



Newsletter

Rivelin Valley Conservation Group

Summer 2019 no 111

Through The Chair

Hello and welcome to the summer edition of the RVCG Newsletter. Since April we have had our 28th AGM which was described in the previous newsletter. We have produced a new up-to-date RVCG leaflet which gives a summary of the group for potential new members. We also published the 6th edition of 'Walking the Rivelin' which now has a foreword from Chris Baines as well as around 10 new pages. Despite similar books costing between £9 & £10, the RVCG committee insisted on just a one-pound increase to £7.95. Therefore, a quality book for a very good price. The book fashions a new cover as the tree on the previous cover has actually been felled by Amey! – however, it was due to decay. We also heard from Geoff Preece, the museum Mentor of The Ken Hawley Collection Trust at Kelham Island to inform us that he is in receipt of the personal items of the recently deceased historian, Dennis Smith, which will be carefully sorted and catalogued. Mike Dyson has also offered his support. Sunday Sep 22nd is our RVCG Heritage Open Day in Rivelin Park. Please see the details enclosed and how to book the guided walks to Mousehole Forge and the Poetry Walk with Fay Musselwhite. We have a good range of speakers lined up for the new season so lots to keep you entertained.

Graham Appleby
RVCG Chairman

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A Rivelin Romance

As a child I called these two people Aunt and Uncle because that is what you call your elder's friends when you are little. Uncle Louis was the manager of Sheffield Employment Exchange that was on West Street at the beginning of the WW2. He was part French and had a serious back injury fighting in WW1. This led to him having curvature of the spine and continued pain but he never complained.

Auntie Elsie lived in the south of England and had an oppressive father who only wanted sons. When she was 21 she escaped and found a job in Sheffield at the employment exchange and so got to know Louis. She was a very outgoing person and wanted to know about our surrounding countryside, so she joined the Holiday Fellowship hiking club. It was in this hiking group that she got to know my Aunty Alice – a real aunt. Elsie didn't like her lodgings and so went to live with Alice and my Grandma on Ringstead Crescent.

It wasn't long before Elsie and Louis became friendly and they enjoyed walking in Rivelin. It was there that Louis proposed to her and she said "Yes". He was a frequent visitor to

Ringstead and enjoyed my grandma's cooking.

As Louis spoke perfect French, he was later sent to the foreign office to translate secret French documents. This meant that he had a close alliance to Winston Churchill who he admired very much.

After the war he went to the Ministry of Fuel and Power under the leadership of "Manny Shinwell". He had great regard for him even though he was "Labour". There was a big shortage of fuel at the end of the war as soldiers returned from fighting to their old jobs such as the Sheffield iron and steel industry and coal was needed to fire the furnaces. Louis was sent around the country to survey areas where coal could be found and Rivelin Valley was one of them. Louis was reluctant to advise that coal could be mined here because of his courtship of Elsie and it would probably have been open cast which is very destructive of the countryside.

In previous years, coal was mined in huge holes, "bell pits" of which some were in the Rivelin area and caused trouble when houses were built post war.

Louis continued government work after the war and lived in London. He mixed wonderful cocktails and made a special one for me as a child.

I felt quite tipsy and the adults laughed their heads off. It was made of fruit juice.

Louis often had to come to Sheffield for work reasons, but he always would be seen striding across the road to visit the valley even though it might be raining.

M Sanderson

Well Done RVCG Members

We have received a further £400.40 with your membership money. It will be well spent by the group.

Butterfly Watch

In June, The Guardian Butterfly Watch reported painted ladies, swallowtails and the small blue and many more. I have seen many tiny moths or butterflies, but they remain nameless as even with a butterfly net they escape capture.

Spider Watch

Don't read this if you have a fear of spiders. These little creatures fascinate me though some people run a mile rather than face them. I love to see them. One has recently settled on my windowsill and has spun its web. It is not of the usual circle type but just a pile of tangled threads. I regret to say that I cleared it away but it returned to make another one so I left it alone, however it didn't catch a thing. The next day it disappeared altogether to find better hunting grounds.

Where would we be without them? Our houses would be filled with flies, wasps, bees and other little creatures.

Spiders have eight legs and as a child I would look on with horror as a young neighbour would pull its legs off even though they are hard to catch.

The silken strands they produce would go all around our earth and its thread would just weigh around 6 oz.

M Sanderson

Thank you to Valleyside Garden Centre for their continued support

In The News

You must all have heard in the press of Sheffield University archaeology students researching the German prisoner of war camp at Lodge Moor. They say that it has been forgotten but there are plenty of older people in the area who do remember the camp's existence. It was said to be the largest in the country.

