

Some highlights

There's plenty happening in the village and this is reflected in the newsletter. After a quiet spring and summer, the village looks busier, particularly now that the schools have re-opened for the Autumn term

One unpleasant event was the vandalism to the Topograph on Bunkers Hill but some hard-working volunteers have managed to clean it.

And for those who have an interest in the history of the village, there is a short article by Jonathan Powers on Herbert Spencer the philosopher who lived for part of his life in Quarndon. Note the older spellings of the village name!

Please let us know if you would like to contribute an article about Quarndon for a future newsletter – history, interesting buildings, people.

Quarndon Community Group

The QCG has a long-term role beyond Covid-19, to work together in Quarndon on objectives that include:

- Provide help via community volunteers - see below;
- Environmental, recycling, and renewable energy projects;
- Promotion of walking and cycling;
- Wildlife protection and habitat enhancement; and
- A "Repair Café" – see below

Community Volunteers

As we continue to explore the new normal, we may find ourselves having to self-isolate again, or you may have decided to continue to shield. Quarndon Community Group is maintaining a list of volunteers who are willing to help with shopping, errands etc or contact you for a chat. If we can help you as a one off or on a more regular basis, please either email qcg@quarndon-village.org.uk or phone Isobel 840702 or Clare 840138.

Repair Café



There was an article in the August newsletter explaining the idea for a repair café in the village which QCG are pursuing. It will be at the Village Hall one Saturday a month. Issues such as insurance and health and safety need to be sorted.

The 29th Jan is very tentatively booked but we need to know if the village will use the café. Also, we need a list of people willing to share any skills they have. We already have some names on the list.

Hopefully, everyone received an email on 11 September asking for your thoughts and for those with useful repair skills to volunteer their services.

Footpaths and Litter Collection

With the aim of lessening littering, QPC will shortly be installing new signage that is easy to see but does not detract from the beauty of the footpath to Bunkers Hill and the hill itself. 'Take your Litter home' signs will be complemented by a new dedicated dog waste bin to make speedy disposal of those warm little plastic bags easier. A large poster on the Village Hall noticeboard will remind visitors of the damaging and deleterious effects of litter across the country.

The village's volunteer 'Quitterpickers' are noticeably lowering general litter levels on the streets and footpaths, and this improvement has been commented on by residents. Main areas of the village are covered, and the purchase by QPC of extra litter pickers to loan to residents has enabled more people to help to keep our neighbourhood tidy without too much bending down or needing to handle some of the unpleasant items found.

However as recent graffiti on the Topograph has shown, prevention of litter and vandalism is an ongoing process. A QPC volunteer has now removed the graffiti on the Topograph so the stone has regained its original attractiveness and the police have been informed.

As Autumn approaches litter should reduce, but fine days are still likely to bring out the glass and plastic. However, the new more conspicuous signage plus regular litter picking, with a focus on hotspots like Bunkers Hill, should help to keep our village's roads and footpaths safe and attractive for everyone to enjoy.

If you spot any litter round the village that is difficult to remove safely or looks dangerous in any way please contact the [Parish Clerk](#)

Village Hall car park



Litter bin at bottom of car park

If you have used the Hall car park after lockdown you will see that the whole area has been re-surfaced and improved. Two large litter bins have been placed in the car park for car park users. Please don't use these bins if you are not using the car park.

Please note that the car park is for use by people visiting the village during the day or evening – Hall and Church users for example. ***It is not for overnight parking by residents.***

Telephone Box Book Exchange

The Telephone Box Book Exchange is temporarily closed but it hoped that it will be re-opened at the end of September. Look out for telephone box news on the website.

Parish Council / Community Website

www.quarndon-pc.gov.uk (alias www.quarndon-village.org.uk)

We update the website frequently, so keep visiting. The website will continue to be a valuable communication tool for the village giving equal weight to the Parish Council and the Community.

If you have any news or event that you want publicising then please email details to web@quarndon-pc.gov.uk.



Road Safety and Space for Walking and Cycling

Quarndon Parish Council's Traffic & Transport (T&T) Group are continuing to push for several key road safety improvements in the Parish. This includes initiatives to take advantage of the central government funding that is being made available to councils to make better provision for walking and cycling post-Covid, as well as the "active travel" budgets already available.

It is an uphill struggle. Council Highways departments, including that in Derbyshire County Council (DCC), in most cases will only take action to improve road safety when there is "evidence of necessity". This means several recent accidents resulting fatalities and/or serious injuries. There has "only" been one road fatality in/around Quarndon in the last two years (at the Burley Lane/A6 junction) – this was not enough for DCC to take any action. However, the T&T Group are continuing to encourage DCC to take a proactive approach to improvements that address several identified hazards in the Parish.

DCC Highways has recently informed us that their own (2017) proposal for no-overtaking lines through the bends on Church Road by the Joiners did not get funded in 2020/21, so will go back into the pot for 2021/22. This scheme, if implemented, will make it illegal to park on the road/pavement where the no-overtaking lines are present.

Many residents will have noticed that, with police permission as the lockdown has reduced, the Quarndon Community Speedwatch is now active again doing speed checks on behalf of the police throughout Quarndon.

The T&T Group are keeping our county and borough councillors informed of the proposals to improve road safety and provide better routes for walking and cycling, seeking their support where necessary to help engagement with DCC. Our county councillor has accepted the offer to come and see some of the issues and proposals at first hand.

We continue to believe that providing a shared use cycle/walking path, from the Derby cycle network at Markeaton Park to Kedleston Hall utilising in part the existing Markeaton Stones and Vicarwood bridleways is a great opportunity. This would put some real substance behind the claims of both DCC and AVBC that they support sustainable and active travel and are addressing the "climate emergency" that both have declared.

