out how the lights operate. Some G.P.s and opticians do not seem to take their role and responsibility that seriously and I am convinced some family members choose to turn a blind eye when it comes to advising family members on the subject.

I have one family member living in South Wales, a former high ranking civil servant, who could register as blind if he wanted to; sadly if he did so he would have to stop driving. Such a case illustrates that in the end it comes down to selfishness and perhaps embarrassment that results in some people acting irresponsibly.

We all have a role to play in making sure our roads are safe but ultimately it is the responsibility of individual drivers to face up to the fact that they may not be fit enough to drive. Stopping driving for me was very traumatic, but you get over it and you may even find that you ultimately become all the fitter for having

to rely on walking, public transport and the kindness of other drivers, after all a little humility does no-one any harm!

Rob Wilks

Parking at parks

As part of its cost cutting, Sheffield council plans to introduce charging for parking at Hillsborough, Graves and Millhouses parks. Fees of 40p per hour or £2 per day are set to raise £100,000 and reduce the need for further cuts. No mention is made of the cost of introducing these measures nor of the impact on local roads as visitors park elsewhere to avoid the charges.

These measures will inevitably be counterproductive to efforts to increase visitors to the animal farm at Graves Park, and reflect poorly on all the effort and money that has gone into improving facilities at Millhouses Park.

Slow lane Sheffield

According to the research from Direct Line, traffic on Sheffield's roads slows to just 15.3 miles an hour during the rush hour. The city is the sixth worst of the UK's top 10 cities for slowly moving traffic at peak times. According to the same research the average commuting distance for city residents is 13.8 miles there and back.

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Bradway Birds

In the last issue I wrote, in part, about the behaviour (and by implication personalities) of pigeons. Developments since then have puzzled me. For years, every day has seen the ravenous and food-tossing invasion of our garden by ten to twenty wood pigeons.

We have been lucky enough, for ten years to see them arrive with two to six stock doves, rural birds, smaller, with an iridescent neck patch, no white rump, and partial wing bars. The stocks have often stayed long after the woods have departed in search of other gobbling-grounds.

We never had feral, or town, pigeons, until July 2011. Then two, three, ten appeared, none looking like the scruffy hoboes you see on Fargate or the bus station. They were fine feathered, glossy, with no beak or foot deformity; confident, strutting. At first I thought they were racing pigeons, which do drop into gardens from time to time to refuel (and occasionally stay for years!).

However, though endowed with excellent, rippling flight muscles, none had a leg-ring. They also all had a pale white rump, and full rather than partial wing bars, so they were ferals not stocks; and they all had these features despite a huge variety of plumage on the rest of their bodies.

They are still here, months later, and they are welcome, but their effect has been unexpected, and one I have never seen recorded and cannot explain. The collared doves, far smaller birds, have continued as before, going about their business around and between the ferals, dozing and preening in the garden trees.

The wood pigeons, far bulkier birds and double the weight of the ferals, have almost deserted the garden, and this despite the free food always on effortless

DORE & TOTLEY WARD FORUM

Public meeting to discuss the future of the Ward Forum
Tuesday 28th February
7.30 pm at
Totley Library
Everybody welcome

offer. At no time since the ferals arrived, have there been over three wood pigeons, a reduction of 85%. The stocks, around the same size as ferals, have disappeared completely. I didn't see one from July to October. I never saw a feral attack a stock, and the stocks disappeared for six months. They have now reappeared.

Of even greater note is the disappearance of the pigeon dominant which fought off rogue magpies; if he still visits, he has changed his behaviour so much that I can no longer recognise him. I have no explanation for any of this.

Now we fast-forward into the middle of November, and the ferals are generally up to 20 in number. The stocks have returned and accepted their continuous presence, and that to feed you have to put up with them. At any rate, two or three stocks have returned to their previous regular status.

The wood pigeons, however, remain at home with their bat and ball. Even though they are far larger than the ferals, they refuse, or are unable to adapt, and have fallen away from the mid-teens to one or two. I was pleased one day to see a pigeon on the roof of the bird-table aiming ferocious pecks at two ferals trying to muscle in. when the woodie departed, five ferals squeezed in the table, with tails in each other's eye.

Pigeons can be quite nasty to each other, as observation has shown, but I've seen no aggression between the ferals, even when they are many and crowded, a circumstance that causes discomfort and upset in many species.

If you wish to become more fully and formally involved with your garden birds, may I urge you to join the Garden Birdwatch Project of the British Trust for ornithology? Around ten thousand volunteers keep a regular eye on their plot from Shetland to Cornwall, and fill in weekly sheets that go to the BTO each quarter. You can do this on paper or on line. The scheme is the world's largest scientific bird project, and the BTO is looking to make its national coverage wider and deeper.

The BTO asks you to contribute £15 a year to join, because it is a charity, but for first-time participants the charge brings with it an excellent guide to garden birds: recognition of likely species, patterns of numbers, fears and encouragements, how to encourage birds. The BTO has no grant to cover its costs so asks

participants to contribute.

BTO scientists process all the results to spot population changes, and the data are a resource for advising councils, the government and organisations on policy, including the need for and nature of policy change. Each quarter you will receive a Garden Birdwatch magazine, which is a good read and is partly written by members.

You record the maximum number you see each week of the top ten garden species. The next thirty are recorded as present or absent. Then there are special sheets for occasionals. People have seen hoopoes, bee-eaters, egrets, merlins, eagle owls and water rails in their gardens. These sheets also allow you to record mammals, amphibians, reptiles and butterflies, if you wish to. This is the widening of the coverage I referred to, and the BTO exchanges information with the relevant animal study-group.

If you have, or can acquire, the knowledge, the survey can also send you special recording forms and contacts for bats, bumble-bees and dragonflies.

All I all, it is an absorbing business. It teaches you a lot, fills your day with free and readily accessible interest, and allows you to help to build up the factual evidence that any authority demands before it reconsider its policies.

The BTO can be contacted on the phone, number 01842 750050; or by post at The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 2PU. If you wish to discuss your role, get in touch with me via the Editor. You can start recording the birds you know and slowly increase the number, helped by the book.

John Kirkman

Photographic Competition

Friends of Ecclesall Woods (FEW) are holding a photographic competition and subsequent exhibition. You are invited to submit photographs of Ecclesall Woods which highlight the many beautiful aspects of the flora, wildlife and scenes during the year.

Photographs should be a maximum of A4, and will be judged by a committee. They should be submitted by 31st August 2012, to FEW at the J. G. Graves Woodland Centre, Abbey Lane, Sheffield S7 2QZ. Please include your name and address on the back of the photograph. Entries will be accepted on the understanding that FEW will be given copyright to use the photos in any future publicity.

A prize of a fully automatic, digital compact camera kit will be awarded for the best picture.

An exhibition of submitted photographs will be held in the Graves Woodland Centre during October and November 2012. A selection of the photographs will also be included in the FEW 2013 Calendar.

