

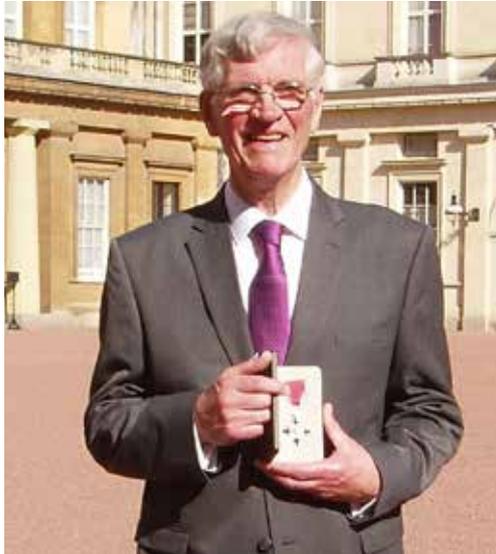


A Christmas

Hunshelf Chat



Issue 83 - December 2015



Photograph, Wyllan M Horsfall

Buckingham Palace

9 October 2015

"I believe you had something to do with the purchase of a piece of land called "The Isle of Skye". Tell me about it"

This was our Queen Elizabeth speaking to me. It was the final stage in a long process.

The first letter arrived from the Cabinet Office in April. As parish clerk I get many letters from government, most of them demanding work of one form or another. I thought that this was another request for information or action. I did open it to find that "The Prime Minister is minded to recommend to The Queen that you be awarded the honour of a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE)". The acceptance letter was returned immediately, and then I had to keep silent about it for eight weeks until The Queen's official birthday in June. I did tell my wife, she is part of me to say the least.

The nomination had taken some time. The people putting my name forward had to research my history over a period of 50 years or so, culminating with my time as Clerk to Hunshelf Parish Council. The Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire even checked my running results to see if I was, as reported, helping other people complete the Parkrun course.

Then the award was gazetted, i.e. printed in the London Gazette, the place where naval captains get their promotions published and where bankruptcies get announced etc.

The letter from St James' Palace inviting me to Buckingham Palace came later. Two nights in London at a hotel not too far from the palace was most enjoyable. But the announcement to the taxi driver, "Buckingham, Palace please" was a thrill. We walked into the Palace through the crowds of tourists. Cameras snapped and questions were asked of this group of four, me and three guests, as to what was happening. My wife, my sister Pat and our friend Katy all in our best outfits entered the gates. Checked by the police, checked again at the door, checked again at the foot of the staircase, at the top

of the staircase, on the way into the Green Drawing Room where we recipients all waited for 11.00 am.

Other recipients included the man who researched and identified Richard III's remains under that car park, and a Salvation Army man who looks after firefighters at major blazes in the North West.

Eventually, we were informed that The Queen would be taking today's Investiture. There was a sharp intake of breath. We were called out by name, Dr Francis Brown, Dr David Horsfall! There was this silence, so I stepped forward and remarked that I was a David Horsfall, but not a Doctor. Many apologies all round. Name checked again. Parade round the back of the ballroom, line up in the corridor. Name checked again for the last time.

Walk forward to stand next to a uniformed man. Wait for my name. On the surname being announced, step forward, turn and face The Queen only a few feet away. Little chin bow. Move towards the Dias. The Queen hangs the medal on a hook placed in my breast pocket earlier, then looks at me with intensity and says "I believe.."

For the next eternity which lasts only a split second, I have the full attention of this delightful lady. She asks questions, listens to my replies, and shows intense interest in me as a person. The rest of the audience, Yeomen of the Guard etc do not exist for that few seconds. Then The Queen thanks me and the Royal hand is proffered, a gentle shake and a retreat, another little bow, turn and walk away.

Later, along with my guests, we assemble for photos in the palace courtyard and then off for lunch at the hotel, still in all our finery.

A memorable day for all of us.

