



Ravenfield Parish Council Newsletter

Issue No 17

September 2020



The Parish Hall Extension

After many comments from user groups about the dilapidated storage facility of the old concrete and asbestos garage, which leaked and had bushes growing into it, the Parish Council decided to build an extension. Users were invited to suggest what was required and unsurprisingly there were as many different requests as there were groups who were consulted. The Council had to look at possible future uses, expanding the hall's facilities to include baby-changing and disabled requirements as well as the ever-present cost implications.

Once plans were drawn up and tenders submitted, ROC Developments were selected, and a loan was secured from the Public Works Loan Board. Work commenced on time and all looked well. Our neighbours Malcolm and Sue Turner suggested we remove their conifers and put our scaffolding on their land; this was a great help to the builders. The footings were dug but the buildings inspector then added an extra 600mm to their previous requirement, which added to the cost.



Then the dreaded Covid-19 pandemic struck and the subsequent disruption to supplies slowed the work, but our resourceful builder kept the project moving. Our roof tiles were no longer manufactured so ROC sourced second hand tiles in keeping with the original. As work progressed, further modifications were added such as new kitchen flooring to match the hallway without odd pieces. The lighting and ceiling tiles in the main hall were updated to reduce running costs whilst only adding slightly to the overall expense.

By the time you receive this newsletter the hall should be close to opening again. In addition to the above features there is a small new meeting room and a room for a book swap to replace the lost library bus. Finally on behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank Malcolm and his wife for their patience and our builder Ryan O'Carroll for his resourcefulness and flexibility.

Brian Callear

New War Memorial



Residents approached the Parish Council this year, asking if it were possible to erect a war memorial to remember villagers who had died in conflicts and accidents since the First World War. There is a wall-mounted war memorial in St James's church in the old village, dedicated to four men who lost their lives in the First World War, but nothing has been commemorated since. Ravenfield is one of the few local villages that does not have an outside memorial. After debating the request, the Parish Council agreed to have a new memorial erected, dedicated to all who have died in the service of our country from all conflicts. It will also commemorate the ten miners who perished in the 1966 Silverwood pit disaster.

The memorial has been built on the grassed area at Ravenfield Common, near the millennium sign. It is a simple structure, and Mr and Mrs Handley have kindly donated the stone from the renovation of their farm on Moor Lane North. There will be an engraved plaque inset in the stone with the words "We will remember them". We had hoped for it to be finished for the VE Day celebrations, but due to the Coronavirus pandemic it was not possible. A short dedication service will take place upon completion. It is hoped this memorial will also be a focal point for anyone who has lost a relative or friend for any reason, especially in this year of Covid-19.

Neil Pearson

Ravenfield Parish Council Chair's Report 2019/20

This has been my first year as Chairman. I took over the role in May 2019 from Councillor Jill Jesson and I would like to thank her and the other members of the council for their time, dedication, commitment, advice and support that they give. I would also like to thank our Clerk to the Council, Gemma O'Carroll, for her wonderful and invaluable organisational skills in keeping the Parish Council, the hall and the spaces we are responsible for around the village running so smoothly. I am grateful to councillors for attending both local and national meetings as well as training to keep up to date with issues that may affect the community and legislation we may need to follow. Finally my thanks goes to our caretaker, Sarah Walker, for looking after the hall and ensuring it is set up and ready for the many groups who regularly use it.

The past year has proved to be pretty eventful. Last November the torrential rain led to several properties around the village being flooded. Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, (RMBC) has provided support to these residents and has been working with other organisations to reduce the risk of this occurring again. Then from March this year we have been dealing with the situation created by the global pandemic Covid-19, which has altered how we have to do things now. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many key workers who live within our community for the amazing work they have been doing, the groups and individuals who have been helping and supporting those who are shielding or self isolating, and our little Covid-19 snake creator, Stanley Briggs, who has done a fantastic job creating a snake of painted stones all the way from his home to the crossroads.



We have some lovely volunteer groups to thank for the various community activities they do. The Ravenfield Rubbish Rascals who litter pick around the village, the gardening group who tidy the flowerbed and areas around the crossroads, and the Ravenfield Community Plan Group for organising the Christmas lights switch on at the Cavalier, which was very well attended. We would like to thank Cllr Napper for his support throughout the year and all Silverwood Ward councillors for their donation to our Christmas Lights.

