



## Rest in Peace, Jonathan

Photo: Richard Belbin



**The funeral of Jonathan Matondo was held on 23rd November. Hundreds of mourners gathered at St Catherine's Catholic Church to pay their last respects to the young resident shot dead on 17th October in Nottingham Cliff Park.**

At 11am the funeral car slowly approached up Burngreave Road followed by family, friends and songs of mourning. Young people from all over the city had assembled at the church, and quietly followed the family in to hear the funeral service. The church was overflowing with people but silent respect prevailed. Grief touched everyone as Jonathan's mother spoke of the loss of her only son and tears flowed for many as the final song from the Congolese community filled the church. Many followed the funeral procession to Spital Hill, from where it went on to the City Road Cemetery to lay Jonathan to rest.

In the six weeks following Jonathan's death residents have struggled to come to terms with what has happened.

On 24th October a vigil for Jonathan was attended by more than 200 people, the majority young people, who stood in silence and brought flowers and candles to remember him.

Later at a public meeting at the Vestry Hall, there was a feeling that people really didn't know what was happening for young people, or that what was happening wasn't reaching the right young people. The message was that answers must come from the community.

At the Adventist Church on 25th October, a meeting of residents and workers welcomed Pat Regan, from Women Against Violence. Speaking from the experience of losing a son, she told the meeting:

*"The problem is the gun. We need to stop the negativity, we have to get together as adults, if we can't do it how can the young do it? Patrol the streets if you have to. Let the community know we are not going to bury any more young people."*

While a local youth worker said:

*"Young people need to see black people doing well. They haven't got any role models, young black people don't know what our community has been through."*

Another said, "We have to look at ourselves. Where are our role models? What do people do when they are successful? They just leave."

Comments from young people can be found on page 5. On the 8th December young people will gather for a conference to look for the answers themselves.

**Burngreave  
Streetworx  
Project**

Streetworx Project has been working hard to support and engage young people aged 13–19 on the streets of Burngreave. Coming activity includes:

- Memorial Wall (young people's messages for those they have lost).
- 'Hip Hope' Music Project, Thursdays 6.30pm at All Saints Centre.
- Streetworx chill out space.
- Midnight football league.

### Youth Conference

**"Not in my Yard"**

**Vestry Hall  
8th December • 12.30–5pm**

Drugs, weapons, successes of young people and policing.

Come and have your say!

**For info, ring Streetworx  
on 272 3628.**



## Sheffield Credit Union Pitsmoor Branch



### Your local collection points:

- **Wednesdays 8pm – 9pm**  
Hallcar Tavern, Carwood Estate
- **Tuesdays 8pm – 9pm**  
The Rock Public House, Rock St.
- **Thursdays 11am – 12noon**  
The Welcome Centre, Nottingham St.

The Credit Union offers a safe place to save and great value loans.

To find out more, come to one of the collection points, or call in at Sheffield Credit Union:

*The Gallery, Castle Market  
Monday-Friday 10.00am – 1.00pm*

*Or telephone: 0114 276 0787.*

**Pitsmoor & Burngreave residents can call us on  
07982 732 542**

The Pitsmoor and Burngreave residents' information line is funded by Burngreave New Deal for Communities until 31st March 2008.

## The Academy for Community Leadership



Invite you to CELEBRATE the season and the success of their management courses for the community.

JOIN US at an **Open Day** with light refreshments.

**Monday 17 December, 1-3 pm Vestry Hall, Burngreave.**

**Open to all.**

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- Leadership
- Team Leading

For more information, or if you are interested in a course but cannot join us for the Open Day, contact Yasmeen, Mahmood or Kate.

**Phone: 0114 261 8620 or 0114 261 5173**

**Email: [yiqbal@yetc.co.uk](mailto:yiqbal@yetc.co.uk)**

**Fax: 0114 261 5175**

Hadfield Institute, Vestry Hall,  
43 Attercliffe Common Sheffield S9 2AE.



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# Open Day

## Fir Vale Enterprise Centre

**Thursday 13th December  
10am – 6pm**

**Fir Vale School is to open its doors  
to the local community to offer a  
wider access to Adult Learning.**

**Come along to the  
NEW Enterprise Centre.**

**Computers Henna Classes**

**Visit our Cyber Café**

**Chat with Tutors**

**Taster Sessions**

**Refreshments available**

**Translation available**

**Contact: Janet Lawson**  
Telephone: (0114) 243 9391  
Email: [jlawson@firvale.com](mailto:jlawson@firvale.com)

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- Middle East (Dubai, Yemen, Oman etc)
- European (France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Turkey)
- & many more...

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**Website: [www.a2bshipping.co.uk](http://www.a2bshipping.co.uk)**

# Missing post box

Story: Ian Clifford  
Cartoon: Patrick Amber

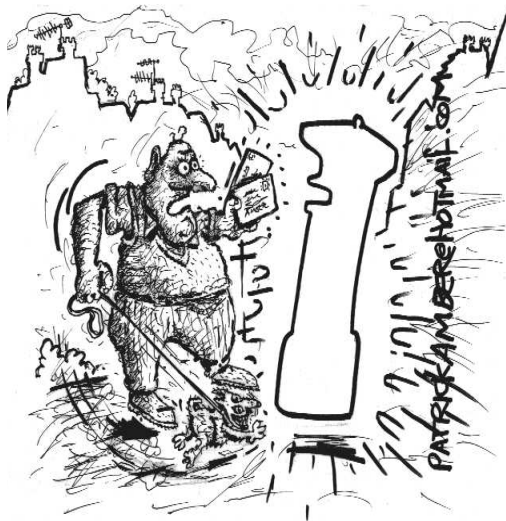
Some months ago, at the start of the "Better Buses" Scheme, the post box on Burngreave Road, near the junction with Melrose Road, disappeared.

When the Messenger first made enquiries, Sheffield City Council gave assurances that the post box would be returned when the work was complete.

Many months later - no post box. Enquiries resulted in SCC media spokesperson, Natalie Johnson, claiming that the re-siting of the post box was not the Council's responsibility, passing the buck to the Post Office.

When the Messenger rang the Post Office, a very laid-back employee explained that it was very difficult to site a post box these days and that you needed planning permission from the Council. Anyway, he said, if there was a post box within 500 metres, they might not bother to replace it at all.

It seems a shame that, while the Council celebrates the Better Buses scheme, another service deteriorates in Pitsmoor, with all those responsible passing the buck.



## Post offices risk closure

Our three local post offices face possible closure by November 2008, with decisions being announced from July.

Dave Milner, National President of the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters, said public consultation will take place before any post offices are closed, and that post offices will only be closed where there is an overlap in provision.

The Messenger supports our local post offices, so please see our full report on our website:  
[www.burngreavemessenger.org](http://www.burngreavemessenger.org).

## Cash machine installed at Ellesmere

A new cash machine has been installed close to Ellesmere Green, outside the Post Office, operated by the Bank Of Ireland.

It is the first cash machine to be established in the area for over a decade. It is accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and is also free to use. Ellesmere Post Office campaigned for two years for the machine to be installed, it will now help local people access their money more easily.

## Traffic chaos as new road opens

Story: Lisa Harrison

On Monday 19th November, the new Inner Relief Road opened, crossing The Wicker at the bottom of Spital Hill, and on the same day the Better Buses scheme in Burngreave was launched. The Messenger has learned of a catalogue of problems relating to this issue.

Buses do not always get priority at the new traffic lights at the end of the bus lane on Burngreave Road.

None of the new pedestrian crossings beep, making it especially difficult for blind and partially-sighted people to know when to cross.

The new information displays work some of the time, but problems have been reported during busy times, with displays seemingly never changing. Additionally, journey times on buses returning from the city centre have been greatly increased, sometimes taking an hour to get to Firshill. At the same time, the new road remains largely deserted.

If you would like to share your experiences of the current chaos, or have any other comments about the new road, please e-mail the Messenger at [messenger@burngreave.net](mailto:messenger@burngreave.net) - we'd love to hear from you.

## The Editorial

### More on our website

There's so much going on in Burngreave that we just can't fit it all in the Messenger.

Our website is now full of extra articles, extra photos and up to date news.

We're also including local jobs, not found in the newspaper, and local events are listed in our events section. There's also news from local Tenants' and Residents' Associations and football teams and community groups.

### Festive Season events

Over the next few weeks we'll be adding events to the website in the run up to Christmas and New Year. Email us your events to [messenger@burngreave.net](mailto:messenger@burngreave.net).

If you'd like to be kept up to speed with new additions to the website, you can sign up for an account and a daily, weekly or monthly email update.

Go to [www.burngreavemessenger.org](http://www.burngreavemessenger.org) to find out more.

## Messenger Info

Editorial meetings: 6.30 pm at  
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All welcome.

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The Burngreave Messenger is a community newspaper, funded by New Deal, with editorial independence. All content is copyright Burngreave Messenger Ltd or its voluntary contributors, not to be reproduced without permission. We aim to increase and encourage communication in Burngreave. Each edition is put together by an editorial team who write articles not otherwise credited.

This month's team: Farhan Ahmed, Ian Clifford, Rohan Francis, Naheem Hanif, Lisa Harrison, Douglas Johnson, Seraphin Nyirenda, Jamie Marriott, Wajdi Raweh, Lisa Swift.

