



## Burngreave Library at risk

Story & photo: Douglas Johnson

**The Council is about to start a 12-week consultation, now it has announced its proposal to close some libraries. 11 community libraries are to be saved but the rest will lose their staff and most will close. Burngreave Library has not made it on to the list of 11.**

Councillor Mazher Iqbal explained,

*"The reason it was not in the priority list was due to the distance to the Central Library and the number of registered users potentially affected."*

Libraries in the top 11 – which include Firth Park – will be upgraded. For five of the remaining libraries, the Council is offering to pay the running costs (but not staff). Burngreave is a priority to be one of these five, but it depends on a voluntary organisation coming forward to run it.

Three organisations previously showed interest in running Burngreave Library: Regional Language Network and Creative Pathways (both social enterprises) and SOAR (Southey and Owlerton Area Regeneration). Four organisations expressed interest in taking over all the city's libraries. However, the Council has now confirmed organisations will get no funding and it is hard to see how other groups can provide the necessary resources to run and staff a library.

A community group would not even get the use of the library building. As reported in the August Messenger, the Council intends to move Burngreave Library to a smaller space in Sorby House. Last issue we asked why the plans showed no serving desk or staff office: now we know.

The Council has partly based its decision on the number of registered users, which is an odd way to measure usage when



anyone can use any library. Many people may not remember if they registered at Burngreave Library or the Central one or at a previous address. However, one interesting fact in the Council's statistics is that, when looking at adult library users who choose to register at their local library instead of elsewhere, only 4 libraries beat Burngreave. That suggests Burngreave's library users are confident in their local service and prefer not to travel into town.

Under-18s are far more likely to register locally, which is noticeable in Burngreave where the library is very popular for computer access, for homework and leisure.

The plans are to save £1.6 million in total over two years, a fairly modest saving from the current annual library budget of £6.4 million per year.

A consultation on the plans will run from October to January but no closures are planned before April 2014.

### What library users think

*"They are not thinking about the children, whether it's a children's centre or a library. My children are here now doing their homework. I also use the computers at the library as I haven't got internet at home. A couple of months ago they said they were going to move to Sorby House, now they say they're going to close it. They don't know what they are talking about."* Salima

*"I come once a week. If this closed I would have to go to the city centre but for elderly people it would be more difficult for them and they would stay at home."* Mahmood Mohammed

*"I use it for books and the internet. This library is close to my home and is very important to me."* Abdisamed Adan

*"I use the library twice a week for books, newspapers, internet. If this closed it is too far to the city centre. I would stop reading! We need the libraries open."* Idres Elamin

*"I come every week and more during the holidays. I can use the library at times when the school is closed. If the library closed there would be queues waiting to use computers at other libraries."* Mr Hussain (age 14 - Fir Vale School)

*"I use the library for homework and use the internet. I'm able to get here on my own, as I live nearby, but wouldn't be allowed to go to Firth Park on my own."* Khadija age 10

*"The library has lots of books and is near my home. I wouldn't be allowed to go to Firth Park on my own. The internet is too slow to use at home."* Rahma age 10

*"We are very concerned about the possible closure of Burngreave Library. We have already suffered cuts that particularly affect children. It's just another nail in the coffin."* Margaret Williams, Secretary of Burngreave TARA

## Seasonal flu vaccinations

Attention all patients of Burngreave and Herries Road Surgeries

Dr Mooney and Dr Hobden would like to invite you to attend for a seasonal **flu vaccination**.

If you are over the age of 65 or have one of the following - *asthma, COPD, diabetes, chronic liver or kidney disease, heart disease, stroke/tia*, if you have a *weakened immune system* or are *a carer* or are *currently pregnant* you need to **book your flu vaccination now**.

We are holding **drop-in clinics** at both surgeries on the following days:

### Burngreave Surgery

Wednesdays  
9th, 16th & 23rd October  
Time 8.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.

5 Burngreave Road  
Sheffield, S3 9DA

Tel: 08451 242 528

### Herries Road Surgery

Tuesdays  
8th, 15th & 22nd October  
Time 10.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

450 Herries Road  
Sheffield, S5 8TP

Tel: 08451 243 331

If you are unable to attend one of the above sessions, please ring your receptionist on the number above to make an appointment in one of our nurse-led flu clinics.

Quality education and play  
for each individual child

# Watoto Pre-School

JOB

## Senior Early Years Practitioner

To Cover Maternity Leave for 1 year. Term time only post 25/35 hrs per week. Salary: £7.30 per hour

A resourceful, efficient, creative and approachable person required to work with under 5s. Duties include:

- Planning, implementing and evaluating activities to meet the needs of children and the Early Years Foundation Stage
- Supervising Early Years Practitioners and organising staff development
- Promoting Watoto Pre-School's services and activities and implementing continuous improvement to service delivery

You must demonstrate a working knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework, Room Leadership and Special Educational Needs working practices.

Excellent communication skills, high levels of organisation and an understanding of children's individual needs are essential.

NVQ Level 3 in Children's Care Learning and Development or equivalent plus 2 years post-qualifying experience is required.

Position is subject to enhanced CRB clearance.

**Closing date for applications: 12 noon 14th October 2013.**

For application pack/informal enquiries call or email Sharon or Lillian on **0114 275 1817**

Watoto Pre-School, 139 Catherine Road, Sheffield, S4 7HJ.  
[info@watotopreschool.co.uk](mailto:info@watotopreschool.co.uk) | [www.watotopreschool.com](http://www.watotopreschool.com)

## Burngreave Cemetery Bargain Hunt!

The Friends are  
having a clearout!

*Bric-a-brac, Books, Jumble*

**Sunday 13th October**  
**10am-12pm**

Burngreave Chapel in  
Burngreave Cemetery  
Melrose Road S3 9DN

It's Apple Day too so  
come along for some  
free fruit!

*All activities are at the chapel near the  
Melrose Road entrance to the cemetery.*

To find out more you can contact us  
on our website at:

[www.friendsofburngreavecemetery.btck.co.uk](http://www.friendsofburngreavecemetery.btck.co.uk)



## Burngreave Messenger AGM

**Saturday 9th November**  
**11am-1pm**

Come and join us at the  
Abbeyfield Park House community room

We will be looking back at what we have done over the last year  
and electing our new committee for the next year.

All members of the Messenger can vote.  
*Bring and share lunch*



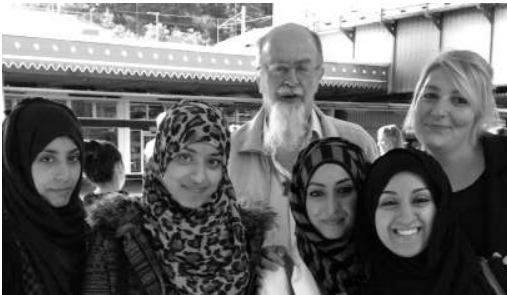
**Lively worship • Growth groups**  
**Youth group • Children's activities**  
**Bible-based teaching**

Join us Sundays for worship at 10:30 a.m.  
Just off Spital Hill at 75 Carlisle Street  
Phone: 0114 2767630

[www.rockchristiancentre.org](http://www.rockchristiancentre.org)

# Nurseries judicial review

Story: Kath Swinney | Photo: Lena Mohamed



**Parents from four different nurseries, including Firvale Pre-school, went to court in Manchester in July to challenge a decision of Sheffield City Council's Early Years Service.**

All these nurseries are based in deprived areas, are not-for-profit and each was having their grant withdrawn. Abtissam Mohammed from Firvale Pre-School said, "The council gave their decision with no

warning at a public meeting in December called *The Future of Early Years*. We organised a meeting of providers, parents and volunteers (60-70 people). "We submitted the largest ever petition (over 10,000 signatories) to the Town Hall in January and demonstrated (500 people) outside the Town Hall. Council refused to change the decision and now we are challenging this in court."

Professor Pat Broadhead, Sheffield Early Years Champion, resigned because of this decision as she felt she could no longer act as a bridge between service users, providers and local authority policy because "decisions that are now being made are having the greatest detrimental impact on the poorest parts of the city." Professor Broadhead came to court to support the nurseries, along with around 50 supporters over the two days.

We spent two full days in court listening to the case. Everyone remains hopeful, despite the long wait, because the judge said the demands of the law need to be met regardless of the economic backdrop and he had a long discussion about what would happen if he made a historic decision against Sheffield City Council.

