

The Official Newsletter of the Crosspool Forum
Having a voice . . . Making a difference

CROSSPOOL CLARION™



CROSSPOOL NEWS - crosspool.info
3000 copies delivered quarterly
Editor: Ian Hague BEM 

WELCOME TO BROOMHILL COMMUNITY LIBRARY!

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KING EDWARD'S PLANT THE WINTER FLOWERS

Miss Kent and eight students from Key Stage 3 joined the Crosspool Community Forum Chair and Vice Chair on Thursday 16 November 2023, where the students had the opportunity to plant the winter flowers in the flower tubs in Crosspool and gain knowledge of why those particular plants survive in the winter etc.



These students were chosen for making improvements in their attendance, positive changes in their attitude and approach to learning and general kindness in and around the School building to other students and staff members.

The Chair and Vice Chair of Crosspool Community Forum were extremely impressed by the knowledge the students had regarding planting and reiterated many times, how well behaved the group was and how well they presented King Edward VII School.

Well done to the following students: Y7-Petya, Freya, Isaac and Ensar Y8-Lilia, Katie and Abdelrahman Y9-Reuben Miss S. Kent Education Welfare Officer - Key Stage 3



Crosspool.info

CROSSPOOL FORUM

OPEN MEETING

Thursday 25th April 2024 at 7:00pm

St Columba's Church, Manchester Road, Crosspool

Guest speakers - local councillors, the police and council officers, are generally on hand to listen to your concerns on local issues.

Keep your eye on the 'Spar noticeboard' & 'Crosspool News' website

Email:- crosspoolforum@gmail.com or Tele:- 07713 687 955

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Incorporating St Columba's & Stephen Hill Church Newsletter

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CLASS TIME TABLE

Tuesday 6-7pm Lomas Hall (Stannington)

Thursday 10-11am (Crosspool) (PAD FITNESS CLASS - WOMEN ONLY)

Thursday 6-7pm (Crosspool) (ALL ABILITIES)

Saturday (Crosspool) 9.15-10.30 Beginners to Green belt to 13 years

Saturday (Crosspool) 10.30-11.45 13 years to Adult

For more information contact Jo 07708 795172 or Scott 07970 597800



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PRECINCT FESTIVE CHRISTMAS

The Crosspool shopping precinct had a festive look thanks to the Christmas trees with sparkling lights, provided by the Valley Side Garden Centre and decorated by community volunteers.

Crosspool Forum coordinated this event, which brought together groups of people on a cold Sunday December morning to brighten up the area.

The volunteers and local businesses showed remarkable generosity and spirit by donating their time and resources to make the precinct more festive.

Steve and Ian are very grateful to them and to Direct Travel, who kindly let them use their concourse to set up and decorate the Christmas trees.



Recognising the importance to dispose of our real Christmas trees sustainably rather than end up in landfill, which is both costly to the taxpayer and the environment, on Sunday morning 7th January, the Forum had arranged a brief window for the community to drag their discarded Christmas trees to the forecourt in front of local travel agents "Direct Travel."

The huge number of Christmas trees brought for recycling were soon reduced to wood chippings by Andy Clayton (local tree surgeon) and his team for mulch, outdoor firewood, animal bedding and pathways locally.

It was gratifying to hear the residents of Crosspool appreciate the hard work of the volunteers and the convenience of being able to dispose of their Christmas trees environmentally friendly.

C.D.Y.S.T.

Crosspool & District Youth Sports Trust

Charity number 523911



Recycle  Charity

The Trustees of our local sports field at the CDYST have been raising funds for a few years by collecting and recycling empty printer cartridges. The old process of returning your cartridges in a pre-paid envelope has ended. BUT the Trustees are still collecting, so if you can deliver any old cartridges to the CDYST preferably in a waterproof bag marked EMPTY CARTRIDGES FOR RECYCLE and if no one is there just push thru the iron railing at the main entrance door, they will be passed on for recycle, help reduce landfill and help us raise much needed funds.