# Youth housing support fails

Story: Douglas Johnson

**On the night Jonathan Matondo was killed, it wasn't the only shooting incident. Earlier that day, residents of Melrose Road heard shots being fired into the young people's flats belonging to Arches Housing Association and managed by Stonham. Since then, all but one of the residents have been moved out, and the flats boarded up.**

With a catalogue of incidents between July and October 2007, a new residents' group has declared Stonham "not fit for purpose". Occupants of the flats have also complained, one telling the Messenger they had been intimidated by those misusing one flat in the complex. Despite reporting this to Stonham and the police, nothing was done. Stonham continued their lack of support by refusing to help the resident with removals. "I asked them if I could have money for a taxi to move my stuff, they said no."

The trouble seemed to stem from one resident being taken advantage of. Without support, young people started to gather in his flat. One said, "Everyone knew it was the Pitsmoor social room. I think he had learning disabilities or something - he was quite a bit older than me - but everyone just took the piss."

Frontline workers at Stonham told the Messenger of the difficulty in trying to build trust while chasing tenants for rent - "you just can't do this dual role". Other staff complained of management bullying and undue pressure to work to targets: "working with young people, you need individual treatment. You can't do the work because you're told not to."

The situation on Melrose Road exploded on 17th October when shots were fired. A few hours later, Jonathan Matondo was shot and killed in an incident that the police are treating as linked.

Arches remains tight-lipped about their plans. A spokesman said, "We are not currently in a position to give you information on the future of the Melrose flats or the previous occupants."

Acknowledging the failure to deal with complaints earlier, a spokesman from Stonham said: "Stonham takes allegations like this seriously and we are investigating. We will be setting up a 'Steering Group' of people who have an interest. It's vital that this includes people from the local community, so we'll ask the Residents Association to nominate two or three people to represent them. It will agree and manage an action plan, which will address issues relating to the support provided by Stonham."



## Gus John speaks

Story and photo: Ian Clifford

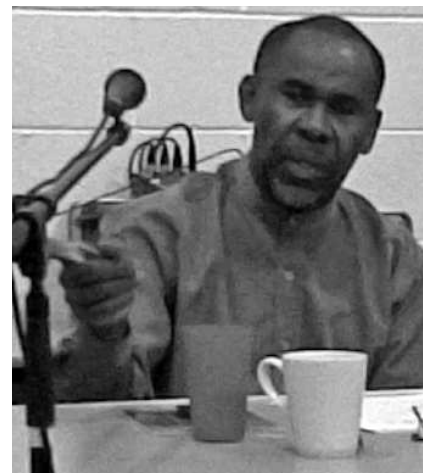
**Applause reverberated around Verdon Street following the speech by Professor Gus John at the Peace and Reconciliation meeting organised by Rob Smith and the African and African-Caribbean Committee (AACC).**

Leading black intellectual and former Chief Education Officer at Hackney Council, Gus spoke of his sadness at recent events and that Sheffield was amongst the growing number of cities mourning young dead from guns and violence.

Gus condemned the increasing tendency in society to see the phenomenon of young black people killing each other as somehow genetically restricted to the black community.

Referring to his own background, with parents who had high aspirations for their children, despite being illiterate, Gus condemned the elitist education system in the UK that historically considered the high aspirations of those from the Caribbean as inappropriate. He went on:

*"Black young people are now an underclass in fear of one another and at odds with society and there is no evidence that this is being taken on within the school agenda. We need to look behind these incidents at what characterises the condition of being young and black in British society. These issues are not being addressed either systematically or structurally by the system."*



But Gus also had words for the community, stating that: "an anti-learning culture has gripped young people, who harass those young people who have high aspirations. We don't spend enough time talking to our young people about this."

Referring to those who carry weapons, Gus said: "These timid young people, who are acting in such a cowardly manner, don't deserve to be called gangs - parents need to take more responsibility. In Manchester, there are grandparents who go to church holding guns in their attics for young people and who know the buildings where guns are stored. Nobody can tell me that we don't have the capacity within our community to deal with these issues. We have no right to live in fear of these cowardly young men."

Discussion followed involving representatives of the police, education and other services. The meeting closed with the AACC promising to continue to debate these issues. For more information, contact Rob Smith on 07825 943 187.



# Young voices

Photos: Anwar Suliman

Since the tragic death of Jonathan many young people have expressed their feelings of sadness, grief and loss. Streetworx, Burngreave Youth Council and The Messenger have gathered some young people's feelings, views and ideas for the future.

## What do you feel about what happened to Jonathan?

*"I'm kinda upset, we used to play football in the area together."*

*"I used to enjoy pulling weights with him."*

*"He was well known because he was a rapper, he used to really like it, but the rap was not about gangs or anything but just things he liked."*

*"We feel safe on the streets because we know people, but its always better to know people who are on the streets."*

*"Everyone has problems - the end solution is not always the same."*

*"Nothing's being done about it. There have been three murders, the police need to do something."*

## What are your views on the issues surrounding the tragedy?

*"Youths I think are looking for rep, they want a reputation and it starts in their own area."*

*"Violence is common in a lot of places, because guns are not hard to get, all you need is the right contacts."*

*"In the past it was much worse, there were lots of gang fights, but now people still do it but they do it on the 'low,' as the police are really watching the area. The police would stop you if they see you in the night, they do stop you for no reason most of the time."*

*"Not everyone comes to the youth activities, and many don't really want to be part of a gang."*

*"The police are putting pressure on Burngreave to calm it down, but we don't trust the police. We like wardens better."*

*"We get let down by people, they say stuff is going to happen and then it doesn't."*



*"Cannot stop violence in the future, we need more better role models first. There are not many role models for many youths."*

*"We're not in a gang, we just hang around together."*

*"How are they getting their guns?"*

*"They look up to the wrong people."*

*"They are playing at being gangsters."*

*"Its because of where they live - they need to get out and get different friends."*

*"We'll just stay away from them. It's only if you get involved in that kind of thing that bad things happen - but drugs are everywhere."*

*"New Deal started the divides because if you lived at Carwood you lived in Pitsmoor, you lived on Rock Street you lived in Pitsmoor, but since New Deal there is now a Burnwood, Burnbank and Burngrove. They started the Zone thing."*

*"The big sign near the roadworks says 'PITSMOOR', the council call it this, why are you so ashamed?"*

*"Bored, nothing to do."*

*"Why am I socially excluded because I'm black?"*

## What do you think needs to happen now for young people?

*"More apprenticeships for young people at risk or without qualifications (paid training)."*

*"More needs to be done about exclusion; this does not solve the problem."*

*"More job and training opportunities for young people without qualifications."*

*"Stop hassling young people in groups more than two, as these are stereotyped: 'If they're black they're in a gang, if they're white they're a group.'"*

*"Give us a chance."*

*"What's going to happen after the shooting - all them meetings?"*

*"More sports activities in the area opened in peak times."*

*"We look up to our older brothers, they need to change. My brother's really clever though, he's going to be a lawyer."*

*"We would like better facilities in the public park because we can't really do much there."*

*"Young people should be consulted on who gets New Deal money for projects."*

*"More funding for youth clubs or activities."*

**Comments from Reach High 2 Study Support, Burngreave after School Study Support and Streetworx.**

# Andy on Sheffield Live!

Story: Seraphin Nyirenda

**Sheffield Live was officially launched on 29th October after becoming the first ever full time community radio station in Sheffield to be granted an FM licence. It broadcasts 7 days a week on 93.2FM and aims to reach out to people and communities at risk of exclusion and disadvantage, offering a wide variety of music and language programmes and training in radio production and broadcasting. The freedom of expression underpins all other human rights. It is the means by which other human rights are defended and extended.**

Andy Healey has lived in Burngreave for the past 18 years and is one of Sheffield Live's DJs. He works part-time as a play worker at the adventure playground in Sharrow. He is also a keen gardener. The 47 year old started DJ'ing in 1990 when he and a friend hired some decks and began playing their favourite music at parties and at political and anti-war benefits.

How did you get involved in Sheffield Live?

*"I was involved in the one month FM broadcasts and for the last year and a half I've been doing an internet show for them. I now have a two hour slot between 7pm and 9pm on Thursdays doing my show 'Africabeat', which features music from all over Africa."*

Why do you play African Music?

*"I got into African music after hearing a sampler cassette offered by the NME (New Musical Express) and I just loved the music and it got me dancing."*

*"Back in the early 90s I started working for a community radio station in Burngreave called 'Fresh FM'. I used to play a mixture of all styles of black music like jazz, hip-hop and funk but because African music had been marginalised with the arrival of the World Music phenomenon I wanted to represent it more."*



Can you dance to African music?

*"Yes, I like dancing but I am not that good really... but it keeps me happy."*

Which African country's music do you like the best?

*"It's hard to say, at the moment I'm re-discovering a lot of Congolese music from the 70s and 80s which I love. I also like modern music but there is so much good music to find from that golden age."*

Can you tell us about Rafiki Jazz?

*"I only came across them recently. They're based in Sheffield and have about 10 musicians playing African, Indian and Brazilian sounds. It's an interesting project and exciting that so many good musicians are working together in Sheffield."*

Do you play any Christian Songs?

*"I play quite a lot of South African and West African Gospel music and I particularly love the South African singer Rebecca Malope."*

Is politics an important part of African music?

*"Yes, music has many purposes and, for me personally, music and politics have always been bound together. Music keeps me involved and engaged in politics. It's a good way of saying what is going on and what people should try to do. Like the song by Tiken Jah Fakoly from 'Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)' titled 'Ouvrez Les Frontieres (Open The Frontiers)'. It's really good to hear this especially here in*

*Britain where immigration is such a big issue."*

Talking especially about Zimbabwe where we know the political situation is very bad. Do you think that music can give its people hope for their future?

