



## On the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro



Story: John Mellor

**Magid Mah has astounded all those who know him - at the young age of 20 he has reached the peak of the highest mountain in Africa, Mount Kilimanjaro, not only that but he was told he was the first Somali to achieve it! John Mellor spoke to him about his journey...**

Magid came to Burngreave from Somalia with his parents and sister in 1994 when he was 4 years old. He was educated at Owler Brook, Whiteways, Fir Vale and Tapton schools before going to Longley Sixth Form College to sit for A-levels in Psychology, Law and Philosophy in 2008. Then Magid decided to take a 'gap year' during which he raised his own funding to travel to the Swiss Alps, Egypt, Kenya, Tanzania and its islands, Zanzibar and Mafia, where he swam with dolphins. He then travelled to Germany to run in the Berlin marathon.

In September 2009 he fulfilled his

ambition of several years to climb to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro (5895m or 19340ft) in Tanzania. The round trip took 6 days, 4 days to get up and 2 days to get back down again. I asked Magid if he had found the climb difficult. He replied:

*"It didn't require specialised climbing skills or equipment but just over half way up I began to suffer from altitude sickness due to the lower atmospheric pressure. This meant I had to go more slowly but I was greatly helped by a good local guide, along with two porters and a cook, all of them were very experienced and had climbed the mountain several times.*

*"The final climb to the summit on the 4th day took 6 hours, from midnight to 6 am. We spent 20 minutes on the summit in a temperature of -10oC and the amazing view was worth all the effort. After getting back to ground level the park ranger told me that I was the first Somali to reach the summit which was a great achievement"*

I asked Magid if this expedition was a 'one-off' or if he had plans for any more. He said:

*"My aim is to climb the seven summits which consist of the highest mountains in each of the seven continents. The next one on my list is Mt Elbrus in Russia or Mt Aconcagua in Argentina which I would like to attempt as soon as I manage to raise the funds. In the meantime, my interest in scuba diving has led to me starting a degree course in Aquatic Zoology at Hull University."*

I was impressed by Magid's enthusiasm and determination; I'm sure we shall be hearing more of his future expeditions in the Messenger. He acknowledges that many people have helped him in what he has done in his life so far:

*"I have received help and encouragement from family and friends and particularly from Diane Haimeed at the Burngreave after School Study Support Project. I hope that my achievement will encourage other young people in Burngreave to realise 'the sky is the limit' if they have the determination to succeed.*

*"I am currently looking for some sponsors for the next upcoming expedition, so if this is something that may interest you and would like to take part in this great opportunity, please contact me at [master\\_mah@msn.com](mailto:master_mah@msn.com) or via my mobile: 07704 902 787."*

The Messenger spoke to Diane Haimeed, from Burngreave After School Study Support, who sponsored Magid's trip:

*"I asked Magid to give me a good reason to fund some of his trip, and he told me he wanted to be an inspiration to others. He has definitely done that! He's done it all on his own, young people can look at what he has achieved and know that they can do anything they set their minds to."*

Season's Greetings  
Eid Mubarak, Happy Christmas  
and best wishes for the New Year





Sheffield Health and Social Care **NHS**  
NHS Foundation Trust

**Pakistani Women's Emotional Wellbeing Worker**  
**£20,710 - £26,839 per annum pro rata – 18.75 hrs/wk**  
**Location: North Day Service, Sheffield S3 Ref: 09/031/PY**

Our Trust is committed to working with all of Sheffield's communities to address mental health inequalities. As part of this commitment, the post of Pakistani Women's Emotional Wellbeing Worker was created in 2005.

You will initially work with Pakistani women in the areas of Burngreave/Pitsmoor, Firvale and Firth Park on a 1:1 and group work basis. It is envisaged that the scope of this work will eventually be expanded to include the areas of Attercliffe, Darnall and Tinsley.

We are interested in hearing from women who have experience of working with vulnerable people in a flexible way in the community and are fluent in Urdu and English.

Community Seminars will be held to outline the work of this post and to encourage anyone with an interest and appropriate experience to apply. These Community Seminars will be held at: the Meeting Place, 259 Pitsmoor Road, Sheffield S3 on the 3rd and 10th December from 5.30pm - 6.30pm.

N.B. The Trust is committed to safeguarding adults and children and the successful applicant will be subject to a check/disclosure through the Criminal Records Bureau. This post is advertised as a Genuine Occupational Qualification in accordance with Section 7 (2) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975.

For further information please contact Greg Harrison on (0114) 226 3361 or [greg.harrison@shsc.nhs.uk](mailto:greg.harrison@shsc.nhs.uk)

Application forms are available by visiting [www.shsc.nhs.uk/jobs.html](http://www.shsc.nhs.uk/jobs.html) or [www.jobs.nhs.uk](http://www.jobs.nhs.uk) or call our 24 hour Job line on (0114) 271 6745 for a paper application. Please quote reference number: 09/031/PY.

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We particularly seek to recruit male volunteers and people of Black and Minority Ethnic groups who are under-represented in our current 'pool' of volunteers.

**For more information and/or  
an application pack, please contact us on:  
(0114) 228 8545**

*All volunteers are required to undergo an enhanced criminal record check.  
A criminal record does not necessarily preclude involvement.*

**SOVA 7 St Peter's Close, Sheffield S1 2EJ**

Company limited by guarantee: Company number 3645143.  
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## Problems parking on your street?

If you live near the Northern General, look out for questionnaires from the Council on 18th and 19th December.

They will be coming through your door asking for your views on parking problems on your street.

In response to requests the Council wants to see if you think a permit parking scheme could be the answer to parking problems caused by hospital traffic. The simple questionnaire is accompanied by a leaflet which explains how a possible scheme could work.

Nothing will be decided until your replies are received and each reply will be taken into account when deciding what to do next.

**It is very important that you take a few minutes to fill in this questionnaire and send it back by 31st January.**

Once the Council has all the replies, it will take a couple of months to look at the demand for a scheme and where it might be best introduced. More consultation will follow giving everyone the chance to influence or object to any proposals as they progress.

If you would like to speak to someone about the questionnaire contact Mark Higginbotham 0114 273 5031.

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## Tesco to open late

Story: Alice Carder

**Over a third of the jobs promised by Tesco at Spital Hill will now be delayed until 2015.**

The new Tesco Extra, the largest type of store selling everything from mangos to microwaves, was originally approved on condition Tesco would provide much-needed regeneration in the area, including 600 new jobs. The store itself would provide 395 jobs, with retail units providing 21 and an office block adding 204. Planning officers required Tesco to include offices and “public realm” improvements – around Caborn’s Corner – as a condition of planning permission. However the Planning Board on November 2nd approved Tesco’s latest plan to delay some of the work for an extra three years. Under the new plans, work on the Tesco store, retail units and multi-storey car park will be completed by 2012.

Carlisle Street will be closed to traffic and there will be parking for 739 cars. The store will be allowed to trade for three years before work on the offices is

required. This must then be completed within 12 months.

Despite accounting for almost 30% of grocery sales in the UK and reporting increased profits in the recession, Tesco blame the economic downturn for the change.

Tesco are required to build the offices but there is still uncertainty as to whether they will meet the planning requirements. Councillor John Hesketh, Chair of the Planning Board, said,

*“I’ve no idea whether they will build it or not. Tesco are aware of the legal requirements of the build. Whether they decide to go ahead under those is up to them.”*

A Tesco spokesperson said the bulk of the jobs are at the store itself: “The new arrangement means we can deliver the store, training and jobs for local people as soon as possible. The offices will then follow - providing a mix of accommodation to suit a variety of businesses and creating around 200 further jobs.”

Under the original plans, reported in the Messenger in April 2007, Tesco was to have opened its doors by early 2009.

## More benefits for working parents

**Families on low incomes are being advised to check if they can now get housing benefit to help with their rent or a reduction in council tax.**

A recent change in the rules means some families will now qualify even if they didn’t before. This is because income from child benefit is now ignored in the calculations. From November 2nd, many families on low wages will now be entitled to extra money.

Families who already get housing benefit or council tax benefit will get the increase automatically. But there is no plan to inform those who will now qualify.

More over-60s will also now qualify for benefit, even with up to £16,000 in savings.

**To claim, ring the Council’s benefits service on 273 6777. For more advice, ring Sheffield Law Centre on 273 1888, Pitsmoor CAB on 275 5376 or Pakistan Advice Centre on 261 9130.**



## 10 years!

10 years! So many volunteers! Our AGM, at the Vestry Hall, we celebrated the people who have contributed to the Messenger in so many ways over the decade. The benefit to the community is now recognised with new registered charity status. We discussed what we can do for the next 10 years. Thanks to all those who helped to make the event happen, special thanks to Betty and Saleema for the birthday cake. Superb!

### Congratulations!

Sarah, our administrator, gave birth to a baby boy, called Jesse Emanuel on 15th October. Best wishes to all the family.

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This month’s team: Michelle Cook, Saleema Imam, Rohan Francis, Douglas Johnson, Jamie Marriott, John Mellor, Cameron Raphael-Storm, Lisa Swift, Vivien Urwodhi.

# Work in Burngreave Cemetery

Story: Lisa Swift

**In recent months Bereavement Services have been doing significant work in Burngreave Cemetery.**

Following a number of local meetings where people expressed concern about the lack of maintenance, a plan has now been produced which details the type of work and where it will take place.

