

Burngreave Messenger



Issue 86 · February 2010 · Free to everyone in Burngreave

www.burngreavemessenger.org

Voice of the Burngreave Community

Burngreave under snow



Thanks to everyone who sent in photos: Patrick Amber, Joan Williams, Nicolas Boulton, Nasira Amin. More photos are on the Messenger website, if you want to share your photos, email mail@burngreavemessenger.org

It wasn't all fun and games though - request a grit bin ready for next year - see page 5

FIR VALE SCHOOL

Owler Lane, Sheffield S4 8GB
Telephone: 0114 2439391
Fax: 0114 2611640
Email: enquiries@firvale.com

"An Outstanding School"

Ofsted, November 2006

DCSF High Performing Specialist School



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An opportunity to work in this over-subscribed, business and enterprise specialist school.

Examination Invigilators Grade 3 £15,039 - £16,830 pro rata

Fir Vale School is looking for organised and reliable individuals to act as invigilators initially for the 2010 exam season (17th May to 25th June). These posts would suit someone with flexible commitments during the day.

The role involves supervision of students, ensuring compliance with required standards and the issue/collection of examination papers. A mature attitude, integrity and authority are essential and a good standard of literacy and numeracy is required. Experience is not necessary as training will be given.

For application form / information pack please contact Lesley Bowes, Headteacher at the school (see details above).

Closing Date: 22nd February 2010

FREE SADACCA Youth Projects

SADACCA Study Support offers a unique resource to children and parents throughout the city.

We continue to raise attainment levels of children aged 5-16 in KS1- KS3. The scheme runs for 2 days each week Mondays and Tuesdays 4pm to 7pm

Our Kids Can Do Positive Activities Programme runs on Wednesdays 4pm to 7pm All are welcome.

Our Youth In Action project for young people 10 -16 years old will commence shortly.

Don't let your child waste any time, send them to SADACCA Centre. Plenty to do 5 days per week.

For more information please contact SADACCA Study Support on 273 1975 or 275 3479.

SADACCA Daycare Centre

For elderly and disabled African Caribbean people.

Open Monday - Friday 9am -5pm providing hot cultured meals, personal care, chiropody care, dominoes & board games, laundry facilities, spa bath, chair aerobics & other exercises and day outings

Door-to-door mini bus service for elders unable to use public transport, a **meals on wheels service**, and **exchange visits** with other African Caribbean Centres throughout the country

Elders are encouraged to participate in social and cultural activities to develop friendships and forge links.

For further information please contact us on 275 3692 or 275 3479.

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Free Chairobics session with Activity Sheffield 11:45am

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All welcome

For further information call 243 6305

DRAMA!

For young people

Year 6 upwards

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Vestry Hall, Burngreave

£1 Per session

Begins 6th February

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For more info please call
Ellesmere Youth Project
0114 2435854 / 07886 777068



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Contact Phil Wood For More Details

Gym: (0114) 279 9052 Mobile: 07946 250 587

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Tuesday 9th March 2010

10am – 4pm at Verdon Recreation Centre, Verdon Street

A day of celebration full of fun activities and workshops.

Here are just a few things to look forward to:

Massages • Complementary Therapy

Health Information Stalls • Henna

Contact Details

Fatima: 0114 305 1078 or 07967 724 095

Shima: 0114 2716338 or 07792 667 871

Fire on Pitsmoor Road

Story: Carrie Hedderwick, Sheffield City Council
Photo: Ben Kirby

As local people have seen, there was a fierce house fire on Pitsmoor Road on 5th January. All members of the family managed to get out of the house, although one man had to jump from a first floor window.



I was visiting a house on Burngreave Road the next day with another officer from the Council's Private Sector Housing team and happened to meet members of the family who had escaped from the fire. Fortunately, everyone is safe, although the man who had to jump has sustained some injuries.

We then went on to view the fire-damaged property. South Yorkshire Fire Service had returned to the site to fit smoke detectors in neighbouring properties.

Officers in our team also advise on fire safety. We liaise regularly with the Fire Service. Whenever we are called to people's homes to inspect properties for different types of disrepair, we also check to see there is adequate smoke detection and that the layout of the property allows for a safe exit route.

New houses

The Council has received £2.1m from the government to build 19 new houses at Ellesmere, on the site of the demolished old people's home.

However, the Council failed to secure funding for 20 houses at Earl Marshal, which will not go ahead.

Key points to remember – whether you own or rent your home –

- The fire service will fit 10-year lithium-battery smoke alarms for free.
- Regularly check that smoke alarms are working.
- When cooking, do not leave pans on burners unattended.
- Watch out for loose clothing or tea towels near open flames.
- Clean cookers – fat and grease can ignite a fire.
- If you deep fry food, use a thermostat electric deep fat fryer.
- Try and keep one plug to one socket.
- Make sure any electrical appliance has a British or European safety mark.
- Check sockets and plugs for scorch marks or overheating.
- Unplug appliances when not in use.
- With portable heaters, try to secure and position them against a wall.
- Never smoke in bed.
- Stub out cigarettes in water
- Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children.
- Be very careful with candles – there was a recent fire in Page Hall caused by a lit candle.

For free smoke alarms and fire safety advice: South Yorkshire Fire Service – 0114 253 2314

For general housing disrepair advice: Sheffield Council – 0114 273 4680

The 19 houses at Ellesmere will be built to a high level of energy efficiency and will range from 2-bed to 5-bed rooms. Building will start in March 2011 with completion due in March 2012.

The designs will be discussed at the Burngreave New Housing Group – if you would like to attend the next meeting contact East Regeneration Team 261 7216.



Welcome to Wensley

This month sees the Messenger expand to another part of the Burngreave ward to cover the Wensley Estate, adding over 500 homes to the Messenger's distribution.

We hope Wensley residents will enjoy receiving it – stories of particular interest this month are:

Changes to M22 bus page 5

Wensley TARA page 7

Football at Wensley page 12

Thanks to the Community Assembly for funding our expansion - we hope they will continue to support us to deliver to Burngreave residents.

If there's anything you like to see in the Messenger about your area, please get in touch: 242 0564, mail@burngreavemessenger.org

Visit our website for extra news, jobs and features

www.burngreavemessenger.org

Messenger Info

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This month's team: Michelle Cook, Caroline Harris Saleema Imam, Douglas Johnson, Jamie Marriott, John Mellor, Lisa Swift.



New play area for Byron Wood

Story: Andrew Marsh | Photo: Lisa Swift

Byron Wood School celebrated their £35000 revamp with a visit from the Lord Mayor in December. Parents cooked a feast to celebrate the opening of the new facilities.

The new play area is made from an all weather carpet which allows the children to play out even in the wet. The area offers a selection of a sandbox, tree seats, and a wendy house for the children to enjoy. They plan to build a nature garden which will give the class the chance to plant and grow their own vegetables.

Councillor Graham Oxley officially opened the school's new play area and indoor refurbishment, saying,

"It's excellent. It's a very nice, safe environment for youngsters. I'm sure it will make them enjoy it even more. The right environment can do that."

Nursery manager Jo Smith said,

"We wanted the Lord Mayor here to officially open it, to celebrate what we've done. The children are really excited about it all."

Tony Carter, headteacher of Byron Wood School, said,

"We are really excited about the new play area that we have been able to develop for the nursery and we are looking forward to redeveloping the play area for the reception class as well."

New head is Keen

Story: Gaynor Carr

After 15 years as headteacher at Firth Park Community Arts College, Mo Laycock has decided to take early retirement in July 2010.

Mo began her career as an Art Teacher in Bradford in 1973, joining Firth Park in 1995. During her time at the school, Mo has transformed the standards achieved from 12% 5+ A*-C GCSE passes in 1995, to an incredible 63% 5+ A*-C by 2009.

Mo has spoken on local and national radio stations on educational issues during her time at Firth Park. She was also filmed for the BBC2 Documentary, 'School Day' in 2004.

Mo says she has "loved every minute of my time at Firth Park", and is delighted to be handing over the reins at the end of this school year to Chris Keen.



Chris has been Deputy Headteacher at Firth Park Community Arts College for 4 years. His core responsibilities relate to Teaching and Learning, particularly curriculum entitlement programmes.

Chris very much looks forward to leading the continued success of the school - in particular, the development of working alongside parents and the community to ensure the students of Firth Park receive the very best educational opportunities.

We wish both Chris and Mo every success!

Talk to your children

Story: Fran Belbin

The Every Child A Talker (ECAT) project aims to strengthen early language development in children to age 5 and to increase the involvement of parents in helping to develop children's language in the home. It is part of a national programme

The project is running at Byron Wood School until July, led by Janette Graves, a Sheffield-based speech and language therapist.

Burngreave has many children who are learning English as an additional language, increasing the focus on communication.

We asked Janette how successful the project has been so far. She told us,

"There has already been lots of sharing of good practice, helping practitioners to become more confident. Parents have become involved through attending workshops and events, taking away advice leaflets and goody bags! Children with difficulties are being identified earlier and are able to access support."

The project hopes to develop and share the knowledge of practitioners by linking up to other schools and children's settings in the future and to continue its work through Sheffield's Talking, a city wide project that aims to make "Every Sheffield Child Articulate and Literate by 11".

ECAT's top tips for talking to your kids:

- Repeat back what the child says.
- Keep sentences simple - at a similar level to the child.
- Give plenty of time for the child to respond.
- If a child is finding language hard they will struggle to answer questions.
- As things progress, use 'open' questions which require more than a yes or no response.
- Use choices as often as possible - "juice or water?"
- Rather than criticize mistakes - repeat it back the correct way.
- Expand on what the child says - if they says "brick" you could say "red brick."
- Dump the dummy!