The competition is supported by Harrison Cameras and Tigoo Creative Ltd.

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Edale Mountain Rescue

Edale Mountain Rescue Team (EMRT) operates mainly in the the Peak District National Park but also assist South Yorkshire Police in searches for vulnerable missing person in Sheffield and beyond. The Team is one of the busiest Mountain Rescue Teams in the country. In 2011 team members were involved in 117 incidents. We are a registered charity, number 1138626.

The team is made up entirely of volunteers who come from all walks of life and give up their time freely. We have 47 fully operational hill members who are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year and 12 aspirant members. We are very grateful to members' families and employers for allowing them the time to participate in EMRT activities.

Of the full hill members we have 6 doctors, 5 paramedics and 2 nurses. We also have a qualified dog handler who is part of the wider Search and Rescue Dog Association (SARDA).

The team trains at least once a fortnight to refresh and improve on all the skills required to be a member of the team. This includes the use of our specialist rescue equipment and the principles of navigation, crag rescue and advanced first aid. Frequent activity in our key operational area ensures that all team members have good local knowledge - an essential part of providing an efficient search and rescue service. We work very

closely with other Mountain Rescue Teams and all of the emergency services who cover the Peak District and South Yorkshire.

In addition to the operational members we also have an ever expanding and highly valued support group called "Friends in High Places" (FiHP). They work behind the scenes providing help with fundraising and equipment maintenance. If you would like to join FiHP there is more information available on our web-site: www.edalemrt.co.uk

We, like all other Mountain Rescue teams in England and Wales, receive very little central funding and rely almost entirely on charitable donations to raise the money we need to run the team. All the money we raise is used to improve the service we offer by investing in training for members, equipment maintenance and renewal and keeping our three emergency response vehicles on the road as well as our Search Control Vehicle. Mountain Rescue, (England and Wales) is the largest charity in the UK with no paid employees whatsoever.

For 27 years we have been based at an industrial site in the Hope Valley courtesy of Lafarge Cement, (previously Blue Circle), who provided us with garage accommodation. In July 2007 we moved into our purpose built headquarters on the Lafarge site. We are now well established there and are able to offer training and meeting facilities for Rescue Teams from all over England and Wales. Without the financial and moral

support of Lafarge this would not have been possible. We now have a building that is the envy of all the Teams who have visited us and will meet our needs for the next 20 years and beyond.

You can keep up to date with the Team's activities and latest incidents by logging on to our Team web-site at: www.edalemrt.co.uk

Bob Davey (Secretary)

Snippets

A council licensing committee has approved an application to allow public events, including music and dancing, to be staged in Greenhill Park, Lowedges, after an agreement no alcohol would be served.

Sheffield's 42,000 council tenants face a 7.8% rent rise from April this year.

Stuart Dunn of Topley Rise has just won the title of International Travel Photographer of the year in the One Shot - Wild Moments category with a dramatic picture of an explorer dangling spider-like in front of one of the world's most powerful waterfalls. To see visit: www.stuardunnphotography.com/news.htm

Deputy Lord Mayor of Sheffield, John Campbell, has withdrawn a personal injury claim against Greenhill and Bradway Tenants' and Residents' Association after a chair he sat on collapsed during Lowedges Festival last August.

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Local and Bradway blood donors rewarded

Dozens of Sheffield residents were honoured at a recent awards ceremony for rolling up their sleeves to help save lives. The veteran blood donors were each presented with special gifts for reaching either 75 (a crystal plate) or 100 (a crystal decanter) blood donations apiece. Only 4% of people give blood and of that 4%, only 2% ever manage to reach 75 donations, making it a very rare milestone.

Each blood donation, just under a pint, can potentially help save the lives of three people, so these donors could have potentially helped saved hundreds of lives each over the years.

Local residents honoured included from Greenhill, Peter Ostrowskyj and John Pullin; from Totley Frank Richardson; and from Bradway Doreen Sutcliffe.

Honoured for reaching 75 donations, 67-year-old estate agency negotiator Doreen Sutcliffe started giving blood after her first husband, who was a donor himself, was killed in a car accident. When a reminder to donate arrived for him after his death, Mrs Sutcliffe decided to start giving blood in his memory.

Urging other people to follow her example, Mrs Sutcliffe said: "Giving blood is painless and only takes up a few hours per year. We never know when we or someone dear to us will need blood."

The donors were presented with their awards at a ceremony at Baldwins Omega by grateful Sheffield mother Marie Collinson-Wallace, who spoke of her gratitude after her daughter Olivia received 21 units of blood while being treated for leukaemia. Olivia, who is thankfully now in remission, was also in attendance to thank the donors herself.

Every year many existing donors in our region have to stop giving blood due to factors like ill-health and medication, so in order to maintain blood stocks new donors are constantly needed. If you would like to become one of the life-savers of the future, make an appointment to attend a local session either by calling 0300 123 23 23 or visiting www.blood.co.uk.

You can search for local sessions at www.blood.co.uk/sessionssearcher/search.aspx

Forthcoming local sessions are:

Greenhill

The Avenue Medical Practice
7 Reney Avenue
Friday 24 Feb 2.15 to 6pm

Sheffield Sainsbury's

Archer Road
Monday 26 Mar
10am to 1pm and 2.15 to 5.15 pm

Norton

Douletree by Hilton Pk Hotel
Chesterfield Road South
Tuesday 08 May
11:45am to 2:45pm
4pm to 7.30pm



Some of the Sheffield residents presented with their awards at the ceremony.

NatWest Bank

Readers of the Bradway Bugle will know that the closure of the branch of the NatWest bank on Twentywell Lane caused quite a lot of local anger and dismay. In particular, the way in which the bank handled the closure was not well appreciated, nor was the condition in which the exterior of the building was left after the closure.

At the AGM of the Bradway Action Group in October 2011 it was suggested that BAG ought to transfer its account elsewhere. The new Committee agreed to this suggestion at its first meeting in November.

The account has now been transferred to the Woodseats branch of HSBC.

Stephen George

Agewell Leisure Club

Meetings on Tuesdays at The Castle Inn, starting at 10.15am with coffee and biscuits served from 09.45am. Visitors and new members welcome £2.50 incl. Specially priced pensioners lunches can be ordered - served 12 noon

March 6th A.G.M - Members only 10.15am. Followed at 10.45am by open talk on garden birds given by John Kirkman, a regular contributor to the Bradway Bugle with Bradway Birds

April 3rd Surnames - Talk Mr. R Yates.

May 1st The joys of being a farmers wife. - Talk by Gillian Easom.

More information from Stuart Sawyer. Tel. 236 9830.

Spring concert

Saturday 24th March 2012, Ecclesall Parish Church, Sheffield at 7.30 pm

Vivaldi - Magnificat; Vivaldi - Gloria
Vivaldi - Spring from The Four Seasons
Violin solo - Lara James

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Disaster For Savers

Inflation Plus Low Interest
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Continuing low interest rates and stubbornly high levels of inflation are hitting savers hard. The effects can be dramatic particularly if you are relying on interest from your savings to supplement your income.

