



the

islander



A community newsletter for Kelham Island & Neepsend

No.3



Photo by Michael Sallot

Welcome to the Third Issue

Hello and welcome to Issue 3 of the Islander. Since the last edition was distributed way back in March, we have slowly returned to a more normal life, albeit a new normal!! It's been fantastic to say goodbye to endless Zoom meetings and witness residents and businesses around the area getting back up and running.

In this edition, the KINCA team will share details of some of our local stories; the demise of some of our historic industrial heritage under threat; a visit to a local social enterprise company Yes2Ventures; consideration of one of our most famous Kelham sites and green assets - The Goit, and review the successful launch of Naomi's Corner, whilst gaining

insights from newly trained beekeeping volunteers, to name but a few of the exciting things going on in the neighbourhood. Our more regular Islander features sees us chatting to KINCA Treasurer Amy Lockwood about her role in the community organisation.

The Islander Editorial Team

Supported by FYI

FYI are based in our Kelham Island / Neepsend community and are super proud to be supporting KINCA. They produce stand out creative, print and digital content for brands and campaigns and have kindly supported us by printing this newsletter for free.

KINCA is a registered charity. Through grants and fundraising events such as our Community Market, we use all the money to improve and support the community. Events this year have curtailed our fundraising, but we now have an opportunity to support KINCA if you are an Amazon shopper.

Whenever you shop at Amazon, simply enter the following URL <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1171900-0> and KINCA will receive 0.5% of your purchase as cashback. If you're using the Amazon app then click on main menu, settings, and then amazon smile. You can then add us as your chosen charity.

This is a simple and easy way to support us and would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

This is KINCA *Interview with Amy Lockwood*



Here at the Islander, we've recently had the opportunity to catch up with KINCA treasurer Amy Lockwood, to learn more about her role within the organisation, as well as all the things she loves about the Kelham and Neepsend area.

Hi Amy! Tell us a little bit about your role in KINCA, and how long you've been volunteering with the organisation...

I first moved to Kelham in 2005 and started attending the neighbourhood meetings on a regular basis. It was a great way to meet new neighbours and find out what was happening in the area. KINCA has had several different committees over the years and in 2016 I agreed to become treasurer for a six month period, five years later I'm still doing it! I'm also one of the charity trustees and I generally get involved with a number of the various projects we organise.

And going back to reality, what's been your favourite thing KINCA has contributed to the area since you've been involved?

And finally, if our readers bump into you around Kelham Island and Neepsend, what are you most likely to be doing?

What would you say Kelham & Neepsend means to you, not just as a KINCA member but as a Sheffield resident in general?

Kelham and Neepsend definitely means community to me. I've seen many people come and go from the area over the past sixteen years but the strong community feel has always been present from the very beginning.

As a lifelong Sheffield resident, Kelham and Neepsend has always signified local history. I actually studied Kelham Island as part of my History GCSE many years ago! At that time (the late 1990s) plans were in place for the first residential developments but we were not allowed to include that in our assignment as the mark scheme only allowed for the decline in industry.

If you were to organise your dream project or event in association with KINCA, what would it be?

I'd really love a community space within the area. Somewhere that local people can call in for a chat and find out what we do. My dream would almost be like a Room of Requirement from Harry Potter! A space that could be used for meetings, events, projects, talks and pop ups. A community centre with a difference!

It's so difficult to choose just one thing! In 2019 Kelham Island won an award from the Academy of Urbanism for Best Neighbourhood in the UK. It was so lovely to receive some recognition for all our hard work against some really tough competition.

Personally, I never tire of seeing the amazing art work that is dotted around Kelham and Neepsend as part of the Arts and Heritage trail. It's something that visitors to the area always comment on too.

If you could describe the Kelham & Neepsend area in just three words, what would they be and why?

Vibrant, eclectic and ever-changing ...although 'Manic on Saturdays' does also apply!