The Parish Council works with other public bodies to help improve our village. This year that has included the reduction of the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph on roads leading to the crossroads; additional lighting along the woodland path between Hollings Lane and Woodlaithes; as well as the introduction of parking bollards by the school. We have continued to organise the hanging baskets in the village and have recently sited a war memorial stone near the millennium stone on Moor Lane North.

At the end of last year we appointed the company ROC to extend the Parish Hall and improve facilities inside. Work began February 2020 and was to have been completed by May, but due to the global pandemic completion was delayed until August. The company have done an incredible job and we are really pleased with their workmanship, professionalism and end result. We hope that once it is safe and guidance permits you will come and see this transformation for yourselves. The hall can be hired for regular or one-off bookings via our clerk.

Maintenance has been carried out on spaces for which the council is responsible, including Hollings Lane field and play area and the Jubilee field. Hollings Lane field is home to Ravenfield Rangers football team. Requests to hire the field, but not the pitch, for commercial events and activities can be made via our clerk.

Our petition seeking a boundary change between the parishes of Ravenfield and Bramley was considered by an RMBC council meeting in July. As these homes are yet to be built, and new residents could not be consulted about which parish they felt they belong to the decision was taken to leave the boundary as it is. There was due to be a re-election of the Parish Council in May 2020 but as this was unable to go ahead, it will now take place in May 2021 instead. This means that I shall be serving as Chairman for another year along with the other Councillors for the parish. If you have any comments or suggestions about what we do please get in touch via our clerk or come along to our monthly meeting held on the second Thursday of each month at 6.30 pm. Council meetings are currently on Zoom.

Karen Jay

The Parish Hall, on Birchwood Drive, can be hired by groups or individuals at competitive rates. If you would like to make a booking 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 email her at ravenfieldparishcouncil@yahoo.com


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

Parish Hall Timetable

	Am	Pm	Evening
Mon	FREE		Rotherham Lace-makers <i>1st, 3rd and 4th Mondays in the month (but not Bank Holidays)</i> 7.00-9.00 pm
Tues	FREE	FREE	Craft Club 1 st week 7-9 pm Art Club 2 nd & 4 th weeks 7-9pm
Wed	Ravenfield Old Peoples Social Fund – <i>Every week and</i> <i>1st week in the month coffee morning 10.00 am</i>		Indoor Bowling <i>Every week</i> 1.30 to 9.00 pm.
Thurs	FREE	Bramley Townswomen's Guild Craft Group <i>(2nd & 4th week in a month) 13:30 to 3:00pm</i>	Parish Council meeting <i>2nd week 6.30pm onwards. (except August)</i> Womens' Institute <i>3rd week: 7.00-9.00 pm.</i>
Fri	Sewing Club <i>Every week</i> 10.00 – 3 pm	Cllr Napper Surgery <i>1st Friday of month</i> 4.00-5.00 pm	Indoor Bowling <i>Every week</i> 6.30 to 9.00 pm.
Sat	Dog Obedience Class 9:00 – 12:00 am Every week		Available for private hire, birthday parties etc.
Sun	Available for private hire, birthday parties etc.		

THE CAVALIER

HOLLINGS LANE, RAVENFIELD, S65 4PU



FRESHLY DECORATED
SKY SPORTS
TUES EVE OPEN MIC
THURS/SUN QUIZ

LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR INFORMATION ON FOOD
JOHN & NICOLA LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU
01709 533727

For friendly reliable
MILK
deliveries contact
Milkman Jim

JIMMY GOULSBRA
YOUR LOCAL
MILKMAN

Tel No 01709 545088



News from St James's Church

It has been a very unsettled year so far for Ravenfield St James's Church. The year started well, taking part in the national heritage weekend and featuring Elizabeth Parkin. We had many visitors from far and wide.

A fundraising autumn/winter fashion show took place in the Parish Hall in September.

Before Christmas a christingle service was held in the school for year 5, with the children making their own christingles. A second christingle service was held in church for everyone else. We had our carol service and nativity play in church, with children acting out the Christmas story. The young ones were full of enthusiasm and a little excited, much to the amusement and pride of their parents and grandparents.