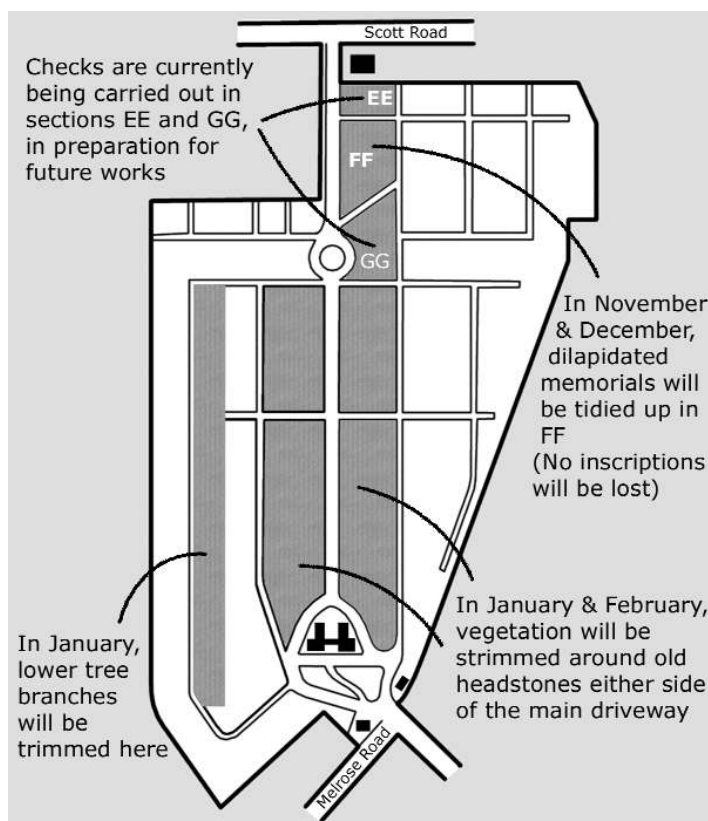
Bereavement Services Memorial Safety Officers and cemetery workers are currently working on an area near the Scott Road entrance, in section FF. In October checks were carried out to find grave owners so they could be contacted about the work. Dilapidated memorials are now being made tidy so they can be easily maintained. Bereavement Services told the Messenger,

*“No memorials with inscriptions are being removed. Headstones are either being laid face up on the grave, or where possible they are stood up. Kerbstones are not being removed either. Where they have become dilapidated they are being buried in the plot itself so they can be recovered by the owner if need be.”*

Checks are currently being carried out in sections EE and GG also near the Scott Road entrance. Grave owners will be contacted so that work can be done here in the near future.

In January Bereavement services will be trimming the lower branches of trees, at the top end of the left hand side of the Cemetery (from Melose Road). No trees will be removed, the work is intended to make pathways clear.

In January and February, vegetation will be strimmed around the old gothic style headstones on either side of the main road through the cemetery, and then these areas will be sprayed with weed killer.



From April grass cutting will start again, and the cemetery will be assigned three workers to keep the grass down. Also during April Bereavement Services intend to hold a public meeting to discuss progress and consult on which areas should be focused on next.

**You can find a the full action plan on the Messenger's website. If you have any questions or concerns about the work contact Sue Nadin at Bereavement Services on 239 6068.**

## Musical trees

Story: Leonie Kapadia  
Photo: John Mellor

**It's not very often that the Community Forestry Team finds itself digging up trees – but that's exactly what we did on Friday 23rd October!**

In response to requests from members of the local community, the two Italian cypresses planted in the front garden of the Vestry Hall 2 years ago were removed and replaced with 2 Prunus Amanogawa. These are an upright Japanese cherry with shell-pink flowers and young leaves of copper-bronze. The idea was that these trees will complement the cherries across the road at Ellesmere Green.

However – the Vestry Hall's loss was the Cemetery's gain! The two elegant Italian Cypresses were give a new and fitting home courtesy of the Friends of Burngreave Cemetery, behind the chapel in the formal area of the cemetery. By all reports they're settling in well!

**For information regarding the Community Forestry project please contact Leonie Kapadia on 07976 988627, or [Leonie.Kapadia@Sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:Leonie.Kapadia@Sheffield.gov.uk).**



## Focusing on the future

**Burngreave Community Action Forum's AGM in October started by demonstrating its links with other Burngreave organisations – by sharing lunch with the Messenger after its own AGM.**

This pooling of resources reflects BCAF's position at the centre of a network of other groups and activists around the area. This was the first AGM of the new BCAF Ltd: the new committee realised that becoming a company limited by guarantee was essential to take on forthcoming challenges in Burngreave in a time of reduced funding.

New Deal and the Community Assembly made presentations to the meeting about how their work could impact on local residents.

The new committee focussed on what practical things BCAF needs to do so that it can keep benefiting the area, despite lack of funding. One of those things will be to support the organisation of the summer festivals, it will also be supporting adult learning in the area and enabling local networking through its mailing lists about jobs, learning, young people, health, refugees and asylum seekers.

If you would like to know more about BCAF or get involved, contact the office on 272 8008.





## Can you accept the truth?

Story: Robin Cox (Maat Probe Group)

**Maat Probe Group was set up two years ago and is run by mental health services users. With support from SACMHA (Sheffield African Caribbean Mental Health Association) based on Andover Street, the group aims to highlight inequalities in mental health and to do what it can to improve services through communication.**

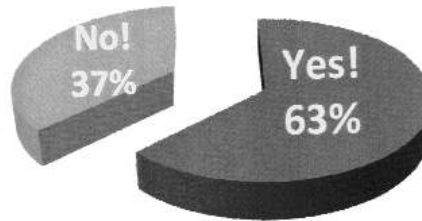
At Andover Street Church on 9th October the Maat Probe group gave a presentation to the top brass in mental health.

The chair of Maat introduced the presentation. Ashton Wynter, the head of SACHMA, said a piece and then the presentation called 'Can you accept the truth?' was shown. Jake Keohane went into detail about Maat and then Robin Cox spoke about 'Respect', which is a method to avoid Control and Restraint in mental health. Our support worker Otis Hinds closed the meeting.

The presentation showed our findings from a questionnaire with mental health service users. A lot of people were dissatisfied with their treatment in hospital. We got most of the results by talking to service users who were invited to SACMHA for a barbeque and workshop; we also went to Bradford and spoke to service users, and we spoke to other contacts through SACHMA. The participants included 63 African Caribbean service users. These are some of the comments people made:

*"They never listen to me and I was misunderstood"*

*Have you ever felt you have been mistreated by mental health services?*



*From the Maat Probe Group questionnaire, asking mental health services users about their experience in hospital.*

*"I was spoken down to and restrained against my will, given medication against my will when I thought I didn't need it."*

*"They do not understand Black cultural ways of expression and see you as aggressive."*

*"I was slapped by my support worker in hospital. I didn't feel I could do anything about it."*

*"When I saw someone restrained I found it very aggressive and disturbing. There was no need for seven to eight staff throwing themselves on a person."*

After the presentation Kevan Taylor, Chief Executive of Sheffield Care Trust, said, "There are a disproportionate number of people having a negative experience of inpatient treatment and we have to respond to that." He said he will follow up the Respect programme and he will continue to work with Maat to do whatever he can to improve things.

Next the group is thinking of doing its presentation around the city and if Maat gets funding it will do a documentary.

You can read the full report on the Messenger's website.

## What is RESPECT?

RESPECT was developed to help staff working in Mental Health Services avoid using Control and Restraint, a technique which has resulted in a number of deaths.

RESPECT is training in how to manage difficult and threatening situations without pain or injury to the patient

RESPECT helps staff to:

- Understand how the patient is feeling when they are upset and angry
- Control difficult situations without confrontation

RESPECT maintains the trust of patients, and patients feel valued and cared for

RESPECT was developed from the well known SCIP (Strategy for Crisis Intervention and Prevention)

**SACMHA was first set up 21 years ago to meet the needs of African Caribbean Mental Health carers, and now supports service users as well. It offers supported accommodation, has an Acute Advocacy worker and community support staff as well as volunteers.**

**For more information contact Otis Hinds on 272 6393.**



# Tomorrow's terraces?

Story: Rohan Francis

**A recent Council project to renovate rundown houses in Page Hall opened its doors to residents in November.**

The project aims to demonstrate new ways to improve the quality and energy efficiency of the area's Victorian terraces. However, the high cost of materials and construction could make the scheme too expensive for many local families to carry out for themselves.

After winning their fight against plans for demolition in 2005, residents face the problem of how to maintain and improve their homes, many of which are around 100 years old and can suffer from a range of problems, including poor insulation. Added to this, rising fuel bills mean home-owners and tenants also have to consider ways to cut their energy use.

The Council project used government funding to purchase 32 empty properties in Page Hall. 28 of these will be brought up to a 'decent' standard with limited refurbishment and then sold. The remaining four are 'showcase refurbishments' - the 'Eco Terrace' which features solar roof panels, high-tech thermal insulation and a heat-exchange unit and 'Twice the Terrace' which knocks two houses into one spacious five-bed



home. The '21st Century Terrace' which is designed to appeal to a young couple who want a property with the features of a city centre loft apartment, will be completed in the next few months.

Modern technologies have been used to improve the buildings' energy efficiency and design. The 'Eco Terrace', for example, uses a high-tech fibre insulation to line its single brick walls. This surprisingly thin product claims to provide heat insulation without dramatically reducing room size. At the same time the building has also been carefully 'sealed' to prevent loss of heat through draughts. Its solar panels will collect heat and energy from the sun, while a heat-exchange unit recycles warmth from the kitchen and bathroom and delivers it to the 'cooler' areas of the house. Testing carried out before and after renovation work revealed the building's energy efficiency had increased from an E to a B rating.