David Horsfall MBE

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Stories throughout this newsletter are written by residents of the parish of Hunshelf. Anyone who would like to contribute articles, information, events or photographs, please contact the Editor, Claire Derrick, on 0114 288 7903 or email claire.derrick@virgin.net

Deadline for stories for the next Hunshelf Chat is 15 February 2016

Hunshelf Parish Council

Members:

Mrs K Austin
Miss K Battye
J Kerr
R Popplewell
B Tylee

Contact via the Clerk on 0114 288 3684 or david@oberwald.fsnet.co.uk

A Westminster Abbey Challenge



Photograph of kneeler by John Kerr



In September 2011, myself and two friends accepted a challenge to stitch a long kneeler for Westminster Abbey. It was in three sections and our worked pieces were returned to the organiser at the end of March 2012.

This year's piece is a cushion for a choir and completed the set. It is ready to be sent to the organiser, who will arrange for it to be made up professionally.

Kathryn Battye



Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome Another Local walk Underbank, Midhope and Langsett Reservoirs

This area offers many opportunities for walks which include both extensive views and sites of historic interest. Many possibilities are provided by Stocksbridge Walkers are Welcome. For example, one of their walks encompasses three reservoirs, taking in farmland, woodland and a disused railway line. This (8 mile) walk starts by following the shore of Underbank reservoir, crosses the 2014 TDF route and then climbs up to Midhope reservoir. Excellent views across the valley are afforded before the route drops back down to the River Porter and then on up to Langsett. Historical highlights include the remains of a WW2 gun emplacement and St. James' Church.

The route returns to Underbank along the line of the railway that was built to supply materials during the construction of Langsett Reservoir. This has recently been upgraded as part of the developing 'Little Don Link'. It was originally built to supply materials during the construction of Langsett Reservoir between 1889 and 1905. When the line was in use, an unusual 'coffee-pot' style locomotive called 'The Don' was used. This was nicknamed 'Coughin' Sally' from the sound it made when working.

Detailed instructions, including historical details are available at: www.stocksbridge-walkers.org.uk then local walks/medium walk 21.

Photographs, top to bottom: St. James' Church at Midhopstones, Tour de France (2014) on the Cote de Midhope, Potters Well (Midhope).





Green Moor Sports Club

Sports club news

The 2015 season was completed the weekend of 21 November, when we held our annual presentation evening and dinner at Cubley Hall. Trophy winners are as follows:

First Team

Batting R Saini
Bowling M Elsworth
Catching N Dowkes
M.O.M L Burkinshaw

Second Team

Batting A Howe
Bowling J Haigh
Catching J Goddard
M.O.M Jamie Bates

Under 17's

Batting B Roebuck
Bowling L Ingldow
Catching J Goddard
M.O.M H Airstone

Barnsley Lge - Sunday Team

Batting R Saini
Bowling L Burkinshaw
Catching J Ridgewick
M.O.M A Schofield

The Sunday team were winners of their league. Liam Burkinshaw won the league batting award.

Young player of the year

George Howe

Jean Fieldsend trophy for club effort - A Gillespie

Rex Roebuck memorial trophy
A Schofield

Wooden Spoon - S Askey

Julian Bates has won the Huddersfield Premier league wicketkeeping award which he will receive at the league dinner.

Our AGM will take place on 24 January 7pm at Cubley Hall. Indoor winter nets start on the third Thursday in January at PGS.

We wish all our readers a Happy Christmas and all the best in the New Year

Ann Matthewman

Dialect Poems by Freda Watts

A Night at Haigh

They say one thing leads to another,
An' that's very true I have found
'Cus when I go anywhere wi' mi' poems
I go somewhere else I'll be bound.

Nah at ho-am they laugh at mi an' mi poetry,
But I capped 'em a few weeks ago,
I'll try an' explain how that came abaht,
I try t'keep mi end up yer know.

I'd gone to a little spot called Haigh,
It wor a chapel do that neet,
First we had a lovely dinner,
An' there wer lots o' nice people to meet.

When I first arrived at this place,
A lady came straight up to me,
She said "I've put Pay Ayres on your ticket,
I didn't know what they called yer see."

Well mi head must have gone a bit bigger,
I grabbed that ticket as I set down in my place,
I thowt, I'll show yon lot at ho-am,
An' they'll laugh t'other side of their face.

So they said "Where have yer been an' who have you seen?"
An' I told 'em all I could recall,
an' I casually showed 'em mi ticket,
They said "Crickey, was she there anawl?"