M22 bus changes

Story: Alice Carder

The M22 bus, which runs from Firth Park to Sheffield covering many side streets and estates in the area, is changing from Friday 29 January. Sheffield Community Transport will take over from Powells and run two services on different routes.

The bus, which many elderly residents rely on, will be replaced by the number 5 and M20 services.

The number 5 will run from Sheffield to Firth Park, covering Margate Drive, Whiteways and Wensley and will run every hour from 7.30am to 5.30pm on weekdays.

The M20 will go from town to Fir View Gardens via Malton Street, but will not go on to Firth Park, meaning some residents will have no direct route to Firth Park where many do their weekly shopping. This service will only be 3 times per day, between 9.30am and 2pm on weekdays.

On 15th January I took a ride on the bus to find out how important the M22 is to residents. Pat and Jack Macnamara of Whiteways Road said,

"This bus is very important to us. We can't get to our doctors and the shops at Firth Park any other way."

Barbara Roddis of Whiteways Road said,

"I suffer from asthma so I find it hard to walk up the hill. This bus is a God-send."

One resident of Hinde House Lane said,

"If I didn't have this bus, I would scream, swear and shout. We need it more often



though because, when it breaks down, you're waiting an hour for the next one."

Mrs Hyman of Whiteways Road said,

"I use the bus for shopping mainly and just to get out of the house. It would be nice if it ran more often because it doesn't always take an hour to do your shopping so then you're waiting around."

Margery Morris of Osgathorpe Road said,

"I'd be devastated if I didn't have this bus. There are a lot of old people who rely on it who wouldn't go out otherwise."

Jim Carroll of Earl Marshall Road uses the bus to do his shopping:

"The shops are a long way from where I live. Without this bus I wouldn't be able to get my heavy bags home, I'd have to go out six days a week shopping."

Mrs Hendrie of Earldom Road is 82 years old. She says if she didn't have the M22 bus she'd have to walk 15 minutes to the bus stop and wouldn't get out as much:

"I'm surrounded by hills where I live, it's terrible. I've got a good family but they all work so I need my independence."



Residents like Mrs Hendrie rely completely on the M22. The recent icy spell meant the bus couldn't make it to the side roads, and she was left stuck indoors. "This is the first time I've been out since December," she said.

Bus driver Trevor Hutchinson said, "This bus is mainly used by pensioners and it's the only bus they've got. But I haven't been able to get up to Fir View Gardens for over a week because of the weather."

Gladys Newbolt from Wensley TARA said:

"The problem is this bus doesn't run at all at the weekends so unless you've got a car or you use a taxi you can't get out."

At present the bus is funded entirely by the Passenger Transport Executive (SYPT) who told the Messenger, "The bus doesn't generate any revenue and funding is limited, so there is no chance of the service being extended to weekends. However the new services are agreed for the next five years, so they are secure."

For timetable information, contact Traveline on 01709 51 51 51. You can also find maps and links to the timetables on our website www.burngreavemessenger.org

50 grit bins up for grabs

Order now in time for Christmas!

The weeks of snow and ice left many residents wishing they had a grit bin near their house.

The Council puts 50 new grit bins on the street each year, but only if you ask for one. Not many of last year's bins made it in to Burngreave, they were allocated to other parts of the city. If your street needs a grit bin for next year's cold weather put your request in now.

Council will prioritise you for a grit bin for:

- Roads with steep hills, bad bends, drainage problems, exposed sites and difficult junctions
- Locations used extensively by the elderly, infirm or very young

To request a grit bin contact the Council on 273 4567.

The grit bins are for everyone to use to keep the public footpaths and roads clear.

25 years of free legal advice

Sheffield Law Centre is holding its AGM at Sorby House on 25th February.

Back in 1984, the Law Centre was set up to tackle poverty and oppression through expert legal knowledge and empowerment. The Law Centre was involved with many civil rights campaigns. 25 years later, the work now covers more conventional legal areas of housing, employment, immigration, asylum and discrimination law – all areas where many people struggle to achieve justice against large corporate bodies and government departments.

Many people have worked at the Law Centre over the years, whether as volunteers or paid staff. Any former workers are invited to the AGM to see what is happening now.

The Law Centre is at 10 Joiner St, near the Wicker. The advice line is 273 1888. Website: www.slc.org.uk

Carwood's community centre open at last

Story & photo: Lisa Swift

After three years of delays, Carwood's Community Centre finally opened its doors again for residents to use.

To celebrate, on 17th December, Carwood TARA invited residents to a Christmas get-together, with tea brewed in the new kitchen, cakes, biscuits and other treats. With a Christmas tree brightly lit in the corner and snow falling outside, the new paintwork and friendly chatter brought a warm cosy feeling to everyone present.

It's not been easy though. Wynn March, treasurer for the TARA, said she had come to the end of her tether after 3 years of complaining. She bravely stood up at the Community Assembly meeting and said her piece. The result was new carpet, paintwork, kitchen, toilet and ceiling – and three months later an open centre.

Local resident, Mustaq, who had used the centre in the past for classes for local women, said, "It looks lovely, we've worked really hard to get it back. It's nice now and people will be able to use it." Mustaq hopes that language classes can start in the centre soon.

The TARA members wished to thank Tim, Amanda and Cheryl from Sheffield Homes for their support and for help with a grant from 'Your Community Your Choice' which helped pay for the



carpet and lino. The TARA hope Sheffield Homes will keep on their toes though as there are one or two problems still to solve, like a broken tap and electric sockets!

If you are on the Carwood estate and are interested in using the centre or starting a group, contact Wynn on 243 0766, or Gwen on 243 3192.

Carwood TARA General meeting

Tuesday 2nd March, 6pm, Carwood Community Centre

Let's be proud to live on Carwood Estate.

We need your help, come and lend a voice and let's work together!

Future plans including a coffee morning and hanging baskets. This year's pantomime trip was enjoyed by 40 residents, including 28 children from the estate. There will be more trips during the year.

Little progress on Hospital parking

Story: Alice Carder

Three years after the Northern General started charging staff for parking, residents are furious little has been done to address parking problems in the area.

In an attempt to ease the problem, the Council are looking at a residents' parking permit scheme and it was the topic of discussion at January's Community Assembly meeting at Fir Vale School.

Mark Higginbotham, from the Council's Transport Planning, explained the costs of the proposed scheme. Residents would be charged £10 a year for a permit to park on their road and £30 a year if they want a second permit. Local businesses would be charged £20 a year and £60 a year for a second permit, initially limited to two per household or business. Visitors will have to pay 10p a day, he said.

With only a 10% response to the earlier questionnaire, 2600 leaflets were sent to houses around the hospital to encourage more feedback by the end of January deadline. The Council will use the

feedback to decide which streets should be included in the scheme. This will be discussed with residents again before final proposals go to Councillors for approval.

Mr Higginbotham encouraged residents to speak to him directly about concerns or particular issues so they could be taken into account. You can contact him on 273 5031.

David Middleton, of Norwood Road said: "I can understand the 10% response. It's the fourth survey we've had and I'm fed up with it. The hospital made £3m in one year from parking fees. They don't want anything to change."

Local resident, Judith Bower said: "I've needed ambulances to take me to and from the hospital but, from seven in the morning until six o'clock at night, hospital staff are parked outside our flats. I am tired of having ambulance men walk me two hundred yards up the road where they've had to leave the ambulance because there's nowhere to park."

"My niece works at the hospital and she says a multi-storey car park is not going to change anything because there are already plenty of spaces in the hospital car park but the staff can't afford to pay and, even when they ask for a permit, many of them are refused."

Some residents at the meeting felt they shouldn't have to pay for parking permits.

"If you're really concerned, give the residents free parking permits for three years and get the hospital to pay for it," Wahid Nazir from the Pakistan Advice Centre said.

Councillor Ibrar Hussain agreed, saying, "Why don't we ask the hospital to pay?" and said he would approach the hospital executives himself.

The Messenger suggested bringing back the Northern General Parking Liaison Group so that residents could speak directly to hospital executives about the parking issues, as only the Hospital has the power to change the situation.

"We are encouraging the hospital to think of alternative ways for staff to travel to the hospital, including a shuttle bus from the Hallamshire," Mr Higginbottom said. But residents are unconvinced: "They tried to encourage cycling to work, but that fell like a lead balloon," said Mrs Bower.

Cllr Peter Price, chair of the North East Community Assembly, said the councillor responsible for liaising with the hospital executives is Ian Auckland, cabinet member for sustainable development and transport.

By myself in Africa

Local resident and writer Rob Smith travels to Africa to find his roots

Story: Rob Smith

I felt lost which was very worrying because I'd lived here all my life. Here in England I mean. It was mid September and my Doctor's diagnosis was of deep depression. I had to try and up lift myself.

Without really thinking much about it, I booked a return flight to West Africa. My inner spirit picked Ghana West Africa, widely known as the Gold Coast and Gateway to the whole of Africa.

I landed in Accra, Ghana November 4th at around 11pm. I was alone and it was very dark. At the hostel I was greeted warmly by the proprietors and shown to a room with fans, mosquito guards, en-suite shower, TV and fridge. I had planned on staying for a whole month.

Missing In Africa

For the next 4 days I potted around Accra under the heat of the African sun, visiting Labadi Beach and a local Infants School with some German volunteers staying at the hostel. But, as a child of Jamaican parentage, I was increasingly aware that I had a slave ancestry, that my great great grandparent had been a slave, and I remembered that our family origins had been traced to the Gold Coast area. I went missing from Accra and did not return for a whole 10 Days.