*"Yes, I think music has always played a huge role in social change in Africa. In Britain people say that music doesn't change anything but I think people forget that music can give people strength and help people through hard times and give them hope for the future."*

*"I've got friends from Zimbabwe who talk to me about the situation there and I listen to Artists like Oliver Mtukudzi who's still in Zimbabwe and has always been a commentator on the scene, although, because it's hard to directly criticise the government these days, the political message in his music is often hidden."*

**For more information on Africabeat, visit Andy's site at: [www.myspace.com/africabeat](http://www.myspace.com/africabeat)**

Sheffield Live broadcasts a wide range of community radio including music shows dedicated to Swing, Latin, Asian, World Music, Indie, Hip-hop, Folk, Dub, Reggae and Jazz.

Programmes also include interviews, what's on, news, sport, comedy, film reviews and poetry and shows presented in community languages including Urdu, Portuguese and Tigrinya.

For more information on programmes, how to get involved and training opportunities at Sheffield Live go to their website: [www.sheffieldlive.org](http://www.sheffieldlive.org) or telephone (0114) 281 4082



# Thieves strike local landmark

Story: Lisa Harrison & Richard Belbin  
Photo: Lisa Harrison

**Winnie Bentley has lived at the Toll Bar House at the top of Burngreave Road for 32 years. Built in 1836, the house is a Grade II listed building. As with many other old buildings, there was lead on the roof, but in July, for the first time in the house's history, this lead was stolen.**



Mrs Bentley arranged for the roof to be fixed, but the day after repairs were complete, thieves struck again. In all, lead has been stolen from her roof three times in the past few months.

Mrs Bentley contacted the Council to request a camera be put up to help deter thieves. She explained, "If they can put cameras on Burngreave Road for catching people speeding, they should put one up near my house to catch people pinching!"

She then contacted English Heritage to find out whether she could remove the lead and replace it with coping stones, which are not attractive to thieves. The application was eventually granted, and there is now no lead remaining on the roof. This should prevent thieves from striking again, since there is now nothing of value attached to the house.

Lead theft has increased in recent times due to soaring demand in China and India driving the prices up.

Police advise anyone who owns a property with lead on the roof to install CCTV and ensure they have effective lighting. The police are concerned about the recent increase in crimes of this type and will be visiting scrap yards to try to find out who is buying and selling stolen lead.

Mrs Bentley still loves her house despite everything: "A lot of local people love this house so it begs belief that anyone would do this. For many people this house is Pitsmoor – it gives a sense of coming home. It's like the whole community is being robbed."

Jerry Elsmore, of Rock Street, also had the lead stripped from his bay window by thieves a few weeks ago: "I was in at the time, and although I heard some noise, I thought it was from the building work next door. It was only later that I saw ladders left at the back of my house."

Jerry's neighbours saw the thieves, but assumed they were legitimate workmen. "The police told me they had hundreds of similar call outs, a vast increase over recent months. But there isn't much they can really do, except wait to catch them going to dispose of the goods at a scrap yard."

# More is happening at school

Story: Rashida Hassinali



**Four local primary schools now have new extended school support workers. Extended schools means more activities in schools for parents, children and the community, from computer courses to breakfast clubs to belly dancing to keep fit. Evidence shows if you get involved with schools, your children will do better. So go on, contact your local extended school support worker and ask them for information or better still tell them what you want!**

## Whiteways Junior School

My name is Usha Blackham. I am from East Africa and I am Indian. I live in Fir Vale and work at Whiteways Junior School as a Family Learning Development Worker. We have lots of courses and activities to help parents and the community. I also speak several languages. Tel: 242 3169.

## Firs Hill Community Primary School

I'm Kath Hobson. For the last 4 years I have been working in Firs Hill School Office. I am keen to get to know all our parents so that everyone feels comfortable coming to me with problems, ideas or even just for a chat. All courses will continue to run in the New Year and I look forward to developing new ones! Tel: 242 0109.

## St Catherine's Primary School

My name is Gaby Spinks, I've lived and worked in Pitsmoor for over ten years. I am an active parent at Firs Hill School and have attended a number of the adult courses there so I speak from experience when I say that they are a really good way of helping yourself and your children. Tel: 242 1177.

## Byron Wood Primary School

My name is Alexis Cowan and I'm the Extended School Support Worker for Byron Wood. I recently moved to Sheffield from Newcastle where I'm from and I've also worked in Poland and Spain. Sheffield seems like a great place to be. Tel: 272 3624.

## Fir Vale Secondary School

I'm Janet Lawson and I have worked at Fir Vale School for 6 years. Being a mother of two teenagers I know how much working with your children in education will raise aspirations and achievements. Working alongside the community in the New Fir Vale Enterprise Centre will break down barriers and extend beyond the school gates. Tel: 243 9391.

## Owler Brook Nursery Infants School

My name is Refat Mahmood and I am Community Manager at Owler Brook NI School. We are totally committed to enabling parents to support their children's learning, and have a 'Whole School Policy' on parental involvement, facilities for parents' learning to take place and bilingual staff. Tel: 243 8611.

# Thursday Football

Story: Farhan Ahmed | Photos: Fagr Al-Affif

**I spoke with Youth Worker Omer Mohammed who, with Imran Ali, runs football sessions every week. Omer stated: "I have been delivering this evening football session for about five years now. Sheffield Futures, who I work for, and Activity Sheffield, that Imran works for, have joined resources to run these sessions."**

Over 40 young people gathered at the Fir Vale pitch ranging from ages 8 to 18 with people from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds. It was inspiring to see the great enjoyment participants obviously got from football. I had to drag some players out from games and was lucky enough to get 5 minutes of their precious time to speak to them.

*"Football is an alternative to the streets. As we're at a young age we prefer to do things that we enjoy, but without people*

*bringing us to activities like this we would be on the streets," said Khalid, from Wensley estate.*

*"We really love the football on Thursdays and that's the reason why lots of people come and play with us."*

*"We would really like to have proper facilities for all kinds of sports. Osgathorpe has a cricket pitch but it's not a proper field - we have to play partially on a hill."*

Omer explained the importance of establishing positive relationships with young people and earning their trust and respect. Early intervention at a young age makes it far easier to make changes to behaviour and attitudes. He also explained how important education is for adults and youth alike.



To find out more contact Omer Mohammed on 07890 528 519

*"There are things that young people will not learn in the mainstream but will explore in informal settings such as youth centres and other local activities. It is important that children and young people have the opportunity to express themselves and have their voices heard on issues that concern them."*

**Earl Marshall Junior Football club**

New soccer coaching sessions for Y1 at Firs Hill School, Wednesday 6-7pm. £2 per session. Contact Mark on 7776 457 732.



## Active Apprentices

Story: Liz Searle  
Photos: Seraphin Nyirenda

**Arriving at Verdon Street Rec I am greeted by Ayesha, the friendly and capable apprentice receptionist. A local resident, Ayesha says she enjoys "every single part" of her job, and is busy welcoming visitors and facilitating children's activities.**

I meet the New Deal funded Apprentice Area Sports Workers, Wathiq and Tom, and Nav, Apprentice Area Play Worker, in the centre's kitchen, surrounded by the noise of Junior Club.

Each of the apprentices came to the project in a different way; Tom and Nav were encouraged to apply by Steve

Edwards (Pitsmoor Adventure Playground manager) and Steve Richardson (Burngreave Community Football Worker) while Wathiq was advised by Doug Bell (Apprenticeships for All) to join the scheme.

As well as working at Verdon Street and Pitsmoor Adventure Playground, the three apprentices deliver sports coaching in local schools, working with teachers to develop students' skills. Tom tells us about working with one of his old teachers at Byron Wood, but laughs modestly when I suggest that now he is the expert.

All three are studying for sports and play qualifications, appreciating this opportunity to "get a foot on the ladder". Nav says, "After this year we can go and get any job, particularly in the Council, which is a good place to work." Wathiq adds that before the apprenticeship he was finding it difficult to return to college, but is now looking forward to taking his studies further.

The lads are positive about the apprenticeships project, remarking that they feel supported and respected by the teams they work with. Personal thanks go to Doug and Lisa at Apprenticeships for All, Michala and Aislinn at Verdon Street, the Adventure Playground staff and Activity Sheffield North East Team.

Tom, Nav and Wathiq agree the best part of their job is being a "positive role model" and working in the community. All have grown up in Burngreave and have seen what can happen when young people go the wrong way in life. Nav comments, "There are kids with real talent in this area, and if you've got talent and a target to work towards you put the effort in." The three discuss how they have observed how well kids work in teams.

I leave the centre convinced of their dedication and ability, feeling sure that they are bound to succeed and encourage more young people to follow their lead.





# School Academies

Story: Lisa Swift & Ian Clifford

**In two years' time all of Burngreave's secondary schools could be Academies. Parkwood, Fir Vale and Firth Park are all considering becoming independent from the City Council, run by private companies or trusts.**

The Government is pushing Academies, saying they bring the expertise and funding of private business and other organisations. But critics of Academies warn that local communities have little control over the new schools. Academies don't have to follow national pay scales for teachers and local representation on Governing bodies may be reduced.

Sheffield already has two Academies: Park Academy on the Manor and Springs Academy close to the Arbourthorne estate. GCSE results have risen sharply since the schools gained Academy status, at the same time Springs was criticized for making 17 permanent exclusions in one year.

Firth Park School is considering a partnership with Kier, the construction company, hoping this will help meet the huge demand for education in construction from young people.