Nature Table



The "Red List"

You may be surprised to hear that some of the garden birds we take for granted are at risk and appear on the RSPB "Red List". There are a number of criteria used to establish what constitutes a species at significant risk but we can generalise into a reduction in breeding populations or non-breeding populations. The following link provides information on which birds fall into the 'Red', 'Amber' or 'Green' categories www.rspb.org.uk/Images/BoCC_tcm9-217852.pdf

The key species that you may be familiar with that appear on the red list are shown in the list:

Starling	Yellow Wagtail
Cuckoo	Song Thrush
House Sparrow	Redwing
Tree Sparrow	Linnet
Grey Partridge	Yellowhammer
Lapwing	Willow Tit
Skylark	Herring Gull
Lesser-spotted Woodpecker	Turtle Dove

I have summarised a few of our local species with a few facts about each one:



Starling – A small population in Green Moor (counts of circa 150-200 following the breeding season) and fairly common in the area. Starling numbers across Europe and the UK have however fallen by around 65% since the 1970s. The decline is continuing and the cause is unknown although one theory relates to a reduction in food supply during dry summers.



Tree Sparrow - The UK Tree Sparrow population suffered a catastrophic reduction of 97% between the 1970s and the 1990s. Since the late 1990s there has been a level of recovery but this species remains a concern. The Parish has a reasonable breeding population and I have not seen any reduction in numbers visiting the garden in recent years.



Song Thrush – Although we have a few pairs of Song Thrush in Green Moor they are not as common as they used to be as numbers have fallen by more than 50% between 1970 and 1995. Mortality tends to be high and you may be surprised to hear that only around 25% of fledglings and 65% of adults survive to breed the following spring. Some recovery in numbers has been evident in recent years but the general decline is thought to relate to the loss of feeding and nesting habitats.



House Sparrow - We have a healthy House Sparrow population in the area (I have recorded up to 50 birds in a single flock) however numbers in the UK have declined by around 60 per cent which is thought to be linked to changes in agricultural practices.



Willow Tit - Populations of the Willow Tit have dropped by 91% since the 1970s. Again the reasons are not fully understood but some conservation specialists believe modern forestry management and the drying out of woodland areas may be linked to the decline. I have serious concerns for this species in the Parish as I haven't had any birds in my garden for over twelve months. Previously I had at least two pairs who had bred successfully.

Peter Garrity

SOGOF Or, Solve One Get One Free!

My first meeting as Clerk to Hunshel Parish Council was marked by a reference to the "Dalesman" seat awarded to the parish in 1967 when we won the Best Kept Village competition. I heard some reference to the "Mouse Man" and minuted it. The next meeting said that the seat was not such a valuable item and I altered the minutes, but was left wondering what it was all about.



Photograph courtesy of Wentworth Parish Council. The top winner on the plaque is, we think, Green Moor 1967.

Move forward more than 20 years (yes I have been Clerk for over 20 years) and at the showing of the film about the same award, questions were asked about the huge post and shield that adorned Green Moor at the time of this presentation. What happened to the post, and what was the meaning of the carved mouse mentioned in the same film?

The Clerk at Wentworth Parish Council answered both questions. The post went to the next winner. Wentworth won the award in 1997 and as the competition then ceased, kept it. It is alive and well and in the centre of the parish. It is also a "mouse man" artefact.

Both Mysteries solved.

David Horsfall

Best Kept Village 2017?

On 14 November we held a bit of a do in the Providence Room to get together and look at a DVD of the preparations the village went through when entering for the Best Kept Village in 1967. Those who were around at the time and some that weren't were calling out the names of the people on the footage; family, old friends and children, now parents and grandparents themselves.

It was a fantastic evening. Everyone bought a contribution to the Faith Supper and lists of names were made to fill in all the gaps that we had on who was involved and where the after party event was held.



The class of 1967



THANK YOU!

Ecuador trip update

A few weeks ago some of you came to an evening at the Providence Room, where we watched the video of the preparations and celebrations for Best Kept Village competition in 1967, followed by discussions on whether we look at entering a competition in 2017 (if it still exists). We had a great meal and lots of talking took place about the event and all those who we recognised. We also had fund-raising activities which is helping me to get me to Ecuador next year.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped me with my fund raising so far will keep you up to date with where I am with it as well as a 'show and tell' when I get back.

