



Chairman's Welcome

The year is flying away yet again, I can't really believe I am writing about our summer Council meetings. At these meeting we discussed many issues, one being Citizen's Awards. These awards are the Parish Council's yearly recognition of parishioners who have gone the extra mile to help their communities. This year there are so many because of the dreadful pandemic and the various lockdown levels causing so many problems, and the many people who helped to keep things moving.

It is almost impossible to mention individuals as there are so many, I would miss several, but on behalf of the Council I will just say THANK YOU to all who helped make the lockdowns more bearable, from NHS workers to milkmen, postmen, parcel delivery drivers, teachers, supermarket workers and food delivery drivers - and everyone who I have missed. Work is ongoing with Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership 'working with water' projects across the Parish working to solve erosion, reduce the risk of flooding and monitor rainfall levels. Sheffield City Council recently had a major planning review online with presentations from across the city. Where do you build an estimated 40,000 new dwellings? Mainly in the city Centre, if the survey results are adhered to.

The Peak Park are developing an extensive Management Plan 2024-29. The Peak Park has many issues to overcome. For the thriving and sustainable communities they require, huge numbers of visitors are essential to bring in the required income. However, as always, visitors bring problems. The building requirements within the Park is another huge mountain, where do you build new dwellings but still keep the integrity of the Park? These and many more issues are being carefully worked through in presentations, meetings and workshops. it is not a quick fix.

Back in July we had the first meeting of Friends of Glen Howe Park. many interested parties have been talking about creating/ recreating this friends group for this jewel of a Park, now somewhat faded from its former glory. The Park was originally given to the people of Wharcliffe Side in 1917 by Joseph Dixon and John Mills. Then following reorganization of local government in 1974, Sheffield Council was given ownership. From the first tentative meetings, where myself, Nigel Clark, City Councilors Lewis Chinchin and Julie Grocutt advertised the creation of the Friends Group through social media, it has evolved into a fully constituted Friends Group, with a committee and draft plans both large and small for improvement to the Park. Advice has been taken from Sheffield Council Parks and Countryside

department regarding how the friends group can compliment and enhance the maintenance work already being carried out within the Park boundaries, hoping to continue to maintain and develop this initial enthusiasm. Over the page there is a brief paragraph and photos – fingers crossed for the future of this new Friends Group.

Miriam Cates has resigned her Parish Council Oughtibridge Ward position. She hoped to combine Parish Council and MP roles as they both overlap. This was possible during the past 18 months as Parliament and Councils have been using remote meetings to continue business, but now it's all face to face meetings her parliamentary commitment means she will be unable to attend BPC meetings from September. Reluctantly she has handed in her resignation. We wish Miriam the best for her future career.

I must mention this year's start to the Parish Galas and Carnivals, next year let us all hope that we return to a full program of festivity and celebrations from all the Parish villages. This year, we wish the best of luck to all who are tentatively starting up their galas again.



Chairman Councillor Stephen Bennett



Bradfield
Parish Council

Steel Valley Project

Nestled in the heart of the Stocksbridge Valley, a small countryside management charity has been making big changes to the green spaces around north Sheffield for over 30 years.

The Steel Valley Project was originally set up in 1988 as a partnership between the Stocksbridge steel works (now Liberty Steel), Bradfield Parish Council, Stocksbridge Town Council and Sheffield City Council.

The organisation is a registered charity and has a long history of environmental improvements in the area, working both with the local community and a team of dedicated volunteers who play a huge role in day to day operations.

In return, the Steel Valley Project gives their volunteers the opportunity to learn a variety of transferable skills in countryside management and rural craft skills, along with experience in the safe use of tools. Over the years, many have been supported to gain certificates in power tools such as chainsaws, brushcutters and strimmers, along with practical First Aid at Work qualifications.

“Volunteering with the Steel Valley Project gives anyone looking to become part of the next generation of countryside professionals a great opportunity to receive training and practical experience. However, we also work with many volunteers who simply want to contribute something positive to their local environment or volunteer in a friendly and sociable atmosphere outdoors.” Tom Newman, General Manager, Steel Valley Project.

During the financial year 2019-20 the charity

supported over 1,500 hours of volunteering. Sadly, in March 2020 they had to press pause on volunteering activity due the Covid-19 pandemic. Their staff were also furloughed until July 2020 and, when they returned, it was without their usual team of volunteers.

“Our most important consideration was the safety of our staff and volunteers, so we decided to wait 12 months before bringing our volunteers back to work. We have a Covid risk assessment in place and are now working in a slightly different way so that we can look after the safety of everyone involved.”

The first contracts undertaken when the staff team





returned to work last summer were for Liberty Steel and Sheffield City Council, cutting back overgrown vegetation on the paths and bridleways around Stocksbridge.