Tamale

Having purchased a good HD Camcorder I found myself a Ghanaian Guide. Hardy, who was the same age as my son (early 20s), would take me first to Tamale Northern Region, where he was from, it is a lot more impoverished than the Capital Accra, When we reached Tamale I was



struck with a sickness and was rushed to a local hospital. The whole side of my face had swollen up like a balloon. The doctor gave me an injection, but Hardy sent his crew out and they fetched back the local herb doctor, who administered his lotion to my face. Feeling recovered, I was more than keen to reach a place they called Pikworo in the Upper East Region.

The Slave Trail

Pikworo Slave Camp and other camps similar was where, for so many of us, our slave history began. They flourished around 1664, when big Chiefs of large tribes such as Akumba Accra where brought out by the transatlantic slave traders. My guide told me that at Pikworo the slave traders created A Path Of No Return – once past people saw the slave trade they were not allowed to go back to warn others. Being told how events here transpired made me eager to move on to next stage of the path to record the slave baths and market in Salaga.

I then went onto a place called Paga crocodile swamp, not realizing it would bring back a memory from when I was in Toxteth. Liverpool in early 1980. In an old Victorian house in Liverpool 8, a young burglar came across a photographic portrait of White Slave

Traders surrounded by young black children inside a swamp just like this one. On a wooden board above the children were the words "alligator bait". Word spread around multi-racial Toxteth like wild fire and the house was ransacked.

Mole Park

The following day I left the Upper Eastern Region of Bolga and moved on to Wa City Western Region, staying at Mole Park Animal Reserve. I returned to Accra before leaving for my final destination, the English-run Cape Coast Fortress, slave dungeons where I would see first hand what they called "A Door Of No Return", which once led to slave ships.



The Cape Coast

The malevolent Cape Coast Fortress stood ominously overlooking the Atlantic gateway in and out of Africa. People basked on the sandy clear beach with its surrounding cliffs leading to the outside walls of the impregnable Fortress, the big guns pointing out towards the sea. I knew there was a 99 percent chance my great great grandparent had been down here before me, but under very different circumstances.

For me it has been about discovery and against all odds making that RETURN. I've recorded my whole slave trail journey on a DVD video, keeping to historical facts and titled: Pikworo the Movie, available to buy at the wine shop on Catherine Street. More info at <http://www.exodustours.co.uk/>

Friends of Wincobank Hill

Right at the top of Wincobank Hill is the site of an Iron Age hill fort that dates back thousands of years. Nowadays you can just make out the rim around the top of the hill where the walls would have stood.

The view over the Don Valley is fascinating and the walk through the woods is very peaceful. You feel a long way from the hustle and bustle of city life.

The Friends of Wincobank Hill explore the history and plan the future of this wonderful place. We meet at 7pm on the first Thursday of every month at Upper Wincobank Chapel, Wincobank Avenue, S5 6BB. Ring 07980 143 776 for details.

Wensley TARA

Wensley TARA is there to support residents and to make Wensley a good place to live.

The TARA office at 5 Wensley Croft is open on Mondays 10.30am-12noon and Wednesdays 2.30pm-4pm every week. They also hold a coffee morning for over-50s on Monday 11am-12noon.

The General Meeting will be on Thursday 11th February at 2pm in Wensley Community Centre on Hinde House Crescent. Everyone is welcome – come and get involved and hear about future plans for gardening sessions – how to grow food, re-painting the flower planters on the estate and regular football sessions (see page 12)

On Monday 15th February and 15th March 11am-1pm, you can also drop in and talk to local PCSOs.



Christchurch Lunch Club volunteers

Story: Ben Kirby and Lydia Flanagan
Photos: Richard Hanson

After twenty years of serving the community, Doug and June Clarke have stepped down as volunteer co-ordinators of Christ Church Pitsmoor's Lunch Club.

The Lunch Club, in the Welcome Centre on Nottingham St, is a place where people can get out of the house to meet up and socialise over lunch. Doug and June have been the mainstays of the club but, after twenty years, the couple decided it was time to give their feet a rest.

A typical Lunch Club day for Doug and June means arriving at 9am on a Thursday morning to set up until volunteers clear up at about 2.30pm. Pye Bank School's kitchen supplies a tasty main course and sweet, including quiches, pies and chocolate puddings. At Christmas, there is a full Christmas dinner, with crackers and music from Pye Bank school children.

The charges are £3.50 for transport and food. Extra funds come from the Club's jumble sale and tuck shop and the occasional bingo and raffle – it's much more than a meal and a chat! Every so often, speakers and other activities add a twist to a Thursday afternoon.

Doug and June will still be attending Lunch Club. "They're great friends," says June. They hope to spend more time with their grandchildren. June also knits and sells her creations for charity and Doug will enjoy spending more time at the allotment.

Doug and June are safe in the knowledge that the Club will be left in the trusted care of good friends. "I hope the Lunch Club prospers and keeps growing," says Doug. June adds, "it's been going for over 30 years and it'd be a shame for the community to lose it. It gives people a few hours out of the house." They both take this opportunity to wish Nick and other volunteers every success for the future!

If you are interested in attending the Lunch Club, please contact Nick Edmondson on 275 7240, or e-mail him at nick@christchurchpitsmoor.com.

Dr Hopwood retires

Story: Laura Moya

Dr Hopwood retired from Burngreave Surgery in November after more than 30 as a GP. We met up to discuss his working life serving the Burngreave community and his plans for retirement.

When did you start as a Doctor at Burngreave Surgery?

I've been there for 34 years. When I first started, there was one receptionist called Mrs Buxton, who is 96 now and doing well. A lot of patients would remember her.

How did you come to be in Burngreave – where were you before?

I worked at the Northern General at first and then in Nether Edge but didn't like either of them. So I took an opportunity to work in Libya for a year. It was well paid but I was glad to come back. It gave me a very interesting insight though – nowadays a lot of my patients speak Arabic and I had to



speak a bit of Arabic in those days.

What has it been like working in Burngreave?

Well, it's more challenging. It's one of the most deprived areas in South Yorkshire so it's never easy. And it's very difficult to deal with medical and social problems as the two are very closely intertwined. So if a family is struggling financially - which a lot of people are - you can't really expect them to be able to take the same care of their health as other people who have got more resources.

What do you think about the health issues that face residents in Burngreave?

They get a raw deal, basically. They don't get as much money spent on them as they do in places like Dore - and that's historical: in the old days people who used to speak loudest got the most money.

How did it feel to be retiring after such a long time in the area?

It was good for me to retire. I was sad to lose the families - there are a lot of families that I've known four or five generations of. It's really nice to see children grow up and then see them have babies themselves!

Do you have any plans for your retirement?

I'll be learning how to use a camera. I also really enjoy computers - putting them together and taking them apart. I read, walk and my son has bought me some golf lessons. We're going to travel quite a bit - my daughter is a GP in Canada so we'll be going there."

Is there anything you would like to say to residents?

Thank you for making my life easy and enjoyable. It's been a privilege!

No place for people

Story & photos: Alice Carder

Cold, damp and mouldy - not the kind of conditions most people would choose to live in, but that's exactly how Jane Ferrigan describes the house she shares with her 12 year-old daughter.



Mrs Ferrigan suffers from spondylitis (arthritis of the spine) and relies on benefits to pay the rent on her Whiteways Grove home, owned by Places for People. She lists a catalogue of repairs which have been done badly or not at all.

The single-glazed windows let in cold air and water and mean Mrs Ferrigan struggles to keep the house warm.

"It's like an icebox in here. I have to keep the heaters on 24/7. The window sills in my daughter's bedroom have puddles on them when it rains and mould is building up on the wall. She has asthma and is sleeping in that cold, damp room. When the winter comes, I take her into my bed with me to keep warm."



"Since we've moved here, her asthma's got worse. She has to take her inhaler twice a week now, compared to twice a year before. I'm scared she's going to die in her sleep".

Mrs Ferrigan reported the windows to Places for People in July 2009. Two months later, an inspector came to take pictures. Workmen later replaced the windows but left the frames in place, Mrs Ferrigan said. She has resorted to covering the windows with plastic sheeting, stuck down with Sellotape, but says.

"I can't see out of the windows or open them now because I've had to put this plastic sheeting up to try and keep the cold and rain out."

Three months after Mrs Ferrigan reported a leaking gutter, a workman arrived but said he could only patch it up. She said the gutter had holes in it and it needed replacing. The workman left and she has heard nothing since, she said. It

was a similar story when she reported the pot-holes in her path, over a year ago.

"Because of my spondylitis, I find it hard to walk and have to use a walking stick. I've fallen over several times because of the holes in the path. They came out and looked at the path but I haven't heard anything since and that was over a year ago. It's disgusting. Unless the repairs are only two bob they don't want to know."

Mrs Ferrigan also complains of faults in the bathroom since she moved in - a cracked sink, broken toilet cistern and stained bathtub.

"When I moved in, there was a big damp patch on the front room wall underneath where the bathroom is. The bath or the toilet must have been leaking. When I stand in the bath to have a shower, it leans to one side. The joists in the floor underneath are probably rotten."

"I want something doing," she said, pointing to the draught blowing against the plastic sheeting on the window.

A spokesperson for Places for People said:

"Places for People take the well-being and quality of homes of our customers very seriously. We are aware of the issues raised by Mrs Ferrigan and will be dealing with the issues in due course. Repairing a number of issues, including the guttering, have been delayed due to recent adverse weather conditions and have been rescheduled to be undertaken shortly."

