

NORWOOD GREEN NEWS

*Newsletter of the Norwood Green Residents' Association
& The Norwood Green Village Hall Charitable Trust*



Residents' Association Chairperson's Report

Hello again. We have some new signs going up on the commons around the village, asking people not to park on the greens. Time and effort has gone into this. The signs have been stained and made in keeping with the environment as far as possible. People have often asked if we can have another village fete. Well they do take a lot of organising so it is already a little late for this year, but if enough people want one we could perhaps organise it for next year. If you are able to help and would like to, please give us your name and telephone number and we will start to keep a register and then next year lets make it a really good do.

Residents meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday in the month at 8.00 PM in the village hall and last probably just less than an hour. If you have anything you would like to say this is the place to come.

Wendy P Ramsden. Chairman

Christmas Carol Service

The Christmas Carol Service was a great evening with standing room only. Many thanks to all who attended and contributed to the collection of £144.00. This has been forwarded to the Saltmine Trust. This event will continue as an annual feature. Everyone commented that they look forward to it very much.

April Hargreaves

Sadly, April passed away in December after a sudden illness. April was a much loved villager and character. She was born and lived all of her life in Norwood Green. You could set your watch by her as her routine was known by all. She was a churchgoer, a member of Christian Endeavour and The Good Companions. She was a keen supporter of numerous village events. She is, and will continue to be, missed by everyone who knew her. Our thoughts are with all her family.

Forthcoming Events in the Hall

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These are some of the social events which have recently been arranged by committee members for the year ahead. Everyone is most welcome to come along. If you would like to be involved with any events or help on any occasion please just come along on the day or mention it to any committee member. It will be lovely to see you. Those involved with each event will arrange meetings, helpers and tickets nearer the date. As usual the first stop for tickets will be Beattie

March 25th (Friday)	Quiz Night with Supper
April 8th (Friday)	Spring Flower Day
May 21st (Saturday)	Table Top Sale
June (Date to confirm)	Gardener – Joe Maiden
July /August	No events planned
Sept. 11th	Sunday Lunch (Set price – set menu)
Sept. 26th (Monday)	Macmillan Nurses – Coffee Afternoon
Oct. 21st (Friday)	Silent Auction with Canapés/Cheese & Wine
Nov. 18th (Friday)	Games Evening Board games, beetle drive etc
Dec. 10th (Saturday)	Christmas Fayre

Please watch the notice boards for further information.

The Village Greens

As Wendy has mentioned, work has gone ahead with the new signs **“No Parking or Driving onto the Greens”** and you will see these now around the village.

Please take care to keep your vehicles and those of any of your visitors only on the designated tracks and give the greens chance to recover from their present damaged state. With everyone's co-operation and the improvement the summer months can bring we should all benefit from seeing the greens restored to their original pleasant, well maintained condition, a source of pride and enjoyment.

The green in front of Norwood Terrace is still under consideration by the council at the moment and further information will follow when we hear from them. Due to financial restraints the council is no longer carrying out the erecting of any fencing around the playground. They are still in the process of obtaining some stones for placing as previously arranged in the more vulnerable areas.

Extracts from “The byelaws for the regulation and management of Norwood Green Commons 1951”

If anyone would like to see a copy of the byelaws governing the greens please ask the RA for a copy.

These laws give the council powers to “prohibit the drawing, driving or placing upon the commons or any part thereof without lawful authority of any carriage, truck, cart, caravan, motor cycle or other vehicle”.

They also state “the inhabitants of the district and neighbourhood shall have a right of free access to every part of the commons and a privilege of playing games and of enjoying other species of recreation thereon”.

And “the council shall maintain the commons free from all encroachments, and shall not permit any trespass on or partial or other enclosure of any part thereof”

It is in the interests of these rights that the RA has worked to rectify loss and damage and to restore for all of us a sense of enjoyment and appreciation for our neighbourhood.