Thank you for your support. Dave Bolsover Trustee

OPEN MEETING-BULLET POINTS-THURS 25TH JANUARY 2024

Present; Ian Hague (Chair); Steve Reynolds (Vice chair); Gillian Drinkwater; (Hon Min Sec) John Drinkwater (Treasurer); Crosspool residents Apologies; Cllr Minesh Parekh; Linda Gooden (KES Head teacher); Janet Tonks Nick Duggan and Roger (Forum committee members).

Guests; Cllrs. Tim Huggan & Ruth Milsom; Cathy Jackson (KES Deputy Head) Ian Hague (chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Chairman's Report.

We are always in need of more volunteers for the Forum and are happy to have Steph and Ciarán join us this year. Please let us know if you or someone you know is interested in participating. As a 'thank you' for their work, Clarion deliverers have been invited to a Pie and Pea supper and entertainment at the Hallam Football Ground in February, Steve was proud to announce that Ian has just been awarded a BEM in the New Year Honours! (It has taken over 5 years to get this through – the covid years not helping, and many thanks were due to the late Cllr. and resident Anne Murphy for her support in this, a great person and a true friend of our community. Ian expressed his thanks to the Vice Chair Steve Reynolds and the Management Committee for their congratulations.

Treasurer's Report

John said the Forum is doing all right – with funding from the Council to continue with the Tai Chi classes, excellent support from shops as usual – especially Spar - almost sold-out calendar sales. The Christmas tree shredding was successful again, he expressed huge gratitude to the volunteers who turned up on the day to help with erecting and taking trees down. Festival Week stalls are already being booked - Forum purchasing a new strimmer and leaf blower for Lydgate Green and Hagg Copse.

PCSO's Report

Pam Thompson sent a report; Pam and Phil have changed their working patterns so do not seem to be seen as much, but do work from the police building on Lydgate Lane. They left some handouts about bike crime (registering your bike online), door/window stickers about cold callers, and discount information for Disklok steering wheel devices. For the last three months there has been an increase in motor vehicle theft across the city (*see page 13*) Vehicle key fobs, when not being used, are BEST KEPT in a Faraday pouch or tin box, and vehicles immobilized with some sort of steering-wheel device. BE VIGILANT!

John D rose to say this level of local crime is much higher than it used to be – what is happening?

Councillors Questions and Report

1. Nearing year end, any grants must be applied for and money spent – environmental or green projects in particular. Any ideas to Ian and Steve please.
2. Another Manchester Rd pedestrian crossing has reached the top of the discussion list. Amey road maintenance – e.g. Watt Lane/Dransfield - Hagg Hill, large and long potholes at the top pose a danger to drivers and cyclists, resurfacing required urgently - to improve visibility and compliance, single yellow line adjacent to Papa Cicio - Elise requires repainting.
3. The Council stopped putting down any form of speed bumps in 2011; Amey cannot 'improve' roads by adding things like this, just repair them.
4. Data on the rat running and bad parking on Cairns Rd and Selborne Rd will be needed for any work to be done.
5. Bad parking – e.g. on yellow lines – please photograph and send in – the Police Op 'Park Safe' has won national awards.
6. VLIS (Volunteer libraries in Sheffield) will be celebrating 10 years in the autumn – bids for money to celebrate this with events should be directed to the individual Ward Pots.
7. Electric car charging points? The only place in Crosspool large enough would be the Tavern car park.
8. Storm Babet, severe damage to the Rivelin Valley? The Councillors will try to find out who has been tasked with repairing the storm damage – the recent Stannington by election has slowed things down.

KES (King Edwards School) Report

KES teaches 1700 students from Year 7-14, and has "forged fantastic links" with the community, shops, families etc; it is "one of the most prestigious schools in Sheffield", and everyone is "tremendously proud of its achievements". They have an "ambitious learning community" with "very high expectations", and a lot of additional support is available where needed. Pupils travel in from places like Stannington, Bradfield, Stocksbridge, Sharrow and the town centre. They have strong links with Tupton School & Notre Dame, and work to support them all arriving at

