2016 Gala news
On Saturday 18th June, Ravenfield held its third gala on Jubilee Field. A week of heavy rain saw the field in poor condition, but the decision was made to go ahead. Our local farmers answered the call for many loads of straw to be spread over the waterlogged ground. Saturday morning brought better weather, even some sunshine. The Mayor, Councillor Lyndsay Pitchley, opened the gala at 12.30.

A variety of entertainment was on offer including the popular climbing wall, laser quest, and football games. Dance groups and a steel band provided the music during the day. Early evening saw an open mic session with youngsters showcasing their talents, followed by the band Catch 23 who played until the end of the gala.

This year Ravenfield Primary Academy shared the gala with us, running many stalls and games to fundraise for the school.

Ravenfield Women’s Institute (WI) sold homemade jams and pickles while St James’ Church ran a tea and cake stall raising funds for the restoration of the church clock.

Sunday was clear-up day with over 20 volunteers helping to get the field back to a good condition.

Our thanks go to everyone involved with the gala for their hard work. We hope you all enjoyed the event.

Neil Pearson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Am</th>
<th>Pm</th>
<th>Evening</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Baby Sensory</td>
<td>2 sessions until 2.30pm</td>
<td>Rotherham Lace-makers – 1st, 3rd and 4th Mondays (but not Bank Holidays) 7pm to 9pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>The Events Group</td>
<td>1st week in the month</td>
<td>WI Craft Club 1st week 7pm-9pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Art Club 2nd &amp; 4th weeks 7pm-9pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Ravenfield Old Peoples Social Fund (Pensioners) 1st week in the month coffee morning 10.00am,</td>
<td>Indoor Bowling Every week 7pm to 9pm.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Ravenfield Toddler Group –</td>
<td>Friendship Group, 1st &amp; 3rd week</td>
<td>Parish Council meeting 2nd week 6.30pm onwards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Every week 9.15am to 11.15am,</td>
<td>1.30pm to 3.30pm.</td>
<td>Women’s Institute 3rd week 7pm to 9pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>except in school holidays.</td>
<td>Craft Group, 2nd &amp; 4th week 1.30pm to 3.30pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Sewing Group</td>
<td></td>
<td>Indoor Bowling Every week 7pm to 9pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Every week 10am to 3pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>Available for private hire,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>birthday parties etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Available for private hire,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>birthday parties etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chair’s Report 2015-2016

This is my third stint as Chairman. I took over from Jill Jesson in line with our policy of rotating the Chair to involve every councillor. Jill continues to work hard for the Parish Council (PC) but one of her finest legacies is the litter pickers initiative. Up to 24 parishioners regularly pick litter in their designated area to keep our village tidy. Well done to all of them.

We have kept the precept at the same level for several years. This year will see a slight increase due to a reduction in the Council Tax grant passed to us by RMBC and our wish to pursue some projects. Even with the increase the precept is effectively the same as it was 10 years ago.

The Ravenfield Parish Council website is now up and running. To visit the site go to www.ravenfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk and hopefully this will help you to keep up to date with our work. Special thanks to Alan Scholes and Jill Jesson for their hard work in setting it up. A newsletter was delivered to every household in the village during the end of 2015. It involves a lot of effort but we shall endeavour to produce one every year.

South Yorkshire Police have told us they will no longer be attending Council meetings due to budget cuts. Information on crime in the village is now available on line at www.police.uk although the data is sometimes a couple of months old. We continue to work with the police through other channels to deal with issues raised by parishioners such as speeding traffic and illegal off-road bikes and quads.

In May 2015 there were Parish Council elections as well as the General Election. Only seven people put their names forward. Coincidentally this is the number of positions needing to be filled on the Parish Council and therefore all were elected without the need for a ballot – thus saving the Parish money! Three new councillors joined us – Stephanie Hamshaw, Jayne Wilson and Brian Callear. Sadly Jayne has had to resign due to other commitments. We thank her for her enthusiastic contributions to the Council. Val Burgess was among the outgoing councillors. It would be remiss not to pay special thanks to her. Val had served on the Council for 16 years and even now she remains a stalwart of the Events Group. Ravenfield owes her a great debt of gratitude.

During the last year we have purchased a defibrillator. It is placed on the front wall of the Cavalier Public House. Many thanks to Alison and Betty at the pub for their cooperation.