By the time we were making preparations for Easter we had an unwelcome visitor: Covid-19. The church was closed but we managed to support Rotherham food bank. We reopened for private prayer on 28th June, with social distancing in place. The church began services again in July with a revised format. During lockdown a regular Friday night online quiz was organised and when we were allowed to meet, we had a social distancing picnic in the churchyard, which lifted our spirits!



Cumbrian Clock have reinstalled the clock after its refurbishment, but we still have a few teething issues to sort out. A dedication service will take place later this year.

Christenings and weddings are down in numbers this year. If you are getting married then consider a traditional ceremony at St James's Church. Our Grade 2 star listed church will welcome you and your guests to a memorable start on your special day.

Sandra Pearson

Carols at the Cavalier



In December 2019, in response to a request from the local primary school pupils, the Parish Council managed to get festive lights onto the trees at the Cavalier with the help of a grant from the Ravenfield Community Plan Group. Ellen Henry who had organised the petition did the switch-on. Church members joined in with carols supported by local musicians and a choir from the school. There was a great turnout

for the lights switch-on and refreshments were organised by the Cavalier. Many thanks to all who fund-raised and organised this event.



A Book Swap for Ravenfield

Until a few years ago, Ravenfield residents could borrow books from the travelling library van. Sadly the mobile library was axed in Rotherham Borough Council budget cuts. With the extension of the Parish Hall, the Parish Council is now able to offer locals a book swap in one of the new rooms. Many books both fact and fiction, suitable for all tastes, with even a few children's books, have been donated. There are classics and books hot off the press. The Book Swap will be open when ever the hall is being used. People are asked to leave at least one book in good condition for each book they take.



Jill Jesson

Community Governance Review

When the Rotherham Local Plan was signed off in 2018 it included a site (LDF0774) on Moor Lane South. The land, previously farmland, would be available for residential usage and the owners instructed JVH Town Planning Consultants presumably with the intention of selling to a builder. It is a 36-acre site and permission will be granted in the future for 320 dwellings.

The land is only a stone's throw from the crossroads in front of the Cavalier, but according to the existing parish boundary it is in Bramley. The boundary dates back to Victorian times and ran along Hellaby Brook. Because of the proximity to Ravenfield we asked Bramley Parish Council if they would permit a change to the boundary to reflect this. They refused. There is a procedure under the Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, which allowed us to petition Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) as they hold the power to change the boundary.

We gathered sufficient support from 258 electors and RMBC agreed that a valid petition had been submitted. They consulted between December 2019 and February 2020. There were drop-in sessions at both Parish Halls in December. Ravenfield Parish Council wrote to all 60 Councillors making our case but at the RMBC Meeting on 22nd July 2020 it was decided not to move the boundary. We believe the two main factors influencing the decision were Bramley's strong resistance to the change and because no houses have yet been built so the people most affected could not be consulted.

There are financial consequences. When the houses are built, a community infrastructure levy will be paid by the builders to RMBC. Part of that money will go the local parish. In addition, the precept paid by the new householders will go to Bramley as well.

It is allowed for another petition to be submitted, but there must be at least two years before that can happen. We do not know when the new houses will be built but it will be our intention to approach our new neighbours to see whether they will support us in a further review. If they will then we suspect there may be a different outcome. We might have lost this battle but we have not yet lost the war. *Dave Rowley.*

RAVENFIELD CHARITY

The Ravenfield Charity is administered by a group of trustees, to provide for the needy of Ravenfield. The Trustees meet twice a year, although applications can be sent in at any time during the year.

Any persons who are in need or suffering hardship may apply in writing to be considered for a grant of monies.



Examples of such cases have been:
Persons with limited finances who need to make an essential purchase.