## Advice Centre changes

Story: Lisa Swift

**Advice Centres across the city are due to merge on 1st October as the Council changes the way they are funded.**

Fourteen of the cities advice services have agreed in principle to take part in the merger, as the Council only intends to fund one organisation. Pitsmoor Citizens Advice Bureau and Sheffield Law Centre are planning to take part in the merger. Advice services at the Pakistan Advice and Community Association and the Yemeni Community Association are in a different position as advice is one of many different types of services they run and therefore they are not able to merge into the new structure. The Council has extended their current grants while discussions continue.

Chris Walker from Pitsmoor Citizens Advice Bureau provided the following information about the future of their service:

*Over the last two years, advice centres across the city have been discussing how we were going to face up to a*

*tougher future. In Pitsmoor CAB, we have seen a large increase in the number of people coming through our door. At the same time we have lost over half our funding.*

*The discussions with other advice centres are leading to merger – in future there will be one main advice centre serving the whole city. But that will not be the end of an advice centre in Burngreave. There are no plans to close our building and we will still be here doing the job we do.*

*We will be able to work much more closely with other advice outlets right across the city. If a person needs a specialist service or wants to visit an advice centre away from where they live it will be much easier.*

*We will also be upgrading our advice line to make it more accessible. Also there will always be two advice centres open somewhere in the city from 9:00am to 5:00pm.*

*There will be some local changes to make this happen. From October our opening times for initial assessments will be:*

**Monday 9am – 1pm and  
Friday 9am – 5pm**

*The Advice line is open 9am–5pm*

*Telephone: 0114 205 5055*



## Volunteers can't solve budget crisis

When the Government makes cuts, volunteers are expected to pick up the pieces. We see it with libraries, the Adventure Playground and Verdon Rec, the Advice Centres and foodbanks.

The Council says it wants to work in 'partnership' with the voluntary sector before more budget cuts in April. The trouble is the Council doesn't have a good track record of working with the voluntary sector – witness what has happened with the community nurseries.

There are now far fewer volunteering opportunities because of cuts to the staff who managed and supported them. Volunteers can't simply replace paid jobs. Needs in Burngreave are more complex, both for volunteers and the public they serve.

Residents in Burngreave already do a lot of volunteering and the sector is at full stretch. The Council's wish to run more services with volunteers risks an even bigger gap between the rich and poor areas of Sheffield.

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**Burngreave Messenger Ltd**,  
Abbeyfield Park House,  
Abbeyfield Road, Sheffield S4 7AT.

Tel: (0114) 242 0564

mail@burngreavemessenger.org

www.burngreavemessenger.org



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**This issue's team:** Rohan Francis, Douglas Johnson, Jamie Marriott, John Mellor, Lisa Swift **Proofing and editing:** Fran Belbin, Annie Blindell, Gaynor Carr, Carrie Hedderwick, Saleema Imam, Robert Shaw, Julia Shergold, Muneebah Waheed.



# Taekwondo gold

Story: Saleema Imam & Lisa Swift

**Local boy Radford Love has won the British Taekwondo title in the Cadet -57kg category at the national championships in Manchester.**

At Verdon Recreation Centre, Radford's instructor Craig Wallace - a former National champion himself - said:

*"It was a difficult final bout for Radford. After the usual three rounds, Radford and his opponent - last year's silver medal holder - tied, so it was in an exciting tie-break 4th round that Radford finally came out the winner."*

Radford, who trains 3 times a week, said he was very excited at winning and "intends to go for gold again next year," to add to his many medals. It will be at the higher weight in the Junior level, however, and he will face new competition and bigger opponents.

Further into the future there are possibilities of being selected for the national team and getting to the Olympics. "My dad is very



proud and it's all good publicity for the club," he said.

Radford has trained for six years at Verdon Street, which has classes on Tuesday and Friday evenings and also goes to a session at Hillsborough.

To see some of the action, visit [www.pilsungtaekwondo.co.uk/pprofiles/radford-love-2nd-poom/](http://www.pilsungtaekwondo.co.uk/pprofiles/radford-love-2nd-poom/)

# Tusaale United in Portugal

Story: Guleid Jama

**During the summer Tusaale United took part in the IberCup, currently one of the most important World Youth Football Tournaments on the planet.**

8000 players, coaches and family from 50 countries come to Estoril in Portugal for a week of competition; this offered fantastic experiences and extraordinary opportunities to compete with some of the top teams in the world. Our group had teams from Ivory Coast, Portugal and Spain. We won 2 of the 3 games and lost the other, so we qualified as group winners, showing exactly what we can do as a team! Unfortunately we lost the quarter-finals; all our players can hold their heads up high for an amazing performance against the Spanish giants, Seville. One Tusaale United player said,

*"This trip has been the best experience I could ever have wished for. To get such an insight into a well renowned professional academy was unbelievable. I will remember this forever."*

Six of Tusaale United players also got the opportunity to train with the top Academy teams over the summer - from clubs like Sheffield United, Barnsley and Chesterfield. Some of the boys have been invited back to train with the Academy in the near



future - a true testament to the work involved in playing for Tusaale United.

On behalf of Tusaale United Football Club, I would like to personally offer my deepest appreciation to the businesses below. Their financial investment makes what we do for the young boys in our area possible: Young's Solicitors, Spital Chippy, Swift Pharmacy, Can Can Café, Muhiadin Farah Building Company and Cinema Garage. We were also supported by Ellesmere Youth Project. If your company would like to promote your business on Tusaale United kit or even the mini bus and also help the youth in our area, please don't hesitate to get in contact - my number is 07936 340779 and my e-mail is [g\\_jama@yahoo.com](mailto:g_jama@yahoo.com).

# Earl Marshall fundraising day

Story: Lisa Swift | Photo: Emma Msigiti

**Burngreave's hugely successful football club, Earl Marshall Juniors, enjoyed the pre-season with a fundraiser at their training ground on Petre Street.**

Parents and coaches organised stalls, a bouncy castle, food, rides and music. There were traditional sack and egg-and-spoon races - and a lot of football. Under



9s manager, Garfield Walters, said,

*"It was great to have all the teams together, Under-9s, 11s, 12s and 13s. The boys really enjoyed playing football with*

*each other, with older ones helping the younger ones and working together."*

The club are looking forward to the new season. The under-11s and under-9s are still looking for unregistered players. The teams train on Wednesdays and Thursdays 6-7pm, at Petre Street and, during the winter, at Hinde House School. Contact:

Garfield on 07760 240 366 for under 9s

Shane on 07818 551 110 for under 11s

Look out for Earl Marshall Juniors FC football camps in future school holidays.

# Chileans remember

Story & Photos: Saleema Imam

On Wednesday 11th September members of Sheffield's Chilean community braved the rain to congregate outside the Town Hall to mark the 40th anniversary of the coup which replaced the democracy led by President Salvador Allende with the dictatorship of Pinochet.



Over 30,000 people were imprisoned, many tortured or killed and 2,500 others just 'disappeared' without trace. The faces of some of those are featured on the placards on show.

Around 1million people were exiled, some of whom were welcomed to Sheffield in the 1970s. Many eventually returned to Chile, but others remained, bringing up children and grandchildren and becoming valued members of our local community.

The Cueca – Chile's national dance – was performed and brought tears to the eyes of many of the older members of the watching crowd.

Sheffield City Council had been asked to fly the Chilean flag for the day but the request was refused.

# New roof for Abbeyfield Park House

Story: Fran Belbin

The short-term future of Abbeyfield Park House has been secured following Sheffield City Council Cabinet agreeing to renew the slate roof and guttering.

The poor condition of the roof, which has not been renewed for practically 100 years, has been threatening to make the listed building uninhabitable, something which would affect not only the organisations based in the house (including the Messenger and Green City Action), but would also have an impact on the security of the park as a whole if the building was no longer occupied. The work, budgeted at £187,500, will be the responsibility of Kier.

Friends of Abbeyfield Park (FOAP) have been in discussion with Councillors and staff at the Council about the longer-term future of the house and are working to develop a plan to keep the building in community use. More detail on FOAP's activities can be found on their website, <http://abbeyfieldpark.wordpress.com/>.

FOAP would like to thank the Burngreave Councillors for their support in keeping the house open.



# Eid in Abbeyfield

Al-Taqwa mosque held a Eid celebration in Abbeyfield Park in August. This is the second year the mosque has held events in the park which are intended to bring the whole community together, not just Muslims. The event included lots of activities for families such as rides, bouncy castles, food and face painting.