The scheme originally aimed to refurbish each terrace at a cost of £50,000; however, costs rose considerably when unexpected problems were encountered

during the building programme such as under-sized roof joists, poor brickwork and structural problems.

The 'Eco Terrace' is currently valued at £80,000 and 'Twice the Terrace' at £130,000. They will go on sale in January 2010 - residents affected by the demolition of Skinnerthorpe and Bagley Roads will be offered first refusal until that date. Money from the sale of all the refurbished properties in Page Hall will be ploughed back into local housing projects.

Page Hall's recent renovation project proves that terrace houses can be transformed into modern and efficient homes, although at a higher cost than newer housing - over double the cost of standard alternatives in the case of wall insulation. With very few loans or grants available to individuals for such expensive measures, the Council's plan to "kick-start the regeneration of housing in the area" will fall to those with substantial personal funds.

**More details about the project can be found on our website.**

## New council housing

**The Council has submitted a bid to the government for new council houses in Burngreave and Fir Vale.**

The bid included 23 new family houses for the Ellesmere site, where the Old People's Home used to be. At the last minute, Earl Marshal was added for a further 20 houses. The bid was submitted in October - the result will be announced in December. If it is successful the houses will be completed by March 2012.

### No private developer for Earl Marshal

At Earl Marshal, formerly the site of Council flats, the Council have been attempting to sell the site to a developer to build between 60 and 80 new homes. Despite a number of attempts, no developers have taken on the project. Skinnerthorpe residents under threat of demolition have been waiting for new houses to be built so they could move into them. After 4 years, only a few families remain and, although there could be new houses, they will not be available to buy.

Councillor Bob McCann, Cabinet Member for Housing, said:

*"The original date for the Earl Marshal development will have to be revised in light of not securing a developer, but provided that we are successful in our bid, houses will be built by 2012. These houses would be built to high environmental standards, meaning lower fuel bills for tenants."*

## Grimesthorpe approved

**The controversial Redwall development gained full planning permission to build 44 new houses at Grimesthorpe Road in November.**

The application for the homes, which are up to 5 storeys high, was submitted over a year ago, alongside an application for 124 flats. The Council received 57 letters of objection, and a 28-signature petition from local residents, who said there were too many dwellings for the site and the buildings would be too tall, destroying wildlife and habitat.

Councillors approved the application, but publicly expressed anger that the developer had 'side-stepped' the rules on affordable housing. Any development of over 25 houses must have a percentage of affordable homes but the application was split in two, one of 20 houses and one of 24. The Messenger asked planning officers how this could have happened, they said:

*"It's a result of the ruling from the Planning Inspectorate, who over-turned the Council's previous decision to reject outline planning for this development. He stated that the applications should be treated separately as they were submitted separately."*

Redwall's application for 124 flats has now changed to an 80 bed-roomed nursing home and 93 flats. This has yet to be considered by the Planning Board and a decision is expected in the new year.



## Normandy Veterans meet

Story: John Mellor

Main photo: Cameron Rapheal-Storm

**Two World War 2 veterans who landed on the Normandy beaches (in June 1944) within 24 hours of each other, and now live within 5 minutes' walk in Carwood, had never met until 5th November 2009. It was fascinating to listen to their conversation and see the immediate rapport they made with each other through their shared wartime experiences.**

Both of them are now 85 years old, having been conscripted into the British Army when they were 18. Both still have vivid memories of what they saw and experienced of the brutality of the war, with many of their friends and fellow soldiers losing their lives.

Douglas Jones, better known to most of his friends as Taff or Taffy, was born in North Wales and served in the Guards Armoured Division as a radio operator. His father had fought in



the infantry in the First World War and Doug said about him:

*"My father had a bad time in that war, he was shell-shocked and gassed and never worked again after returning from the war."*

Ken Riley, a native of Sheffield, served in the Royal Armoured Corps, also as a radio operator. On the relative merits of the armaments used by both sides, Ken observed:

*"Churchill said that our armour was as good as that of the Germans, but it wasn't! Our armour-piercing shells bounced like peas off the 76-ton Panzer tanks - we had no chance against them. Our only defence against these tanks was the RAF."*

There followed a detailed discussion of the technical merits of the various guns and tanks they were required to operate. They also spoke of the mistakes that led to the high casualties (17,000) among the allied forces in the battle for Arnhem (1945). Ken explained:

*"The parachute regiments that landed in Holland had only enough food and ammunition for 2 or 3 days, but were not re-supplied for 10 days because the tanks could not reach them in time. Added to that, the strength of the German forces in the area was much greater than Field Marshall Montgomery had predicted. The forward troops had indeed gone 'a bridge too far'."*

Doug reflected that:

*"Although I hated the war, it was necessary to fight the evil of Nazism which was seeking to dominate the world. The other good thing about the war was the tremendous comradeship that developed between those of us who were fighting together."*

After two hours the conversation had to come to an end, but Doug and Ken promised to meet up again.

There could well be other war veterans in the Burngreave area who may not have had the opportunity to meet up with others who have had similar experiences. If you would like to make contact you can leave your details by phoning or e-mailing the Burngreave Messenger Office so that we can get in touch with you.

## Shirecliffe Community Centre

**On the 26th October Shirecliffe Community Centre unveiled a plaque to thank all those who had contributed to the building's refurbishment.**

The Centre, which reopened in 2007, was supported by local people who contributed between £10 and £1000 to buy a brick. The plaque acknowledges all those contributions which added £5000 to the funding pot and helped to pay for the building's new fittings.

Notable contributors were Jackie and Ian Drayton, MP David Blunkett, and the local Tesco.

The building is run by Shirecliffe Forum. Keith Donston, the Centre Manager, told the Messenger that the Centre has been going from strength to strength,

*"It's a real hub for all different generations in the community. The building is run not-for-profit, and we have an open door policy, so anyone can come and get involved."*

Among the Centre's users are the North Sheffield Federation for



the Disabled, Sure Start, the PCT and the Adventure Scouts. Everyone is welcome to come and try the new Pie, Peas and Bingo every Wednesday, at 7pm.

**For more information contact Keith Donston on 232 6201.**

# SOLID support for parents

Story: Laura Moya

**On Monday 2nd November we met up to have a chat with the members of "SOLID", a local group run by founder Vivian Osborne, whose aim is to provide help and support for the parents and families of prisoners in Sheffield. The group, which has been running for the past four years, is run entirely by volunteers and is based in the SYAC building on The Wicker.**

Over copious amounts of tea and biscuits we sat down to talk to Vivian and SOLID members to get a better idea of what a typical meeting is like, and to ask them of their experiences regarding their child's imprisonment. The meetings currently consist of four people who have been members since the group's foundation.

The group usually meets up on the first Monday of every month between 7:00 and 8:30pm, but meeting times can be flexible.

"Sometimes we meet more than once a month because some of our members require that extra support" said Vivian. "At the crisis point when their child goes to prison they just need someone to talk to" she continued, adding that the group is there as a place for members to offload their problems without the worry of being judged.

When the group first began, meetings involved ice breaking activities where members wrote down their name, their reason for coming along and any issues they had. One member recalls:

*"I didn't really know what to expect. When I first came, 4 years ago, I was the only white girl and I thought 'Am I supposed to be here?' I thought it was only for African-Caribbean people, but I knew I needed some help."*

The group has been particularly helpful for members when their loved ones were first convicted. There were no support groups in Sheffield at the time and SOLID is still the only support group of this kind available. The group is open to people from all backgrounds and communities, and provides a warm and supportive atmosphere, making new members welcome.

"That's why we felt it was important to have a group where you could talk about your issues" said Vivian. "When my son went to prison it was very much a shock and I didn't know where to turn."



All members agreed that it is essential for there to be moral support when the event first occurs. "You just need somebody to talk to" said one member. "You have all these thoughts mulling around your head...disbelief, shame, feeling like it's only happening to your family. In the support group you can tell people the truth... people sit there and let you finish what you're saying."

"I don't think people can truly understand unless it's happening to them," Vivian said, regarding support from family and friends. "The concern drops off...but you're still facing it on a daily basis."

One member continued, "As the parent, who do you talk to? The professionals involved are not there for the family, they have a job to do, and supporting families is a low priority."

The group also told us what it was like when visiting their child in prison, with one member saying: "For mothers, it's horrendous going through the search. It has to be done and there's no getting around it."

The group can help with long term issues regarding imprisonment, as well as providing a space for members to express their concerns and seek advice from others on the subject, who undoubtedly will understand what they are experiencing.

**If you are interested in joining SOLID, or just want to hear more about the group, get in touch with Vivian Osborne on 0114 2756301, or pop in to a meeting held every first Monday of the month between 7:00-8:30pm in the SYAC building on The Wicker.**

## Tale of Two Cities

Story: Douglas Johnson

**Burngreave residents can expect to live 15 years less than those living on the other side of Sheffield. The shocking figure shows that men in Burngreave only live to 74 and women to 77, whilst those in Lodge Moor, Fulwood and Millhouses survive until 89.**

The 'Tale of Two Cities' report, from the University of Sheffield, shows differences in education, health, housing, transport, unemployment, poverty and public spending across our city.