If you are a tenant living in social or private rented housing, the Council's Private Sector Housing can help you if you have difficulties with your landlord. Contact 273 4680.

Advocacy Now closes

Story: Michelle Cook

Advocacy Now is due to close at the end of January. The centre, originally funded by Burngreave New Deal for Communities, has been in operation since 2004.

NDC funding ran out last April, earlier than expected, but match funding from The Tudor Trust, The Lottery and PCT funding for a health project allowed the centre to keep running. Now the money has run out.

Advocacy Now differs from the Citizens Advice Bureau as it doesn't give advice to people but provides support, helping with telephone calls, letter writing, etc.

Due to the ethnic diversity of Burngreave, the service is desperately needed, there are language barriers, mental health issues and lack of confidence in large sections of the community.

They provided three paid advocates who have a number of languages: Somali, Urdu, Punjabi and Arabic. Interpreters were also used. Home visits and outreach sessions were very popular - at the library, Yemeni Community Centre and Pitsmoor Surgery.

The centre offered valuable training to its volunteers, many finding paid employment as a result with Liberata, Roshni and the North Refugee Centre.

The remaining volunteers will be supported at the CAB as advocates there and the CAB hopes to recruit more volunteers in the future. The building will close in March.

Here is a list of alternative sources of help and support:

Pitsmoor CAB – 275 5376

Pakistan Advice Centre – 261 9130

Sheffield Law Centre – 273 1888

Be inspired

Story: Lisa Swift

Young Somali people gathered at Sorby House on 9th January for a day of activities that truly inspired them.

Organised by MAAN (Somali Mental Health project) the event was attended by 200 young men and women, who were able to access information about all kinds of opportunities open to them, such as Sheffield Futures, Sheffield College, recruitment agency CFFE, Job Centre Plus, the Fire Service, Police, and the Community Stop Smoking Worker.

Key to the event's success was the Somali role models who had come from Sheffield and London to share their life experiences – presentations about the journeys to the careers they are in. In workshops young people were able to talk to an IT consultant, a Special Police Constable, a Social Worker, a magazine publisher and the owner of a medical recruitment company, all from Somali backgrounds.



Abid Gulaid is 23 and runs his own IT consultancy in London. He explained how he had studied at college, gaining a software industry qualification then, after



working for several companies, he set up on his own company:

"My mother instilled a lot of confidence in me. As a single parent she inspired me and I wanted to make her proud. I'm impressed with the ambition of the young people here today, hopefully we've helped them see what can be achieved."

Rashid Karshe runs a medical recruitment company in London:

"I started out with nothing, just working out of a friend's bedroom five years ago. Now we have grown to a £6m turnover. I studied politics at university and went on to work in insurance and then in a medical recruitment consultancy, before I set out on my own."

Saynab Mahamud works for a community project supporting women to increase their confidence and to take up civic roles such as school governors or magistrates. After gaining a degree in International Relations, volunteering in community



projects led to project management.

"We are aiming to empower the community to understand the system. It's been a really good event bringing together so many young people. Something good always comes out of talking to young people, I feel it is our duty to come here and share our experience."

Young Somali athlete Abdirisak Ahmed also spoke to the young people gathered. He's currently taking a gap year and training for the UK Championships 5000m, he said, "Young people are not taking part in sport at club level. Not everyone can be academic; I want to encourage young people to try sport."

Ayan Yusuf, who attended the event said,

"It's been very inspirational and it motivated me to continue with what I'm doing. I'm currently in my 3rd year doing a Children and Playwork degree."

Ramla Mohamed said, "It's been amazing and inspirational. It makes you see there is a future for people who strive and work hard."

To find out more about MAAN contact Faisa mobile 07957 731 003

Thinking about the future

Story & photos: Nasira Amin

Young people gathered at Burngreave Vestry Hall on 23rd January for an information event about health and opportunities.

Aimed at young people aged 8 to 19, there were a whole range of stalls and activities to engage young minds in their future. The Shine health bus was parked outside, aiming to show young people that it can be fun to stay fit. The bus is fitted out with its own gym on the top deck. The Community Stop Smoking Worker was also on hand to tell young people about the effects of smoking cigarettes. Young People thinking about careers could talk to Irwin Mitchell and the Fire Service.



There was also the opportunity to find out about the election of the BME representative to the city's Youth Council. Children enjoyed a range of activities, including juggling and hand and body massage. There were also arts and crafts activities with Sheffield Museums.

Organised by the Yemeni Community

Association and funded by the Police.

"I'm glad I got information for my dad about how to stop smoking. I learned how arteries get blocked and the money you can save when you stop smoking." Rozena, 11

"Decorating frames was fun and I liked learning to juggle." Adna, 10

Top team - Burngreave Tigers

Story: Andrew Marsh

With the help of Activity Sheffield, sports team Burngreave Tigers have been impressing Sheffield with their skills, winning matches in a whole range of sports and also securing a top city wide award.



Burngreave Tigers were set up just over a year ago and now has a team of about 35 children, aged 9-11, who practice each week at Fir Vale School. The sessions are free and designed to give children in the area the chance to try out a variety of sports. Each half term the team are set a new sport to try and master. After winning tag rugby, cricket and the October tournament of basketball, athletics and table tennis, now the challenge is badminton and indoor cricket.

Bilal Hussain, one of the team's members said,

"I've been here since the start. I like coming because there's a lot of sport and we can play football, badminton, anything we want."

They represent the area in sports competition against all the other areas in the city. Three wins in the last three competitions means they are the team everyone is looking to beat.

"They've absolutely hammered the opposition," said Imran Ali from Activity Sheffield and coach for the Tigers. "Clubs are out there wanting to beat Burngreave Tigers – that's a great feeling. I understand what it means to be Man United now!"

But for Imran and the children, it's not just about the winning. It's about the opportunity they are being given to learn important skills. "Kids are staying at home and not doing much but this



gives them something to look forward to. They feel like they are a part of something and because of that they're a lot more confident."

It's not all down to Imran though, as teenagers from the area volunteer to help the children improve at the sports. Asad Ali, 14, is just one of those who come along each week and assist in organising the sessions.

"I look at the kids and then at myself and it shows me where I was in their position. I tell them what I've learnt and they put it into their performance and it just develops from there. I wish an opportunity like this was there when we were that age."

In December the Tigers won the Active Challenge Award, beating hundreds of other nominees. They went to the Town Hall to meet the Lord Mayor and were told that they had won because of the positive work they had done in the community.

"They deserved to be nominated but to win it was a great feeling. For them to know that they have won shows they are doing a good job. A lot of people are told they are failures but the certificates show they're not," said Imran.

So what is it that makes the Tigers the team to beat in Sheffield? According to Ali, it's all to down to the kids.

"When you've got a good group of kids who listen and have a lot of discipline, it's them that makes me want to do something. Some of these kids have had difficulties at school but, in the club, they are different altogether. They're listening and have improved a lot," he said. "It's a proper club, a family and friends."

Award-winning Devon Gardens!

Story: Gaynor Carr

On December 3rd, representatives of the Friends of Devon Gardens, John Chapman, Phil Jakob, Nigel Orrell and Gaynor Carr, were delighted to receive a Highly Commended Award at the Sheffield First Environment Community Awards 2009 presented by the Lord Mayor at the Town Hall.

The award recognised their efforts to transform Devon Gardens, the Victorian nanny park on Abbeyfield Road. The park used to be an eyesore that had been allowed to deteriorate badly.



The judging panel commented how the park had been rejuvenated into a valuable community facility. They were most impressed with the increased use of the park – for parties and events, for children as somewhere safe to play and just as a pleasant green space to relax and enjoy the surroundings.



Yemeni's Got Talent

Story: Grace Kamsika



On the 13th December, the Yemeni Community Association (YCA) hosted an amazing Eid celebration at Firvale School.

It brought communities and a range of ages together by inviting people from all over Sheffield and Rotherham. It was also used as an opportunity to let young people express themselves and improve their confidence.

Established by a group of young people and brought together by the YCA, it began with a play which promoted 'making your dreams become reality' by not getting involved in crime and its consequences. Afterwards, they hosted 'Yemeni's Got Talent', which involved acts between the ages of 8 and 16 singing, dancing, rapping and reading poetry in front of an impressive audience of over 300, which resulted in an energetic and exciting atmosphere. Throughout the events, the dreams and aspirations of the people there were encouraged and supported.

After the event, where activities like bouncy castles and inflatable slides were provided for the children, Sami Musaid said:

"Overall, it went really well. It gave the kids a really good time and gave them incentive."

Due to the success and popularity of the event, Khalid Salih, a member of the YCA, confirmed future events are due.

Overall, it gave people an encouraging and exciting way to celebrate Eid altogether as a community!

Football for Wensley



If you like playing football, Wensley will be the place to be on Tuesday nights. From January 26th Activity Sheffield's inflatable pitch will be on the field near Wensley Close every week.

Organised by Wensley TARA, the sessions will be aimed at young people under 14, and will take place from 5 – 7pm every Tuesday until May.

Both girls and boys can take part in the skills sessions, matches and tournaments. Activity Sheffield are hoping to get professional footballers to show the youngsters a thing or two.

The sessions will also be supported by the Safer Neighbourhood Team and Sheffield Futures. Funded by the Council's Small Grants and the Police POCA funding, which is available to all community groups working with young people.



Fir Vale five-a-side

On 20th January, the local Police faced a formidable force - Saalik youth football and Activity Sheffield's five-a-side teams - at Fir Vale Sports centre.