Many of you will be aware that Jim Manson at the Post Office would like to retire and has been trying to sell the business for several years. Because the business won’t sell he has applied for and received outline planning permission to build four bungalows on the site. It was hoped that the PO part of the operation could be transferred to the Ravenfield Stores, but because of security issues this is not possible. Our MP John Healey is in contact with the Post Office about the situation, but no solution has been found and it looks likely that we are going to lose our village PO.

Parish Councillors have represented the village at meetings of the Yorkshire Local Council Association and at Area Assemblies. Whenever and wherever possible we have lobbied on issues concerning our village. On the subject of the Parish Hall, the Council has decided to increase the charges for using the hall. We have tried to keep these at a reasonable level, but they need to more closely reflect inflationary running costs and comparable market rates.

I believe there is a good spirit in the village that is reflected by the Parish Council. My thanks to all my fellow councillors and to the Clerk (Alan) and Caretaker (Sarah).

David Rowley
Ravenfield Rubbish Rascals

Our litter-picking group decided on this name to give us a greater sense of identity. This year we have held two community litter-picks clearing large amounts of rubbish and litter from Silverwood. We’ve had donations of high viz vests, litter pickers and bags from both MacDonalds and B & Q. We have also been given a splendid barrow which holds many more bags of rubbish than we can carry. It is a great help. The group has met socially on several occasions for drinks and a chat at the Ravenfield Arms. Individual Rubbish Rascals clear litter from local streets, car parks, the turning circle, the Jubilee Field, and other play areas. If you would like to join this scheme, please contact Jill Jesson. j.s.jesson@gmail.com

The Council would like to say a big ‘Thank You’ to these people for their regular litter patrols. If you ever see litter thrown from a passing car please report full details to Streetpride on 01709 336003 who will take action. Many people have been prosecuted for littering which helps to get over the message that it is not acceptable behaviour. J. Jesson

A Plea To Ravenfield Dog Owners/Walkers from our Poo Fairy

There are many lovely areas to exercise our four legged friends in Ravenfield and many of us enjoy this pastime. However, some dog owners are not clearing up after their pet, so that is where I step up. I am the Ravenfield Poo Fairy, not a title I ever aspired to, but nonetheless, it’s the one I now have. I collect the poo that others leave behind and, believe me, there is plenty. The worst month was March when I collected over 90 bags of poo. Since then, I have regularly collected over 30 bags each month. Sometimes it is already bagged, but left by the path, or in a bush, or up a tree... Yuk! Please would everyone strive to keep our village clean and pick up after your pooch! Thank you to those who do.

Stephanie Hamshaw

Problems the community has asked the Parish Council to address

Motor-bikes have been causing annoyance on local lanes and woodlands. The Rights of Way Dept. used a logger to detect the location and number of bikes involved and are working with the Police to create an action plan. A metal kissing gate has been fitted on Pingle Lane byway where it changes to a footpath to deter bikers and increase safety for walkers. Please continue to report nuisance bike activity to the Police line 101 or online service.

The Community Speed Watch was launched on Thursday 4th August. Our Police Community Support Officer, Steve Inglis showed volunteers how to use a police speed gun to record excessive speeding at several locations in the village. A number of offenders were recorded and received letters from the police to help make them aware of their actions. The project is on-going and may involve work with children from the Primary Academy. New anti-speeding signs have been painted on the road in Old Ravenfield.

To decrease traffic congestion on Moor Lane North at school opening and closing times, additional zig-zag lines have been painted and extra safety barriers are to be fitted on the footpath in front of the school. Parking of vehicles on both bends is still causing congestion issues, especially in the afternoons.

Jayne Wilson

Jubilee Field problems

Every year the Jubilee Field becomes water-logged in wet weather resulting in children playing on roads rather than the field. Residents brought this to the attention of the PC. The PC surveyed 122 people who lived near the field to ask if they would like the Council to drain the field and add an all weather path to make it possible to exercise and play throughout the year. 96% of those asked approved this plan. People were also asked if they thought it a good idea to add a fitness trail later. 92% of people thought this would be a good investment. The council is now finding out how much the projects would cost and working out how best to fund the development.

