Local Hero Climbs for Charity

One of Ravenfield’s more elderly residents, Mrs. Betty Mountford, was born in Thrybergh, but has lived in Ravenfield since 1951 with her husband Bill. Together they spent much of their time walking or riding a tandem bike, camping, staying in bed & breakfasts or touring in their campervan all over the British Isles. They enjoyed adventures in Europe as well, all planned and executed without mobile phones, satellite navigation or online booking facilities!

Sadly, Bill passed away three years ago but Betty was determined to make the best of it and with the help of good friends and plenty of personal courage she has become actively involved with a number of local groups including the Ravenfield Events Group, the Indoor Bowls Club and the Bramley Townswomen’s Guild.

In 2017 Betty reached 90 years old and, decided she would like to celebrate by walking up Pen-y-gent, one of the famous Yorkshire Three Peaks. This trip was organised by another Betty, the landlady of the Cavalier. It was decided to ask people to sponsor Betty Mountford to raise money for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

Twelve of Betty’s friends accompanied her on the ascent.

The climb to Pen-y-gent, started and finished in Horton-in-Ribblesdale, a walk of six and a half miles with a vertical rise of 555 yards. The weather was superb and Betty showed steely determination with goat-like climbing ability in scrambling up and over the rock escarpments. Others were more nervous of the obstacles, but all finally succeeded. Betty arrived to much applause and cheers before being lifted up and plonked on top of the trig point for photos and absolute proof of her achievement! Well done that lady! Her efforts raised £850 for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

Michael Higgs

Ravenfield Park

A great deal has happened at the Park since the last newsletter including adding new fish to the ponds and hosting a film company. Little owls, tawny owls, a sparrow hawk and a kingfisher have all been seen regularly over the past year. During the winter months, much conservation work has been done, felling diseased and overcrowded trees, and recently clearing excess pondweed from some of the lakes. Many wild flowers have been planted which will add colour to the park from spring to autumn.

Open Palm Films Ltd filmed part of their latest production at the Park. Called ‘Pond Life’ it was directed by Bill Buckhurst (‘Sweeney Todd’ on Broadway) and adapted by playwright Richard Cameron from his play of the same name. Set in a quiet mining village near Doncaster in 1994, the story follows a group of young friends who embark on a night-time fishing expedition that none of them will ever forget. The carp anglers forfeited five days fishing to allow filming to take place. Experts at the club helped with tackle and ‘know how’, advising on fishy matters, at times in the middle of the night and in the pouring rain. It will be some time before editing is completed and the film released. Watch out for news in the local press.

Martin Read (seen here with director, Bill Buckhurst)
Ravenfield Parish Council Chairman's Report
2016/17

This has been my first year as Chairman, and it has turned out to be a somewhat eventful year. I took over from Councillor David Rowley and I would like to thank him and the other members of the Council for their on-going help and support.

The Council has decided on a small increase in the precept for 2017/18. There has been a further reduction in the Local Government Grant and we would like to maintain our financial reserves at their current healthy position. The Parish Hall has been well used, both for regular weekly and monthly sessions and for one-off bookings. We have reviewed the hall hire charges and implemented small increases in the very reasonable rates. I would like to thank our caretaker, Sarah Walker, for looking after the Hall and being prepared to turn her hand to almost anything.

South Yorkshire police no longer attend Parish Council meetings due to their lack of resources, but we continue to monitor local crime statistics via the national police website and we can see that there are no significant trends either upwards or downwards in reported crime in Ravenfield. The Council continues to work with the police to address issues of concern to residents, including off-road motorbikes ridden illegally through local woods, traffic speed, accidents in the village, and irresponsible parking outside the school. A Community Speed Watch group has been formed with members of the Parish Council in conjunction with South Yorkshire Police. A training session was held at which members were shown how to use a hand-held speed camera. Disappointingly there has been no further progress in monitoring traffic speeds in Ravenfield.

