

# Crosspool Clarion



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Editor Ian Hague

## Crosspool Receives Prestigious Environmental Community Award

Members representing the Crosspool Forum were invited to a prestigious Community Awards evening ceremony in the Sheffield Town Hall on Tuesday 2nd December. The Forum had been selected from a wide range of community groups from across the city to receive the Highly Commended Community award from the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Councillor Mrs Jane Bird and Director of Environment & Regulatory Services Gary Mc Grogan. Professor Ted Kitchen, Professor of planning and urban regeneration at Sheffield Hallam University and chairman of Sheffield First Environment Partnership, said: "It was a tough decision just to shortlist the finalists, they were all of a high standard this year. A great deal of hard work and commitment has been shown by all the groups and the winners certainly deserved it." This is a remarkable achievement, of which all the residents of Crosspool can be proud.

For the last four years, these awards have recognized community projects put forward by voluntary groups that have made a difference to Sheffield's environment, and showcasing best practice and inspiring others to undertake their own initiatives.

The award, which aims to highlight good practice, and inspire and persuade more people to volunteer



Marika Szabo, Hugh Buxton, Sandra Cox, Ian Hague, Lord Mayor, Gary Mc Grogan, Faye Buxton

in their neighbourhood, was presented by Cllr. Jane Bird, to the residents of Crosspool in recognition of their commitment to improving the environment and their resolute resolve to encourage community social responsibilities. The Crosspool Forum with the support and commitment of those who identify with the area, remain resolutely committed to maintaining and encouraging the flora and fauna in local open spaces and to continue to build on the work already being done in the Hagg Copse, the floral displays in the precinct, the spring bulb & tree planting in the community and, if possible to participate in this year's Sheffield in Bloom competition.

### Planters in the Precinct

The long dark days of winter were made a little brighter this year. Thanks to generosity of Crosspool residents we were able to commission the services of Valleyside Garden Centre to set winter pansies in the precinct planters.

While three of the planters have been left alone to give enjoyment and pleasure to everyone, regrettably, the one adjacent to the telephone box, has been vandalised.

### Dates to note

**Saturday 6th June**  
**D-Day Car Boot Sale**

(why not dress for the occasion)

**Summer Fayre Saturday 11th July**

## CROSSPOOL FORUM

**Open Meeting Friday 1st May 2009 7.00 pm**  
**St Columba's Church Hall Manchester Road Crosspool**



[Crosspoolforum.org.uk](http://Crosspoolforum.org.uk) | Tele : 2307265

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## Letter Box

Re: - A Look at life in Bradfield and the surrounding area

I wish to thank the Crosspool Clarion for the lovely mention of this booklet in their winter issue, especially as the net proceeds are to be given to heart and leukaemia charities.

It certainly generated much interest as many copies were sold to individuals. Members of the Stephen Hill Methodist Church purchased a number, while customers of three of the clarion advertisers were very responsive. So I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Wayne Firth and his staff at Bamforths, Janice Robbins and her assistants at Enhance and Andrew Duckenfield and his staff at the Crosspool pharmacy for their cooperation.

Unsure what the response would be to the "Dales Tales", the answer was unbelievable. In just three months all the 320 copies were sold.

Spring and summer is yet to come and as St Nicholas Church through 2009 will be celebrating 900 years of Christian worship on its present site, hopefully many people, will be visiting the Bradfield area. With this in mind further supplies of the book have been reprinted and will remain on sale at the Crosspool Pharmacy and around Bradfield. Lastly many thanks to Ian for his help with the project.

Joe Castle

**Care in Crosspool** works within the local community linking volunteers to those who need help, commonly a befriending service for the elderly.

We are not linked to any church and would welcome anyone over the age of 18, and who has sometime to share with others to get in touch on **2670045** (24 hour ansmachine)

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



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### Sandygate Man Remembers ARP wardens

The primary duty of a warden was to ensure that windows were blacked out. A fine of £6 (two weeks wages) could be levied or even a prison sentence for noncompliance.

My uncle Mr Reg Gadsby was a warden who would have used the post in Crosspool; he was a lovely man and had been a cavalier sergeant in the First World War. He lived in Marsh Lane in the part built in the late thirties. Lydgate Hall was still there and further along were tennis courts. I recall being in Crookes cinema (now the Co-op) when the sirens went and I dashed through the alleys and paths coming out at Lydgate top There was a quarry there (now the children's playground) which was partly filled in with debris from the blitz, I think some came from the city centre.