## Out of school

Story: Ian Clifford & Camille Daughma

**Support for young people and parents has been top of the agenda this month following the sad death of Jonathan Matondo. Exclusion has been raised as an issue, as young people out of school are more vulnerable.**

Recent figures show a large number of students are receiving fixed-term exclusions in Burngreave. Caribbean boys remain the group excluded the most. Most children are left with nothing to do and many parents don't know their rights and tend to just accept that the school knows what's best. Many parents don't know they have 15 days to appeal an exclusion.

Some excluded pupils attend one of the Council's two inclusion centres and the Council supports voluntary sector inclusion centres like Burngreave's Cellar Space. But Catch the Drift - a unit that catered for excluded black and ethnic minority children - closed in March when funding ended.

## Not Convinced

Fir Vale and Parkwood are considering giving their schools over to Edutrust, a not for profit organisation. The Messenger understands that governors at Fir Vale School were not convinced after a presentation by Edutrust, and are keeping options open. A proposal for Edutrust to run a school in Bradford fell apart at the 11th hour recently.

However, Parkwood High Governors are much more positive about going into partnership with Edutrust. Headteacher Chris Mallaband told the Messenger:

*"Edutrust are keen to develop a highly inclusive school community. There are fears about selection and independence from local control, but the Local Authority would be a partner. Edutrust are committed to inclusion and are very much about empowering the local community."*

## Endowment

Chris said there would be no selection and no exclusion and an endowment would give the school an extra income of £40-50,000 a year.

But local campaigners are not convinced. Ben Morris, a New Deal Partnership Board Representative told the Messenger:

*"Our local secondaries are improving schools. Sheffield's two new academies in*

*the East of the City have managed to "move on" their headteachers and deputies within two years, and one of them has replaced the entire senior management team. This is not what we need. We need good community schools which are accountable to the communities they serve. City Academies are private firms allowed to appoint a majority of Governors and accountable to no-one."*

The Sheffield Anti-Academies/Trust Schools Alliance question why academies want to own schools. "If they wished these sponsors could form partnerships with school, as other institutions do. Why do they want to own them?"

A Commission made up of parent governors and parents from Parkwood and feeder schools will consider the Academy issue, taking views from the following surgeries and meetings:

**10th December (surgery),  
Parkwood School 4.30pm -6.30pm**

**10th January 2008,  
Parkwood School 6.30pm**

**15th January 2008,  
Vestry Hall, 6.30pm**

To find out more about Sheffield Anti-Academies/Trust Schools Alliance, contact 07974 277 291, saatsa@googlemail.com.

## No Stigma

Between Sept 2005 - July 2006, the Cellar Space catered to the needs of 38 individuals. Manager Di Lee told the Messenger:

*"Inclusion units are better able to respond to complex issues young pupils face. We work with the story behind the behaviour and provide a safe place to help them work and express themselves. We listen to the young person and build them up. Inclusion units work. They encourage and refer pupils to further educational pursuits and into work. There's no stigma of exclusion on their record. Working with small numbers makes a massive difference. We have very little trouble and positive outcomes overall."*

Some schools also run inclusion centres within the school, such as Parkwood's Turnstile Centre. Headteacher Chris Mallaband said, "Our Turnstile Centre has been open for a year. Children work in smaller groups for 2½ hours a day, where they can talk about their problems. We also involve parents and have had a positive evaluation from the Local Authority. It costs us £45,000 a year."

However, with insufficient places at centres for those permanently excluded, Chris Mallaband said one pupil at Parkwood had to wait eight months before the Council found them a place in an inclusion unit.

## Evasive

The Messenger asked Education chief, Paul Makin about the high rate of exclusion in Burngreave at a recent Area Panel meeting chaired by Jackie Drayton. He acknowledged that "exclusions of BME children are too high," but claimed they had reduced drastically recently. When Youth Council rep Zanumb asked what the Council would do to challenge schools that discriminated and excluded more black pupils, he was evasive, even when pressed to answer by Councillor Drayton.

When pressed on the lack of provision for excluded young people, he had few answers, saying that he accepted Inclusion Centres were not the answer for everyone and that young people needed to do other activities like art or mechanics. However, he did indicate there will be more resources for family support workers.

# Yemeni Exhibition

Story: Ian Clifford & Wajdi Raweh

**Around 200 people attended the opening of the "Coal, Frankincense and Myrrh" Exhibition at Weston Park Museum on 30th October. The exhibition celebrated the links between Sheffield and the Yemeni Community that has lived here since the 1950s. Yemenis from all over Sheffield and further afield joined others at the opening.**

Introducing the exhibition, Nick Dodd, the Chief Executive of Sheffield Museums and Galleries Trust, explained how Yemeni sailors first began migrating to Britain by joining the British merchant navy. In the 1880s sailors began to arrive in ports such as Liverpool, Cardiff, Newport and South Shields. Nick referred to some of the fantastic photography in the exhibition, including Tim Smith's photos from the steelworks in the 80s and breathtaking recent photographs of the Yemen.

Photo: Carl Rose

The exhibition was opened by the Ambassador from the Yemen to the UK, His Excellency Mohamed Taha Mustafa. The Messenger asked His Excellency when it would be safe to visit the Yemen, given recent civil unrest in the south of the country. His Excellency insisted Yemen was safe to visit and that thousands of tourists were visiting the country. Speaking to those assembled, the Ambassador referred to the recent visit of the Yemeni president, Ali Abdullah Saleh to the UK in 2006 and welcomed the decision of donor countries to give £4.7 billion dollars to the regime.

Chair of the Yemeni Community Association, Saleh Alnoud, spoke powerfully about the debt the younger generation of the Yemeni community owed to their fathers and grandfathers who had worked long hours in the steel



Nick Dodd & Mohamed Taha

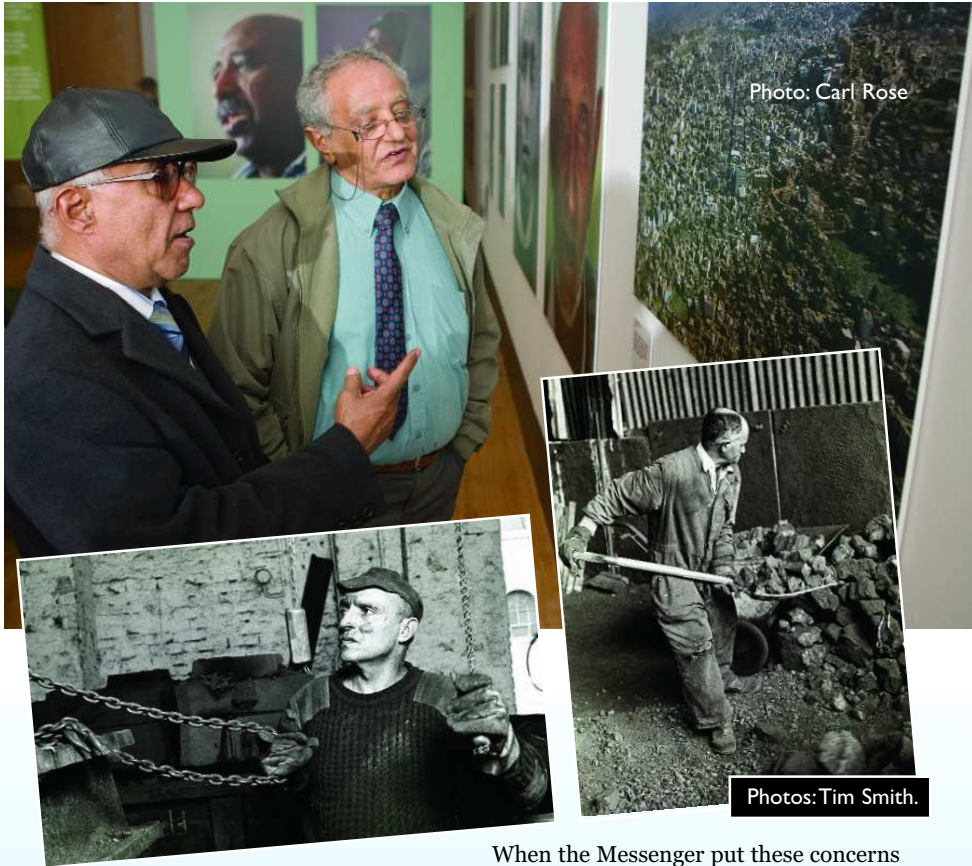


Photo: Carl Rose

Photos: Tim Smith.

works. Saleh said integration was a two way thing. Yes, the Yemeni community must integrate into British society, but UK society also had a duty to become more aware about Yemeni culture.

The involvement of local Yemenis in the exhibition was evident from the loans of wedding jewelry and memorabilia from the steel works such as crane driver licenses. Most amusing was the comment of Awadh bin Awadh Hussein who returned back from Sheffield to the Yemen some years ago: "Tell my friends from Sheffield that I'm still alive, and that I miss the place!"

Some, particularly those in the Yemeni community, felt the exhibition fell short of their expectations. While the photography was fantastic, the concentration on rural and village scenes failed to reflect the past heritage of the Yemen or the thriving city-life of the present day. Others pointed out that the voices of the women left behind in the Yemen while their husbands toiled in Sheffield steelworks were absent.

