



Community devastated by shooting

Local residents were shocked by the death of another young person on 30th October.

Deeq Ali, who was just 18 years old, was shot outside the Plaza on Spital Hill at 2.30am. Abdi Mohammed Omar, aged 24, of Lopham Street, has been charged with his murder.

Many residents, particularly in the Somali community, are devastated by the loss. It comes only months after the death of 18-year-old local resident, Abdulla Awil Mohammed, who was killed in Darnall. Residents, young and old, speak of how much potential the young men had.

Deeq was the youngest of four children and the family's only son. He was an A grade student, a former pupil at Parkwood School and was studying Human Geography at Sheffield Hallam when he died. One young person said, "Deeq was a quiet and understanding person, he was a role model."

Members of the local mosque and youth organisations have responded quickly to engage with young people affected by the shooting. The Vestry Hall is currently being used as a youth centre, which is a safe place to socialise with support and guidance on hand from youth workers. A key issue that has been raised is the lack of jobs and opportunities for young people.

Read more about the work in the Vestry Hall on page 5

Police response

It is a cause of great fear, for parents and residents alike, that young people can still access guns. The Messenger spoke to Chief Superintendent Simon Torr, District Commander for Sheffield, about the police response to the shooting.

"It is impossible to speak about details before the trial. However, I can say that guns are not widely available in Sheffield and firearms offences have halved in the last 5 years. We continue to work to



remove guns from availability.

"Within 12 hours of the shooting, we met with local Councillors and members of the Somali community, including representatives at the local mosque, to explain what we were doing in response.

"In the coming weeks and months, we will continue to support youth workers in the street-based teams and local police officers will be involved in a section 30 Dispersal Order for the Spital Hill area."

In response to concerns about the length of time Spital Hill was closed, he said,

"We were aware of the importance of opening Spital Hill as soon as possible. However, it was a broad crime scene, and it is important not to miss anything. We rely on forensic specialists, who come from all over the county. Modern forensic science is also very detailed and much of this has to be done in daylight."

Dispersal Order for Spital Hill

The local police team have been granted permission to implement a Dispersal Order for the Spital Hill area, starting on 1st December, for 6 months.

The order will allow the Police to move on people who are in groups of 2 or more that are "likely to cause intimidation" after 9pm. Young people under 16 can also be taken home. Local Police Sergeant, Craig Charlesworth, told the Messenger,

"We are responding to reports from local residents who have told us they feel intimidated by groups around the Vestry Hall, Spital Hill and the Library. While it is not a direct response to the recent shooting, we have taken this into account.

"The order will be carried out by local police officers, who people should recognise. The aim will be to engage with young people and residents, as well as to disperse groups. In a similar operation in Page Hall, only one arrest was made. We hope that Spital Hill will be equally successful. We will work with other organisations who provide positive activities during this operation."

The Police will be holding a public meeting on 28th November, at 6pm at the Vestry Hall, to explain the Dispersal Order and answer any questions.



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Green City Action AGM

Saturday 17th December 2011 - Abbeyfield Park House,
Abbeyfield Road, Sheffield

- 11.00am Refreshments
- 11.30am AGM

Come along to meet the Trustees, volunteers and the team at Green City Action and find out about the School for Vegetables project and the Community Toolbank.

For further information and Trustee nominations please call Green City Action on 0114 244 0353



www.greencityaction.org.uk. Registered Charity 1095725

Christmas services at Christ Church, Pitsmoor Road

18th December 6.30pm
Carol service

Christmas Eve 6.00pm
Crib service. A family service with the Christmas story, suitable for all ages

Christmas Eve 11.30pm
Midnight Communion to see in Christmas Day

Christmas Day 10.30am
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New Year's Day 10.30pm
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www.rockchristiancentre.org

BCR goes off air

Burngreave Community Radio (BCR) stopped broadcasting on 103.1FM in September, following a request from OFCOM to cease transmission over the airwaves.

Burngreave Community Radio Ltd was set up in September 2007 with support from local business adverts and was launched in May 2008, initially broadcasting from Shirecliffe Lane. The company relocated to Sorby House on Spital Hill, where it continued broadcasting from April 2009.

Burngreave Community Radio Limited was dissolved by Companies House in January 2011 for failing to submit a set of accounts. This meant that the radio license no longer existed either. When OFCOM discovered the radio was still being transmitted, it asked the station to stop broadcasting.

Matloub Husayn-Ali-Khan, one of the DJs and volunteers running the station, said, "We did not receive any further

letters so carried on, but we stopped broadcasting on FM once contacted by OFCOM. We are still broadcasting online through our website. Really the radio lacked proper management, there was too much for volunteers to do."

One local DJ Sajid Rasul, who used to host a show on business networking, said:

"It's really sad, we've lost our local radio station, which had been really good for the community. I really enjoyed doing the show, I'd get lots of requests, I interviewed some interesting people and it gave a positive image of the area. It's a shame that mismanagement has led to this."

Some DJs are still operating under the name Burngreave Community Radio as the radio can be broadcast legally on the internet. The station can be found at <http://bcr1031fm.com>.

A new community radio station in Burngreave could only be set up with a new licence from OFCOM, which will open another round of applications in early 2013.

Affordable housing at Woodfold

The first tenants have moved into Arches Housing's new homes scheme at Woodfold.

All the houses - two 4-bedroom, seven 3 bedroom and five 2-bedroom - are to rent through the Council's letting scheme. Future vacancies will be available through the Council's Property Shop.

A key and a bouquet of flowers were presented to new tenants, Mr Abdirahman Adan and Mrs Faysa Ahmed, who are now enjoying their new home.



From left to right, Mr Ibrar Hussain, Mr Abdirahman Adan and Mrs Faysa Ahmed.

The new houses are built to modern standards - they are highly insulated and have solar-assisted hot water systems to keep running costs low. The houses are also built to be much more secure and have a 'Secure by Design' certification. The police are involved in the design from the beginning and certify the development's compliance when completed.

The Burngreave Messenger will deliver to these new houses and we welcome you to the area

Occupy

A number of local Burngreave residents are involved in the Occupy movement camp at Sheffield Cathedral.

For more information about the camp and its activities, see the Messenger website.



Young Writers Day

The Messenger is working with Museums Sheffield on developing contributions from young people.

If you are aged between 8 - 19 and have something you would like to see in print - be it a news story, a poem or a photograph, come along to Burngreave Library Young Writers Day on Wednesday 21st December from 1.30pm - 4.30pm to get inspired!

More on the website

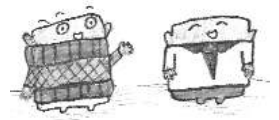
We had too much to fit in this issue!

You'll find extra stories, longer features and more photos on the Messenger website this month.

Also new to the website:

George & Brian - follow Edgar's comic strip each week on the website.

See page 14 for the first installment.



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Proofing and editing: Annie Blindell, Muneebah Waheed.



Tesco opening

Story & photo: Michelle Cook

The Tesco Extra opened on Spital Hill. The Messenger went down to check it out. Kel, the Checkout Manager said she was delighted to be open and she hoped it would be a pleasurable experience for all of their shoppers.



The Store Manager said, “despite the sad events at the weekend, the shop was busy with people enjoying the shopping experience”. He hoped the store would offer a great deal to the area, add value and be a welcomed investment.

As part of the opening there was a photo shoot for local media and Margot Walker from St Luke’s hospice was presented with a cheque for £1000 from the Tesco Charity Trust. I spoke to some customers, Sharon said she was happy with the store and hoped it would bring lots of jobs to the area and be positive for local business such as Rainbow’s End.

Shoppers seemed happy and some had taken advantage of the café facilities on site. Some other customers had been attracted by the petrol station. Pastor John Watts from The Rock Christian Centre was happy to welcome their new neighbours and felt that in the long run it will be a boost for the area.

Tesco jobs

Story: Lisa Swift

The Messenger continues to ask for confirmation of how many Tesco jobs went to local residents.

Tesco ran recruitment processes during the summer, one of which was the ‘Job Guarantee Scheme’ which was open to people who had been unemployed for 6 months or more. The posts were to be targeted at local residents, so that the store would contribute to the regeneration of the area.

Tesco told the Messenger it had made ‘reasonable endeavours’ to fulfil its commitment to benefit local people:

“The jobs targeting has led to 75% of jobs from the Regeneration Partnership going to people whose home addresses are within S3 and the adjoining postcodes of S1, S2, S4, S5, S6 and S7, the vast majority of the 75% being from S3, S4 and S5 postcodes.”

But as some parts of S3 and S5 are outside the Burngreave area and as S1, S2, S6 and S7 are not in Burngreave at all, it would seem that the percentage of local residents successfully gaining a job was lower than 75%.

In documents submitted as part of the planning application by Tesco, they stated that “recruitment outside the local area is not anticipated to exceed 10%.”

The Messenger has now filed a Freedom of Information request with Jobcentre Plus to find out how many jobs actually went to residents in the Burngreave area.

Improving Spital Hill

Story: Douglas Johnson

Sheffield City Council has recently received £371,500 to improve the Spital Hill public realm, as part of the planning conditions on Tesco.