The reports said that the prisoners were not treated very well and they certainly

had hard winters to endure with no knowledge of when they were to be released. It was also said that they had little food and made to stand for hours. Italian soldiers were also at this camp. It seems as though they had better treatment.

I remember clearly standing with my mother at the bottom of Ringstead Crescent when three Italian soldiers in uniform appeared. It seems that they were let out of the camp and treated in a better way than the Germans. One of them patted me on my head and I was frightened. "Don't worry" my mother said, "He probably has a little girl like you at home".

It appears that Italians did shopping in Crosspool so perhaps they were allowed pocket money. They bought items such as soap, probably scarce in Italy. They were even allowed to go into cinemas but this is hearsay from my childhood. War time on Ringstead left several houses bombed and their inhabitants killed.

However, a letter in the Guardian on the 8th July said that as a German teacher, she was travelling in Vienna on a scooter and stopped in a shower of rain at a cafe and chatted to a man who said he had been a 'prisoner of war' at Lodge Moor. He found it better than being on the eastern front.

Despite these stories, nobody wants us to be in war situation again!

M Sanderson

Blast from the Past

What were we saying in our newsletter in February 1997

Our first talk of the New Year was by Terry Howard. He always has an entertaining and knowledgeable story to tell. His message came over loud and clear.

"Landowners don't want us invading those wide open, empty spaces.

They don't want us because they might devalue their highly profitable shooting

land."

Terry has discovered some fascinating facts about these hidden areas and he worked with the "Sheffield Campaign For Access to Moorland" This would legally open Moorland for everyone. He stressed that access should be undertaken with respect and paying due respect to wildlife and historical sites. His argument was that these forbidden lands were once common lands and used by our ancestors as they are criss-crossed by pre-enclosure hollow-ways and contain stiles.

There are many remnants of human activity such as burial grounds, stone circles, crosses, mining operations and ancient stone markings. These are barred to those who have legitimate historical interest. Some may just want to see these things out of curiosity.

These places also contain spectacular landscapes and rock formations that are never seen except by the owners.

Terry has written a book, "A Moorland Landscape" that might still be available, probably in a library. Some RVCG members may remember Terry obtaining permission to access private moorland on Hallam Moor when we tried to trace the beginnings of the River Rivelin.

M Sanderson

If you have any interesting stories for our members to read in this newsletter, please

send them to M Sanderson at

msanderson35@googlemail.com

or see the contacts list above.

Golden Eagles

Sorry to say that this is not a sighting of a golden eagle in Rivelin.

This month conservationists have asked the government to regulate grouse moors after two golden eagles disappeared within hours of each other in Perthshire. Other birds of prey have been shot in this area.

When is this "game", promoted mostly by prosperous men, going to end? It is hard to catch these "gentlemen". Where

are their morals?

I have seen a golden eagle once in Scotland when on a walking holiday. It was sitting on a post as we emerged from a wood. It looked at us and then turned away. Its beak looked very dangerous and one would not like to be on the end of it. Other birds of prey such as hen harriers and kites are also being shot or poisoned.

Pets

Have you got a pet rabbit on your property? Here is a warning for you. If it dies do not bury it in your garden. It might have rabbit viral haemorrhagic disease. This causes death and internal bleeding and first reported in 2014. The virus has reached wild rabbits and can be spread by bird droppings, shoes or car tyres.

The advice is to take a dead rabbit to a vet and this will avoid any other animal digging up a dead body and getting infected.

A good point is that your pet rabbit can be immunised so see your vet.

M Sanderson

Errata – in the previous newsletter, an article titled 'The Big Event', referred to the hero of the day as Terry Faulds. Of course, his name is Tony Foulds. Apologies for this over-sight and thank you to Mrs Pat Fish for bringing this to our attention

During late 2018, Chris Baines was doing a house clearance at his mother's home in Stannington and came across this document. As you may know from previous newsletters, Chris's grandfather was a member of the Rivelin artist's colony based at Rivelin Corn Mill and he is shown on this facing sheet as the 'Treasurer'. This was their fourth exhibition in 1924 and so we assume the first exhibition would have been in 1920. Therefore, the artists must have been active much earlier than that, to have gained sufficient expertise to be able to sell their paintings to the public. The catalogue can be seen on the back page of this sheet.

Copies of pictures by Rivelin artists will be on display with some available for sale at our Heritage Open Day on 22nd Sep 2019

A copy of the email from Chris Baines is reproduced below. Sadly, his mum passed away earlier this year just prior to her 100th birthday.