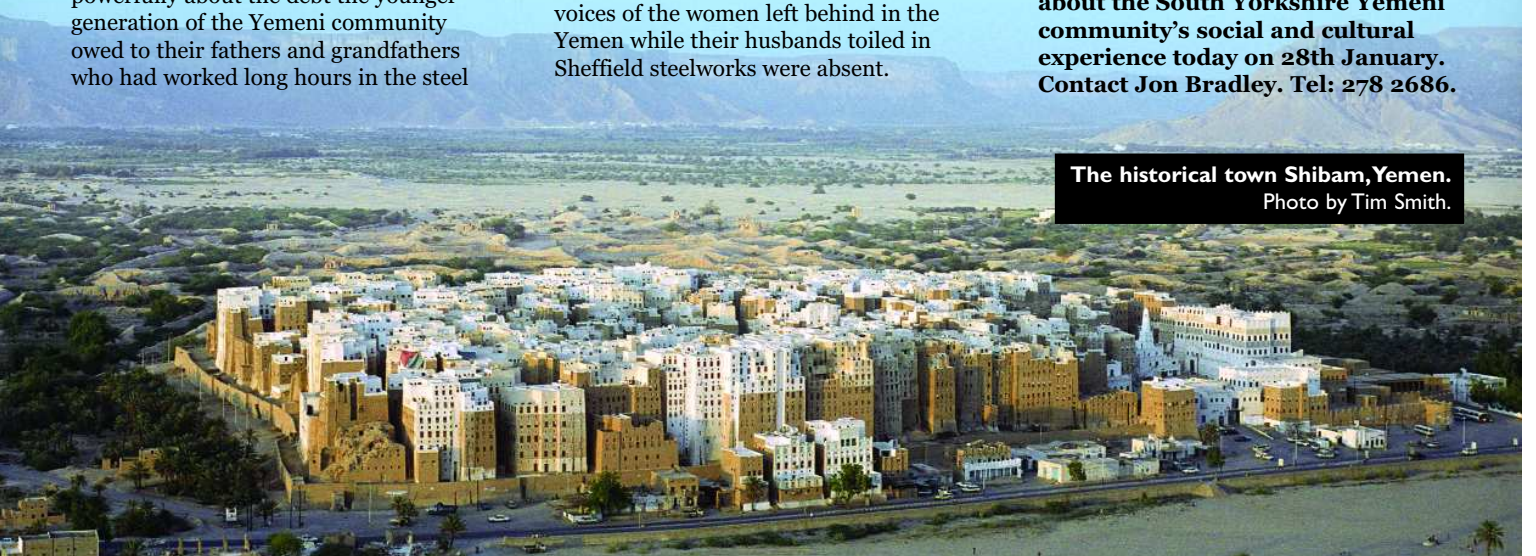
When the Messenger put these concerns to the Museums and Galleries Trust, Kim Streets, Head of Curation said:

*"The aim of the exhibition was to explore home and belonging through the experiences of Yemeni families in Sheffield and to explore the contribution of Yemeni people to the cultural life of Sheffield and the UK. The main emphasis was on the UK part of the story: exploring leaving family and friends in the Yemen, moving here, settling, working in a new country and the prospect, for some people, of moving back to Yemen in later life."*

The exhibition is well worth a visit as an important attempt to bring the lives of one of Sheffield's oldest ethnic minority communities into our museums.

**The exhibition continues until 13th April, with workshops and events associated with the exhibition, including a Yemeni Cultural Day on 13th February and a symposium about the South Yorkshire Yemeni community's social and cultural experience today on 28th January. Contact Jon Bradley. Tel: 278 2686.**

**The historical town Shibam, Yemen.**  
Photo by Tim Smith.





# Firshill TARA hosts fundraiser for Children in Need

Story: Lisa Harrison | Photos: Nicholaus Hall

**Firshill Tenants and Residents Association raised hundreds of pounds for Children in Need on Friday 16th November at an event held at the Sheffield United Academy.**

The evening began with a variety of traditional ragtime songs by Sheffield Harmony Ladies' Barbershop Choir, which the crowd really seemed to enjoy. Next was a dance performance by Slovakian group "Little Star", who danced to traditional music. Their sheer energy really seemed to lift the evening.

Dinner was then served – pie and peas – and a raffle of tantalising prizes took place. Joyce Rason said, "I've had a lovely evening. Watching the children dancing was marvellous." Betty Smalley added, "It's been a nice, old-fashioned night with lovely acts."

Pauline West, Firshill TARA, helped to organise the fundraiser along with the other members. She said, "It's been a lovely mix, having the choir and the children. I've really enjoyed it, so much so that I wanted to join in with the choir, but I can't sing a note!"



Firshill TARA thanked the Sheffield United Academy for use of the venue, the Ladies Choir for donating their £100 fee to Children in Need and Little Star for performing for free.

[More photos on our website](#)

## Bogged down? Join Swamp Circus

Story & photos: Lisa Harrison

I spoke to participants at Swamp Circus Trust's 'Circus Skills & Community Leadership' course, currently running at SADACCA on The Wicker in association with the Point Blank Theatre Company. I was struck by the positive impact this course has had on their lives, and so here, in their own words, is their story.

"I found out about the course at SADACCA. I'm really enjoying it and I'd certainly recommend it." – Musa

"In the three sessions I've been to, I've already formed a bond with the other people here. It's all very exciting. It's built my confidence, it's challenging, and it's a great opportunity to learn new skills and discover hidden talents." – Molly

"The course has helped me to get more involved in the community. I used to be involved in youth work and so on, but not for a while." – Charlie

"I went to see Swamp Circus Trust perform at The Crucible, so that made me want to come. I'm just here for some fun!" – Ruth

"I've actually bought myself some devil sticks, which I'm hoping to get better at using. Being here has helped raise my confidence." – Darren

"My girlfriend gave me a flyer about this course so that's how I knew about it. The skills I'm learning here will help me with my performances." – Kergun



A new course about applied drama and creative enterprise entitled, "Get Fired!" will be beginning on 19th January 2008. The venue has not yet been confirmed, but if you are interested in joining this course then contact the Point Blank Theatre Company on 0114 249 3650.



# Black History Month awards

Photos: Anwar Suliman

Members of Sheffield's black community were rewarded on 2nd November for their services to the community. The awards evening was held at SADACCA to mark the end of Black History Month.

Inside the main hall, round tables were set out in front of the stage. The event opened with introductions by Clinton McKoy followed by a dance act from Siyaya.

Diane Haimeed then presented awards to several children from the Yemeni Out of School Project - Bilal Ahmed, Sameera Hanash and Yasmin Fouad. Then personal educational achievement awards were presented to young people including Rochelle Dallas. Next were the black volunteer awards presented by Vena Wytner-Truscott to Aisha Hill, Javan Hayles and Patrice Allen.

Recipients of the Awards for Contribution to the Advancement of the Black Community included Rob Smith, Carmelita Duncan, Milton Samuels, Pat Murae Smith and Carmen Franklin.

Some residents have expressed concern that the awards were not more widely

publicised. The Messenger spoke to Mr Bennett, coordinator at SADACCA:

*"The awards are a partnership with Sheffield Futures and for the last five years has been for young people. It was suggested for the first time this year to award older members of the community. Ten people were nominated by members of SADACCA. Nomination forms for young people went to all the youth centres. Because of funding we had to limit numbers, but we catered for 100 people on the night. We promoted the evening with posters at SADACCA but people don't see them and then say they weren't told about it."*

**For info about SADACCA, call 275 3479.**



## SADACCA Study Support shines again

Story: Carmelita Duncan, Study Support Co-ordinator  
Photos: Camille Daughma



On 24th October the children were entertained by Jamaica's famous dub poet Jean Binta Breeze and developed their cultural awareness through stories, songs and games. Their enthusiasm was heightened by Jean's performance and activities and they took centre stage for their own performance on 31st October.

Children opened the programme with SADACCA's Small People Mission Statement:

*"We will be the leaders of tomorrow, so today we will be agents of change. First, I will respect myself, and then I will practise hard work, discipline and diligently pursue my education, so that tomorrow I will be ready to accept my responsibilities as a leader."*

Parents, pupils and staff participated and enjoyed poetry, stories, folk songs, choral speaking and musical renditions. We had a truly lovely evening working together.

The children were entertained by our own in-house storyteller Mrs Franklin, and a rousing finale by staff and committee members.

SADACCA's Study Support caters for children 5-16 years old Mon to Weds 4.30-7.00pm. Our main focus is in the core curriculum areas on Monday and Tuesdays, while Wednesday is dedicated to building confidence, life skills, health and social wellbeing and the arts. While we use tests to measure children's learning in the core subjects, their development from Wednesday activities are measured by their ability and willingness to participate in debates, performing arts including public speaking and team work, and general behaviour.

**To find out more about SADACCA Study Support, contact Carmelita on 275 3479.**



# Bonfire night in Burngreave

Story: Mohamed Raweh  
Photo: Anwar Suliman

**Bonfire night was celebrated magnificently here in Burngreave on the 3rd November at Petre Street as a small fair ended with spectacular fireworks taking place on the field. There was a great turnout considering the cold weather, with approximately 150-200 people.**

This social event consisted of different rides, a small stage on which young performers and local musicians performed and some great food to top it all up. More importantly though, everyone was having a laugh, eating, or admiring some of the musicians up on stage, which created a warmer atmosphere and had everyone sticking around till the very end. The firework display at the end was awesome, lasting for around ten minutes. It had everyone looking up at the sky in amazement as the display included some of the most spectacular fireworks we had ever seen, reaching great heights and displaying the greatest of colours and shapes.