The plan is to replace the current pavement on the approach to the store. Street lighting will also be renewed. An additional £75,000 for public art will pay for sculptures at Caborn’s Corner and the Vestry Hall, planters at Sorby House and seats on Ellesmere Green.

None of the £371,500 will be spent on the Green or the shops around it, despite “upgrading of Ellesmere Green” being in the Community Assembly’s plan. Although planning officers accept the legal agreement could include work on Ellesmere Green, they refer to “the spirit of negotiations with Tesco” and say that Tesco could challenge spending on Ellesmere Green if not directly related to the store development.

The original plan from 2005 aimed for total renewal from the Wicker to the Vestry Hall. After the Wicker



refurbishment, Tesco would pay for the stretch to their store, the £371,500 would pay for the next stretch and the area around Ellesmere Green would be redesigned with £790,000 from New Deal and a further £3 million from Yorkshire Forward. When Yorkshire Forward pulled out, this scheme was abandoned.

Reacting to criticism that planners have not adapted to the current economic situation, the Council’s line is that “Improving the Green is a priority for Councillors and the community and we are working towards identifying new sources of funding.” Planners are looking at the “Local Growth Fund” set up to take advantage of the £2 million a year investment expected from the

Government’s “New Homes Bonus” scheme.

It seems odd the Council has missed a rare chance to improve Ellesmere Green and make a visible difference. It’s not clear why the Council are happy to see a two-tier district centre.

Another question is how this scheme relates to the Highways PFI – the Council’s ambitious private finance scheme for road repairs. This huge scheme promises a “step-change” improvement to roads and pavements from summer 2012. If the Council uses the money from Tesco on pavements, will this be a wasted investment when the PFI reaches the area or is the Council going to use the fund to prop up the cost of this large project?

The Council has not consulted the public although it has “kept informed” Spital Hill shop-owners.

There are to be “workshops” on the public art in the New Year. The workshops will also address how traders can market themselves better and “the potential for a community-led occasional market on Ellesmere Green.” If consulted, the public would no doubt say it is a missed opportunity to improve Ellesmere Green and the area around it.

Young people respond to shooting



Deeq Ali's death on Spital Hill on 30th October, has shocked local young people. With the help of local youth workers, the Vestry Hall has become a youth centre that many of Deeq's friends, and young people who knew him, are attending.

The Messenger spoke to them about what had happened:

"Deeq was Abdullah's cousin, who died in Darnall. They were both at university, they both had a future, they both had potential."

"Deeq was a really good person, he helped younger kids. We all grew up together."

"Deeq was a good guy. People see this area as bad, but it's not that dangerous. We make it what it is."

"Deeq was a quiet and understanding person, he was a role model and used to help supervise activities."

One young man, Moubarak Moumouni, who is studying Biology and Sports, spoke about how young people and the area are seen negatively, when the reality is different:

"We feel safe in Burngreave despite it having a bad name, we're not bad people and we're not in gangs. Having the Vestry Hall open has been good, it keeps us off the street, it's like a family. Before, we had nothing to do, now it means we can socialise. Our parents know where we are and they respect us. But giving us the Vestry Hall on a short term basis is worse than never having it in the first place."

Another young man said:

"This area's got a bad history of violence, young groups get stereotyped. None of us are violent; we're not in trouble with the police. For those that have been, it's in the past."

Talking about the future, young people said there was a lack of opportunity and places to go.

"They need to invest more money. We're not getting any jobs. At Tesco, no-one got a job, it's a broken promise."

"There is a lack of opportunities and a lack of support for young people."

"It is worrying how young people's lives are cut short over minor issues such as an argument about something minor."

"Parents need to understand where we are coming from. They all say 'don't go out', but we are grown men, we can't stay at home."

"Our parents would like to help but they don't know what to do, more support is needed for parents as well."

"We need to show our parents we are safe."

"Why does it take someone to die before something gets done, and how long will this at the Vestry Hall last. We have been needing this and telling them that we needed this for ages."

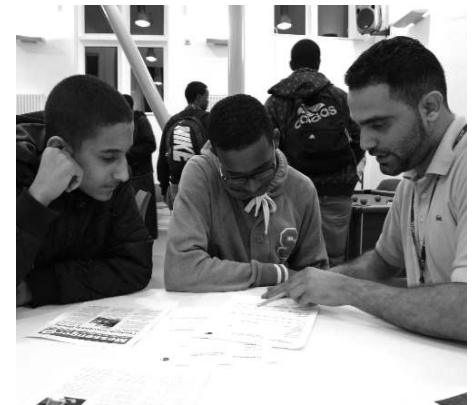
"The Vestry Hall is a community building and we should be able to use it. Now we feel involved and not ignored as young people."

Youth Work at the Vestry Hall

There have been concerns about young people around the Vestry Hall and Spital Hill area for many months. Local youth workers and organisations were already discussing how they could work together to engage the young men and support them.

Following the death of Deeq Ali on Spital Hill in October, local youth organisations were able to respond quickly and provide immediate support at the Burngreave Vestry Hall.

In the first week after the shooting, the Vestry Hall was open every day. From now until Christmas, it will be open 3 days a week - Wednesday and Friday 4-8pm and Sunday 3-7pm. Alongside being a safe place to socialise, young people will be able to get support from youth workers and get help to stay in education and find employment.



Local youth worker Diane Haimeed said:

"This has been a difficult time for young people and having somewhere safe for them to come and be together has been really important for them. It has also helped us to build better relationships with the young people and develop plans to ensure that young people's voices are heard and that they are at the forefront of decisions bring made."

Jenny Tibbles, Project Coordinator at Ellesmere Youth Project, said, "This provision has been really well used by young people. It's very important that it continues. It has been great to see everyone working together and we hope it can continue into the future."

The project at the Vestry Hall is a collaboration between Sheffield Futures, the Yemeni Community Association and Ellesmere Youth Project, and has been possible through the dedication of local youth workers.

Carwood TARA's Zumba class

Story: Lisa Swift



In the comfort of Carwood Community Centre, women from around the estate have been enjoying the energy of Zumba.

Zumba is a mixture of dance and aerobics. At Carwood the class is done sitting down, which makes it something anyone can enjoy. It's gentle but energetic and certainly gets the blood flowing.

Class instructor Barbara was full of enthusiasm which makes it easy to join in. And there was a very friendly and warm atmosphere among the women of Carwood, who were from different backgrounds and cultures.

The class is supported by Carwood TARA, who are working to put on lots of activities for local residents including:

Zumba for women:

Tuesdays 11.30am- 12.30pm

UK online: Tuesdays 4pm-6pm

Christmas Fair:

Saturday 3rd December, 12noon -4pm

For more info call in at the TARA office.

Drop-in: Thursdays 10.30am - 1.30pm

Getting involved

Sheffield Homes is working to encourage more tenants, residents and leaseholders to get involved with their local Tenants and Residents Associations (TARA's).

Sheffield Homes would like to hear from you if you are a tenant or leaseholder of Sheffield Homes. We are particularly keen to hear from you if you live on the Margate estates as they do not have TARAs at present or any representatives.

For more info contact the Community Engagement Team on 273 5566 or email getinvolved@sheffieldhomes.org.uk. If you contact us before the 20th December 2011 your name will be entered into a free prize draw for a £20 shopping voucher!

Burngreave TARA launch

Story: Michelle Cook

Burngreave Tenants And Residents Association (TARA) was launched on the 19th September at Verdon Rec. This is the first TARA in the centre of Burngreave for 4 years, serving the area from Verdon Street to Ellesmere.

Sheffield Homes' David Wilkinson, the local housing officer, and local PCSOs Steve Shipley and Deb Parker attended. The AGM was supported by Wensley TARA, whose Secretary, Gladys Newbolt, chaired the meeting, and said:

"A TARA is a team who meet together with the desire to serve the community. Communication is the key. Make everyone feel involved and valued and at the end of the day you will have a TARA you can be proud of."

Sheffield Homes offered support and help and encouraged members to take advantage of the free training on offer.

A committee was then elected – Delia



Chadwick, Sharon Baker, Clarete Zvoushe, Joyce Trotter, Margaret Williams, Margaret Hills, Suad Ali, with Lisa Swift as Chair. Mohammed Ali Bashe is to be co-opted on to the committee.

Lisa thanked everyone for coming and said how the committee would like to see the TARA develop:

"We all agreed that its about bringing the community together. We want to make our area a good place to live, where tenants' and residents' voices are heard, and resources are spent in our area as they should be. For the first 6 months we will be finding our feet and listening to what residents want us to do."

People can contact Burngreave TARA by email – burngreavetara@gmail.com, or through the community engagement team at Sheffield Homes 0114 293 0000.

Wensley bulb planting



Story: David Wilkinson

Thanks to Wensley TARA, a wide range of age groups came together on the Wensley estate on Tuesday, 1st November to plant hundreds of spring bulbs.

It was a gloriously warm, sunny day when pupils from Owlter Brook School joined up with members of Sheffield Homes, Steve Shipley PCSO and Wensley TARA - who organised it all.

The crocus and daffodil bulbs, were provided free by Sheffield City Council and will look really good next spring. And there was a special surprise appearance of Homesy - Sheffield Homes' mascot - who helped out with the planting.