After 12 hard-fought matches, Activity Sheffield came out top but the young people played hard. The police didn't win a match but drew two!

There was a great atmosphere of competition: the cheers were loudest when the young five-a-side team scored 2 quick goals against Activity Sheffield, gaining the only victory against the well practiced team. Imran Ali, of Activity Sheffield, said,

"It was a good atmosphere and a good initiative to build relationships with the kids. Hopefully we can do it again in the future and get more groups involved."



Byron Wood nativity

Staff and pupils from Byron Wood Primary School organised yet another fantastic performance of the nativity.

All the children and the staff worked extremely hard to put on a show for parents and the rest of the school. Parents and guests were invited to stay for cakes and refreshments after the show which were organised by the parent's group. Parents said:

"It was fantastic how the children



remembered their lines."

"I'm glad they had two showings because I wasn't able to come in the morning. My granddaughter is in it so I didn't want to miss it."



New Slide is here

The big slide is back at Pitsmoor Adventure Playground. The children are delighted.

Leo said 'It's wicked cos I can do stunts on it!' Honey thinks that the slide is 'absolutely fantastic' and Khalaya says it's wicked.

Denise who is in charge of the Playground said that the slide is very popular, adding that 'it's the children's choice!'. She showed me how safe it is by sliding down herself (rather her than me!).

So come and try out the all new adventure, The Big Slide.

Winter magic at Whiteways



Story: Usha Blackham | Photos: Farzana Khan

The turnout was fantastic for the Whiteways Primary School Winter Mela on 15th December. The school opened its doors to over 200 parents, carers and the community.

In the main hall, Year 4, 5 and 6 children read poetry from different cultures about winter; some children wrote their own poetry. Two Year-6 girls sang an inspiring song in Urdu and English and the new reception children also sang. There was freestyle street-dancing from Fir Vale boys; and girls performing Bollywood dance. Whiteways children took part in traditional Arabic dancing in beautiful traditional costumes - girls and boys, they looked really outstanding. Staff and local people did their own Arabic dance and Christmas dance.

The school had lots of stalls and performances organised: refreshments, stalls selling Funky Prints, where people could add their pictures to canvas, and mugs. From Fir Vale School, children sold their key rings, cards, cosmetics and nail manicure.



There was pampering for women, Henna, massage, hair threading, children's face-painting - and popcorn on sale.

£104 was raised for Children In Need by selling soft toys and games - we would like to thank all parents and staff for giving for the good cause. We greatly appreciate seeing families in our events and assemblies and we hope to see more of parents in future.

Mr Muhammed said, "It was fantastic seeing all the performance and especially from the new reception children - they were lovely."

Michelle Kusiak said, "Again, it's a good turn out. There was a good variety of dances and great performances. It was nice seeing all the costumes and seeing children enjoying themselves."



Firefighter backs BME recruitment

A British asian firefighter from Sheffield is backing a major new drive by South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue (SYFR) to recruit more female and black and minority ethnic (BME) firefighters.

Tasab Nabi, a full time firefighter at Mansfield Road fire station, is backing SYFR's recruitment awareness campaign, which bids to make the organisation more representative of the communities it serves.

Tasab said: "Being a firefighter is a fantastic opportunity to make a difference to people's lives and serve a public which really appreciates the work that you do. Some British asian families might not consider firefighting as a career as it is not traditionally associated with being an academic job, but there are plenty of opportunities for attaining training and qualifications along the way."

Women are also being targeted in the awareness campaign, with females urged to come forward and find out more about firefighting as a career.



Firefighter Tasab Nabi, one of the faces of the campaign

SYFR Director of Service Development Mark Shaw said: *"Perceptions of the fire service as being a white male dominated organisation are changing and here in South Yorkshire we have already come a very long way, with female and BME firefighters on the front line at fire stations all over the county."*

Awareness sessions and recruitment days are being held throughout January and February to help clarify and dispel many of the preconceptions people from under-represented areas of the community might have about joining the fire service.

For more information on recruitment days and events text JOBS to 87023, visit www.syfire.gov.uk or call 253 2479.

The selection process includes:

- Online application
- Written tests
- Physical tests
- Interview
- Medical checks
- References and criminal records bureau checks

Salary:

- £20,896 as a trainee
- £27,851 when fully competent
- Opportunities for career progression thereafter

South Yorkshire firefighters attend a wide range of incidents, including fires, chemical spillages and road traffic collisions. But as well, the role of a firefighter includes:

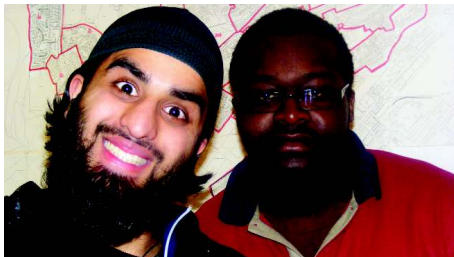
- Carrying out home safety checks and fitting free smoke alarms
- Visiting schools, colleges and businesses to carry out educational work
- Working with young people on station-based courses

To apply:

- Text JOBS to 87023
- Call 0114 253 2479

To find out more:

- Visit www.syfire.gov.uk
- Follow us on [www.twitter.com/syfr](https://twitter.com/syfr)



Students working for cohesion

Local residents and Hallam undergraduates Derrick Okrah and Farhan Ahmed are looking for other students and faith leaders to take part in a new multi-faith student society, SAMEEM.

If you would like to know more or are able to speak about faith at the event, please see the full details on www.burngreavemessenger.org or contact them at sameemhallamsociety@yahoo.co.uk

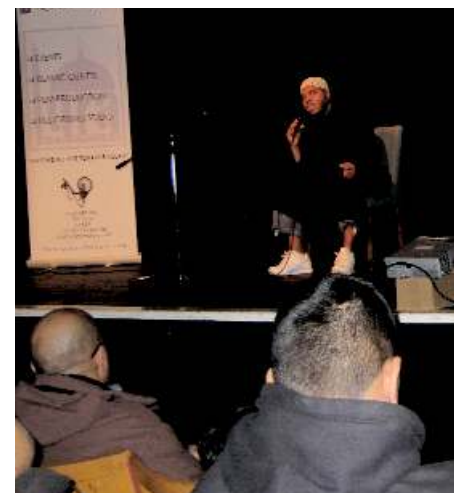
Napoleon in Sheffield

Story: Zia Khan | Photo: Iqra Promotions

Fir Vale's Iqra Promotions attracted a large audience to see Napoleon - former rapper with the Outlawz and 2pac Shakur - in December. He now travels the world as a motivational speaker.

Ahmir Hussain, spokesperson for Iqra Promotions, said:

"We felt it was important to invite Napoleon to Sheffield to speak to the youth about the detrimental effects that drugs, gangs and crime in general have on individuals and the community as a whole. We hope that many of the youth attending this evening's event will take something positive away and implement it in working towards



building a safer and more progressive community".

For news on similar events and how to get involved, please contact 0114 243 8786 or visit www.iqrapromotions.com.

Full story on www.burngreavemessenger.org

A Sheffield Theatres Production

Sisters

Thursday 11th – Saturday 27th March



Listen.

This is what it's like to be a Muslim woman in Britain today.

Based on interviews with dozens of women from across the country and around Sheffield, **Stephanie Street's** new play lifts the veil on a world of custom and tradition. **Sisters** exposes the human stories at the heart of the Muslim community, cutting through the stereotypes and bringing a chorus of voices to life on stage.

A poignant, surprising and insightful journey into the lives of British Muslim women.

Tickets £1.00 – £15.00

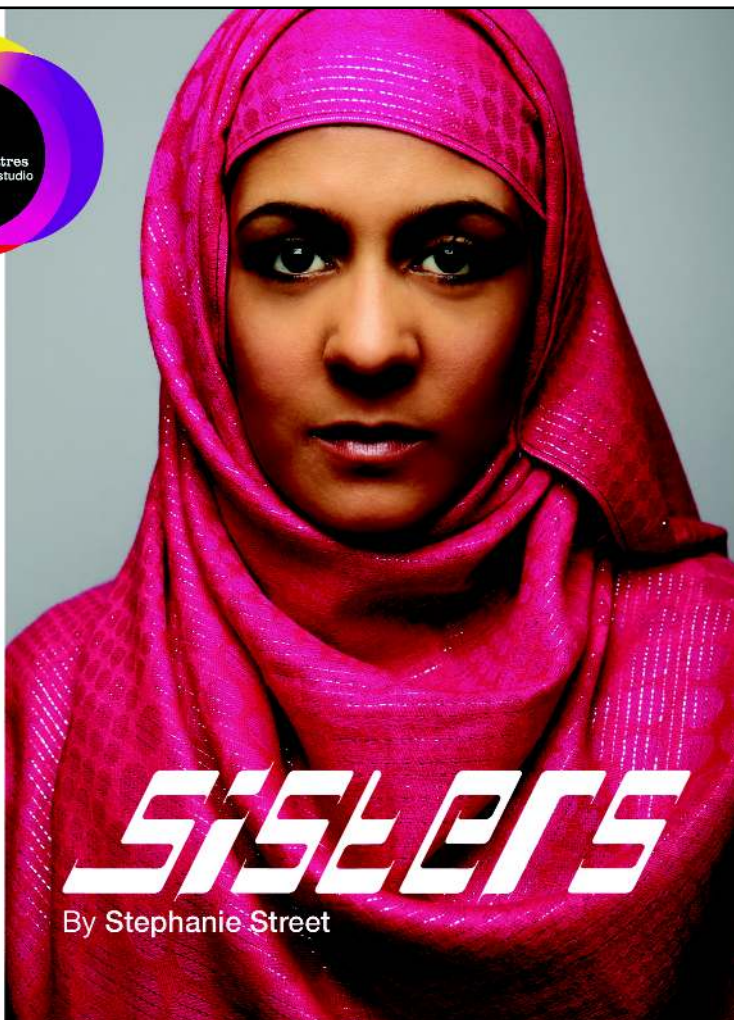
Women Only Performance

Wednesday 24th March
Lunch from 12.30pm, performance 2.00pm.
Crèche facility available 12.30 – 5.00pm

Studio Theatre

Box Office: 0114 249 6000

www.sheffieldtheatres.co.uk



NHS

EASIER WAY

To quit

Want to stop smoking?
Why go it alone? Get free support that really works from your local NHS Stop Smoking Service
Call 0800 088 4490 (24hrs a day) or text 'QUIT10' to 88020
www.sheffieldstopsmoking.org.uk

SMOKEFREE SHEFFIELD



BCAF Quarterly Forum Meeting
Saturday 27th February 12:30pm
 Burngreave Vestry Hall
Lunch and Creche provided

Photo by Anwar Suliman | www.asphotography.com

Every tree tells a tale

Story: Richard Gill,
Community Tree Officer

Have you ever seen a Ghost tree?