Applications will be considered on merit, and unsuccessful candidates may apply in future years.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE IS TREATED IN STRICT CONFIDENCE

Applications to:

Hon Secretary,
39 Hollings Lane,
Ravenfield
ROTHERHAM,
S65 4PS



- 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

Ravenfield Educational Foundation

Include

- Your age
- The course you intend to follow
- Name and address of the Educational Establishment to be attended
- Names of 2 referees, with letters, to support your application



Applications must be received by

9 October 2020

Send to: The Secretary,

68 Bridgewater Way, Ravenfield, Rotherham. S65 4GH



Reports from Clubs and Societies

Ravenfield Carer / Toddler Group

Sadly, this group, which has been running for over 20 years, is now closed. The Parish Council would like to thank Natalie Easthope for all her hard work and dedication to the community during this time.

If anyone is interested in starting up a new group, please contact our Clerk to the Council, Gemma O'Carroll. The Parish Hall extension has resulted in new baby-changing facilities in male, female and disabled toilets, as well as a new, covered pram park to enable parents to walk to the hall and store their prams more safely.

Free Yoga Sessions in Ravenfield

Karen Mumby, a local resident, is offering free yoga classes in the Parish Hall from early October, on Fridays from 8.00-9.00 am. Karen has practised yoga since 2007 and reaped the benefits both physically and mentally. She is fully insured. Due to Covid-19, the class sizes are reduced and you are asked to bring along your own mats and blankets. For details contact Karen on 07738 153996 or balancedlife-mindbody@icloud.com



Ravenfield Art Group

Ravenfield Art Group is still going strong and has a waiting list of people wanting to join. In November 2019 we had a most successful art exhibition selling 66 works of art from 25 artists and exhibiting to nearly 200 visitors. Several new commissions were received. Members of St James's church provided delicious refreshments and made a useful profit from the event. Since then the art group has started to have visiting artists giving demonstrations and talks. All had to be stopped for 'lockdown', but we expect to be up and running again in October with at least two visiting artists before Christmas.



Jill Jesson

The Ravenfield Rubbish Rascals

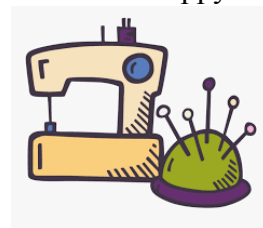
This has not been a good year for group litter picks as the one planned had to be cancelled, but individuals who are part of our 30 strong team still kept woods, paths, car-parks and community areas free from litter throughout lockdown. Several new litter-pickers were observed combining exercise with community help. A big THANK YOU to all involved.

Jill Jesson

Ravenfield Sewing and Craft Group

We are a small group of people who like to sew and craft. We meet every Friday from 10 am – 3 pm, but everyone is welcome to come for just part of any session. Some members only come for a morning or afternoon session.

Bring your sewing machine or craft supplies with you. There is unlimited tea and coffee but please bring your lunch if you are staying for the full session. If you don't feel like sewing or crafting then just come for a natter. You will meet a group of people who like to share ideas and learn new skills. There is no formal teacher but all members are happy to share their experience and are happy to help.



We are a non-profit making group and only charge £4 for the full session and £2 for part of a session to cover the cost of the rent. Any excess is ploughed back into the club and we now have some tools that can be shared by everyone. We look forward to seeing you. Please contact Nina Parkin on Rotherham 548237

Nina Parkin

Gardening round Ravenfield

The Garden Society in the old village, normally raises money from social events to keep the old village planters bright with colour throughout the year. This year, all events have been cancelled due to Covid-19. We have held a collection to help cover our costs and were awarded a small grant from a local councillor. Members of the village society have continued to weed, prune, plant and tidy as usual.



A new gardening group is now taking care of the crossroads area, trying to keep the flowerbeds and road verges weed-free.

Jill Jesson

The Ravenfield Community Plan Group

This group has now achieved charity status. We hope to be able to apply for grants for projects, which will benefit the village in the coming years. Thank you to *Jennie Pearce* and to everyone who volunteered to deliver the RMBC Covid-19 leaflets.



Jill Jesson

Ravenfield Craft Club

We meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month in Ravenfield Parish Hall at 7pm.

The club was formed from Ravenfield WI but decided to break away to allow non WI members to join. We're a very easy-going group of mixed ages and crafting interests who all enjoy a good natter too. So far we've made beaded Christmas trees, tried lace making, paper quilling, scone baking, paper flowers and tea-bagging, and paper folding, all led by members with skills they were willing to share with the rest of the group.