Warm Welcome at Norwood

Story: Mick Ibbotson

Having spent a pleasant hour or so with the ladies and gents of Norwood & Bishopholme TARA Art group, I came away with plenty to think about and report back on.

Norwood and Bishopholme's TARA has risen like a 'phoenix' and wants its people back. A collapsed roof on the centre meant the building was out of bounds for a few months but Norma and Jean want people to know that it's business as usual.

The centre is now fully functioning and is offering a wide range of activities again for the entire community. These include:

Tuesdays: 10am – 12 noon Art Group

Wednesdays: 6.30pm Keep Fit.

Fridays: 10am – 12 noon Local History; 1pm - 3pm Ladies Craft Group; 7pm onwards Bingo

People are welcome to come and join in. For more information contact Norma on 243 1779.



Women's Health Course at Pye Bank School

Story: Shena Moore and Amal Ahmed | Photo: Shena Moore

This autumn, Pye Bank School hosted a 10 week health course for women.

The idea for this course arose from questions asked by students in an ESOL class, mothers of children at the school. They wanted to feel confident talking to doctors about private and personal problems but didn't have the words to speak.

We developed the course to explain some of the common health problems experienced by many, and asked a doctor and several health professionals to come to speak and answer questions

raised by the women.

We had sessions about how the body works, the NHS system and services, visiting a doctor, diet and healthy life-styles, thalassaemia and sickle cell disease, diabetes, cancers, mental health, women's health issues and basic first aid. One student wrote:

"I had many courses in my area but I have never been to a course like this. This course is very important for me and the other women who are attending because sometimes we find it very difficult to explain to the doctors our health problems and that costs a lot for us and our children. Now after this course we feel more confident to sort out our problems and to help out other friends and family. It's a wonderful course and we gain more experience and better knowledge."

The professionals too were enthusiastic. The information and understanding given to the women will make their jobs easier also.

One health professional said;

"I think this is excellent that you have come up with this, as it is important and there is a great need."

Another writes;

"We find that there are real problems with people having very little basic awareness of how their bodies work which is extremely dis-empowering. This is exactly the sort of work that is needed."

We are hoping to find more funding that will enable us to run this course again in a different area of Burngreave.



Pye Bank School Ofsted success

Story: Ruth Granger

The whole Pye Bank school community are celebrating great results and feedback from their recent Ofsted Inspection.

The inspection took place at the beginning of October and looked at all aspects of the school from lessons to pupils' work, from how pupils relate to one another to results.

Ofsted found that:

"This is a good school. The Early Years Foundation Stage is outstanding. The school is welcoming and friendly and its values and ethos are reflected well in the positive attitudes of pupils and staff."

Inspectors found that 'since the last inspection, attainment has shown a consistent pattern of improvement' and also rated the



school as 'good' in terms of its ability to improve even further. This is a fantastic achievement considering that five years ago the school was ranked second from bottom in the national league tables!

The inspectors also complimented pupils on their behaviour:

"We saw that you all mix and co-operate very well with each other. We noticed how polite and courteous you are to each other at all times."

Ofsted also highlighted areas where the school can improve further in order to become 'outstanding' in all areas. This included improving the number of pupils coming to school every day and making sure everyone arrives on time.

Paul Hopkinson, Head Teacher at the school said, "Pupils, families, staff, governors and the wider community have a great deal to celebrate in what we have achieved as a school. We know that there are areas we still want to improve and together we know we can become outstanding."

Personal budgets for mental health

Self-directed support is the name given to the way social care services have been redesigned to focus on individuals. It is particularly new to Mental Health services, people with a critical or substantial level of need could now be eligible for 'personal budget' which they can use to "buy" services.

SDS funding is means-tested, so even if you are eligible for support you may not get all the funding to pay for it. These changes also affect local voluntary organisations. As their direct funding is cut, they increasingly have to "sell" their services to their users to maintain their work.

Story: Georgina Burkoff

Ashton Wynter, from local charity SACHMA- the Health and Social Care Company, said:

"It's a whole new world for us because we are having to sell our services and we have never had to do that before. We are now in an open market place along with all other adult support services in Sheffield - so it is going to be difficult."

SACHMA offer help to individuals with personal budgets and managing their finances. Although wary of the new

process, he wants to remain positive about its long-term outcome.

"It's amazing how adaptable people can be when they have the right support. If people access the right service, they will get all the help they need and they can purchase more individualised support than they could in the past."

SAGE Greenfingers uses horticultural therapy to address people's mental and physical health problems. Although manager Diana Tottle sees the potential in empowering people, she worries that the new funding means they can only provide a service to those with the most severe mental health needs:

"At the moment users with different levels of need mix together. The new scheme is forcing us to become a more segregated organisation and the jury is out whether that will work better."

Saeed Abdi, from the Somali Mental Health Project, which offers help to the Somali community to access mental health services, said,

"SDS is particularly difficult for the BME service users. It is daunting for people to be responsible for their own care when there are already many barriers to accessing services, such as not speaking English. With SDS, there are no guarantees that people will be able to pay for the services."

If you think you will be affected by the changes, speak to your support worker or the local organisation who supports you.

Health Services at PACA

The Pakistan Advice and Community Association is now offering new services as part of its health and wellbeing provision. They are available for purchase with social services personal budgets, but are open to all:

Befriending Services:

Access to social groups/social outings, visits to the library, restaurants and cinemas, accompaniment to GP/hospital, hairdresser, chiropodist, dentist, guided health walks and gym buddies.

Advocacy Services:

Support planning, managing personal budgets and/or personal finances, form filling, appointment management and general advice.

Ruqyah Spiritual Healing:

In Islam is the recitation of the Quran seeking refuge, remembrance and supplications that are used for people who may suffer from Mental Health problems, Learning and Physical disabilities.

For further details please contact:

Sophia Zubair 261 9130

email:sophia.zubair@hotmail.co.uk

Greenfingers cuts

Story: Tim Neal

SAGE Greenfingers (SAGE) will be launching a new horticultural therapy session from January 2012. This single session will replace the four currently running, due to reductions in funding.

The project, which has been very successful and popular with users and health professionals, has been unable to secure the funding needed to maintain current levels of support.

SAGE has decided to engage with the new system of 'Personal Budgets' in order to provide at least some service to users, who will be able to pay using their budgets. By the nature of this funding, the sessions will be for those with more pressing needs.

Diana Tottle, the manager, admitted that they must see the current situation as an opportunity, however difficult:

"Up to now, we have had no success in getting money from the health service. Though they like us in principle, they couldn't find the money."

SAGE has no choice but to grasp the initiative and pare down its services, and from this platform develop new projects that might be offered freely to those who cannot afford to pay.

People matter

Over the past year, through the Refugee and Asylum Seekers project (RAS), SAGE Greenfingers has been able to support some of those most vulnerable within the asylum system. The Messenger spoke to Waleed Al Bashir, originally from the Sudan, who has been attending the Thursday session for 7 months. He said:

"The project is good for people, it helps you get out of the house, it gets you to see other people, digging together"

Melvyn Hollingworth has been attending for 3 years, having been recommended to the project after the amputation of his left leg in 2007, he commented:

"It's a great shame, I can't afford to pay and I don't think I'll get this new personal budget. It's a good project because people are doing something different. I did what I could, even some digging, taking care of seeds in the greenhouse. All the money, it's going to the Olympics, not to people like me"

Building for the future

SAGE envisages that they will continue to offer a core service of one session a week for the next year. They hope to develop other projects through separate funding schemes, which could include singing, ceramics workshops, mosaics, cards, pressing flowers, Christmas garlands, SAGE intend to offer ever more diversity.

It is also striving to link up those members it can no longer support to other activities to help fill the gap. If you or someone you know will be affected by this announcement please contact SAGE Greenfingers at enquiries@sagesheffield.org.uk or on 0114 274 3651

SSCAT Foundation

Local group SSCAT Foundation (Sheffield Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Foundation) discussed their future at their annual conference in October, which aimed to raise awareness of the most common genetic disorder in the UK.



In the changing world of health funding, the focus was on the continued importance of the service. SSCATF has been around for over 20 years but many remembered when support to families with the genetic blood disorders was only available in London. Many sufferers and their families had to travel to get extra help.

The blood disorders, Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia, are inherited illnesses that affect half a million people in the UK and are more common in people from Black and Ethnic minority backgrounds. The symptoms of Sickle Cell can be very unpredictable. It is a lifelong and disabling illness, which gives rise to painful crises that can be life-threatening. The symptoms of both disorders vary in severity, which leads to many misunderstandings about what having the condition means. It is further complicated by its genetic inheritance, which means that people can be carriers but have no symptoms.

It was clear at the conference that this complexity and even the misunderstanding of health professionals meant that the extra support from SSCAT Foundation was essential.

Professor Simon Dyson of De Montfort University told the conference of his research about how children with Sickle Cell are supported in school. 569 children were interviewed. Many felt their condition was not taken seriously, with half saying they had not been permitted to get extra water. One third said they were considered lazy and another third had been made to do inappropriate exercise.

Professor Karl Atkin, of the University of York, spoke about the misconception that they are 'Black' disorders when in fact the conditions affect all communities. He said it is the most common single genetic disorder, yet many doctors have a poor understanding of it. Screening for the gene is very low.

