



Pitsmoor stole secret millionaire's heart

Story & photo: Sophie Mei

Channel 4's Secret Millionaire provided some gold for a Burngreave charity shop. On Tuesday 3rd May, it was revealed how a pregnant millionaire took a shine to Rainbow's End, as entrepreneur Simrin ('Simi') Choudhrie dished out £100,000 towards a new building to develop other parts of the Rainbow work.

"Mum's the Word"

Seven-month pregnant Simi kept her fortunes secret and pretended she was part of a show called 'Mum's the Word.' Arriving in Pitsmoor to live on Scott Road, the programme showed a taxi driver warning that Burngreave is "like Beirut in the eighties," only to be proved wrong by the warm welcome she received as a volunteer at Rainbow's End on Spital Hill. Yvonne Hayes, Project Manager for Rainbow's End, explained,

"We were a little cautious at first as I didn't want the programme to show Pitsmoor in a bad light but, once we got to know the production team well, we felt at ease. Although Simi was treated like any other person looking to volunteer in the shop we just felt that there was something different but very good about her."

Simi and the production crew were so



overwhelmed by Yvonne's, the Trustees' and the Volunteers' work that they decided to give the 'Rainbow's End family' £100,000 to buy a second building plus £3,000 for supporting the volunteers with some fun in recognition of their hard work and commitment.

Yvonne was 'speechless' when she discovered that Simi was undercover:

"Everybody was crying - we just couldn't believe it. This money is a gift for Burngreave and gives Rainbow's End the chance to develop more ways of supporting our community."

Yvonne and the rest of the 'Rainbow's End family' treasured Simi as a "gift" and a "blessing" even before she revealed her

fortunes. The feelings were mutual as Simi said:

"I want to stay involved in the charity and I absolutely loved my time in Burngreave. I want to thank everyone for making me feel so welcome. It really became my home."

Call for clothes

Rainbow's End relies on donations of clothes (or even rags for recycling) and unwanted items. Remember to shop there and you can become part of the Rainbow's End family.

Rainbow's End is open at Sorby House on Spital Hill: Monday – Saturday 10.30-5pm (4pm on Thursday).

**Abbeyfield Park
Multicultural Festival
Sunday 10th July
1-6pm**

**Volunteers
wanted!**

**music, stalls, food, activities,
sport, dance and much more!**

**For stall & stage bookings, or to volunteer, contact:
apmf.festival@gmail.com 07415 414 499**

Rt Hon David Blunkett MP

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Immigration and asylum

ADVICE SURGERY

If you are having difficulty with your immigration or asylum claim, David Blunkett MP will be holding an advice surgery to specifically deal with these matters on:



**Thursday 9th June
3.30pm - 5.00pm**

The advice surgery will be held at:

**Pitsmoor Citizens Advice Bureau,
30 Spital Hill, S4 7LG**

***For any queries, please contact
David Sturrock on 020 7219 2435***

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ADVICE SURGERY

David Blunkett MP will be holding advice surgeries on:

**Saturday 11th June
10.30am - 12.00pm**

**Saturday 9th July
10.30am - 12.00pm**

**Saturday 3rd September
10.30am - 12.00pm**

**Saturday 1st October
10.30am - 12.00pm**

The advice surgeries will be held at:

**Firth Park Advice Centre,
9 Stubbin Lane, S5 6QG**

David Blunkett will also be holding a surgery in the Hillsborough area on:

**Friday 8th July 4pm - 5.30pm
At Hillsborough Area Advice Service,
Proctor Place, S6 4HF**

***For any queries, please contact
David Sturrock on 020 7219 2435***

Job vacancy for Lunchtime Supervisor



- 7 hours per week
(every lunchtime during term time,
Monday to Friday, starting at 12 noon each day).
- £6.29 per hour.

We are looking for a happy, friendly person to join the team at St. Catherine's School. The job will involve supervising and assisting children aged between 5 and 11 during the lunchtime period, in the dining room, the playground and sometimes in the classroom.

In the dining room: You will help set up furniture, clear tables and give guidance on table manners when necessary.

In the playground: You will be helping children with play equipment, looking out for potential dangers and recording accidents and behaviour incidents.

We are looking for a person who is reliable and able to work as part of a team; ideally you will have experience of working with children. An enhanced CRB check is required and will be organised by the school. You would also need to get a First Aid certificate (training will be provided).

Please contact the school for an application form on **0114 218 9730**, or call in to collect one from St. Catherine's Catholic Primary School, Firshill Crescent, Sheffield S4 7BX.

Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Monday 13th June.

Volunteer positions



Ellesmere Youth Project is looking for enthusiastic and committed volunteers to support the work with local young people.

There are two positions vacant:

Trustee

To be part of the management committee of this small local youth project. To oversee the management and development of the work at an exciting stage in the life of the Project. We are particularly looking to increase the diversity of the management group.

Bike Club Volunteer

We are looking for someone to volunteer at our bike club where young people learn bike maintenance and bike skills. If you know a bit of bike mechanics and would enjoy working with young people please get in touch.

Both positions will require an enhanced CRB check.

Please contact Jenny on:

Telephone: 0114 213 3120 or 07886 777 068

Email: info@eyproject.org.uk

Tesco jobs

The Spital Hill Tesco will soon be launching a job guarantee scheme for local residents who have been unemployed for more than 6 months.



This scheme will recruit to half the jobs available at the store. The other half will be part of an open recruitment via an online application form, which is likely to be in September.

Job Guarantee Scheme

The scheme is open to anyone who has been unemployed for 6 months or more. You must also have 'recourse to public funds'. Those in full time education, for example at University or 6th Form College are not eligible for the scheme.

The process for applying through the Job Guarantee Scheme will be:

Look out for the leaflet

In June a leaflet will be distributed in the Burngreave area with the hotline number and the date when the hotline will open.

Call the hotline phone number

In June the hotline number will open, you must call this number to book onto the open day.

Jobcentre plus will be running the hotline, and will check that you are eligible for the scheme. They will tell you what date and time to attend the open day.

Attend the open day

You must attend the open day at the date and time you are given. On the day there will be information about what kinds of jobs are available at the store and there will also be more information about the job guarantee scheme.

Interview skills support

If you decide you would like to apply, you will be booked on to a 3-hours training session to help you fill in the application form and prepare for the interview.

Interview with Tesco

If you are eligible for the scheme and you have attended the open day and interview skills session, you will be given an interview with Tesco.

Those selected at the interview will then be given 8 weeks of training, which will be part-time. If you complete the training, you will start work at the Tesco store.

Leaflet and hotline number

The leaflet with the hotline number will be delivered door to door. It will also be available at the following venues:

- Sorby House, Spital Hill
- Burngreave Vestry Hall, Burngreave Road
- Burngreave Library, Spital Hill
- Verdon Recreation Centre, Verdon Street
- Pakistan Advice Centre, Page Hall Road

And on the Messenger website www.burngreavemessenger.org

Donations for the Messenger

Since our last issue, donations and contributions have started to come in, along with some really positive comments about the Messenger.

Thank you to those readers for their generous support, it has been a real boost to moral and will help us keep going.

Since the last edition, some staff members have been volunteering their time to lower costs. The good news is that an application to The Tudor Trust has raised £35,000 for this year and next, so we have an encouraging start.

We do need more money to keep up the work. There are several ways you can donate to the Messenger:

- Send a one off donation to the Messenger at the office in

Abbeyfield Park House

- Donate via the website: www.burngreavemessenger.org
- Set up a standing order to our bank account number, E-mail or phone us on 242 0564 if you want any help. We will be staffing the office between 2 and 5pm on Wednesdays 1st and 8th June and Fridays 3rd and 10th June.

We also love to read the comments we receive, such as:

"I enclose a sub for me and one for a neighbour who might not be able to afford it."

Another reader wrote:

"Funding should be a priority for community magazines because they are such a precious resource and give invaluable local information to their readers."

We hope you agree.

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This month's team: Annie Blindell, Michelle Cook, Saleema Imam, Douglas Johnson, Jamie Marriott, John Mellor, Tim Neal, Lisa Swift.



Bus gate hazard

Story: Brent Moya

Sheffield City Council again find themselves under fire over the crossing and bus lane on Burngreave Road.

The extra lane was created as part of the Better Buses Partnership of 2004 which means there are now 3 separate lanes running side by side on the same road. The scheme is part of an agreement between the Council, South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTTE) and First Group to give greater priority to buses in order to avoid congestion, thus improving bus times and reliability throughout Sheffield.

Concerns for the Vestry Hall

Story: Lisa Swift

Burngreave Vestry Hall has again been damaged by heavy rain, which leaked into the building in May, ruining the floor of the main hall and putting the basement IT rooms out of action.

Leaks cause difficulties

The main tenant of the building, S3 All comers and Enterprises (formerly Launchpad), has struggled to keep their services going. Manager Rita Hardwick told the Messenger, "We've had to move everything upstairs, including the cafe, which is difficult. We've also lost use of the computer room in the basement. It's had a big impact but we're coping. You have to keep your sense of humour."

However, the bus gate on Burngreave Road has caused much controversy with many believing it to be a hazard after a number of incidents involving cars hitting the traffic lights, in addition to several near misses involving pedestrians. Local resident and shop keeper Mr Patel has voiced his concern on many occasions but feels his opinion is being overlooked by Sheffield City Council.