J. Jesson
Reports from Clubs and Societies

Ravenfield Old People's Social Fund (ROPSF)

In 1945 a number of caring residents formed the Ravenfield Old People's Social Fund. The aim was “To provide a treat for the elderly”. Dances, whist drives, and coffee mornings were organized. Many of the residents and business people of the then small village donated prizes for raffles. Most important, these generous people gave the use of their homes for meetings and their valuable time to organize fund raising events. At present we have 140 members - the eldest being Mrs Honor Wilson who is 100 years old.

To raise funds we have a tote open to all Ravenfield Residents over the age of 18 years. Please join our tote which is drawn every Wednesday, with winning numbers posted in the Post Office, the Parish Hall, the Ravenfield Stores and the Elizabeth Parkin Centre. It costs 50p per week, which is collected monthly, to select five numbers from 1-36. Any committee member will give you a membership form. Spend your winnings wisely.

Regardless of age, come along to our coffee mornings which have a Bring and Buy cake stall and a raffle. They are on the 1st Wednesday of every month in the Parish Hall. Our programme this year has been busy and included a pie and pea lunch, with entertainment by Barbara Dean. We enjoyed an outing to the lovely clean town of Llandudno which has a long promenade and lots of seating. You will find a variety of stalls along the length of the pier. We enjoyed the Punch and Judy show, and thought that you can’t beat fish and chips at the seaside.

On a beautiful sunny day we went to Whitby. You would never believe it but a good number of the Golden Oldies climbed 199 steps to view the Abbey. You need to visit the smoke-house near the abbey steps to buy real smoked kippers to bring home. In September, we had dinner at the Ravenfield Arms with entertainment by John McKenzie. The Grand Christmas Raffle was launched in October. Please support by donating a prize or buying tickets. At Christmas we are to have a party in the Parish Hall. The committee has asked Pantry Green of the Red Lion Yard, Rotherham, to cater. Entertainment will be provided by the Sally Glennon Duo from Thrybergh.

This newsletter gives us the opportunity to thank our past chairman Mr Sid Cooper for all his hard work. When Chairman, he had a collecting round and all his clients were very fond of him, looking forward to a chat when he visited. Let me say, no one, but no one, escaped Sid’s Christmas raffle book.

Our team now consists of: Mr Geoff Outram, Mrs Mary Waller who has been a member of the committee for 29 years, Mrs Margaret Wagstaff the treasurer, and Mrs Murial Monks, the secretary. The tote collectors and other committee members are Mrs Betty Mountford, Mrs Maureen McKinnon, Mr Vic Atkins, Mrs June Agar and Mrs Christine Beeley.

Look at the Parish notice board for our news, which is just outside the Post Office. M. Monks

Wickersley All-Stars entertained us at the Gala. Book for their BARNUM 8-12 Nov. at the Civic.

Members of the Bramley Townswomen's Craft Group who meet in our Parish Hall
Rotherham Lace-makers...
The Rotherham Lace-makers meet in Ravenfield Parish Hall every Monday evening, 7 – 9, (except 2nd Monday in the month and Bank Holidays), from mid-January through to the end of November.

We are a very friendly and informal group of ladies who mostly make lace, crochet or tatting, guided by our very knowledgeable teacher, Mairi. As you can imagine we also do a lot of chatting.

We welcome new members, both those who wish to begin learning the skills, and those who have not made lace for a while and would like help in renewing their skills. You are very welcome to pop in anytime to see us.

Wendy Snook, 07790 637382
jwendysnook@mac.com

Ravenfield Indoor Bowling Club
Why not come and have a look at our twice weekly bowling club? You don’t have to play if you don’t want, just sit and watch the matches and have a cuppa with us all. Both ladies and gents over 16 are welcome in fact many of our best players are ladies. It’s a great game and it offers an evening of gentle exercise and good banter. It’s free to come and watch and if you fancy having a go, bring a clean pair of flat shoes or slippers and we will lend you a set of bowls and show you how to play.

We are a member of the local friendly indoor bowling league and play matches against several local teams over the autumn and winter, so it gets you out and about in the colder weather instead of sitting watching the telly.

We meet at the Parish Hall on Birchwood Drive every Wednesday and Friday at 6.45pm. If you need any more information phone me on 01709 545078 or mobile 07973 938172

Neil McKinnon

Ravenfield Events Group 2016
The Group has not been as active this year as in the past, due to the lack of interest in our activities on behalf of the parishioners. It is very disappointing and frustrating when the hard work of members of the group (and some very kind husbands) is not recognised by attendance. One choir concert was cancelled as only six tickets were sold and our charity evening (when we present money raised by raffles to a local charity) was only attended by 14 members of the public.

Fortunately, singer Helen Beck is such a true professional she gave those people present a wonderful evening of varied music and song.

This summer we were unable to create a well dressing due to a lack of work venue. The annual beetle drive did take place in February, and in November 2015 the Rother Vale Community Band gave a wonderful concert and will be with us this year on November 26th. Come along and not only hear the band, but see the young people who are training with it to become first class musicians.

In September, four people came and told us the stories behind the Victorian Institution of Southwell Workhouse, Notts, now owed by the National Trust. We hope it will have tempted some of you to come along to an informative evening and a pie and pea supper.

Our group is now depleted due to age, illness and the loss of two ladies who have sadly passed away. The few of us who carry on find it challenging to provide regular and interesting events so your input would be appreciated. If you have ideas for entertaining an audience we will consider them. These events are about bringing the ever-increasing community together and making Ravenfield a pleasant and interesting place to live.

Val Burgess
Reports from Clubs and Societies (Cont’d)

Ravenfield Women’s Institute. 2016 saw the formation of a new branch of the WI in Ravenfield. Tasting French cheeses and wines; making sweets, jams and chutneys for Ravenfield Gala; decorating Easter eggs and tote bags; jazzing up jam jars; designing badges and logos; visiting Renishaw Hall and Rotherham Town Hall, learning about self-defence, aromatherapy and photography are a few things that the newly formed WI has done this year as well as socialising.

Ladies compete in decorating cakes; creating something chocolaty; creating book marks; arranging flowers in egg cups; designing edible necklaces; taking photographs; making Christmas decorations.

Our WI crafters group meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month at the Parish Hall – 7.00-9.00pm – crocheting; knitting; sewing; and card making are some of the crafts that take place. Non WI members are welcome – the cost is £2 to cover costs. As Ravenfield WI grows, more groups will be formed and more events taking place.

We have 80 WI members, not just from Ravenfield, and many new friendships have been made. We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Parish Hall. You could come as a guest @ £5.00 to see if it suits you - and you will be made very welcome. Membership is up for renewal in January (£39 a year). Although we have a small waiting list, there may be vacancies. For more information about our WI or to add your name to our waiting list please contact Sue Finch (secretary) at ravenfieldwi@outlook.com

What your Parish council does for you

Ravenfield Parish Council is a group of unpaid volunteers. It acts as a link between villagers and organisations such as Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) and the police. The Council meets on the second Thursday of every month except August at 6.30 in the Parish Hall. All residents are welcome to attend our meetings and to let us know about issues that concern them.

Ravenfield Parish Council provides the following for the benefit of residents and:

- works with RMBC to improve the environment in Ravenfield, and find out about plans for the local area
- liaises with the Police to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- supports local residents with issues of concern even if we cannot control all outcomes
- consults with RMBC about local planning applications
- provides a Parish Hall which is available for hire
- provides small grants to local groups
- organises local floral displays
- looks after recreational areas incl. a children’s play area, a football pitch & the Jubilee Field
- gives you information about local facilities and events through the Ravenfield website.

www.ravenfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Feedback & items for inclusion can be sent to the Clerk or Jill Jesson j.s.jesson@gmail.com

Some ideas to help your parish:

- avoid mowing areas where the Council have planted bulbs for the enjoyment of all
- pick up after your dog, especially on the Jubilee Field and other areas where children play
- park on drives and roads not grass verges & avoid driving on footpaths to turn round
- do not damage trees in communal areas, planted for the enjoyment of all residents.
- get pupils to walk to and from school to keep them healthy and prevent traffic congestion.
Local Charities

Two Ravenfield charities have origins which date back to a will made in 1641, when several local people left the income from some of their lands to a group of local charities.

If you know of anyone who meets the criteria, please encourage them to apply for a small grant.

The Ravenfield Charity

The Ravenfield Charity is administered by a group of trustees, to provide for the needy of Ravenfield. Any one with limited finances who is suffering hardship and needs to make an essential purchase may apply in writing to be considered for a grant. Applications are considered on merit, and unsuccessful candidates may apply in future years.