In workshops, people spoke about how SSCAT Foundation's approach helped support them in coping with the condition:

"It provides a social group with other people who understand what you are going through."

"SSCAT will advocate on your behalf."

"People are affected in different ways; SSCAT understand this and help increase awareness."

"They are a link to services; they give information and education and they help build confidence to ask for the right help."

SSCAT Foundation's services include home and hospital visits, benefit entitlement, support groups, advocacy, and emotional support. For more information on these culturally-sensitive, free services, contact 275 3209.

Type 2 Diabetes

Type 2 Diabetes is an increasing health problem in Sheffield and the UK. Unfortunately, Burngreave has one of the highest hospital admission rates for Type 2 Diabetes in Sheffield, which suggests many people with the condition are not managing it very well.

Burngreave Healthy Communities will be working on this health issue in the coming months. Look out for more information locally about how to manage and prevent Type 2 Diabetes.

What is diabetes?

Type 2 Diabetes occurs when your body cannot produce enough insulin or because the cells in your body do not react properly to insulin. Insulin is a hormone that is needed to control the amount of glucose, a type of sugar, in your blood.

Who does it affect?

You have a higher chance of getting Type 2 Diabetes if you are over the age of 40, if you are overweight, if you are of South-Asian, African-Caribbean or Middle Eastern descent, or if you have a family history of the condition. Due to poor diet and lack of physical activity, there are more and more young people being diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes,

Can it be cured?

Once diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes it cannot be cured, however if managed properly it is possible to live a relatively normal life.

How can I control my Diabetes?

Everyone is different and it is important to speak to your GP before making any changes to your diet or activity levels. Often Type 2 Diabetes can be controlled by eating a healthy, balanced diet and taking regular exercise.

What happens if I don't control my Diabetes?

Health complications as a result of Type 2 Diabetes include stroke, heart disease, depression, and damage to kidneys, nerves, eyes and feet.

What support is there locally?

1. You can get information from your GP or Diabetes nurse about managing your condition. They will also monitor your progress every few months.
2. DESMOND – this short course is delivered to small groups in GP surgeries around Sheffield. It is suitable for those newly diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes and/or those who would like support to manage their condition better. Speak to your diabetes nurse or visit <http://www.desmond-project.org.uk/index.php>
3. The Healthy Communities Programme is funding 2 six week healthy living courses which will be starting in Burngreave in the New Year. Sessions will focus on helping to prevent and/or manage diabetes by healthy eating and exercise. As well as information about diabetes there will also be the chance to take part in some physical activity and learn to cook some healthy recipes. Contact Becky Gunn, Health Development Worker on 07960 084 119 for more information.

Where can I find out more?

Diabetes UK has lots of information and resources. Call their care line on 0845 120 2960 or visit <http://www.diabetes.org.uk/>

25 years and 500 children later

Story: Tim Neal | Photo: Stephen Lang

25 years ago, three young women got together to run a playgroup at St James' on Scott Road. 25 years - and maybe 500 children - later, one of them is still there. Two mornings a week, Isilda Lang is the organiser and stalwart of St James' Parents and Toddlers group.

On Saturday 12th November grandparents, parents and children came together to celebrate this anniversary and to offer their thanks and continued support. There were well over twenty toddlers, as well as some overgrown children - teenagers and adults who had spent their mornings at the playgroup with Isilda in the past.

Isilda recalls that there was just not enough good provision for parents with small children at the time. The only thing to do was self-organise, with Linda Jones and Panni Poh Yoke Loh. There was



never enough money and Isilda recalled fundraising activities supported by boxers Herol 'Bomber' Graham and Johnny Nelson from Brendan Ingle's gym.

Elders from the Church were present to offer their thanks too. They feel blessed that the building has become home to such a vibrant and lively community and Isilda was keen to recognise the support the playgroup has received.

A moving display of photographs visibly demonstrated the numbers of children

and parents who have benefited from the playgroup. Delicious food was prepared and served by playgroup supporters - a tribute to the parents who have given so much over the years to St James' playgroup.

It was a lovely event where all present were able to share memories and enjoy the feeling of being part of 25 years of youth, growth and community. A cake and gift were presented to thank Isilda. As she said, "Here's to the next 25 years".



Future Light

Story: Philip Ireson

A group called Future Light meets once a month at the Vicarage, 257 Pitsmoor Road. The aim of the group is to give a voice to members of Christ Church for whom English is a second language.

We begin with breakfast together followed by confidence building activities and a chance to hear about each others' cultures. There is also a chance to join the church walking group which meets on the same day. At the moment, members of Future Light (the name was picked by one of our Karen ladies) come from across the globe - at the last meeting we had representatives from Nigeria, Iran, Indonesia, Ukraine and Burma.

We are very friendly and there is a lot of laughter. It is a great place to improve English and to have fun.

Phone 07882 027 473 for more details of our special Christmas meeting.

Launch Welcome Centre toddler group

Story & photo: Hendrik Klaver

On Wednesday 9th November, an Opening Event was held at the Welcome Centre on Nottingham St to tell people about a new toddler group in the area.

Fifteen parents and carers and eighteen babies and toddlers came to the event to share ideas. Many people showed interest in being involved.

The toddler group runs on Wednesday mornings, from 9.30 to 11.30, with the help of volunteers from Christ Church Pitsmoor and other local residents. It offers a safe space in Pitsmoor for parents, carers and young children of all backgrounds to meet, play and learn together.

Alex, A father of two children, who lives locally, said,

"I have never been to a group like this. This is really good! I am enjoying this and my children are enjoying this."

To cover the cost of snacks and drinks, there is a charge of £1 for the first child and 50p for others. Everyone with children under the age of 5 years, just come along!

Contact Frances on 272 7756 or Hendrik on 07771 590 034
Email: hendrik@christchurchpitsmoor.com



Tusaale United takes on the league



New football club, Tusaale United, have begun their first season in Sheffield's amateur leagues.

Started by a group of young Somali men, the club already has three age ranges competing across the city. Their under 15s team are second from the top and the under 18s are holding their own in the premier division. The club also has an 18-21 team and holds sessions for 12-16 years old on Saturdays at Petre Street.

The Messenger spoke to Mustafa Juma, coach for the over 18s team,

"The club is run by volunteers, we all used to play together for a team. We wanted to get the younger kids together from different areas, to help them get on with each other. The players come from across the city, areas like Darnall, Broomhall, Uppertorpe, Sharrow as well as Burngreave, and from different ethnic backgrounds. The team gives them the chance to play together and this is good for our community."

The great need for the project was demonstrated when they held their trials in the summer, Mustafa said,

"300 young people turned up to try out for the teams! All three teams are full, but we are looking to set up under 11s and 12s next season."

The teams rely entirely on donations and volunteer time. One of the big costs is the kit, and the teams are looking for sponsors,

"Our under 15s team got their kit from a Yemeni team, the High Flyers, who had stopped playing. A new kit costs more than £300, we are hoping to get sponsorship from local businesses or organisations."

If you would like to sponsor the team, or to find out more, contact Mustafa Jama on 07412 606 471.



Blast Off success for Burngreave teams

The NE Blast Off finals were a huge success, with 34 teams attending the event at Concord Sports Centre. There was an attendance of approximately 10-12 teams from in-and-around the Burngreave area.

The event was an opportunity for people from different backgrounds to come together through football. Burngreave was represented in both finals with Tusaale United being runners up in the 11-13 age group, Yemeni All Stars won the 14-16 age group with Relegation Battlers as runners up.

Languages count in Burngreave!

Story: Caroline Norman

During October half-term, over 20 children attended classes in their home language, including Somali and Arabic. Most of these young people were from Burngreave, with thirteen of them from the Arabic Community Language School.



Pupils from the Community Language Accreditation Project Somali class with tutor Zahra Abdullahi

They attended King Edward VII School every day and sat an Asset Intermediate exam at the end of the week. This exam is equivalent to higher grade GCSE and is especially important to Somali speakers as there is no GCSE Somali.

A special mention should be made to Asha Noor Ali, a pupil from Byron Wood. At just 10 years old she took the exam along with much older children!

Studying your home language greatly improves English and other subjects, and can result in an extra qualification.

Anyone interested in taking a similar course in the future should contact Languages Sheffield by e-mail: caroline@languages-sheffield.org.uk.



Apple Day

Story: Saleema Imam | Photos: Chris Sissons

50 people enjoyed the sunshine in Burngreave Cemetery on Sunday 17th October as apples from local allotments and gardens were juiced and quickly quaffed.



Soup and apple crumble soon disappeared at lunchtime and Ruth's recipe for apple chutney found eager takers.

Everyone is invited to the chapel's free Crafty Christmas wreath-making session on December 11th at 12 noon. Natural materials provided, but bring your own special items.

Friends of Burngreave Cemetery & Chapel: friendsofburngreavecemetery.btck.co.uk

Apple Day was also World Food Day – see Chris Sissons' blog entry at chrississons.typepad.co.uk/so_what/



Parkwood Springs Beacon Event

Story: Lydia Flanagan

Photos: Lydia Flanagan & Catherine Brown

On the evening of Saturday 22nd October, off the city roads in the wide wooded open spaces of Parkwood Springs, magic starts as families come together for the 5th Annual Beacon Festival of fire displays and storytelling.