Sara Kerr

A BIG THANK YOU

A sincere "Thank You" to all who helped me with the luncheon for the Community after the Remembrance Sunday Service and the clearing up afterwards. Without these lovely folks, things would just not happen. Thank you all very much.

Brenda Mangham

Parish Matters



Well Hill Kerbs

Last financial year the Parish Council ordered a 200 metre stretch of road-side kerbing on Well Hill. This is when we also planted some wild flower seeds. Barnsley MBC did what we think is a really good job on the whole thing. They not only laid the kerbs, but found some cash to make good the road afterwards and to supply some top soil. It was the latter that sparked off the idea to sow some wild flower seeds. These seem to have been a real success. The growth has now been strimmed back by our volunteers and will be re-seeded for next year.

The parish council is looking at ways and means of having kerbs laid from the bus stop to the boundary stone at the Penistone end of the village. Obviously this will be expensive for a small parish, but we are looking for grants (as usual!).

If you have any comments on the proposal, which is not yet concrete as funds are in short supply at the moment, please speak to one of the parish councillors whose names are on the front page of the Chat.

Telephone Box

This is now fully renovated and looks quite stunning. Our thanks to all the volunteers who removed the old glass and fittings, replaced them, fitted the shelves and decorated them. Hopefully the book exchange and information centre will now thrive in a watertight facility.

There was mention of a Facebook page for the telephone box so that a more efficient swapping system might take place. This seems to be a job for a much younger person than the present Clerk. Is there a "savvy" teenager in the parish who could and would set up such a system for us? If you can, please let the Clerk know on 0114 2883684

Heather Management

We have two patches of heather in the parish that are owned by the parish. There is a bit in the centre of the Delf and another area on the Isle of Skye. We are informed by a land management expert

that this heather is in danger of dying out altogether. This would be a pity as such heather heaths are in increasing short supply over the country.

The parish council is to consider all the alternative methods of dealing with the heather, but it looks as if it needs to be cut back periodically. This is a chance for some more volunteers! Burning is not suitable for either area.

Cattle on the Cricket Pitch

To stop cattle getting onto the Isle of Skye and then onto the cricket pitch, it has been agreed that two posts will be put in place. One is at the gate partway down the pasture section of the Isle of Skye. The other is at the stile. Neither post should prevent walkers from getting through, but hopefully the cattle will be deterred by the narrowness of the gap. The Barnsley MBC Rights of Way officer has given us a minimum width of gap that we have to leave. Thank you very much as the same officer has offered free of charge the two post needed

Free for Collection!

A telephone call from the Penistone Area Forum Office alerted us to some stone suitable for dry stone walling that was going begging. Presently it is stored at the Clerk's home en route for the last bit of wall to be done on the Isle of Skye. The parish council has agreed that they will pay for the wall to finish off the Isle of Skye project. This wall is at the side of the stile in the corner and will replace a somewhat ugly fence that the cattle knocked down. We will be asking for volunteers to get the stone across the Isle of Skye. Offers to the Clerk please.

Small Councils Transparency Code

Finally, the offer of cash to help the parish council get on line has arrived. It is not overly generous. They offer a computer, if you do not have one already. The parish council does own a computer, so no cash there. They will pay for a web site to be designed and the hosting fees for two years. This is a worthwhile contribution at

around £400. They will supply a scanner up to £100, but are demurring when I suggest that we should have a scanner that takes more than a single sheet of paper at a time. (They could have swapped the payment for a computer for a scanner, or even just given us the cash to set against a scanner!) Consultation is still underway, but the only real value to us is the cost of a web site design.

Remembrance Sunday and the Christmas Party



By the time this is published both of these events will have been and gone and be reported separately. However, can we thank everybody involved in either event as there is always a lot of work in the background that is not visible?

Playground Wall

Rebuilding a large section of the rear wall was a much bigger job than anticipated by either the parish council or the wall builder. It is now complete, looks fantastic and much more importantly, it is safe for our youngsters and their parents who use the playground. Our thanks to the volunteers who cleaned and cleared the playground surface and the vegetation. It has been noticed that small sections of the surface will need attention shortly. At present we are informed that they are not a hazard, but we do like to keep everything ship shape and Bristol fashion.

A "baby swing" seat has been ordered



from the supplier of our playground equipment and this should be in place shortly.

Again our thanks to all users of the playground for your tolerance and patience.

