

Autumn 2021 no 120

Through The Chair

September 2021 was the official 30th anniversary of the RVCG. We therefore ran a Heritage Open Day in Rivelin Park and included our 30th anniversary celebrations with the unveiling of a stone bench. This had been commissioned by the RVCG with sculptor Andrew Vickers of Stoneface Creative. The recycled Scottish sandstone is reddish in colour which certainly stands out from its surroundings. There are a mixture of elaborate carvings of wildlife and the tools of the trade which makes for an intriguing time trying to identify them all. We are hoping that this is the first of several sculptures that are planned for a sculpture trail around Rivelin Park. These will be designed to reflect the industrial and natural history of the Rivelin Valley and to complement the growing catalogue of information on the RVCG website. We are hoping to secure funding for the more substantial sculptures which can cost £5000-£10,000 and more. There will also be some smaller sculptures that we can resource more cheaply. Some members were worried about 'lots' of sculptures in the valley, so best to bear this in mind. The RVCG has two other planned sculptures, 'The Sleeping Giant' destined for the Rivelin playground and a large 'dipper' or 'heron' made from recycled cutlery. There are some wonderful sculptures and sculpture trails in other parks to give you an idea of what can be done:

[Crookes Valley playground](#)
[Pocket Park Stocksbridge](#)
[High Lea Park New Mills](#)
[Carsington](#)

There are also sculpture trails at Pendle, Longshaw and Buxton. Please contact us if

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2022 Membership is now due. Paypal is the simplest payment method is found at <http://rivelinvalley.org.uk/join.php>. Cost remains the same at £3 per household.

you can contribute in any way either as a sculptor, financier or have your own ideas. I am enormously proud of the RVCG organisation, and the dedication of its volunteers almost brings a tear to the eye. Some of our long-standing committee members have stood down recently and I have had to dig deep to keep the RVCG running. But we do have some new blood in the ranks, and I feel that the organisation is once again taking on new momentum, driven by our new website.

I am hoping to get the newsletter back on track this month following a long absence. We have tentatively arranged for our AGM to be on Tuesday 19th April (first day after the Easter school holidays) via Zoom. We are looking at restoring face to face meetings this coming Autumn. Please enjoy the following photographs of our Heritage Open Day event and thank you to everyone who took part to make it such a memorable day.

Graham Appleby
RVCG Chairman

**The RVCG would like to thank
Valleyside Garden Centre for their
continued support**



The Lord Mayor waits to unveil the commemorative bench



The new bench is revealed....



RVCG Chairman Graham Appleby stands proudly with the new bench and Councillor Gail Smith



Lord Mayor Council. Gail Smith is flanked by the sculptor Andrew Vickers to the right and Andrew's son Tom to the left

The RVCG commemorative bench has pride of place in Rivelin Park and can be seen here in all its glory. The bench was designed and installed by Stoneface Creative of Storrs Lane, Stannington



Everything about it reflects various aspects of the Rivelin Valley and its industrial and natural history.



The bench is designed as an anvil, adorned with carvings of metal working tools and wildlife



*The circular stone reflects a grindstone
Thank you to Mark Bateman for the photography.*



Fay Musselwhite leads her poetry walk



People gather for one of the guided walks down to Mousehole Forge led by Graham Appleby



Joan Buckland in her element in the children's wildlife corner.



Our two newly trained First Aiders – Graham Axelby and Scott Berg on duty.



The RVCG Committee starting rear left: Joan Buckland (recorder), Mark Bateman (twitter), Greg Shaw (website), Roger Kite (ex-chairman), Sue Shaw (publications), Christine Roe (treasurer) Front: Graham Appleby (chairman) and Sheffield Lord Mayor Councillor Gail Smith



Christine and Graham Roe taking care of the RVCG stall



The Lord Mayor's entourage stops by John Blewitt who is a fishing coach who champions the right behaviour for anglers to fish with respect for their environment.

Rivelin Valley Swimming Pool

My maternal grandfather, Herbert Morton was born in April 1886. Having survived the First World War, he returned to Sheffield to continue his career and to marry. He had worked for the council and had eventually taken on the management of Corporation Street baths, where he worked and lived with his family, his wife and eventually four children, the eldest my mother, born in 1921. As part of his role as manager of the swimming baths, he was a swimming instructor and had the summer duty of supervising the swimming pool in the Rivelin Valley.

During the school summer holidays, my mother would take her father's lunch box and drink up to the Rivelin pool, possibly have a swim and spend the rest of the day, although as your records show, the pool was supposedly exclusively for males. She loved to be out of the house, loved swimming, was a successful competitor in local swimming galas and hoped herself to be an instructor.

Sadly, I have no information about how often the pool opened, how often my grandfather was there, how long the days were and generally what went on. I did acquire a photograph of the pool from the Sheffield archive but unfortunately, the enlargement blurred the faces of the figures and so I couldn't see whether any of them were my family. I was very glad to see the information about the pool and a photograph, in your splendidly produced and informative booklet.

Jean Needham, November 2021



New Dam was built in 1853 to supplement the water supply to Spooners Wheel (Rivelin Café) It was turned into an open-air swimming pool in 1909 and closed around 1930.