One issue with a potential impact on Ravenfield was the Government's decision to change the route for HS2, which will now pass close by the village and many residents' properties. This will be a major engineering project which will inevitably cause disruption over its years of construction, and may have a significant impact on residents in terms of noise, traffic and possible adverse effects on the environment. Councillors attended HS2 information events and invited Bramley HS2 Action Group to put its point of view to an open meeting at the Parish Hall. We hosted an information meeting and drop-in session at the Parish Hall for residents wishing to respond to the consultation announced by the government and we have responded as a Council opposing the proposed route change. Unfortunately this has had no effect.

In November, Alan Scholes, Clerk to the Council, was taken ill and sadly passed away on Boxing Day. Alan had been Clerk for 13 years. I would like to take the opportunity to pay tribute to all the hard work and dedication that Alan put into his work over the years. He was a true servant of the community, not only at Ravenfield but also at Thrybergh, where he had been a Parish Councillor for many years. Alan's short illness and death left the Council in a difficult position, but fortunately Sue Finch stepped into the breach and has been standing in as acting Clerk since Christmas. I have to declare an interest as she is my wife, but I would like to express the Council's appreciation for everything that she has done. She has given more than 100% to the role and has brought the Council back onto an even keel in readiness for a new Clerk to be appointed.

This year, Councillor Karen Jay was co-opted onto the Council to replace Councillor Wilson who resigned for personal reasons last year. My thanks go to Councillor Jill Jesson for editing and coordinating the newsletter which is delivered to every household in the Parish. As I said at the beginning of the report, this has been an eventful year for the Parish Council. I would like to think that the coming year will be just as interesting but perhaps less demanding.

Dave Finch
The Parish Hall, on Birchwood Drive, can be hired by groups or individuals at competitive rates. If you would like to book the hall or get the details for any of the groups below, please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council, Gemma O’Carroll on 07462 468050 or by e-mailing her at ravenfieldparishcouncil@yahoo.com

| Mon | Am | Babgy Sensory  
2 sessions until 2.30pm | Pm | Evening |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rotherham Lace-makers – 1st, 3rd and 4th Mondays (but not Bank Holidays) 7.30pm to 9.30pm</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Tues | The Events Group | 1st week in the month | Pm | W1 Craft Club 1st week 7pm-9pm  
Art Club 2nd & 4th weeks 7pm-9pm |
| Wed | Ravenfield Old Peoples Social Fund (Pensioners) 1st week in the month coffee morning 10am, | Pm | Indoor Bowling  
Every week 7pm to 9pm |
| Thurs | Ravenfield Toddler Group – Every week 9.15am to 11.15am, except in school holidays. | Friendship Group, 1st & 3rd week 1.30pm to 3.30pm | Craft Group, 2nd & 4th week 1.30pm to 3.30pm | Parish Council meeting 2nd week 6.30pm onwards  
Women’s Institute 3rd week 7pm to 9pm |
| Fri | Sewing Group  
Every week 10am to 3pm | Pm | Indoor Bowling  
Every week 7pm to 9pm |
| Sat | Available for private hire, birthday parties etc. | | | |
| Sun | Available for private hire, birthday parties etc. | | | |

Visit your local website for further details www.ravenfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk

**Alan Scholes 1947-2016**

In May 2003, Ravenfield Parish Council (PC) were in desperate need of a competent and reliable clerk. The former chair and her clerk were refusing to cooperate in the transfer of duties to the newly elected group of councillors and the finances were in a mess.

Fortunately, Alan Scholes was given the post and he was to serve the village well until his untimely death in December 2016. Alan lived in Ravenfield, having moved from Thrybergh a few years earlier. He had, like so many others, been made redundant from the steel industry. Although he had not served as a clerk before he had a wealth of experienced and knowledge gained serving as a Thrybergh parish councillor for many years. He also benefitted from being mentored by a good friend, Basil Larcombe, Thrybergh’s clerk ‘since Adam was a lad.’ Alan remained on Thrybergh PC due to the rule that allows a member to serve who lives within three miles of the village. It also enabled him to serve as a much respected member of the joint executive board of the Yorkshire Local Councils Association. However, none of this stood in the way of his duties as a clerk. His first challenge was to help the Ravenfield PC get its financial house in order. A loan was secured from RMBC to pay the bills in the first year. This was quickly repaid and within a few years Ravenfield PC was back on a sound financial base. Hanging baskets were acquired and flower-beds planted. Galas were supported and sensible reserves accrued. Although these were decisions taken by the Parish Council, Alan was very much the architect and he was justifiably proud of the fact that the precept was not increased for many years during his stewardship. Sadly, his health began to deteriorate in 2016 and he died on Boxing Day in the Rotherham Hospice. He will be greatly missed by his family and his many friends.