the same time in the morning. Their academic results are excellent with 5 students going to Oxbridge last autumn, and high numbers to Russell Group universities. They have "robust personal programmes" with education on safeguarding, charitable work, mental health, knife crime, vaping etc. – a forward thinking establishment! They also have the best training for their staff too. They "want the kids to embrace the community" – if you see a problem do contact the office. They are involved in the local flower planting, litter picking, Summer Fayre etc., and any incidents are "few and far between". They have been observing the annual waxwing migration, 'Crossie' the Lydgate Lane tawny owl, and partaking in nature walks etc. The school raised over £1k for Children in Need, hold wheelchair rugby sessions, & cook & serve meals at Wesley Hall regularly. Their eco -committee has been looking at insect -friendly planting, recycling, held a Christmas Fayre and a Remembrance Day ceremony, and are involved in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. They work with Sheffield Wednesday football club on respect & personal safety, and have visited Sheffield Cutlers and Forgemasters. As well as sending in info for publication in the Clarion the Head Teacher has a regular bulletin online.

EVENTS

1. Calendar for 2024 almost sold out – pictures and original artwork for 2025 to Ian please.
2. Crosspool Festival Week will start with a well dressing on Fri 28th June.
3. The festival will support Medecins sans Frontieres and Assist this year.
4. The Summer Fayre will be on Sat 6th July – helpers needed please.
5. The Orchard had a good apple crop again but needs some severe pruning work this year. Do look out for wild flowers at Hagg Copse, and come along to help the Lydgate Green bedding team in the spring.
6. The precinct planters have winter and then spring planting again. Car boot sales – watch this space.

Next Open Meeting will be on Thursday April 25th 2024.

I just wanted to say a huge thank you to the following businesses that supported our winter raffle.

They provided prizes to students with outstanding attendance and excellence within school. It would be wonderful if this was recognised.

Paesani, Nest, Hudson's, Tesco, Aesthete, Crosspool pet shop, Ellies.

Thanks again!

Cath Jackson KES (Assistant Head)



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| Friday 09:00-13:00, 14:00-18:00 | Saturday 09:00-13:00 |

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Our classes take place at the Scout Hall Benty Lane every Tuesday from 10:45 to 11:45am.

We reserve the right to edit pieces for both length and contents



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OPENING TIMES

MONDAY – FRIDAY 7:00AM – 4:30PM

SATURDAY 8:00AM – 3:30PM

DAILY SPECIALS AVAILABLE

Stephen Hill Church



Stephen Hill Methodist Church
547 Manchester Road, S10 5P
Church Office Tele: 2667073



St Columba's Church



St Columba's Church Crosspool
503 Manchester Road, S10 5PL
Tele: 0114 267 0006

Email: admin@stephenhillmethodist.org.uk
Web Page: roombookings@stephenhillmethodist.org.uk

Email: admin@stcolumbacrosspool.org.uk
Web Page: www.stcolumbacrosspool.org.uk



CROSSPOOL CARERS CAFÉ - A WARM WELCOME TO CARERS!

We usually meet on the fourth Monday of the month around 10.30 am at Stephen Hill Methodist Church where we are made very welcome with coffee and biscuits.

Anyone caring for a friend or family member with any illness or disability is welcome to join us. If you have recently been a carer and that role has now come to an end, you are still welcome.

Since we started to meet almost two years ago, we've grown steadily into a friendly and relaxed group and we are joined by new carers all the time. Over the last few months we've had visits from Diabetes UK's Sheffield group, had a wonderful morning with two inspectors from South Yorkshire Police who are helping carers who look after someone living with dementia and been out for Christmas lunch. There's always time to chat and talk about our concerns and quite often we can help each other, too.

Many of us live locally and we're often joined by friends from other parts of Sheffield.

Over the next few meetings, we'll be hearing about new activities for carers and planning outings for the summer, so please come and join us and if you know someone- a friend or neighbour- who is a carer or former carer, bring them too.

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mrsllmsaxton@gmail.com

For more information, contact
Jan Outram
jan@sheffieldcarerscentre.org.uk
tele: 0114 278 8942
Briony Broome
briony.broome@hotmail.co.uk
mobile :07801532954

COFFEE MORNINGS

Why not come to one of our friendly coffee mornings at Stephen Hill. Every Monday and Friday 10am to noon. All proceeds to our Church Charities... The Smile Train and Family Works.