"I was really thrilled, when sorting out some of Mum and Dad's papers (Mum has just turned 99 and is now in care!) to discover the attached catalogue of paintings. Most thrilling is the statement at the top of the schedule, expressing the purposes of the artists' group. How thrilled they would be to see that RVCG is continuing to deliver their vision, almost a century later.

I was pleased to see that my grandad Ben Baines was the treasurer of the group, but surprised to discover another Baines among their number (clearly a better painter, or maybe offering oils as opposed to grandad's watercolours, judging by the prices)

Rivelin Art Society.

FOURTH Exhibition of Pictures

Comprising
Oil Paintings, Water Colour Drawings
and Etchings,

on view at the
Norfolk Arms, Hollow Meadows,
from
December 13th, 1924.

HON. PRESIDENT:

F. REVELL-SUTTON, Lt.-Col. J.P.

PRESIDENT:

R. SCOTT TEMPLE, Esq.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

R. W. GIRDWOOD, Esq. A. A. GUNN RUSSELL, Esq.

J. H. SORBY, Esq.

TREASURER:

B. BAINES, Esq.

HON. SECRETARY:

Wm. WHITEHEAD,
42 Frickley Road, Nether Green,
Sheffield.

In the absence of Members of the Society, Mr. Jackson, the proprietor of the Hotel, has kindly consented to arrange Sales, etc.

I hope you may find room to reproduce the document in a future newsletter. So far I have located about 40 paintings, with many of them painted by Goodrich for local farmers in return for a meal and sixpence. It would be interesting to see if any of the paintings and additional artists now come to light, given the new evidence of the size of the group in 1924.

We owe it to this extraordinary group of heroes to keep up the good work.

Best wishes.

Chris"

Rivelin Art Society.



THE RIVELIN ART SOCIETY came into existence through the expressed hope of many who wish to have the natural beauties of the Rivelin Valley and neighbourhood placed on permanent record before they become obliterated by the outward march of our City.

We venture to hope that our efforts in this direction will meet with the hearty approval and support of our patrons.

List of Patrons.

LI.-Col. F. Revell Sutton, J.P.	R. W. Girdwood, Esq.
Col. J. Hay Campbell.	Dr. W. S. Kerr, Esq.
C.B.E., D.S.O.	— Kerr, Junr., Esq.
Dr. Bremner, Esq.	Dr. R. T. Martin, Esq.
Coun. E. Branley, Esq.	G. W. Platts, Esq.
E. Brand, Esq.	Dr. Pattison, Esq.
A. E. Boler, Esq.	W. Rhodes, Esq.
Wm. Cole, Esq.	H. A. Stones, Esq., J.P.
Arthur Davy, Esq.	E. Thompson, Esq.
E. Evans, Esq.	B. Wood, Esq.
Wm. Fox, Esq.	Major J. Wortley, Esq.
A. Fenton, Esq.	S. Wortley, Esq.
A. A. Gunn Russell, Esq.	E. Wortley, Esq.
— Gordon, Esq.	O. Wilkinson, Esq.
H. C. Glossop, Esq.	

Catalogue.

No.	Title	Artist	Price including Frame Gns.
1	A Waterfall, Rivelin	J. W. Clarke	7½
2	Argument's Yard, Whitby	B. Baines	3½
3	Dam Flask	W. R. E. Goodrich	12
4	The Shadow, Redmires	"	10
5	A Showery Morning	P. Bertram	—

No.	Title	Artist	Price including Frame Gns.
6	The Estuary, Barmouth	A. Norton	4
7	Hayfield, near Crosspool	"	4
8	Springtime in the Woods	J. W. Clarke	8
9	The Woodcutter	"	7½
10	A Norfolk Bye-Lane	J. Bagshaw	5
11	Cottages, Robin Hood's Bay	"	5
12	Wadslay Common	T. W. Chapple	3½
13	Appledore, N. Devon	"	4
14	On the Ewden	R. Scott Temple	4
15	Moorland Brook	W. A. Scorrall	6
16	On the Coppice	F. Carnell	6
17	Rivelin Bridge	"	6½
18	A Summer Idyll	J. B. Lee	3
19	A Way to Ely	"	6
20	Corn Mill, Rivelin	B. Baines	3½
21	Abernyte	R. Scott Temple	—
22	A Passing Shower	W. A. Scorrall	10
23	Ecclesall Woods	T. La Dell	5
24	Throstle's Nest, Hathersage	H. G. Slater	4
25	Cadman Lane, Sheffield	"	3
26	Road through Wyming Brook	S. Marsden	1
27	On the Rivelin	"	2
28	Rambler's Resting Place, High Neb	D. Baines	20
29	Poacher's Point	"	20
30	A bit of Southampton	H. G. Slater	3
31	Near Fulwood Head	A. Norton	3
32	A Forest Glade	W. A. Scorrall	5
33	Placid Waters	W. Whitehead	3
34	The Copse	"	3
35	Looking Down Rivelin	G. T. Steel	10
36	Rivelin from Lodge Moor	"	6
37	Wyming Brook	"	8
38	Still Life	J. O. Fordie	—
39	A November Morning	P. Bertram	—

Rivelin water Treatment Works



Over the last few issues of the RVCG newsletter we have reported on the progress of the recent Rivelin Water Treatment Works upgrades and managed to negotiate site visits during the construction and commissioning stages.