*Dave Rowley*
Reports from Clubs and Societies

The Events Group
This group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 10 am in the Parish Hall to discuss past and future events. We have a committee of ten, two of whom are husbands of members and another husband being called on if needed. This year creating a well-dressing has again proved impossible due to lack of a venue in which to build it.

There will be a second beetle drive in October (the first was in February), which is always popular and fun. In May we were entertained by singer Paul Anthony in the ‘Rat Pack’ style which all present enjoyed. At that concert we were to have presented a cheque for £400 raised throughout the year by raffles at events. Sadly due to an oversight no one attended to collect the cheque for the work of the Assistance Dogs in South Yorkshire. This was posted to them and we received an apologetic and grateful letter from the organisation. September 9th we presented a folk evening featuring local singers and musicians. December 2nd there will be an Irish night, with two local musicians and a small group of teen-age Irish dancers from Conisbrough.

As in recent years, the group will decorate the hall for Christmas.

The raffles we hold are always in aid of local charities and obviously the bigger the audience the more money we raise for worthy causes.

Please come along and join us, be entertained and help us to help others. Give us a try. We are on the doorstep. The Group wishes all our patrons a Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year (even if a little early!) and we look forward to seeing you in 2018. Thank you for your support in the past. Val Burgess (Chair)

Bramley Townswomen’s Guild
Crafts in the Parish Hall Ravenfield are run by Bramley Townswomen’s Guild. These craft sessions take place on the second and fourth Thursday of each month (except December). You do not have to be a member of Townswomen’s Guild to attend. The number of members has increased over the last year and most of us have concentrated on knitting toys to sell on behalf of Comic Relief.

We are now preparing for our autumn coffee morning. It is held at the Silverwood Resource Centre, Dalton. There will be a variety of goods made but mainly with a Christmas theme. In May, the group visited Dobbies Garden Centre at Barlborough, where a large craft emporium has opened covering many aspects of craft-work and where ladies were able to indulge themselves buying items for projects.

We encourage ladies to bring their own craft work or they can observe the work of others and try something different. There are a variety of materials available to experiment with before you have any financial outlay. The cost per session is £1.00 to help pay for items to use on projects, or, as last year, we paid for a lady to demonstrate and help us make jewellery. Not only do card making, knitting, crochet-work and other crafts keep us busy, it also helps to form friendships, have fun and learn something new. Why not pop in and have a cuppa and a biscuit and see if you might like to join us? You will be made welcome and who knows you may discover a hidden talent. See you soon!

Val Burgess

Ravenfield Indoor Bowling Club
Why not come and have a look at our twice weekly bowling club? You can sit and watch the game and have a cuppa with us or try bowling for yourself.

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, it only costs £1.00 a week to join. Bring a clean pair of flat shoes or slippers and we will lend you a set of bowls and show you how to play.

Ladies and gents over the age of 16 are all welcome.

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

We meet at the Parish Hall on Birchwood Drive every Wednesday and Friday at 7.00 pm. If you need any more information phone 01709 545078 or 07973 938172

Neil Mckinnon
Reports from Clubs and Societies (Cont’d)

Ravenfield Women’s Institute

We are a Women's Institute based in Ravenfield that meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 pm at Ravenfield Parish Hall. Founded in January 2016, we welcome women of all ages to come along to meet new people, have a little fun and learn new skills! We have around 60 members aged between 25-80 years young.