Probably rushing around trying to be somewhere else! I'm a primary school teacher which certainly keeps me very busy and I also teach pilates, which I really enjoy, and explains why I'm often wearing leggings! I regularly visit the vast variety of food and drink establishments the area has to offer and I have recently began helping with some food tours that take place locally too. I'm always happy to stop for a chat but that does mean that a two minute walk around the Island can often take me several hours!

Website: www.kinca.org
Facebook: Kelham Island Community Alliance
Email: info@kinca.org

Local Grants available

Councillors' Ward Pots aim to support communities by making grants available to local voluntary, community, and self-help groups and projects. If your organisation can contribute to your local area, you may be eligible for funding of up to £500. If you want more information, get in touch with Andy Male, Community Service Officer (Andrew.Male@sheffield.gov.uk) for an application form.



Naomi's Corner Official Opening

Though Naomi's Corner has been up and running and welcoming passers-by for a few months now, Saturday 14th August saw its official grand opening.

Organised by KINCA members and officiated by ex-mayor of Sheffield, Magid Magid, Naomi's Corner, our new urban green space, was officially declared 'open', as those who attended the event got the chance to share memories of Naomi and enjoy Kelham's newest communal area.

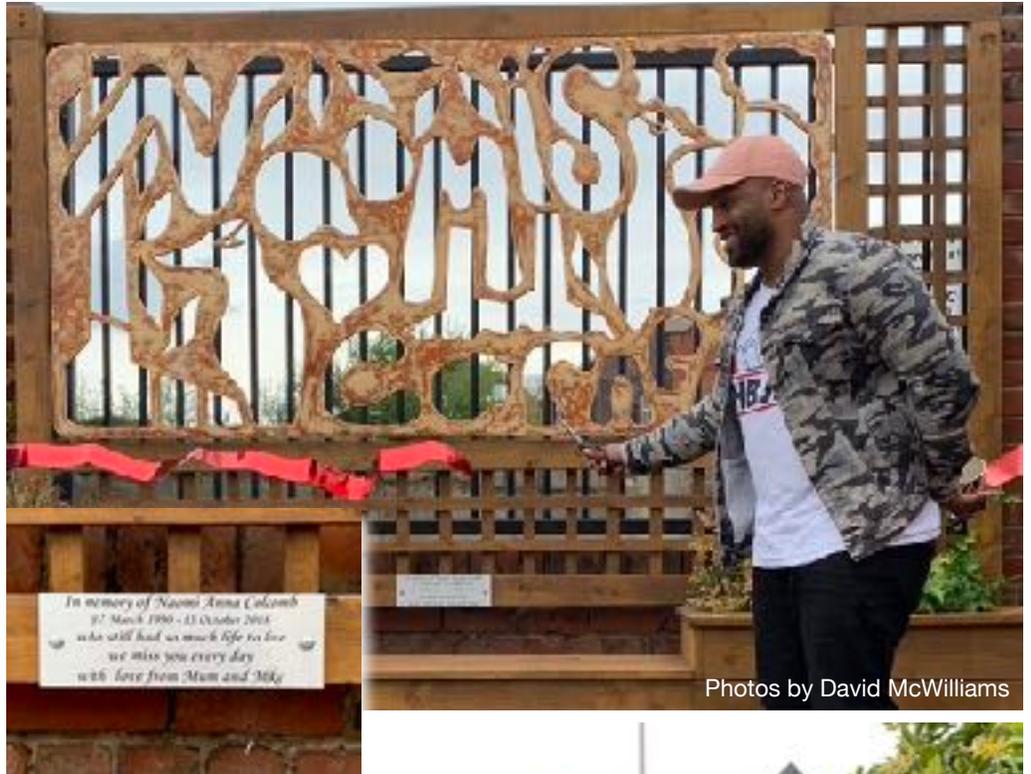
Naomi's mum, partner and friends all attended the event, and guests were all lucky enough to try some hot Chai made from Naomi's own special recipe. Other refreshments were kindly provided by local independent businesses, which KINCA volunteers served throughout the afternoon.



On the day, a friend of Naomi's also painted a beautiful mural of Naomi on a utility box near to the Corner, featuring vibrant colours and an arrow to direct passers-by to the riverside space. You can find Naomi's mural on Neepsend Lane.