“Helping to keep those public rights of way clear and safe to use is important in normal times but was even more so during summer 2020 with the increased number of people using their local green spaces for daily exercise.”

In response to this extra strain on the local countryside, the charity also developed a project last year in conjunction with the Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership to create 5 new cycle routes of between 5 and 14 miles each.

The ‘Sheffield Lakeland Cycle Routes’ were launched in November 2020 and offered an alternative to the charity’s popular annual cycle event, The Steel Valley Ride, which had been cancelled due to Covid. The cycle routes were received with resounding success, and many rose to the challenge set by partner, Trek Sheffield, to complete all 5 before the end of April 2021.

With their volunteers now back at work, the charity has been able to pick up on other projects again. Recent jobs have included building new steps in New Hall Wood, repairing a long section of drystone wall in Wragg House plantation and arranging community litter picks to address the increase in anti-social littering since the Covid pandemic.

Many of their regular contracts come from

landowners such as the Woodland Trust, Bradfield Parish Council, Stocksbridge Town Council, Liberty Steel and Sheffield City Council.

The charity is also one of the delivery partners of the Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership (SLLP), a 4-year project funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund to “create a more natural and resilient Sheffield Lakeland landscape”.

Involvement with the SLLP has led to work such as bandstand renovations in Fox Glen (Deepcar), creating better access to Bowcroft Cemetery – an ancient quaker burial site above Stannington dating back to the 1700’s – and path improvements in numerous locations.

“It’s fair to say that anyone volunteering with the Steel Valley Project will experience plenty of variety. In 2019-20 we improved or created 28km of paths, improved 60,000 square metres of land and created 1 brand new park. One week our volunteers could be managing woodland habitats, tree planting and hedgelaying, then another they may be repairing drystone walls, creating a wildlife pond or installing gates, fencing and steps.”

No formal qualifications are required to join the Steel Valley Project as a volunteer and the charity is always happy to hear from anyone in the area who’d like to find out more. The main criteria they’re looking for are a desire to work outdoors in all weathers and people who are willing to be part of a group, learning new skills.

To find out more, email info@steelvalleyproject.org or visit the website at steelvalleyproject.org.

Friends of Glen Howe Park plan bright future for historic woodland

A half-forgotten gem of north Sheffield is set to be transformed by a new community group. The Friends of Glen Howe Park aim to restore a sense of former glory to this 19-acre parkland.

Situated west of Wharncliffe Side, Glen Howe Park is a beautiful green space of woodland, streams and ponds. The Park occupies the steep-sided valley of Tinker Brook and enjoys views of Wharncliffe Woods. It is well-loved by local walkers and families, but the Friends of Glen Howe Park see the potential for much more.

Adam Wager, newly appointed Chair, explains “Small acts, when multiplied by a group of people, can make a big difference and the friends of Glen Howe Park are here to do just that. We’re an independent charity, dedicated to protecting and enhancing the ancient woods of Glen Howe.

“This amazing woodland has been enjoyed by locals since it was gifted to the council in 1917 by local paper manufacturer Joseph Dixon and his friend John Mills. The once botanical standard gardens have been reclaimed by nature over the years and we feel it’s time to give back to restore and improve the park, with help from our local community. We want to ensure that people are inspired by the beauty and diversity of the landscape as well as gaining an understanding of the history of the area.”

In years gone by Glen Howe Park was a pleasure garden, equipped with a tea pavilion, tennis courts and swing boats. In the late 1800s it was a favoured destination of the ‘Fresh Air Group’ and the Ragged School Union who brought children from Sheffield for a day out in the country. Glimpses of Glen Howe’s history can still be seen today, including the unusual lodge known as Glen Howe Tower which was built by John Mills in 1881. A wooden pavilion once adjoined the lodge from which John Mills would serve tea and refreshments. Further up the path you can find a stone packhorse bridge dating from 1734. This bridge originally stood in the Ewden Valley but was

moved to Glen Howe in 1925 when More Hall Reservoir was constructed.

The Friends of Glen Howe Park believe the future of this beautiful park can be as exciting as the past. Adam continues, “We welcome all who feel a connection to this amazing place. Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress and working together is success. Alone we can do so little, but together we can do so much. To get involved and for regular updates please like our page on Facebook by searching friends of Glen Howe Park.”



2021/22 COUNCILLORS

Stannington Ward



Penny Baker



Mavis Butler



Chris Carter



Matthew Gray



Stuart Shepherd

Wharncliffe Side Ward



Stephen Bennett

Oughtibridge Ward



Terry Barrow



Nigel Clark



Jennifer Morton



Worrall Ward



Vickie Priestley



Karen Southwood