"People objected initially as the road traffic ran very smoothly before. Several people signed a petition which was forwarded to the Council but nothing was done."

Mr Patel's primary concern is for the safety of pedestrians who are stood at the kerb side before crossing.

"The problem is we have 3 lanes at this intersection and that means the passing traffic is much closer to pedestrians who are waiting to cross. People have had to jump out of the way on numerous occasions and I can't help but feel we are waiting for an accident to happen here."

There has also been some confusion as to why the crossing outside Mr Patel's shop remains unmarked.

"We try our best to tell customers about crossing, why can't they make it more obvious. Everyone seems to be moaning now saying they wish this had never been built."

The Messenger has asked the Council if it will review the junction, but we have yet to receive a response.

The group supports adults with learning difficulties, although their activities are open to anyone. Their Dry Road monthly event for recovering alcoholics has had to be cancelled until July. Rita was keen to point out that many things are unaffected:

"Our new sensory room upstairs is now open on Saturdays and it's great for people who are suffering from stress. It's very relaxing. Our courses are also continuing in subjects such as Spanish, cookery and creative writing."

The College pull out

The rain damage came after the devastating news that Sheffield College would no longer run classes at the centre from September. The College have made major cuts to community learning across the city in order to save money.

In Burngreave, they have cut ESOL classes in anticipation that fewer people



Firshill shop now re-opened

Story & photo: John Mellor

After several months of closure, the Firshill Glade Shop has now reopened to serve residents on the Firshill Estate, conveniently situated not far from the Sheffield United Football Academy.

The shop was opened three months ago by Mrs Chzhen who is keen to stock items which are most needed by local residents. It has a good range of groceries, drinks (including off-licence), toiletries, frozen foods and kitchen items.

There is also a Payzone facility where customers can pay their bills, including Gas, Electricity, Water, Council Tax as well as Phone Top-up, and the Sheffield Star will soon be available at the shop daily.

The Glade Shop is open seven days a week from 9am – 9pm.

will be able to afford them when fees are introduced in September.

Concerns that the Council's LifeLong Learning and Skills courses would also leave the building were only partly addressed by the Council's statement that:

"... it is going out to tender for Adult and Community Learning for 2011/12 academic year. Once providers are established on our commissioning framework we will be asking them to deliver a similar range of courses as we are providing this year. We are also expecting our subcontractors to use local venues and, if the Vestry Hall is fit for purpose, we would be happy to use this for our sessions."

Since the end of New Deal in March, the Vestry Hall is now the responsibility of the Council, who have yet to explain their plan for maintaining and running the building in the future.

Streetworx cuts

Story: Saleema Imam

Streetworx, one of Burngreave's most successful youth projects, will come to an abrupt end at the end of May, after Sheffield Futures announced there is no longer any funding available for the project.

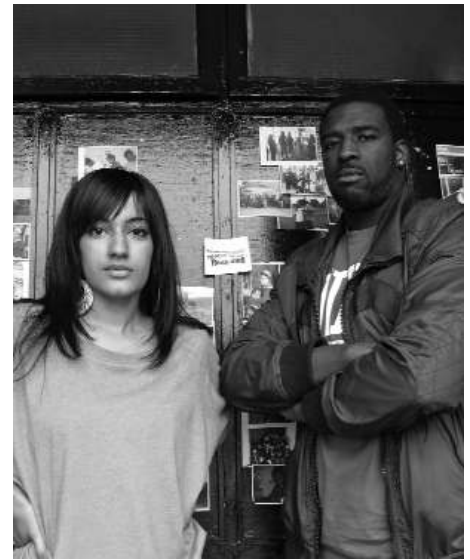
Streetworx has provided a listening ear, a welcoming base and constant support for young people with difficult lives, over the past 5 years.

Uzma Bibi, formerly a youth worker in Sharrow and Broomhall, returned to her roots in Burngreave as one of 8 workers on the project when it started in 2006. Over the years, the team worked to gain the confidence of youngsters, many of whom had little support elsewhere. Their base became a second home for some, a place to phone when things went wrong, a place to get tea and toast, a place to gain some life skills, a place you knew you could trust. Uzma explained,

"Building self-esteem and confidence is not a short-term initiative; the issues themselves are long-term. It's about relationships. We've only just started! The project needs to carry on for the next ten or fifteen years to meet the current needs. We don't just work with young people; parents ring for help and advice and schools ask for help with specific groups."

Streetworx has always reached out to young people who others found difficult to engage. Its Hope project took some of these same young people and trained them in youth work, enabling them to organise their own activities. It gave them skills and an opportunity to look forward to a more secure future.

Rayon Ramsay, one of the Hope recruits in 2008, is now a youth worker. He and Uzma are the only two remaining in the Streetworx team. "We're from the area, we've grown up with these young people and we're fortunate enough to be able to give something back to the community," she says.



Young people with no stability and already chaotic lifestyles are not easy to reach out to. Cutting a project like Streetworx will only make things worse for those young people.

A campaign has started to save Streetworx, if you would like to show your support contact the Messenger on 242 0564.

Jus[△]Tice for All



Advice centres in Burngreave are joining in a day of action on 3rd June about Government proposals to cut legal aid.

Pitsmoor CAB and Sheffield Law Centre offer free advice, funded by legal aid, in welfare benefits, debt, housing, employment, immigration and discrimination law. The government intends to abolish legal aid in most of these areas.

Legal aid has helped fund advice centres since 1995. Chris Walker, manager of Pitsmoor Citizens Advice Bureau, is very worried about the prospect of cuts:

"The work we do here is vital. It's the more complex end of advice work; the staff who work on these cases are specialists. We have saved many homes, helped thousands of people appeal

benefits they were wrongly refused and got people back on their feet when facing escalating debts. Last year we helped over 400 people with complex problems.

"There are many reasons why poorer people face bigger problems. For example, they tend to pay more for their gas and electricity, more interest on loans, face more complicated rules that govern their benefit income and have fewer rights at work.

"We are still reeling from massive cuts in other income streams but have more and more demand for our service. We have to ask why the government is set on hurting the poorest people to get out of the mess rich bankers led us into."

Chris also mentioned that the bureau badly needs local volunteers to help manage the Bureau and become trained to give advice. If you are interested in helping the CAB, contact Chris on 273 8838.

Douglas Johnson, equality rights worker at Sheffield Law Centre, said,

"The Government proposes a massive cut of 77% of legal aid to charities like the CAB and Law Centre. In a separate proposal, the Government also intends to strip charities of all the funding available for advice on discrimination.

"Whether you've ever used an advice service or not, we are inviting the public to join us for a rally at the Town Hall at 5pm on Friday 3rd June."

Tracking the cuts

Story: Lisa Swift

Burngreave Community Action Forum's meeting in May aimed to document the effect of the cuts in public services on Burngreave so far.

High on the agenda was young people. Recent successes with Study Support and Activity Sheffield were overshadowed by news of Streetworx closing on 31st May. Sheffield Futures have said more cuts will be coming. The meeting agreed to raise serious concerns with the Council and Sheffield Futures.

Adult Learning was also a priority. Small organisations have complained that they have been cut out of the proposed commissioning process, and the large organisations and businesses are looking to take over the delivery of courses. Since then, the Council has put commissioning on hold, while a review is undertaken.

Campaigning against fees for ESOL was a high priority. BCAF is working with the Sheffield CALL campaign and BME network to maintain pressure on politicians to get this policy changed before it comes into force in September.

BCAF aims to keep track of projects and services affected by cuts. Please get in touch to help us inform future campaigns. BCAF is now at Abbeyfield Park House. Call in or email enquiries@bcaf.org.uk



Wedding celebrations

Story: Claire Shaw

On the 28th of April all the children at Owler Brook Nursery Infant School got a special invite!

All the children got to join in on a very special Royal celebration, as they dressed up as Princes and Princesses. Fun was had by all at the Owler Brook street party. Children enjoyed a Royal feast in the glorious sunshine and wished the Royal couple a very Happy Wedding day.



Slovak family learning event

Story: Claire Shaw

It is sometimes hard to settle into a new area and new community, especially if you can't speak the language. You can often find that everything is so different - systems, education and how the public services work.

The Owler Brook Action for Children's Centre and Owler Brook School have worked hard together at trying to bring Slovak families who are new to the area

together, developing a programme around:

- Accessing services
- Health
- Child development and play
- Education
- Accessing work

18 families are involved, some of which have now progressed on to pre-entry ESOL.

With many thanks to the two student nurses working alongside the North MAST team, Rachel Kojro and Mike Bell who helped to put the programme together and support the group with Owler Brook School and the Children's Centre.

A wish to walk

Story: Usha Blackham

Parents' group Whiteways Community Learning Group are organising fundraising activities for Amaan, a 5 year old boy and pupil of the school who has Cerebral Palsy.

Amaan can't walk unaided and uses a walking frame with difficulty. The parents group is trying to raise money to take him to the USA for life changing surgery. They are planning a fundraising Garden Party on the 22nd July, 11am-5pm.

You can also support this appeal by donating online at www.justgiving.com/helpamaantowalk

Donations can be made at Whiteways Primary School, Whiteways Road, 242 3169. Whiteways Community Learning group are collecting money on behalf of Caudwell Children charity. The group is grateful to the school for giving the parents group a chance to help Amaan.