Reflecting on the opening of the memorial area, Naomi's mum Sabine stated:

"Naomi would have loved the place, I think, but I think she would have been incredibly embarrassed to think people were doing all this for her."



Photos by David McWilliams

Over the summer months, Naomi's Corner provided a serene space for people to relax, spend their lunch-break and catch up with friends and family. As well as its gorgeously crafted benches and planters, the Corner now also features a well-stocked communal library and specially designed additional planters which double up as a place to leave bikes.



Naomi's Corner is kindly maintained by a small group of volunteers, who take it in turns to water the plants and litter pick the area, keeping it looking lovely for people to use throughout the year! If you'd like to join the group and get your name on the rota, please email: craig@kinca.org



The Goit 2021

What does the Goit mean to you?

“The Goit is the historic heart of Kelham Island and represents a unique thread linking Sheffield’s inhabitants from Medieval times to the 21st Century. For the local community this is a beautiful river habitat. It is also a popular destination for visitors from around the world and is one of the most photographed places in Sheffield.”

Although nowadays Sheffield has far fewer mills, furnaces and smoky chimneys, the pride of Sheffield’s people is based on their industrial heritage and Kelham Island seems an ideal place to keep this city’s industrial memory alive. There are some features that help us to keep track of it: Kelham Island Museum, streets and buildings’ names... but one of the most relevant elements, the one that really helped baptise and shape our little corner in the world is unnoticed and ignored: the Goit.

Originally built by the Normans in the 11th century, this strip of water diverted from the river Don, stretched all the way from Ball St weir to Lady’s bridge, and was designed to feed and drive industry in the area.

We don’t know much about the Goit until the XVII century. At that time the island created by the human hand was known as Colston Croft and the town armourer, Kellam Homer, established his workshop and wheel where today stands Kelham Island Brewery. He was the first to populate the place with sounds and smells related with industry and technological progress.

Over the years the water flowing through the Goit has powered a wide range of businesses, including the town’s corn mill in Millsands, and a silk mill and cotton mill located across the road from The Fat Cat pub. The remains of the old water wheel can still be seen next to the entrance to Kelham Island itself.

Around 1850, when the misspelled name of that armourer had already become the designation of the island, and the steam power took over the job of energy source, and the water provided by the Goit was mainly used to cool machinery, part of its stream was extensively culverted to build Alma Street.

Today, the Goit is a wild natural water ‘garden’ and an ecological haven: over 100 species of plants and more than 60 types of animals from insects, fish and amphibians to birds and mammals call it home.

As a wild space it still needs taking care of. Local resident, retired scientist and amateur naturalist Dave Buttle, along with Vicki and their small but dedicated group of volunteers, regularly manage the area. The goit bank imitates a lowland, even fenland waterside community, and as such, contains some quite rampant species (crack willow for example), which need to be kept in check, and it is also important that the water channel is kept free of blockage

“It may be possible to one day soon make the Goit an official nature reserve, to protect and recognise its special place as an important & diverse ecological and educational landmark within the city centre, but also mark its important place in the heritage of Kelham Island.” states Dave.



If anyone would like to help and join his band of volunteers to care for & maintain the Goit, please get in touch with Dave Buttle
d.j.buttle@sheffield.ac.uk

Volunteers from Kelham Island work alongside the River Steward Company to maintain the Goit channel.



Paul's Workshop

Chris's Workshop

The Almshouses

The residents of one of Kelham Island's oldest buildings could be under threat of eviction after the property was bought by developers earlier this year.

The Globe Steel Works and Almshouses on Alma Street, are located in the centre of Kelham Island, in the middle of a new housing development and home to Chris Perry, a silversmith whose father set up his workshop there more than 20 years ago and bespoke cabinet maker Paul McCarthy. Both are skilled craftsmen and a key part of the famed industrial heritage of our area.