# It's all about da youths

Story: Farhan Ahmed  
Photos: Nicholaus Hall

**The first ever presentation evening celebrated by young people's project Streetworx had a big impact on the 31st October at the Vestry Hall, attracting residents of a wide ethnic background and the majority of the crowd were young people.**

The Dancing Divaz took the stage beginning with their well-performed, well-practiced dancing. The Divaz constituted a wide age range, from 10 to 18. Tanya Brown and Katie Fiddler who coach the Divaz told us their aim is to work with people of different ages in theatre and dance.

Host for the evening Zain Abdullah, Streetworx's manager, introduced special guest Mr Mohammed Iqbal, Chair of Burngreave New Deal, who presented the certificates. He said the awards show achievements both as a community and personal gain.

He noted that, "Communication between young and old is hard at times. But the older generation does care and has high aspirations and hopes for young people." He then presented certificates to the Divaz, followed by Beauty is Skin Deep which is about how girls should keep their skin healthy. People from a boxing course were also rewarded.

Rachel took the stage and showed her potential to us all as she sang so confidently. John Clark from BNDfC was the next guest issuing certificates. He noted how important youths are in any community. One of the ways teenagers could help to make the community better is by contributing towards the Youth Council in Burngreave. They are trying to make the right choices available; what people should do is 'Spread the word about the Youth Council'. John presented certificates to those who successfully completed a community sports leader award and to the Youth Council including those who passed a First Aid course.

Vernon Collymore, District Youth Manager for Sheffield Futures, stated, "The event was excellent, more so because of the recent events. Today shows positive things are happening as young people are involved. Hopefully others will begin to recognise Burngreave as a positive place to be."







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## Burngreave Small Grants Fund



*Get involved with your community...*

Do you or your organisation have a new idea that would benefit local residents – would a small grant help to make it happen?

Organisations can apply for a grant of up to **£5000** and individuals and groups can also benefit with grants of up to **£500**. *Social and sporting activities are eligible for up to £500.*

Examples of what we fund are...

- Activities for children or young people
  - Trips for local residents
  - Education and courses
  - Healthy eating or exercise initiatives
  - Environmental improvements
  - Equipment for local groups
- and much more!*

Your applications will be considered as long as the people who benefit are residents of the Burngreave New Deal Area.

The Grants Panel meets in the last week of every month; application deadlines are two weeks before. Contact the grants team for more information.

**For an application pack:**

Phone the Grants Team (Val and Chris) on: 292 2905

Or download a pack from our website:

[www.bndfc.co.uk/projects/smallgrants](http://www.bndfc.co.uk/projects/smallgrants)

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Create happy memories and positive futures.

Could you adopt a child and give them good times to remember, instead of bad times they want to forget.

If you can love, care and protect a child for life call 0114 273 5075.



*Do you remember when you were little? And you were in a school play.*

*Your dad was really proud and stood at the front and filmed it all.*

*And your mum cried and smiled and clapped all the way through it. They don't.*

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Visit [www.sheffield.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/adoption)

Email [fosteringandadoption@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:fosteringandadoption@sheffield.gov.uk)



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Forum House, 35 Spital Hill, Sheffield, S4 7LD.

Telephone: (0114) 292 0462

E-mail: [businesssupport@bndfc.co.uk](mailto:businesssupport@bndfc.co.uk)



# Learning English at home

Story: Wajdi Raweh

**SAVTE (Sheffield Association for the Voluntary Teaching of English) recruits and trains volunteers to teach English. They have been delivering this service city-wide for over 30 years. The majority of the students are women and people with disabilities. Many have no experience of formal education and have very little confidence.**

Anwar came to the UK from Somalia as a refugee 12 years ago and now lives in Burngreave.

*"I want to learn English to be able to live here, I face real difficulties when I go out for shopping and visiting the GP. I enrolled in SAVTE and they put me on the waiting list and then in May 2007 they sent John to teach me."*

John used to be a teacher and taught in schools for 27 years in England and Kenya. He now teaches two adults on a voluntary basis through SAVTE.

*"You don't have to be a teacher," said John Ray. "I design the lessons myself. At SAVTE they have a resources library, so I can borrow materials, books, pictures and things like that. Every*

*student is different so what I am trying to teach depends on the student."*

John came to England with his parents when he was 10. They were refugees from Hungary. He now lives in Burngreave and is learning Somali because he knows a lot of Somali people.

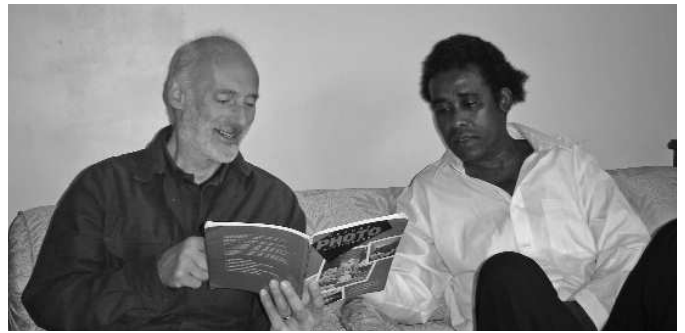
*"For me, this is a way of carrying out my faith - making people from other countries welcome and to work for peace between different communities."*

Fadumo Gulied has lived in the UK since 2004 with her husband and four children. She started learning at home with Francesca Pedmore in April 2007.

*"It's important for me to learn English so I can do things without my husband, like go to the GP, or help the children. I can't do anything until I learn English, then I can learn whatever I want and get a job and also apply for nationality."*

Her teacher Francesca works full-time with a young people's project in Chesterfield. She recently passed level 3 OCN in voluntary teaching with SAVTE.

*"I use picture cards, images and we name things. Although it's difficult, learning in English is the best way, as you can't rely on your mother tongue."*



Francesca has lived in a foreign country so she understands what it's like not to be able to communicate.

*"The recent reduction in English classes will have a really bad impact - it's bad for integration. Learning English is really important to help us live together."*

Her advice to other people thinking of helping SAVTE was, "Go for it! It's a good experience, you'll get a lot out of it."

Project Manager for SAVTE, Sara Saxon, told the Messenger,

*"We equip people with the English language skills they need for everyday life. Our trained volunteers are the backbone of the organisation, they make a huge contribution to learners' lives by giving them the skills to communicate their most basic needs."*

**If you'd like to volunteer to teach English, or you need support in learning English at home, please contact SAVTE on 241 2765.**

## Writing for a Community Newspaper

**The Messenger recently worked with the Council's Adult and Community Learning Unit on an ESOL course with a difference. Here is some of the students' writing.**

Story: Amal

This course is called Writing for a Community Newspaper. In my class there are ten people. We are different nationalities but most of us are Somali. Kath, our teacher, is from Scotland but she has lived in Sheffield for about 20 years.

I like this course; it is quite difficult for me but I think it is useful. First we met Lisa - she is the manager of the Burngreave Messenger. She told us how the Messenger is working. We read a



fantastic poem but it was very hard to read. We met the man who wrote the poem. His name is Rob Smith and he has been a writer since 1992. We were all amazed by him. He is a great man.

I like this course and I hope to improve my English, especially writing and reading, and I am looking forward to getting a job in the future.

### A sad story

Story: Nicky, Zahra, Anab and Khadija

Ali Aman is from Afghanistan. He has been here for five years. His asylum claim has been refused and the Home

Office wants to send him back to Afghanistan. He had to work because he did not have any support from the government. He worked illegally as a builder and one day a big accident happened to him. He fell down from the top of the building and broke his spine in six places.

He was in hospital for six and half months. The hospital sent him a huge bill of about £95,000. He is applying for a fresh asylum claim and fortunately has a solicitor working on his case. A UNHCR paper dated May 2006 advised that physically disabled Afghans who cannot work or live on their own should not return unless they have family or community support.

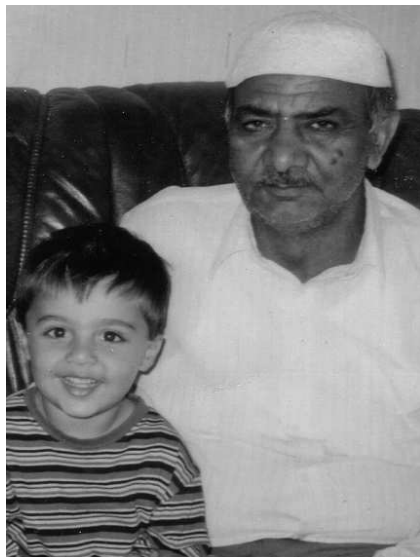
At the moment he is pessimistic and we advised him to be optimistic because his health is improving every day. We hope he can stay in Sheffield.





# Fazal Hussain

*"To a loving Father and a community activist who put the needs of the community as a whole, before his own."*



Fazal Hussain came to England in the late 50s, first to London where his three children were born, before moving to Fir Vale to join relations. His remaining four children were born here. He undertook a variety of jobs to support his family here in the UK and also his remaining family in Pakistan. His final position was as a welder for Firth Browns Steelworks on Savile Street, from where he was made redundant in 1984.

Next he took up a range of voluntary roles, including Chair of the local Mosque. He soon realised the need to establish a centre for the most vulnerable in the community, and he played a major role in setting up the Pakistan Advice Centre.

Establishing the Advice Centre as a sustainable organisation proved quite a



feat, as challenges were made, first to its abilities, and then through cuts in Council funding, where the smallest organisations were the first to close. Fazal Hussain organised petitions, lobbies and demonstrations to defend the Centre, and with the help of clients and community workers the advice centre was saved, against all the odds.

The Pakistan Advice Centre received the Legal Services Commission Quality Mark for General Advice in 2003 and the Quality Mark for advice with case work a year after.