David Blunkett MP, who commissioned the report, points out that Sheffield

misses out on government funding because the very affluent west of the city brings the average wealth up. He argues that poor areas need more resources:

*"In simple terms, to narrow the gap between rich and poor - between inequalities in education and health, asset wealth and personal income - the family, the neighbourhood and community together have to be targeted."*

The report shows how Burngreave falls behind the rest of Sheffield, from birth to death. Babies in Abbeyfield are 5 times as likely to be of critical low birth weight, compared to Ranmoor. Children under 5 are far more likely to have damaged teeth in Abbeyfield and Woodside than in the west of the city. Only 75% of young people from Burngreave get their first choice of secondary school. This is similar to Nether Edge and Gleadless Valley but

far behind the rest of the city. In Dore and Totley, a typical 18-21 year old is more likely to be at an elite University, compared to national trends; in Woodside or Firshill, they are more likely to be unemployed. Mortality rates are a third above the national average and twice as high as Hallam constituency.

The sources are not always current and some people may see this report as an openly political attempt to use objective data to support Labour's "closing the gap" policy, abandoned when Labour lost control of the City Council. But above the party politics, it is a stark reminder of why politicians need to address real and entrenched poverty that affects all of us.

The full report can be read at <http://sasi.group.shef.ac.uk/research/sheffield/> or at the Local Studies Library.



# Volunteer Mentors

Story: Alice Carder

**On Wednesday 17th October 2007, 16-year-old Jonathan Matondo was shot in Nottingham Cliffe Rec. The community was shaken to the core as they tried to come to terms with what had happened.**

Adults and teenagers alike were shocked that something so tragic had happened right on their doorstep. Desperate to stop the violence and prevent this happening again, members of the community called for action for the young people of Burngreave.

"We'd like to think early intervention could be the cure," says Diane Johnson, a volunteer mentor with the Burngreave Mentoring Project (pictured third from right).

Diane has been a volunteer mentor for 5 months. In that time she has mentored two children.

"It's important for young people to have positive role models to talk to and learn from, to give them back some of the hope they may have lost," she said.

Diane has worked with children since leaving school and after completing a degree in Community Development in July, she decided she wanted to put it to good use.

*"I feel I can give something back to my community with what I've learnt at University. Our role is to have empathy and understanding with people and be someone they can talk to confidentially. We're not spies, we're just trying to help by giving up some of our time to support families and children."*

Young people are usually referred to the scheme through their school and spend between 6 and 12 months with their mentor.

*"They come in just needing support - you know they might be going to school but it's sporadic. Some of them just need coaching into learning to deal with issues inside and outside of school and in their family life. They just need that extra outside help for mum and dad and for themselves. We're there to give them a different perspective, to show them different ways of dealing with their problems."*



Newly trained mentors receive their certificates

*"We take them to museums, I've taken mine to the library, for something to eat. I might take them to the adventure playground or the park - just fun stuff, but you're getting to know that child and the child will probably discuss their anxieties with you."*

Diane has just started a job as a Family Advocacy Officer, helping families and children. She says mentoring has helped her settle into her new role.

*"If a family is in trouble and needs support, sometimes the children's attendance can slip. We get the parents up and running a good family life and that means that their kids can go to school, stay in school and do well. Mentoring is related to this and I think they both help each other."*

Diane recommends mentoring to anyone who wants to make a difference in their community:

*"It's rewarding. You feel as though you're giving something back to your own community. If you live in a community such as Burngreave, where it has got a reputation for all sorts of unfounded stuff, I would say 'go for it' because you're actually going to help your community. If you can just get in there and do something, if you can make a difference for one child out of ten, it's really rewarding."*

**For more details about becoming a Mentor, please contact: Jane Bennett or Julia Baker on Tel: 233 1189.**

## Mahya's study success

Story: Diane Haimeed

**16-year-old Mahya Abdullah is a Yemeni girl who came to the UK in 2001 aged 9. She was not able to speak any English and started at Hucklow Primary School in Y4. After moving to a number of schools, she settled at Firvale Secondary School in Y8.**

Despite the initial issues Mahya had to face, she has successfully achieved her 14 GCSEs which included A\* in Arabic, A in maths, 5 B's and the rest C's.

Family and friends were her biggest

motivators in succeeding. She emphasised just how much the support and encouragement had influenced her greatly and without it she believes that she wouldn't have reached her full potential. At home, her family has stressed the importance of attending school and doing well. Her friends also took the education system really seriously too and this helped increase Mahya's determination.

Another factor that contributed to her success is the Burngreave Study Support Project at the Yemeni Community Association, which Mahya joined in Y9. She explained,

*"The extra sessions and the revision classes gave me that extra confidence and help. The staff were very supportive and experienced in helping students*

*prepare for exams."*

Mahya is really proud of her achievements and is studying maths, physics, ICT and product design A-levels at Longley Park Sixth Form. One message she strongly believes in and would like to pass on to others is:

*"Have friends who are passionate in succeeding education-wise and that will be your key to open doors in the future. Also, take every opportunity available to you."*

For further details about the After-School Project, contact Diane Haimeed on 303 0141.

Educational help and support are available for young people aged 8-19 at the project.



# Apple Day

Story: Saleema Imam | Photos: Douglas Johnson

The Friends of Burngreave Cemetery celebrated National Apple Day on Sunday 25th October with a variety of activities in the chapel.

Alongside the Climate Change exhibition, Julian Brandran's display of delicious apple varieties for tasting pleased a number of visitors including May Norwood, "It was fun because there were lots of different apples and I love apples. Also the Treasure

hunt was cool." Thanks also to Kate and Susannah from Abundance who brought in a wheelbarrow full of locally picked fruit.

3 new apple trees funded by the Friends were planted near the adventure playground and more trees provided by the City Council will be planted in the cemetery on Monday December 14th. Come and help at 1.00pm.

Youngsters and their parents enjoyed the pumpkin carving and the Fair Trade Treasure Hunt which was won by Maya Williams-Hamm. Maya said, "I liked where the prizes were hidden and getting the bookmark."

The Cemetery Chapel is open every Sunday 12 noon to 2.00pm.

# Age well at Verdon Street

Story: Brent Moya



Whilst it doesn't have the same feel as the corridors of Parliament, Verdon Recreation Centre has long been the venue where Burngreave's more senior members can be found putting the world to rights.

Sessions take place every Wednesday from 1.30- 3.30pm and cater for the over 50's, welcoming men and women from all ethnic backgrounds. The group was founded some 22 years ago with over 100 original members and is still going strong to this day, albeit with a reduced entourage of 15. The group has only one original member, Madge, who is still going strong at 90 years of age, "I came here the first day it opened!" she said.



There are two external workers who keep an eye on proceedings, Imran Ali and Aislinn Adams are area and admin worker respectively. "There's a lot of story telling down here especially when they start being rude! They may be 50+ but they are young at heart and very active people," commented Aislinn.

"They are a self sustainable group and the fact that we plan the activities adds a touch of spontaneity to the meetings," said Imran.

The group's festive bulletin gives them much to look forward to, with a planned Christmas party on the 9th December and an outing on the 16th for a meal. This is an open group and new members are always encouraged to get involved and are welcome to drop in for a cup of coffee or contact Delia Chadwick at Verdon Recreation Centre on 249 1626.

For more information about activities at Verdon Street contact Aislinn on 249 1626.



# Interfaith Living Library

Story: Holly Law, St Catherine's School Council Secretary

**On Wednesday St Catherine's School held a Pupil Living Library to celebrate Interfaith Week. The idea for our Living Library was that pupils act as 'living books' and visitors could come and talk to the books to find out about their lives and experiences.**

Our 'books' were pupils from our school and Fir Vale who were from different faiths. They talked about their faith and what it means to them.



All the children had produced leaflets which explained important things about their faith. The event was a great success and lots of people came to speak to our 'books'. They were able to ask questions about different faiths and it was a great opportunity to ask something you have always wanted to know about the Muslim, Christian and Sikh faiths.

We think it was an important event as it encourages people in our community to have a better understanding of different faiths. One of our 'books' Isbah Aslam in Year 4 said,

*"I really enjoyed being part of the Living Library. I got asked lots of questions and I got to ask lots of questions too."*

## Islam awareness week

Story: Zia Khan

**Burngreave-based 1Ummah1 Islamic Youth Group visited a 99% non Muslim School as part of Islamic Awareness Week in November.**

Ecclesfield School invited the group to do workshops and question and answer sessions about the Muslim faith. Myself and Farhan Ahmed met one year 7 class who were doing a project on different religions. The class was full of questions about Islam - they asked, "What is Hajj?" "What is Ramadan?" They even asked questions to see if we were ordinary people, "Do you watch X Factor?" one child asked.

We also spoke to older children. Their questions included: "What do you believe about abortion and the life after death?" and "Why do women need to cover up?" We explained from both religious and personal views.

It was important to visit this school to teach children about other religions and for them to meet Muslims in person. They also increased their knowledge and understanding about Islam.

**For more information on 1Ummah1, contact: 07717 771630, email [info@1ummah1.co.uk](mailto:info@1ummah1.co.uk).**



## Faiths come together

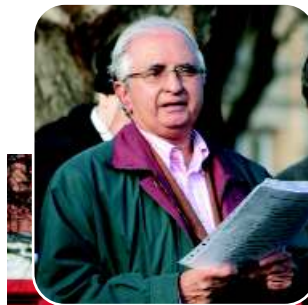
Story & photos: Cameron Raphael-Storm

**Sunday November 15th 2009 saw the start of England's first Interfaith week.**

In Burngreave, the start of Interfaith Week was celebrated by the coming together of representatives from various faith groups and their followers, to meet, discuss their views and sample differences in their styles of worship. In commemoration of the event they planted an Italian Stone Pine tree, also known as the Umbrella Pine and the European Nut Pine, at Ellesmere Green with Community Forester Leonie Kapadia.