There's a glass workshop arranged for later in the year with and we're hoping to try découpage, hand knitting and Christmas crafts such as tree ornaments and glass bottle lights.

During lockdown, Crafty Ladies have kept in touch via WhatsApp, sharing news, craft projects and generally cheering each other up.

In the future we hope to arrange outside workshops, pottery being one everyone is enthusiastic to try.

To join us call 07401 607481



Jan Bryce

Ravenfield Old People's Social Fund

The AGM was postponed due to Covid-19 so the committee will serve for another year. Membership is now 132. We lost 6 members including our treasurer Mrs Margaret Wagstaff who died suddenly in hospital and is sorely missed. We remain sound financially due to a grant from the Co-op and our coffee mornings.



In September we made our annual pilgrimage to Whitby. At Brigg Garden Centre in late November, 48 members enjoyed a full Christmas

dinner before looking around the garden centre and its gift shop, a good place for Christmas decorations and gifts. Many members request we go again, but at present I can't see us going anywhere for a long time.

Our 2019 Christmas party in the Parish Hall was a success with a good meal and entertainment for 55 members. 55 prizes were won on the Raffle, which raised £388.

All coffee mornings and weekly totes are cancelled until further notice.

Geoff. Outram (Chair)

The Ravenfield Bowling Club

This is a popular group in the village. We have about 25 members both men and women and play matches twice a week on Wednesday and Friday evenings in the Parish Hall from 6.30 – 9.00 pm.

During the winter months we play in the local short mat friendly league which includes Laughton, Bramley, Thrybergh and Dalton clubs playing at each others' venues and enjoying tea, coffee and refreshments after the match.

After a recent suggestion to try to get any lonely residents to join in with others in the village, we have now started a Wednesday afternoon club so that anyone can come and have a go or just sit and watch and have a cuppa, this is from 1.30 to 3.00 pm.

It has proved quite successful as we get about a dozen people in the afternoon.



We occasionally take our members for trips out such as fish and chip restaurants and the odd show to keep the communal spirit between us.

Anyone wanting to give bowling a try can just turn up with a pair of clean flat shoes or slippers and we can lend you a set of bowls and show you how to bowl.

Neil McKinnon

Bramley Townswomen Craft Group

This group meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month 1.30 – 3.30 pm. £1 admission includes a drink and a cake / biscuit. New members are very welcome. The group is informal and friendly.

Members bring along any craft they are working on, or can learn a new one. The ladies also knit for charities and donated wool is always gratefully received.

You need not be a member of Townswomen to join us. We meet at Bramley Parish Hall, Cross Street, on the first Thursday of the month – 10 am to 12 noon.



Val Burgess

Ravenfield Events Group

The last event, which took place on 10th February 2020, was a beetle drive. There were plans for other events, but circumstances changed those. We do of course hope to be able to hold a committee meeting as soon as restrictions are lifted to make plans for future events.

Val Burgess

Ravenfield Park Round Up

The last twelve months have not been kind to us. Difficulties began when our application for a Duke of York's Award, although successful, was thwarted when the Duke's activities threw a cloud over the proceedings and the award has been postponed.

Heavy rain and ensuing floods in November affected us in several ways. Flooding from the village came through the tip and into the Park, bringing with it tonnes of rubble, which destroyed the 'dog pond' which we had dug beside the footpath. It deposited material in the small pond nearby where we breed crucian carp, a red list species, and washed much of that structure away, putting the whole area at risk.

In addition, an unprecedented quantity of water entered the Park from both Firsby Reservoir and down the small valley from Conisborough Parks. This latter incident severely damaged the structure of the dam of the small pond before 'colliding' with water in the stream from Firsby and overflowing first in the New Pond (at the bottom of the hill) and subsequently over topping, and gaining momentum as it did so, the dams of all the other ponds downstream. Although the other dams remained secure our bridge across the stream was totally washed away and was found in pieces many hundreds of yards downstream. The whole incident was extremely frightening and to our knowledge has never been experienced before. Fortunately, major repairs to the original earthen dams some 30 years ago prevented what could have been a major incident since without these it's likely that the original earthen structures would also have been washed away cascading millions of gallons of water into Hooton Roberts.