My aunty, my cousin and I would go into an Anderson shelter which was wet and uncomfortable and listen to the bombs exploding, the sky was red from all the fires. The group photograph of wardens was taken at Crookes (Northfield Court) my uncle is not on it but I am front row standing second row from the left, I was a messenger.

During the war I was a St John's (Ranmoor Church) Scout based in the Benty Lane hut. Our skipper must have been the keenest scout, he was never out of uniform. We would go to his big house in Ranmoor to collect handcarts to collect bits and pieces for the war effort, mostly bags of silver paper which we then took to a labyrinth of passages under the Royal Infirmary Hospital. We would play on our bikes around Waller's newsagents (now Motor World) and near the chip shop (now Co-op Travel). My future wife was bombed out of their home at Walkley and her mother's family, who had a farm in the Rivelin valley just beyond the old Bell Hagg Inn' fetched what possessions were left in the horse and cart. Later when I came out of the navy I bought my first house guess where, yes Marsh Lane.

Brian of Sandygate

Memories of the Crosspool area during WW2; No.1

Can anyone fill in the gaps!?

How many people were based at Selborne Rd, did they work a shift pattern; were they all men & if so of what age; was this only during the hours of darkness; was this set up as soon as the war started; what about 'uniforms' and equipment - where from, how quickly did they get it etc? Was the 'garage' commandeered for use or volunteered?

\* The ARP post (air-raid precautions) on Selborne Rd behind the shops - when did this start?

\* Lydgate Lane's children's park was a quarry - filled in with blitz debris after the war - when did this close down?

\* all the houses had Anderson shelters. How quickly were they erected?

\* the Scout Hut on Benty Lane was already there - same building?

\* the Crookes Co-op store used to be a cinema - name? When did it close?

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**Rivelin Development Rejected**

After considering the proposal, together with comments, the Council has decided to refuse planning permission for the proposed erection of a dwelling house and detached garage/stables with living accommodation over at the Junction With King Edwards Approach, Rivelin Valley Road. In the absence of very special circumstances to justify a departure from the provisions of the adopted plan, under the Policy terms of the Unitary Development Plan, the proposed residential dwelling house, ancillary buildings and large expanse of hard standing is considered to be an inappropriate development in the Green Belt and would cause harm to the generally open and green character of the area.

**No Parking Provisions**

I frequently use Broomhill Library finding it very convenient as a disabled person because there is a designated disabled persons parking bay right outside the front entrance. So it will come as no surprise that I was shocked and dismayed at reading the article in the Crosspool Clarion winter 2008 Volume 5 issue 4 about the new proposed Library site. A new Library with more PCs and some toilets would be wonderful and I am entirely in agreement, as suggested, with the new site being "The Mount" which will have ample parking for all Library visitors and more over disabled visitors.  
 Regards Susan.

*Hello Susan,  
 Thank you for your valued email. Acting on your concerns, I contacted the Council Planning Officer who had recommended planning permission for the new build on Ashgate Road. She, in fact,*

*confirmed that there are to be no additional parking spaces provided. When asked where disabled people would park when visiting the new library the reply was, registered disabled are allowed to park on double yellow lines, in the existing parking bays for free, and in a new loading bay at the front of the building. She went on to say that in order to limit the amount of additional traffic in the immediate area, the builders have been advised to inform prospective occupiers that they should not consider this property if they own a motor vehicle. Hopefully, if enough people share your concerns regarding the lack of disabled parking, and the consequential inconvenience and difficulties that this will create when visiting the proposed new library, the constructors of this ill thought out development may have a change of heart in regards to providing a number of designated parking spaces for the disabled.  
 Best regards  
 Ian*

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**Police Reports**

24-30.11. A ground floor window at a Dwelling in Lydgate was entered by forcing during the afternoon and a laptop and games console was stolen.

Two garden sheds, both at Sandygate, one overnight the other over a week period and both by forced entry. One was by using next door's bird table as a battering ram. Both resulted in garden mowers and garden power tools being stolen.

08-14.12. Once more in Sandygate, thieves entered a garden shed by removing the window and stole a game console and its peripherals.

Thieves stole a chainsaw from an allotment on Hagg Hill whilst the tenant was on site.

29.12-04.01. In Crosspool, intruders, forced entry by removing a rear patio door from its frame, but nothing was believed to have been stolen!