Donations go to Caudwell Children Charity number: 1079770



Hucklow Nursery

Story: Sharon Buttery

On April 26th 2011 a new nursery was opened at Hucklow Primary School. The nursery had places for 48 children from the local area making it an instant hit with parents in the community and well before the first day all places were taken.

On Wednesday 4th May the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Councillor Alan Law and his consort conducted the official opening. A plaque is now proudly displayed at the entrance.

The new nursery will mean more children being able to access their free pre-school early learning from three years of age. If you're interested and have young children, why not call in and see Mrs Buttery in the main school office, 242 6736, and give your child the benefit of good quality early learning.

Parkwood shares its stories

Parkwood Academy celebrated the publishing of its book, 'Sharing our Lives and Communities' on the 5th April, with a spectacular community event attended by parents, children and supporters

The book is a collection of poetry and stories from children at Parkwood and its partner primary schools, Longley, Pye Bank and Watercliffe Meadow, there are also contributions from parents and residents of Shirecliffe and Burngreave.

The writing reflects the immense diversity of Parkwood's Family of Schools and aims to build positive connections between the school, the community and pupils. This project is just one of the ways the school is improving community cohesion around the school. The strong support of parents and residents at the event showed that how successful the school has already been in bringing people together.

The following is a selection of stories and poems from the book. For a copy of the book contact Paul Howard, Community Liaison Manager, on 231 0221.

Parkwood to me

Parkwood to me
Is like a family,
Huddled together,
We are all as gentle as a feather.

The new students
Used to be scared,
Lost, small and nervous,
But now we are all confident
We want to learn more and we always share
You, the reader,
Are just a drop,
But you in a group
Make the ocean.

Demi Fletcher, Y7, Parkwood Academy

Staying in England

Hi, my name is Daniel. When I was a little child I lived in Slovakia where I went to school every day. In 2007 I came to England with my family. It felt very different because I couldn't even speak English. It was hard to learn and when I came to school I felt sad because I didn't know what to do. But after three months I was feeling better because I had friends, I knew what to do and my English was getting better.

About four months ago my mum asked me if I wanted to go back to Slovakia. I said no, because this school is much



better than in Slovakia and I want to finish my education here. I want to be an interpreter because I know how hard it is when you can't speak to people.

Daniel Dunka y9, Parkwood Academy

A House Built on a Rock

Our house will be built on hope
Our foundations will be made from loving
friendship
Our walls will be made of trust
With bricks held together with the
cement of security
Our roof will be made from appreciation
and consideration
Our windows will look out on Christians
and Muslims working together
Our doors will be open to freedom of
speech
Our rooms will be filled with warmth of
kindness
Our home will build to a new beginning

Bader Saleh, Y5, Pye Bank Primary

Proud of Shirecliffe

I moved into the Shirecliffe area almost 28 years ago. As a single parent I was on benefits for a while, but did work in between having my children.

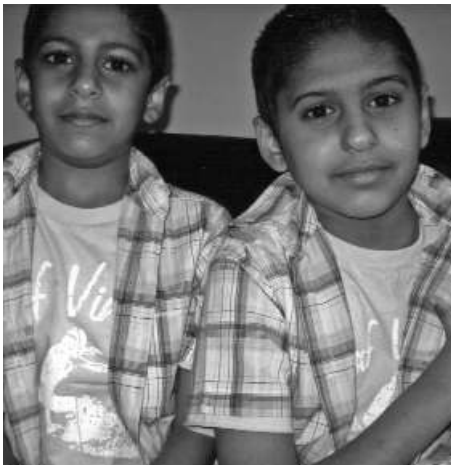
I have found the area has gone through some changes, most of them for the good of the community. There are new developments happening, not least the regeneration of the new Watercliffe Meadow and the start of the new build for Parkwood Academy.

All my children have attended the local schools and have found the experience of it being very beneficial to them. I have no problem in telling mothers of young students that they can succeed. Being from this area or attending the local schools gives the students a head start. It doesn't, or shouldn't, hold them back.

My eldest has been a Police Officer for seven years, after attending University in Manchester. My younger daughter is now a qualified Doctor.

By supporting each other we can produce great outcomes. I love living here and would encourage others to be proud of where they come from.

Jackie (Shirecliffe resident)



Fundraising for research

Story: Saleema Imam

Earl Marshal resident's Rafiza and Mohammed Amin have organised a fund raising event to enable new research to take place into the genetic condition which affects their son Saeed.

Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) is a genetic condition in which some of the cells in the spine fail to provide a link between the brain and the nerve fibres, causing weakness of the muscles. When both parents carry the gene, each child has a one-in-four chance of inheriting the condition.

For Saeed (pictured above right with his brother), it's not the most severe form but, as he grows older, his activities become more limited. Though he can stand with the aid of leg splints, he can't walk on his own and has to exercise at

home to maintain his muscle strength. His mum Rafiza says their home is "like a gym" and they are running out of space for his hoist, motorised wheelchair etc.

The house really needs adaptation but, as it's on a slope, is not safe for wheelchair access. The family is searching for land close by to erect a purpose-built property so Saeed can still attend school independently. He is very bright and will be going to college and university hopefully.

Currently he is awaiting an operation to correct and support his spine. Hopefully, that will be the last major intervention he will need. However he will still need assistance for almost everything as his muscles weaken.

It's only about 15 years since the condition was first recognised and there is no cure or treatment yet for SMA. Saeed's parents had noticed his difficulties with walking from about two years old but he was four when they were given the diagnosis, and by the age of seven he was depending on a wheelchair. Rafiza told us,

"The doctors didn't know much about it: they just told us to maintain his health and get on with it. When they say there is nothing they can do, it's a terrible feeling. I wanted him to have every experience of any other child: like going on bouncy castles and trips.

"Saeed is a very strong individual and that's where I draw my strength from. When he goes to hospital, he sees other people and says 'Mum, I'm not the worst. There are people who are suffering more than me.' He holds himself well!"

Rafiza does voluntary work with the Muslim Women's Network and, until recently, was a parent governor at school but is always on call if the school needs her to fetch Saeed home.

"I've not felt it too much. Some parents lose their children at birth or soon after. The life expectancy for Type III SMA could be 40 - 60 years. No-one knows. I have my children, Saeed, Shoab and Danyal and I need to stay on top of things for them.

"When you have a special child like Saeed, we are very thankful and we are very close as a family."

After searching for information the family found Professor Azzouzz researching the condition and gene therapy here in Sheffield. They were put in touch with him and learned about SITRan, part of Sheffield University which studies motor neurone and other similar diseases.

The results in the laboratory are already very promising but a lot of money is needed to get the SMA research through the regulatory bodies. Saeed's family decided that, rather than just donating what they could afford, they would arrange a fundraising event. "It is something we as a community can do. We hope it will lead to a treatment that will become available on the NHS for all SMA sufferers."

The fundraising event took place on the 22nd May in Rotherham where Professor Azzouzz spoke about his research. Over £3800 were raised at the event. If you would like to donate, you can go on-line and donate. Donations can be made to: www.sifoundation.com. Add a note to say it's specifically for SMA research.

Byron Wood says goodbye to Mr Carter

Story: Smaira Sadique

After 8 years as the Headteacher at Bryon Wood Primary School, Mr Carter has decided to hand the reigns of the school over to Mrs Ashton who was appointed as the new Headteacher.

Everyone had the opportunity to say goodbye to Mr Carter, the parents held a special lunch for him in the community room with a French theme which was followed by a special assembly on the



last day of term. The staff and children enjoyed a 'This is your Life' themed assembly where pictures and anecdotes

from Mr. Carter's career and personal life were shared with everyone. Goodbye Mr. C. was a song written especially for him and sung by all the staff and children, there weren't many dry eyes in the hall that afternoon.

Mr Carter has worked in Burngreave for many years as a teacher and then as a Headteacher, he leaves behind a legacy of, '...a good school...with some outstanding features' as stated by Ofsted in 2010.

He has made Byron Wood into the successful school it is today, opening its doors to parents and the community alike. Under his watchful eye the school has thrived, and the children have flourished. This is something that Mrs Ashton is committed to continuing with her staff team who she calls the 'A' team.



Muslim Women's Voices

Story: Michelle Cook

On 27TH April, 'Muslim Women's Voices' was launched with an event held at Sorby House.

Their aim is "to be an independent, proactive network that seeks out and values the voices of Muslim women and empowers Muslim women to influence strategies and decision making processes that affect our lives"

Baroness Haleh Asfar OBE, AcSS, a leading expert in women's politics and Islamic law and a founding member of Muslim Women's Network UK, opened the event. She spoke about the role of women in policy and decision making and how their voices can be a powerful force. There are many misconceptions about women in Islam that prevent their voices being heard in society. Women themselves could play a role in challenging these by questioning the interpretation of teachings and ideas.

Around 40 local women attended the meeting. They split into workshops and explored key questions such as: What barriers do Muslim women face? How can they be overcome? How can we engage with Muslim women more effectively?

The organisers plan to hold a series of regular meetings ('listening workshops') where women can share their experiences and ideas. Also they plan to use online networking tools to reach as wide an area as possible to gather a diverse cross section of women.