Organisers Guleid Jama, Ahmed Yusuf Sahal, Hussien Farah, Yassin Farah Jess, Mohamed Mah, and Mohamed Hassan, were pleased with the growing success of the event. Guleid said, "We had 4-500 people attend, which is the largest turn out since we started organising the event. It was a really good family day, everything went to plan and everyone had a really good time."

# Landlords oppose Licensing

Story: Rohan Francis

**Public consultation on Selective Licensing in Page Hall came to an end in September following a 10 week period in which the Council's Private Sector Housing team held community meetings, sent out questionnaires and canvassed local opinion on its proposed scheme.**

Council officers outlined the main features of their proposal at consultation meetings explaining that, if the plan went ahead, all landlords in the area would be required to register their properties and pay a fee of between £500-£1000. For each tenant, the landlord would also have to provide a written contract, obtain a reference and make sure their property is maintained to a minimum standard. Failure to meet any of these requirements could mean fines of up to £5,000.

The Council based its reasons for the scheme on 'low demand' for housing – which they claim is indicated by increasing levels of private renting and falling house prices – and also a significant problem of anti-social behaviour. However, the Council went on to say that Selective Licensing cannot resolve issues such as congregations of people on streets or nuisance car use.

## Council criticised

At several heated meetings, the audience questioned the Council's scheme and the reasons for proposing its introduction in Page Hall. Landlords, many of whom live locally, voiced their concerns about the effectiveness of the scheme and criticised the Council for not using existing measures: "The Council already have appropriate powers to stop anti-social behaviour – why can't they use them?"

Several people questioned the Council's interpretation of the rules governing the use of license fees: "The fee cannot be



used to pay for enforcement. It can only be used to administer the scheme, so it won't bring any added benefits."

Others wondered why, when other Councils had decided against it, Sheffield was pursuing Licensing at all: "Salford Council's licensing scheme failed to reduce levels of anti-social behaviour and other Councils have rejected it altogether."

A number of landlords were worried about the effect that enforcing the License conditions would have on tenants: "Landlords would be forced to pass on license costs to tenants. This could force tenants into poverty." Another was concerned that: "Demanding a reference from tenants would discriminate against migrants who haven't rented before."

One of the audience also asked: "If the problem is only on 4 streets out of 50 in the area, why not just focus on those?"

Landlords were also concerned that they would be forced out of Page Hall as they feared mortgage providers would refuse to provide loans. They would also be forced to deliver services like Social Housing organisations: "Licensing would mean a huge increase in management time on tenants. We would receive no reward for what would be basically supporting or policing vulnerable people."

There was overall concern that the process had brought more bad than good: "The Council's presentation has caused friction. This whole process has put landlords against their tenants. It's not good for the community."

during the same period last autumn.

A Police statement said the action was taken in response to concerns raised by residents over an increase in anti-social behaviour in the area. Local PACT meetings ('Police and Communities Together') have become increasingly heated in recent months, so much so that officials have decided to close them down and replace them with drop-in sessions where people can talk one-to-one with the police about their issues.

## Positive suggestions

Alongside the criticism of Selective Licensing, issues were raised about the large numbers of newly arriving families from Eastern Europe. Landlords and residents put forward positive comments and concerns about the current issues in the area. One commented that the Council need to bring weekly bin collections back and provide better access to large refuse bins.

A landlord of 15 years, explained he had never had problems with any of his tenants and felt the newly arriving community from Eastern Europe were not the problem but that integration would take time. "We need to be patient," he said. Another suggested the Council help provide a place for local residents and new arrivals to congregate and that "instead of Licensing they should set up youth clubs". They warned that the Council needs to respond to local concerns.

## Residents' voice

Residents also took part in meetings, although they frequently formed the minority voice. One woman told Councillors, "I've lived here for 25 years. We've paid the mortgage but the house is now only worth £50,000. I can't move. I can't even buy a flat for that". Another resident remarked that, from what they had seen, "Selective Licensing seems to bring little benefit to Page Hall".

## What next

At times the meetings descended into angry shouting and even violent protest, leading one resident to comment, "I've found today that we've failed. Our Councillors are not our enemy. We need to get tenants, residents and landlords to work together."

Councillor Tony Damms suggested a group made up of residents and landlords should meet to discuss alternatives to Selective Licensing and report back to the Council as soon as possible. A report on the consultation is being prepared and is due to go to Cabinet in October.

## Section 30 again

**Page Hall has been subject to a Section 30 Dispersal Order for the third time in 5 years after South Yorkshire police and the Council agreed to place restrictions on the area in August.**

The current order runs until 17th November and follows similar measures seen in Page Hall in 2009 and again

Increased powers under Section 30 allow the Police to disperse individuals and direct them not to return for 24 hours, to break up groups of people engaged in anti-social behaviour and to return children to their homes if they are found unaccompanied after 9pm.

The Police refused to explain how effective previous Section 30 Orders had been and why they were used repeatedly in Page Hall.



# Positive Solutions

Story: Rohan Francis

**Pakistan Advice and Community Association (PACA) have been working to find positive solutions to issues raised by residents in the Page Hall area. Some of the work is being funded with a Police Crime Commissioner grant which aims to re-establish pride in the area from all communities.**

## Keeping the streets clean

Problems with excessive litter and fly-tipping are being addressed alongside the Council's contractor Amey. Currently, there are 3 advocates from the local Roma community employed by Amey for 3 days per week. Their role is to provide education and advice on litter and refuse disposal in Page Hall.

Community meetings are held twice a month to discuss local litter and environmental issues and plans are being made to continue the 'Love where you live' project, which will help residents to sign up to a pledge to keep their area litter free and to report problems.

## Neighbourhood Watch

Coordinated by Julie Blacker, PACA Community Coordinator, a monthly meeting aims to bring local residents together to deal with any issues people are having. The important idea behind this group is to get the whole community communicating.

Their first meeting attracted 20 residents from the Roma, Pakistani and white community, along with 2 PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers). The feeling from non-Roma groups was that the community wanted to get to know the Roma community and understand their needs. This is seen as a positive and beneficial process that can lead to understanding. Many newly arriving families have come from areas without services like refuse collection and where many people socialise on the street. Julie said:

*"PACA has begun to host a series of education presentations for residents about litter and refuse collection with AMEY. Popple Street has already received this training and the project will continue to work through the area inviting residents 'street by street'."*

## Street Champions

Julie is also managing the new Street Champions project, also supported by PACA's development worker Miroslav Sandor, which local residents have



**Street Champions: David, Sergej and Miroslav**

volunteered to take part in. Currently Street Champions are from Roma, Pakistani and white backgrounds and they walk around the area between 8-10pm each night.

Their aim is to offer advice and educate residents on anything they might need. It is hoped the project will prevent anti-social behaviour, which sometimes means encouraging large groups to separate or reduce the noise they are making. Members of the team receive Conflict Resolution training through PACA.

The Messenger went out with Miroslav and volunteer Street Champion David in September to see what was involved. We met on Hinde Street just after 8pm, where some children were playing. We asked them why they were out on the street:

*"It's not safe to play in the park, people are smoking drugs and fighting. I come here to be with my friends, but I will have to go home in 5 minutes because it's school tomorrow."*

One of the issues, according to Miroslav, is the lack of activities for the Street Champion to recommend young people get involved in. Existing clubs or venues that can provide activities for young people in the area are full or not open enough. Instead, Miroslav encouraged them to go home soon to be ready for school. Miroslav is conscious that the Street Champions don't want to send residents home – like the Police would – but to advise them what alternatives exist to gathering in large groups outside.

Walking towards Willoughby and Wade Street, the roads were quiet and it was noticeable that they were largely clear of litter. We met four men from the Roma community and one man explained,

*"We are waiting for a lift to work. I like living here. I have had a job for 6 years, which is why I stay. We don't have too much trouble, but sometime people drive too quickly on the roads. And my neighbour complained because I smoke outside, but I have to do that. It's not right to smoke inside with the children."*

Miroslav also told me he and the Roma community were feeling intimidated by the negative press surrounding recent events and Council meetings. He believed there was unfair blame being placed on the Roma. Walking towards the shops on Page Hall Road, we spoke to a group of young men,

*"We don't understand why the Police have a problem with us. There are other people who are selling drugs and fighting. We don't do that. We just like to talk with each other. If there was a place to play football, we would do that."*

Another man said he thought there should be more for young men to do,

*"There should be computers, so they can learn more that will help them find jobs."*

Miroslav agreed that it would be really good if there were more local venues or regular activities that he could recommend to local people who were currently socialising on the street. He hoped his work would bring the whole community together as that was the only way problems could be truly sorted out.