Temporary remedial work has been carried out and some funding has been obtained to help cover some of the cost of what will be a major exercise of repairs. Covid-19 overtook proceeding before the work could commence, and it is now on hold until life becomes easier. Coronavirus brought funding and fishing problems.

Luckily our trustees agreed to Keith, our warden, continuing to work to protect and maintain the property. He has done so magnificently despite on-going vandalism, an attempted break-in and an onslaught of visitors

we had never seen before, many of whom failed to understand our countryside code. With little angling income but our normal overheads, we took to crowd funding and have raised some welcome income. Our thanks go to all who contributed. It's difficult to see far ahead right now, but much flood damage remains to be repaired.

With luck and a lot of effort we'll get through this: the alternative is too awful to consider. *Martin Read*

Yappy Ever After

With Parish Hall closure and lockdown, I've been unable to do my Puppy Parties and Dog Agility classes. However I have been busy working in these strange times by doing social distanced one to one sessions with dogs that have behaviour problems

In lockdown I finished my 3-year Canine Behaviour Training Diploma so I'm now able to help owners understand and train dogs that have problems from aggression to separation anxiety. I'm also offering a step-by-step training plan to anyone shielding or needing a one-to-one session. Many people find this more convenient with their working schedules.

As a full time dog-walker I've been ensuring that people who work from home have a tired out pooch that isn't begging for attention while they're on conference calls. I've kept in contact with many of my customers and delivered doggy treat bags to those who have been in lockdown the longest. I can't wait to get classes started again at the Parish Hall as I've a waiting list of eager new puppy parents and the agility dogs will be raring to get running around the course again.



Thank you to everyone who has supported me during this difficult time and if anyone needs any help or advice about his or her dog I'm more than happy to help. *07378 408847 Sarah Mitchell*

Ravenfield Women's Institute (WI)

Our WI group in Ravenfield meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 pm in the Parish Hall. We welcome women of all ages to come to meet new people, have fun and learn new skills! Last year we had 46 members.

Memorable speakers were Howard Middleton who talked about his time on the Great British Bake Off in 2016 and Paul, a deaf musician, talking about his career and helping us through a couple of songs with audience participation. Chaos ensued at the November meeting when Rachel helped us make willow Christmas trees, candleholders and stars! We even had a visit from Henry VIII, also known as performance historian, John White.



Competitions have included – the strangest gift/prize ever won; decorated cupcakes; ideas for a relaxation kit; a flower made from any media; decorated jam jars; a favourite piece of music (and why); historical limericks; the best score on the dart board; a photograph of stained glass; an origami bird; decorated wood or twigs and a handmade Christmas card!

As well as meeting monthly members also took part in the following events:

- CAST Theatre Backstage Tour and afternoon tea at Doncaster.
- Sheffield Walking Tour.
- Visit to Wentworth Castle.
- Treasure Hunt around Wickersley.
- The Federation Quiz at Thurcroft (one of our teams came second!).
- Afternoon Tea at Winthrop Gardens.
- Craft Caddy Workshop at Doncaster.
- Chantry Group Coffee Mornings (various dates).
- Willow weaving day making baskets.
- Wreath workshop.
- Christmas Fair.
- Post Christmas night out.
- Theatre Trips.



Over the years we have received many enquiries from women wishing to join our WI and all of them in one way or another have been searching for friendship. This is what makes the WI and our WI so special – the friendship, support and time we give to each other, which is something we are proud we have been able to continue to do remotely this year.

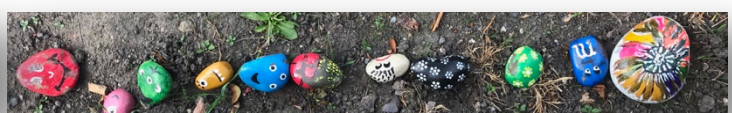
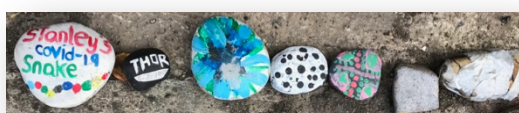
Through the magic of Zoom we have continued to meet remotely during the pandemic and have done a quiz and had talks by local award winning author Milly Johnson about her career. Victoria Wood's brother, Chris Foote Wood, talked about his biography of Victoria Wood, her comedy genius, life and work.