For more information or if you would like to become a member contact muslimwomensvoices@gmail.com, or phone Zaiada 0114 243 5577 or Rafiza 07940 984 998 or Salma 07809 629 934.

Sistahood

Sistahood BME Young Women's Forum, presented their research about young women's involvement in sport activities in April. The audience included Councillor Jackie Drayton, who also presented the group with certificates for working with others in their community.

'Sistahood' was founded in 2008 in response to the lack of activities and sports provision for black and ethnic minority young women. The group meets fortnightly at Pakistan Advice Centre supported by Chilypep, to discuss issues which have come to their attention and try to work out some solutions.

Group members Sabia and Thqdeer tell us about how Sistahood has developed.

"My name is Thqdeer, and, before Sistahood, I was not part of any youth group. Many of my male family members were part of different groups and regularly participated in activities such as sports events and community work. I yearned to do such things, but there was nothing available that fitted with my culture, religion and etiquettes. When I heard about Sistahood, my excitement rose. Finally I was able to participate in the things I want to do and make a difference.

"Our most recent project involves sorting out complications with our local sports centre. Many of the BME women in our area would like to participate in sports such as swimming. However, the centre contains unisex changing rooms and



there is fear of men being present whilst in the changing room and during the transition from the changing room to the pool. Many of us received concerned views from the community so we decided to hold a discussion with our local sports centre. After the discussion, they agreed to make some changes."

The meeting proved to be very successful, and this inspired the members to get the wider community involved to have their say on local sports provision. Their research gathered views from 73 young women. From this Sistahood have made recommendations including better advertising of activities and more women only sessions and instructors, to encourage more young women to take part in sports. Sabia Iqbal spoke about how they are building on their success and taking things forward.

"Sistahood are working with our local sports centre to improve facilities and create more opportunities for BME young women. We are taking training to let us set up various women's sports. We're in a football training programme and two

members will be offered the opportunity to take further training and become football coaches. Then they'll be able to coach young women who have shown an interest in the game, but been unable to take part because of a lack of women only provision. We also aim to train in other sports, with some becoming coaches and life guards."

Sistahood are now looking at how they can take action on government cuts, which are affecting young people particularly badly.

The group welcomes members and is keen to hear young people's issues
Contact: Tristan Chan on 07800513193, or tristan.chan@chilypep.org.uk : Farah Shafique on 07531096729, or farah.shafique@chilypep.org.uk

Sistahood's active members include: Sabia Iqbal; Thqdeer Begum; Raquia Begum; Nosheen Fatima; Shehla Hussain; Sahir Ali; Akifa Bano

Sistahood is an independent group which is supported by Chilypep.

FREE Employment Rights Advice Day

Saturday 11th June
11am – 3pm

Burngreave Vestry Hall,
Burngreave Road/Spital Hill, Sheffield S3 9DD



- Talk to a solicitor and others about problems at work
- Find out what your rights at work are
- Get advice on what to do next

Come along and speak to:

Thompsons Solicitors

For advice on your employment rights

Health & Safety Executive (HSE)

For advice on your health and safety at work

Recruitment & Employment Confederation

For advice if you work for an agency

Soft drinks
and lunch
provided

You can also get advice from:

- Northern Homeworking Project
- Northern Refugee Centre
- Business Links
- Business Coaching
- NHS Stop Smoking and meet a NHS Health Trainer

All advice given is
free and
confidential.

No personal details
are recorded of
those attending



This event is hosted by the General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU) with financial support from the government department for business, innovation and skills (BIS).

Hard Times for women

Story: Colombine Neal

Burngreave's women are among those who will be hit hardest by government cuts. So on the 18th April women of many nationalities and professions, from Burngreave and all over South Yorkshire, came together at Hallam University for a conference on these hard times. The day turned out to be a very constructive and lively debate among equals.

The morning started with Beatrix Campbell, a campaigning journalist and broadcaster, who shared her view that this moment is unique, that woman like us have never existed before and that we need to realise this. Vera Baird, who was particularly involved with the gender and equalities policy, said that we live happily with the expectation that women are progressing and moving forward but that has now been broken - women are losing out as the government "slashes and burns all things public". With 65% of public services run by women, in the health service, in education, in all sorts of care, it is women that are losing their jobs as the public sector is cut.

"This cabinet of millionaire men see this as the easiest way of cutting the public sector with minimum resistance because they see women as soft targets. They also think they are getting a 'buy one get one free' because, by scrapping public sector jobs, they are scrapping the cost of childcare. It is important that we get organized now." Vera Baird

Sue Yeandle, who has been studying women seriously since the 1970s, says our family and our relationships are fundamental to us and women must remember that these are important parts of the social structure and that women are often at the very centre of that. The reality is that women still get the lowest pay. Services developed by men seem to be more valued than the goods and services developed by women. We need to keep challenging that issue. What women do is just as important.

"One lesson is don't be afraid to get angry, don't be afraid to get radical, don't be afraid to get outspoken, don't be afraid to get mad. It was what got us to where we are today. We need to get out there and have them disliking us, despising us, condemning us and trying to put us back in our box. We have to get out there and fight." Kate Green.

In terms of solutions, partnerships and networking are key. Together you have a stronger voice. Shaista Gohir, the Executive Director of Muslim Women's Network UK (www.mwnuk.co.uk), wanted to focus on BME women because they are the most disadvantaged, most marginalized women in this society. She realized that decision- and policy-makers don't understand how vital BME women are. They are not valued enough although they do lots of work and lots of services for very little money.

"As to the big society, if we lost the BME voices, it would no longer be that and should be renamed an unfair society. These are reasons we need to group together" Shaista Gohir.

By now it should be clear that this government is at best indifferent to women. Whether it is welfare reform or cuts to public services, women are being hit hard. A full report of the conference is available on www.burngreavemessenger.org.

"There needs to be work across generations and cultures and we need to come together and help one another and fight our way out of this. There are going to be another three similar events to this across South Yorkshire and hopefully this won't be the last" Helen Jackson.

Knit and Natter

Story: Val Ellis, project support worker



The Friday Knit and Natter group at the Ashram celebrated its third anniversary last month.

The group has flourished in confidence, creativity and friendship since it was first established by the Primary Mental Health Care project three years ago.

Everyone is welcome, whatever their knitting ability, on Fridays between 1pm and 3pm. For more information or to donate materials ring Val on 0114 276 2644.

Ellesmere Children's Centre 15 year anniversary



Please come and join us for the the award winning Ellesmere Children's Centre
Annual Multicultural Event

**Friday 10th June 2011
from 4pm to 8pm**

Please join us to celebrate diversity

This year's event features fun activities for all the family, including:

- **Stories from Rastamouse**
- **Creative arts and crafts led by our Resident Artists**
- **Face painting and Henna hands**
- **Bouncy castle**

Plus an array of multicultural cuisine.

There will be stalls and games to test your luck. Win a prize or buy local and exotic crafts, cards, massage, make up, jewellery, books and cakes.

**4 Maxwell Street, Sheffield, S4 7JN.
Telephone 0114 281 2143**



Ellesmere Children's Centre offers full day care services Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm at a competitive rate and is committed to excellent quality of service for early years development.

Services offered include:

- *Sensory play*
- *Yoga for children*
- *Massage*
- *Dual language development*

For more information telephone **0114 281 2143**



Parkwood Academy Community Summer Fayre

Saturday 16th July 12 – 3.30pm

Come along and join in our family day out at Parkwood Academy.

We have free children's rides, football competitions, climbing wall, competitions, dance, food, stalls, displays, live music, raffles, Henna hand painting, information, Jamie Oliver's Ministry of Food, South Yorkshire Police: mounted section, dog handlers and vehicles, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, St John's Ambulance and much more.

On the day we are hoping to run a free bus service from Burngreave to Parkwood.

If you or your group would like to perform, a stall or any other information, please ring Sue Powell on 231 0221 / 231 3 601.

Parkwood Academy, Penrith Rd, Sheffield S5 8UF

Firth Park Festival

Sunday 26th of June, 1 - 6 pm will once again see the biggest free summer event return to Firth Park.

A collection of information stalls, community groups and independent traders will be in the park, along with fairground rides, food stalls, Activity Sheffield and S.W.F.C sports staff.

The central arena will have dancing displays, martial arts displays, live music and loads of games. At the end of the day a special Tug of War competition will be held with medals and a trophy for the winning team. The event is supported by the Community Assembly, Graves Trust and S.O.A.R.

For more information e-mail the volunteer organisers on firthparkfestival@googlemail.com, or phone 07903 587 174

Firshill Summer Fair

The Firshill Age Well Social Group are holding a Summer Fair at the Crescent Community Centre on **Saturday 2nd July, 1pm – 4pm**, featuring craft stalls, toy stalls, tombola, bric-a-brac stalls and more. Refreshments also available.

To find out more, telephone 242 4673.



Environment weekend

Story: Fran Belbin
Photos: Anwar Suliman



Several environmental events took place in Burngreave over the weekend of 21-22 May, including the launch of the School for Vegetables project and Grimesthorpe Allotments Open Day on the 21st, and Environment Day in Abbeyfield Park on the 22nd.

Allotments Open Day

With spring in the air and a few weeks of sunshine behind us, the Grimesthorpe Allotments Open Day was the perfect opportunity to think about growing your own fruit and vegetables.