Please find listed here details of special services in Lent through to Easter. Our normal Sunday service times are 10.30 and just to confuse you we alternate between Stephen Hill and St Columba's churches...first and third Sundays of the month at St Columba's, second and fourth at Stephen Hill. If there is a fifth Sunday in a month, we alternate those. You can find details on our website... <https://www.stcolumbacrosspool.org.uk/events>

Feel free to join us for any service or event...you don't have to be a member, we welcome everyone and are proud to call ourselves an inclusive church.

Date	Event	Time	Venue
Wednesday 14th Feb	Ash Wednesday service	6.30pm	Stephen Hill
Monday 25th March	Holy Week meditations	7pm	Stephen Hill
Tuesday 26th March	Holy Week meditations	7pm	Stephen Hill
Wednesday 27th March	Holy Week meditations	7pm	Stephen Hill
Thursday 28th March	Maundy Thursday service "The Last Supper"	7pm	Stephen Hill
Friday 29th March	Good Friday Prayer Stations	any time between 12noon & 3pm	Stephen Hill
Sunday 31st March	Easter Sunday Celebration	10.30am	St Columba's



CROSSPOOL LUNCHEON CLUB (5* rated by the Council)

The Club is open to all over seventies. It is partially funded by the Sheffield City Council and meets every Wednesday at Stephen Hill Methodist Church. Lunch is served at 12.30pm and is usually finished between 1.30 and 1.45 pm. Come and join us in the Oxford Hall for a main meal and a pudding followed by a cup of tea for £5.00. Here is an opportunity for you to come and meet others in a friendly environment. We do have 2/3 weeks off around Christmas to give our cooks, helpers and washers-up a well-deserved break.

We are very grateful for the team of helpers who regularly cook, set and clear tables and wash up. Their reliability, good humour and hard work make providing lunches a pleasure. Their meals are pretty good too! We always have room for more helpers if you can spare the time. We provide transport for those who are less mobile but at the moment we do not have any spare places available. For more information contact Kath Smith 0114 2667089.

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Friday

Stephen Hill Methodist Church

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As well as special worship services, our Children and Families Worker, Tara, organises events for families and details of those are here...

Date	Event and description	Time	Venue
Tuesday 13th February	February half term pop-up craft and games morning Suitable for all children and toddlers for a morning of fun. Drop-In session.	Drop in between 10am and 12noon	Stephen Hill
Tuesday 13th February	February Pancake drop in All welcome to come along and bring your own toppings to enjoy a pancake on pancake day. Donations welcome.	3pm to 4pm	St Columba's
Friday 2 nd February	Family Fun Friday All welcome. £3 per family. We have board games, film, prayer activities, craft, tuck shop and Indoor ping pong and badminton.	6.30pm to 8pm	Stephen Hill
Friday 1 st March	Family Fun Friday (as above)	6.30pm to 8pm	Stephen Hill
Friday 5 th April	Family Fun Friday - Easter Holiday Special	6.30pm to 8pm	Stephen Hill
Friday 29 th March	Good Friday pop-up Easter Trail Easter trail telling the Easter story with treats along the way. Donations welcome.	Timed entry. Email for more Information...	TBA - email for more information Tara_osborne@stcolumbacrosspool.org.uk

PURLY QUEENS KNIT & NATTER GROUP

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PERMACULTURE ART. 1



In the next few Clarions, I've been given the opportunity to discuss the ideas and practices of permaculture. Permaculture is a set of design principles that promotes place-based living, mutual care, and cultivating competence. It's usually associated with food production, land management, and community organisation, but can be applied anywhere. Your nearest permaculture enterprise that ticks all these boxes is only down the road at Holly Hagg Community Alpaca Farm!

In coming Clarions, I'll introduce core concepts of permaculture and task you with applying them for mutual benefit. To get started, before the next Clarion, take a moment outside to notice what moves or changes. Maybe you notice rainwater flowing down the drain, a person walking down your street, a bird perching on an awning in the precinct. Now, wonder how you would set up so that these things happen; not forcing them to happen, facilitating them.