The site has been operational since December 2017 with landscaping completed in 2018 and arrangements were made for an official opening earlier this year and Y.W kindly sent an invitation to RVCG and David Lyon (treasurer) went as the Group's representative.



Duke of Gloucester unveiling the plaque with Richard Flint Y.W Chief Executive Officer

The Duke of Gloucester included the opening in his visit to Sheffield on the 14th April which also included a visit to an art exhibition at the Millennium Gallery and a careers conference at the Edge, Endcliffe Crescent.



Simon Balding Y.W and Richard Flint showing the Duke of Gloucester the works

The opening was kept low key due to security concerns and site safety issues. The Duke inspected the site accompanied by Richard Flint Yorkshire Water CEO who introduced him to the various members of the party as they progressed around the plant.



David with Richard Flint and Paul Bentley (Director of J.N.Bentley main contractors for the works)

In subsequent discussions Paul Bentley director of Bentleys said that more landscaping would be carried out this summer as the work last year was hampered by the extremely dry conditions (what a change this year)

and David suggested that there was sufficient local interest for Y.W to host an Open Day at the site, Richard Flint agreed to consider the request.



David trying to negotiate an Open Day (watch this space)

David Lyons

Trampled to death by a cow

The newspaper clip below was kindly provided by Mike Dyson. There is a record for Levi Thompson in the Sheffield and Telegraph Obituary Column dated 26 November 1924 which described him as 'The Oldest Inhabitant of Rivelin'

TRAMPLED TO DEATH BY A COW.



Mr. Levi Thompson (82), of the Lawns Farm, Rivelin, who died after being trampled on by one of his cows after a fit of giddiness. He was buried at Bradfield, on Saturday.

RVCG Task Team News

On Sunday 28th April, around 30 RVCG and Action For Stannington volunteers, congregated at Havelock Dam to begin this year's litter pick.



Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Project

The May Task Day had few volunteers and so the time was spent clearing out the flotsam and jetsam along the river at Roscoe. The June Task Day saw about a dozen volunteers put a fine surfacing on the existing footpath topping at Roscoe which is now looking really good.



Roscoe Bridge resurfacing works by the RVCG
The main footpath along the river is programmed to be resurface by Council contractors as part of a 2 year programme. We have currently spent just £1000 of the £20k budget, although around half is held in reserve for Roger Kites Wildlife Pond plans at Rivelin Corn Mill.

Graham Appleby

THE RECORDER – Summer 2019

The Recorder

Another summer is here and yet again more record-breaking temperatures. The day after I came back from holiday (25th) was the hottest July day on record. My thermometer in the shade showed 28.8°C and the one in the sun got up to 34.9°C. Much too hot for me but it was brilliant for getting the holiday washing dried and aired. It has rained every day since and I am writing this in the middle of a thunderstorm. This will at least help the apples and plums to get bigger and the two pears on my little tree. There were fifteen originally, but I do not know what happened to the others. Maybe the squirrel had something to do with their disappearance. Still, I have had loads of raspberries and blackcurrants to compensate. It looks more like a rain forest outside with the tops of the trees in the mist. The hedges have had a spurt of growth in the last two weeks. Birds may still be nesting so please check before getting the hedge cutter out. My Sparrows are thriving with lots of young this year and the Blue Tits and Great Tits also did well. I have also seen juvenile Blackbirds and Robins. Please let me know if your nesting boxes were successful, and any other interesting or unusual activity in your gardens. Philip Walshaw sent me a lovely photo of his pond, which is approximately 5 feet (1.5m) in diameter. It shows dragonflies in various stages climbing up the stems of the irises. Philip had these identified by an entomologist who said that they were Southern Hawker Dragonflies and the nymphs will have taken 3-5 years, and gone through several instars (changes), to reach maturity, a sign that the pond is in a healthy condition. Philip and his family and friends have all been

fascinated watching more than a dozen nymphs climb up the irises and metamorphose into beautiful dragonflies. The downside is that the growing nymphs will have devoured most of the tadpoles in the pond. The solution will be to raise some tadpoles in a separate tank as I have been doing for many years now.