For more information about our WI please email: ravenfieldwi@outlook.com or follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/RavenfieldWI/>

Karen Jay

Stones donated to create Lockdown Snake

Four-year-old Stanley Briggs wanted a pet snake, so his mum suggested he make one on the front wall at their house on Hollings lane. His snake had 79 stones, but some selfish people stole them. After a Facebook account of the robbery many new stones were donated and Stanley went from having 79 to 270 in one day. Now there are many more stones, decorated by local residents including artist Joe Scarborough and MP John Healey. Some of the stones may be made into a more permanent memorial of Lockdown times. The Parish Council is looking for a suitable site.



Responses to Covid-19

On the day after lockdown, I appealed on my Facebook page (*Ravenfield News and Information*), for help to ensure all residents had a local contact they could call on for help or support. The community response was phenomenal. I collaborated with Grace and Wes Mundy and organised a system to match requests with local volunteers. These included requests for shopping, prescription pick-ups, dog walking, posting mail and collecting daily papers. I can't thank the residents who volunteered enough. I'll leave the last few words to our Community

"It's so nice to see that our community is working together and supporting each other"

"It's so thoughtful in a world that appears to be full of selfish people at the minute"

"What a lovely way to spread kindness at this strange time"

"It is reassuring to know that there are people who really care about their community"

"It restores your faith in people"

Toni Leach – Ravenfield resident.



From the start I was worried for my elderly fellow residents, would they struggle to get food? Did they know there were people in the village on hand to help? I set up a group on Facebook called "*Ravenfield- Support our elderly neighbours*" and it quickly gathered pace.

Ravenfield Stores agreed to house a 'Donation Tub, and messages on Facebook explained how to donate and the reasons behind the effort. Working with Toni Leach and Rachel Haynes, I organised donations and made up care packages up for local residents. People were asked to suggest neighbours who might be struggling with self-isolation, or were without a local family and would appreciate a 'pick me up'. The donations from the village were astonishing, and they continued for 12 weeks. Many residents who received a doorstep care package were speechless and could not believe the local generosity. These little gestures gave many a reason to smile and know they were not alone through this challenging time. Around 150 care packages were prepared and left on our villager's doorsteps.

Grace Mundi. Ravenfield resident



One Resident's Lockdown story

Unless you have been on planet 'Mars' you will not have failed to notice that our own planet 'Earth' has been going through extraordinary times. Every one of us will have been affected one way or another by the coronavirus pandemic: sadly some more than others.

Having lived alone for 25 years, lockdown has not been such a hardship to me. I have a modest size garden which I am able to care for myself and which I have enjoyed during the lovely weather. To sit out listening to bird song and breathing less polluted air has been wonderful. Another bonus is modern technology: phones, I-Pads, texting, Facetime and social media keeping us in touch with family and friends at home and abroad. TV has played its part as a valuable source of information and entertainment. I am an ardent knitter for charity, so any wool has been put to good use. As an avid reader I have been loaned a constant supply of books from various people.

Then I reached a stage when I needed something else and decided to write my life story for my family. I began writing two or three times a week and soon realised this was a mammoth task, as the writing of one period triggered memories of another.

Until the sheltered were allowed out to walk for exercise, the highlight of the week had been the weekly 'clap for carers' when we would venture out and call greetings to our neighbours across the tarmac. So off I went on my first walk along Moor Lane North to Ravenfield School, My first surprise was to see cattle in the field, a white bull, lovely brown cows and several calves: what a delight. Then I looked further west to see Emley Moor TV mast on the horizon from my home and it really gave me a sense of well-being.



I have continued, weather permitting, to try to do several 30-minute walks each week despite and because of the soreness in my leg muscles. I thought gardening was exercise enough but apparently not. It was good to meet people on these walks and observing the social distancing rules, having a chat and a smile made so much difference to my day and I started to feel like a member of the human race again.