The landlord has sold the building, leaving the future uncertain for Paul and Chris, who fear they will be evicted. Paul says the upheaval has been "hanging over" his head for the past year. He added: "I'm not a luddite - I could see developments coming and I appreciate them in a lot of ways, bringing the area around from what it was 15 years ago - but it's a shame now there's no space for a bit of reality - a bit of rough if you like".

Chris says that a move would be catastrophic for his business and would take months and thousands of pounds to complete due to the heavy machinery in the workshop. He says that should he be evicted from the site, it could mean the end for his business due to the logistics of trying to find appropriate premises and set up "It would take months to move all the machinery out of the building - if we were served a six month eviction notice, we'd have to shut down and start moving right away."

The business and the building are part of Sheffield's heritage and especially Kelham Island "But not just that, if I stop working there's a network of other people in Sheffield who I wouldn't be able to do business with, which has a knock-on effect for them too.



Chris added that his father had been encouraged to move to Kelham two decades ago to try and repopulate the area after it became more desolate. Chris and Paul say a compensation payout for relocation wouldn't be enough to secure his future either.

Kelham Island is an Industrial Conservation Area, which means its "industrial culture and heritage" is protected. From extensive consultation undertaken by KINCA and KINNF (part of the Neighbourhood Plan development), it is clear that the majority want to retain the working industrial heritage as well as encouraging residential and hospitality development.

The Globe Works building was originally built in the early 1800s and manufactured tools. The Almshouses are the last remnants of the Sheffield Union Workhouse and were part of the old cotton mill before it was converted into a workhouse in 1829. It's a vital part of Kelham Island's historic landscape, as modern developments have gradually cropped up around it. It would be a shame if the delicate balance between heritage and new developments was lost.

For a closer look at some of Chris and Paul's fabulous work, visit:

christopher-perry.co.uk

<http://www.instagram.com/paulmccarthysheff/>



Yes2Ventures

Meeting Mark Powell, Chief executive and founder member of Yes2Ventures, was a refreshing view of how much more inclusive and kinder the world could be.



I met with Mark from Yes2Ventures at their HQ in Neepsend, where they have been based for over 20 years. Mark has had a wide ranging portfolio career, all with a common purpose- trying to create a better climate for social change by helping to provide real opportunities for those people who don't have them.

Yes2ventures is a Social Firm employment and development agency, who have been creating employment and training opportunities for people who are disadvantaged in the labour market.

Based on the principle that 'all we want is a job', Mark and his team work hard sourcing and matching partners who want to set up 'enterprise' ventures (hence the name). They have successfully helped to set up ventures such as Yes2Work- a Disabled People job broker; Buster's - a chain of coffee shops; Viewpoint Research - a telephone-based research service based in Mowbray Street, and a successful Travel Support service.



Yes2Ventures provides a travel support service to people with learning disabilities or people who are nervous about traveling with strangers, as an alternative to taxis and council transport. Each week, they provide a weekly, personalised service for 170 people in the local area. They employ 33 part-time drivers, almost all of whom have been disadvantaged in the labour market for health related and social reasons.

Their latest enterprise is **theSocial** based in nearby Snig Hill. This site has been fitted out with a bar and seating area made in their own workshops in Neepsend. It also includes **artSocial**, an art gallery and performance space exhibiting the work of local artists; **craftSocial** which trains people in craft, from print making and origami, to woodwork and picture framing, all using local partners such as KIAC at the Yes2ventures workshops in Neepsend. It creates jobs, and is an outlet for products made by social enterprises.

foodSocial, another arm of this enterprise, trains people to work in the catering industry, creates jobs and prepares food for sale. They supply local businesses with pre prepped vegetables for commercial kitchens and restaurants in Kelham and Neepsend. They also prepare a pre prepped vegetable selection - 'Everything but the meat'- for purchase and collection to go with your Sunday Roast. To order, go to their website.

Mark and his team are passionate about their mission to improve social change. They are creative, practical, business orientated, and help to bring people together to make things happen. Proud of their local links, Mark credits part of their success to the network of businesses and people of Neepsend and Kelham, its strong, practical heritage, and its sense of family.

theSocial opened in August 2021, and is a great space to socialise. Pop along and see for yourself during opening hours, Wed and Thurs, 3pm - 9pm Friday and Sat, 12-9pm.