Perhaps, you notice that the camber in the road facilitates rather than forces the rain toward the drain. Perhaps, you notice that you are more inclined to walk a route down a verdant street rather than where a signpost directs you. Take everything you notice that you enjoy and consider how you would set up to promote all the things at once. Can what facilitates one, facilitate another?

Permaculture isn't just about healthy land, nutritious food, or local culture. It's about cultivating all those things at the same time such that each aids the other. I hope you'll find some interest in these articles and maybe we can play with some permaculture projects along the way.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Crosspool Forum threw a Children's Christmas Party at St Columba's Church on Saturday 16th December. It was a great way to spread some cheer and friendship among the Crosspool community. The children and their families had a good time watching Barney Baloney and his cheeky monkey Henry do some awesome and funny magic tricks. Henry was so naughty and hilarious, he made everyone laugh so hard when he squirted water at them. The children's faces were glowing with joy and excitement. The grown-ups also enjoyed the show and joined in the laughter.



After the show, everyone headed to the snack table to munch on some yummy food. There was a lot of chatting and giggling as people ate their favourite snacks. The food was so good, it made everyone happy and full.

Then it was time for the kids to show off their singing skills. They sang some catchy Christmas songs with a lot of energy and confidence. They sounded amazing and hit all the notes perfectly. Everyone watched them with admiration and pride. It was a wonderful afternoon that everyone would remember for a long time, a day where the children were the stars of the show.

The children lined up with an adult to meet the star of the show: Santa Claus! He came early to give them gifts and take selfies with them. It was a wonderful occasion and everyone thanked Crosspool Forum for making it happen.

The organisers thanked Steve, the volunteers, the Crosspool Pet Shop, Tesco, Spar and the Sheffield City Council for their help and support. The party was awesome and everyone loved it.

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Meet your local business**A quarterly spotlight on Crosspool businesses****This quarter we caught up with Maria at "Shearers"***** What is your main source of business?**

Gents Barbering.

*** How many staff do you have?**

I employ 2 local stylists.

*** What changes have you made?**

Over the years I have redecorated the shop to modernise, and we now do an online booking system.

*** What plans do you have for the future?**

To keep my business running and maintain a high standard of barbering to keep my clients as happy and satisfied as possible.

*** What makes "Shearers special?"**

We are a "Traditional Barbers" who are well established in the Crosspool area providing a quality service with professional stylists and top tier service with affordable rates.

*** What do you think about local people using local shops?**

It is very important to support all our local businesses, they rely on our local customers and clients for a regular flow of custom to the area.

*** Do you think local business is good for the community?**

Yes, definitely.

*** What has been your favourite moment so far?**

I have worked in Crosspool for many years and over this time I have had many favourite times and memorable moments.

*** What do you like about Crosspool?**

It is a very nice area to work in and the people here make Crosspool what it is.

*** What is your favourite season?**

Summer is always a good season.

*** What do you think of the summer display in the precinct?**

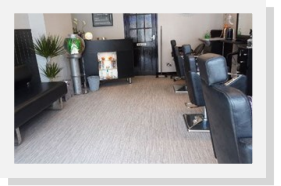
It always looks very nice and colourful.

*** What do you think of the Christmas tree display?**

I love Crosspool at Christmas. Always looks very festive.

*** Any general comments?**

I would like to thank all of my loyal clients for supporting me over the years and standing by me through Covid times and for your constant kind words. Wouldn't be here without you.



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LOCAL POLICING UPDATE

The city is experiencing a rise in motor vehicle thefts, especially Land Rovers, Fiestas and Vans. These are the most targeted models by the thieves.