THE RECORDER – AUTUMN 2021

Bonfire night has come and gone (several times) and Winter is approaching, although it feels like early Autumn with the mild weather and plenty of leaves still on the trees, which have given a gloriously colourful display this year. July was the hottest month globally ever recorded. September and October were milder than usual. Up to the 21st September, according to Paul Hudson, BBC weatherman, it was the warmest since 1659. It was 29° in Sheffield on the 7th September. I Like fireworks but why do they have such loud explosions, they seem to get louder every year. Our cat was quite upset with the bangs, but she had a nice, cosy, warm bed to comfort her. It must be so frightening for the birds and animals outdoors. Some of the fireworks went on after midnight and more people are letting them off to celebrate birthdays etc. The other thing that disturbs wildlife is the burning of the heather for grouse shooting. We can see the moors from our bedroom window and twice this year the sky has been full of smoke over Bradfield way. On the 10th and 11th October the sky was full of smoke filling the Loxley valley. It must have affected anyone living there.

The number of people walking in the valley has eased now the nights are drawing in. If we get heavy rain some of the well-worn paths and walls will need attention to make them safe. You may have noticed that the leaves on the Alder trees are well nibbled. This is caused by the metallic blue/black Alder Beetle, *Agelastica alni*, re-introduced probably via a garden centre in Cheshire and spreading. This might look drastic but does not significantly harm the tree. Our Heritage Open Day in the valley on the 19th September went well. After a wet start the weather brightened up for the rest of the day and we had a steady stream of enthusiastic children and parents looking at the wildlife exhibits. Most children are intrigued by creepy crawlies and if encouraged at a very early age will grow up to love and respect Nature.

I have had to move my sunflower seeds out of the garage as the woodmice have discovered them. We have caught and released several but, probably, not far

enough away. When we bought a new trap, as the others had been nibbled through, the instruction was to take them at least 500 metres away. It may be the same mice returning for a good meal in a safe environment.

Our moth trapping season has come to an end and the numbers have dwindled recently, probably because the allotted nights were often damp and windy. Notable recent records were Blair's Shoulder-knot (nothing to do with an ex-Prime Minister), Angle Shades, Green Carpet, Garden Carpet and Common Marbled Carpet. On 15th July I was awakened by the sound of strimming at the front of the house. I rushed downstairs, in my dressing gown, to find two Amey employees had already cut down half the flowers in the genel. My neighbour was already there remonstrating with them. They said they had instructions to cut back the vegetation as they had had complaints. We had a discussion about the Sparrows and Blackbirds nesting in the hedge and the many insects, including bees, that fed on the flowers. One man moved away to phone someone and came back saying they would just cut back to the edge of the path and not to the wall. So our end of the genel was mostly saved. I do keep my eye on the plants and trim them frequently. The path at the other end of the genel is quite wide with a border where the plants were growing so there was no need at all to cut these back. The plants that got the chop were Purple Toadflax, Herb Robert, Nipplewort, Rosebay Willowherb and a lovely thistle that was about to flower. You might think those are all weeds but I call them wild flowers and they made a colourful border. The larva of many of the moths we monitor feed on these plants. To cut a long story short, for a few days from the 16th September there were up to 17 Small Tortoiseshell Butterflies, the odd Large White, Peacock, Holly Blue and Speckled Wood feeding on the pink Valerian and Ivy flowers in the genel. This is the most butterflies I have seen in one place for a long time and caused some excitement and delight amongst the children coming home from school. This would not have happened if the Amey men had not seen sense so thank you to them. The declaration

of a nature emergency for Sheffield has worked for our genel, which is a fantastic corridor for wildlife. Make the most of the colourful leaves and the mild weather as it is forecast to change soon. It is beneficial to wildlife if the garden is not too tidy over the cold winter months as many creatures hibernate under the leaves and plants. Look out for the winter migrants that have been reported in some areas.

Thank you for your sightings:-

Gillian Drinkwater S10 – 5.9.21 Ringlet in garden; 10.10.21 – 5/6 skeins of about 60 noisy Pink-footed Geese going SE. Other people also saw or heard these early in the morning.

Derek Hastings S10 -28.8.21 – 50 Swallows/Martins sitting on lines next to Soughley Lane near Wyming Brook Farm preparing to migrate, also a flock of Goldfinches on thistles and 15 Canada Geese grazing in fields off Soughley Lane; 7.9.21 – female Pheasant in garden.

Mark Bateman S6 – 6.10.21 regularly sees Tawny Owl in local barn.

Roger Kite S10 – 26.10.21 – Fly Agaric under Birch scrub at Fox Hagg.

Sue Shaw S6 – 22.7.21 -Dead Common Shrew at Walkley Cemetery.

Chris Roe S10 – 28.7.21 – Heron at Frank Wheel; 30.7.21 – 12 + juvenile Mandarin ducks mixed in with Mallard at Havelock Dam.

Joan Buckland S10 – Regular visitors to garden – lots of Sparrows; Blue Tits, Coal Tits, Great Tits, feral Pigeons, Wood Pigeons, 2 Crows, Dunnock, Robin, 2 Goldfinch; occasional visitors – Jay, Long-tailed Tits, Wren, female Chaffinch, Male Greenfinch, Magpie, male and female Tawny Owl. The Blackbirds have returned to the garden after a brief absence.

Joan Buckland
16.11.21



Small Tortoiseshell on Valerian 16.9.21

Streets Ahead Newsletter

Link to [2021 Newsletter](#)

Keeping you informed....

Those of you directly affected by Streets Ahead works will either receive a letter advising you of arrangements before we start any work or be notified by roadside signs. Reporting service issues

If you would like to report any issues, please contact us: Online at www.sheffield.gov.uk/reportmystreet By email:

streetsahead@sheffield.gov.uk

By phone: 0114 273 4567

Feedback

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streetsahead@sheffield.gov.uk.

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