The allotments occupy a large area between Grimesthorpe Road and Osgathorpe Park, with a magnificent view over Sheffield. The large plots are all in use and most are stocked with rows of well-tended vegetables and fruit. Though inspiring, they are a little intimidating for a novice gardener! It's a big commitment taking on a whole allotment but many people share plots and share the work.

Rob has had a plot since the 1990s and has seen the site improve over the years. "We used to have a lot of problems, but now all the allotments are occupied we have people looking out for each other, and the plots are being cultivated - it's much better now." Tools and books are available to borrow and there is a wealth of knowledge amongst the plot holders, with seedlings on sale and home-made cakes and soup. There is also a thriving barter culture – I left with a promise of a future batch of rhubarb and ginger wine if I can supply the demijohns that are gathering dust in my Dad's cellar!

There are currently around 30 people on the allotment waiting list at Grimesthorpe. Application forms and



further advice are available on the Council website, www.sheffield.gov.uk/allotments, or telephone 273 4528; or contact Green City Action on 244 0353, email grimesalotsoc@gmail.com.

School for Vegetables

More than 40 people gathered at Grimesthorpe allotments for the launch of the School for Vegetables, a new project that will see local schoolchildren growing their own fruit and vegetables, with the support of Green City Action (GCA) staff and volunteers.

Two overgrown plots have been transformed into a large vegetable garden, complete with poly-tunnels and a covered shelter. Kids from Firs Hill, Byron Wood and Hucklow Schools have been the first to visit the "outdoor classroom" and have given brilliant feedback about how much they enjoyed digging, watering the plants and finding out about wildlife conservation. Project worker Saskia Baker explained the aim is to get 2400 schoolchildren involved over 2 years. They hope to help school staff and pupils develop vegetable patches and containers on their own land. Volunteer Rick said,

"The kids' reaction is amazing! One little boy had never seen an earthworm before!"

GCA project worker Rob Bullock described how he has been training volunteers in organic horticulture. Six have cleared the land and created the school's garden and structures. Trainee Hendrika Stephens explained how she has gained the confidence to tackle an allotment herself: "It's great to get practical advice and actually watch someone doing it! It's helped me to plan my activities and get help from the other parents and teaching assistant from St Catherine's."

Lord Mayor Sylvia Dunkley planted a grapevine to mark the opening and commented: "There is increasing awareness it's just not sustainable to fly fruit and vegetables around the world, and local produce tastes better!" She was impressed by the turnout for the launch, showing how the project had "touched the heart of the community".

Money for the project has been raised through the Local Food Fund and the Community Assembly funded the installation of a massive rainwater harvesting tank. Unfortunately it has only rained once since the tank was installed but no doubt the British weather can be relied on to fill the tank in the future!

GCA are also running the Garden Share



project, matching those who have suitable gardens with potential growers who will use the gardens productively. To get involved with either project, contact Green City Action on 244 0353. Experienced volunteers with time to help on weekdays are particularly needed, but any level of experience is welcome.

"It looks pretty, I like to come here and grow things like tomatoes and carrots" - Shania. "It's got lots of space for flowers too" - Nancy

Environment Day

The Environment Day stalls were nearly blown away by the blustery winds but it didn't spoil the event organised by the Friends of Abbeyfield Park.

People queued to buy or replenish their hanging baskets, as well as visiting the plant stalls, 2nd hand clothes, book swaps, a bicycle workshop, willow weaving, hand made cards, and the Tool Bank and Transition town information stalls. There was a steady stream of visitors through the afternoon.

Unfortunately the wind blew the roofs from the stalls, forced us to tie everything down and sent the food stall inside, but it didn't stop patties, falafel and other delicacies being scoffed by hungry customers. Roll on the next one!



Earl Marshall Juniors 2010 - 2011



Story: Mick Ashman | Photos: Delroy Galloway

It was another season of success for Earl Marshall Juniors. With two new teams, the local Pitsmoor and Burngreave-based football club now has five teams in the Sheffield and District Junior League - one in Division A and three in Division B. The Club celebrated the players' achievements at two memorable presentation nights in May.

Earl Marshall **Under-8s**, started regular training just a year ago. They enjoyed their first experience of team football in September and despite the odd setback along the way, the development of the players as individuals and as a team has been fantastic to see. The enthusiasm of the youngsters is evident at every training session and it's clear that they can't wait to move up to Under 9s.

The **Under 9s** team had an outstanding season. With a squad strengthened with some fantastic new signings, they delivered some great performances and their enthusiasm was once again a joy to watch. They finished their season with seven straight wins and their third place finish means they will play in Division B from September, when they will no doubt be a force to be reckoned with!

The **Under 10s** took a while to adapt to the more competitive football this season but, after some good tactical decisions from the coaching team, they put some excellent results together. A strong finish to the campaign will give the players an excellent platform to build on as they move up to play 11-a-side football for the first time next season.

Finishing 5th in Division A was a fantastic achievement for the **Under 14s**.

Formerly Burngreave Saints, manager Phil Dickinson and his players are proud to be playing in the yellow and blue of Earl Marshall. Phil has had lots of interest from experienced players looking to join the team and feels that with a couple of key signings he can push for a top-three finish next season.

Eight new players joined the **Under 15s** team in Division B at the beginning of the season and, although the results didn't go their way at first, the team spirit remained excellent. The new lads worked hard in weekly training and quickly integrated into the squad. The results improved steadily over the season with some fine performances built on solid defensive work, ensuring the team remains in the second tier at Under-16s level. Manager Garfield Walters is already planning for next season and is keen to bring some new talent into the squad.

The Club is again looking to expand and will hope to have six teams at the start of the 2011-12 season. Young players will soon be training regularly with the intention of forming a new Under-8s team in September. Thanks to Gunning Motor Engineers for sponsoring the Under-15s kit and Pinstone Eyecare for the under-9s.

All the teams will hold their trials for new players in early June. If you would like more information on Earl Marshall Juniors - a football club that is proud to reflect the diversity of our local community - then please contact Mick Ashman on 07843 731 430.



Why I like the Scouts

Story: Frankie Currie | Photo: Gaby Spinks

The 205th St Catherine's Scout group held an open day on 16th May at their base in Holtwood Rd. inviting new members young and old to join the troupe.

Frankie Currie wrote:

Actually I'm not a Scout yet, I'm only 10, but Cubs is just as exciting! We meet once a week at the Scout Hut, where we do a mixture of different games and activities. I've been going for 2 years and will be moving up to Scouts soon.

We do things like knot tying, model making, scientific experiments and first aid as well as playing games like Chinese Wall, French cricket and Blockades and work for our badges for Cooking, ICT, Cycling, Swimming and lots more.

Though the Scouts was traditionally a Christian society it is open to all children, girls as well as boys. Scouts is a national organisation and you can go on all sorts of adventures like, cycling, sleep-overs and camping weekends.

Our group has been going since 1st April 1943, and one of our Scout leaders went there as a Cub in the 1950's!

Cubs are on Mondays and Scouts on Fridays both at 7 – 8.30pm. If you want to know more, call Group Leader Alan Wiffin on 0114 246 3728, come up on a Monday or Friday and have a go or look at the website <http://scouts.org.uk/>

EYP residential

During the Easter holidays, in partnership with Hollowford Outdoor Centre, Ellesmere youth group took a group of young people on a residential to Wales. The weather was fantastic throughout the five days even enabling everyone to withstand a dip in the sea at 8.30pm one evening! The young people reported:

In the Easter holidays 7 young people went with 2 members of staff and some instructors from Hollowford Outdoor Centre. We stayed in Barmouth in North Wales.

In the 5 days the activities we did were Climbing at Barmouth Slabs, Canoeing, Bike Riding, going to the beach, a meal at an Indian restaurant, a night walk through a forest and teambuilding games.

Trax: *"The best activity was Climbing, it was something new what I tried and I found that I was good at it and I think I was the best climber there."*

Adventure forever

Story & photo:
Charlie Sellings

The new Labour Council made keeping the Pitsmoor Adventure Playground open, a 'priority' in their new reign at the Council.

Labour Councillor Ibrar Hussain, who used to play there as a child, said, "The playground and young people are one of Labour's priorities, we will not see it close." He had nothing but praise for the playground where his own son plays on occasion. He went on to say that the surrounding community where he himself had grown up, was what made the playground so special.



Manager of the Playground Richard Fowler remains proud of what it has done for the children who play there. He said, "It is a free, local, easy way for the children to get outside, make new friends, and have a good time". He had promising plans for the future of the playground, including days out for the children, some of whom had probably never left the area before.

Much of the equipment on the 32 year old playground, including the brand new main attraction, the slide, has been built by the staff. Jabien, Josh and Luke (regular visitors), when asked about their favourite part of the playground without any hesitation pointed at the slide

The playground represents everything that is good about the area, and is a welcome distraction from street corners and game consoles. Let's hope it remains open for many more years!



Kaatiie: *"The best activity was Bike Riding, it got very tiring after a bit, but it was good."*

KAZ.G: *"It was great because I liked being out of my mum's way."*

Bethanny: *"The best activity was canoeing and the Beach because I could get signal on my phone."*

Vicar released from prison after 10 years!

