

Barnsley, South Yorkshire

The High Street Project

Shared Learning beyond the surveying

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Our first research project.

The journey, where we started and where we are now.

The start: collecting survey data, September 2020.

- Barnsley is described as a former mining town, pit communities.
- Bu3a has 1200 members and 130 different groups.
- Bu3a has not had a significant decline in membership, post covid.
- I was new to u3a and was volunteered for the HSP coordinator role.
- 12 survey team volunteers.
- 3 dropped out at the start.
- All team members were already active within Bu3a & continue to be.



Barnsley. The new town centre. Opened Summer 2021.



Barnsley. More new town centre, the Heritage Action Zone in the background.(EldonSt)

Where we are now: achievements from using the HSP beyond the street survey - putting u3a on the Barnsley map.

- Barnsley u3a members have a greater voice through increased partnership working. A voice for a safe and age friendly town.
- Bu3a being seen and seeing itself as valuable resource within the community.
- Influencing developments in the Borough, in a modest way.
- A commitment to seeking new opportunities and new links.
- Building a greater sense of place within Bu3a.
- What is Barnsley now? That sense of place beyond mining.
- New Bu3a groups and pop up groups.(specific & time limited)
- Learning together and building our I.T. skills. Managing project data.

How we got there: The uphill battle. Frequently disheartened.

- Only a few of us could see the project as an opportunity for involvement with different groups within Bu3a and externally.
- Our Committee could not see the local uses for the HSP.
- We had to stand our ground and convince them. A battle won.
- Lynn Maloney, Development Officer, Sue Stokes and myself tried and tried to engage existing Bu3a groups. No interest. Totally ignored.
- Some external doors opened a little but nothing more happened.
- Then, one of our surveyed streets was awarded Heritage Action Zone status. We pushed that door with the help of my Ward Councillor. Other doors began to open within Barnsley MBC and other organisations.

Specific links & events

Partnership working

- Age UK Barnsley - dementia support & confidence building post Covid
- Barnsley Big Weekend. July 22. Bu3a music groups playing in the town music events. Plus key role in the *What's your Move* health promotion.
- Preliminary discussions with Experience Barnsley. (Museum dedicated to Barnsley history & culture) Making links with a new arrivals group. *It feels like home*. 130 refugees. Shared learning.
- Explore Barnsley Town Centre, Bu3a group on u3a day. Guided tours & more. Sept. 22.
- Requests for Bu3a volunteers at major events. The puppets Storm & Little Amal.



BOPPAA: A core player for the older community

**Barnsley Older People Physical Activity Alliance. Funded by Barnsley M.B.C & Age UK
Barnsley + 40 organisations**

An alliance offering physical activity opportunities for over 50s in Barnsley.

Aim: to increase provision of physical activity programmes that will improve strength and balance of older people (50+) across Barnsley.

The Covid-19 pandemic has contributed towards the decline of older people's physical and mental wellbeing. By offering affordable exercise classes and focusing on social interaction and community engagement BOPPAA proposes to:

- Increase levels of physical activity for older people in Barnsley
- Improve strength and balance of participants
- Raise awareness of the physical and mental health benefits of physical activity
- Reduce social isolation and loneliness
- Reducing falls and increasing fall-safety awareness



Consultations eg Age Friendly Barnsley - Heritage Action Zone - Town centre design.

Barnsley MBC Consultation on the Borough Strategic Plan, Stakeholder Workshop 9 September 2021

Members of public

Barnsley Premier Leisure

Planning Policy BMBC

Asst Princ. Northern College

Bu3a

Project architect

Head of Ops, Civic & HAZ

Methodist Minister

Programmer for Sheffield City Region

Councillors for BMBC

S. Yorks. Police. Neighbourhood team

Planning Dept BMBC

Summary of contributions made by Bu3a Committee

1. What we like about Barnsley Town Centre? What we dislike about Barnsley Town Centre?
2. What we want in the future for Bu3a members in terms of:
 - Age friendly Retail Culture Skills/Employment
 - Housing Green space Connecting routes

Specific links & events.

Requests for help. Sheffield Uni. Dept Architecture. MSc overseas student



CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

Are you aged **60+** and living in Barnsley? This is for you!