An overnight Theft of 2006 registered Yamaha motorcycle from insecure stable in Sandygate.

19-25.01. After entering a Crosspool dwelling during the evening, through an insecure rear door, thieves stole ignition keys to a '03' registered Vauxhall Astra, and subsequently stole the vehicle.

During the afternoon, thieves entered a home in Sandygate by forcing the patio doors. Property stolen to the value £48,000 included two LCD/Plasma TVs, a laptop, a games console, two mobile phones and jewellery.

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26.01-01.02. A bunch of keys was stolen during the late evening, after thieves entered a dwelling in Crosspool through an insecure rear door.

Number Plates were stolen from a vehicle left overnight in Sandygate

Early Saturday morning on the 10th January three youths burst into the store room of the GT News, terrorising the staff.

During the robbery the manager Rob Cooper was badly beaten-up and had to be taken to hospital by ambulance. The rest of the staff were treated by paramedics for shock. The thugs escaped empty-handed.

Detectives are also looking at possible links with a raid at the Cairn Home for the Elderly Blind on Selborne Road, Crosspool, on December 28 when offenders fled empty-handed. Police have appealed for witnesses to the robberies to come forward.

Attempted burglary at Valleyside Garden Centre foiled.

Thieves used the old scam of making two visits to a targeted property, firstly to set off the alarm by cutting the wiring, then returning later in the night, when the alarm has been turned off, to actually carryout the burglary. On this occasion their ploy didn't work. Repairs had been carried out immediately after the first visit and the alarm reset, so apart from superficial damage to the fencing, nothing was stolen. Additional security measures have now been implemented

**Illegal Parking Blitz**

Saturday morning, 24th January, Parking patrols were out in the precinct and on Benty Lane at Crosspool, ticketing illegally parked vehicles.



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**Eye-catching birds wing into Crosspool**

You don't have to see snow to be aware that it's winter. But a flock of waxwings is a good indicator that arctic like conditions are on the way. These colourful birds, with bright yellow lines and red tips to their wings and stiff crests, are driven by the cold weather from their European breeding grounds to the UK and regularly turn up in Sheffield. Early in December a flock of this eye-catching bird, took advantage of the abundance of berry laden trees in Crosspool.

**GT Raffle**

A chocolate hamper donated by local GT News was won by Mrs Buddery on raffle ticket number 169.

GT Manager Rob Cooper said, that being able to present Cairn Home comfort fund with the £60 raised by the raffle had made it both meaningful and worthwhile.

**Café opens**

After much speculation, the recently reconstructed Rose Cottage situated on the triangle site at the junction of Manchester Road and Lydgate Lane, finally opened its doors on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January as the "Crosspool Coffee Shop". The original cottage was demolished after being compulsorily purchased by the council in 1935 for possible alterations to the junction.

**Sheffield LETS**

Remember the good old days when neighbours were friendlier, when people did you favours and didn't ask for money in return?

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The Sheffield LETS scheme currently has about forty five members who provide various skills such as complementary therapies, computing, babysitting and occasional lifts.

We are looking for more members to join our scheme so that we can provide more skills especially in the Crosspool area. Initial membership costs £10.00 waged, £7.50 for low wages and £5.00 for unwaged. Thereafter annual membership is £8.00 or £5.00. In return you receive a quarterly newsletter and a trade directory of members twice yearly. Social events are also organised where you can meet members and trade.

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**Rhythm**

Being up for innovative experiences and fond of theatre, it didn't take Grazyna Swales, the organiser St Francis's dance club, long to persuade my wife and me to buy tickets for their latest production. Not knowing what to expect we arrived on the evening of Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> January at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi Sandygate Road, full of foreboding and apprehension.

As it turned out, there was no need to worry. "Rhythm" was a very enjoyable show done to a tight budget and, although simple in design the overall look of the clothes and costumes were both creative and of a high standard.

With a particular colour theme for each different role, the mature dancers in stages of dance professionalism, performing in a limited space, all kept up with the steps amazingly well without running into each other. I was impressed!

It was very inspirational to witness the possibility of making it in the world of dance regardless of age. A poignant moment being when the girls played tribute to the women who served our country in its hour of need in WW2. What can I say, other than amazing.