If you want any more information about Yes2Ventures or think you can help out, visit their website: www.yes2ventures.org.uk or give them a call on 07904 586 584



Kelham Update



Our feature on the Kelham Bees in our last issue caught the attention of some budding apiarists. Here we have an update from one of our lovely new volunteers, Rebecca, who is helping Chris and Susan to take care of the hives.

Every session the volunteers get their heads together to examine the bees, check they're ok and learn about them. It really helps to see that however small and self contained they are we have a huge responsibility towards them.

When we're working with the hives it's all absorbing. The bees are really quite docile and busy doing their thing.

Even with limited knowledge we've raised the profile of our 2 hives.

What we've done:

July

We carried out regular hive inspections and supported each other to build our confidence being so close to the bees. We learnt all about the structure of the hive, the jobs of the bees and how important they are and what the environment means to them.



August

We tested the hives for the Varroa mite and how to report our findings to the Animal and Plant Health Agency's (APHA) National Bee Unit. This is a parasitic mite that attacks and weakens the bees.



September

An instructor from the Sheffield Beekeepers Association (SBKA) came to show us how to extract the honey and we harvested our first honey.



October

Regular checks on the bees, making sure they have their syrup food supply and getting together to build the new hives following the guidance from the SBKA. Putting mouse guards on the door to the hives to protect the bees from mice looking for a warm place to stay.



"I know it won't be long before they're all closed up for winter. However, over winter we'll be busy getting the hives and the kit in great shape ready for next Spring. It's a complete release from the stresses that we all face and the most rewarding hobby that I've ever had. ""

And the winner is...

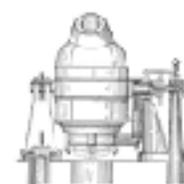
Back in April this year we asked everyone in the Kelham Island and Neepsend community to vote for their favourite building or landmark, with the aim of raising awareness and recognising the special building heritage of the area. As we were still in various forms of lockdown due to COVID the voting was principally conducted on social media (Instagram & Twitter), although a paper vote was possible.

And the winner is....

THE CLOCK TOWER, GREEN LANE WORKS

The arch was built in 1860, a grand entrance for the industrial site and features two impressive bronze plaques, commissioned by Henry H Hoole Mayor of Sheffield.

After the Clock Tower came Cornish Place in second place and Ball Street Bridge third (our cover photo). A total of 24 buildings and landmarks were nominated during the month. Thank you to all those who participated and for more info and a full list of all the buildings nominated go to KINNF.com.



KELHAM
HERITAGE
MONTH

Kelham Heroes

Toby - the Old English Sheepdog

During lockdown, a familiar furry face kept Kelham Island residents going and brought a bit of joy.

Toby the Old English Sheepdog became a moment of joy in the days of people out walking or people-watching to pass the pandemic.

And as our pubs, restaurants and coffee shops re-opened he is regularly spotted enjoying the delights of the Kelham Island social scene too.

Owner Chris has had Toby since he was nine weeks old and recently set up his own Instagram account so people can tag him in photos and keep up with Toby's adventures.