Consider the following example:

You hold £100,000 in a deposit account paying 4% interest annually and inflation is 2.5%. At the end of year one your statement will still show £100,000 on deposit and you will have received an income of £4,000. However in real terms, because of inflation, the spending power of £100,000 has now reduced to £ 97,500 and 4% income is now only worth in real terms £3,803.

Project this forward 5 years and the buying power of £100,000 is now only £88,109 and the income real value reduced to £3,436 and this is only at 2.50% inflation. This means that over a 5-year period your income has reduced in real terms by 13.2% and the real value of capital by almost 12%

As you can see the example I have used to illustrate the effects of inflation are quite conservative. Currently inflation is well above 2.5% and a 4% net return on savings on an interest paying account would be difficult to find at present!! This is a disaster for the older generation who need a good income to top up their pensions. So what is the answer?

In order to retain the purchasing power of your £100,000 capital and £4,000 income over the same period the capital value would need to increase to £113,110 and the actual income required would be £4,526. With current low bank deposit rates likely to continue for some time, investing in a portfolio of assets targeted to meet this objective in the only real option. Professional advisers can help by discussing investments designed to provide a rising income and capital value in order to combat inflation.

John Goddard

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Past performance is no guarantee of future returns. The value of investments and the income from them can fall as well as rise.

Long term care

Getting the right advice for vulnerable relatives going into long term residential care is vital.

It is never easy seeing a loved one go into residential care. Not only is it an emotional time for all concerned, but it can also be a legal minefield. How do you know what your rights are when it comes to funding and claiming assistance from the local authority?

Each local authority carries out a means test on any applicant to receive State funding to pay for the costs of residential care. Only if your assets are below certain thresholds do you qualify for full local authority funding. In England, those with assets above £23,250 would not receive any local authority funding at all. Owning your own property often means that you exceed the threshold and will end having to fund your own care. However, the local authority cannot include property when assessing your capital if your spouse still lives there.

Another area which can cause confusion is joint ownership with someone other than your spouse. It is not unusual for children to live with their parents especially if they were caring for them and for there to be a joint ownership. The guidance which local authorities are expected to follow when assessing payment of residential fees sets out the considerations which need to be taken into account. It is important to know what the local authority can or

cannot do. Below is an example of where obtaining advice paid off.

In a recent case, Mrs. X owned her property jointly with her daughter. Her daughter resided in the property and was paying the mortgage and other expenses to adapt the property for her mother. Unfortunately Mrs. X could no longer remain at home and had to go into a residential home. When her capital assessment was completed, the local authority claimed that her assets for capital assessment was half of the value of the property and would exceed the capital threshold.

It was argued that the local authority had not taken into account the guidelines when they valued the joint ownership. The guidelines state that where there is a joint ownership such as this, the value attributed to the resident should be heavily discounted. The market value of the property would be substantially reduced as no willing buyer would buy a share in a property which was already owned by another. The outcome of the representation to the local authority was that they agreed to value Mrs. X's share at only 10% which took her below the threshold. Her family do not now have to worry about paying all her fees other than what is covered by her income. Without advice, the family would not have been aware of the guidelines.

If you are faced with similar difficulties, you should seek advice promptly.

Vinny Jethwa

hlw Keeble Hawson Solicitors

Whirlow Farm events

Opera in the Barn. Whirlow Hall Farm Trust will bring the countryside alive with the delightful sound of opera music on Saturday 26th May; as we see the return of the 'Opera in the Barn' event.

The evening will bring light-hearted operatic entertainment to the city in a unique informal setting; and promises to deliver a fun evening which will appeal to all ages. Whirlow Hall Farm may not be the most obvious place to enjoy the opera but the barn provides an excellent and unusual backdrop with great acoustics.

This event was extremely well received in 2011 so the events team are really excited to bring it back again in 2012. It promises to be a great evening and we encourage the local community to come along and enjoy the experience.

All profits from this event will go to Whirlow Hall Farm Trust, ensuring they can continue delivering unique learning experiences to the children of South Yorkshire.

Tickets will soon be available for the event priced £20 per person. A picnic box can also be pre ordered for the interval. To book tickets or for more information contact Sarah, Event Organiser on 0114 235 2678 or you can email her at sarahk@whirlowhallfarm.org

The farm The cafe is now open Wednesday to Sunday and is offering 10% off any bill over £10 until 16th of March 2012.

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Gardening in chunks

One of the most frustrating effects on our gardening enjoyment is the British weather. For most of us a sprinkling of rain, a cool breeze, and overcast days keep us steadfastly confined to quarters.

If you like your garden and know deep down that you are more of a fair weather gardener than a second career gardener, then you can create a nice garden on only snatches of good weather.

Have a look at your garden and start seeing it in half hour chunks, or a series of small tasks. For example a garden that needs weeding can be mentally broken down into half hour tasks. When the half hour is up reward yourself with a coffee and biscuit at the end. You could even make a flask and stand the flask on a patio table to entice you to keep going. You will probably find that once you start it's not difficult to carry on a bit longer too.

To make your half hour tasks easier to achieve make a list by breaking your garden up into these short events. You might end up with a long list but remind yourself that each one takes only half an hour. Add new tasks as you mark off completed ones.

Your list could just be the "boring" tasks, but you should also include the fun things too. Planting a spring patio pot only takes minutes if you have all the materials and plants to hand. Have you ever thought about a spring starter kit for your garden? By this I mean a set of essential gardening products at hand ready for your half hour tasks. For example a bag of multi-purpose compost, some general liquid feed, a high potash feed (to promote fruit and flowers), a planting fertiliser and some controlled release basket tablets, labels, soft ties. A simple set of tools should include secateurs, a planting trowel, a spade, a rake and something to collect weeds or compost in such as a rubber trug. Just think of your essentials like your larder or kitchen cupboard but a garden version and have them there ready. Go and check your supplies now. What's missing?

One other essential: a good pair of gardening gloves, carefully chosen to fit your hands. Then hide them from everyone else. A quick word on secateurs: It's worth spending a little more on them as a good sharp blade is easier to use and doesn't damage the plants. Cheap secateurs are cheap for a reason.

Another idea to help you simplify your gardening calendar is to think about a colour way for this year to match your mood. We can see red, white and blue featuring for some this year as well as stronger colours along the hot red, oranges and yellows plus vibrant pink. Have you thought about making a bench or older patio set becoming a feature by painting it in lime green or vibrant pink. The paint is available but are you brave enough? Include some well placed, painted pots in strategic spots too.

You can use 'spot' colour provided by

bedding plants or hardy perennials within existing borders. They can lift a whole bed just by planting a group in sight lines from your kitchen, lounge or patios windows.

Make 2012 a great garden year. Your garden is for you and your family to enjoy. Nibble away at it this year.