Best Kept Village 1967

A fascinating evening watching the video of the Best Kept Village competition in 1967 (Green Moor won!) was followed by a suggestion that we look seriously at finding and entering a competition in 2017. Enquiries are also in hand to find out what happened to the huge post with a shield that adorned Green Moor on the day of the presentation and what is the meaning of the photograph of a mouse that was also prominent in the film. Our thanks go to all the volunteers and donors of edibles for this "faith supper" event.

Adopted Verge In Green Moor

The 200 metres of verge along the new kerb down Green Moor was cleaned by an enthusiastic set of volunteers. Graeme Johnson, Barry Tylee, Gordon Hodgson, Wyllan and David Horsfall strimmed, raked, swept and generally tidied up this verge ready for a new set of seeds to supply colour next year. The parish council is now responsible for this length of verge, but hopefully the task of cutting and removing the growth will be easier in the future. This time we are indebted to Alan Crookes for supplying a huge tractor with a scoop and finding somewhere to re-cycle the cuttings

David B Horsfall MBE
Clerk to Hunshelf Parish Council

Green Garden Waste

You may wish to note that the collection of green garden waste has **stopped at the end of November** and should recommence at the beginning of March. Please put only cardboard in the green bins until the garden waste collections start again.

Delph Edge Pavements

All of The residents of Delph Edge were astonished, along with the rest of the people in Green Moor, to find workmen from Barnsley MBC tearing up a fairly good pavement to replace it with new Tarmac.

Why a pavement has been dealt with rather than a really dilapidated road such as say Chapel Lane road is, in my opinion, easy to understand if not condone. Two separate budgets exist in BMBC, one for roads, the other for pavements. It is possible that the initial allocation of funds between these two budgets was imbalanced. This is understandable and probably inevitable due to the complexities of council budgets. The transfer of funds from one account to another, or virement, is something officers in charge hate. If you lose funds this year, you do not get them next year! So, if you have funds you manage them, ie. you spend them.

The logic behind replacing a good pavement with a brand new one could be because section A has funds left over, or an administrative error. BMBC Councillor Robert Barnard, as mystified as the rest of us, has offered to try to find out why this work was undertaken.

Meanwhile, you lucky residents on Delph Edge, enjoy your pristine surface.

A Different Colour of Night!

Forge Lane and one or two places on Well Hill now have different coloured street lights. It is part of a £4.5 million pound replacement of 20,000 of the old "inefficient sodium fluorescent tubes" with ultra-efficient LED lights. They are white rather than the orange ones we have had for so long.

The cost is being met by the savings in power consumption. Across the borough it is expected that £ 500, 000 a year will be saved. Other advantages include

- Reduced carbon emissions i.e. using less power
- Reduced maintenance i.e. they last longer
- Reduced driver glare and as they are directed downwards, seem to lessen the light pollution of the night sky.

Barnsley MBC joined with Rotherham MBC to buy the LED lamps, thus getting economies of scale in the price!

It seems only yesterday that we were being urged to "like" the new sodium lamps, despite the weird colours they gave to everything, as they were "energy efficient". Science moves on apace.

Second Childhood?

We will shortly be changing one of the swing seats, in the village playground, for a younger child seat, which will hopefully make it more usable for families. As well as rebuilding a large portion of the back wall, we have also strimmed and cut a lot of overgrowing vegetation, making the area look better.

The playground is subject to annual inspections by an outside body and an internal monthly inspection regime. I recently went on a playground inspection course for the parish council; (this competence now being essential). During the course the trainer said that not only must we check that the playground structures and rides are in good order, but we must also use them as the children (i.e. customers) would. The other course attendees did not look too happy with this; especially the ones with walking sticks. So if you see me in Green Moor's playground, going on a swing or on the slide, then it's not necessarily because of an infantile disorder...