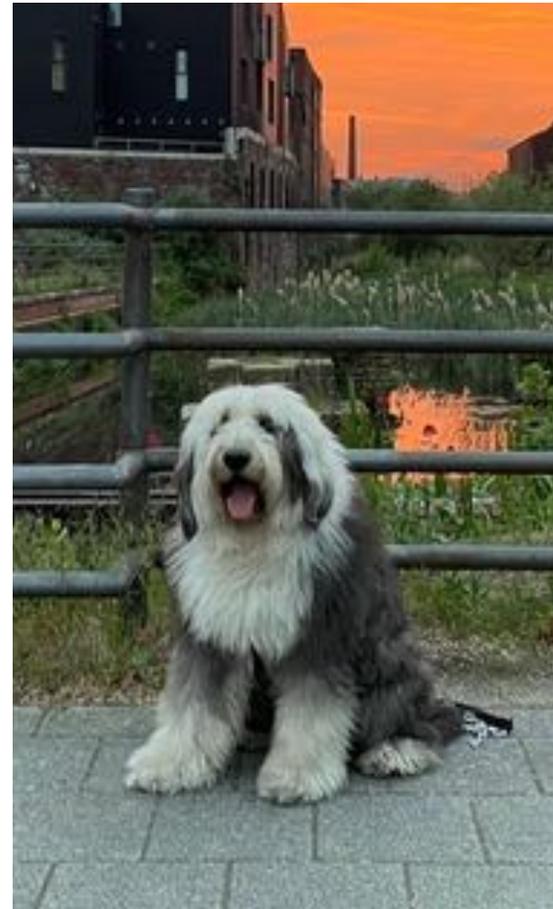
Ten-year-old Toby has almost 600 followers and is the self-proclaimed "King of Kelham".

Chris says "since lockdown, Toby has really come out his shell. He was always sociable before, but the constant vibe of Kelham has really helped make him the dog he is now.

We can laze around coffee shops midweek and have a bite to eat, but come the weekend (Toby's favourite) you have the buzz and atmosphere. He's always first in the bar and the last to leave, as long as someone is fussing him, he'll stay all night! Toby loves exploring, meeting new people and getting lots of attention wherever he goes. He has made lots of doggy friends that he loves to play with around Kelham but struggles to keep up with their energy for long!

It's lovely to hear how he's been spotted on his walks giving people light in lockdown. It's crazy how my silly old dog has had such an impact on people. So please come over and give him a stroke!

You can follow Toby on Instagram



Litter Pick Relaunch

2022 will see a relaunch of our monthly litter picks around the Kelham and Neepsend area, with new custom designed jackets for volunteers to wear when helping out...keep an eye out on KINCA social media for further updates, and message us to get involved!



KIAC Open Studio

Kelham Island Arts Collective (KIAC) are holding an open studio event on 27th and 28th November 2021
11am - 5pm
Free Entry

Please pop in and be inspired by some of the wonderful art being created in our neighbourhood.

KIAC Art Studios
Lion Works
Ball St
Sheffield, S3

Kelham Christmas



Plans are afoot to help make Christmas 2021 a joyful occasion. KINCA are helping to bring some seasonal cheer to the neighbourhood with a community Christmas tree; back by popular demand - our community Christmas bauble decorating; an advent window trail and hopefully some community singing too. Check out our KINCA Facebook page and noticeboards for more details.

Kelham Update.....and finally

Researching the Goit for our newsletter prompted local poet and resident Isaac Xubin, to share his lyrical view of Kelham Island.

Kelham Island

The need for a wide channel for the mill,
the island was born and with it a name.
The remaining chimney is still upright,
marking the place of a promise in ruins,
hindered by time, ponderous and predictable,
like an old army at standstill.

The goit is the only element of that past
with the ability to offer a coherent speech,
it is alive like the haste of fingers that long
for the attitude of the age of archers:
it is easy to break a youngster's heart,
water and nature will always find their way.

Isaac Xubin

Kelham Crepes



Some of our enterprising KINCA committee members have been inspired to develop a new way to raise funds for the group - with Kelham Crepes! The team appear on Ball Street Bridge in fair weather, on Friday afternoons to offer freshly cooked crepes to enjoy. They will also be appearing at community events during the festive season. Keep a lookout on our FaceBook page for updates.

Shout out for stories

Here at The Islander we are always on the lookout for new and interesting stories connected to Kelham Island and Neepsend. If you have any ideas for subjects you feel would be of interest to the people who live and work in the area, just drop us a message with an outline of your idea to newsletter@kinca.org.



The Islander Editorial Team:

Issy, Yvonne, Rob, Craig, Helen, Isaac, Ben, Vicky and Darren.

If you have any feedback, ideas for new stories or would like to help with further editions, please let us know - newsletter@kinca.org