Do you know which tree is an international symbol of peace and prosperity?

What is the world's oldest surviving tree species?

Have you seen a tree that can live over 4,000 years?

Where would you find a home for over 1000 other forms of life?

What tree used to be planted as a lightning conductor?

Which tree species are crucial to the treatment of cancer, high blood pressure, diabetes, memory loss and dementia?

Take a walk on the Abbeyfield Park Tree Tales Trail and you will actually meet the answers and so much more - because every tree has a tale to tell.

Tree Tales and Trails

The Tree Trail was created in 2004 with the help of children from Byron Wood, Firshill, Pye Bank, St Catherine's and Whiteways Schools, along with many members of the local community.

Many new trees were planted in Abbeyfield Park, trees from literally every continent of the world, reflecting the wonderful diversity of the Burngreave community. Local children researched tree-lore from around the world and the importance of trees to all mankind. Working with renowned storyteller Shonaleigh and illustrator Graham Higgins these varied elements were brought together into a fascinating collection of illustrated tree stories called 'Tree Tales & Trails'.



Trail restored

Sadly, a number of the newly planted trees suffered at the hands of vandals – a great shame for a project designed to benefit not just the present, but future generations too. But we are pleased to report that in November the Community Forestry Project worked along with enthusiastic pupils from Firshill School and Tinsley Tree Project to fully restore the Tree Trail.



Schools and community groups are invited to arrange a guided walk around the trail.

All the schools involved in the project have copies of this publication available in their libraries. There are also a limited number available from Sheffield City Council's Parks & Countryside section contact Community Forester Leonie Kapadia, Tel: 2500500.



Poetry at Parkwood Springs

The Community Forestry Team and volunteers working on the Parkwood Springs Forest Garden were delighted to find a thank you poem posted at the site in December.

A range of volunteers, including local residents, the BTCV and their young volunteers, the Parkwood Landfill Action Group, Sheaf Training and the Abundance project have been working on the abandoned allotment at Parkwood Springs for a couple of years, to create an edible forest garden.

To date, they have planted mulberry trees, created planting beds and footpaths, re-laid the old stone walls and installed benches and a wildlife pond. On the last 2 work days in December, a thick

ground cover was laid and mulch applied over the top to prepare the site for planting in spring.

Leonie Kapadia, Community Forester thanked the mystery poet for showing their appreciation.

"It's wonderful to know that this family has taken the time to write a poem and show their appreciation in such a public way. We are aiming to create a quiet and peaceful spot on this site which has some of the best views over Sheffield - and it seems - for one family - we have done exactly that!"

The next 2 Forest Garden workdays are planned for Thursday 18th March & Saturday 29th May (Sheffield Environment Weeks), both 10.30am – 3pm.

Everyone is welcome. Meet us at the car park on Cooks Wood Road at 10.30am on either day. Bring wellies, a warm coat and a packed lunch.

To find out more about becoming one of the Friends of Parkwood Springs contact Leonie Kapadia, Community Forester on 273 4202.

The Magic Garden

*We come here sometimes twice a week
My granddad and Lydia and me
It's a place so quiet and peaceful
And a tranquil place to be*

*When the world around is going mad
We can sit here and dream away
Our thoughts can take us anywhere
And make today a special day*

*So sit awhile and enjoy my friend
The simple things in life
Not everything needs to be material
In a world so full of strife*

*So many thanks for all this work
That's been done with loving care
A place of peace and solitude
Where we can all let down our hair*

From Time-Buried Years

Story: Saleema Imam

Burngreave resident and published poet, David Norris-Kay, has recently published his latest anthology, 'From Time-Buried Years'. The book contains an eclectic mix of new verses and selections from past published work and features the author's preference for traditional rhyming poetry with a definite rhythm.

As a child, David won prizes for English but his writing career began with song lyrics for a local rock group in 1967 and for his former wife, a folk singer, in '71. 'Autumn's Reflection' in this book was one of her most enduring performances. Realising the lyrics stood on their own as poetry, David began to create verse just for himself.

His life experience – working on a farm when he left school and later 29 years doing various jobs with the postal service – fed into the poetry he produced, the main themes being Time Passing, the Natural World and Childhood Memories.

David is a private person but shares his



work with other poets around the country in the old fashioned way - by post - finding it easier to offer and receive objective criticism of his own and other's work this way. In fact he says, "I write more letters than I do poems these days." He contributes to several small press magazines nationally including the Salopian Poetry Society and it was one of these, 'Reach', which asked him to compile this latest book. An English language poetry magazine published in India – Metverse Muse is to date his farthest venture.

Two of David's favourite poems are 'Swan' which won 1st prize in 2007 and 'Santorini' a 3rd in 2005 in an international competition. Some I enjoyed from his book – Clematis, Snowdrops, Washing and Brothers-in-War. Well worth reading.

To purchase a copy of the book, contact the Messenger on 242 0564 and we will put you in touch with David.

(ISBN 978-0-9553589-7-5 published by Indigo Dreams Press)

Snowdrops

*Beneath the leaf-green shadows, glow,
Pale buds that herald spring:
On borders of receding snow
Where grasping grasses cling.*

*Evoking early childhood days,
When I would lie for hours,
And see the slanting sunbeams blaze
Golden in the flowers.*

*Their faultless, sturdy blooms withstand,
The turbulence of skies,
And in the vernal warmth expand
To form wide bell-shaped eyes.*

*They watched my boyhood blossom bright
In simple innocence;
The swaying flowers lambent-white
White drooping indolence.*

*Now fading with the failing light,
Where spreads the dusk's calm haze:
The trembling petals closing tight,
Reflect the moon's faint rays.*

More poems are on our website
www.burngreavemessenger.org

Poetry Slam

Story: Alice Carder

Children from Burngreave took part in a poetry slam at Burngreave library on December 7th. They performed their own poetry in the 'poetry jukebox' at the event led by children's poet Matt Black.



Matt, who has been writing poetry since he was seven, says,

"The children learn that language is integral to our lives. They learn about each other and gain a lot of confidence from writing and performing in groups".

The next poetry slam at Burngreave Library is on **February 17th from 2pm-4pm**. Matt is also looking for young people interested in poetry and rapping to take part in a hip-hop poetry slam. For more details and more poems, see: www.matt-black.co.uk

All of the children's poems are now up in the library.

Ella Neal: 'My Street'

My street has loads of people and most of them are my friends.

We all like to read and some like to mess about and go to the toilet all the time.

We all like to eat apples well most of us.

We go to Firs Hill School.

We like to go on trips

I want to go and see seals with Maya.

Kael Steele: 'My Wishing Star'

My wishing star is bright

And it lights up the night.

It makes my dreams come true,

And it is for me and you.

Riona Shergold: 'The silliest thing I ever did: A true story'

*I was sitting in class one day,
When suddenly I got blown away.*

*Across the mountains, across the sea,
And people started to look at me. I felt a bit embarrassed I did,*

As the people started to bid,

For a picture of me flying,

And I felt really like crying.

I started humming the star wars theme,

Then I found it was only a dream.

I got myself detention, with a boy called Sid,

And that was the silliest thing I ever did!!

Help us improve your area

The Community Plan for the North East Community Assembly area has now been completed and the council and partners are working together to deliver the targets set against the priorities for the area. However we still need your help in telling us whether you think what we are delivering is making a difference or suggesting changes for the future.

The plan was developed in consultation with the community and local councillors agreed that focussing on the priorities listed below would make the most difference to the daily lives of people living in this area. The plan outlines 10 priority areas:

1. Clean, tidy, greener streets to be proud of

The Community Assembly have paid for two extra Bring Out Your Rubbish Days in the Burngreave Ward and are looking at developing a project to deal with overgrown trees on some of the worst affected roads. Extra floral features are planned for Shirecliffe Road. The purchase of a mobile camera to discourage fly tipping is being negotiated.

2. Parks and open spaces

The Street Force Neighbourhood Environment Action Team will be tackling overgrown and neglected green spaces. Friends groups will continue to be supported.

3. Community support and people getting on together

Funding has been provided for festive lights, Christmas illuminations and celebrations. The area covered by the Messenger will be extended to cover the Wensley estate.

4. More things for children and young people to do

Additional Activity Sheffield workers have been funded to organise holiday and after school activity sessions in all neighbourhoods.