Hot beverage in hand, we journey through the decorated woods of Parkwood Springs, as story-teller Shonaleigh begins her magical stories to gathered families as part of the Annual Beacon Festival.

We are led from the entrance and into the woods by Lord Fox and co, their flaming beacons in hand, passing quirky ornaments hanging in trees that set the mood for the evening. We reach the edge of the hill that overlooks Sheffield, on a crisp autumn evening, providing a perfect earthy atmosphere to bring to life the soulful story of Lord Fox, told so fabulously by storyteller Shonaleigh. Also joining the stone stage were local schools Sacred Heart and Watercliffe Meadow



who sang cheery songs and told poems of their love and appreciation for grandparents.

Stories told, we're escorted by Lord Fox back through the woods and stop at a clearing delicately lit by fairy lights, where a cockney fellow plays a mouth organ (harmonica) then captivates his young listeners with his lively magical stories, followed by riddles and humour.

Sun now set, we head for another clearing towards the edge of the wood, Lord Fox and friends begin dancing with their fiery batons to old traditional music accompanied by accordion and drums. Families and friends watch, their faces lit with fire.

In all it was a beautiful evening with a powerful atmosphere that brought back the wonders of old fashioned entertainment. I recommend the event for next year!



After Dark with PACA

Story: Farah Shafique & Kashif Nazir

The Pakistan Advice and Community Association took a group of 30 young people to the After Dark event at Don Valley Bowl. The police-funded trip was a great opportunity to gain new experiences and allowed the young people, aged 11-16, to build friendships with other people from Slovak and Pakistani backgrounds. The evening consisted of a fabulous firework display and live entertainment.



Rainbows End celebration

Story: Michelle Cook | Photos: Richard Hanson

When Charity shop Rainbow's End was visited by Channel 4's "Secret Millionaire" Simi Choudhrie, she gave £100,000 to help their work. Part of that money was for a celebration to reward all the people involved in the project.

The result was a glittering Oscar-style awards ceremony at the Cutlers' Hall on Thursday 22nd September. The Right Honourable David Blunkett MP presented certificates to every single volunteer and said:

"Your reputation is spreading far and wide. We are very proud of what you have achieved, the time energy, commitment. The secret millionaire money is a massive accolade to you and will allow you to develop the work you do. I've told Tesco they must work and support you!"



Yvonne Hayes praised the work of the Trustees and volunteers and the "generosity of people in Burngreave who give us goods to sell and come in and buy things". Jokingly she said, "I think it's Tesco who should be worried about us!"

Lyn Snow, Chair of the Trustees said,

"It is great to see such a beautiful place. It is fantastic for Rainbow's End to be honoured here"

She spoke a little about the origins of Rainbow's End. Why the name?

"People say there is a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow and I hope people will find it in the relationships formed on our settee in our shop sharing tea and their stories. Both in the Bible and the Koran, after the Flood, God sent a rainbow as a sign of hope. The shop is the people and we are celebrating all your hard work!"

Yvonne was presented with a bouquet. Mark Russell, Chief Executive of the Church Army, who employ Yvonne, said how proud he was of Yvonne and the project. He also presented Margaret Morland, Rainbow's End longest serving volunteer, with a special certificate and told her:

"The whole project owes you a huge thanks."

**Rainbow's End is open at Sorby House on Spital Hill:
Monday – Saturday 10.30am - 5pm**



FREELANCE INTERPRETERS REQUIRED IN SHEFFIELD

We currently have urgent interpreting vacancies in the following languages:

Albanian, Cantonese, Croatian, Czech, Farsi, Karen, Kinyarwanda, Kosovan, Lithuanian, Mandarin, Pashto, Slovak, Somali, Swahili, Vietnamese.

However, all other languages are also invited to apply for future positions.

For more information, please contact the Recruitment Team:

Tel: 0845 602 7769 (option 2)

E-mail: lr.recruitment@languageline.co.uk

QUOTE: BM001

Christmas at St Peter's Ellesmere

Sunday 18th December 10.30am

CAROL SERVICE

All your favourites old and new,
followed by mince pies and coffee

Sunday 18th December 4.30pm

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

A special service for children
Come and sing carols by candlelight

Saturday 24th December 11.30pm

CHRISTMAS EVE : MIDNIGHT SERVICE

Over at Pitsmoor Methodist Church

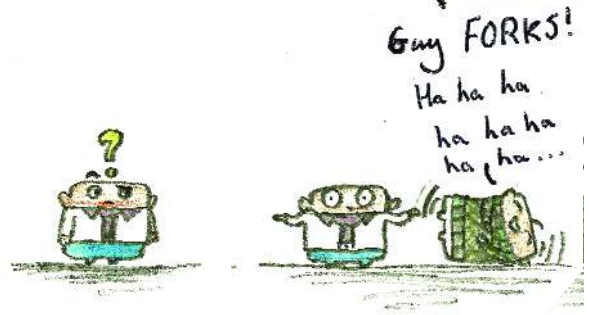
Sunday 25th December 10am

CHRISTMAS DAY

Family celebration
Come and give thanks for the birth of Jesus

ALL WELCOME

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



Burngreave's Young cartoonist

Story: Lydia Flanagan

14 year old cartoonist, Edgar Lowman, started his cartoons towards the beginning of his time at secondary school. Now in year 10 he is still creating his imaginative adventures and is looking to share them with everyone else!

Coming from a very creative family, it's hardly surprising these funny mini cartoon strips just flow from Edgar's hand. A hint of inspiration comes from comics he has read himself: the classic Beano and comic duo Wallace and Gromit. His cartoon adventures follow friends George and Brian, two calamity magnets, in a slap-stick style of their day



to day life. There are holiday themed strips too; a Halloween strip sees George trying to trick Brian but they find themselves faced with a real monster!

Edgar has written more comic strips called 'MADventures' about the even more adventurous Michael and Nibbles McGlee whose shenanigans have included a trip to the moon! These characters Edgar featured in a magazine he created for a competition at school called The Big Challenge.

As part of this he was given £25 to start a business and develop it over 3 months, and at the end of it the most profit wins. Edgar did his own little competition for one of the Michael and Nibbles adventures where readers thought up their own ending and the best was chosen and the writers were featured as characters.

Edgar is currently doing his GCSEs, and after already gaining an A* in Performing Arts for his first year, he's now doing French alongside other compulsory subjects for the rest of his GCSEs. On top of this, he somehow gets in 20 hours of ballet dancing with the Northern Ballet and has recently been in a production of the Nutcracker in Bradford.

Other hobbies are reading books and indeed writing them - he is writing a short story at the moment about two men in London. Keep an eye out on the Messenger website for the George and Brian adventures.

EYP celebrate 10 years

Story: Michelle Cook

Sunny September 24th was a day to celebrate ten years of an excellent project for our local young people.

Ellesmere Youth Project (EYP) organised a fantastic celebration for young people, who enjoyed the bouncy castle, dressing up in Sumo Wrestler suits, the bike workshop and graffiti wall. South Yorkshire Fire Service brought one of their engines too!

We all shared the delicious food: chicken, fish and lamb, with rice and peas, and then took part in EYPs Annual General Meeting. Chair Chris Bristow said,

"Young people are an investment. It is important to build lasting relationships as sometimes young people have a lack of faith in the system and in adults."

Certificates were awarded to the year's achievers, including Katie for effort and Samier for teamwork at the 5-day



residential visit in April. Josh won best mechanic at the Bike Club, which continues to go from strength to strength.

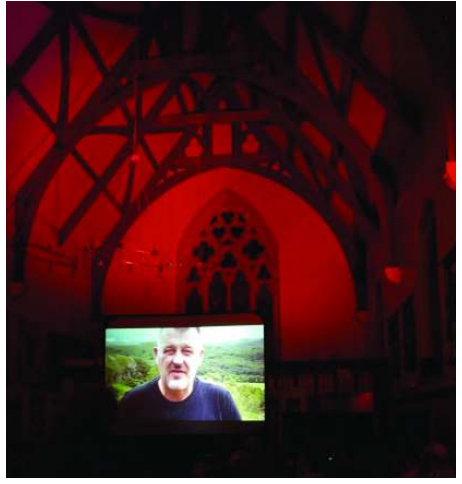
EYP is keen to encourage volunteering, offering training and lots of opportunities. More Trustees are needed too. Anyone interested in Ellesmere Youth Project can contact them on:

Telephone: 0114 213 3120
Mobile: 07886 777068
Email: info@eypproject.org.uk

Film night at the chapel

Photo: Janet Currie

Cheap Thrills was a zero-budget Film Festival at the Burngreave Cemetery Chapel, organised by Martin Currie. The packed house was treated to a full programme of short films, along with popcorn, drinks, sweets, voting for favourite films and the chance to catch up with friends and neighbours.



You do an amazing job - give yourself a break



Tired? Stressed out?

Looking after a disabled child or young person - that's something amazing! We can help you get a break to suit you.