As a socially active person who is a member of three community groups and several committees this is food and drink to me and something I have missed. All of us who have survived this period must be grateful to have been spared and I hope the community spirit it has generated will continue into future generations, helping them to realise the true values in life. There have been many tragic and sad times for lots of people recently. However, this world, as has been proved recently, is a wonderful place and we must all do our part to take care of our planet and give it the opportunity to recover, as hopefully we are all going to do, eventually.

Valerie Burgess

News from Ravenfield Primary Academy

I cannot believe what an unusual first year I have had as the Principal of Ravenfield Primary Academy! When I started in September I quickly realised what a special community this was and that the school was an important part of that. We are so well supported by our families and this year, more than ever, this has been vital.

Developing reading has been a focus across the school and ensuring that the children have a real love of books has been vital. We celebrate 'Reader of the Week' in Friday assembly and some of our older children have developed the library with support from our PTA as they realised it could be even better.

Before lockdown our 'Young Voices' choir became part of one of the world's biggest choirs performing at a big concert at Sheffield Arena. It was a brilliant day and we are hoping to take part in the next one in 2021. Some of these children sang outside 'The Cavalier' at Christmas on what was a truly festive occasion.

We had planned to support the Sheffield Children's Hospital 'Bears of Sheffield' charity this year. We were raising money to sponsor and design our own bear. This has now been postponed until 2021. <https://www.tchc.org.uk/how-you-can-help/bears-of-sheffield/>



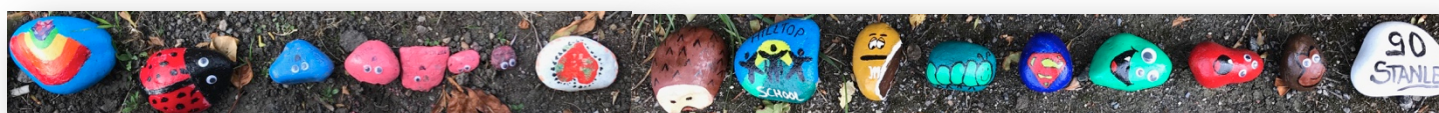
One of the most exciting partnerships we have had this year is with The Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre of University of Sheffield. Colleagues have worked with children in school to inspire, support and get our children really curious about science and technology. We are also developing a whole school 'We Are Ravenfield' project that will continue into next year to encourage our children to find out more about their community, its history and geography.



We will be holding an event in the autumn term to celebrate our Year 6 class of 2020. We were unable to celebrate their leaving in the traditional way so will plan something special to celebrate their time at Ravenfield Primary Academy.

We had many more exciting plans for 2019-20, but coping with Covid-19 has put most of them on hold. We have remained open throughout lockdown for children of key workers and from 15th June we started opening for our Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children. It was wonderful to have them back in school and the children were pleased to be back, mostly to see their friends. Hearing them laugh and seeing their excitement was great. We missed those that were not able to return. We have been well supported by Maltby Learning Trust over the past few months and have updated our risk assessment for opening for all children in September. It will be wonderful to see everyone again.

Caroline Coates. (Head-teacher)





Gemma O'Carroll, our clerk to the Parish Council, can be contacted for bookings or any matter relating to the Parish Council on **07462 468050** or by emailing her at ravenfieldparishcouncil@yahoo.com

Police Contact Numbers

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

Thanks to Streetpride for several new notices about fly-tipping. These do make some difference.



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

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 2020

	Year Ending 31 st March 2019	Year Ending 31 st March 2020
Balances brought forward	£63,049	£70,047
(+) Annual Precept	£42,170	£45,122
(+) Total Other Receipts	£11,472	£104,702
(-) Staff Costs	£14,751	£14,559
(-) Loan interest / Capital Repaid	£5,571	£5,571
(-) Total Other Payments	£25,499	£104,830
(=) Balances Carried Forward	£70,870	£94,911
Total Cash and Investments	£70,870	£94,911
Total Fixed Assets	£365,370	£465,042
Total Borrowings	£36,542	£92,706

The above accounts were subject to internal and external audit and were accepted and approved by the Council.



Who's Who

MP: John Healey 01709 875943

Address
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:

Karen Jay (Chair)
David Rowley (Vice Chair)
Brian Callear, Rebecca Jupp
David Finch, Neil Pearson, Jill Jesson

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