Our programme of activities was created by the group and has included talks on how to trace your ancestors, the conservation work at Ravenfield Ponds, a hairstyling demonstration by Paul Freeman, an interactive games night and quiz, as well as a fashion show with clothes supplied by London Connection and modelled by our fabulous ladies, (see photo). We also have enjoyed our monthly craft club and days out, theatre trips and a treasure hunt around Braithwell – you can see we are a social bunch!

As part of the National Federation of Women’s Institutes (NFWI) we annually vote to pass resolutions, which then form the basis of new NFWI campaigns. NFWI has lobbied on subjects such as mental health, litter, family planning, nursery places, health insurance and family allowance to name but a few. The resolutions passed this year are a) plastic soup: keep micro plastic fibres out of our oceans & b) alleviating loneliness. If you have any ideas/suggestions of what we can do locally to address these two issues please get in touch. We are holding a Christmas craft fair on Saturday 25th November at Ravenfield Parish Hall which all are welcome to attend. For more information please email: ravenfieldwi@outlook.com

Karen Jay & Sue Finch

Ravenfield Carer/Toddler Group

runs on Thursday mornings 9:15-11:15 at the Parish Hall on Birchwood Drive and costs just £2.50 per family. Child-minders are also welcome with an added 50p per additional child. The group provides age appropriate activities for children aged 0-4 such as arts and crafts, baking, games, toys, books and jigsaws along with drinks and snacks. Parent/carers are asked to join in with activities and are encouraged to help the children tidy away afterwards. The atmosphere is relaxed and friendly and we look forward to seeing you there.

Natalie Easthope

The Ravenfield Rubbish Rascals
barrow it out again

A dedicated team of 30 litter pickers continues to patrol individual stretches of Ravenfield roads to keep them litter free. Two group community litter picks were organised in April and July. The group has also worked with the Love My Streets campaign in Rotherham to develop publicity materials. Thanks especially to Steph Hamshaw, our Poo Fairy, who has collected up to 83 bags of dog waste a month so that we can walk safely on local rights of way.

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

Jill Jesson

Ravenfield Art Group

The art group has over 20 members. We meet twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesdays, when instruction is given by professional artist, Rachel Lewis. We have enjoyed learning about using pencils, watercolours and pastels, as well as composition, flower and landscape work. We welcome new members, both those who have some experience of creating art and those who have none at all but would like to have a go.

Jill Jesson
Reports from Clubs and Societies (Cont’d)

**Ravenfield Old people’s Social Fund**

Inviting young old folk
Who have cast the working yoke,
Tea and coffee, first Wednesday
Bingo and raffle to play.
Delicious pastries and cake
Bric-a-brac to bring and take
Our tote is weekly 50p.
Winners posted for all to see.
Five numbers you can choose
Over sixty can you refuse?
Co-op on Woodlaithes gave a donation
So come along join the celebration.
Visits to towns and the sea
Pork pie or fish and chips for me
We are off to Skipton on market day
And to Whitby where thieving seagulls play.
November is Xmas raffle and Lillies pie and pea
Bonus to pay (how much!) wait and see
December the 6th is party time
Plenty of info in this rhyme.

by Murial Monks (secretary)

**The Friendship Group**

meets at the parish hall on the first and third Thursday of each month from 2pm until 4pm.
Come along for crafts or a chat (or both) - you’ll be most welcome

For further details please telephone
Margaret Johnson on 01709 761068

**Ravenfield Old Village Garden Society**

has held successful fund raising events throughout the year which have enabled members to plant 70 wall troughs and hay-racks round the old village twice during the year. The Christmas decorations were done by local residents.

Volunteers continue to keep the village tidy with regular community gardening events: weeding, pruning, tidying and planting. Some volunteers are also working with the Fishing Club to help develop the grounds of Ravenfield Park.