Some of the precautions that the owners of these vehicles can take are:

- Park in well-lit and secure areas
- Use steering wheel locks or immobilisers
- Install tracking devices or alarms
- Do not leave valuables or keys inside the vehicle
- Report any suspicious activity to the police

Theft Of Motor Vehicle

Tapton Bank – Land Rover defender – during night- Taken without keys
 Lydgate Court – Moped – during the night – Taken without keys
 Selbourne road – Ford Transit – during the night – Taken without keys
 Ringstead Crescent – Fiat Panda- during night – Taken without keys
 Sandygate Road – stolen vehicle from Pye Bank Rd recovered along with the suspect who is helping with enquiries.

Theft From Motor Vehicle

Carsick Hill Road – Spare wheel from a VW
 Melfort Glen – Sat-nav Stolen - Suzuki
 Ryegate road – Phone charger – unknown vehicle
 Carsick Hill Road – Tools from a work Van

A Suspect has been arrested for Theft from Vehicle in the Crookes area and is assisting with enquiries.

Burglaries

Hallgate Road – smashed rear door window – nothing stolen
 Whitworth Croft – detached garage- electric bikes
 Ringstead Crescent – shed – stone cutting equipment
 Sandygate Road – Porch- Laundry

North West Neighbourhoods carried out a 2 day operation in Crookes, Fulwood and Crosspool in relation to Theft of and from vehicles. This included PC's and PCSO's

- crime prevention / scene visits to 5 victims of recent vehicle crime.
- identified 66 vehicles that were vulnerable to crime, mainly around keyless thefts and high value vehicles and visited and gave advice to the owners of these vehicles.
- stopped and engaged with at least 9 vehicle owners and advised them around keeping their vehicle safe.
- PCSO's carried out a "Checkpoint" on Redmires Road where they stopped and gave vehicle safety advice to 23 vehicle drivers, mainly around keyless thefts.
- proactively stopped a vehicle smelling of cannabis and searched 4 occupants, one of which was dealt with for possession of cannabis, reported another driver for no insurance, and gained intelligence through carrying out other proactive stops.

If anyone requires any advice regarding any matters that are Police related, please email sheffieldnorthnpt@southyorks.pnn.police.uk or email PCSO Pam Thompson direct pamela.thompson@southyorkshire.police.uk

If you need to report any crimes please contact 101 or 999.



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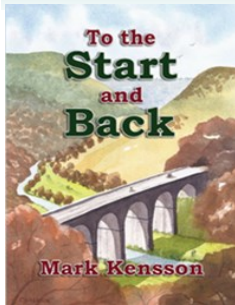
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BACK IN THE SADDLE ...



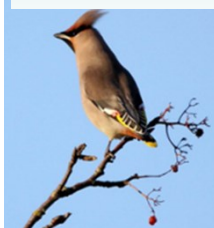
Those of you who attended last July's Crosspool *Festival* literary evening will be well aware of local author, Mark Kensson's, adventures in the West Country during 2023. Whilst he and his wife, Angela, spent much of their time working as wardens on a North Devon campsite, he also took the opportunity to complete the sequel to his debut novel, *Stuck in Traffic*. Many of the main characters of this 'beautifully written', 'read it in a weekend' story along with several new, equally unforgettable individuals, return in the next heart warming instalment, *To the Start and Back*.

However, whereas previously Uncle Dave had inflicted an eighteen-mile route march across the Strines Hills on his unwitting niece and nephew, this time it's time to mount up and enjoy another series of hilarious misadventures ... on bikes!

To celebrate the publication of *To the Start and Back*, we are delighted to announce that the highly successful 'An Evening with Mark Kensson' will be returning to Nest Café, Sandygate Road, Crosspool on 29 th February 2024 . Come along and hear Mark describe the trial and triumphs of writing and publishing his second book, along with the chance to hear readings, ask questions and sample Nest's legendary cakes and drinks. Entrance is free and there will be the opportunity to purchase signed copies of both *Stuck in Traffic* and *To the Start and Back*. However, space is limited and we are advising people to book asap. This can be done either at Nest, via Mark's website, markkensson.co.uk, or by messaging Mark directly on 07940658303.

In the meantime, you can find Mark's books at Charisma Cards in the precinct and at Valleyside Garden Centre. And, of course, they are always available for free 'local' delivery from the website.