As a firm believer in equality and diversity in faith, I was delighted to be welcomed at Burngreave Ashram (the Multifaith Chapel and Library), where I discussed differences in our approaches to faith with several people from various groups with intense interest before we made our way outside to attend the tree-planting.

Blessings were read from the scriptures of the multiple faiths attending and the tree was planted, observed by an impressive turnout from the local community. From here we made our way to lunch at Sorby House. After lunch, the attendees made their way to the Al-Rahman Mosque before also visiting Pitsmoor Methodist Church and finishing with an "Interfaith Pledge" at 4pm.





# Inside Page Hall

Page Hall is an amazing place. If you had any doubts, you only need spend five minutes looking at Richard Hanson's new exhibition to be sure.

Richard, a local resident and photographer, was commissioned to put together an exhibition about Page Hall, which has been on display in the Pakistan Advice Centre in October and November.

The exhibition, called 'Inside Out', includes interviews with Page Hall residents who are very different but are all united by their affection for the area, from residents who have lived there just a month to one resident who has been there for over 70 years. People talked about their hobbies and businesses, what they liked about they area and what got on their nerves. Richard said,

*"I started working in Page Hall in May and have interviewed and visited around twenty residents for the Inside Out project. I've also tried to capture a feel of the area in its architecture and public spaces through regular visits. The interviews reflect both people's pride in their homes and the community and businesses they've built, as well as something of the frustrations a lot of people feel at living conditions in the area."*

The photos are stunning and, despite any problems Page Hall struggles with, it's easy to see why it's a place to be proud of.

Richard's book of the exhibition can be ordered via Hannah Gibbins from the East Regeneration Team on 256 2182.

## Interviews & photos by Richard Hanson

### Ken Hicks

*In 1937, when my mother was first married and I was born, we lived in lodgings. Then, when I was three years old, this house became available for rent. At that time, my father, Ernest Hicks, was in the army and wherever he was stationed in this country, me and my mother would go and stay near him. We were intending to go and see him and this house became vacant, and my mother's father advised us to take this house instead.*



*Well, the next time we saw my dad he'd been to Dunkirk fighting the Germans. The army was rescued from the beaches of Dunkirk and my dad was amongst those evacuated. When he came home, we went to the cinema. It was the blackout - everything was blacked out in the streets and when we got back, someone had burgled the house. Well there was no money or anything like that, but the food was on ration and they'd taken a cake that my mother had made welcoming my dad home.*

*I suppose everyone has roots and a certain place becomes special because you're born there. There have been good aspects and bad aspects of living around here but I have some fond memories.*

*The people for instance - the chap who lived opposite, Cyril Parkin, he lived in the same house all his life. My mother knew him from a boy. They used to go to his father's allotment garden when they were kids.*

*People tended to settle more. We live in a very unsettled world now, people living somewhere then selling up and going somewhere else. I used to know more people in the area than I do now.*

*Just over the wall from me on Page Hall Road, my mother's father, Gilbert Appleyard, ran a sweet and ice cream*

*shop, although his trade was carpentry. He made his own ice cream. He didn't have a fridge in those days - you just packed it with ice to make the ice cream.*

*But some of the happiest days of my life were spent there on Page Hall Road, just playing in the yard and that ...*

### Raied Ahmed

I've been trading here about eight months now and it's not bad. Sometimes you see regular customers, sometimes you see different people, some new ones. We've only got one problem though: it's those double yellow lines outside.

I'm from Yemen originally. There's a community centre at the top of Fir Vale. There's a mosque just here. This is a good place. The Pakistan Advice Centre are very helpful. They help me, they cook dinners for old people, they do parties and help disabled people.

I've been living in page Hall for seven or eight years. I've got so many friends here. I hope it gets better in the next five years - I mean new things, new clubs for the kids to give them something to do, especially in summertime. That's all, try to change it to better things.

You can't say nothing about Page Hall. Page Hall is Page Hall, that's all.





## PITS exhibition

Local parents group PITS celebrated their summer of fun and achievement with an exhibition of photos in the City Centre.



The exhibition included photos taken by young people during summer workshops, along side images by photographer Anwar Suliman, showing all the different activities the PITS group had made happen. These included a trip to the Slavery Museum in Liverpool, music and dance workshops, and the clean up at Denholm Close playground.

Parents, children and special guests gathered on 19th October to open the

exhibition, at the new Voluntary Action Sheffield Building, the Circle. Parents spoke with passion about what they had done, saying;

*"This is just the beginning, we've done a lot, but now we want to get on with providing positive activities for our young people."*

There were a lot of people to thank, which showed how much support the group had gathered around them, from workers at Verdon Recreation Centre, to Streetworx and the Council. Local resident Sophie Mei, who featured on 'Britain's Got Talent' in 2007, was a guest speaker. "I'm really proud of the area I come from. Pitsmoor is full of talent, and we've got to tell people about it," she said.

Through the summer the PITS group have been working to set themselves up, they now have a constitution and an office at Verdon Street. They are also running three sessions for young people per week. Their sights are still set on sorting out Denholme Close playground, and on accessing the training to provide young people with activities in the long term.



## Christmas Party and Talent Show

**Saturday 19th December**

5-9pm at Verdon Recreation Centre

Everyone welcome

Talent show for 6 year olds upwards – adults too!

Come along to one of the weekly sessions to sign up

Contributions of food welcome

Contact PITS for more information  
07949 836 918

### Weekly sessions – at Verdon Recreation Centre and the Furnival

Wednesday 6-8pm – Breakdance and streetdance, drama

Friday 6-8pm – Breakdance and photography

Saturday 6-8pm – Music workshop

## Alan Johnson visit

Story: Richard Belbin | Anwar Suliman

**Current Home Secretary, Alan Johnson, visited Burngreave last month with David Blunkett MP to look at work in the community to combat knife and gun crime.**

After touring the Vestry Hall, Mr Johnson met with PITS at the Furnival to discuss their work providing positive activities for local young people. He heard how the parents had set up activities and classes, as well as working with local schools like Pye Bank to allow greater use of their facilities for the community.

The group told Mr Johnson about the importance of schooling and how the



education system was failing young people, boys especially, from working-class areas and backgrounds and how schools should be working more closely with parents.

Speaking to the BBC after the meeting,

Mr Johnson said:

*"The group is inspirational. When I go to the north-east and Merseyside and to communities in the south-east, I can put them in touch with the PITS group as an example of best practise."*



# Beacons at Parkwood Springs

Story & photos: Laura Moya

**'Beacons – The Final Spark' was an event not to be missed by fire enthusiasts and families alike in Sheffield on 24th October at Parkwood Springs.**

The event, which is the final part of a three-fold story, portrayed the life of a man trying to live his life in two worlds whilst fulfilling his mission before time caught up with him.

The crowd was led through the woods and told the story through rhyme and riddles, which the crowd could solve along the way to the peak of Parkwood Springs, where there was a fire display with dance at the culmination of the event.

The Beacons trilogy started in 2007, and has been an annual event at Parkwood Springs, led by storyteller, Shonaleigh.



## Blastoff comes to Burngreave

**Blastoff is the football on your doorstep initiative from Activity Sheffield. It's open to boys and girls aged 11 – 13 and 14 – 16 years.**

Burngreave had its first ever Blastoff final on Friday 6th November at Fir Vale Sports Centre. Despite the cold wet weather 9 teams entered the tournament. The winners and runners up for each group have now qualified to represent the area in the Blastoff City Wide Competition on Friday 27th November!

The Burngreave Blastoff will be held some time in February / March so keep a look out for the promotion. In the mean time the Blastoff team will be running a



community training session every Wednesday 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm at Verdon Recreation Centre.

Linked to Blastoff is a weekly 5-a-side football league called Friday 5ives which is held at Concord Sports Centre every Friday between 5.00 pm and 7.00 pm. All you need to do is to get together with your mates and enter a team. No booking needed, just turn up on the night!

**For more information please contact the Blastoff team on 0114 205 3725. Alternatively if you would like more information relating to other sport and physical opportunities in the area please contact Nick Gill North East Development Officer on 273 6496**

*Blastoff is a partnership event between Activity Sheffield, Sheffield Futures and South Yorkshire Police*



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

**SMOKEFREE SHEFFIELD**

**Christmas at St Peter's Ellesmere**

**Sunday 29th November 10.30am**  
**CAFÉ CHURCH**  
 Come and make Christmas cakes and puddings and decorations

**Sunday 13th December 4pm**  
**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**  
 A special service for children  
 Come and sing carols by candlelight

**Sunday 20th December 10.30am**  
**CAROL SERVICE**  
 All your favourites old and new, followed by mince pies and coffee

**Thursday 24th December 11.30pm**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE : MIDNIGHT SERVICE**  
 Over at Pitsmoor Methodist Church

**Friday 25th December 10am**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
 Come and give thanks for the birth of Jesus  
**ALL WELCOME**

**ST PETER'S CHURCH,  
 LYONS CLOSE,  
 ELLESMERE**

**Rainbow's End 1st Birthday**

It's a year since the Rainbow's End shop opened on Spital Hill. We want to say a big thank you for all your support so... Come and celebrate with us!