*Neil Grant
Ferndale Garden Centre*

Recipe Corner

A Winter Recipe from Serge Nollent, le Chef de Bradway.

A hearty, full flavour and rich-texture braised recipe, perfect for a cold winter evening.

Braised Lamb with Thyme and Rosemary, served with whipped potatoes and Lancashire Cheese. Serves 4.

Braised Lamb Ingredients

Olive oil
3 garlic cloves cut into slivers
2 finely chopped onions
1 finely chopped celery stick
3 carrots cut into small chunks
1 kg (2 1/2 lb) lamb shoulder or neck fillet diced into 2 to 3 cm pieces (or ask your local butcher!)

1 good sprig each of thyme and rosemary

100 ml tomato passata
1/2 glass white wine
Sea salt + freshly ground black pepper

Method

In a casserole, fry the garlic slivers until a pale golden colour. Remove from the pan. Add the onions, celery and carrots and cook until soft and slightly coloured. Remove from the pan.

Add the diced lamb (small batches at a time) and brown quickly over a high heat, then return all the vegetables to the casserole with the herbs, passata and wine.

Add enough water to cover, bring to the boil, and simmer for 1 - 1 1/2 hours, until the lamb is tender. Season to taste.

Meanwhile, prepare the Whipped Potatoes:

Ingredients

500g floury potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks

1 good tablespoon melted unsalted butter

1 small garlic clove, finely crushed

1 tablespoon creme fraiche

300g grated Lancashire cheese

1 tsp chopped fresh chives

seasalt

Method

Boil the potatoes in salted water until soft. Drain and put through a hand masher. Put the potato back in the pan and place over a very low heat.

Add the butter, garlic and creme fraiche and beat well with a wooden spoon.

Add the cheese, a handful at a time, stirring constantly.

Once all the cheese has been incorporated, add the chives, check the seasoning and serve.

Bon Appetit!

Serge le Chef de Bradway

Open Gardens

Thank you to all those who visited our garden open days last year. After the snow, frost and freezing temperatures the garden came to life better than ever! We raised £3,250.00 for last year's charities and are looking forward to our open days this year, which are:

PACT on the 21st & 22nd April - 1pm to 5pm - entrance £2.

RSPCA 26th & 27th May - 1pm to 5pm - entrance £2.

National Garden Scheme (Yellow Book) 24 June & 5th August - 11am to 5pm - entrance £2.50.

Children are free with an adult on all open days. As usual there will be home made cakes, tea and coffee on sale. Also plants and raffles, books, cards and hook-a-duck (which went very well last year with the children - and adults!) We look forward to seeing you and perhaps some new faces. Thank you again for your support. Regards - Chris and Keith Littlewood - Fernleigh, 9 Meadowhead Avenue, Sheffield S8 7RT - Tel. 0114 274 7234

Physiotherapists merge

Local physiotherapists Clare Heward and Andrew Okwera and have decided to merge their practices in order to provide a wide variety of specialised services to their clients and local community. The practice, which shall be known as "Activ Physiotherapy" will have multiple clinics servicing Bradway, Totley and Norton Lees.

The owners of this new practice have over 20 years physiotherapy experience and are now able to provide the following specialist services: Sports Injury Physiotherapy, Acupuncture, Women's Health Therapy, Pilates Classes, Pain Management and Workstation Assessment alongside the usual remit of physiotherapy treatments.

Clare, who owns Bradway Physiotherapy Clinic added "Joining our practices makes sense as our clients will benefit substantially. We want to provide the best quality service and ensure we are always accessible to the local community. We have a talented team who pride themselves on offering the highest quality of care at an affordable price. We are already looking to the future and hope to have a new 4th clinic open over the next year. It is our intention to expand our multi disciplinary approach by including services such as Massage Therapy, Chiropody and Neurological Rehabilitation."

Activ Physiotherapy will be open 6 days a week over different sites with evening appointments and home visits available. Activ Physiotherapy is recognised by all major insurance companies including BUPA and Westfield.

For more information please visit our website www.activphysiotherapy.co.uk or telephone 0114 235 2727.

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Book Shelf

Turning back time on Abbeydale Road is an appropriate title for a book which follows the Road and its southern extension from the junction with London Road to the railway bridge over the Dore and Chinley railway, where it becomes Baslow Road. This book follows its history along the four mile route as it passes through several districts which are all part of the Abbey Dale including Beauchief and its Abbey, after which Abbeydale is named. The River Sheaf flows through the dale, besides which industries have grown, along with parks, woods, halls, schools, churches, past railway stations and many other places of interest. The book, price £9.99 is available locally from Totley Rise Post Office or Seasons Gift Shop. ISBN 9781906722210.

Deadly Derbyshire Tales of Murder and Manslaughter c.1700-1900 by Scott C Lomax is as its title suggests a comprehensive guide to murder and manslaughter committed across the county, from the murder of Hannah Hewitt in 1742 to John Cotton's killing in 1898. In between, you can read about the 'fiery' circumstances of the death of John McMorow; of farm tragedy at Stoney Houghton; killings for 'pittances' - three eggs and a sixpence; also discover unprovoked and wicked deeds as well as numerous suspicious deaths.

The book is based on extensive research

of newspaper archives, uncovering a large number of cases never previously explored. This compendium complements and accompanies other True Crime titles for Derbyshire published by Wharncliffe, including Foul Deeds books relating to Chesterfield and Derby. Published in paperback by Pen and Sword, 168 pages price £12.99 ISBN: 9781848846210

The 6th February marked the 60th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne. To mark this momentous event and to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee this year, acclaimed royal biographer Sarah Bradford has written this definitive biography which looks into the key moments of British and world history during the Queen's sixty-year reign. Full of fascinating insights into Royal life, from wars and political scandal, to the death of Diana and the triumph of the recent Royal Wedding, **Queen Elizabeth II: Her Life in Our Times** is the biography the Queen deserves - remarkable, warm, and above all, inspiring. For many of our readers the Queen's story is our story! Published by Viking in hardback, 305 pages price £20 ISBN 978-0-670-91911-6

Throughout every period of history Yorkshire has seen its share of battles. **Yorkshire Sieges of the Civil Wars** by David Cooke gives an insight into the siege battles that took place at Hull, York, Sandal, Pontefract and more. The book

explains in detail the defence tactics, landscapes, weather and key battles that influenced the outcome of these historically notable sieges. Using illustrations, maps and contemporary accounts, the reader can follow each siege from beginning to end, and learn about how each battle affected the outcome of the Civil War in the North. Published in paperback by Pen & Sword Books Ltd, 225 pages price £14.99, ISBN 184415917-5