## Building bridges

Story & Photo: Muneebah Waheed

**On the 13th August, a local resident from Page Hall called for a meeting to be held between various communities to tackle the issue of anti-social behaviour.**

The meeting was held to congratulate members of the community who helped to cooperate and work alongside others to keep the streets quiet. Overall the meeting was a success, with residents agreeing to keep up their promises to help prevent anti-social behaviour.

Miroslav Sandor from the PACA commented saying "This meeting is a prime example of the community working together to solve issues. The problems that were raised in the first meeting have now been resolved and I look forward to helping local residents solve further issues"

# Sylvia Pennington

## (1934-2013)

Story: John Mellor | Photo: Anwar Suliman

**St Peter's Ellesmere was filled to capacity on 6th September for a truly memorable thanksgiving service for the remarkable life of Sylvia Pennington, a Burngreave resident for 68 years.**

Members of her family, alongside friends, neighbours, local councillors and members of local churches, met to pay tribute to a lady who had endeared herself to all sections of the community, young and old. The grief that was expressed reflected the great love that Sylvia had for people, which came from her own knowledge of God's love for her through her friendship with Jesus.

Rev Mark Goodhand reflected on Sylvia's long and active life and Rev Philip Ireson read two scripture readings (from Jeremiah and Isaiah) which had been chosen by Sylvia herself before she died. Her granddaughter, Kerry, gave a moving tribute which expressed the love and respect of all the family, with the touches of humour which were so characteristic of Sylvia. She had known personal tragedy in her life. Her first husband died suddenly of a heart attack at the age of 37 leaving her with three young children under the age of 10 to bring up on her own - "with discipline and love". She remarried 10 years later but was widowed for a second time 30 years ago.

However, Sylvia wasn't one to sit down and feel sorry for herself. After retiring through ill health, from her work as a cleaner, she undertook training to do a number of voluntary jobs in the community. First she became an 'Appropriate Adult', acting as a guardian, befriending young people in trouble with the police. She then moved on to help children with their reading at Byron Wood and later Limsfield Schools.

Her involvement with St Peter's led to her training as a lay, parish



evangelist and a hospital chaplaincy volunteer at the Northern General Hospital. She had a great pride in Burngreave and was always campaigning to improve standards in the area, whether it related to litter, parking, bus services or the problems faced by local residents.

Councillor Ibrar Hussain summed up what many others also thought of Sylvia:

*"I will miss her as a good friend. She had a heart for Burngreave and was keen that it should always be seen at its best. She was faithful in her attendance at community forums and was not afraid to call officials of statutory authorities to account if she felt they were neglecting their duties. She was a wonderful example of perseverance but her concerns were always expressed with her characteristic sense of humour."*

Sylvia's Granddaughter made a moving tribute at the funeral, which can be found on the Messenger's website.

## Andrea Hardy

### Community Queen of Hearts

Story: Sheena Clarke

**Andrea Hardy, who died peacefully aged 57, on Monday 29th July, after a short but brave battle with illness, will be remembered with love and affection by many people in Sheffield.**



Andrea was born in Pitsmoor, but spent most of her life on the Shiregreen estate, apart from the first years after her marriage when she lived in Broomhall. It was in Broomhall that she first became involved in community work, initially helping to run the crèche in the Broomspring Centre and then getting involved in other projects for both the under-fives and older children.

The Broomspring Centre was to become the springboard for Andrea's involvement in community work in other areas in the city including Foxhill, Wensley Estate, Burngreave and Flower Estate. Everywhere she worked, whether in a voluntary or paid capacity, she was renowned for her dedication, hard work and willingness to put others before herself.

For the last 15 years Andrea focussed her energies on community projects in the Firth Park area. In 2000, together with her good friend Betty Smalley, she established the Firth Park Festival and was a leading light in organising the event with other members of the local community until 2010. In 1999 Andrea helped to launch the Trade Base Trust which operated from the Old Library on Firth Park Road. The building became the focal point for a wide range of community activities which included a recycling centre selling secondhand goods, adult education classes, a lunch club, parent and toddler groups, and a host of other self-help groups too numerous to mention. In 2004 Andrea's love for gardening blossomed into the Trade Base Community Allotment Project that now bears her name, the HOPE Community Allotment or Hardy's Organic Produce for Everyone.

From small beginnings HOPE has grown year by year and now has four plots on the High Wincobank Allotment Site on Windmill Lane, one of which has specially constructed raised beds that are suitable for people with mobility problems. At the HOPE Community Allotment local people from all parts of the community, and with diverse levels of ability and disability, work together to grow organic fruit and vegetables, caring and supporting each other and our local environment, guided by Andrea's vision while she was with us and now following the example she set us, in fond memory of her.

**If you would like more information about the HOPE Community Allotment or would like to get involved in the project, contact Sheena on 07792 605 138.**



# Residents fund Playground staff

Story: Lisa Swift

**Sheffield City Council are no longer funding the staffing of Pitsmoor Adventure Playground. From October, local residents are instead funding two Council posts at the playground with grant money, a third worker will be employed through Ellesmere Youth Project to develop the playground.**

Pitsmoor Adventure Playground Users Group have been meeting with the Council since March in the hope that the playground could be kept open with Council funded staff. A steering group was set up which brought in additional staff hours from Sheffield Wildlife Trust, Sheffield Futures and the Multiagency Support Team. It was hoped these contributions would help stretch the Council's budget further.

The Council insist that all the hours allocated to the playground from their budget have been spent up and they threatened to remove their staff completely in September.

Local Councillors, Council managers suggested that the gates be taken off, equipment be removed or replaced and the building eventually demolished. Councillors said an open playground with less adventurous equipment was the only sustainable option.

Residents have argued that the Council has no way to maintain an open playground on that site safely, and they have been seeking grant funding to keep the playground staffed. Laura Watkins chair of Pitsmoor Adventure Playground Users Group said, "We are confident we can secure more funding to staff the playground, but we need to find a way to manage the provision in the future."

The Council are continuing to fund the costs of the building and will be working with the User Group over the next 6 months.

The playground will be open 9 hours per week until March. Current opening times are Wednesday and Friday 3.30pm-6.30pm, Saturday 12-3pm.

**The User group are holding a meeting on Wednesday 6th November, 6.30pm at Pitsmoor Adventure Playground to discuss the future of the playground. All welcome.**



## Pitsmoor Olympics

Story: Lisa Swift & Patrick Meleady

**Pitsmoor Adventure Playground hosted their own Olympic Games in August.**

Children, young people and parents competed in sack races, egg-and-spoon and relay races. The most challenging event was an obstacle course, where children had to navigate the whole playground and its equipment.

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Vickie Priestley, was persuaded to take part in the egg-and-spoon. Children showed her around the playground and explained why it was important to keep it open and staffed. After presenting the medals, the Lord Mayor said, "We have had a fantastic time. We can see how important



this playground is to all of you and we wish you all the best for the future."

Patrick Meleady, vice chair of the user group, said: "The event was really uplifting for children and families and everyone left with a big grin."

Honey, aged nine, said, "I enjoyed the obstacle course and getting a medal from the Lord Mayor was the best bit of the day."

Julia, aged seven, added, "The sack race was really hard but I tried my best and got a gold medal - but I wanted the Lord Mayor's chain!"

## Verdon Rec's new youth club

Story: Lisa Swift and Aislinn Adams  
Photo: Aislinn Adams

**During August, Burngreave TARA started a new youth club at Verdon Recreation Centre every Wednesday and Thursday.**

Each session includes a range of activities for 8-16 year olds such as arts and crafts, badminton, football, table tennis and more. The centre is a safe space for all children to come and relax and have fun.

Aislinn Adams is running the club, alongside volunteer Josie Stocks. Aislinn said, "It's a club where young people can be creative. Last week we did canvas painting, we've done some gardening and even painted gnomes. It's something positive for young people to do and we need to keep that going here on Verdon Street."



The club is also being supported by Ellesmere Youth Project on a Wednesday who are helping out with the sports and activities. All the staff and volunteers have CRB checks.

Verdon Street Youth Club, Wednesday and Thursday, 4.30-6pm, 8-16 years, free. Under 8s are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult.

**For more information contact Aislinn on 07939 394 037**

# Feeling Good on Verdon Street

A new project is starting on Verdon Street in October to help women feel good and improve their health.