Visit:
www.sheffield.gov.uk/shortbreakgrants
or call (0114) 266 9476



Positive Change for our Children and Young People
with Disabilities and Special Educational Needs

Supporting Parents: Including Our Children

Sheffield Parent Carer Forum is an independent group of parents and carers of children aged 0-19, with disabilities and/or special educational needs, including children with autism, dyslexia, Down Syndrome, speech and language impairments, behaviour or emotional difficulties, hearing or sight impairment, learning difficulties, physical disabilities, cerebral palsy and many others.



The Sheffield Parent Carer Forum want to make sure the needs of our children are met, from all backgrounds and cultures and parts of the city. The Forum has over 500 members and wants to keep on growing, so it can have a stronger voice to improve education, health and social services for our children.

Time Out!

The Forum are working with **Watoto Pre-school**, **Tinsley Children's Centre** and **SADACCA** to put on different activities for parents to have some time out, get to know each other, support each other and find out what services and breaks are available.

The first events will be days out at the end of January, February and March, during school hours, for



parents with children aged 6 months to 5 years, with exclusive use of a play centre and trips out of Sheffield. There will also be a big event at SADACCA over the Easter holidays, with activities for children, pampering for mums (and dads!), health checks and information.

Want to know more?

If you would like to know more, contact Eva at the Forum on

enquiries@sheffieldparentcarerforum.org.uk

Telephone: 0114 252 1913

Visit
www.sheffieldparentcarerforum.org.uk
or find us on Facebook. You can also follow the Forum on Twitter @ShefParentForum.



Sheaf Training reopens

Story & photos: Georgina Burkoff

Sheaf Training, based on Norwood Drive, has re-opened after a £3 million refurbishment.

Students now have the opportunity to gain vocational skills in a new state-of-the-art Health and Wellbeing Centre, with courses in childcare, hospitality, catering and health and social care. The Centre is also continuing to offer horticulture and construction course. It currently has 160 students enrolled, but has the capacity to hold 300.

Student Matthew Dickinson, 19, is completing his training in Children and

Young People's Development at the centre. He said, "Sheaf training has been a really good place for me. The staff there are very supportive. You get a lot of one to one help from all the assessors."

Councillor Jackie Drayton, Sheffield City Council's Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families said,

"The new facilities at the Health and Wellbeing Centre, and close links with employers, give students the chance to train in real-life situations."



Interfaith tree planting

Story: Holly Barnes, Community Forestry Development Officer

On Saturday the 12th November members of the Interfaith partnership met local business owners, the Community Forestry team and the Lord Mayor in Ellesmere Park on grass next to St Peter's Church, as part of their joint environmental initiative.

Thanks to funding from the Big Tree Plant and Tinsley Tree Project, volunteers planted an extra heavy standard oak and two birch trees outside the Lyon's

Convenience Store, providing a focus for the unused area at the top entrance to the Ellesmere Park site.

Both species have an esteemed history in Britain and strong folk law; the oak known as a symbol of strength and the silver birch as 'the lady of the wood'. Native daffodil bulbs were added beneath the trees to give bright spring colour.

The three trees will partially replace those that have been removed from the park in recent years.

Thanks to everyone involved.

Community Forestry will also be planting trees on Burngreave Rec. in the coming weeks. Details of the event will be on the Messenger website, and publicised locally.

Accessing Roe Woods

Story: Lisa Swift

Last year local residents expressed their anger at the lack of consultation about the Sheaf Training planning application – see the October 2010 Messenger. The main concern was traffic on the Firs Hill estate and its affect on access to the woodland.

Following the completion of the Centre's refurbishment, the Messenger visited Roe Woods to see what impact it has had.

The track from Firshill Rise, now in good condition, is still the only access to the construction course compound and skip, so though narrowed it is unlikely to return to strictly pedestrian use and will need maintaining.

As part of completion, contractors plan to dig up the vast majority of the field and replace it with wild flowers. This plan will be news to residents and has caused concern about how it will be maintained. Local resident Peter Mappin said:

"It looks good as it is; local people really enjoy this view. This will restrict residents' use of the area which was gifted to the people of Sheffield by the Duke of Norfolk."

The Council is organising a meeting with local residents to discuss the completion of the Sheaf Training refurbishment.

Improving the woods

Sheaf Training students have been working to make the area around the old playground a safer and more pleasant place. They have planted wetland plants in areas which were once ponds, cleared brambles and planted new trees. Future plans include more undergrowth thinning and improving the boundary with Sheffield United Academy.

The Council's Parks and Woodlands are also starting tree work in the woods which will use horses to remove felled trees. Woodlands officer Adam Goodall said:

"Woodlands require thinning - removing the smaller, weaker trees - to give the better trees room to grow properly and to benefit native tree species. At the same time allowing more light into the woods, encouraging wild plants and wildlife in general and making them more attractive for recreation."

For more information on the tree work, contact Adam Goodall on 250 0500.

A mythical being appears at Parkwood Springs

Story: Catherine Brown | Photo: Jon Dallow

Many of you will be familiar with the 'Bird and Boy' sculpture at the Rutland Road entrance to Parkwood Springs, but have you seen our latest work of art at the Cooks Wood / Shirecliffe Road entrance, installed on 5th November?

The sculpture was created by Sheffield artist Jason Thomson, inspired by the history, geology, and wildlife of the site. It is to be officially unveiled by the Leader of the Council on Friday December 9th at 12.30pm.

We hope that next year's Beacons event will be able to incorporate this new



mythical being into its storytelling. What name should we give it? Do you have any ideas? Please visit our website at www.parkwood-springs.org.uk or email parkwood.springs@gmail.com

The next event at Parkwood Springs will be a wreath-making event on Tuesday 6th December, 4pm - 6pm.

Landfill restoration

Story: Catherine Brown

Planning permission allows tipping at the Landfill Site at Parkwood Springs to continue until 2018, so people could be forgiven for thinking that it's far too early to be talking about what happens to the site after that. But meetings at the end of September about Viridor's restoration plans for the site soon disillusioned them.

Phil Baker, responsible at Viridor for the plans, informed the Landfill Liaison Group and the Friends of Parkwood Springs what will be needed to make the site safe.

Computer simulations showed how the site would look under Viridor proposals; with areas of trees, open spaces, footpaths and wetland. He stressed that Viridor want the plans to fit in with the rest of Parkwood Springs, including Council owned land already well used by the public. Foot and cyclepaths on the restored landfill site would need to connect to the rest of Parkwood Springs.

Plans are drawn up in co-operation with bodies such as the Forestry Commission and the RSPB, but the City Council has to approve them. Most of the landfill site is owned by Viridor and is expected to stay so after the restoration. They will continue to be legally responsible for the

site's management and have set aside money in their accounts for this. The Environment Agency will oversee Viridor and the site for as long as it judges that there is any risk to the environment. This may be around 60 years. The public won't be allowed on the site until it is safe.

40% of the site is already tipped to its limit and, as areas are filled, they are being restored in line with the plans; and there are areas of the site – near the boundary with the Standish estate – which are already planted in line with the proposals, even seven years before tipping will stop. Due to settlement over a number of years, the current height of the landfill may be reduced by as much as 30% - about 10 metres.

Neill Schofield, Chair of the Friends of Parkwood Springs, hoped that Viridor would keep the Friends and the local community closely in touch with the planning. It was also important for the Council to take the plans seriously, and give Viridor their reactions. "They mustn't wait until 2018 before thinking about it," he said. The Friends want public access to as much as possible as soon as it was safe. "Even if it's a long time before we can think of the whole of Parkwood Springs as a country park, we shouldn't have to wait until years after 2018 before we get some progress."

If you support the Friends' aims of protecting the wildlife and natural environment of Parkwood Springs, please join the Friends Group, at www.parkwood-springs.org.uk or email parkwood.springs@gmail.com

Energy Saving in Melrose Road

Story: Rick Watson

A large array of solar panels on five adjoining terrace roofs has been attracting attention in Melrose Road.



Fireside Housing Co-op at Nos.55-61 has added 32 photovoltaic (PV) panels to the solar thermal (hot water) panel installed last year. Each household makes savings on the electricity used as it is generated and finds it very satisfying watching their electricity meter going backwards!



Saving energy is more important and insulation is being installed wherever possible under floors and on north-facing walls.

For more details, visit our website

Allotments meeting

Local allotment holders were left out of a series of consultation meetings, without a single event being held in the entire North East of the city.

Thanks to the Messenger, the Council agreed to hold an extra meeting at Firth Library on Tuesday 22nd November.

The discussion will include proposals for significant allotment rents increases.



New range at Fir Vale PO

Story & photos: Tahira Khan

Local Resident, Asif, the owner of the Post Office in Fir Vale recalls how 4 years ago business was doing well but now people seem to be moving to online services; by his estimation sales have halved. To get the Post Office back in business he is introducing a range of brand new products.

These include 'Ikhlas' religious lifestyle products such as books, children's clothing and prayer mats and a variety of other items including handbags, gifts, jewellery, scarves and even sewing equipment.

Asif desires to bring these goods to local consumers at the cheapest possible prices and says he has already received feedback from customers claiming they have seen similar products elsewhere at higher prices. An example of the incredible value for money that has already gained a lot of interest is the four scarves for £10 offer introduced two weeks ago. He also plans to keep the store open longer on weekends.