Sue Shaw also saw something interesting near Havelock weir in May. 'Amazing sight on my outing this morning – a moorhen climbing a tree taking nest material up to a mate, presumably sitting on the nest! From the river, it jumped up onto the bank, then walked up a slightly-sloping tree trunk, across an ivy 'bridge' onto the hawthorn tree and up to the nest.' Sue checked the internet and found that it is not that uncommon for Moorhens to nest in trees.

I am still trapping moths once a week and am getting some interesting ones with exotic sounding names such as Hebrew Character, Pale Tussock, Heart and Dart, Yellow Underwing, Dark Arches, Foxglove Pug and Peppered Moth. The Peppered Moth, which is speckled in black and white, became famous as evidence of evolution by natural selection when it was noted that the normally scarce dark form had increased in industrialised areas in the West Riding and Lancashire as it was camouflaged against sooty walls and tree trunks, thereby escaping bird predation. Identifying moths can be very difficult as individuals can vary a lot in colour. I usually take a close-up photo as an aid and get help from an expert. Some moths, like the North American Monarch and European Painted Lady butterflies, are migrants, often travelling great distances. The Humming-bird Hawk-moth flies here from southern Europe or even Africa and I have seen it feeding on

Valerian. Peacock, Red Admiral and Small Tortoiseshell butterflies are about, though not in the huge numbers we used to get. Keep your eyes peeled for Painted Ladies as more of them are expected this year. The Swifts will be returning to their winter homes soon which always makes me feel a little sad. I had sixteen screaming overhead the other day.

Thank you to the following for sending in their records:-

Sue Shaw S6 – Sue is a regular walker in the valley and Bolehills and keeps a record of what she sees. During April, May and June there was much activity with Dippers, Chiff Chaffs, Nuthatch, Wrens, Tree Creepers, Blackbirds, Thrushes, Mandarin Ducks, Mallard, Long-tailed, Blue and Great Tits, 2 Tawny Owls, Willow Warblers, Blackcap, Greenfinches and Great Spotted Woodpeckers. Sue has also seen Dippers and Grey Wagtails feeding young and Painted Lady and Red Admiral butterflies.

Ian & Heather Sharpe S10 – Had a Bee-fly in their garden in April feeding on the flowers of Aubretia with its long proboscis. (possibly *Bombylius major* which flies in the spring).

Neil Porter S6 – 11.4.19 1st Swallow sighted perched on wires above Lodge Lane. 27.7.19 – Silver Washed Fritillary (found in kitchen). Second year running for this butterfly in Neil's garden.

Richard Bonsall S6 – 9.6.19 Roe Deer, on permissive bridle way near Rails Road.

Pauline Higbid S10 – 28.4.19 – Heron over Hagg Lane flying towards Rivelin.

Jean & Brian Mansell S10 – Heron near Packhorse Bridge in late May; 23.6.19 – 2 Voles at Agden Reservoir.

Vivian Falshaw S10 -28.6.19 – Butterflies in garden – Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell and Speckled Wood feeding on Sweet Williams.

Joan Buckland S10 – Highlights – 28.4.19 – 1st Swallow near Redmires Farm; 5.5.19 – Coal Tit feeding 1 young; 16.5.19 – Watched female Mandarin leading her 8 tiny ducklings from Third Coppice pond down to the river (it's lovely to be in the right place at the right time!). We carried on walking down river and were a little apprehensive when we passed the Heron flying upstream. We need not have worried as on our way back the ducks had not moved far and we counted 10 ducklings. Sue Shaw says they are now on Havelock Dam and there are 8 juveniles. 30.5.19 – watched vixen feeding 3 cubs (whilst standing up) at the top of the garden – magical. 15.6.19 – juvenile Great Spotted Woodpecker on fat balls; 2.8.19 large & small Cabbage Whites, Gatekeepers, Holly Blue and 1 Painted Lady and lots of bees and hoverflies.

Joan Buckland

Honey Bee Update

Having been without honey bees for two years, I now have 5 swarms hived around my garden. There were few swarms to be had last year but they certainly made up for it this year. Most bee keepers have filled every variety of hive they possess with one regional bee keeping association having caught over 40 swarms. I have had to purchase two new hives to accommodate my extra intake costing over £400 each so it's not a cheap hobby. Hopefully the bees will be happy in their new hives and produce lots of honey; if not this year, hopefully next year. If you have any bee or wasp related issues then I will be happy to advise.

Graham Appleby