**Week of Celebration**

Saturday 5th December 10.30am-5pm  
**Collections and Antiques event**

Thursday 10th December 4-7pm  
**Coffee, cake and carols**

Saturday 12th December 10.30am-5pm  
**Free Santa's Grotto**  
 There will be a present for each child

For more information about these and other events contact Yvonne on 07954 149 297.

Rainbow's End Community Charity Shop, Sorby House, Spital Hill.

**Are you passionate about improving the health of those around you?**

**Are you friendly and enthusiastic?**

**Do you want to help others to eat healthily, be physically active and improve their mental wellbeing?**

**Do you want to gain useful skills and experience through volunteering?**

**We need you to become a Community Health Champion!**

- New challenges
- Gain 6 months experience with a reference at the end
- Gain skills, experience and knowledge
- Support and training packages provided
- Become part of a team
- Turn your skills and experiences into something employers will recognise

**For more information contact Richard at The Furnival on 0114 272 7497, or e-mail [richard@thefurnival.org.uk](mailto:richard@thefurnival.org.uk)**

**NHS Sheffield**

**Community Health Champions**

# Cultural learning

Story: Lisa Swift

**More than 150 Somali residents gathered at Sorby House in October for an amazing day of culture and learning.**

Men, women, children and young people took part in the event organised by the Federation of community Development and Learning, supported by the Somali Mental Health Project (MAAN)

Adults shared nomadic Somali traditions with each other and the young people. Women sang and told stories, and the men shared poetry, which is an important part of Somali tradition and life.

A talk about life in Somalia by British farmer, Hamish Wilson, amazed the Somali audience. Hamish lived in Somalia for many years and has set up a

farm in Wales, called Degmo, which works with Somali communities to promote understanding of Somali culture and history. His use of Somali words was greeted with great pleasure from the crowd.

His talk looked at every part of traditional Somali life from the importance of Camels, to the skills needed to survive on very few resources. It helped express the complexities of nomadic life, which are just as complex as the city based lives that Somali young people face in Britain.

Somali young people (pictured) spoke about their recent trip to the Degmo farm, which for some was their first time



outside Sheffield. The farm is used as a place to gain experience of looking after animals, but also gives a context to talk about traditional Somali life.

The project plans to go on to work with the Kurdish and Eritrean communities. Future plans may include joint cultural events.

**For more information contact Emma at MAAN on 275 8556.**

# Empowering parents

Story: Vivien Urwodhi | Photo: Cameron Raphael-Storm

**The Parents Can Empowerment workshop was held at SADACCA on Thursday 12th November. It was one of four workshops to support African-Caribbean parents and was well attended by parents and workers.**



The event was hosted by speaker Sean Deer from the Black Boys Can Association and Nigel Best from a Nottingham city school. They inspired parents with their eagerness for children to do well in education.

Before the main speaker, Mr Deer played a game to see if parents and other attendees would get involved. He borrowed a £2 pound coin and he asked if anybody would swap it for a £1 coin. But many were reluctant to pull money out of their pocket. At that moment he spotted that parents did not trust him and he compared it to the fact that most parents don't participate in school or become involved because they don't trust the school system.

The main speaker Nigel Best provided a lot of information concerning the progress of black students at the key stages. He excitedly confirmed that most of the black boys do well in primary key stages but, when they get on to Key Stages 3, their

progress worsens and they fall behind their classmates.

He stated that some of the reasons relate to insufficient black or other ethnic minority teachers and added that they have few role models.

He also spoke about young people's career paths, remembering when he questioned a few of his pupils about their future ambitions. Many of them just wanted to copy what their classmates' expectations were. He strongly argued for parents to work closely with their children on making choices about school subjects, to help children choose subjects they can do well in.

The speaker addressed the issue of exclusion and explained that a greater number of young black pupils are excluded from school. He argued that parents shouldn't ignore the situation; they have to keep on pursuing and finding out more about their child's offence. They should ask questions and get advice.

In addition, he advised parents to support their children with any kind of difficulties they face at school by helping them to hand in homework and to arrive on time. They should also attend parents' evenings and become school governors to ensure their child's success and progress in school.

The atmosphere was fabulous and the room was full of silence as people listened, but they also asked a lot of questions and contributed comments.

*"What do you do with kids that are not coping in the classroom? This issue is not debated enough."*

*"I've seen pupils in year 10 and 11 put on work placements to get them out of schools because of behaviour, so they are not doing the core subjects and not getting their qualifications. How can schools get away with this?"*

*"A teacher might say your child is doing all right, but it's important that, even if they are doing well, they are still challenged to do better."*

*"It's good that OFSTED are now looking at how children progress in a school not just at what the exam results are."*



# Our younger days

## Firshill History Group

Story: Marion Graham

**A little while ago we were asked by one of our local schools if we could talk to a class of 7-8 year olds about our lives when we were their age. Three of our group were faced with about 30 children bursting with questions about what it was like to live 50 years ago!**

We spent a really enjoyable afternoon talking about all kinds of things, from the type of clothes we wore to what we did to fill our time "when there was no TV or computer". They really found it hard to understand how we could manage without these and how could we keep in touch with our friends when there was not a phone in every house, let alone a mobile phone. But they were all very interested and they did in fact stir up a few memories for us. Here are some of the things we remembered - perhaps they might stir a few memories for you too.

**Listening to the radio**, which we called the wireless, because none of us had TV until about the 50s. There were music programmes; variety shows; quizzes; children's hour.

**Wind-up gramophones** that played records which would break if you dropped them and where you had to put a new "needle" into the playing arm very often. Later we had radiograms which combined radio and record playing.

**The theatres** were mostly visited only at Christmastime when pantomimes were put on although the Theatre Royal did



**Left:** Janet Boam (on the right), in the 1950s

**Above:** Lewis Boam on holiday with his parents in 1927

**Below:** Brenda Franklin (middle second row) All Saints School.

admit 2 for the price of 1 for Monday night dress rehearsals!

**Saturday morning picture shows** for children were provided at many of the cinemas.

We would pay a few pence to go into the cinema for a couple of hours and we would see cartoons, cowboy films with Roy Rogers or Gene Autrey, etc, and early sci-fi serials like Flash Gordon and Buck Rodgers which kept us guessing what would happen next for a whole week until the following episode. We had Tarzan played by Johnny Weismuller always accompanied by Jane and his pet chimp called Cheetah who, with hindsight, was probably a much better actor than many of the rest of the cast!



There were lots more things we had for entertainment - mostly not costing very much and quite a few that we just made up amongst ourselves. We managed very well without the assistance of computers, telephones or television and looking back we feel that we had a good time growing up with our family and friends.



## Firshill community day

Firs Hill's 'Walking Wonderland' took shape in September, with murals, signposts and pavement markings along the journey from Sheffield Academy to St Catherine's School.

It's hoped the new additions to the route will encourage children and parents who drive to use the Sheffield Academy car park and allow their children to walk down the hill to school, to help prevent problems at the school gates. Future plans include double yellow lines and a pedestrian crossing.

The project was organised by Firs Hill Tenants and Residents Association, with practical help from Wates Construction and University students. Pauline West from the TARA said,

*"I want to say a great big thank-you to Wates and their staff for all their hard work on 18th September in steam-cleaning many of our paths, litter picking, strimming and putting up the pictures that the University (Just Do It) students painted, on the Academy Wall. They look fantastic."*

The memorial bench for the former Chair of the Residents Association, Jean Hayden, was also installed outside the Sheffield Academy.

**For more information about the TARA's activities, contact their office on 256 0337 or call in Tuesday or Wednesday 10am-12noon.**

## Eid celebration

Story: Diane Haimeed

**On Saturday September 26th, 300 women and children attended an Eid party organised by the Yemeni Community Association.**

Many women from all over Sheffield attended, they were happy that the party was organised for women only and



they could bring their children with them. It was good to see the young children running around, having fun. A wide variety of music was played, prizes were handed out from a raffle and everyone enjoyed a lovely meal.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who helped to organise and make this day a huge success. Munzilla Abdulla, a local pensioner, said "I felt that the Eid party was extremely entertaining. It allowed us women to get together and celebrate Eid with family and friends at the same time."



## Abbeyfield Road's party!

Story: John Wood | Photo: Andy Stockton

**On 27th September, residents of 30 houses on Abbeyfield Road met for food, fun, games and – more than anything – to get to know each other better.**

The original idea was for a street party, to get people having fun together in a planet-friendly way, but we ended up in St. James' Community Hall. Everyone had a good time: there was a fantastic spread of food; the children were busy with face painting, henna, paper aeroplanes and craft modelling. A silly quiz and "Abbeyfield Road's Got Talent" involved adults and showed what everyone could do. It certainly helped neighbours get to know each other: at Halloween, families that had first met properly at the party went trick-or-treating together.

"It was great because there was stuff for the kids to do as well as the adults," said May, aged 9.

"Wasn't it lovely to see everyone together? I want to make it bigger next time, with stalls," said Nazia. It looks like being the first of many.

## Write Horizons

These stories are from a group of local writers, who meet in the area once a week. We write poems and stories some fact some fiction, enjoying one another's company and sharing ideas and encouragement

### I Wonder...

If I wasn't here would I be missed?  
I wonder as I write my shopping list.  
Would anyone remember to pay the bills  
or wipe off the dirt on the window sills?  
Of course they would I hear myself say  
but would they do it without any pay?