WAXWINGS IN CROSSPOOL



The return of the waxwings in the Rowan trees on Manchester Road attracted many bird-watchers over the later part of 2023.

The waxwings are migratory birds that usually visit the UK in winter, but their numbers vary

depending on the availability of food in their native Scandinavia.

Bird watchers from all over the UK visited our locality and were delighted to observe the colourful and crested birds feasting on the red berries of the Rowan trees. Some of them shared their photos and videos on social media, generating interest and admiration from other nature lovers.

TALES FROM MARSH LANE ALLOTMENTS (PART ONE)

Sometimes while I'm seeding or weeding,
From below ground, I can hear voices,
'Oh what a beautiful goal!' And
'This boy has a lovely left foot.'

Often followed by some very unbiblical language.

Looks like this year, I've planted some very common taters.

Tom Gray

2024 CROSSPOOL CALENDAR

The 2024 Crosspool Calendar is as popular as ever and stocks are almost sold out. A big thanks go to **GT News, Crosspool Pet Supplies, Enhance, and Charisma**



for selling the calendars, and to everyone that purchased a copy. If you find you need a calendar, please get in touch with the Forum or if you capture any local photos that you think suitable for next year's calendar, they can be forwarded to crosspoolforum@gmail.com.

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Crosspool Charity Concert

Performers Wanted

We are looking for talented performers to join us for a charity concert at St Columba church Crosspool Saturday 2nd March at 7:30pm.

Whether you can sing, dance, juggle, do magic tricks, poetry, mime or any combination of these, we would love to have you on stage. This is a great opportunity showcase your skills and support a good cause.

To book your spot, please contact Bob and Margaret Townrow ~
Tele: 0114 2301098 Emailtowniesrm@talktalknet



SHEFFIELD ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

The Sheffield Astronomical Society is an amateur society serving the Sheffield and South Yorkshire area to promote and encourage a popular interest in astronomy and space sciences among the general public. meet twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesdays at the Ranmoor Parish Centre - 5 Ranmoor Park Road, Sheffield S10 3GX – at 7:30pm.

The first meeting of the month is given as a single talk by a guest speaker, usually from Sheffield University, although we have had talks given from New Zealand and Stockholm via Zoom. The second meeting of the month is called a Beginners' Meeting. This is a two part meeting, the first half will have a astronomy topic that is given by society members. After a short break the meeting will then continue with news of current space missions, and what to look for in the night sky in the coming month, as well as any astronomy based news items.

We also try to have free public viewing evenings once a month. During the winter we will try – weather permitting – to get the telescopes out to view the night sky, while in the summer we have special equipment that allows us to look directly at the Sun. Details of any meeting and how to contact us can be found on our website - www.sheffieldastro.org.uk

THE RIVELIN VALLEY CONSERVATION GROUP

On October 30th 2023, Storm Babet delivered a devastating blow to Rivelin Valley. Many footpaths, some weakened by previous storms along the Rivelin nature trail, suffered serious surface damage and some were completely washed away. Tons of grit, stone, boulders and tree trunks were washed down the valley, creating new islands, forcing the river to divert, destroying weirs and blocking the water flow to some of the dams. About a week after the storm, the water levels had subsided enough for the RVCG task team to begin remedial work which began by digging out the head goits of Frank Wheel and Wolf Wheel. The RVCG task team numbers swelled to around 30, many attending for the first time, such was the urgency felt by locals. The November and January task days also saw a high attendance when further footpaths were reinstated, retaining walls repaired and fallen trees and debris removed. The Sheffield City Council kindly agreed to meet with the RVCG on Wed 7th Feb to discuss plans for restoration of the Rivelin Nature trail and also plans for Rivelin to achieve the status of Local Nature Reserve. The RVCG has a strong following and a committed number of volunteers. I stepped down as Chair last April to concentrate on the Task Team and so there are vacancies for **Chairperson, Speaker Organiser and Events Manager** and other roles. Please email rivelin.valley@gmail.com if you think you can help. Graham Appleby RVCG Task Team leader



A few RVCG task team members managed to raise a smile after repairing footpaths with 10 tons of material near Wolf Wheel at the January task day.