Although every dancer and performer contributed their own artistic skills to the performance, I felt I should mention the accompaniment on piano of Ann Ratcliffe; Tony's interpretation of Prof Higgins's "Why Can't a Woman" from my very favourite musical of all time, "My Fair Lady" and his, (-eat your heart out Bruciel-), tap dance routine; Pam Lightowler singing a Scottish lilt whilst accompanying herself on the acoustic guitar; Wendy Allbutt's playing piano in the style of Fats Waller, and the melodious singing of Elaine Pawling.

The quality of choreography and directorship was a testament to Anthony (Tony) Womack's professionalism, that he can and did produce such an evening of glamorous enjoyment and pleasure for everyone.



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### Open Meeting 6th February

Richard Roberts (vice chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting which was at one stage problematical due to the snow and icy conditions, but noted that Crosspool residents "are made of sterner stuff" and had turned out after all! Thanks to Jackie & Alan, he was able to offer them either tea or coffee. He then asked Ian Hague to report on any matters arising from the Nov Meeting.

Vernon Terrace bus stop; Rebecca, Ian & Hugh Buxton had a meeting recently & have put their proposals to Planning and Highways. A fourth option has been brought into play - to ask to buy the front garden by the frontage of Aspects of Beauty shop, to widen the pavement to accept a shelter.

Owner of the recently opened Crosspool Coffee shop Mrs Hampton had requested Ian to ask local people as to whether they do in fact require a replacement bench to be installed on the grassed area immediately above the Manchester Road entrance (this was part of the planning permission). The answer from the room was affirmative.

Tapton drama teacher Nick Moffet, through Nick Rousseau, asked Ian to bring four other people to talk about their teenage experiences to thirty of his pupils. The age range of the residents was from 57-96. Ian felt that the children were articulate, "very polite" and "considerate", and the Forum is interested to see what sort of play/film production comes out of this!

Forum's website and Clarion newsletter; Ian requested more input from residents.

PC Gary Hizam brought up the following points; Marsh Lane allotments; Louise Atha recently arrested eight lads for their antisocial behaviour, and letters will be sent to their parents about this.

Mulehouse Rd (Crookes); there is an ongoing operation at the moment to catch those responsible for criminal damage on this road.

Bogus officials at the door; although some may be genuine the Derbyshire police have managed to lose 75 bags of old police uniforms on their way to being recycled, so these may end up in the wrong hands! Gary then passed round his warrant card badge and details for people to inspect so they know what to look out for if a bogus policeman comes knocking!

Shocking state of the verges at the moment has been noted and Tapton Crescent Road's have been added to the list. Gary has been in touch with Bovis (contractors for the new Shore Lane student residences) and said Bovis workers are encouraged **not** to park on local streets, but to accept being bussed into work from the contractors own offsite parking facility. He said that the building work is expected to be finished by September this year. The 1500 students expected to occupy this new accommodation are to be informed that there will be no parking permits available. It was pointed out from the floor that as the footpath from the Shore Lane entrance does not continue down to the junction with Fulwood Rd it could be dangerous.

Stephen Hill verge parking problem, which the Forum is actively pursuing, was again raised. Gary agreed to keep an eye on this problem, giving the room a "guarantee that it will definitely be sorted out!"

### T.O.P. - Tax Help for older people. (Helpline 0845 601 3321)

Denis Madden was the speaker. After 43 years with the Inland Revenue (now HMRC) as a tax inspector, on retirement he decided to work for this charity which offers free help and advice to older people on low retirement incomes. He pointed out that although even a millionaire, if arrested, would have access to free legal representation in the form of a duty solicitor, there is no such scheme for free access to accountants. The government is however happy to fund T.O.P. to fill the gap, and it now provides some 600 tax professionals working on a voluntary basis.

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In the last 10 years the government policy has been driven by the phrase "financial inclusion", which means older people in particular need to ensure they open the brown envelopes from the HMRC, or A4 plastic wallets of self-assessment forms they receive and actually complete any forms sent to them. Ignoring these is no longer an option.

He has found many people do not know how to claim for their age-related personal allowances and how exactly to fill in their forms. The modern way the HMRC works is to tell enquirers to use a website or a call centre to find out what they want to know, but this just does not work for many people, so T.O.P is there to offer face-to-face advice in a format that is understandable.

He pointed out that many, often new widows, have never had any experience of financial matters and are suddenly faced with these for the first time. This is a major cause of worry and sleeplessness among those on already low incomes, and they often say they are sure they will go to jail if they do not pay a sudden tax demand! His volunteers have been able to calculate correct amounts and to re-schedule payments in many cases, thus releasing money that people can then spend as they wish. This has a knock-on effect in the local community - as the money goes to local shops, cafes etc and keeps the economy and community alive. In 35% of the cases his team has even been able to get a debt written off entirely.