Applications should be sent to:

The Secretary,
3 Hall Mews,
Ravenfield, Rotherham,
S65 4PW

You may apply at any time of year, and the trustees meet in March and September to consider such requests.

The Ravenfield Educational Foundation

- Are you aged between 18 and 25 years?
- Have you lived in Ravenfield for over 3 years?
- Do you intend taking up Further Education?

You could apply for a small grant from the foundation. To do this, send a letter of application stating:

- Your age
- What course you intend to follow
- The name and address of the educational establishment to be attended
- The names of two referees, with their letters, to support your application.

The Secretary,
3 Hall Mews,
Ravenfield, Rotherham.
S65 4PW

Applications are considered at the end of September.

News from St. James’ Church

Ravenfield St James’ Church has seen significant changes this year. The Reverend Canon Jane Bolton retired in May after five busy years ministering to the parishes of Ravenfield, Braithwell and Hooton Roberts. Although there will be no direct replacement, the Reverend Peter Hughes has kindly agreed to look after these parishes as well as his home parish of Wickersley. This has meant changes including earlier times for Sunday services, a small price to pay for his generosity.

The Church continues to play an important part in village life. As well as the regular Sunday services, it provides the setting for our happy times at baptisms and weddings, and our sad times at funerals. As part of trying to make the church more accessible, Saturday coffee mornings are continuing throughout the summer.

At the Ravenfield Gala, the church ladies served countless teas, coffees and cakes, despite the mud. The main focus of fundraising efforts over the last few years has been the project to install mains water and a toilet. This was completed successfully at the end of last year, and so there is a new project now being researched. The Church clock, which is very rare because it has only ever had one hand, is in need of restoration work to the dial and maintenance of the mechanism. All possible sources of funding grants are being explored, and any fundraising activities will contribute to the project.

David Finch
Police Contact Numbers
Safer Neighbourhood Team:
01709 832422
Non Emergency Police: 0110
Motor Bike Nuisance: 01709 832444

If you see fly-tipping please report it to
Streetpride 336003

If you would like to join the local litter-picking team please contact
Jill Jesson on j.s.jesson@gmail.com

Useful Contact Numbers
RMBC Main Switchboard: 01709 382121
Streetpride (RMBC): 01709 336003
(information on street cleaning, maintenance & environmental issues)

Key Choices (RMBC): 01709 336005
(information on letting of Council properties)

Revenues and Benefits (RMBC): 01709 336006 (information on Council Tax and Benefit entitlement)

Council Housing Repairs (RMBC): 01709 336009

Ravenfield Parish Council Accounts
Year Ended 31st March 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Year Ending 31st March 2015</th>
<th>Year Ending 31st March 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balances brought forward</td>
<td>£59,480</td>
<td>£55,774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(+) Annual Precept</td>
<td>£34,538</td>
<td>£34,538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(+) Total Other Receipts</td>
<td>£7,994</td>
<td>£7,059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(-) Staff Costs</td>
<td>£12,706</td>
<td>£12,541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(-) Loan interest /Capital Repaid</td>
<td>£5,571</td>
<td>£5,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(-) Total Other Payments</td>
<td>£27,961</td>
<td>£22,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(=) Balances Carried Forward</td>
<td>£55,774</td>
<td>£57,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Cash and Investments</td>
<td>£56,514</td>
<td>£52,536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Fixed Assets</td>
<td>£351,915</td>
<td>£353,185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Borrowings</td>
<td>£50,165</td>
<td>£47,001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above accounts were subject to internal and external audit with no issues raised and were accepted and approved by the Council.

The Council continues to manage its financial affairs prudently.

Who’s Who
MP: John Healey 01709 875943
MEP: Linda McAvan 01709 875665
Address of both
79 High Street, Wath-upon-Dearne
Rotherham S63 7QB

Rotherham Borough Councillors
Silverwood Ward 14:
Ann Russell 01709 703432
Steve Marles 01709 255966
Alan Napper 01709 548768

Ravenfield Parish Council:
Ravenfield Parish Hall
Birchwood Drive
Ravenfield S65 4PT
Telephone: 01709 549417

www.ravenfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

Ravenfield Parish Councillors:
David Finch (Chair)
Neil Pearson (Vice Chair)
Brian Callear
Stephanie Hamshaw
Jill Jesson
David Rowley

Clerk to the Parish Council: Alan Scholes
01709 544371