Many family historians will come across direct links to ancestors who lived and worked in the countryside as farmers, labourers, landowners, village tradesmen and professionals - for most of us have rural ancestors. Yet despite the burgeoning interest in genealogy, these people have rarely been written about with the family historian in mind. **Tracing Your Rural Ancestors - A Guide For Family Historians** by Jonathan Brown is the first book to provide a guide to the documents and records, from medieval times to the twentieth century, that researchers can use to find out about their rural ancestors and the world in which they lived. This accessible and informative introduction describes the make-up of country and village society - the farmers, large and small, the farm-workers, the landowners and estate-owners, and the local business people, the tradesmen and merchants. At the same time it identifies and discusses the relevant national and local records,

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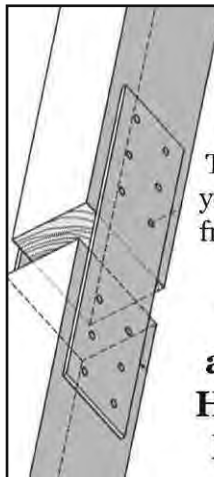
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indicates where they can be found, and offers essential advice on how this information can be used to piece together the lives of distant and not so distant relatives. Essential reading for anyone who is looking for an insight into the history of rural life, work and society. Published in paperback by Pen and Sword, 162 pages price £12.99 ISBN: 9781848842274

Orchids on show

Most people do not realise that orchids are the largest family of plants on our planet, growing on every continent except Antarctica. Many are rare and exotic plants, but moth orchids are now widely available through garden centres and super-markets and can be enjoyed indoors for many months with minimal care.

The Sheffield and District Orchid Society was formed in January 1972 and there are plans to make its 40th annual show at the Cavendish Hall at Chatsworth on Sunday May 20 an extra special event. Last year over 600 people visited the show. More information from www.sheffieldorchids.org.

Folk Trains

Sheffield - Edale Rambler Folk Trains run on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Departure is from Sheffield at 7:14pm

(7.22pm from Dore & Totley station) returning on the 9:28pm from Edale. For further information ring 0114 266 9532 or visit www.folktrain.org.uk/.

The next group are Jack's Rake on 28 February. Renowned for their vibrant mix of styles, Jack's Rake perform on a mixture of guitars, bouzouki, mandolin, Anglo and English concertinas, melodeons, violin, banjo, mandola, whistles, bodhran, percussion, flute and piccolo, with harmonious vocals as well.

The cost is the price of an ordinary day return to Edale, around £7. Tickets can be bought from the conductor if boarding at Dore & Totley.

Open Up Sheffield

This year the dates for Open Up Sheffield 2012 and visits to Artists Studios are:

Saturday 5th May; Sunday 6th May
Monday 7th May
Saturday 12th May Sunday 13th May

Gilbert & Sullivan Society

April 17th to 21st 2012

Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society's production of The Pirates of Penzance: evenings 7:30 matinee 2:30pm at The University Drama Studio, Glossop Road, Sheffield.

Telephone 01246 416364 for tickets - £10.50 and £9 (concessions).

Olympic-style School Games

Some 3,200 pupils from primaries and secondaries across South Yorkshire will compete in Olympic-style School Games in Sheffield this year.

A winter festival will be held at the English Institute of Sport in Attercliffe on March 12 and 13, followed by a summer festival at the Abbeydale sports complex on July 2 and 3.

The Attercliffe activities will feature athletics, netball, gymnastics, basketball, cheer-leading, boccia and new-age curling, and Abbeydale will feature tennis, cricket, rugby union, rounders, rowing and football.

Successful competitors will go forward to national finals in London's Olympic facilities.

Both Sheffield festivals, which will have a strong cultural element showcasing activities such as dance, drama and music, will have opening and closing and medal ceremonies based on the Olympic Games.

With lottery funding through Government-backed Sport England, the festivals are de-signed to encourage young people, including those with disabilities or special needs, to take part in competitive school sports and form part of the Olympic legacy programme.

You can find out more information by contacting South Yorkshire Sport on 0114 223 5672.

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A Nice Little Job

I think I'm losing my touch! Having just about dispelled the lethargy of the festive season, I decided to tackle a job that's been awaiting my attention for some weeks. "A nice little job that shouldn't take very long", I thought.

Ages ago, we bought from a certain well-known Swedish stockist of household goods, a kit to make one of those fittings for storing bottles of wine. You know the kind of thing I mean. You get a dozen or so little bits of 1" square timber with holes drilled into all four corners at each end, and about three times as many short lengths of dowelling. The idea is to fasten them all together, modular fashion, to fit whatever shape you happen to have available. You can increase the size of the fitting to your heart's content by buying more kits.

Essentially the joints are just a push fit, without the need for any glue, but over the years, the pieces of wood had dried out causing some of the joints to separate to the extent that the gap between the pieces of wood was not sufficiently wide to support some of the thinner bottles. I decided to dismantle the fitting, and reassemble it with some adhesive.

Just to make sure the thinner bottles wouldn't fall through, as they had been doing, I decided to make the holes a bit deeper so the sides would be closer together. Then I remembered I'd lent my drill to my son just before Christmas and I hadn't got it back. Not to be outdone, I resolved to shorten the horizontal pieces of dowelling by a centimetre instead. It occurred to me on reflection that this was actually a more accurate way of tackling the problem as you can ensure all the pieces are the same length. There's always an element of doubt when drilling a hole, even when using a depth gauge. All went according to plan. So far.

Next, it was time to dismantle the vertical supports so I could glue them together more firmly. This proved more difficult than taking apart the horizontal pieces, probably because they hadn't been subject to as much movement, and in two cases where there were knots in the timber, the end of the dowelling broke off in the hole. I was not pleased! Now, I can usually find an odd bit of dowelling kicking about the workshop, and this occasion was no exception, but unfortunately it was a slightly different size (3/8ths of an inch instead of 10mm). However, a further search revealed an off-cut that had been used as a paint stirrer at some time, and with its coat of paint this was just the right size!

Now for the re-assembly. I decided to use a lump hammer to gently tap the dowels into the holes, but discovered that by the time I had a run of three or four tiers, it was a real challenge keeping the dowels straight. In one case, the dowel moved sideways to such an extent that it split the timber support (luckily, not terminally!).

As the workshop isn't heated and I needed the glue (and me) to be at normal room temperature, I'd decided to re-assemble the wine rack on the kitchen floor, but every time I tapped a dowel with my lump hammer, it prompted the cordless phone on the dresser to warble in protest. After this had happened seven or eight times, I could stand it no longer and removed the phone from its cradle, narrowly resisting the temptation to throw it across the room.

Eventually, amid much swearing and cursing, the job was done, but what I'd imagined would take no more than about 45 minutes, ended up taking me the best part of two hours! Still, at least the wine rack is now secure and full of bottles. No Champagne though - the bottles won't fit!

The Bradway Bodger

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If you are aged 60 or over we can arrange to visit you in your home to check that you are getting all the benefits you are entitled to and help with any claims. Are you getting the right amount of money? Any questions? Please telephone Sue Wharton Woodseats Advice Centre (0114) 258 4384.

The importance of reading

Primary Schools offer all sorts of activities nowadays from fencing to football and Bradway is no exception. We are proud of our varied after school and lunchtime clubs which provide children with experiences beyond the curriculum provided during the school day.