Story: John Mellor | Photo: Richard Hanson

The Revd Philip Ireson was inducted into his new post as vicar of Christ Church Pitsmoor on 4th May 2011 by his predecessor, now the Archdeacon of Sheffield and Rotherham, the Ven Martyn Snow. The service was led by the Bishop of Doncaster, the Rt Rev Cyril Ashton.

Philip and his wife Frances were welcomed by a large congregation which included church and community leaders and the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Councillor Alan Law.

Philip comes to Pitsmoor with a wide variety of experiences from his previous work at HMP Doncaster where he has been the Senior Chaplain since 2001. In the 1970s he began as a teacher of the deaf at Mary Hare Grammar School in



Newbury, later moving to Wolverhampton. After training at St John's College, Nottingham, he came to Sheffield in 1984 as the curate of St John's, Owlerton, with his wife Frances - a teacher and lay reader - and children, Robert and Rosie. Their third child, Heather, was born in Sheffield and they now have three grandchildren.

From 1987-1994 Philip was vicar of the Marshland Parishes, near Goole, a large

rural area with four churches and then to another group of parishes near Worksop where he became involved in working with ex-offenders leading to his full-time role as Chaplain at Doncaster prison.

Philip said: "We're delighted to be in Pitsmoor - it will be a challenge living in that huge vicarage! One of the biggest differences is that in a prison everything is highly regimented and done to definite times with bells. Life is so intense, everything happens rapidly and my office was right in the middle of it with prisoners having open access to share their problems, often involving difficult situations with their families at home. I'm involved with a charity called 'Restoring Broken Walls' Trust which works with ex-offenders to respond to urgent needs and set up projects to aid their rehabilitation."

"I shall have to get used to taking more time to make decisions now. I think it will mean listening, gathering groups together in a collaborative way, perhaps starting some new initiatives but certainly growing the church. I also hope to find time for hobbies, particularly cricket, long distance walking, gardening and reading."

Promenade plays in the cemetery

Story: Saleema Imam

Photos: John Steers & Carrie Hedderwick

Beautiful weather favoured the debut performance of the Burngreave Promenade Players. The 150th anniversary of the opening of Burngreave Cemetery in 1861 was marked on Sunday 17th April, by several original, short dramas about the lives of some of those buried there.

The amateur cast played out scenes from the Sheffield flood, two world wars, national strikes, mining accidents, murders and famous football heroes. The audience followed the action around the cemetery guided by the 'Cemetery Superintendent' narrating from his ledger, ending in the chapel, where it would have been difficult to squeeze in any more.

Costumes and props were begged, borrowed, hand-made or recycled. The top hat and frockcoat were the only items purchased. Comments overheard afterwards in the refreshment tent were all positive:

"It was so full I wasn't big enough to see everything, but I liked the piece about the strikes the best."

"What a lot of hard work must have gone into such a great performance."

"A lovely day out! I hope they will be doing more of these"

"I've never been here before. I didn't know what a lovely place it is. I'll be coming again another Sunday."



Passers-by who stayed to join in the fun included a census researcher who was visiting local houses. "I was really interested in the Sheffield flood. I've learned a lot"

Thanks to all who took part.



Well dressing and guided walk 17th July

The well dressing in the cemetery, missing for the last 2 years, is being reinstated in July this year with a guided walk led by Ken.

If you would like to be involved in 'puddling' the clay (in which the flower petals are set); in helping to create the design on Thursday, Friday or Saturday 14th -16th July; or can offer any flowers, petals or other greenery for the installation, then please telephone 07950 299 073 or call into the cemetery any Sunday between 11am and 3pm.

For more information about the cemetery, telephone Christine Steers on 0114 261 8950 or visit the website: www.friendsofburngreavecemetery.btck.co.uk

Burngreave Exploration



Story: Elizabeth Shaw

Photos: Catherine Brown & Gordon Shaw

Thursday 19th May was a pleasant summer evening so my husband Gordon and I decided to join the Burngreave Exploration walk, part of Sheffield Environment Weeks.

Starting on Spital Hill at 7pm, a group of 11 was led by Neill Schofield on behalf of Friends of Parkwood Springs and Sheffield Group Ramblers.

The walk was to explore green spaces near to the city centre. A short walk up Spital Street and we were straight into a grassed area by Verdon Street flats. Children were playing on the recreation ground safely away from the traffic. We crossed Rock Street and paused, looking down the railway line towards Manchester. Neill told us this was the first line into Sheffield; nearby was back-to-back housing. The maisonettes that replaced these are gone too and nature has quickly reclaimed the area. We continued under the trees to Wood Fold, where new houses are being built at the old Stanley Tools building.

Parkwood Springs

Across Rutland Road and another pause by the bird-and-boy statue. I spoke to local resident Nuala who is a Friend of Parkwood Springs. She said she had come



along to 'see if the walk went somewhere she hadn't previously been or if Neill told of something she didn't know.' Both had already happened.

At the viewing point above the Ski Village, Neill described the view as 'quite incredible', picking out the Town Hall to our left and the high-rise flats at Stannington to the right. We also had a close-up view of a hot air balloon and its passengers.

In medieval times, this had been a deer park. During the 1926 General Strike, the strikers had used the area as a source of fuel. Once it was left alone, new growth sprang up. Where we now looked down onto the Ski village, there used to be a quarry, the close-knit community of Parkwood Springs village and a power station. In the near future, the site will incorporate the present landfill area, making a large country park.

Roe Wood

Safely across Cookswood Road and down by the old Firth Brown Sports Club, now Sheffield United's Academy, we learnt that this used to be an Iron Age hill fort to match the one at Wincobank. As we made our way down through the woods, Margaret from Hillsborough said 'it's nice to explore a part of the city I'm not familiar with'. She was impressed by how well maintained the paths were and how much green space there is here.

Through a gennel to Crabtree Road where there is a cottage dating back to the 16th century. Earlier residents used to strip bark from the trees to use in the process of tanning leather. Past Crabtree Pond, up Osgathorpe Road and Stair Road to Devon Gardens, also known as 'The Nannies Gardens'. The large houses around here were home to the middle classes and nannies would meet up here for a chat while the babies hopefully slept.

Burngreave Cemetery

Continuing up Abbeyfield Road and across Scott Road, we entered Burngreave Cemetery. The WWI memorial is in the same design as the ones in Belgium and France and, like them, is maintained by the War Graves Commission. Many injured soldiers were treated at the Northern General due to the medical expertise acquired from dealing with industrial accidents. Many did not survive and they are buried in this cemetery. Proceeding along the main drive, Anglicans buried to one side and non-conformists on the other, there is a circular plot with some Islamic burials. Neill described these as 'a reminder of the length of tradition of people coming to Sheffield to work'.

Before leaving, we took time to have a look at the twin chapels, a building designed by the same architect as the Town Hall. It is now 9pm and the walk is finished. We had a very pleasant and informative evening and all for FREE!

Grimesfire 2011

Story & Photos: Ann Creasey

For the second year running Grimesthorpe Allotment Society held a bonfire, 'Grimesfire' and meal to celebrate May 1st and the start of the growing season.

It was a well attended celebration and enjoyed by adults and children alike. The children especially enjoyed being able to 'play' around the bonfire in a safe environment. The food was superb, created by a small team of friends who enjoyed working together to bring about a fun evening for everyone. We are all looking forward to next years fire as this event has become a tradition now.





**Anne Murdoch
St Cecilia's, 1961**



**Flo Gill,
Christchurch, 1945**



**Janet and Lewis,
St Peter's**



**Marion Graham, Burngreave
Vestry Hall, 1955**

Wedding memories

Story: Marion Graham

The recent Royal Wedding was a very popular topic at the Firshill and Pitsmoor Local History Group meeting. It set off a discussion on weddings in the past, a subject we had covered before.

A chance for a 'knees up'!

Weddings have always been great family occasions when people gathered to celebrate, true even in less prosperous times and in wartime – you can't keep a good wedding party down! Traditional photographs of the bride and groom and their families give a very good image of the styles of the times – dresses, hats, flowers, etc. Our members have a nice collection of wedding photographs, taken from the 1920s through to the 1950s and 60s.



Annie, 1937

Register office wedding

One of the founder members was Annie Neal, who was born in Marcus Street and lived in Verdon Street before moving to the new Firshill estate in 1972. She is now 99 years old and in a nursing home but she still recalls her wedding in 1937

at the Register Office which was then in the Corn Exchange (where Victoria Quays is today). Her wedding photo shows her wearing a double-breasted woollen coat and a buttonhole flower each for herself and her husband. Annie was carrying a pair of leather gloves!

Bridesmaid tales

My own first recollection was of about 7 years old. I was going to be a bridesmaid for my aunt. My dress was made and I was very excited – but I missed it because I was in hospital with diphtheria. In 1949/50, I was about 15 and invited to be bridesmaid at the wedding of some Jamaican friends. The groom was a student at Sheffield University and he had been unable to find anywhere to stay until my grandmother took him in. Later he sent for his fiancée to come over from Jamaica so that they could be married here. The wedding was at St Patrick's Church, Sheffield Lane Top and the reception at a house on Barnsley Road where I had my first taste of West Indian food. I really loved it.

Bride's prerogative to be late!