T.O.P. often works through Age Concern in Sheffield, and can visit the housebound if asked, often just to reassure them that they are doing things correctly. The income ranges they help with tend to be between 10 and 17 thousand pounds p.a. but they deal with whatever is asked of them.

He made the following points about tax; to ensure you only declare what income is taxable, don't just shove anything down! Certain allowances and benefits are taxable, but many not. Make sure your personal allowance is correct; Age Allowance is an enhanced (but often forgotten) income tax personal allowance available to those aged over 65. If you are aged 65 or over, your personal allowance increases from £6035 to £9030. This increases after age 75 to £9180 in the current tax year. For an individual aged over 75, this could mean an income tax saving of up to £629.00. But bear in mind that your Tax Office might not know your age unless you've told them or shown your date of birth on a tax return, claim form or form P161 'Pension Enquiry'.

Check the rate at Which you pay tax - many people are on the wrong rate, especially if there is more than one pension involved. People can no longer just expect the HMRC to get taxes right! Relatives and carers in particular were asked to check that older people do not leave HMRC envelopes unopened and 'hope for the best'; the self-assessments that were brought in 1996 is the way things are going in the tax world, so people will be responsible for their own tax codes and must get used to keeping all relevant information in case it is needed. The old coding system is "creaking" & although an employee may receive a new tax code his employer may not, or it may not be keyed into the system at work.

Mr Madden was also eager that people make use of their entitlement to gross interest by completing the correct form.

Finally he asked whether anyone in the Meeting was interested in joining a seminar he is willing to run on the 23rd March, at a venue in Crosspool to learn how to sort out tax affairs so they can pass this expertise on to others in the community. It will be a day-long course (with lunch included) - names to Ian Hague please as soon as possible.

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### Manchester Road Grass Verges

During spring 2006, the City Council wrote to local residents, explaining the Council's proposal for the erection of signs banning parking on the grass verges along Manchester Road in front of their properties.

To a large extent the verge parking ban has been self enforcing, as was the intention. As a result, the majority of verges are in a far better and more attractive condition. However, in recent months it has been noticed that some home owners, or their visitors and tradesmen, are ignoring the signs and parking on the grass verges

In view of the fact that some properties may have changed hands since the signs were installed it was felt that this is a good time to inform any new residents of the potential cost to them in fines if the signs are ignored, and to remind longer term residents of their responsibilities. Compliance with the signing is a legal requirement, but in doing so helps to maintain the appearance of the road and contribute to the preservation of property values. Not only will it be beneficial to you and your neighbours if you support the preservation of the verges, it could save you an appearance in Court and a possible fine. Clearly self regulation is preferable to that scenario.

Anyone found abusing the verge parking byelaw will have their vehicle details and address reported to the Highway Regulation Group, who will then take appropriate action.

I trust that we can count on your support in keeping Crosspool a safe and pleasant place to live in.

*Sheffield City Council South West Area Co-ordinator*

### Elderly Man Duped by Rogue Traders

Mrs Shaw of Sandygate Road, Crosspool contacted the Clarion, warning of an unscrupulous sales person that deceived her 88 year old father-in-law, Leslie Shaw.

After receiving a telephone call from a Compass Mobility rep, Mr Shaw was left believing that he'd set up an appointment with someone from social services. The Clay Cross-based firm had used his hospitality and politeness, to invite themselves into his home to mis-sell mobility equipment.

One visit later he had signed and paid £850 for a bath lift that was unsuitable, so for an extra £100 they supplied him with an inappropriate powered bath cushion. As a consequence he is now out of pocket to the tune of nearly £1,000, with inoperative paraphernalia.

Mrs Shaw said: "Dad's got his wits about him but he's deaf and easily confused and a bit dodderly, He should never have been sold the equipment without another adult being present. I think the firm has taken advantage of a vulnerable old man."

We have been asked to warn residents to be wary of Compass reps trying to peddle goods while falsely claiming to be from social services.

New regulations mean people have a seven-day cooling off period to change their mind about a contract for more than £35 that has been made at home during a visit by a trader. Most sellers at the door and those that call to arrange home visits will have to comply or risk a fine of £5,000. It is also a criminal offence if a notice explaining the customer's rights is not given when the contract is agreed.

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