Although experiencing a range of activities is important, it is also important to focus on basic skills and one of the skills you would expect children to practise at primary school is reading. Indeed reading is a very large part of the curriculum for children, especially in the infants. Many Bugle readers may remember the joys of reading as a child and the wonderful world of books that they were able to access as a result. I can remember spending hours as a small child reading books outside the Headteacher's office for example. I doubt if I was there as part of a reading improvement scheme but it didn't harm my love of reading one bit. Janet and Jim were prominent characters in the 1960's reading schemes and I wonder if any Bugle readers remember those two rather unlikely characters. Of course if you are reading this paper the chances are that, as well as being taught at school, you were supported at home by your parents through the provision of books and the sharing of stories.

At Bradway Primary School we are currently on a mission to encourage all parents to read with their children at home as research evidence as well as common sense indicates that this can have a profound effect on their success at school and beyond. The majority of parents do share books with their children at home but there are still many who do not find the time for this vital activity, thus potentially disadvantaging their children in their education as outlined below.

Research evidence

The U.S. Department of Education analysis (2011) found that children who were read to at least three times a week by a family member were almost twice as likely to score in the top 25 percent in reading than children who were read to less than three times a week. Just like physical exercise, there are cumulative benefits when you do something regularly. "Reading little and often with your child throughout their education can be the single most important thing you can do to support your child's development".

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Case Study at Bradway Primary, September 2011-January 2012.

A child who entered Year Two and was assessed at the beginning of the academic year in September 2011 was reaching level 1B in their reading, below the expected level of 2B for their age. However, through hard work from the child and a commitment from the parents to read for five to ten minutes per day, the child moved significantly on with their reading. When they were reassessed in January 2012 they had reached level 2B meaning that the child had made more than the amount of progress that would be expected in a whole year. This was a significant achievement. The child's attitude to reading has now changed and

they are no longer reluctant to read, have a new found confidence throughout the curriculum and are generally more driven to achieve.

We are very fortunate at Bradway to have volunteers from the local area who come in to hear children read. This provides pupils with some extra practise at the same time as meeting other members of the Bradway community.

If any Bugle reader would like to come in to school regularly as a volunteer and are willing to go through the necessary police checks and training, you would receive a very warm welcome and you could make a huge difference to the confidence of a young person! Please contact the school office on 236 3723 if

this is something that may interest you or e mail Mrs Cooper in the office on: enquiries@bradway.sheffield.sch.uk

Also if you have any books that are suitable for the primary age range and which are in good condition, we would be grateful for any donations as we are currently restocking some of our class libraries. Please bring any books to the main entrance of the school during school office hours, 8.30am - 4.00pm


Thank you very much.

Paul Stockley (Headteacher)

Forthcoming term dates:

Half term: 13th - 17th February


Easter: 2nd - 13th April



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The Wildlife Garden

In autumn, the robin's song is full of haunting notes and sounds so melancholic, it is almost as though he is lamenting the passing of summer or longing for the return of a dead mate. In fact it is nothing of the sort, simply a territorial proclamation and it might not even be a 'he', as females also sing to defend territories at this time of year.

This blurring of 'traditional' avian gender roles and the fact that both sexes have identical, albeit very familiar plumage - a bright orange-red face and chest; olive-brown upper parts fading to a lighter hue beneath - led to confusion in the past and the growth of myths surrounding this bird. For example, it was widely believed that a female robin was actually the wren, as described in an 18th century proverb: "The robin and wren are God's cock and hen" and that these two species would work together in woodlands, where they would gently cover over the bodies of the dead with a shroud of leaves.

Such ideas might now seem fanciful, yet it is not only our knowledge of the robin that has improved over the centuries, but society's attitude to this bird. During the middle ages, when robins would have been called 'robin redbreasts', they were regularly trapped and eaten, supposedly because of their tasty meat. Eventually, this practice fell into decline, perhaps brought about by the rise in the belief that a robin bird tried to alleviate Christ's suffering when he was being crucified, although what also may have helped was the widely held superstition that a curse would befall anyone, or anything - even a cat - that killed one.

Whether it was our forefathers' reverence for robin redbreast or as many ecologists would have us believe, the



development of our country's network of hedges which suited this bird so well, the result was that a once shy skulking bird - as robins are still throughout most of their European range - evolved into a bold, garden resident. Indeed, we have taken this dumpy little bird so much to our collective hearts that in the 1960's, it became our national bird and even the 'redbreast' part of its common name has disappeared from everyday use.

Part of their charm is due to robins being very trusting. No doubt many of us when turning over soil in the garden have had a robin dogging our every step, hunting for soil invertebrates and using the spade handle as a lookout post the moment we sit down to rest our aching backs. In fact if you feed them mealworms, especially during the nesting season, some robins become so tame they will take these larvae out of your hand. Even so, you must never do this if you own cats, as the birds can become easy prey.

Yet while they might seem endearing to us, they have a tolerance level to neighbouring robins and other small birds such as dunnocks, which is about the same as that of Italian football hooligans to fans bedecked in a rival team's kit.

A robin will attack just about anything tennis ball-sized and coloured red which it can't chase out of its territory and have even been known to tear apart fluffy robin toys or red balls of wool. The importance of a robin's territory cannot be overstated, as not only does the bird have to get all the food he requires from it, but also sufficient for his mate and chicks during the nesting season.

Female robins move into a male's territory early in the year and if there is ample food may start nesting soon after, although normally they do so from April onwards. Robins build their nests wedged in the crevices between tree branches or rocks, however, they will also use open-fronted nest boxes. Nevertheless, these can leave them exposed to predation by cats, grey

squirrels and magpies, though an old hanging basket placed over the front will help protect them.

Often in gardens they nest in something which is the avian equivalent of the 'Tardis', an object with a narrow entrance, yet a voluminous interior: old kettles and letter boxes are favourites. Still by far the safest, albeit not exactly the most convenient spot, is when they choose to nest inside a garage or shed, gaining access through an open window. The cup-shaped nest is made by the female and consists of leaves and moss, with a hair lining. She lays 5 to 6 blue or white eggs, marked with red speckles and incubates them for around 14 days.

During this period, the female is reliant on the male for food and if you ever see a robin feeding another one, it is certain to be a male feeding his mate and is the only easy way to tell the sexes apart. The chicks take another 14 days to fledge and both parents will feed them. The young lack any red feathers, but have beautifully speckled brown ones and their appearance may have led to the once commonly held view that all robins loose their red feathers during the summer moult, which isn't true.

Robins enjoy mealworms all year round, still it is during the nesting period that they particularly appreciate this protein-rich food. Problems occur if you have a number of these birds in your garden vying with one another for dominance, like I had last year. The only way I could keep them apart was by feeding the male of one pair on the paper-recycling bin by my front door, then rushing round to put out mealworms on the kitchen windowsill for another male and finally leaving food near the back of my garden for a third.

Unfortunately, if one of the robin's mealworms were taken by a blackbird, he would then go looking for more in the territory of one of his rivals. When this happened, the incumbent male would fluff-up his feathers and push out his red chest towards the intruder, exposing him to its full glory by tilting his head back. Usually this failed to impress the thief, who would quickly pick up a mealworm before being chased off at high speed; the birds flying so fast they became completely oblivious to obstacles, such as walls, gutters and on more than one occasion, me.

In the end, the only way I could keep them apart was by providing each one with a large pile of mealworms. Despite their best efforts, only one pair went on to successfully raise young; another set of fledglings fell prey to a cat and the others were abandoned by the adults after they were disturbed by a neighbour when she decided to cut the hedge where the robins were nesting.

Perhaps it is time we re-invigorated the belief of a curse befalling anyone causing the death of a robin, or otherwise I fear in the not too distant future the only place most of us will see our national bird is on a Christmas card.

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Feed the birds

As I write this the sun is shining, it's a balmy 10C outside and it's the end of January!! What on earth is happening to our weather? This time last year we had suffered five weeks of brutal snow and ice and that was all before the New Year.

So far this winter we have had about four frosts and plenty of wind and rain!! The swallows and swifts could have stayed in the country it's been so mild, nevertheless the subdued temperatures will have done wonders for our population of birds. Last winter was so harsh, but this year will allow them to recover the numbers lost and providing we don't get a late winter they should

hopefully flourish.

We are already seeing signs of birds starting to prepare for the breeding season. We have a pair of Bluetits paying a lot of interest in our nest box and the horse and dog hairs placed in an old fatball feeder is certainly going somewhere. The song thrush and the Blackbirds are also exceptionally active, hinting at the busy time ahead of them.

Spring is still a demanding time for birds even after a mild winter and providing good quality food really does give them a better chance of a successful breeding time. The more favourable foods to use are the smaller seed variety mixes, Sunflower Hearts, Black Sunflower Seeds. Avoid whole peanuts

(unless they are offered from a mesh type dispenser) and kitchen scraps like large bread chunks, both of these carry a choking risk to small birds.

Below is a Brief summary of the feeds to offer and ones to avoid

Safe to Offer: Sunflower Hearts
Black Sunflower Seeds; Suet pellets
Chopped small seed mixes
Dried mealworms
Nyjer Seed (loved by finches)
Soaked Raisins, currants etc
Avoid: Whole Peanuts;
Pieces of fat
Hard Bread leftovers

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Bradway Scouts on the Water

The last week-end in June every year sees a stretch of water at Rother Valley taken over for use by all the Scouts in Sheffield - an event known as Splashdown. This is always very popular with the young people, and there's always a huge turn-out.

At the lunch-time on the Saturday last year, one of the leaders spotted a 13-year-old girl with the Bradway contingent who had come along with her aunt, the mother of one of the Scouts, to help with the catering. Megan had not tried any of the water activities, and she seemed a little timid about asking. However, with not much coaxing she was kitted out with a kayak, a paddle and a buoyancy aid, and she spent an hour or so under supervision getting to grips with the basics of paddling.

Later that afternoon, Megan was flaked out in the shade of one of the few trees. It looked as if her exertions had been more taxing than had been expected. But then her aunt explained that Megan was recovering from chemo-therapy treatment, and she was especially susceptible to bright sunlight. This gave all of us, leaders and Scouts alike, pause for thought - that someone so young could be so stricken, but also that such courage could be shown to turn out with a bunch of strangers yet still have a go at a new and strenuous activity and be made to feel part of the gang. This is a big part

of what Scouting is about.

Later in the year, when the Scouts decided to have one last day of water activities before the boats went into store for the winter, they could not have known that their choice of October 1st would give them the warmest October day for decades. This time it was just the Bradway Scouts at Rother Valley, mixing with other boat users.

After an exhausting morning and part of the afternoon on the water, we were relaxing on the lake shore prior to packing up and heading for home when Frank was approached by a young family of middle-eastern appearance - father in full Arab-style kaftan, mother in hijab and three young daughters. Anyway the father asked in broken English where he could hire a boat for the whole family.

We doubted if Rother Valley would allow three girls under 6 to go in any of their craft, and pointed out that the father himself would not complete a boat trip without serious muck attaching itself to his immaculate tunic. He was, however, so keen to have a go that we offered to take him for a run out in the front seat of the two-man kayak.

As we paddled around, he introduced himself (a name none of us could get our tongue around) as being Libyan. The sun continued to shine, and none of the Scouts wanted another go in the two-man, so each of the two older girls was then taken for a quick paddle around and photo opportunity.

Afterwards, we explained to the father

that we were Scouts. He didn't understand this word. He didn't recognise the World Membership badge that we showed him. But when we tried explaining what it is that Scouts do, his face lit up and he said that young people from this movement had been very active in helping the many refugees created at that time in his homeland. So it was encouraging to read in the October/November issue of Scouting magazine, that our brief brush with Libya was echoed in the Chief Scout Bear Grylls' foreword, where he asks us not to forget "to salute all those incredible Libyan Scouts who took to the streets to help look after injured civilians".

This just reinforced one of the maxims of the Scout Movement, namely that we are a world-wide family.

The Scouts meet in the Scout Centre in the grounds of Bradway Primary School. Beavers aged 6 to 8 on Mondays at 6:15; Cubs aged 8 to 10 on Thursdays at 6:30; and Scouts aged 11 to 14 on Fridays at 7:30.

Frank Richardson

Newspaper Archive

The British Library has launched the British Newspaper Archive online. They have released many millions of pages already and the project, which is due to carry on for a further 10 years aims to make over 40 million pages from British newspapers available back to 1700.



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More local organisations:

Totley (M) Townswomen's Guild

The Guild meets at 10am on the third Tuesday of each month (except August) in Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall.

Feb 21st. Trundling with a caravan, part 2 by Ann Cresswell

Mar 20th. AGM followed by talk on Well Dressing by Mr & Mrs Thomas

Apr 17th. Story of the Sheffield Flood by Suzanne Bingham

There are also separate meetings of the Social Studies Group, the Choir, the Walking Group and the Scrabble Group.

New members and visitors are assured of a friendly welcome. For further information please contact Mrs Iris Rodgers, (Chairman) Tel: 236 8659 or Dorothy Murray (Secretary) Tel 235 1848, or come along and join us.

Tuesday Afternoon Group

Meets in the Parish Hall of the Church of St Peters, Greenhill at 2pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month.