The Post Office plays a vital role in the community; many people use it to collect pensions, welfare payments or pay the bills as well as the hugely important postal service. People come in to ask for advice and, contrary to what some people may think, there are still customers asking for stamps and the Moneygram service allows local residents to send money to their families abroad.

The Post Office is vital for businesses in Fir Vale bringing customers to stores nearby and it was under the ownership of Asif that the Post Office introduced "free cash machine services at a time when there were none in the area," showing how it has always been one step ahead, providing customers with services they need.



As owner for nearly 7 years Asif is familiar with many customers and has inevitably gained a lot of expertise in the running of the store. It is clear that it would be a loss for the community if he had no other option but to step down and pass on the Post Office.

Bus changes again

Story: Mick Ibbotson

At the end of October, First Buses withdrew the 10-minute 73 service between the City Centre and Ecclesfield and replaced it with an hourly daytime 72, running from the City, via Shirecliffe, only to the new Asda store at Parson Cross.

Most people we consulted expressed concern that the change had left part of lower Shirecliffe with no service at all and a large part of the area without evening or Sunday buses. There is now no direct link between Shirecliffe and neighbour Southey Green. However the new 72 route includes Longley Avenue West, along with the school, so although some people miss out, others are getting a new service.

Paul Howard, from Parkwood Academy, welcomed the new service, saying many pupils from the school would struggle to get in safely without it, but that extending the 72 to later in the evening would allow wider participation in extended curriculum and other activities.

Tracy Browes said, "many people are grumbling about the new service. I'm concerned about the fares, having been charged £1.95 to go two stops"

Pat Hague added, "this has cut Shirecliffe in half. How are disabled or old people expected to get about?"

The SYPTE confirmed "it was First's decision." As this is a trial, will the service be maintained and improved as time goes on or has the service been cut too far to be viable?

Saleh's mini market

Last issue the Messenger's Spital Hill shop survey missed out one of the area's long standing local shops. Messenger reporter Brent Moya went to find out more about the business:

Story & photo: Brent Moya

Saleh's Mini Market opened in the year 2000 and has been a mainstay of Spital Hill's shopping district ever since.



The owner, Saleh Abdullah (pictured right) first came to Burngreave in 1996 and rented a corner shop on Ellesmere Road before buying his own business. He says the area has under gone a lot of change.

"I came to Burngreave during a transition period, the area was empty when I first arrived but is now a thriving suburb, with lots of people and lots of shops."

Saleh's Mini market opens 7 days a week and sells a wide variety of groceries as well as Eastern European food and general confectionary.

I spoke to one of Saleh's customers and friend, who was kind enough to offer me a drink and show me round the shop. He told me that the newly opened Tesco supermarket has put pressure on local businesses who were already struggling.

"Unfortunately with it being such a big outlet they can cater for pretty much anything which makes it harder for smaller businesses to compete; all future plans for this business are currently on hold."



St Catherine's School award

Story: Linda Keane

St Catherine's Primary School has been awarded the International Schools Award from the British Council.

The school carried out several activities to win the award, including a celebration of Black History Month, linked to history curriculum work. St Catherine's also has an international link with a school in Zambia. Both Y3 teachers visited Zambia last year, which helped them develop a robust, creative curriculum that teaches children to question assumptions, learn from differences and identify similarities.

Teacher Miriam Cocker, one of the global co-ordinators in the school, together with fellow teacher Lynne Biggs, said:

"The ISA award recognises the hard work that the children, parents and staff have contributed towards these aims."

Rebecca Picton, of the British Council International School Award, told the school:

"This is a great achievement and one that deserves celebrating and sharing widely. I hope that the scope of your excellent international activities will continue to develop and benefit the school community; your support, commitment, creativity and innovative international work is greatly appreciated."

Impact of EMA cuts

Story: Muneebah Waheed

Tensions are still running high among students as the cost of living and tuition fees are all continually rising.

Many students are still feeling frustrated and angry as more cuts are being made. The Education Maintenance Allowance scheme closed down for all applicants applying after the 1st January 2011. EMA provided financial support for students from ordinary backgrounds and allowed them to carry on with their education. As this has now been cut, students are angry and desperate, and many are considering quitting further education and opting for apprenticeships instead.

A new scheme replacing EMA is now in place but this scheme is only helping a limited group of students. Maria Iqbal, student, commented on the impact of the cuts saying, "It is really frustrating how many young people are not getting financial support. I know many people who are really struggling to stay in college as they are not financially stable."

Another student commented on the replacement of EMA saying "It is better than not receiving anything at all, but it is not enough, as you need the payment to provide food, transport, college equipment, and much more. Getting a job is proving difficult too, as many employers are looking for people with experience, something that many students don't yet have."

The Burngreave Messenger spoke to Donald McClean, Vice Principal at Longley Park Sixth Form, who commented, "Longley Park will continue to support all of its students in every way it can. We shall administer the bursary fund and ensure all students entitled to the fund will receive it."

Learning about IT at Parkwood

As part of a national campaign, Parkwood Academy has been supporting parents, students and local residents to get more confident in using the Internet.

Young teachers

Parkwood Academy launched a project using its young people as teachers and their family members as the students. This is what Michail's mother, Jelena thought of the class taught by her son:

"I really enjoyed going to the computer class at Parkwood Academy. I have learnt many new things. I have been working on Microsoft Power Point, Word and Publisher. Coming into The Academy to use the computers has been good because our computer at home does not have as many programs.

"I also learned how to use Google Maps and find places. If I need to find somewhere and am not quite sure where it is, I can look it up and print it off. This course has also helped me improve my English.

"I wish there were more classes where children can help parents and learn together."

Digital Champions & UK Online

Story: Destiny Shaw

Myself and my friend, Courtney, trained as Digital Champions as part of the UK Online Programme. We found it really interesting. Our first session was to teach members of the community.

Mr Richard Wildgoose, the chairperson of Longley TARA, came along to our workshop. He could use a computer but he couldn't do his emails and internet browsing. He really enjoyed the workshop and was able to send an email himself after the session. I am now attending sessions each week.



Jelena Pletniova, parent of Michail Pletnirov



Courtney Wall and Destiny Shaw

Cabinet in the Community

100 people filled the hall at Shirecliffe Community Centre to meet the eight Sheffield City Council Cabinet members. Half of the hour long meeting was taken up answering questions that had been submitted previously and the remainder of the time the Cabinet took questions from the floor. Local questions included:

- The increase in charges for bowling
- Grass verges in Shiregreen
- Loss of housing stock in the city
- Wincobank Community Centre



- Sale of Council owned properties in Page Hall and the reallocation of money to other regeneration areas in the city.

Report from the October public business meeting

Local Councillors agreed the Community Plan, reallocation of funding and investment to improve local open spaces in the area. In Burngreave Ward, an underspend of £14,000 is to be reallocated to the Quick Wins/Rapid Response pot. Funding from recent planning development sites is to be invested in the following areas

- Over £8000 to Roe Woods
- Over £17,000 to Parkwood Springs
- Over £6000 to Burngreave Recreation Ground.

10 nominations were received for inclusion on a local list of buildings of architectural and historic merit and 4 of these in Burngreave Ward were agreed to be included:

- Pakistan Community Association – 127 Page Hall Road
- Mosque at 24 Burngreave Road
- Grimesthorpe Wesleyan Reform Chapel, Upwell Lane
- Sunday School, Upwell Street

Next public business meeting

The meeting will be held on:
Wednesday 25th January, 6pm – 8pm
at Shirecliffe Community Centre,
349 Shirecliffe Road, S5 8XJ

Firth Park Christmas Lights Switch on and Firework Spectacular



Thursday 1st December, 3 – 7pm, in the park near to the shops – admission FREE

- Live music and dance
- Food and drink stalls
- Fireworks to be set off by Rt Hon David Blunkett MP at 5.30pm
- Fairground rides
- Crafts, Santa's grotto
- Wreath making with the Rangers
- Community information

You are invited to share a sandwich with your Councillors from 5.30pm.

Full minutes and the agenda for this meeting will be published at www.sheffield.gov.uk/northeast from 18th January.



Farewell Vicky

In October the Community Assembly bid a sad farewell to Vicky Williams, whose post has been made redundant. Vicky has worked for the Council for 29 years. Councillor Jackie Drayton said, "Vicky has been very dedicated and she will be missed by councillors and local residents. She has given a great deal to the community, and has always been committed to this area." Councillor Peter Price presented Vicky with a signed Sheffield United shirt.



Councillor Surgery Dates

Your local councillors share surgeries on a rota basis.