Looking forward to Spring ~ at last! Photos by Chris Wells



Local sheep along Shutts Lane



View across to the viaduct



White Prunus on Village Street



Cherry trees at the Cenotaph



Norwood Green Clock Tower



Rookes Hall blossom

Norwood Green in 1873

This is an abridged extract from the Leeds Mercury of 12th April 1873 by their reporter who writes under the pseudonym of "The Rambler"

Those who have journeyed by rail between Leeds and Bradford to Halifax will have observed the charming tract of country which meets the eye of emerging from the Pickle Bridge tunnel. Leaving the smoky region of Low Moor behind, the air blows sweet – especially if it comes from the north-west – and the sight is gladdened with green fields, thick woods, and hills and dales in pleasing variety, bounded in the distance by the ranges of high lands forming the "backbone" of the kingdom. Well known as this district may be to thousands who have been whisked through it in a railway train, there are comparatively few residents either of Leeds or Bradford who are familiar with the many agreeable rambles that may be enjoyed among the dales and woods of this, one of the healthiest districts within easy reach of several great centres of industry. Twenty years ago few tall chimneys were to be seen from the heights looking southwards, westward and north-west, but now these landmarks are more numerous, and though the consumption of smoke does not appear to be enforced as rigidly as is done in some towns, yet there is enough of rural beauty left to render a walk through the district attractive to the lover of nature and exhilarating to the seeker after health.

Alighting at Pickle Bridge Station, the route was over Norwood Green. The day was fine, but hazy in the distance, and the hills were barely discernable. The woods were still dark and sombre-looking, but the trees were bursting into new life. Yonder to the southward is Hartshhead, and the wooded heights of Clifton; below is Bailiff Bridge, the hills of Calderdale beyond, and in the intervening distance are woods and dales and many fine mansions – Crow Nest, the seat of Sir Titus Salt, hidden from view. Northwards is the ancient house of Royds Hall embosomed in woods; south-east stands the equally ancient Bierley Hall, dimly seen through the smoke of Low Moor, and as the eye wanders round the horizon it alights on Shelf Hall and the high lands in that direction.

Listening to the joyous strain of the song birds, one could not help regretting that they were not included in the Act of Parliament which affords protection to other wild favourites. The land around the district is well cultivated, and the husbandmen were busy in the fields, turning

over and preparing the rich mould for the reception of seed. We learn that on that very morning the agricultural labourers have asked for, and obtained, payment at the rate of 21s. a week. Ten years ago the average pay was 14s. weekly. An intelligent resident pointed out to us an old coal pit on Norwood Green which (he said) had been sunk by the owner with what he termed "a gold maul". A shaft was driven into the coal measures, but water prevented further progress, although it was evident that a good seam of coal had been struck. The owner bided his time. Now the Low Moor Company have got into the district. They intend to get the lower bed of coal, and the owner of the old pit is in hopes that the lower workings will take off the water from his coal, which is above, and in this way he will be relieved of a difficulty and be enabled to realise a profitable return from his speculation, which had lain in abeyance so long. The inroad of the Low Moor Company will not, however, tend to improve the appearance of the face of the country. The residents in this locality possess an advantage in being able to purchase coal several shillings a ton cheaper than it can be had either in Leeds, Bradford or Halifax, the Low Moor Company not having raised the price of their coal to such an extent as has been done in the towns.

The plain old school at Norwood Green proclaims on its front "Sacred to learning, Built by subscription. Anno Domini 1810." Crossing the valley by Coley Old Mill, long disused, but again grinding corn, the road winds upwards to Coley Hall, built in 1300, and many years the residence of the Sunderland family, who still occupy the place.

Mary Twentyman



Coley Mill

from "History of Brighouse, Rastrick and Hipperholme by J Horsfall Turner 1893

Big Society?

When I was asked to write something to encourage younger people to get involved in the village I spent quite a bit of time trying to work out how to not sound like an idiot - or a candidate for local office or students union. I decided it was probably inevitable that I would sound like both so I've settled on writing down why I'm involved. I need to start by telling you that at 40 I only qualify for the Norwood Green Youth movement in relative terms, that in itself highlights why it'd be great to get new generations involved.

Where I grew up the community was very close. There weren't many people who moved in or away so everyone knew everyone and it was something that I enjoyed being a part of - even if I didn't realise it at the time. It seems that we all move around a lot more than we used to and as I've moved around I've found myself a local but never really rediscovered that sense of community.

Moving into Norwood Green was a little different and since I've been in the village I've enjoyed a village fete, a jubilee barbecue (at least I think it was a jubilee - whatever it was fun), a barn dance, a fantastic carol concert complete with brass band, a scarecrow walk, Christmas Fairs, several excellent balls at the White Beare and some enormous fireworks at the Pear Tree (not forgetting Norma's fabulous parties). Each time it struck me how many people came along and how much fun it was. It seems that, given a little excuse, we're all keen to join in, which is great. However, these things are gradually becoming a little fewer and further between. These events raised a lot of money for the village and have secured the village hall for the future. With a little money in the bank there's no reason why future events can't raise money for other good causes locally.