Health professionals are supporting Burngreave TARA to bring women together to improve their well-being, and support others in their neighbourhood to do the same. Activities will be based at Verdon Recreation Centre and the Furnival on Verdon Street.

## Weekly drop in

Women can come along to a drop in every Wednesday to find information they might need. This will sometimes include visits from different health professionals who can give advice on health issues. At the same time there will be a chance to join in different activities such as sewing or exercise sessions. Shena Moore who will be running the drop in said,

*"Women can tell us what information or activities they would like, and that will help to decide what we do at future sessions."*

## Weekly drop-in

Every Wednesday morning during term time you will be welcome to come to Verdon Street Recreation Centre for a cup of coffee or tea.

**It will start on Wednesday, 2nd October and be open from 10am to 12noon.**

**Talk.** You will be able to chat with your friends, meet your neighbours and make new friends from around the world –and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee.

**Advice.** There will also be people there to help you with advice about where to go for help with any problems you may have.

**Information.** We will also be able to give you information about anything you need to know about living in Sheffield. We can also share our own information and skills – sewing, recipes, ideas...

**Talks.** We will have guest speakers to talk about different things, including health problems. We would welcome any other suggestions you may have.

**Exercise.** During the session we will have dance or exercise sessions, and other healthy activities.

**Opportunities** to find out about volunteering in the community.

Looking forward to seeing you there!



## Cook and Eat

Once a month at the Furnival women will have the chance to learn how to cook more healthily. Health Trainer and Development Worker, Somshun Nessa, will be sharing her expertise on healthy eating, and encouraging women to share their knowledge and recipes. Somshun said,

*"This is a great opportunity for everyone to come together, socialise and meet your local neighbours from the Burngreave area"*

## Volunteers

The project will also be looking for "Feeling Good" volunteers, to help

support the activities on Verdon Street and to encourage others to think about health and well being. Shima Nasir, Community Development worker in Mental Health, will be working alongside the TARA's Aislinn Adams to support volunteers. Aislinn said,

*"It will be a chance for people to gain experience of working in their community. There will also be training so that people can develop new skills."*

Burngreave TARA are pleased to have the support of the Healthy Communities Programme and the SHSC Development Team in running the project. The project is funded by the People's Health Trust.

## Cook and Eat

*Want to share your recipes with different communities?*

*Want to learn new healthy and easy recipes?*

*Want to make new friends and socialise?*



*Want to go somewhere to learn more about health?*

Then this is the place for you! This course will enable people to make healthier cooking choices. We will be swapping recipes as well as making classic traditional dishes such as Chicken curry, various pasta dishes, spaghetti Bolognese, quiche and healthy desserts.

The course will be facilitated by Somshun Nessa, Health Development Worker and Health Trainer. So you will have the opportunity to receive one-to-one advice around healthy eating and exercise, and health champions will also be there to help.

**Sessions are once a month at the Furnival, 199 Verdon Street Starting Friday 25th October 2013 11:30am–1:30pm (future sessions on Thursdays)**

## Volunteers

Do you live around the Burngreave area and are interested in helping people improve their health and wellbeing? If so, are you interested in volunteering for the 'Feeling Good on Verdon Street' project?

We are looking for people who are committed to supporting people around their health and wellbeing, enthusiastic and willing to share and learn new skills, are good team players and able to work on their own. Volunteers must be able to offer at least 1 hour per week for a minimum of 20 weeks.

Tasks will include:

- Supporting Healthy Cooking Sessions,
- Helping facilitate workshops
- Supporting the co-ordination of a weekly drop in
- Helping plan activities
- Signposting service users.

In return we can offer you the chance to:

- Meet new people
- Be part of a team
- Learn new skills
- Access training courses you are interested in

## Feeling Good on Verdon Street Get involved

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or taking part in a cook and eat session, contact Aislinn Adams 07939 394 037 or email [aislinn.adams@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:aislinn.adams@tiscali.co.uk)

# Dedicated volunteers at Pitsmoor Lunch Club

Story: Aishah Baroo | Photo: Lisa Swift

**The Pitsmoor Lunch Club is one of the oldest voluntary lunch clubs to have been set up in Sheffield and this year will mark its 38th anniversary.**

It is run by a team of dedicated volunteers who ensure that the club provides a quality two course meal with hot drinks on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from £2.50 for the elderly. It is held from 11:00 till 1:00pm at the Pitsmoor Methodist Church. The organisers are currently looking for a voluntary relief driver for the minibus to transport their members from their homes to the club.

Although the club is based in Pitsmoor, it covers a wide range of areas within Sheffield like Brightside, Burngreave, Carbrook, City Centre, Fir Vale, Firth Park, Grimesthorpe, Longley, Shirecliffe, Pitsmoor and Pyebank. Fiona who has been bringing her mother Sybil (who recently relocated to Ecclesfield), to the club for 18 months emphasised how fundamental the club is for her and her mother stating that "I value this time as a carer" and it helps her mother with "mental stimulation"... and "she often eats more at the club than at home because she feels comfortable around people her own age".

Ivy, who has been a volunteer at the club for over 16 years helps to prepare the meals on the menu. Having been a member of the Pitsmoor Methodist Church herself, she felt that this was one of the ways that she could serve the community. She emphasised that it was rewarding to see the appreciation from the attendees as "they like coming for the company because most of them live alone and often look forward to a hot meal".

For the members themselves the club is a great place for socialising and for some members like Ada and Vera it has been a place for a fruitful friendship. They both agreed that they looked forward to coming and that "it is difficult to get out without somebody's help". Transport which costs £2 per person is a key issue for the Lunch club because most of the members rely on the minibus on a Tuesday that is provided by Pitsmoor and Shiregreen Community Transport.



## Volunteer driver needed

If you would like to attend or would like to refer someone to the Lunch Club, please don't hesitate to contact Pam Eaton on (0114) 243 5333. Alternatively, If you would like to volunteer as a minibus driver there are some requirements:

- You must be over the age of 21
- Have a clean licence
- You will need MiDAS training (this can be provided) and a CRB check
- You don't have to stay for the full duration of the club hours.

## Murder Mystery



*A MURDER takes place at the church fair.*  
*You are invited to help solve the MYSTERY*

At Pitsmoor Methodist Church Hall,  
Christ Church Road

**Saturday 26th October**  
**from 7pm**

Minimum Donation of £5  
Includes refreshments

**Contact 243 5333 for more details**



# New support in Fir Vale

Story & Photo: Muneebah Waheed

**The Adira community is hosting a weekly clothes sale every Friday from 11am to 1pm at Trinity Methodist Church, Firth Park Road, Fir Vale.**

The popular sale is aimed at everyone in the community, with clothes, bags, jewellery and shoes sold at 'rock bottom prices.' Adira predominantly supports single parent families in their quest to find affordable living, and the weekly clothing sale helps in this.

Adira also supports families to eat breakfast in the morning. Partnered alongside Fir Vale School, a breakfast club has been launched in the church.

Breakfast is vital for a fresh start to the day, but many families in the community are going without, depriving themselves of a good start to the day. The club provides breakfast for families every



day, from 7:15am to 8:20am, by referral only.

Adira welcomes donations of all sorts including of clothes, shoes, jewellery and breakfast items such as bread, jams and cereals. For more information, please contact Ursula on: 07731 805 595.



# SADACCA multicultural day

Photos: Rob Siamtinta

Celebrations for SADACCA's International Community Cultural Day were held on 26th August at their premises on the Wicker.



Over 300 people passed through the doors, including the guest of honour, the Lord Mayor, Councillor Vickie Priestly, to enjoy multi-layered concepts of diversity.

SADACCA's current president, Des Smith, welcomed members of different community groups to enjoy traditional music and dance, cultural fashion and food, poems, story-telling and crafts.



## Hindu Samaj celebration

Story & Photos: Liz Searle

From the 9th to the 15th of September, the Hindu Samaj on Buckenham Street held a series of events to celebrate the rebirth of Ganesh, the elephant god.



The son of Shiva and Parvati, Ganesh represents wisdom, prosperity and good fortune. There were very many people there to enjoy the cultural program on the evening of the 14th, who were entertained by some wonderful Bharathanyam dance displays after the pooja ritual.