When it came to mine and Milton's wedding in 1955, we did have some complications. Although Milton arrived at St Leonard's in plenty of time, myself and the bridesmaids were stuck at home as no car had arrived. Someone had to be despatched to the phone-box to contact the car-hire company. However, Milton's family and friends travelled over from Lancashire in a coach (called a "charabanc" in those days). They called at my home to get directions to the church, so the bridesmaids and my Mum

hopped on the coach and went with them.

It all worked out in the end!

The car arrived but me and Dad got there 30 minutes late and the groom was feeling somewhat deserted. We had a photo taken on the steps of the Vestry Hall, where we had the reception. We had a lovely party with ham salad, trifle and wedding cake and then ballroom dance music from an old battered wind-up gramophone on the stage, with someone stepping up to change the record every few minutes. There was beer and lemonade to drink; we all had a really good time and we are still here 56 years later thinking it was worth all the hassle on the day!

For our group members, weddings nowadays in some elaborate or exotic location seem very far removed from our fairly simple wedding days. The cost of just one of them would probably exceed the cost of all ours put together. However, for us, our "big day" is still fondly recalled as exactly that and our best wishes go to everyone embarking on marriage – royal or otherwise.

Young people tackle stigma of mental health

Story: Angela Burrows

A group of young people from Burngreave have been learning about mental health and emotional well-being.

The "Right Here Sheffield Partnership", including the Community Development Workers (Sheffield Health and Social Care) delivered a four-week Mental Health Awareness and Emotional Wellbeing workshop with the Yemeni Community Centre (YCA) to a group of twenty young people in March 2011. The project aims to use a community development approach to address the mental health needs of young people aged 16- 25. A major feature of the initiative is ensuring that young people have a say in the services that are developed for them. The work of the project is steered by a young people's panel.

The group learned what mental health is, the stigma around mental health for young people, and what causes stress, depression and anxiety. The group explored how to look after their own mental health and wellbeing, where to go for help when things get too much and how to talk to peers who may be experiencing issues. The workshops were interactive and worked



towards an ASDAN qualification. One participant said,

"I have thoroughly enjoyed the group activities and learning what is acceptable and not when dealing with mental issues."

Later in the year, the project is due to launch two new group programmes, one aimed at helping young people understand - and find ways of dealing with - their anger and another aimed at supporting the emotional wellbeing of young unemployed people.

If your organisation works with groups of young people aged 16 -25 that may be interested in taking part in any of our activities please contact Right Here Sheffield on 268 9936/0.



Burngreave Community Craft Association

Story & Photos: Lisa Swift

Friendship, support, and an exciting list of activities were the focus of the new Burngreave Community Craft Association, launched at the Seventh Day Adventist Church on Andover Street in May.

There was certainly a warm welcome for the Messenger at the well attended launch event, which shared the group's vision to be a supportive weekly get together for retirees, the unemployed and senior citizens.

Guest speaker, Grace Walsh, a qualified nurse, summed up the group's aims,

"It's about forming lasting friendships and providing social support. Research has shown people who don't have friends are more likely to die prematurely. We also know that keeping the brain active can prevent early dementia. This group will help you keep your brain active by challenging you to do things you have never done before."



The group's impressive list of weekly activities is certainly designed to keep members active. Alongside many traditional craft activities, such as knitting, sewing, floral arranging and greeting card making, the sessions will also explore ceramics, painting, computers and woodwork, as well as occasional exercise sessions and day trips.

The display of delicate knitted and sewn clothes and accessories made by members of the group, showed the marvellous skills they have developed and shared since the first sessions in January. Pastor Randolph Prime explained how it all got started,

"The church helped to set up the group at the beginning of the year to give the community a chance to share their skills with each other and socialise. The group is now entirely independent and is open to anyone who is retired, unemployed or a senior citizen. There will also be hot food every week."

Burngreave Community Craft Association welcomes new members. Come along any Tuesday 10.30am-2pm Burngreave Seventh Day Adventist Church, Andover Street.

The group is also looking for donations of wool and material, contact them on 247 3648 or 272 4073 if you can help.



Interfaith Peace Walk

Story & photo: John Mellor

The 8th annual interfaith peace walk took place in Burngreave on Sunday 27th March 2011.

About 40 representatives of several churches and faith groups across Sheffield gathered at Ellesmere Green outside the Al-Rahman mosque to begin the walk up Burngreave Road, past Firs Hill School and then down Barnsley Road to Fir Vale, with a detour into Devon Gardens.

The group stopped outside places of worship along the route in order to hear a short meditation from different leaders and to pray quietly for peace in the community, the city and the wider world.

Stops on the walk included: Dar Al-Salam mosque, St Catherine's, Christ Church, Pitsmoor Methodist Church, Umar mosque, Jamia Masjid, St Cuthbert's and Trinity Fir Vale Methodist Church.

The walk was a valuable way for members of the different groups to have conversations with each other and build up relationships which are important for creating harmony in the community.

Ashram

At the Burngreave Ashram Open Day on Saturday 21st May, the community had a chance to meet the people involved and enjoy food and entertainment.



Local performers from Ellesmere Road were Stan Skinny and the Neats.

Other participants in the day's events included Helen Hornby of the Blue Loop, Nirmal Fernando of the Multi-Faith Chapel and Library, Ruth Bird from the Gathering, Jenny Beard of Handsley Beard Events, David Hill from the Cafe Church, Ali Bashir from the Asylum community and John Vincent of Ashram Community Trust.



accommodation on Saturday and Sunday nights. Some householders in different areas of Sheffield are already hosting people at weekends, but more are needed.

My wife and I have been offering accommodation for the past year and we have found it to be hugely rewarding. The people who come to us through ASSIST are always vetted and we are never put under any pressure. The experience has been immensely rich for us and we know we have given a couple of nights respite to people who are in great need. If you, like us, have a spare room which from time to time you might be willing to offer at the weekend to someone recommended by ASSIST please consider it. Anyone who can help in this way will find it very rewarding, as have my wife and I.

*Further information can be obtained from:
jennyrichardson@assistsheffield.org.uk
Telephone: 0114 275 4960*

ASSIST needs assistance

Story: John Mellor

Burngreave has been an important centre for migrant groups coming to Sheffield for many years now. The community that has emerged and continues to develop here is one to which the Messenger gives voice and support.

There are many people in the area who quietly, without fanfare, offer their help in many ways to those who are most vulnerable, not least the many destitute asylum seekers and refugees. Having coordinated the setting up of projects designed to help people in this situation, the previous vicar of Christchurch, Pitsmoor, now Archdeacon of Sheffield and Rotherham, the Venerable Martyn Snow said:

"Some amazing people come to us as asylum seekers, very highly qualified in their own countries, obviously gifted and skilled, but who then have become almost completely de-skilled and told they can't do anything. The church offers them a way to contribute something to the wider community, for example through voluntary work, helping them in their learning of English and giving temporary accommodation to those who have nowhere to stay."

ASSIST (Asylum Seekers Support Initiative – Short Term) is a local Sheffield charity set up a few years ago to meet the needs of destitute asylum seekers and refugees. It has been active in Burngreave, drawing on the initiative of local volunteers to establish a vibrant support network. A current problem for ASSIST is the availability of suitable accommodation at weekends. Centres which can provide accommodation during the week are often used for other purposes at the weekend. There is therefore a need for alternative

Local Job Opportunities for Burngreave People

Over 300 local people came along to the Jobs Fair which was held at Sorby House at the beginning of May. Burngreave Councillor Jackie Drayton commented 'The North East Community Assembly were proud to be able to support this very successful event, organised in partnership with Sheffield City Council, the Assembly and the Spital Hill Partnership'. The event was for local people and its aim was to raise the awareness of the local jobs and to help local people with training for future employment. Some of the key organisations included:

- Jobcentre Plus which provided signposting to additional training, benefits advice, a listing of local vacancies and an explanation of the Tesco recruitment process
- The Source, who helped people with online recruitment application processes
- Sheffield College, who were there to promote 'Skills Passport Employability' courses and other



training courses such as ESOL for the retail sector

Several community and training organisations also attended including Future Proof, Prospects, Sheaf Training, Red Tape, The Hadfield Institute, Burngreave Children's Centre and the Women's Construction Centre, offering a range of services, such as apprenticeships, training, advice and support to help people into work.

Funding Approved

Councillors approved the following projects at the Community Assembly meeting held on 27th April for Burngreave Ward:

- Increased spending (£30,000) on initiatives designed to get local people into employment
- Funding for 3 Bring Out Your Rubbish days

- Continued funding to employ a dedicated Activity Sheffield worker for the ward
- Reduced spending on floral features and festive lighting but new lights on Ellesmere Green trees
- Continued funding (£4,000) for pruning some of the most overgrown street trees in the Norwood and Abbeyfield areas

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

Celebrating Burngreave's unsung heroes

Join your local Councillors in celebrating and thanking the 'unsung heroes' who work hard in your local area. Come along to the Burngreave Area Ward Meeting on:

Thursday 16th June, from 5.45pm
Fir Vale School, Owlter Lane

Everyone who was nominated for the awards will receive a certificate and their friends and family will also be invited. A buffet will be available for all to enjoy.

Sistahood, the BME Young Women's Forum will do a short presentation about their work.

Raise issues with the Police, Sheffield Homes, or the Assembly

Join workshops with either Sheffield Homes, the Police or the Assembly to discuss the issues in the area. The event will finish at 8pm.