Many have paid tribute to the work of Mr Hussain, including Councillor Steve Jones, who said:

*"He was a friend of mine and I feel honoured to have known him and to be befriended by him in return. He will leave a massive hole in the local community. His strong beliefs, faith and commitment are irreplaceable and we will all miss him hugely. Such utter dedication to local people and their wellbeing is something we could do with more of and Mr. Hussain was one of the best. Myself*

*and my colleagues Ibrar Hussain and Jackie Drayton send our condolences to his family and friends."*

Fazal's daughter Gulnaz paid her respects on behalf of the family, saying:

*"He had a very intensive and heightened sense of justice and fairness. He shunned the limelight, wanting to achieve not for himself but for the whole community. Our Dad wanted dignity in all he did. As a family we are overwhelmed and humbled by the support and kind words from so many people. We take comfort from the words of the people who knew and were touched in many ways by our Father. Reaffirming the contribution he made to so many peoples lives.*

*"Our Dad was a fair and honest man and 'said it as it was'.*

*"The work that he has started and established will be taken forward by those he shaped.*

*"Those who touch the hearts of so many are never forgotten, a hero to all who knew him".*

## Stay debt-free this Christmas

Story: Tom Hunt, Pitsmoor Citizen's Advice Bureau

**It's that time again when the shops are crammed with Christmas food and presents and TV full of tempting ads. It's easy to feel pressured into spending more than you can afford. Follow the CAB's Top Tips to keep out of debt this Christmas:**

- Plan ahead what you can afford. Make sure you know how much money is coming in and going out. Any left over money is what you have to budget with for Christmas.

- Work out how much you're going to spend on each person - and stick to it.
  - Try shopping just with cash - without using credit cards.
  - Don't run up an overdraft without talking to your bank - this will be much more expensive than if you arrange it beforehand.
  - If you do need to use credit, shop around for the lowest rate. Check that the monthly payback instalments are within your budget.
- Avoid store cards – most are poor value and some charge interest of 30%.
  - Catalogues can be more expensive than buying in the shops.
  - With some friends and family you could agree a 'no presents' pact or give home-made presents.
  - Remember the big winter fuel bills come in February. Don't get into trouble because of an extravagant Christmas.
  - If you do get into difficulties, don't ignore them, come to Pitsmoor CAB on Spital Hill asap. and get free, confidential, independent and impartial money and debt advice.

# Employment and Skills Special

## Apprenticeships For All and the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals

Apprenticeships for All has been working in partnership with the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals to develop an employment and training programme for Burngreave residents looking for work and training. The programme links in with managers at the five hospital sites across the city and combines off-the-job training at Pegasus House with workplace training alongside a 'buddy' for a total of twenty weeks. On successful completion of the programme, individuals will have the opportunity for permanent employment in their chosen area of work.

It is anticipated that the training programme will be repeated and anyone who has not been successful this time will be supported over the next couple of months by Forum House projects to help them succeed next time around.

Apprenticeships for All provides employment and training opportunities to residents of Burngreave aged 16-60 thanks to an innovative partnership between Burngreave New Deal for Communities and Sheffield City Council's Lifelong Learning and Skills Directorate.

Since 2004 Apprenticeships for All has become well-established within the BNDfC area.

## A4E (Action for Employment) Partnership

Services offered by BOPPs and A4E complement each other and they have been working together to offer a complete package for Burngreave residents who are looking for work. A4E's clients who live in the Burngreave ward are being offered one to one meetings with the BOPPs advisers who can give extra support and access to the BOPPs discretionary funding if needed. Burngreave residents can also benefit from the aftercare service BOPPs provides in order to assist them to sustain employment and up-skill within the workplace.



## Forum House Re-Launch

Forum House was successfully re-launched in September. The new branding was presented for the first time and signs outside the building were unveiled. Forum House was also presented with a cheque for £500 from the Kier Group in recognition of their continued partnership. Residents who have benefited from the services at Forum House talked about their own experiences and challenges before finding a job to a packed meeting room.

## Burngreave Opportunities links with Sheffield Museums and Galleries

Burngreave Opportunities (BOPPs) have forged close links with Sheffield Museums and Galleries (SM&G) in the production of the Yemen Exhibition funded by BNDfC. Five BOPPs clients were put forward for the museum's volunteer programme to gain experience working as Visitor Assistants at the museum. BOPPs have also been in discussions with SM&G about the possibility of the volunteers being employed by SM&G after the exhibition has finished.

The second phase of the volunteer programme began at the end of November. It is hoped this new partnership will go from strength to strength with volunteers coming forward on a regular basis. If you would like to know more about this or any other job or training opportunities contact Burngreave Opportunities on 0114 275 5106.

## Christmas Vacancies event

Local residents attended a Christmas vacancies event held at Forum House in October. The day was a drop-in session for people from the Burngreave Ward to find information on the various Christmas retail vacancies available in the Sheffield area.

The day proved a great success, with many people completing multiple application forms giving them a better chance of employment.

## Fancy a career as a Fire-Fighter?

BOPPs are working with South Yorkshire Fire Service (SYFS) to target BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) groups to increase BME representation in the fire service.

For more information about working for the SYFS contact BOPPs on 0114 275 5106.



## Childminding qualification

The need for registered childminding facilities in the local area has been identified after parents involved in the Apprenticeships for All programme have found that they had to use childminders outside the Burngreave area.

With this in mind, a pilot programme was launched in September in partnership with Forum House, the National Childminding Association (NCMA) and Apprenticeships for All.

The purpose and content of the programme will satisfy the needs and requirements of Sheffield City Council and OFSTED and make available suitably qualified childminding facilities in Burngreave.

Upon completion, childminders will be able to accommodate children from a range of cultural backgrounds, supported by individuals from those backgrounds.

In developing this programme, a wide range of active projects have been involved in the selection, recruitment and ongoing support of the group. The course is being delivered at Forum House.

In addition to the childminding requirements, the group will also receive certification in First Aid as required for children under 5 years and certification in Food Hygiene practice.

A similar length programme in customer service for people working or seeking work in local shops and restaurants is also planned.

Contact Forum House on 0114 279 4961 for more information.

## News in Brief

The Policy Evaluation Group, who are based in Barnsley, have been appointed to develop the commissioning framework for the Community Development and Events work which is expected to be completed by mid-January.

The BNDfC Partnership Board meeting will be held Wednesday 30th January 2008 from 5.30pm. Venue to be confirmed.

## Vestry Hall Community Day in December



As this goes to print we are preparing for the official launch of the Hall on 21st November. I am sure we will have a great turn-out to help us celebrate the £3.2 million transformation of the building into an Adult Learning and Activity Centre.

If you have not had a chance to look around yet there will be another opportunity on Saturday 8th December from 10.00am until 1.00pm when we will be holding a Community Open morning. Also, look out for new courses being run at the Hall in the New Year.

## Would you like to be a Mystery Shopper?

After the recent success of the first Mystery Shopping programme, a further course will begin in January 2008.

Mystery Shopping is a way of testing whether organisations are providing the best service they can and it also identifies ways in which they can improve their service.

A Mystery Shopper will phone or visit an organisation and assess the service they receive. This information is used by us to improve BNDfC funded projects.

The eighteen residents who completed the first course found it a rewarding experience. If you are over 16 years of age and live in the BNDfC area you can get involved. You will:

- Develop new skills
- Help to improve local services
- Make new friends

Also, you will receive £20 per session after completion of the training and we can help with childcare costs.

If you are interested or would like to know more, please contact Jackie Toyne at BNDfC on 0114 279 6932.

## Media workshops hit the headlines

Representatives from community groups in Burngreave got a taste of the media spotlight thanks to some exciting workshops.

The interactive sessions, organised by BNDfC at the newly refurbished Vestry Hall, were designed for local community groups to learn more about the importance of dealing with the media.

Delegates got first hand experience of how to let the media know about their successes and achievements including the fundamentals of writing press releases and top tips for dealing with the broadcast media.

Alexis Cowan, Extended School Support Worker at Byron Wood Primary School, said: "I really enjoyed it and found it very useful."

Philip Strafford, Employer Liaison Officer at Forum House, said: "The session was really good - I hope you can do a follow on session!"

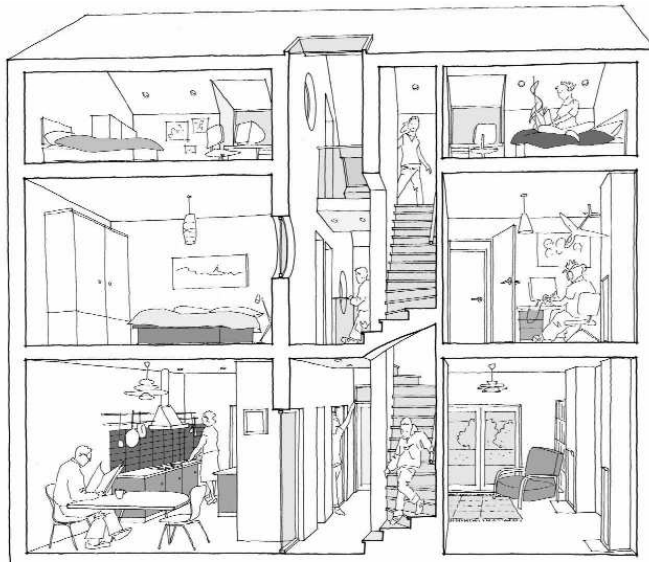
If anyone is interested in attending further media workshops please contact Alison Reid at BNDfC on 0114 279 6936 or email [AlisonReid@bndfc.co.uk](mailto:AlisonReid@bndfc.co.uk) to register your interest.