A warm and welcoming place, the Samaj is always looking for new members - for more information please contact Navneet on 07540 169 803 or Geoffrey on 07899 906 516

Email: [treasurers.hindu.samaj@gmail.com](mailto:treasurers.hindu.samaj@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.hindusamajsheffield.org.uk](http://www.hindusamajsheffield.org.uk)





# Owler Brook Story Sacks

Story: Rohan Francis



Children at local schools will soon be able to read stories in Roma, Slovak and English as specialist teaching staff at Owler Brook school prepare to launch their own unique collection of books and reading materials based on traditional European fairy tales.

Little Red Riding Hood, Hansel and Gretel, Jack and the Beanstalk and the Enormous Turnip have been selected as the first stories to be carefully translated by Zuzana Remperova and her team. Zuzana told the Messenger she had tried to buy Roma reading books for children in her class but she could not find any anywhere. She even tried the bookshops in Slovakia!

After searching for the right stories, Zuzana and her colleague Mario Sandor decided to produce their own books and set about the process of translating the



text. They struck upon the idea of getting the children involved too, and helped them to produce illustrations to go with each story.

The books have been professionally printed and are available alongside a variety of related reading materials, games and puzzles – all contained in a specially made sack for families to take home and explore together.



Sue Bridges, headteacher of Owler Brook explained the idea behind the project.

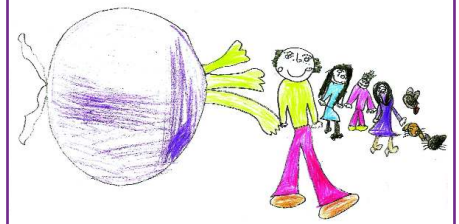
*"The story sacks were created to extend the range of Roma reading material available to our children, to involve the children and parents in a project, to promote reading at home with our families. We have an extensive range of*



story sacks in other languages but were unable to find anything on the market in Roma or Slovak. Initial funding to devise the sacks was provided by the Library Service at the Bannerdale Centre.

*"Parents and children worked together to compile pictures and animation for the books and DVDs. Slovakian and Roma Teaching Assistants translated the text. The majority of the 100 sacks made have gone out to other local primary schools to use with their children and families. In each sack is a DVD presented in Roma to demonstrate how to use the sacks at home."*

From the Enormous Turnip

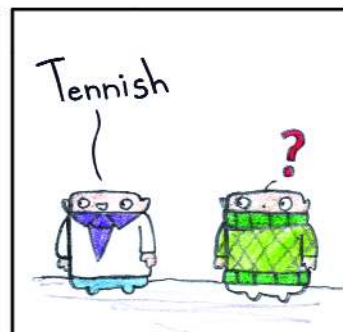


**English:** So they pulled and pulled, and suddenly the giant turnip came out. And everyone enjoyed a lovely turnip dinner.

**Roma:** Cirdenas, cirdenas, a jek far e bari repa has avri. A savore chale la reparar večera.

**Slovak:** Ťahali a ťahali, a zrazu obrovská repa bola von. A všetci si na nej pochutnali na večeru.

George & Brian



**Badminton**  
by Edgar Lowman

# Sahir Ali BMedSci university success

Story: Louise Johnson

Sahir Ali, aged 21 and a resident of Fir Vale, graduated from Sheffield University this year with a degree in Orthoptics (Eye Specialist) Bachelor of Medical Science, with Class 2:1.

Sahir, the eldest child in her family, attended nursery and began her infant education at Owler Brook School. She then moved to Whiteways Primary School and later attended Fir Vale School. After leaving school with 12 A\* - B GCSEs, Sahir went on to Longley Park Sixth Form. After studying A-levels in Biology, Sociology and Psychology, she was then accepted into Sheffield University to study B.Med.Sci (Honours) Orthoptics.

Sahir, who has lived in the Fir Vale area her whole life, says:



*"I have managed to succeed with the prayers of my family, friends and the love of the community. Our area is extremely fortunate: we have great opportunities in our surrounding areas and schools; it's all on you as an individual how you find and utilise this vast knowledge base we're blessed to have."*



Whilst attending university, Sahir still found time to play an active role in the community. This includes teaching five times a week at the 'Jamia Islamia Urdu Teaching Centre' that is run by herself and her father, a local Imam. She has also been part of the Sheffield Youth Council and involved in running a youth group called Sistahood.

*"Some people think that being a British Muslim female is oppressive or restrictive when it comes to higher education but my parents have proven these stereotypes to be incorrect."*

# Best ever GCSEs at Fir Vale

Story: Janet Lawson



Fir Vale School celebrated record results this summer with 53% of students achieving five A\* to C grades at GCSE including English and Maths.

79% of students got five GCSEs graded A\* to C. The pass rate of A\* to G grades reached 93% making this year the best set of exam results in the history of the school.



Headteacher, Breffni Martin, expressed her delight, saying,

*"The school introduced a wide range of support, including a regular Saturday school, to help students achieve their personal goals. The outstanding results highlight the partnership between students, teachers, parents and carers."*

*"'Making dreams a reality' is about aiming for a personal best. Success for one student might be to achieve 10 A grades while, for another, success could be to transform 5 predicted D grades into Cs. All successes are equally important. Congratulations to every single student for contributing to our record results."*

## Burngreave Tenants and Residents Association: Annual General Meeting

Thursday 7th November, 4-6pm,  
Burngreave Vestry Hall

Committee meetings are in the first week of every month. Next committee meeting Wednesday 2nd October 10.30am at Burngreave Vestry Hall. Future dates to be confirmed.

Please contact Burngreave TARA to find out more information on 07983 921 653 Monday-Friday 10am-4pm, or email burngreavetara@gmail.com

## Healthy Living with Diabetes

Starting Monday 4th November, 12.30 - 2.30pm  
The Furnival, 199 Verdon Street

This is a FREE course 2 hours per week, for 6 sessions.

This is a chance to learn new cookery skills, socialise and gain new skills to self manage your condition. Weekly sessions are delivered by a qualified tutor of nutrition and physical activity with health trainer providing one to one support with language and signposting.

Contact Somshun Nessa Health Development Worker: 213 2591 or 07960 084 119. Email: Somshun.nessa@soarcommunity.org.uk

Or Dawn Young, Tutor: 07853 243 838. Email: paulyoung1@talktalk.net



# St Cuthbert's start extension

Story: St Cuthbert's Church Fir Vale

**On Friday September 13th, friends and members of St Cuthbert's Church, Fir Vale, and local residents gathered for a 'Ground-breaking Ceremony' for a new £500K Community Centre extension at the Church.**

Building work began in August and is projected to be completed by March 2014, giving a new community kitchen, toilets and meeting rooms for all the community.

Vicar Louise Collins spoke movingly about the need for initiatives based on friendship in and around Fir Vale. She looked forward to the day very soon when the Centre will be open for community friendship meals, cook-and-eat session and health and lifestyle support groups, with accessible facilities for all.



# Celebration at St Peter's Ellesmere

Story: Dorothy Gilbert

**St Peter's, which is a joint Anglican/Methodist Partnership Church, held a celebration on Sunday 8th September, to mark the official recognition of Rev. Philip Ireson as Priest in Charge who will work in partnership with Rev Mark Goodhand, the Methodist minister.**

This cements the links already existing between St Peter's and Christ Church Pitsmoor, where Philip is vicar. Members of both churches were joined at the service by representatives from other local Christian churches and fellowships, together with a wide range of people from the local community.

Rev Mark Goodhand, welcomed everyone and took part in the service alongside the Bishop of Sheffield, Steven Croft, who spoke



about the value of endurance in difficult times.

Following the service everyone enjoyed the opportunity to chat with old and new friends while sharing refreshments and a special celebration cake. In Philip's words it was 'a lovely evening of hope and joy with a real sense of anticipation for growing partnerships between the two churches over the coming years.'

# Welcome Centre toddler group

Story & Photos: Frances Ireson

**Our parent and toddler group has thrived since it re-opened 2 years ago and works closely with Burngreave Children's Centre. It has been praised as one of the top groups in Sheffield by a recent Sheffield newspaper article.**

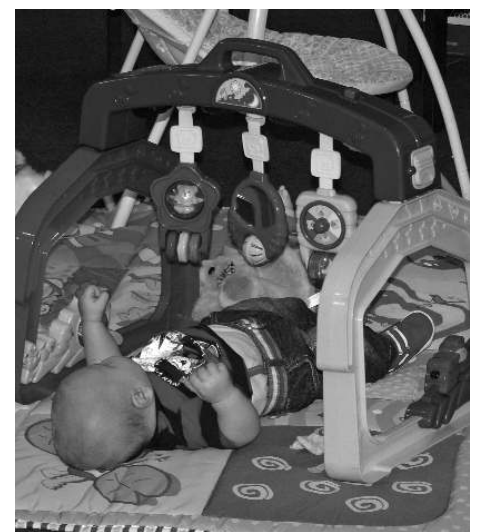
The activities are graded to suit children at different stages of preschool development and are different each week so that there is always something new for young minds to investigate, construct and create.

One of our strengths is that we have a specific area cordoned off from wheeled toys where parents and carers with small babies can use stimulating toys and books



as well as find friendship and support from each other and leaders.

We also have a Galt climbing frame which was purchased thanks to Burngreave



Community First funding. We welcome families from all ethnic groups and backgrounds. The cost is 50p per adult or child including refreshments. Come and join us from 9.30-11.30am every Wednesday on Nottingham Street (opposite Rising Street.)

## THINKING ABOUT STOPPING SMOKING? SHEFFIELD STOP SMOKING SERVICE CAN HELP!

Drop in to see a trained stop smoking adviser:

- Pitsmoor Surgery, 151 Burngreave Road S3 9DL
- Swift Pharmacy, 1 Gower Street S4 7HA
- Upwell Street Surgery, 93 Upwell Street S4 8AN
- Wicker Pharmacy, 55-59 Wicker S3 8HT

(Advisers in practices can support registered patients)

Or call into our City centre drop in service at Sheffield Quit-Stop, 39 Charles St - just off Pinstone Street.

You can call Sheffield Stop Smoking Service on 0800 068 4490, visit our website [www.sheffieldstopsmoking.org.uk](http://www.sheffieldstopsmoking.org.uk) or go to our Facebook page [NHSSmokefreeSheffield](https://www.facebook.com/NHSSmokefreeSheffield)

Join thousands of other smokers in taking the Stoptober challenge!



## DO YOU WANT TO BREAK FREE FROM SMOKING?



### INCREASE YOUR CHANCE OF SUCCESS WITH FREE LOCAL SUPPORT!

For further information contact **Emma**, Burngreave Community Stop Smoking Worker.

Either call or text **QUIT** to **07847 893 134**

Alternatively you can leave a message at the Furnival Burngreave Community Projects on **0114 272 7497**

Why not join in the **Stoptober** challenge? People all over the country will be stopping smoking for 28 days during the month of October.

Make it to the end and you're 5 times more likely to stop for good. Contact Emma for further details.

THE FURNIVAL

Registered Charity No: 1092744



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- Exceptional student progress
- Partnership with Parents
- Inspirational teaching
- Heart of the Community

See the school in action at our

### Year 5 and Year 6 Open Evening



**Wednesday**  
**2 October**  
**6pm - 8pm**



If you cannot attend the Open Evening, please ring 0114 243 9391 for a personal visit

Fir Vale School | Owler Lane | Sheffield S4 8GB [www.firvale.com](http://www.firvale.com)

## Advertise in the Messenger

Discounted rates for Burngreave businesses and organisations.

To find out more, contact the Messenger on **(0114) 242 0564**

Or email us at [mail@burngreavemessenger.org](mailto:mail@burngreavemessenger.org)



Next deadline: **13th Nov, for publication on 30th Nov.**





## Six book challenge award

Story & Photo: Lisa Swift

**Library staff at Burngreave Library presented children with certificates and medals in September for completing the Summer Six Book Challenge.**

Organised by the library staff, children were encouraged to read a book each week. They were rewarded along the way with stickers for their 'Creepy House' wall chart. Over 25 children completed the challenge, mainly aged between 4 and 11 years old, but with some older ones too. Janet encouraged children to still come to the library to collect medals if they had not yet been.

Danica said, "It was good reading all the books. I liked reading Horrible Histories. The stickers were good - some of them were smelly!"

Imaan said, "It was fun, I liked reading about Oliver Cromwell and I got a medal."

Gresha said, "My favourite was Rainbow Magic: Alice the Tennis Fairy."



## Fir Vale Mosque holds youth conference

Story: Ahmir Hussain | Photo: Zia Khan

**Over 500, mainly young members of the Sheffield Muslim community attended the conference entitled "Keeping it Real after Ramadan" at Fir Vale's Jamia Masjid Ghausia.**

The conference was successfully organised by Zia Khan and Adeeb Chaudry, who are the founders of the Fir Vale based voluntary group, An Nasiha (Sincere Guidance). The aim of the event was to highlight key issues and to advise young people on how to stay focused after the spiritual month of Ramadan, how to avoid crime, drug abuse and illegal activities, as all of these are strongly prohibited by the Muslim faith.

Inspirational and heart piercing Nasheed's (songs of praise) were performed by local and internationally acclaimed artist Ahmad Hussain and a very motivational and informative talk was delivered by Imam Asim Hussain, who is also renowned for being one of the youngest Imam's in the United Kingdom. The event was brilliantly hosted by Hafiz Issarar.

Layla Singleton attended the event and had this to say "Thank you for putting on such a wonderful event. The talks from both Ahmad and Imam Asim were refreshing and informative and the Nasheeds were simply beautiful"

## Eden Fir Vale

Story: Rohan Francis | Photo: Eden Project

**Eden Fir Vale, a Christian project that works with children and young people, has recently expanded its voluntary workforce to 10 members. They have all committed to live and work in Page Hall and Wensley.**

The project, begun 2 years ago by Ben and Beth Baker, is supported by St. Thomas Church, Crookes. Ben, the only paid member of the project, spends some of the week helping pupils at Fir Vale Secondary School.

Eden has set up an after-school drop-in at Wensley Community Centre and welcomes 15-20 children every Wednesday 3-5pm. Activities are based on building relationships and having fun in groups, which Ben says has helped to support children from different backgrounds to play together. This has



been carried through into regular informal football sessions on the playing fields near Wensley.

Alongside youth work on Wensley and Page Hall's streets, Eden has set up a 'Girls Group' called Flourish, which provides a safe and supportive venue for a small group of teenage girls.

Eden Fir Vale will be starting a new football team at Fir Vale School on Friday evenings, for this and any other information on Eden's activities email Ben: [firvale@eden-network.org](mailto:firvale@eden-network.org) or visit [www.edenfirvale.co.uk](http://www.edenfirvale.co.uk)



## Sports Leaders

**Trainee Sports Leaders took part in their final practical exam on Tuesday 2nd July.**

Multi-sports events at Fir Vale School, for local Y3 primary school students were led by the trainee sports leaders; these included Boccia, Curling, Dance, Athletics, parachute games and tri-golf. All the Y11 trainees passed with flying colours, making Miss Gill very proud and lots of fun was had by all!

# Harry Brearley in Pitsmoor

Story: Elizabeth & Gordon Shaw

**Harry Brearley, discoverer of stainless steel, had very strong connections to Pitsmoor. He lived in several properties in the area in his early life, he also met his wife here, who lived on Scott Road. He was born on Spital Street in 1871 and later moved with his family to Marcus Street in Pitsmoor which is now demolished.**



Photo courtesy of Sheffield Local Studies Library.

## Marcus Street lodgings

In his autobiography Harry Brearley says, “My mother’s death caused our home to be broken up, and I found myself in lodgings, in debt to the extent of thirty pounds and earning twenty shillings a week. My brother Arthur and I lodged together and, as usual, he was keeping an eye on me.”

They moved into lodgings with “a man called Dacey, who was a Railway Guard, but had been a bandsman in the Royal Navy and afterwards a newspaper reporter.”

In the 1891 census William D Dacey, aged 26, a Railway Goods Guard, was living at,

number 4, Court 1, Marcus Street.

Harry writes that “Dacey had a small library of books of which I made use and he introduced me to the writings of Carlyle, Ruskin and Morris. He had visitors who cared about politics, particularly labour politics.” The writers were early socialists who supported rights for the working classes.

Harry says Ruskin’s book ‘Unto the Last’, was a revelation. He had borrowed it from the library, but he liked it so much, he made a hand written copy and bound it in cloth and leather, since he could not afford to buy a copy. Bookbinding was one of many skills that he learned by watching professionals at work.

## The Ruskin Collection Millennium Gallery

Ruskin, and the Guild of St George founded by Ruskin, gathered together part of this collection to put on display in a house in Walkley. The collection covered a wide range of subjects including: art, paintings, architecture, natural history and geology. It was intended to educate, inform and awake the interest of Sheffield’s working class. It is now under the care of Museums Sheffield.