Next Public Business Meeting

You are invited to the next Public Business Meeting for the North East Community Assembly on

Wednesday 20th July, 6-8pm
Shirecliffe Community Centre,
349 Shirecliffe Road, S5 8XJ.

You are invited to share a sandwich with your local Councillors from 5.30pm. This is a meeting where your local Councillors make their decisions in public. They will be discussing and agreeing funding allocations for the discretionary and highways budgets.

Councillor Surgery Dates

11th June: Jackie Drayton,
11am-12pm Burngreave Library,
12.15pm-1pm Firhill TARA

16th June: Ibrar Hussain,
2pm -3pm Pakistan Advice Centre

21st June: Ibrar Hussain, 11am-12pm
Shirecliffe Community Centre,
12.15pm-1pm Norwood and
Bishopholme TARA

25th June: Talib Hussain, 11am-12pm
Burngreave Library

9th July: Talib Hussain,
11am-12pm Burngreave Library,
12.15pm-1pm Firhill TARA

19th July: Jackie Drayton, 11am-12pm
Shirecliffe Community Centre,
12.15pm-1pm Norwood and
Bishopholme TARA

21st July: Jackie Drayton,,
2pm -3pm Pakistan Advice Centre

23rd July: Ibrar Hussain,
11am-12pm Burngreave Library



Your local councillors Jackie Drayton, Ibrar Hussain and Talib Hussain.

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



It was Wensley Spring Clean. A few tenants worked alongside Sheffield Homes Officers and made a big difference on Wensley. Children and staff from Owlter Brook School came to help, accompanied by PCSOs, who were with us all through the day.

Mrs Own, one of Wensley's tenants, kept us supplied with hot and cold drinks in the Police display bus, while Mr & Mrs Sheldon prepared a lovely lunch, provided by the TARA.

We also had a Bring Out Your Rubbish day, so tenants were able to get rid of tons of unwanted items, along with numerous bags of litter.

By the end, Wensley was in a pristine condition. Thanks to all who helped to make the day such a success.



Wensley clean-up

Story: Gladys Newbolt | Photos: Neil Ashton

April 5th was a day of dust, weeds, litter, brushes and shovels, sacks and litter-pickers. It was a day of good humour and laughter, along with a great deal of hard work.

Firshill clean-up

Children from St Catherine's were a big help in clearing rubbish and tidying up the estate, with Streetforce, Sheaf Training and Sheffield Homes.

Maureen Scott at Firshill TARA said, *"The children from the school loved it and they worked very well. It was a brilliant day."*



Fence fixed

Story: Lisa Swift

After 4 years of asking, Earl Marshal resident Sylvia Reaney has finally succeeded in getting her fence fixed by the Council.

Sylvia's house backs onto Osgathorpe Park and the damaged fence had become a security problem for her and her neighbours.

"I've been burgled several times, and so have others on the street. The fence had been damaged for years and not repaired and it was a real security risk for everyone."

Despite calling in the support of local Councillors, the Parks department were still slow to move. So Sylvia went straight to the top and wrote to the Director of Parks and Countryside, who came to visit.

"I really appreciated her coming to visit me. After that, they kept me informed about what was happening and the fence was fixed. It's also thanks to the Councillors who I've written to over the years."



Carwood clean-up

Carwood Tenants and Residents Association dedicated a new bench to past residents at the clean-up day on 28th April.

Inscribed 'For the People by the People', the new bench will be a pleasant sitting place. The Safer Neighbourhood Team and Sheffield Homes helped tidy up the square outside the Community room.

The TARA's AGM is on 31st May at the Community Centre at 6pm - all are welcome.

The TARA will be holding a Garden Competition in July and August, with cash prizes for the tidiest and best looking gardens.

There will be a summer trip in August to Yorkshire Wildlife Park - £10 for one adult and one child (extra child £2.50). Please call Wynn to book a place on 243 0766.

Dear Messenger...



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

Fir Vale Academy?

Dear Burngreave Messenger

As a parent at Fir Vale school I am very concerned about the school's interest in becoming an Academy. No official contact has been made with parents about this, but such a drastic step should not be considered without the full involvement of parents and the local community.

I understand that the school will probably be asking parents to write in (during a three week "consultation" period) if they have issues or concerns but I (and many other parents) feel that this is not adequate in terms of consultation and we would like to see public meetings, open to all (students, parents, staff and the local community included), with all sides of the issue put to us so that the school community as a whole can make the decision.

Academies are being pushed enthusiastically by the coalition government as a way of making schools independent of local authority control, but I would point out the following:

- Parents would have no democratic control over the future of the school. The school's "independence" would consist of dependence on central government funding – and this is in a period of unprecedented cutbacks in public services.
- Opting out of local authority provision means that the school would have to find money for all the services the local authority currently provides (special needs support, teacher training, admissions etc)
- This would leave the school looking to the private sector to provide these and other services (meaning private firms will be making money out of our children's education to an ever increasing degree).

There are many potential risks to the academy experiment: What if a school decides to cut staff pay? What if it decides to change the curriculum? What if a private firm wants to take over as a sponsor of the school? All these things have happened in other academies. Many parents locally feel proud of Fir Vale and the achievements of its pupils. It is a popular school with increasingly good exam results. Becoming an academy is a risky jump into the unknown. It sets schools up in competition with each other and has not been proven to improve standards or results.

I have been talking to other Fir Vale parents about this issue, as we are very worried about how this could affect our children. Over thirty of us have so far signed a petition to the headteacher asking for full scale consultation before any decision is made (in fact no one asked has not signed). Obviously, we are at a disadvantage as secondary school parents rarely get to meet each other at school gates. This is why I am taking the opportunity of writing to the Messenger to make people in Burngreave aware of this.

Please make your voice heard.

Yours sincerely

Julia Shergold (Parent of Year 7 student at Fir Vale)

Spring Bank Holiday Activities

Activity Sheffield

Activity Camp Unleashed!

Multi sports £3
Firth Park Community
Arts College
Age: 8-16 yrs
Tuesday 31st May &
Wednesday 1st June
11.00am – 3.00pm
Booking essential call:
273 4266 to confirm
Bring packed lunch and drink

Football

Firvale Sports Centre (with
Activity Sheffield)
Thursday 2nd June
8.00pm-10.00pm

Cricket & Football Camp

£3
Fir Vale Secondary School
Age: 8-16 yrs
Tuesday 31st May and

Wednesday 1st June
1.00 pm – 5.00 pm
Bring packed lunch and drink

Street Sports Event

Wensley Estate Playing Fields
Age: 8-16 yrs
Tuesday 31st May
4.00 pm – 6.00 pm
Bring a drink

Sport in your park

Firth Park
Age: 8-16 yrs
Tuesday 31st May
4.00 pm – 6.00 pm
Bring a drink

Sport in the community

Burngreave Tigers
Fir Vale Sports Centre
Every Saturday
10.00am -11.30am

**Contact Activity Sheffield
on 273 4266**

All Saints Lyons Close

Healthy eating
Tuesday 31st May
12.00pm – 6.00pm

Open Access Youth Club

Age: 13-19 yrs
Tuesday 31st May
Wednesday 1st June
Friday 3rd June
6.00pm – 9.00pm

Boat Cruise
Wednesday 1st June
2.00pm – 4.00pm

Cinema
Friday 3rd June
12.00pm – 4.00pm

**Contact All Saints
on 256 0246**

Verdon Recreation Centre

**Sports camp &
arts and crafts**
Tuesday 31st May,
Thursday 2nd June,
Friday 3rd June
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Taekwondo Under 18's
£2.50

Tuesday 31st May,
Friday 3rd June
6.00 pm – 7.30 pm

PITS Youth Club
Wednesday 1st June
6.00pm – 8.00pm

**Contact Verdon
Recreation Centre
on 249 1626**

Osgathorpe Pavilion

Open Access Youth Club

- Age: 13-19 yrs
Thursday 2nd June,
6.00pm – 8.30pm
Friday 3rd June,
5.00pm – 8.30pm

**Contact Geoff
Farrimond, 201 8605**

Ellesmere Youth Project

Cornerstone (Carwood/
Grimesthorpe Road)
Sports, games, arts and
crafts

Thursday 2nd June
1.00pm - 4pm

**Contact EYP on
07886 777 068**

Pitsmoor Adventure Playground Melrose road

**Adventurous outdoor fun,
arts & crafts, sports & games**

Age: 8-13 years (Under 8s with an adult)
Tuesday – Saturday, 12.00pm - 6.00pm

Contact the Playground 203 9394



Christ Church, Pitsmoor Road

June 5th at 6.30pm

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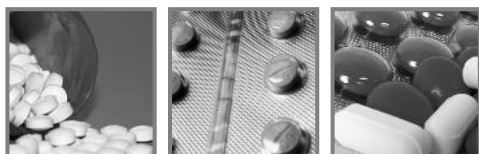
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For details & bookings contact Nirmal Fernando:

Telephone: 07932 017 929 - Email: curlsu@hotmail.com

Pitsmoor Dental Health Centre Wholistic Dental Care

Dr Alan Moffatt

Dr K M Ackom-Mensah

139 Burngreave Road,
Sheffield S3 9DL

Tel: 0114 272 3076

Fax: 275 0963

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Or email us at mail@burngreavemessenger.org



Next deadline: 6th July, for publication on 23rd July