Barry Tylee

What's on

Penistone Paramount

For details contact **01226 767532**
www.penistoneparamount.co.uk

CINEMA

Macbeth, 1-2 December
Brooklyn, 6, 7, 9, 10 December
Frozen Sing-Along 2D, 13 December
Brief Encounter, 13 December
Die Hard 2, 14 December
Home Alone, 15 December
It's A Wonderful Life, 16 December
Groundhog Day, 17 December
Spectre, 18-24 December
Snoopy and Charlie Brown: The Peanut Movie, 21-31 December (excluding Christmas Day)
Bridge of Spies, 26-31 December
Star Wars: Episode VI - The Force Awakens 2D, 1-6 January
The Lady in the Van, 8-10 January
The Dressmaker, 11 January
Burnt, 13-14 January
The Danish Girl, 15-21 January

LIVE

The Blues Band, 3 December
St Agnes Fountain, 4 December
Vienna Festival Ballet present The Nutcracker, 5 December
Last Laugh Comedy Club, 11 December
Grand Christmas Concert, 12 December
Penistone Theatre Group present Sleeping Beauty, 28 January - 6 February (excluding 1 February)
Talon - The Acoustic Collection, 12 February
ABBA, As Good as New by GimmeABBA, 20 February
The Counterfeit SixTies Show, 11 March

ORGAN EVENTS

A Compton Christmas Cracker, 12 December

The Venue

For more information or to book please call **0114 2838692** or email us/facebook
The Venue Stocksbridge

Stephen Holbrook and Debbie Askew presents An evening of Mediumship
 Friday 4 December. Tickets £15 each (cash) at Reception or call 0114 2838692 and pay by card - note, £1.50 surcharge

North East Producers presents ANNIE the musical Friday 4 December

Indoor Carboot - Saturday 5 December 9.30am. Stalls must be booked and paid for in advance- £10 per stall.

Family Christmas Magic Show and Party. Friday 11 December 7.30-9.30pm. Tickets £5 per child all ages welcome - children must be accompanied by adult

Unite The Union Brass Band Christmas Spectacular Saturday 12 December 7.30pm Tickets £5

Thursday 17 December
From Swing To The King - Tony Ravel is Elvis

FREE FAMILY DISCO - Friday 18 December 6pm -10pm

Indoor Car Boot Saturday 23 January 9.30am. Stalls must be booked and paid for in advance - £10 per stall.

Wortley Hall

For details contact **0114 288 2100**
www.wortleyhall.org.uk

Burns Night
 Sunday 24 January

Seeking Spirits
 Friday 29 January
 8pm until late

Festive Afternoon Tea
 Served only in December Mon to Sat 2pm until 5pm
 £12.95 per person

Sylvia Play
 Wednesday 24 February
 £7.50 per person including Pie and Peas

Green Moor Church

Normally **Sunday School** meets every Sunday at 9.45am except on the third Sunday of the month when we have a **Family Service** at 10am. **Ordinary Services** are at 11am and all are welcome.

Family Service Nativity 6 December by Sunday School

Community Carol Service in St Matthias Church 6 December 2pm

Christingle Service 13 December at 3.30pm
Local Carol Service. 20 December at 6pm
 Tuesday evenings a group meets for **Crafts, Jigsaws and Chat** from 6.30 to 8.30pm. Other table games can be made available. If you are interested just turn up. All ages welcome. Contact Doris Stubbs 07960306539

Baby and Toddler Group meet in the Providence Room every Thursday from 9.30 to 11.30 am. Contact Brenda Mangham 01142882346

The Pilates group meets on Thursdays at 6.30pm. Contact Nina Jolley 07796851066

Stocksbridge Leisure Centre

For details contact **0114 2883792** or visit www.stocksbridgeclc.co.uk

A wide range of leisure activities including badminton, squash, racketball, indoor bowls, martial arts, gymnastics, trampolining, indoor football, basket/net ball and more. Open 7am-9pm weekdays, 8am-5pm Saturday and 8am - noon Sunday.

Swimming

The pool is now open to the public. Go online or contact the centre for details.

Wortley Forge

Christmas Open Day

Sunday 6 December 11am - 4pm.
 See the three waterwheels, preserved steam, gas, diesel and petrol engines and ride the train to see Santa. Admission Adults £5, concessions £4, Children 5-16 £1, under 5 free.

Miscellaneous

Holmfirth Farmers' Market

Third Saturday of every month.

Penistone Farmers' Market

Penistone Market, second Saturday of every month.

Barnsley Civic

Gallery, Theatre, Comedy, Music, Dance, Family, Cinema, Workshops and Events.

Want to know what's going on? Go to www.barnsleycivic.co.uk or check out the facebook site @barnsleycivic