**The Friends of Ravenfield School**

is a registered charity run by a group of parents. We organise events throughout the year to raise much-needed funds for the benefit of the children. Events include: the annual Summer and Christmas fairs, school discos and parties, bingo nights, fashion shows and many more. To find out more contact Kristy on info@thefriendsofravenfieldschool.co.uk

**Rotherham Lace-makers**

The Lace-makers meet on Monday evenings 7.00 - 9.00pm, (except the second Monday in the month, and Bank Holidays)

Most of the group make lace, but several do other forms of craft including crocheting, knitting and beading. We are a self-help group and are happy to help each other.

It is a casual, friendly group, and we would welcome new members. Pop in and see us at any of our meetings. We would love to see you.

Wendy Snook, 07790637382
jwendysnook@mac.com
Reports from Local Charities

Two Ravenfield charities have origins which date back to a will made in 1641, when Henry Howson left income from some of his land 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 October to consider such requests.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE IS TREATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE

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, Higher Education or Vocational Training?

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

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

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

Applications must be received by 7 October 2017

ALL CORRESPONDENCE IS TREATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE

The Ravenfield Charity received just one request for a grant during the year 2015/16 despite advertising in the parish magazine, the parish newsletter, on local notice boards and on the village website.

The Ravenfield Educational Charity made four small grants this year to students studying in four different institutions.

News from St James’ Church

December leading up to Christmas was a busy time for St James' Church. The building looked at its best with a thorough clean and festive decorations for the Christingle, and carol services. The midnight service was well attended and enjoyed by all. 2017 saw Peter Hughes made priest in charge of Ravenfield, Braithwell, Hooton Roberts, and St Alban’s Wickersley. He also became Area Dean, installed officially in June this year by Bishop Peter Burrows of Doncaster, at St James' Church Ravenfield.

Sarah Brighton and Kayleigh Ashurst became Worship for Today leaders and are now taking the family service. Coffee mornings resumed on the second Saturday of the month 10-12, and everyone was welcome. Weddings and baptisms have taken place throughout the year, though the number of weddings is down on the last two years.

Fund raising continues for clock face refurbishment, and electrification of the winding mechanism. Approximately £16,000 will be needed. Church service times are advertised on the notice board at the post office. Priest in charge Rev. Peter Hughes can be contacted on 543111.

Neil Pearson
Welcome to **Gemma O’Carroll**, our new clerk to the Parish Council. Gemma lives locally so be sure to give her a smile and a wave when you see her around the village. Gemma can be contacted for bookings or any matter relating to the Parish Council on **07462 468050** or by e-mailing her at ravenfieldparishcouncil@yahoo.com.

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**Police Contact Numbers**
Safer Neighbourhood Team: 01709 832422
Non Emergency Police: 101
Motor Bike Nuisance: 01709 832444

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**This splendid garden is tended by Steven Manley**

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**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

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

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**Ravenfield Parish Council Accounts**
**Year Ended 31st March 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Ending</th>
<th>Year Ending</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31st March 2016</td>
<td>31st March 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balances brought forward</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>(+ ) Annual Precept</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>(+ ) Total Other Receipts</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>(- ) Staff Costs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>(- ) Loan interest / Capital Repaid</strong></td>
<td>£5,571</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>(- ) Total Other Payments</strong></td>
<td>£28,104</td>
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<td><strong>(= ) Balances Carried Forward</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Cash and Investments</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fixed Assets</strong></td>
<td>£353,185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Borrowings</strong></td>
<td>£47,001</td>
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</tbody>
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The above accounts were subject to internal and external audit and were accepted and approved by the Council.

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**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:**
  - Gwendolene A Russell 01709 703432
  - Alan Napper 01709 548768
  - Steve Marles 01709 255966

**Parish Councillors:**
- Neil Pearson (Chair)
- Jill Jesson (Vice Chair), David Finch
- David Rowley, Karen Jay
- Brian Callear, Stephanie Hamshaw

**Clerk to the Parish Council:** Gemma O’Carroll
- Ravenfield Parish Hall
- Birchwood Drive, Ravenfield S65 4PT
- **Telephone:** 07462 468050

**View your local web-magazine at:**
www.ravenfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk