June / July 2017 Issue 51

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Welcome...

...to issue 51 of the Ecclesall Directory. For the many football fans in Sheffield it has been a season to remember with United getting

a record 100 points and winning promoted back to the Championship, not to mention the Wednesday fans who narrowly missed out on another Wemblev day out, still it was a great season. June and July are the two months fans must endure before football returns in August but the Sheffield summer does bring with it compensations in the form of various fetes, fayres and festivals. The annual Broomhill Festival returns on the 10th June and Dore Gala a month later, on the 8th of July so there's two notable dates for your diary. Congratulation to Friends of Porter Valley on a record number of visitors to the annual Duck Race in Endcliffe Park on Bank Holiday Monday. Over 9,000 people turned out to see the yellow toys make there way down the river.

Keep your letters and emails coming; we love to hear what you're up to.

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We are looking for someone to help us with the sales and marketing of the magazine. If you are looking for something different, which could fit around your other commitments then give Chris a call on 07809 172872.

To advertise in the directory please give us a call on **07809 172872**. Don't forget you can have your say on issues regarding what's going on in the area by e-mailing me at: chris@ecclesalldirectory.co.uk.

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Front cover photo: Sunday morning in Millhouses Park.

Ecclesall Directory

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Sheffield ICONS

The green and white police box on Surrey Street

Police boxes were first introduced in Britain by Chief Constable Frederick James Crawley. They first appeared in Sunderland in 1923 and when Crawley became Chief Constable in Newcastle upon Tyne two years later he was evidently so pleased by their efficacy that he introduced them there as well.

In the days when there were no police radios and no police cars they were designed to provide a contact point for police officers and their police station, preventing the need for bobbies to schlep back to HQ several times each day. Each box had a direct telephone link to the local police station and was freely available to members of the general public who required police assistance, which was particularly handy in the days when home telephones were not commonplace and a Nokia mobile was the stuff of a madman's dreams.

The idea soon caught on in other northern cities, Sheffield among them. Sheffield's police box system was introduced in October 1928 by Chief Constable Percy J Sillitoe (subsequently Chief Constable of Glasgow and Director General of MI5). The Sheffield boxes were sited in 120 locations all over the city. Each was equipped with a telephone (located in a small compartment accessible from the outside of the box) alongside a first aid kit, both of which were intended for public use. They were used by patrolling officers, who visited the boxes at hourly intervals to pass on information to staff at police stations and colleagues in other areas. Similarly, if the station had an important message for the patrolling officer a blue electric lamp positioned on the top of each box and controlled by the police station was lit up to attract the officer's attention, an idea evidently copied in modified form by Batman. Although they were only five foot square in size, the boxes housed a desk and stool where the patrolling officers could catch up on paperwork or simply have a tea break. The boxes also served as temporary gaols, holding anyone who had been arrested until the Mariah arrived to take them away. The police boxes remained in regular use until the 1960s when advances in communication technology and the increased use of police cars simply rendered them obsolete.

Of the city's 120 boxes the one at the corner of Surrey Street adjacent to the Town Hall is the sole survivor. Because of its rarity and historic value the box became a Grade II listed building on 15th February 2012. Sheffield's police box also has unique architectural interest. Since police boxes were installed by individual police forces rather than under the auspices of a national scheme, they tended to differ in appearance from force to force, with the Sheffield box having a segmental-arched roof, rather than the more familiar upright versions with shallow pyramidal roofs used by a number of other forces including the Metropolitan Police and, of course, Gallifreyan Timelord -Doctor Who.

In an age when it's all too easy to blindly modernise (the replacement of aesthetically pleasing red telephone kiosks or the filling in of the sadly missed hole in the road spring to mind) it's highly gratifying that the police box continues to proudly stand sentry, unvandalised and cherished, in our city centre, grateful one would hope that it hasn't been turned into a Starbucks or a Tesco Express.

In 2009, though, it did come close to being removed when South Yorkshire Police told the council they were going to donate it to the city's police and fire museum.

Fortunately council leader Paul Scriven came up with the idea of using it as a contact point for Sheffield's city centre ambassadors (and as a place for them to store brollies, maps and vacuum flasks) and in September 2009 the box was given a facelift and brought back to life.

"The police box was at risk of being taken away to a museum, which would have been a real shame," Scriven explained. "We saw it as an opportunity to create a city centre focal point for information, guidance and a friendly face. It is an ideal place for our city centre ambassadors, who are here to assist people, and I asked the police if we could use it for that." could use it for that."

At the time of writing the box, a living piece of history, is still in regular use by Sheffield's City Centre Ambassadors and long may it continue to stand where it has always stood in our city centre.



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Sewer Gas Lamps in Sheffield



In Victorian times biogas built up in sewers, which was not only dangerous, if not properly ventilated it tended to leak out and create unpleasant smells.

The problem of how to ventilate the sewers was solved in the late 19th Century (patented 1895) by the Birmingham inventor Joseph Edmund Webb who came up with an ingenious piece of Victorian engineering called The Webb Patent Sewer Gas Destructor Lamp.

The brilliance of his design was that the lamps could be powered partially by the gas from the sewers themselves. Methane and other gases could be collected in the roof of the sewer and drawn via a chimney into the lamp on the street above (usually installed at places where sewer gases were most likely to collect, such as at the tops of hills). Since the gas from the sewers was not concentrated enough to fully power the lamps, the lamps were "dual powered" by ordinary town gas supplies which heated the filament, based on Webb's own recommendations, up to between 600 to 800 °F (316 to 427 °C).

This intense heat then enabled the lamp to discharge the gas harmlessly above the heads of passers-by, dissipating odours and burning off the germs in the process. As a second useful byproduct the lamps provided a cheap and low maintenance way (they didn't need to be switched on and off either manually or by a timer) to keep streets lit up at night.

Webb's invention proved to be very popular in towns and cities throughout the country. Sheffield, for example, had eighty-four of them installed between 1915 and 1935; more than any other British city. The reason for their popularity here was simple - since sewer gas tended to build up in pockets, usually at high spots in the sewage network - with its hilly topography Sheffield created

more gas pockets than most other cities.

Of the 84 lamps twenty-two still survive in the city (London, by contrast. despite placing large orders for the lamps across the city, now has but one remaining just off the Strand, down the side of the world famous Savov). Nineteen of them are Grade II listed structures and although some are in poor condition some of them remarkably still work. Clearly Joseph Webb knew how to build things to last. There are several still standing in Ecclesall. Crookes and Broomhill.

How well do you know the area?



Where is this door and what does it say on it? Another tricky one, all I can say is it's a Dam shame the door doesn't open or it didn't for me!!

E-mail your answer to: chris@ecclesalldirectory.co.uk Every correct answer will receive a FREE Hidden Gems Book

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The answer will be in the next edition of the Directory.

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Puzzle Page June / July

Easy Suduko

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

HOLIDA

CHECK



SAFE CRACKER

This months safe cracker code number is **4458**. Find these four consecutive numbers within the directory to crack the safe. Post or e-mail the name of the advert that the code appears on and the first correct answer drawn out will win a selection of local history books worth £45. E-mail your

Safe Cracker competition entries to: chris@ecclesalldirectory.co.uk



Not surprisingly quiet a few of you knew the answer to the question in the last issue. The plaque is outside The Hallamshire Hospital. It says in latin -Art is Long Life is Short.



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The Lost Village of **Parkwood Springs**

ine Lost Village o by Barbara Warsop

This new book, "The Lost Village of

Parkwood Springs" by Barbara Warsop, takes a look at the history of an area that was lost during the slum clearances. Parkwood Springs was just a mile from the centre of Sheffield, hidden away behind the little railway arch on Bardwell Road. With stories from the residents that lived there between the 1920s and 1970s, the book is an oral history of a friendly community.

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Barbara said: "I was born on Parkwood Springs in 1938, all my family lived there. It was a lovely place to live with a wonderful community spirit. It has many war time stories, childhood memories and the games we played."

Barbara's book is available on: www.sheffieldbooks.co.uk or you can ring her direct to order a copy. Tel: 0114 2345993

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Wild about Crookes & Walkley

The local herons are wild about Walkley?

rarity in the Sheffield area. Numbers were driven down by the appalling state of the rivers through urban and industrial pollution, by pesticides (particularly the notorious DDT), and by merciless persecution. As a so-called 'top predator' (a fish eater), the heron occupies a similar place to us in the food-chain, and if they are being poisoned then we would be as well to watch out! The toxins which prevented heron eggs from hatching are present today in the body-fat of each and every one of us! This is a long-term hangover from highly intensive farming and indiscriminate pesticide use and we simply do not know what the effects on health are. The same thing wiped out the peregrine falcon, the common buzzard, the sparrowhawk, and the merlin; but today, with exception of the latter, they are back in the Crookes area and can be seen almost anywhere. The merlin, that diminutive falcon of moor and clough, has struggled to recover although the reasons are not clear. Our local birds used to migrate to coastal areas in winter and farmers there were using DDT long after others had given it up so maybe that was an issue. Of course, even if the merlin did pick up in

Once upon a time and in fact not that long ago, the grey heron was guite a

numbers, you would be unlikely to see one over Crookes and Walkley today; at least not since the old Crookes Moor was enclosed back in the 1700s.

But today, drop down the valley towards either Rivelin or to the Don and the recovery has been quite remarkable. Along either the main river or its lesser tributary, you will see kingfisher, cormorant, dipper, goosander, and heron and more. There is even a chance, albeit very slight, of a glimpse of one of our local otters – recently back in town! However, equally exciting is the possibility that you might simply see one of these

magnificent birds overhead or even in your garden. This is indeed exactly what happened to local resident Chris Percy of Walkley. Having spotted a grey heron hanging around the area high above Walkley, he was ready and prepared when the moment arrived. He got a couple of pictures of a heron in the nearby garden and then a series of dramatic photographs on a nearby chimney. Chris captured this magnificent predator of the waterways on film and emailed

'I managed to take this photograph about half an hour ago on a neighbouring chimney pot; taken from my living room window. I do not see the heron very often and when it does show up, it is usually very grey weather and will not photograph very well. For once, it had the sun on it!'

Look out for grey herons in the area especially in the late afternoon and even after dusk. They move between fishing and roosting sites and can be on the wing even after dark. Listen out too for their almost primeval, loud croak which is described in some field guides as a harsh 'snark'! This is repeated as they fly heavy-winged and slowly, almost ponderously like some ancient dinosaur-like



pterodactyl. Sometimes they pause and circle or perhaps glide effortlessly down into the valley below. The nowclean rivers and streams are packed with fish such as trout, grayling, minnows and more, and the ponds with their more sluggish waters hold abundant carp. Frogs provide an additional treat for a hungry heron too. Of course, if you have a garden pond with fish then expect a visit and it is wise to take precautions to safeguard your goldfish or Koi carp. In winter at least, many of the local herons drift down to the River Don to roost in tall trees and even on factory roof-tops. These roosts together with numerous old mill ponds and the clean water are what make Crookes and Walkley such a good place to spot the grey sentinel of riverside. Let me know if you have seen them.

Professor Ian D. Rotherham of Sheffield Hallam University is a researcher, writer and broadcaster on wildlife and environmental issues. He is contactable on ianonthewildside@ukeconet.org and you can follow 'Ian's Walk on the Wildside' blog via www.ukeconet.org for more information.



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Whittington

Hooldard Lean

) WOrk

Richard Whittington

Richard's career in Financial Services began in the late 1990's following a period in the Armed Forces and completion of a BA (hons) Business Studies Degree. Richard specialises in Retirement Planning, Investments, Taxation and Inheritance Tax Planning.

John Goddard

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John has worked within the Financial Services Industry since 1978 and became an Independent Financial Adviser in 1999. John provides solutions for clients in all areas of Financial Services specialising in Retirement Planning, Investments, Taxation & Trusts and Inheritance Tax Planning.

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Steve Shutt

Steve has worked in Financial Services since 1994 and became an Independent Financial Adviser in 2003. He joined the Whittington Goddard team in 2007. Steve works as a Financial Planner in all areas of Financial Services including Investments, Retirement Planning, Protection and Mortgages.



Simon Taylor

Simon's career in Financial Services began in 2000, he went on to become an Independent Financial Adviser in 2004 and ioined Whittington Goddard Associates in 2006. Simon specialises in Investment Advice. Retirement Planning, Protection, Mortgages and Equity Release.

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Is buy-to-let no longer such a good deal?

It wasn't all that long ago that investment in buy-to-let property was seen as a straightforward way to generate an income for yourself. However, recent changes made by the government mean that turning a profit through buy-to-let in today's property market is set to become much more difficult. Each case is individual, and the profitability of a property isn't as simple as looking at the price of the property and the amount of rent it generates each month, but for many, buy-to-let will soon no longer be the attractive investment opportunity it once was. So what has changed?

From the start of April 2017, the amount of tax relief that can be claimed by a landlord on the interest on their buy-tolet mortgage has fallen. Higher rate taxpayers used to be able to offset all of their mortgage interest against their rental income before they calculated how much tax they owed, but this year they will only be able to offset 75% of the interest. This percentage is then set to reduce again to 50% in 2018 and 25% in 2019. No interest at all will be eligible to be offset in 2020, with a 20% tax credit being introduced instead.

Not only does this mean that investors are set to face growing tax bills over the next few years, even if their income has not increased, but it also means that some taxpayers currently on the basic rate will be pushed into the higher rate tax bracket when their rental income is taken into account. It will also have an impact on means-tested benefits, with some set to lose out on these through the new system.

For existing landlords, there are options to soften the blow of the new tax arrangements. Some buy-to-let owners, particularly those in the priciest areas of the country, such as London, are selling their properties in order to reinvest in multiple properties elsewhere. As companies are not subject to the new tax laws, purchasing these properties through a company will prove to be a better choice financially even taking into account potential capital gains tax.

As residential mortgages are usually at a lower rate than buy-to-let mortgages, another option for landlords is to remortgage their main residence and use the money raised to reduce their buy-to-let mortgage. A buy-to-let offset mortgage is also possible, although this option will only be open to those who meet the eligibility criteria. However, the option that around two thirds of landlords have said they plan to go for is raising rent, with the average increase expected to be between 20% and 30%.



Angela Guylee

Angela has over 30 years' experience advising clients, the last 18 years as a Specialist Elderly Client Adviser. The main areas Angela gives advice on are Care Fees Planning, Equity Release, Investments and Inheritance Tax Planning. If you are a business owner, a professional, a successful high earner or retired with capital, our services could help you:

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SHEFFIELD FLOORING SOLUTIONS

Sheffield sixth former hosts masquerade ball to raise funds for Diabetes UK

16 year-old, Ellie Channer has raised almost £5000 for Diabetes UK and a local hospital trust in order to help others with the condition.

Ellie, from Sheffield, was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes in April last year when she was 15 years old and about to start her GCSE's. After receiving lots of support following her diagnosis, Ellie wanted to give something back to help other people living with the condition.

Ellie said "my life was turned upside down in just one week, I feel if I didn't have all the amazing support and help from the staff, I would never have been able to carry on, as I was unaware of what diabetes actually was" Type 1 diabetes develops when the insulin-producing cells in the body have been destroyed and the body is unable to produce



insulin. It is treated with daily insulin doses and is the most common from of diabetes diagnosed in children. Symptoms include: tiredness, weight loss, extreme thirst and going to the toilet more frequently.

The 16-year old started sixth form later that year and also attends local theatre school Razzmatazz, where she was tasked with the organisation of a fundraising activity. Ellie said: "I performed at a masquerade ball early last year with Razzmatazz, as one of the many opportunities I get offered. Being at the event made me think that one day I would love to host such an amazing event myself. So, as I wanted to organise something to give back, I combined the two things and decided to organise my very own ball".

Ellie gathered support from local businesses who donated raffle prizes and their services to help run the event, which took place at Baldwins Omega in Brincliffe Hill on the 10th of March.

Her mum Diane who works at Sheffield Flooring Solutions said: "I am so proud of all Ellie has achieved. The success of the event is all down to her hard work and dedication to supporting others living with diabetes".

Ellie has already started to organise her next charity party, which will take place on the 17th of November at the Mercure hotel in Sheffield's city centre.

The money raised from the first event will be split between Diabetes UK and a project run, which is to send young children who are living with diabetes on a residential holiday.

Emily Honey, Regional Fundraiser for Diabetes UK, said: "we are extremely grateful for all the hard work Ellie has put into this event, to raise awareness of diabetes and support others living with the condition. The money raised will help us realise our vision of a world where diabetes can do no harm".

Sheffield Flooring Solutions were very proud to help and support Ellie and will continue to support her in the future. Anyone wishing to sponsor Ellie with her next event, please contact her via email: ellie.channer@hotmail.co.uk.



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MOT will receive their own free 'Leroy the Lion' plush toy. Leroy will be loved by everyone as he sits on your dashboard guarding your vehicle whilst you are away. We are also offering a special prize – A £50 National Trust Gift Card to three customers who posts the best holiday photo of Leroy this summer on to our Facebook page. He may be crossing London Bridge, relaxing in a deckchair on Fistral Beach or enjoying a beer in a café on the banks of the Seine. Full details of how to enter will accompany Leroy when we hand him over to you after your visit.

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Abbeydale & Ecclesall Road Books



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Abbeydale Road and Abbeydale Road South leads south-west from the suburb of Highfield to the railway bridge over the Dore and Chinley railway, before becoming Baslow Road. The road begins at the junction with London Road near the former Royal Hotel public house and this book follows its history along its four mile route. It passes through several districts which are all part of the Abbey Dale or Valley. One of these areas is Beauchief and its Abbey after which Abbeydale is named.

The River Sheaf flows through the dale and you will see the industries that have grown up beside it. You will also find parks, woods, halls, schools, churches, past railway stations and many other places of interest.



This is an informative enjoyable photographic record of Ecclesall Road. Its rich diversity is well covered and brings back happy memories of my youth - travelling along one of Sheffield's finest roads. Certain stretches are still very recognizable but others near the city centre have changed dramatically. This A4 landscape book not only has many photos from the early 19th century but some as late as the 1980's. It is lovely to be able to follow the route from Whirlow - seeing the changes along the way to the city centre. **These excellently produced books have many unseen photographs and location maps.**

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Broomhill Festival - 10th - 18th June. The Broomhill Festival is a local community celebration held every June, which brings Broomhill together, raising money for local charities. Events take place in pubs and shops around Broomhill, including musical entertainment and readings. The festival culminates in an exciting and vibrant garden party on St Mark's Green. **Eroica Britannia Bike Ride** - The Bakewell Showground, Bakewell, 16-18th June, a true British spectacle. Unique bike tour, ridden on ancient 'bone shaking' roads using obsolete bikes.

Nether Edge Farmers Market - takes place every quarter in the streets around the old Nether Edge Market Place. It is much more than a market with a varied programme of live entertainment which has included morris dancers, streetdancers, school choirs and bands, local drama groups, Mexican and clog dancers, skiffle bands, local singers and instrumentalists. Next event is on Sunday 18th June.

Crosspool Festival - 23th June - 2rd July - Crosspool Forum is hosting a week long festival of fun & entertainment beginning the last week in June, with the Summer Fayre scheduled for Saturday 1st July. **Beer & Banger Comedy Night at Whirlow Hall Farm Trust** - Sat 24th June - Relax in our barn and enjoy an evening of side splitting comedy! Enjoy the city's best real ales and the famous Whirlow BBQ. Ring the events office on 0114 235 2678.

Music In The Gardens at Sheffield Botanical Gardens - Thur 29th June - Sun 2nd July. A mixture of local and national talent take to the stage. THE ZOMBIES - THURS. THE BOOTLEG BEATLES - FRI. 10CC - SAT. NIGHT AT THE MOVIES - SUN.

Ecclesall Infant School, Summer Fete - Saturday 1st July - 11am to 3pm.

The Hare & Hatter's Wonderland Walk. Join the Hare, the Hatter and St Luke's on Sunday 2nd July in Ecclesall Woods for the most imaginative 5k sponsored walk of the summer to raise vital funds for our care. Cliffhanger 2017 - Sheffield city centre will be transformed in to a playground for outdoor adventure. The UK's biggest climbing festival is back in Sheffield from Friday 7th to Sunday 9th July. Free for everyone. Dore Gala at Dore Recreation Ground, Townhead Road - Sat 8th July - 2pm.

Silverdale School - Car Boot Sale - Sunday 9th July, £1 entry, starts at 11 o'clock.

Sharrow Vale Market on Sharrow Vale Road. Sun 16th July - 12 to 4.pm. 80 stalls provide an array of products. Sutton Classic Car Show - Sun 16th July 10am - 4pm. Sutton Cum Lound Village Green, opposite The Gate Inn. Tramlines at Various Venues in Sheffield - The annual music festival returns for 2017. Fri 21st - Sun 23rd July.



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What's On June / July

Events and Activities at Ecclesall Library

Coffee Morning - 1st & 3rd Thursday in the month 10.00am - 12.00 noon.

Book Groups - Adults

Monday Book Group -1st Monday in the month 5.15pm After Lunch Group -3rd Thursday in the month 2.00pm Friday Book Group - Last Friday in the month 1.30pm

Reading Groups - Children

Book Chat - for 12 - 15 years old. 3rd Thursday in the month 3.45pm

Babytime - Every Thursday 2.00pm - 3.00pm (During term time)

Toddlertime - Third Friday of the month 2.00pm - 3.00pm (During term time)

Activities for children and young people (Please ask the library staff for more information about these groups) Storytime - for children 3-5 years old.

Monday 2.00pm - 2.45pm. Term time only.

Library Opening Times - Monday 10am - 5.30pm Tuesday Closed, Wednesday 10am - 5.30pm, Thursday 10am - 5.30pm, Friday 10am - 6.30pm, Saturday 10am - 4pm

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