10th December: Ibrar Hussain,
11am–12pm Burngreave Library,
12.15pm–1pm Firshill TARA

15th December: Talib Hussain,
2pm–3pm Pakistan Advice Centre

20th December: Jackie Drayton,
11am–12pm Shirecliffe Community Centre,
12.15pm–1pm Norwood and Bishopholme TARA

14th January: Jackie Drayton,
11am–12pm Burngreave Library,
12.15pm–1pm Firshill TARA

17th January: Ibrar Hussain,
11am–12pm Shirecliffe Community Centre,
12.15pm–1pm Norwood and Bishopholme TARA

19th January: Talib Hussain,
2pm–3pm Pakistan Advice Centre

23rd January: Talib Hussain,
11am–12pm Burngreave Library

jackie.drayton@sheffield.gov.uk
ibrar.hussain@sheffield.gov.uk
talib.hussain@sheffield.gov.uk

Contact us on 203 7562, email communityassemblynortheast@sheffield.gov.uk, or write to: Firth Park Library, 443 Firth Park Road, Sheffield, S5 6QQ.
Blog - www.sheffield.gov.uk/northeastnews
Website - www.sheffield.gov.uk/northeast



The Teachers' Orphanage

Story: Elizabeth and Gordon Shaw

In 1877 the National Union of Teachers founded a Teachers' Benevolent Fund. A year later, a separate Orphanage and Orphan Fund was established, in order to 'aid as liberally as possible all who had fallen upon evil times'. Two orphanages were eventually set up, one for boys in Peckham Rye, London and another for girls, situated at Firshill (pictured above).

Where a family had been making contributions, it was possible to apply for a place at the orphanage when the father died. It was not necessary for the mother to have died as well.

From Firshill to Page Hall

In 1887 the premises at Firshill came into use as 'The Teachers' Orphanage for Girls'. Orphanage Road, at the side of Firs Hill School, was possibly the entrance to the property. In 1894 the June issue of 'The Schoolmaster' informed its readers of the purchase of new premises to replace Firshill, the lease of which was nearly expired. The move was to Page Hall, a 'well built substantial mansion with 4 acres of freehold land'. Purchase money entailed an outlay of between £4,000 and £5,000. Accommodation was available for between 40 -50 girls.

Home Fire Girls 90th anniversary

Story: Maureen Carr

Pitsmoor Home Fire Girls had their celebration 90th Anniversary Tea Party on Saturday 22nd October, where over forty past and present members, friends and supporters came together for an afternoon of reminiscence, memorabilia and friendship.

Admissions

The admissions book is held in Sheffield Archives and provides a wealth of information about the families who benefited from the fund. The first entry is for Letitia Mary Burke who was born in 1878. She was admitted to the orphanage on 11 June 1887. Her father, John Burke, having trained at Hammersmith College, was last employed at Fowler Street, Seven Dials Bds in 1885. Unfortunately, he was drowned off the Isle of Wight, aged only 36.

Letitia had three sisters; Helena aged 14, Alice 12 and Catherine 2, noted as being dependent on their mother. However, the mother, Letitia Burke, a maidservant, is also shown as having died aged 38. Neither the cause of death nor the year is recorded. Letitia is noted as having suffered measles and whooping cough. She left the Orphanage on 17 June 1893 to commence duties as a Pupil Teacher.

The last entry is for Hilda Ernestine Luffman who was born on 13 April 1914. Her circumstances were quite different in that her father, who was not a teacher, had deserted the family. Her mother had died and the family had been making contributions to the Fund, so she was eligible for a place. She had four brothers aged 16, 15, 13 and 9 years. The two eldest were sent to work on a farm and the younger two were adopted.

The book contains details of approximately 150 girls, 7 of whom have Sheffield addresses. The others came from Plymouth, Wales, Ipswich, Liverpool and Durham to name but a few. Long distances to travel to live away from one's family and at quite a young age! Not surprising then to read the Medical Officer's comments in the case of one of the girls - 'sleepwalking - nervous condition. Condition has improved on becoming used to the orphanage.'

Father

The age of the father at death was mostly between 36 and 45 years. The

cause of death is often given in a single word - consumption, bronchitis, nephritis, leukaemia, typhoid and tuberculosis. Cases of heart disease and cancer also appear. The most detailed entry was in 1907 for the 45 year old who, 'ruptured blood vessel owing to weakness caused by cancer'. One died of alcoholic poisoning and another is recorded as having fallen into a quarry.

The Girls

Most of the girls were between 10 and 12 years old at the time of admission. If a girl had had illness, this was entered in her details. Most had been through measles and whooping cough. Smallpox, fever and scarlatina are also mentioned. One girl born in 1899 is shown as having been vaccinated in infancy. It's noted that vaccination becomes more frequent, though one girl was vaccinated unsuccessfully!

The space left for Medical Officer's remarks gives further insight to the condition of the girls. Sometimes there is a simple 'satisfactory' or 'appears sound and healthy'. Other entries are more detailed such as this one: 'Small but fairly robust health. Lungs healthy, also heart. TB in family history - special care in feeding. Encourage open air as much as possible. Cod liver oil is advised for winter months.'

Time to Leave

The girls could stay at the orphanage until they reached the age of fifteen. Many did so and this was given as the reason for leaving. Some, like Letitia, the first girl, went on to be a pupil teacher. Some girls left 'at mother's request' or because they were 'needed at home'.

Though most of the girls seem to have lived uneventfully at the orphanage, there were at least two who were clearly not suited to that way of life. One girl 'absconded without reason and was subsequently expelled'. Another girl was 'removed by resolution of the council for bad behaviour'.

The Home Fire Girls started out at the Denholme Street Mission off Spital Hill. They still meet every Wednesday 6pm - 7.30pm within Pitsmoor Methodist Church and also hold regular Coffee Mornings.

Please come and join us at 10.30am on Thursday December 8th for our Christmas special. All made welcome.

Contact:
Wendy Whitehead 0114 240 3577 or
Maureen Carr 0114 220 4657.

Email: postmaster@mgcarr.plus.com



Dear Messenger...



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



Ripples in the pond update

At the Friends of Firth Park AGM, with representatives of the council present, and after the disappointment of having to cancel the launch in August, it was agreed that the launch should take place in the Spring, as this will give the planting time to establish itself. Date to be fixed and publicised as soon as possible.

If you have passed the 'Ripples' area recently you may have noticed that the planting of trees, shrubs and plants for the wetland area has now been completed. It has made a tremendous difference and it is good to see it looking so much more welcoming. The successful artist for the totem poles project will hopefully be in place by December and will be working with young people and adults, with the installation being the end of March. The other addition will be the giant Hand and Foot, which were created as part of the 'Journey to Hidden Places' – a creative arts project, based in Firth Park and Wincobank. An informative booklet has also been produced with details of where all the other art works are.



On Saturday 12th November some of the Friends joined up with North Sheffield Conservation Group on a beautiful morning to plant a number of bulbs in the 'Ripples' area. Hopefully they will be emerging in the new year. It was a good turn out and everyone enjoyed the activity – we had to give up when the bulbs ran out! A big thank you to everyone who came along, especially members of NSCG, who have always been so supportive in this area.

Please look out for the date of the launch in the Spring and hope to see you there. In the meantime we hope you will drop in and enjoy the new addition to the Clock Tower.

Friends of Firth Park.

Page Hall

I read an article in the Burngreave Messenger that dismayed me, stating that money raised from the Page Hall area - a projected total of £1.7 million - is not going to be invested in the area.

The money raised from Page Hall should be reinvested in Page Hall. To be told there are no projects needing funding in the area is ridiculous. The talk is all about housing but regeneration should be about community regeneration, not just bricks and mortar, and this is what was originally promised.

To make a profit on an area like Page Hall, that is very poor. Then to use the money to fund projects in wealthier areas is yet another example of a policy of taking from the poor to benefit the wealthy. This was introduced by the Lib-Dems but surely the current Labour administration can now overturn this ruling?

Harry Harpham is incorrect if he believes there are no local projects on which to spend the money generated in the area. Several projects were identified as far back as 2005/6 that could have a dramatic impact on the area, for example:

- Back-to-Front campaign, where retaining walls to properties were strengthened and reinforced and rear gardens improved.
- Redevelopment of Bagley Road and Skinnerthorpe Road plus the three houses, now boarded up and derelict, on Barnsley Road.
- "Pocket Park" areas for children to play, such as the site at the bottom of Wade Street and close to Oowler Brook School.
- Walking link from Page Hall to Wincobank Hill, with sign markers and information points about the Iron Age fort.
- Improvements to the condition of the streets and footpaths
- Funding for youth group facilities and improvements in general to Wensley Community Centre.
- Provision of local support services for the elderly, disabled and vulnerable, including help with maintenance, DIY and the garden.

These are just a few projects needed in the area, and I am sure there are many more besides.

Most worrying of all, the article states that the council are keen to attract landlords to the area. One of the key points that Page Hall Community Association (PHCA) was fighting for was to stop buy-to-let landlords acquiring all the property in the area. Surely the council and the government should be backing the sale of these houses as affordable housing to first time buyers and key workers? After all, the area is less than 1 mile from the Northern General Hospital. By re-investing the money in Page Hall as originally intended and promoting affordable housing, it will bring about a better community.

All in all, I am dismayed and angered to read about these recent policy changes and what they mean for an area that has had so many people fighting to save it.

Is there anything that can be done to secure the investment for the area before it is taken away by greed and ill-thought-through policies?

Nikki Hibberd

Former committee member of Page Hall Community Association

The Messenger raised this issue with Councillor Harry Harpham, Cabinet Member for Homes and Regeneration on 26th October. He said cuts in funding from government had left some streets in the city blighted by half finished projects and boarded up houses, and these were the priority for remaining funding. He said he would meet with Page Hall residents to discuss the issues they had raised. The Messenger will report back on this in the next issue

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