Feb 28th. Collective Legal Solutions talk by Ms Janina Wyzykiewicz

Mar 13th. AGM

Mar 27th. Argentina & Chile talk by Mr Garton

Apr 10th. Community Policemen talk by Mr Ken Blake

Apr 24th. Open Meeting

New Members & visitors welcome. Annual subscription £10, visitors £1. Contact Mrs Sheila Holbrey 235 1670

St Peter's Church Greenhill

Feb 22nd - Ash Wednesday,

Eucharists at 10am and 7.30 pm

Feb 25th - Coffee morn 10am-12noon

Mar 18th - Mothering Sunday, All Age Sung Eucharist with guitar and organ accompaniment at 10am

Mar 24th - Coffee morn 10am-12noon

Apr 5th - Maundy Thursday,

Passover Eucharist 7.30 pm

Apr 6th - Good Friday, informal all age service at 10am and Good Friday Liturgy at 7.30 pm

Apr 7th - Easter Eve, Children's Easter workshop 10 am to 12.30 pm (ring Kjersti Olsen-Noble 07740 80790 for information) Service of Light at 7.30 pm

Apr 8th - Easter Day, All Age Sung Eucharist with guitar as well as organ accompaniment at 10am. No evening service

Apr 21st - Coffee morn 10am-12noon April 22nd Annual parochial church meeting after 10 am Sung Eucharist

May 12th - Horse race night 7pm

For more information about social events, telephone Carole Wattam 274 9661, Margaret Kohler 274 7203 or John Child 237 6577. For Church Hall bookings ring Michelle Hayes 237 7102.

For pastoral needs, telephone Father Harry Steele 327 3103.

Sunday Services: 8am Eucharist (said) 10am Sung Eucharist 5.30 for 6pm Worship and Word. Weekday services: Morning Prayer at 8.45am Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Eucharist 10 am on Wednesdays. Parish

Office (for enquiries about baptisms, weddings and other matters)-every Monday 7pm to 8.30pm

St Peter's is a Grade II listed building and is normally open for free visitor access on Fridays from 9am to 4pm. The Church will also be open from 9am to 12 noon on Saturdays 26 February, 25 March and 21 April.

Alternatively arrangements can be made to look round St Peter's at a mutually convenient time between 9am and 5pm on any day of the week by telephoning a key holders: Father Harry Steele 327 3103, Mrs Pat Burdett. 237 4513; Mr David Memmott. 237 4874; Mrs Gill Stern. 237 7794.

www.stpeters-greenhill.co.uk

S Yorkshire Ind History Society

Feb 20th. What does an archaeometallurgist do? Talk by Rod Mackenzie

Mar 20th. Water, weirs and wheels: preserving the past of Sheffield's industrial museums. Talk by John Hamshire. The twenty-first Dr Kenneth Barraclough Memorial Lecture. 5.30pm for 6pm, at the Holiday Inn Royal Victoria Hotel

Apr 16th. The technology of the country house. Talk by Marilyn Palmer

May 21st. The coal mines of Buxton. Talk by Alan Roberts

Events at Kelham Island Museum 7.30 pm, except where otherwise indicated.

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Weather in Bradway 2011

The Winter 2011 issue of the Bugle described some of the impact of the unusual weather of 2011 on our bird populations. Gardeners will be aware also that this has been a very dry year, especially in spring and autumn. Just how unusual was 2011 following the severe December 2010 and the cold winter of 2009/10?

Using information from weather stations at the City Museum, Bradway and Holmesfield, their readings indicate that the year started with weather conditions that we might expect with temperatures close to average, no snow falling, plenty of sunshine and only half the average rainfall. A great contrast with the previous month when December 2010 had been 4.6C cooler than average.

The coldest night of the year in Bradway was January 31st with - 4.4C, nothing like the - 8.8C recorded in December 2010. At least it meant winter did not seem as long or as cold as some feared. February fulfilled its name of "fill-dyke". It was dominated by south-westerly or westerly winds bringing mild temperatures and plenty of rain. Only four days had no rain at some time and the total of 100 mm was about 40% above average. Strong winds accompanied the heavy rainfall.

March began the phase of dry months, high pressure systems being frequent, blocking the normal progress of rain-bearing westerlies. Rain only fell on ten days in the month and amounts were always small. Days were sunnier and warmer than average but not noticeably cold at night as sometimes happened during the clear skies of high pressure.

Then came the summer-like month of April with daily maximum temperatures 5C above average and only four days with rain giving a total of 3.8 mm. The soil was rapidly drying out and affecting food supply for worm-eating birds. May continued the theme of warm dry months but was not as extreme as April. Rain fell on eighteen days though the monthly total of 44mm was well below average.

The three spring months produced a total of 59.8 mm at Sheffield Museum which was the driest spring on record, the previous driest was 1990 when 66.4 mm were recorded.

As we move into summer, temperatures reverted to average but rainfall still remained below average. Sunshine was slightly above average in June but dropped below average in July and August making it very much an average summer.

But then autumn came with almost a second summer, temperatures of all three months being about 2C warmer than average, and all drier than average making this season the 11th driest on record in Sheffield. October 1st was the second warmest day of the year in Bradway with a maximum temperature of 26.3C; a quite remarkable and prolonged Indian summer.

As threats of drought next year began,



The new flats taking shape on Twentywell Lane. There are 10 units with lifts and secure parking and guide prices in the £250-350,000 range.

the westerlies returned in December (it was the second most westerly month of the 139 year record) and so did the rain. It fell on most days often accompanied by strong winds. Temperatures were mild in the strong winds and the monthly average maximum in 2011 was 7.8C higher than in December 2010. Truly, a remarkable year.

Peter Smithson

Pop-up galleries

Two new exhibitions in Sheffield pubs reflect the current vogue for pop-up art galleries.

'Redhead at the Ruddy' features the many faces of artist Wildago's Pearl at the Rutland Arms in Brown Street until the 18th March.

At the same time a black and white photography exhibition featuring the work of Sheffield GP-turned-photographer Paul Schatzberger takes to the walls of the Cricket Inn, Totley, again until the end of March.



Wildago's Pearl at the Rutland Arms

Mickley Lane allotments

After long delays, work has started on creating 50 allotments off Mickley Lane, despite continuing protests from people living nearby and disabled residents at Mickley Hall. Concern has been expressed about extra traffic on the lane and the visual effect of the site, with the transition of views from a rural to an urban outlook.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in finding a suitable site, without the Council having to buy expensive land. Now it says the extra plots will help to meet the strong demand from people who want to grow their own fruit and vegetables.

Meanwhile more than 3,100 existing allotment holders face a small rent increase from April, then can expect to pay almost double from the following April as the council seeks to cut its subsidy. Allotment holders are also being required to switch from payment of rent partly in arrears to payment in advance, effectively a double whammy. Half-price discounts will be available for pensioners, disabled people, students and those on low incomes.

The effect of what is effectively a double rent payment in 2012 and a proposed subsequent rent increase of around 100% does not suggest that the city council is supporting the drive towards a greener and more sustainable lifestyle. It may just radicalise existing allotment holders and discourage a good few of the supposedly 2,400 people on the waiting list.

History Fair

The popular Sheffield and District Family History Fair is taking place on Saturday 21 April, 10am - 4pm at the Centre in the Park, Norfolk Heritage Park. Admission is free.