SAMUEL

PEDESTRIAN REASSURANCE AT NIGHT

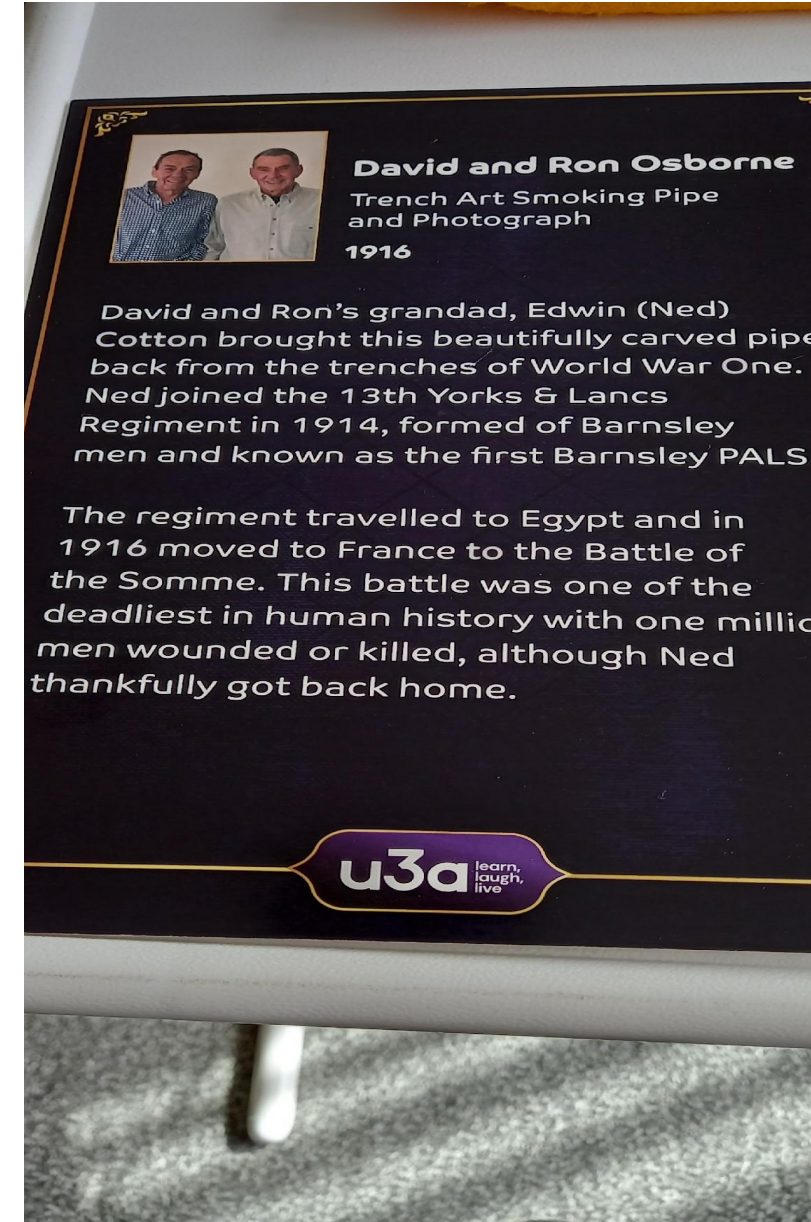
This research project is inviting you to contribute to making the streets of Barnsley safer to walk in at night. To participate, all you have to do is share a photo of a street you **feel safe walking** at night and one you are **not safe**. If not able to take photos, you could tell me the location, so that I could capture a photo (physically or from Google Streetview) . This will then follow with a very brief interview asking only about the photos.

Interested? Please contact 07908278104 or scokwemba@sheffield.ac.uk for more information.

This is a research project for the University of Sheffield and has ethical approval via the university ethics process.



Our display cabinet, Experience Barnsley Museum



Exploring Barnsley Town Centre u3a group

- A new group evolved from the High Street Project
- Built around individual research but occasionally meeting to support each other and our individual research.
- The group aims to share findings & contribute to local journals and Facebook
- Eg research undertaken by Niall Clarke using Barnsley Archives

Water, sewage services and public health in Barnsley: Niall Clarke

- Exploring how the wider developments of the 19th century in England, as applied in Barnsley, influenced the lives of people in the study area
- 1852 Government enquiry into Barnsley's public health painted a desperate picture. Next to no sewage collection resulting in human and trade effluent freely flowing in the streets and into the basement workshops of linen weavers. Linen weavers were especially prone to ill health. A witness stated that things would be even worse if the town wasn't on a hill as at least the offending materials ultimately flowed downhill and away
- Private water carriers ramped up the cost of fresh water. 'Improvements' at the wells to aid the water carriers resulted in the flow of water from the wells and springs into the town being disrupted – forcing people to buy water from the carriers
- It was estimated the water carriers were taking in around £1000/annum at a time when the Town Commissioners had only around £2700/annum in income to cover water and sewage services, road paving and cleaning, gas supplies and town lighting among other duties



Barnsley slum housing
in 1930s.

From Barnsley Archives