### December thoughts

Once, long ago in Bethlehem a baby boy was born in a stable. This was not an ordinary boy but the son of God. Three wise men came to visit him with gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. Glory shone around as it was the most beautiful experience anyone could ever have.

Today I get have the same feeling again as I look in churches and at all the Christmas treasure. Christmas to me is a time of light, happiness and peace. I still get excited at opening my gifts on Christmas day, although I am 67 years old I feel like a little girl again. I love the atmosphere of Christmas, with family, friends and the giving and receiving of gentle hugs.

### All Hallows Eve

It was 11.30pm on All Hallows Eve and I was walking home from the Halloween dance at the Vestry Hall. The sky was lit by a harvest moon with black clouds skidding across its face from time to time. Leaves rustled in the orchard as I walked passed. I had taken the short cut by the village church and at once begun to wish I hadn't. The ancient Saxon tower glowed in the moonlight and cast an eerie presence on the scene. An old village legend recounted by old Mrs. Bloone at the dance rang in my ears. It had taken place in the reign of James 1 when Mathew Hapkins, witchfinder general, had come to the village and accused a local lass, Sarah Parish, of witchcraft. Mathew led the villagers in a chase, screaming and shouting at the terrified woman as she ran for sanctuary towards the church. Just before the porch door the mob caught her and dragged her screaming into the orchard and burnt her at the stake.

It occurred to me that this incident had taken place on this very night of All Hallows Eve. Had I imagined it or had a distinct chill descended the air? I started to quicken my step. Was that a movement in the hedgerow? Perhaps it had not been a good idea to walk this way. What was I thinking, it is the 20th century after all! As I walked on an odious smell began to assail my nostrils. I couldn't think what it was but it reminded me of burnt flesh.

Someone was behind me. I picked up my heels and began to run. The presence of what ever it was also quickened its pace. I weaved this way and that, stumbling off the path and into a cornfield. The cloud obscured the moon light and I heard a piecing scream. I ran as fast as my legs would allow me, my heart thumping in my chest as I thundered round the corner of the lane. I risked a glance behind me but fell over an old tree stump. I quickly picked myself up and ran the last few hundred yards towards my cottage door. Fumbling with my key and fear in every movement I at last fell in on the mat and slammed the door fast behind me. I dashed to the fire place and grabbed the old wooden cross from the mantelpiece and stood holding it by the door while singing in a weedy voice 'rock of ages'. My scotch terrier, Jess, joined in my howling until I realised that all was still outside.

I fell gasping into the armchair with Jess on my lap. Whatever had chased me had gone but I held the cross tightly and gave thanks. I prepared to sit in the chair until dawn lit the sky and I made a resolution there and then never, ever to go to the village Halloween dance again!



## BNDfC Succession Plans

As we reported in the last edition of The Messenger the process of obtaining approval for the Succession Plans of BNDfC is now well underway. We took our plans to Sheffield City Council cabinet in October and were successful in having them endorsed by the Council as being the way forward for BNDfC and allowing the community to benefit from any surplus we generate for our buildings.

This approval allowed us to submit the Succession Plan to the Department of Communities and Local Government at the end of October and we are now in consultations with the department with a view to getting their approval in early 2010.

At the Open Day in September we invited names for the trading arm of the charity to be put forward. Very few options were provided so we are going to ask the Secondary schools in our area to work with us to create not only the name of the company but also to design a corporate identity for the company and to produce artwork for stationery, publications and possibly the website

## New Arrival at BNDfC

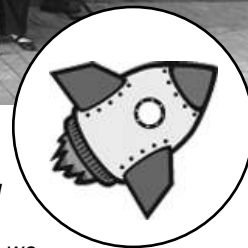
Following the announcement in respect of our Succession Strategy, we have put into place our first strand of the strategy by appointing our Executive Asset Manager Jeremy Diskin. Jeremy



will be tasked with the running of all our assets to ensure that they perform to their full potential. He has been in post a couple of months and is already making significant progress on the way the portfolio operates and the occupancy levels. He comments, "This is a tremendous challenge to deliver a surplus from the buildings to reinvest into the community and despite the current economic climate, my team and I are relishing it as we can all see the long term benefit."

Jeremy is an experienced property professional with over 25 years' experience of property gained in a wide variety of roles throughout the region.

## New partner at Vestry Hall



As the Messenger goes to press we are delighted to announce that we have agreed terms with a new partner and tenant at Burngreave Vestry Hall:- Launchpad, a project working with adults with learning difficulties.

*"Our students travel from all over the city and we have around 80 students who we work with, some come every day and some for a session a week.*

Jeremy Diskin, Executive Asset Manager of BNDfC commented, "This is a fantastic opportunity for Burngreave Vestry Hall to become the vibrant place we all envisaged it would be. Launchpad has many ideas as to how they can help their clients be integrated into the community by using Burngreave Vestry Hall to develop their social enterprises and other activities."

*"We have raised some money to put in a sensory room and will be offering some alternative therapies to our students. We are going to set up some small businesses which will employ some of our students, these will include a specialist travel agent.*

Sue Lane, Launchpad's Manager says, "Launchpad is a registered charity which has been operating since November 2007. We provide training, leisure activities, volunteering opportunities, employment, holidays and development opportunities to adults and young people with learning difficulties, including those on the autistic spectrum, individuals with sensory impairments, complex needs, dual diagnosis and challenging behaviour.

*"Some of our groups are available to a wider audience including Karate and Yoga so if you want to know more come along and see us.*

*"We will be opening our community café everyday and hope you will drop in for a cup of coffee and a chat. It would be lovely to meet you all."*

You can find out about Launchpad on their website on [www.launchpad.btik.com](http://www.launchpad.btik.com).

*"We have been looking for a permanent home for some time and Vestry Hall seems to meet all of our needs, we are looking forward to being part of a local community where we can make new friends and feel like we belong.*

**Vestry Hall and the Rooms are still available for use, with discounted rates for residents and community organisations. Please contact Tracey McKenzie at Burngreave Vestry Hall on 213 3800 or visit [www.burngreavevestryhall.webs.com](http://www.burngreavevestryhall.webs.com)**

## North East Plan agreed

Over 50 people attended the second formal business meeting of the North East Community Assembly at Shirecliffe Community Centre on 21st October. Members of the public were shown to their seats and served refreshments by young people from Parkwood Academy who also took photos of the event.

At the meeting the Community Plan was agreed, it will be the basis for the work of the Assembly team working alongside partners to address issues and improve services. It is based on information from local 'You Say' consultation activities, public meetings in the 4 wards, feedback from Councillors and relevant statistics. The plan outlines 10 priority areas where attention will be focussed:

- 1 Clean, tidy, greener streets to be proud of
- 2 Improving parks and open spaces
- 3 Community support and people getting on together
- 4 More things for children and young people to do
- 5 Neighbourhoods where people feel safe
- 6 Improving roads and transport
- 7 Local housing supply and quality
- 8 Reducing health inequalities – adding years to life and life to years
- 9 Getting people into work and out of poverty
- 10 Build on improvements in educational attainment, improved aspiration and reduced school exclusions.

The following funding was also agreed:

### Burngreave Ward

Community Chest (£2000), Shirecliffe Forum (£6000), 2 extra Bring Our Your Rubbish Days (£2412), Neighbourhood Warden patrols in Shirecliffe (£1800), Festive Lights (£5000), Garden Pledge (£5000), Extension of library opening hours (£2800), Communications and cohesion project (£6000), Mobile surveillance camera (£11036), Street Trees (£4000). Total - £46,048

### Community Assembly Wide

You Choose (£8000), New Year's Honours (£12000), Neighbourhood Environmental Action Teams (£26000). Total - £46,000

Other items discussed were the Highways Budget, Bring Out Your Rubbish days and the Community Involvement Plan.

### Looking for funding?

The North East Community Assembly has set up a Community Chest fund for local groups who can apply for up to **£200** to make a difference in their area.

Unlike previous funding the decision on which projects are successful will be made by local people.

Groups will be asked to fill in a simple form. If the application fulfils the criteria then the groups will be asked to provide a display for the Area Ward Meetings in January.

**The deadline for applications is 6th December.**

### What would you choose?

Come along and decide how funds are spent in your ward.

Come along and vote for your favourite project. The projects that receive the most votes will be allocated the funding. Groups will find out if they are successful on the day.

**Burngreave Ward meeting  
Tuesday 19th January,  
at Fir Vale School**

Starts at 5.30pm with a buffet and your chance to vote, followed by the local Area Ward meeting 6.30-8.30pm.

The next meeting formal business meeting of the North East Community Assembly is 10th February from 6-8pm at the Vestry Hall, Burngreave Road

### New Years Honours 2010

Wanted, nominations for the North East Community Assembly New Years Honours 2010

We are inviting you to nominate individuals, community groups or paid workers who have done over and above for their community who you feel deserve recognition for the work that they do on behalf of and for the benefit of the North East Community Assembly.

Could this be your local community group, your neighbour, your teacher... or even you?