## Transforming terraces

The housing regeneration programme for Burngreave and Fir Vale has an ambitious target of providing more good quality, affordable homes for a wide range of people. With a rapidly growing population in the area, there is clearly a strong demand for housing. Some houses and flats have been demolished already to create land for new quality family houses. In other areas – like Woodside – the land has been cleared some time ago so re-development is imminent. That leaves a range of houses and streets which are staying, like the 'Page Hall terraces' for example, but these can't be improved with direct grant work because of government rules. Getting a 'new' house by renovating your own place will still be more affordable than buying a brand new house somewhere else.

Two weeks ago, there was a really interesting exhibition at the Wensley community centre above Page Hall. The Council's East Regeneration team invited architects to enter designs for improving actual houses. Back have come ideas for converting two houses into one (for example, five bedrooms; a living basement; a central atrium where the genell used to be...) for under £100,000. And other designs for single houses to become eco-homes (with zero/few



Design idea for two typical terrace houses 'knocked into one', transforming them into one large family home.

carbon emissions); to become 'healthy' homes; and to become a '21st century terrace' – all for under £50,000. The winners were selected by a panel of academics, housing officers and a Fir Vale resident and over the next 12 months, these designs will be brought to life. Then next autumn, the doors will all be thrown open for everyone and anyone to see the end result – and to talk with the designers about how these improvements can be repeated in your own home. All the winning designs can be seen on the website: <http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/in-your-area/area-action/burngreave-area-action/issues-actions-and-plans>

Councillor Jackie Drayton, Chair of the Area Panel, explains the reasons behind the competition: "Most of the houses in

this area are privately owned, and some do need work doing to them. We wanted to demonstrate ways to improve them. This scheme will also bring five empty properties back into use, and set high standards for future housing in the area."

Ivor Wallace from Page Hall Community Association says: "this is a real opportunity to see what could be done with our houses – not just talking but seeing different designs, different layouts."

## DIY streets

At the end of October, thirty residents from Firshill Rd and Passhouses Rd met at Firshill School hall to consider the "DIY streets" idea. There were lots of ideas – like introducing recycling banks to prevent the car sale site, having a temporary trial road closure, removing/reducing the lime trees, talking with the police and the youth workers about some nuisance behaviour – and dealing with the speeding cars! One woman said "we want to make the road what we want, not what we need". Everyone's now being asked questions about their use of the streets. At the next meeting, it's going to be working with Sustrans' designer and Council staff to see what things might start to look at.

## New Year's Honours Awards – 25th Jan 2008.

A last call. Anyone who volunteers or works in the area "above and beyond" what you'd expect or needs and deserves recognition. One way is to nominate them for the Panel's annual New Year Honours award. Forms available from Marilyn King on 276 9134. Act now!

## Councillors' Surgery Dates

Your local councillors, Jackie Drayton, Ibrar Hussain and Steve Jones (pictured left to right below), share surgeries on a rota basis.



Councillors' surgeries are on the second and fourth Saturday mornings of each month.

**8th December:** Ibrar Hussain, 11am–12 noon Burngreave Library and 12.15–1.00pm: Firshill TARA

**22nd December:** No surgery

**12th January:** Jackie Drayton, 11am–12 noon Burngreave Library

**28th January:** Ibrar Hussain, 11am–12 noon Burngreave Library

## Next Area Panel Public Meeting

New Year's Awards, Friday 25th January at 6pm at the Town Hall.

For more information see the the Area Panel website:

[www.sheffield.gov.uk/in-your-area/area-action/burngreave-area-action](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/in-your-area/area-action/burngreave-area-action).

# Woods and pond neglected

Story & photo: Brent Moya

**Sheffield City Council have come under fire after local resident Peter Mappin slammed their supposed clean up of Roe Woods and Crabtree Pond. After pledging to repair the sites in August 2004, little has been done, and the once proud area has become an eyesore.**

Mr. Mappin and other residents have been angered by the council's apparent ignorance. Firstly Crabtree Pond is in urgent need of draining while Roe Woods River which runs to Crabtree is also badly neglected.

On Roe Woods Peter was equally sceptical. "There used to be seven ponds here, now there's only one left." As we entered through the bottom of Roe woods I noticed spliff wrappers and Durex packets strewn on the ground. According to Mr. Mappin the Council have used one excuse after the other. "They claim that the pond at the bottom of Roe Woods was damaged by the recent floods but it's been like this for years!"

Roe Woods has been around for generations since the days of the Romans. "There is so much history on people's doorsteps but it is being neglected," he continued.

Peter also went over some of the history of Roe Wood Cottage that was once situated at the bottom end of the wood. "It was used in conjunction with Roe Wood Nursery but the Council pulled it down."



Peter's view is that Sheffield City Council make their decisions regardless of others' feelings. "They have their priorities and they are sticking to them. They would rather build expensive signposts and benches than look at the bigger picture – it sums them up really," he continued.

I asked Parks Woodland and Countryside officer, John Gilpin, to respond to Peter's complaints but he said it wasn't his responsibility. However, at a recent area panel meeting he stated:

*"Parks and Countryside have a commitment towards the future management of Roe Woods, and has identified £3,000 per year specifically for the maintenance of the site."*

He told the meeting recent works include upgrading and resurfacing footpaths, woodland thinning and coppice works, and security works. He also promised the pond would be cleared on a regular basis.

Sheffield Wildlife Trust has received funding to maintain Crabtree Pond. Annabelle Kennedy told the Area Panel that the pond had recently been dredged and allowed to refill naturally.

A friends group is now being established to work with the Council around maintenance of the site. Their first meeting will be Tuesday 4th December, 6pm at Roe Lane Community Centre.

## Your Voice

Story: Douglas Johnson

**Another well-produced community magazine is ten years old this November!**

This time it's Your Voice – whose readership and volunteer staff comprise service users, carers & health professionals from Sheffield's mental health community. To celebrate its ripe old age Your Voice – based at the SYAC Centre on the Wicker – held a party for contributors, service users and supporters. Current editor, Natasha Marshall proudly showed me the display – arranged by Treasurer Liz Skelton – of ten years worth of quarterly publications, full of intelligent discussion on hot issues in mental health. The magazine has consistently championed the often divergent views of service users themselves, something which continues to empower people.

Over a tasty lunch, the packed room watched as the birthday cake, complete with ten candles, was lit – the start of another ten years. You can find back issues and subscription information on their website [www.yourvoicesheffield.org.uk](http://www.yourvoicesheffield.org.uk).



## Green City Action

[www.greencityaction.org.uk](http://www.greencityaction.org.uk)

### Green City Action win prestigious community award



Green City Action was winner of the Community Award at this year's Sheffield Telegraph Environment Awards sponsored by E-on. The event was held at The Magna Centre with BBC weatherman Paul Hudson presenting the awards. In his speech Paul said, "GCA received more nominations than any other group here tonight". The award was in recognition of the Deliver it Green team's hard work on Burngreave's Parks, green spaces and wastelands. Staff and trustees were present at the dinner event. More information and photos can be found at: [www.greencityaction.org.uk](http://www.greencityaction.org.uk)

### Garden gifts for the festive season

Green City Action will be selling a variety of locally made products for the garden this December. From ready made bird, bat and insect boxes to kits to make your own. Want a centrepiece for the garden? Then why not buy a feeding table for birds? We have pole, ground and hanging tables. For prices and more information contact Brendan on (0114) 244 0353 or call into the Tool Bank on Wednesday afternoons between 1pm and 4pm and Saturdays 10am and 12pm.

### Tool Bank December opening times

The Tool Bank will close for Christmas on Wednesday the 19th of December and reopen again on Wednesday the 9th of January 2008.

Festive greetings to you all.

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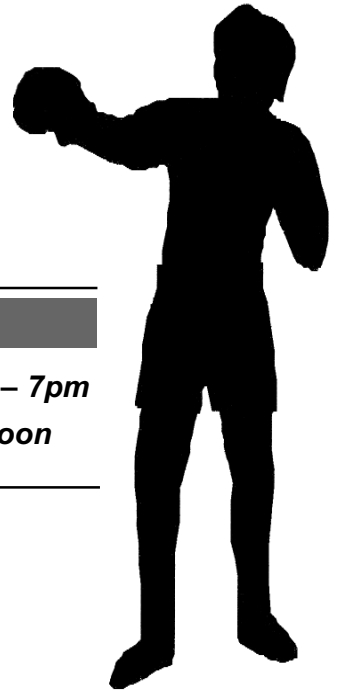
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## Bangladesh Cyclone Appeal Urgent Appeal

Hundreds of people have been killed by a cyclone that smashed into Bangladesh's coast in November 2007, levelling villages and uprooting trees.

Arches Housing are taking donations for food, clothing and emergency medical supplies.

Contributions can be made via the office at:

22 Burngreave Road, Sheffield S3 9DE.

For more information contact:

Jane at Arches Housing: (0114) 228 8100

Terry Garvey on: 07976 767 510

Email: [Terrygarvey@hotmail.com](mailto:Terrygarvey@hotmail.com)







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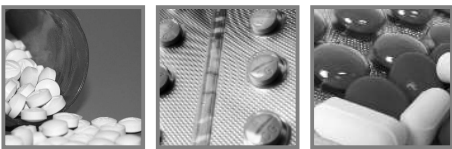
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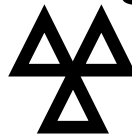
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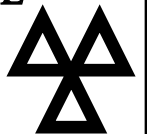
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