5. Neighbourhoods where people feel safe

Support is being provided for extra neighbourhood wardens to patrol parks in Shirecliffe. A mobile speed



warning sign is being purchased for use on roads where residents have complained that vehicles are driving too fast.

6. Improving roads and transport

Your suggestions will be used to allocate the Assembly small highways budget.

7. Local housing supply and quality

Your local Councillors will press for more social housing to be built in your area.

8. Reducing health inequalities

Adding years to life and life to years – the Assembly will contribute to improve the overall health in the area by promoting the take-up of sport and physical activity across all age ranges.

9. Getting people into work and out of poverty

An action plan will be developed to set out how the assembly can best add value to the work which local organisations and partnerships are already doing to get local people into education, employment and training.

10. Build on improvements in educational attainment, improved aspiration and reduced school exclusions

The Assembly will receive regular reports from our primary and secondary schools on plans to improve aspirations in all our local communities.

The next Community Assembly business meetings will be held on:

Wed 10 February from 6-8pm at the Vestry Hall, Burngreave. Buffet and meet your local Councillor from 5.30

More Area Ward meetings will be held in March to give you a chance to tell us what you think your area needs and find out what the North East Community Assembly is doing. Please contact us to join our mailing list:

North East Community Assembly:
0114 203 7562,
communityassemblynortheast@sheffield.gov.uk,
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.

13 February: Jackie Drayton,
11am–12noon Burngreave Library,
2.15pm–1pm Firshill Tara

16 February: Steve Jones,
11am–12pm Shirecliffe Centre and
12.15–1pm Norwood/Bishopsholme

18 February: Jackie Drayton,
2pm–3pm Pakistan Advice Centre

27 February: Ibrar Hussain,
11am–12noon Burngreave Library

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

16 March: Ibrar Hussain, 11am–12pm
Shirecliffe Centre, 12.15–1pm
Norwood/Bishopsholme and
5pm–6pm Carwood Tara

18 March: Steve Jones, 2pm–3pm
Pakistan Advice Centre

27 March: Jackie Drayton,
11am–12noon Burngreave Library

Telephone: 0114 2735 588 or email:

steve.jones@sheffield.gov.uk
ibrar.hussain@sheffield.gov.uk
jackie.drayton@sheffield.gov.uk

Sorby House – a vibrant asset



Sorby House has transformed a small part of Spital Hill from being a dark and uninviting façade to a modern vibrant space. The refurbishment project started 2002 and took five years to complete, creating the asset we have now.



These statistics show the scale of project:

- 25,180 sq ft of accommodation
- 3 dedicated conference areas holding up to 150 people
- 33 individual offices with potential to increase to 50 subject to demand
- Ability to create a single office suite of 2,500 sq ft
- Potential to accommodate 300 people in the offices alone
- 25 full time occupiers
- 26 on site car spaces
- 61% occupied
- Ground floor retail unit

Sorby House is a modern sustainable building which is highly energy efficient and provides our occupiers with quality accommodation but at very economic costs. With flexibility built into all our agreements occupiers can grow without being held back by long leases.

Jack Scott of Insync comments:

"Sorby House is a brilliant building. It suits our business interests exactly. The staff are always approachable, professional and flexible. I never have any concerns over bringing clients to the building. Moving to Sorby House was one of the best decisions we ever made".

These sentiments are echoed by one of our recent arrivals Adam Thorndike of Cookie PR:

"My business, Cookie PR, requires a light and open space that allows for creative thought. The building's modern design allows for this, complemented by its easy access to the city centre.

"Sorby House offers new businesses the chance to fully establish themselves, with affordable rates and fantastic amenities. With supportive staff and the latest electronic security, I feel secure in the knowledge that Cookie PR has a place to flourish."

Jeremy Diskin of BNDfC added:

"Its not just about offices. We can host a fantastic array of functions and recently we have seen a new addition to the wedding circuit in the area and we can create a great atmosphere, this is evident in the increase in repeat bookings."

Sorby House has also become a place for community activity. It houses the voice of Burngreave BCR (Burngreave Community Radio) who operate from a third floor studio. We are also home to Rainbow's End, Burngreave's own charity shop who occupy the former Ladbrokes unit on the ground floor.

There is significant interest in Sorby House offices despite the state of the economy. We hope to increase our occupancy rate over the next few months, but that does not mean that we are running out of space. We have works planned to create a further 15 offices.

Sorby House is staffed by a dedicated team of professionals who can help you. So please call in to our reception or call 213 2300.

Ministerial Visit

In December BNDfC were privileged to host another Ministerial visit. This time it was Liam Byrne the Treasury Minister alongside MP David Blunkett. The visit was part of the Minister's continuing study into the effect of regeneration projects and what lessons can be learned from the work to date.

The seminar was hosted by BNDfC's own Chair Ronnie Lewin, who outlined the challenges the area had overcome and what he as a resident saw as the successes' and failures so far. The

Minister was keen to hear about the experiences of people who live and work in the area and it was a very lively and informative debate about how policy should be shaped in the future.

He shared his observations on what had been a success in our area. His key point was that the community has the ability to influence and develop its own agenda to effect change, addressing specific needs rather than being part of a general city wide strategy. He believed that initiatives like the NDC's generally had a positive impact but that as always there were lessons to be learnt.

Succession Plans

After submitting our succession plans to the Department of Local Government and Communities in October, we met with them in January and we are continuing to work with them to get our plans approved.

Part of the succession plan is to develop ongoing links with the community. In September the Partnership Board agreed that Burngreave Community Action Forum should develop a forum or panel to provide this function, they have already started work to create and develop this vital communication tool.

Looking back at Grimesthorpe Road

Story: Elizabeth & Gordon Shaw, Local History Group.

Grimesthorpe Road, which starts on Gower Street, at the side of the Vestry Hall, ends just over a mile away at what once was Grimesthorpe Village, now just another suburb of Sheffield.

The road is first mentioned in Kelly's Directory in 1865 when approximately 25 households were listed including Carrfield House, Meadowhead House and Woodhill.

In 1879, there were seven manufacturers, two colliery owners, several shopkeepers, three vicars (Weslyan, Church of England and Methodist), a blacksmith, a builder, a book-keeper and lodging houses amongst others. Quite an assortment!

Houses full of people

The houses between Gower Street and Lyons Street were terraced. Beyond that were large detached and semi-detached houses giving way to further terraces at the far end.



No 13 Grimesthorpe Road, 1920

A study of the 1891 census gives us an insight to the size of the families with sometimes surprising results. Who would have thought that the family running the corner shop in a street of small terraced houses would employ a servant? Mr & Mrs Barker at No.13 did! Further up the road, the widowed Mrs Norton, along with her adult son and daughter, ran a grocery shop at 179 and 181. They employed my namesake, Elizabeth Shaw from Stannington, as a domestic servant.

The family living at Number 156 might, these days, be considered overcrowded.

Mr Howson shared his home with his wife, five children (two sons and three daughters aged between 3 and 18 years), his mother-in-law and three boarders: a tinsmith and gas fitter from Edinburgh, a sawyer from Glasgow and a barman from Dundee. A total of 11 people crammed into a two bed-roomed house, although it is possible that there was also an attic! Just across the road at 161, the Booth family must also have been a tight fit with eleven children, four of them being over 15 years of age.

A Street of Workers

A study of the 1891 census shows that out of 252 male heads of household, only two (one aged 65 and one living on their own means) were not employed. Of the 25 households with a female head, 22 were widows. The youngest male worker was a 12-year-old office boy. There were four 13-year-olds working (two office boys, one umbrella maker and one rope maker) and, surprisingly, one 14-year-old music teacher. At the other end of the scale, there were six men in their 70's still working. Of the male population (aged over 12 years) living on Grimesthorpe Road, over 95% were in employment.

What sort of occupations were these men employed in? There were labourers (37), steel workers (49), railway workers (25), clerks (14), butchers (10), grocers / greengrocers (14) - the sort of jobs people still do today.

Females of the time were less likely to be in employment. Of those over the age of 12, less than a quarter are shown as having an occupation. In these days of 'having it all' when women are expected to work, perhaps some may be envious of the fact that, out of 244 households registered with a wife, only seven of these were noted as having an occupation - three of them in a shop and four working in dressmaking/tailoring. Dressmaking and millinery was, at that time, a popular option for the daughters of the household, although a similar number gave their occupation as servant.

“Death from excessive drinking”

For recreation there was always the pub. There were five licensed premises along the length of this road alone. Starting at the Vestry Hall, the first pub was 'The Brunswick' which opened in 1893 and closed in 1976.

At Number 62 there was the 'Buckingham Hotel' which opened in 1876 and, in October of that year, was featured in the 'Sheffield Local Register': 'Sudden death of Thos Hill, Landlord of Buckingham Hotel, Grimesthorpe Road leads to charge



The Tea Gardens, 1970

against his wife, which is unsustainable. Verdict of 'Death from excessive drinking' ultimately returned'. This pub also closed in 1976.

Occupying numbers 88-90 was 'The Tea Gardens' which gets a mention in 'A Pub on Every Corner' by Douglas Lamb. Opening in 1848 as a beer house called 'The Public Gardens,' it had several name-changes. The building still remains, though no longer in use, and is now surrounded by the modern housing which replaced the old terraces after they were compulsorily purchased in the mid 1970's.

Standing at the corner of Grimesthorpe Road and Earldom Road is the 'Normanton' which opened in 1879 and is still open.

On the corner with Earl Marshall Road, was the 'Grimesthorpe Railway Men's and Kindred Trades Social Club', now a guest house.