**Please ring or email us with your nomination before 20th January 2010.**



### Firth Park Christmas Festival 10th December from 3.30pm

Fireworks and Christmas Lights switch on by Rt Hon David Blunkett at 5.30

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communityassemblynortheast  
@sheffield.gov.uk,

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



### Councillor Surgery Dates

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

**12 December:** Steve Jones,  
11am–12noon Burngreave Library,  
2.15pm–1pm Firshill Tara

**15 December:** Steve Jones,  
11am–12pm Shirecliffe Centre and  
12.15–1pm Norwood/Bishopsholme

**17 December:** Steve Jones, 2pm–3pm  
Pakistan Advice Centre

**26 December:** Ibrar Hussain,  
11am–12noon Burngreave Library

**January dates to be confirmed.**

Telephone: 0114 2735 588 or email:

[steve.jones@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:steve.jones@sheffield.gov.uk)

[ibrar.hussain@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:ibrar.hussain@sheffield.gov.uk)

[jackie.drayton@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:jackie.drayton@sheffield.gov.uk)

# Underwood House

Story: Christina White

I joined the local history class this year and as part of the course we were asked to undertake a research project of our own choice. I went to school at the Convent High School on Burngreave Road which was a large house that had been extended. I thought it would be interesting to find out when the house had been built and who had lived there. Most of you now will know the building as St Catherine's Nursing Home. By using internet research sites and the local history library I was able to find out quite a lot about the house and its occupants.

## A family home

The first reference I can find to the house is in the census of 1841 when it is referred to as Underwood House and its occupants are Henry Cadman aged 30, his wife Ann aged 25, and two children Henry and Charles. Henry and Ann brought nine children up at the house, the last being born in 1853. Henry's brother Edwin and his family lived next door in the Poplars for a short time before moving to Westbourne House at Fulwood.

Henry and Edwin inherited a steel company from their father Charles Cadman. Henry is referred to in the census of 1851 as a steel merchant. He must have been quite a prominent figure in the city at that time because in 1860 he was made a freeman of the city. He died in 1886 and left an estate of £6,837. Shortly after his death the family moved out of Underwood House.

## Doctor in residence

Doctor George Robinson (surgeon) and his wife Emily moved into Underwood House in the late 1880s and they were there until the late 1890s. Doctor Robinson had previously lived at 1 - 3 Burngreave Road and these premises were still used as his surgery. In the late 1890s Doctor Robinson moved back to live at his surgery.

Doctor Robinson and his wife had an adopted daughter Kathleen Johanna Thompson who married Doctor John Weir in the early 1920s. Doctor Weir practiced in the area all his life and he took over the surgery in Burngreave Road from Doctor Robinson. Doctor Weir's son Doctor W Weir Jnr also practiced in the area and many older residents of Burngreave area may well remember him.



Ref: YO2402

## Convent and Private School

The house was bought around the turn of the twentieth century by the Catholic Church to be a convent and private school. The Sisters of Mercy came to Sheffield in 1883 from a convent in Commercial Road, London's East End, to teach at St Catherine's School. Initially they lived in Andover Street before moving to Underwood House. In Kelly's Directory dated 1902 it is listed as "St Catherine's Roman Catholic Convent Middle Class High School and School of Music." The Lady Superior was a Mrs Snn McDonald. The school did not have many pupils at this time and they were all of various ages.

In the early 1930s the school was considerably extended and a brochure was produced for prospective pupils. The fees were ten guineas per annum payable in advance of each school term. A reduction was made for two or more pupils. The aim of the school was to give the children a thoroughly sound education. The subjects to be covered were English, Latin, French, German, mathematics, drawing and elocution.



Ref: YO2400

In the local history library I found a number of Christmas calendars from the late 1930s that had been sent to the parents of the pupils. These listed events that had taken place during the year and included details of both past and present pupils, covering marriages, children being born, academic achievement, and celebrations. The following are two extracts from the calendars:-

*"One of our most successful garden parties was held on Saturday June 27th 1937. It was opened by the Lord Mayor of Sheffield (Alderman F Thraves J.P.) and his wife was also present. She was presented with a bouquet by little Cecily Dawson. The dances were all beautifully performed the favourite items being 'Shepherd and Shepherdess' by the juniors and 'Minnette' by the babies."* (1937)



Ref: YO2391

*"On Thursday, October 21st 1938, we had a half-holiday for the visit to Sheffield of the King and Queen (Queen Elizabeth's mother and father). Those privileged ones who viewed the procession from the convent grounds, were very fortunate, for the royal car moved along very slowly, and the King gave us the friendliest of greetings, and the Queen the loveliest of smiles. We shall remember this wonderful day all our lives, and it is no exaggeration to say that the majesties won our hearts."* (1938)

It must be remembered that the convent was not only a school but also a place where all the Sisters of Mercy who worked in the area lived and worshipped. Many of the nuns were teachers at the local schools.

The school was renamed at some stage to become the Convent High School and did very well up to the 1970s. Pupil numbers fell at the end of the seventies and the school eventually closed in the early eighties. It was the last of the private schools to close in the area.

I attended this school in the 1960s. They were very happy days.

Dear Messenger...



Write to: Abbeyfield Park House, Abbeyfield Road, Sheffield S4 7AT

Dear Messenger,

I would like to thank New Deal for the computers they handed out. The fact that lots of people never got one really riles me. I went down to Sorby House on Monday at 9am sharp. However on arriving at the door there were numerous people outside. A list of names was being read out. To my surprise only 35 people were allowed into the building. There were apparently only 21 computers to give away. It was embarrassing being left outside. Is it not obvious to the organisers that more than 21 people live in Burngreave? And come on, did they really think exactly 21 people would turn up? The whole thing was organised badly. For starters it seemed that it was mainly males that walked off with a computer. Could this be because women had to drop off kids to schools before getting to the Vestry Hall? I thought that the building was open at nine o'clock not earlier, but names were already taken down on a list, so not many people had a chance anyway. A lot of people were very, very disappointed. Good luck to those that actually got one. And very, very bad luck to those that really needed one and were turned away.

Diane Johnson Fox street Burngreave.

**BNDFC responds:**

We did consider the best way to dispose of the computers and after consideration it was agreed that a 'first come first served approach' would be the most equitable method of disposal and this was clearly outlined in the Messenger advert.

On the day of the disposal the people began to queue from 4:30 am and at 9:00 am we decided to commence the process of checking eligibility with the first batch of applicants being taken in, to allow Sorby House to function as an office building and to prevent people waiting for a computer if they had all been allocated.

We tried to keep those who were waiting at Sorby House informed of the situation about timing, number of computers and

eligibility requirements. We never envisaged the level of response that we received, all of the surplus computers from the organisation were allocated for disposal to the community, we could have given them away three times over.

From our records the allocation of computers was 55% to males, 45% to females.

We appreciate that a great number of people were disappointed not to be allocated a computer and would have liked to be able to give more away but we simply did not have the numbers required.

Dear Messenger,

It was with a feeling of sadness that I read in the October edition of the closing of the Hallcar Tavern. The Tavern was one of the first pubs I visited on reaching 18. For two years (1958/59) my girlfriend and I would call in on a Thursday and Friday for the last hour and very often spend Saturday and Sunday night with friends in the concert room. Most of the regulars were from the Carwood Lane area but us outsiders were still welcomed. Mind you, we had to be careful if we went into the snug or the dram shop (where ladies didn't venture) as most of the seats were spoken for by the regulars. After closing time there was the dreaded walk up the very steep Carwood Lane onto Grimesthorpe Rd and then the flight of steps to Scott Rd, which I believe are still there. That walk was quite a challenge, especially in winter - the Carwood Lane sledging track was probably the fastest in the district.

Some of my memories of that area were going to watch cricket on Smith's Field by walking down Carwood Terrace and climbing a ladder over the wall. The cricket pitch was on a fairly steep slope and the outer fieldsmen were actually lower down than the batsmen. If we were lucky we would get to put the score up on the score board. The houses on Carwood Terrace surrounded an open area of grass land and the annual Guy Fawkes bonfire was attended by every one from around the area. At the bottom of Carwood Lane where it ran into Carwood Rd. was a beer-off grocery store, across the road was Carwood fish and chip shop, further down on the corner of Carwood Rd and Petre St was Billy Limb's butchers and across the road on the other corner was another beer-off that my grandmother had during the war and just after.

Gordon Lawton Renmark South Australia

## Photography exhibition

Christchurch Pitsmoor is hosting a mini-exhibition of photographer Richard Hanson's 'Light of the World' project

from 28th November, and will continue during advent (the four weeks running up to Christmas). The project is on-line at [hansonphoto.co.uk/lightoftheworld.html](http://hansonphoto.co.uk/lightoftheworld.html) Christchurch will be open for the Christmas services and events. You can find updates on their website [www.christchurchpitsmoor.com](http://www.christchurchpitsmoor.com).



## Soft Soap

Soft Soap is an internet community soap opera. So far four episodes are finished and another four have been shot. When they are ready we will release one episode a week on a regular schedule. We shoot every few weeks, making up the plot as we go along. Characters are played by soft toys, shot against a blue screen, and then Pitsmoor locations are photographed and put in the background. We have a diverse cast, as you'd expect for the area, but we have room for more. If you'd like to get involved email [martin@littleredlight.co.uk](mailto:martin@littleredlight.co.uk) and I'll invite you to the next shoot. The idea is to do something creative and fun, and it seems to be working so far.





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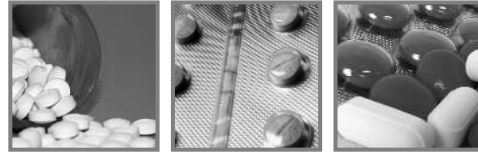
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2 Burngreave Road S3 9DD
- **Burngreave Advocacy Now:**  
Tuesday afternoons 12.30-2.30pm.  
99-103 Spital Hill S4 7LD
- **Burngreave Children's Centre** (for families with  
young children): 1st Wednesday of every month  
10-12pm. 19 Spital Street S3 9LB

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