Given the headwinds and lengthy lead times involved in getting any action from DCC Highways, we might also turn our thoughts to those things within our individual control to improve road safety and reduce motor traffic volumes in Quarndon. We have no means of limiting through traffic, which makes up much of the motor traffic volume. We can consider our own car use. Is every car journey essential? Can errands be combined to avoid multiple trips? These may be ways to save yourself time and money as well as keeping our roads a little quieter!

Finally, if you have hedges bordering any of the village pavements, please keep your hedge trimmed, so it is not obstructing any of the pavement width. This helps pedestrian safety allowing people to walk well clear of passing road traffic, and is particularly important for people walking with children to and from the school.

Contacts:

QCG@quarndon-village.org.uk - contact the Quarndon Community Group

web@quarndon-pc.gov.uk - information for the website

chairman@quarndon-pc.gov.uk - contact the Quarndon Parish Council

Material for the newsletter is provided by QCG Steering Committee members. Contributions to the next edition are welcome – please contact QCG@quarndon-village.org.uk

“A Sanatorium for Derby”

By: Jonathan Powers, *The Quandary*, July 2020

In the second volume of his posthumously published *Autobiography*, Herbert Spencer – author of the once world-famous *Synthetic Philosophy* – wrote (Vol. II, p.292):

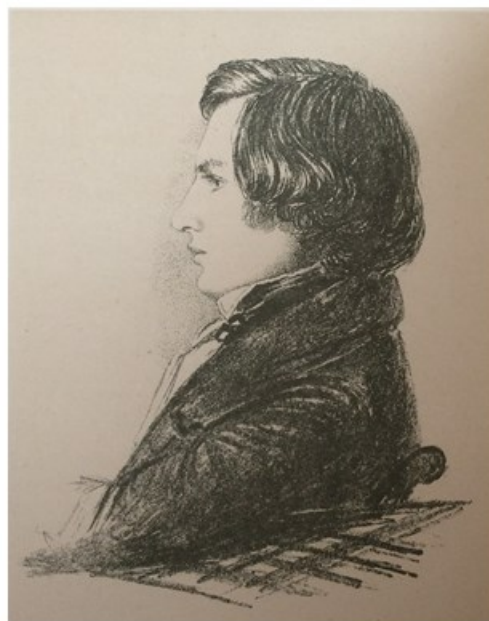
Other few days were spent with Lott at Quarndon, or Quorn as it is commonly called – a place about four miles off which serves as a sanatorium for Derby.

Herbert Spencer (1820-1902) was the only surviving son of the Derby teacher, W.G. Spencer, who was Secretary of the Derby Philosophical Society. Largely self-taught, he initially worked as a railway engineer, but began writing wide-ranging articles which gained him the sub-editorship of *The Economist* in London. His first major book, *Social Statics*, was published in 1850 putting forward a radical theory which tries to show how a society can only become stable if it achieves equal freedom for all. The sole function of the State, which he thought would eventually ‘wither away’, is to prevent people encroaching upon each other’s liberty. Spencer was uncompromising in working out the implications of this conclusion, which over the following decades was woven into a comprehensive evolutionary world-view, embracing biology, psychology, and sociology (a word he introduced into English). He characterised Darwin’s idea of Natural Selection as ‘the Survival of the Fittest’. He was initially able to focus on being a writer thanks to a legacy from his uncle, but later on it was the enthusiasm with which his ideas were greeted by newly wealthy capitalists in the United States which allowed his massive *Synthetic Philosophy* to be published and propagated.

He seems to have had a gift for friendship but never married, though at one time Marian Evans was infatuated with him. She is now better known as ‘George Eliot’, thanks to taking up his suggestion she write novels. His physical and psychological health was fragile, and he was prone to work himself to the point of collapse. He moved amongst the leading intellectuals of his time but rejected all the Honours people tried to thrust upon him. It is ironic that he is buried in Highgate Cemetery opposite Karl Marx with his diametrically opposing political views.



Herbert Spencer aged 46 in 1866



Spencer's drawing of his 'leonine' friend
Edward Lott in 1841

Edward Lott (1824-1886) was born in Wales but raised in Derby where he initially worked for the Evans Bank¹, before becoming a clerk and later a partner in the stockbroking firm of Messrs Earp. He became a life-long friend of Herbert Spencer in 1841, despite disagreeing on matters



of religion and politics. He lived for some years on Osmaston Road in Derby, but in 1876 he moved to *The Edge*, a spacious seven-bedroom property at the top of Quarndon hill. He married Emily Roe from Nottingham in 1848, and their son Frank became one of Spencer's Executors.

Lott was involved in founding the Derby Free Library, Museum, School of Art, and School of Science. He accompanied Spencer on some of the numerous holidays he took: to Scotland (1847), Wales (1853, 1858, 1864, and 1870), Switzerland (1853), France (1855 and 1878), and most notably joined Spencer on his tour of America in 1882 (paid for by the American sponsor). Towards the end of the latter he jovially guarded his exhausted friend from reporters, thereby earning the 'leonine' epithet. After Spencer's parents died, he only visited Derby when staying with Lott at *The Edge* (including extended periods in Summer and Christmas 1876, Easter 1877, and Spring 1882 in the hope of improving his health). When Spencer learned his old friend was critically ill, he penned a fond farewell letter with the request that it be read to him, but sadly Lott died on 20th June before it arrived. He was buried at Hazelwood, and the house with its coach-house, stabling and a large nearby field was sold at auction.

The author's mini-monograph, *'Evolution' evolving Part II: Herbert Spencer* is due to be published in the Autumn in support of the Derby Museum and Art Gallery.

ⁱ *Thomas Evans built Darley Abbey Mills. His Bank became part of the National Westminster Bank.*