Private house to GP's surgery

On the corner of Lyons Road and Grimesthorpe Road stood a large detached property, Number 189. According to the Street Directory for 1895, this was the home of Mr & Mrs Samuel Ward, Steel Manufacturers. At the time of the 1891 census, George Shaw, a colliery proprietor, lived there along with his wife, Elizabeth, their son and three daughters. In the first part of the twentieth century, it was home to John Lavender, who was a forgerman.

By 1972, the house was no longer a private residence, being in use as a GP Surgery for Doctors Tyson, Kershaw and Stark. 1974 saw further change when it was, for a time, the Gower Wesleyan Reform Church. Now this corner plot is occupied by an entirely new building - The Rosebank Nursing Home. The adjoining plot, Number 191, was a similar building and still remains.

You can find the full article on the Messenger website and displayed in the Vestry Hall.



“Wonderful Ellesmere!” A nonagenarian remembers...

Story: John Mellor

Anne Gilbert (nee Gray) was born in March 1914 (the first of five children), just a few months before the start of the “Great War” (later to become known as the First World War). Five of her uncles fought in that war; three of them returned from it, but two (Ben and Ebb) were killed, at the age of 21.

Anne has seen enormous changes in her lifetime, as I discovered whilst listening to her and her daughter Pat talk about their lives in Ellesmere.

She first lived in one of the cottages adjacent to the Sheffield Manor House, in what was then Manor Laithes, moving to City Road when she was 12 years old. Of that early part of her life Anne recalled:

“Several gangs operated in parts of Sheffield. On the Manor there was the ‘Moony’ gang who were heavily involved in gambling, which gave rise to shootings, murders and other crimes of violence. But they never bothered our family. In fact, if my mother heard them swearing as they walked past our house she’d tell them to ‘watch their language’ – and they did! However, a new police superintendent by the name of Shillito decided it was time to curtail the activities of these gangs and he started arresting them. Where serious capital crimes had been committed the culprits were executed. During this time I



Anne aged 2

attended Manor School, leaving at the age of 14 to look after my newly born sister.”

Just after the beginning of the Second World War in 1939, Anne married Wilfred and moved to Ellesmere. Their family home was in Lyons Street where their four children (Jim, John, Pat and Tony) were brought up. Recalling the war years Anne remembers:

“In December 1940 a German bomb landed close to the house but didn’t explode. However, we had to move out of the house for 10 days while the bomb was made safe.”

Pat added:

“Ellesmere was a wonderful place to grow up in, despite the fact that the back-to-back houses had no bathrooms and all the toilets were outside. There was a great sense of community and everyone knew everybody else. No-one ever bothered to lock their outside doors as there were no burglaries, in fact there was nothing worth stealing!”

Most of the men who lived in Ellesmere worked in the steel works or on the railways. Anne remembers that:

“Just before 6am every day you could hear the noise of the men running down the streets to be in time for the early shift! In August each year there were two shut-down weeks during which all the smoke and fog disappeared. The rest of the year the air was quite yellow with the fumes from the steel works. We had to wash our net curtains every week and the water smelt horrible!”

In 1951 Anne took over a draper’s shop in Petre Street.

“This was a thriving shopping area which included five butcher’s shops and five fish and chip shops as well as an off-licence, newsagent, greengrocer, cobbler and electrician. People didn’t need to go into town to shop. The shop attracted a lot of customers from the local area.”

Anne has had a long connection with the Guide movement, beginning as a Brownie in 1923, then becoming a guider in the groups at All Saints’ and later St Peter’s, and still continuing today in the Trefoil Guild which is celebrating the centenary of the Guiding movement this year.

Anne recalls:

“At the heart of the community was the school and church. All Saints’ was a very good school; five former pupils later became Lord Mayors of Sheffield. Many community activities took place including a football team, tennis, a drama group, operatic society and swimming at Sutherland Road baths. However all this came to an end in the 1970s when the council decided to demolish nearly 300 houses in the area under a so-called ‘slum-clearance’ scheme. This resulted in local people being scattered around different parts of Sheffield and the sense of community was decimated very rapidly.”



May 22nd 1972 - Anne pictured right

Pat added:

“In fact, many of the houses that were demolished were in good condition but the planners had decided that they wanted the whole of the area cleared. In 1974 a compulsory purchase order was put on our house, which was the last one standing in Lyons Street before the demolition was completed.”

Although now living on the Longley estate is a regular visitor to Ellesmere where she is actively involved in a chairaerobics group and the life of the church and is an inspiration to all who know her.

Jeanie's Cafe

Story & photos: Brent Moya

Burngreave's latest cafe venture comes with years of catering experience and takes the term "meals on wheels" to new heights!

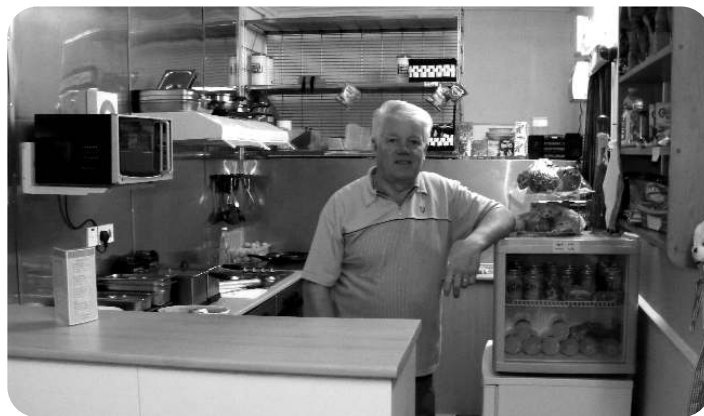
Local resident Chris Griffin has been operating a removal business for the past 25 years and deemed the van too old for removals. "I bought the van from Pickfords 15 years ago but rather than scrap it, I thought I'd try something different. We get quite a few lads in here who work for Pickfords who have previously used this vehicle so its pretty amusing to have them sitting inside it all these years later!" he added.

His wife Jeanie runs the cafe, having previously managed British Telecom's catering department for over 10 years. Certificates highlighting her achievements at BT can be found on the interior walls, while Chris tells us they were awarded 4 gold stars from the people at ealth and hygiene.

Mr Griffin says she had become bored with early retirement which she had taken some 12 months previously.

"Jeanie has always fancied running her own cafe so I thought it a good and interesting business venture for us both. The current economic climate means I'm getting less work in removals so this can help to bring in additional revenue."

Chris says knowing the area helped him to pick the right location



for the business, "I've lived round here all my life so I already had a good idea about other businesses in the area." Naturally they opted to operate the Cafe from their removals yard on Sorby Street making it easier for both businesses to run smoothly.

The cafe is ideal for those wanting something different, to find out for yourself pay them a visit at:

**53 Sorby Street, opposite Staffordshire Arms
Open Monday -Friday 8am-2.30pm**

The menu includes:

Full English Breakfast, vegetarian breakfast, daily specials such as lasagne or stew and dumplings, jacket potatoes, omlettes, hot and cold sandwiches, pasties, sausage rolls, muffins, scones and hot and cold drinks. **Phone orders: 07852 579 444**

Arwa Can Help You Relax

Story: Dave Havard

Burngreave resident Arwa Havard has started a new business that could benefit many local people. She is running relaxation classes for groups and therapeutic massage for women.



Arwa has already done 10 sessions at the Furnival with the Burngreave Women's Health Network. Iman who attended there said, "I went to many physiotherapists, none of them could help me lift my arm until I came to Arwa's group." Fatima Musa who organises the group says, "The women really enjoyed it and we are trying to get funding for more sessions."

In her classes, participants learn techniques for relaxation and self massage that they can use at home. The technique is suitable for people of all ages and conditions, particularly for elderly people and those with low blood pressure. Arwa was trained in Palestine by an Italian peace group who wanted to teach Palestinians skills to help them cope with occupation.

Since coming to Sheffield a year ago Arwa has been training with the highly respected massage trainer Vicky Gaughan at the Sheffield Centre for Massage Training, to gain a UK diploma in massage. Vicky said, "Arwa is a dedicated student and has already gained experience with members of the public through our student clinics and a placement in Palestine."

Arwa is now running group sessions at the Ashram Studio on Hallcar St. She is available for women's massages there too. Contact Arwa on 07532 329 723.



Down by the river

Story: Joe Harris

Point Blank is a community organisation which delivers a wide range of arts-based activities with individuals and communities facing disadvantage.

The organisation runs a schools programme, community programme and a successful national touring theatre programme. In 2009 Point Blank became the proud owners of The Riverside, the bar by the River Don at the bottom of Pitsmoor Road.

The Riverside has been around under different names since the 1850s and is still open as a bar, but with plans underway to create a flourishing live arts space. A multi-purpose arts and events space will soon be completed and will support emerging artists and members of the community.

Exciting plans to create a 100-seat studio theatre on the site are also underway. The venue will be used as a springboard for a range of social enterprise projects including a community kitchen, micro brewery, environmental trust and community garden.

If you're a local artist or community organisation and you're interested, get in touch on 249 3650 or at www.riversidesheffield.co.uk

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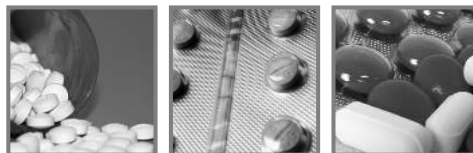
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131 Spital Hill S4 7LF
- Burngreave Children's Centre** (for families with young children): 1st Wednesday of every month
10–12pm. 19 Spital Street S3 9LB

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