I joined the residents association to help with these events and to get more involved with others in the village. If I'm honest, we spend a lot of time talking about speeding cars, damage to the greens, neighbourhood watch, dog poo, planning permission, motorbikes in the woods... all important local issues but not a laugh a minute.

We've got the opportunity to use the residents association and village facilities to run as many events as we'd like and have some fun as a community - we just need the ideas and a few people to help us out. We're all busy and it doesn't need to be a serious time commitment. If you can spare a little time please let us know or just come along to the meeting; bring friends and ideas. With enough interest I'm sure we can have a laugh, make new friends and catch up with some old ones.

Jon Proctor

Norwood Green Art Circle

The Art Circle continues to thrive, thanks to the efforts of the Committee which was formed following the sudden and sad loss of Colin Scholey last September.

Demonstrations and workshops have been held each month as usual, and members have enjoyed some old favourites along with interesting newcomers to the Art Circle demonstrating a wide variety of subjects and techniques. The Christmas Party – always an enjoyable occasion – was well supported with a special presentation made to Mrs Joan Scholey in appreciation of all the work she and Colin had done for the Art Circle. A Ciglee print of Gustav Klimt's painting "Malceana at the Gardasee", a favourite holiday destination of Joan and Colin was given to Joan.

Members had also wanted to remember Colin's dedication to the Art Circle and a special competition "The Colin Scholey Annual Award" was introduced – a competition in which members submitted a painting done during the year and displayed at the party where members and guests voted for their favourite showed some of the talents within the Art Circle. The winner was a delightful water colour landscape submitted by Mrs Wendy Gray.

The Art Circle meets every third Monday in the month at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall (next meeting Monday 21 March). The demonstrations can be very interesting and informative to would-be artists and non-painters alike, contradicting the old adage about "watching paint dry" being boring!!

So why not come along some time, prospective members and guests are always welcome.

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Many of you may know the budding stars in this photo, which was taken on the cricket ground where the current pavilion stands.

Top row

Peter Dawson, Billy Booth, Billy Watts, Dennis Fieldhouse,

Arthur Dwight and Eric Bower.

Lower row

Malcolm Dillon, Saville Walker, Godfrey Harper and Frank Farnell

The Pear Tree Inn

Bookings are now being taken for Mothers Day which is on Sunday the 3rd April.

The Pear Tree now has the benefit of Sky HD sport, plus 3D when available.

Keep Fit

Monday 7.30 to 8.30 pm. Excluding the 3rd Monday each month.
We are going strong and numbers have increased. When the lighter nights come, we will be taking an hour's walk around the outskirts of the village and everyone is welcome to join us.

Aerobics Class

Keep fit is still going strong in the Village Hall every Wednesday 7pm to 8pm. £20.00 monthly – and well worth it if you care to join us..

Preliminary Notice

I may succumb to some requests to do another interactive photography evening, possibly at the end of April (avoiding THE wedding), or early May.

Maybe some of you would let me know if such an evening would interest you. It would involve a short talk, some easy local walking with your camera, and possibly a short session on what you can do with your photos, followed by refreshments.

If it works out, there will be a notice up on the Village Notice Board

Chris Wells tel. 01274 601094

Monday Coffee Afternoon 2.00pm to 3.30pm

Where can you go for a coffee and biscuits for 50p. There is good company and you don't have to travel.

Table Tennis Club

Please feel free to come along to this informal and friendly group who meet every Thursday at 7.30 until 9.00 pm. The open membership is £3.00 per session and equipment is provided.

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 This includes the Notice Board

Contact: the editors, as below

Adverts in the Residents Association Village Notice Board
 £5 for a few weeks

Contact: Chris Wells. Tel 01274 601094
Email: norwoodgreennews@aol.com

Hall Reservations

Contact: Beattie Horsfall Tel. 01274 674483

Chairman of the Residents' Association: Wendy Ramsden

Hon. Secretary: Carole Dent

Hon Treasurer: David Sugden

Village Website: www.norwoodgreen.org

Most of the Newsletter photos are in colour on the website

Please note as from December 2010 this Newsletter has new

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