## Scott Road lodgings

When he was 24 years of age in 1895 Harry thought about getting married; he was earning two pounds a week. Harry writes, “My sweetheart’s parents had lived comfortably but had already fell on evil days when I went to lodge with them. I built a Joiners bench in the garret (attic) and set about making household furniture. I was Joiner, Painter, Stainer, French- Polisher and Upholsterer.”

His sweetheart was Nellie (Ellen Theresa Crank) whom he had met at the Holy Trinity Sunday School Bible Class, off Nursery Street.



10 - 16 Scott Road 1965

Photo by Harry Ainscough,  
[www.copperbeechstudios.co.uk](http://www.copperbeechstudios.co.uk)

In the 1891 Census, Nellie aged 16, was living at 12 Scott Road with her family; father James Crank occupation coal merchant, mother Ann Crank and her three brothers. Her father James died in October 1908, aged 70, address 117 Scott Road, occupation gentleman. Her mother Ann died in April 1916, aged 75, address 137 Sutherland Road. They are both buried in Burngreave Cemetery.

Harry goes on to write, “By the time I was twenty-five I was married and living in a cottage on the edge of the Derbyshire moors for which we paid a weekly rent of three shillings and sixpence (17 and a half new pence). My qualifications as a householder were quite respectable. I had made my own furniture and the pair of us had cleaned the cottage from top to bottom,”

The cottage that Harry describes as being “on the edge of the Derbyshire moors” was in Totley. Harry travelled from there to his work in Pitsmoor each day by train.

The quotes in this article are from: Harry Brearley Stainless Pioneer Autographical Notes. Published by British Steel Stainless in conjunction with Kelham Island Industrial Museum Sheffield. It was published to mark the 75th Anniversary of Harry Brearley’s discovery of Stainless Steel in 1988.

# Wooden Head returned

Story: Saleema Imam | Photo: Dave Yates

**Remember last winter’s saga of the disappearing horse’s head sculpture? Well it’s reared its head again (groooan). The Friends of Burngreave Cemetery traced it to the City Council’s Olive Grove depot and arranged to bring it back to its original stamping ground.**

On September 1st, the carving was re-sited near to the Scott Road entrance to the cemetery, not far from its first home in Ellesmere Road North.

Lo and behold, on the 8th September, it had disappeared again! After many phone calls, emails and an article in the Star, one of our regular dog walkers spotted it near to the grave of Fatty Foulkes – one Sheffield United’s famous players. As Dave Yates from the Cemetery Friends group says, “We didn’t know he was a secret Blade!”

Let’s see how long he stays put this time.



# Jerky's Jamalicious

Story & photo: John Mellor

**Jerky's Jamalicious has recently opened at the Spital Hill Plaza and specialises in freshly prepared jerk chicken prepared on an original Caribbean jerk pan.**

Jerky's inspiration to open a take-away came when he was caring for a disabled child and discovered the child enjoyed jerk chicken. He began to invite family and friends to share in jerk meals which provided company for the child when he couldn't get out.

A friend said to him:

*"There are lots of good food outlets in Spital Hill and the area is known for this throughout the city, but there are no outlets that specialise in jerk chicken".*

Jerky says:

*"This gave me the idea and after much research and encouragement from the community I decided to open a take away that would welcome everyone in our multicultural community and also*



*encourage people to come in from other parts of the city".*

The chickens are cooked outside under a gazebo and this creates an outdoor 'Caribbean continental style' atmosphere. The appetising BBQ smell attracts customers along the length of Spital Hill and beyond. Jerk chicken certainly has a uniquely delicious flavour and is just one of several menu options available at the take away. At present it is open every Friday evening and on Saturdays from lunch time onwards, but hopefully in the future these opening times will be extended.

# Ellesmere Green works to start

**Landscape works are finally due to start at Ellesmere Green on 30th September, after many years of discussion. There will be a new 'events space', new benches, seating walls, trees, additional lighting and a railing around the Green. New public art will also be installed.**

Ellesmere Green will be fenced off from 7th October until the work is completed in February. Contractors, Amey, have said they would like to keep disruption to a minimum and they will discuss it with traders to ensure good access to shops.



At the same time, Spital Hill will be repaved in the same materials used at the bottom of Spital Hill and outside Tesco. New lighting has already been installed. Sixteen new litter bins will be provided on Spital Hill, Ellesmere Green and Gower St.

**For any comments or concerns about the works, phone the Streets Ahead Helpline on 0114 27 3 4567.**

# Abbeyfield Park: Women's Cycling



Story: Dave Brennan

**We started the project in July, and there has been good attendance, though Ramadan and the school holidays affected the numbers.**

The project is run by Pedal Ready and funded by Sheffield City Council. We cater for beginners who want to learn to ride, right through to proficient cyclists who want to enjoy riding round the park. Bikes are provided. Abbeyfield Park provides a safe, secluded environment where you can enjoy the pleasures of cycling. We also have access to the community room in Abbeyfield Park House where you can sit, relax, have a chat and a drink.

From October onwards, sessions will be Fridays only from 9 - 10.30 am, until next Easter. Thanks to everyone for their support so far. If you are a female cyclist and would like to support the group, please come and join in.

# I'm a resident - get me out of here

Story: John Woodcock, Activities Coordinator

**Residents at Westbourne House nursing home on Earl Marshall Road took part in a themed event based on the TV reality show I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here in July.**



The sun came through for the afternoon, so the residents, along with staff, took part in fishing at Crocodile Creek and Reptile River, hook-the-tiger, shoot-the-monkey, jungle netball, poison darts and frisbee throwing. Medals were awarded for the participants.

We had a brilliant day - everyone enjoyed themselves and as one visitor remarked, "Life doesn't just begin at 40 here!" Other recent themed days included Ladies Day at Ascot, American Independence Day and a Spanish theme day - and our next one?... that's another story!



## Partners in Grime!

Story: Tim Neal | Photos: Liz Searle

Around 250 people crowded into Grimesthorpe allotments on a sunny Sunday, the 22nd September, for Allotment Soup. The event, an annual creative and artistic harvest celebration of food growing and allotment culture, was organised by Grimesthorpe Allotment Society and Grow Sheffield.

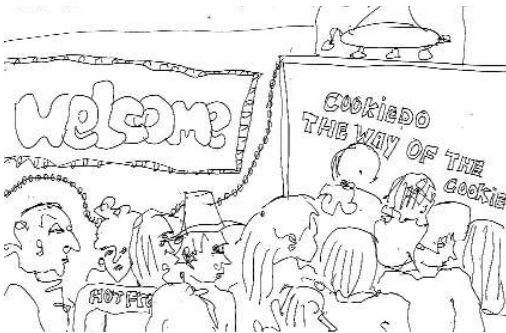


visited about 30 plots. They were inspired by a variety of approaches to vegetable growing as well as being treated to storytelling, circus skills, craft, seed bombs and apple pressing. The allotment shop hosted a competition for a new flag for the site and the huts were a culinary centre for some very fine allotment soups and other delicacies. From 5 o'clock onwards, with more



people arriving, everybody gathered around the huts for a barbecue. Fine music and animated conversation came to an end as night fell on a balmy evening.

From midday until 5 o'clock adults and children from across the city and close by



## Cheap Thrillers return

Story: Michelle Cook  
Illustration: Sam Glbraith

It was a fun, free, family friendly Saturday night out in Burngreave at the "Cheap Thrills Zero Budget Film Festival." The Cemetery Chapel was buzzing with over a hundred film goes all eager to see an array of films from local film makers.

It was standing room only with plenty of free popcorn, sweets and drinks for the crowd. Those who weren't able to get in enjoyed a shadow theatre show outside under the moonlit sky.



This was an independent community event which began in 2011 after a group of Sheffield-based filmmakers won a prize of £750 in a film competition. Instead of dividing the prize money, filmmaker Martin Currie and his team decided to host a community film festival, where we were treated to a dazzling array of cinematic talent from both young and old.

The group are planning on holding the festival again in Loughborough on September 28th details on [www.zerobudgetfilmfest.com](http://www.zerobudgetfilmfest.com)







## Something to celebrate at SAGE Greenfingers

Story: Diana Tottle

**As summer slipped into autumn SAGE Greenfingers celebrated a fantastic year of growth, both on our allotments and for our organisation.**

SAGE Greenfingers supports adults with mental health needs via a variety of horticultural therapy and arts activities based mainly at Grimesthorpe allotments, Burngreave. Two years ago funding problems forced us to cut back our service but since January of this year funds from Reaching Communities and the North Locality Clinical Commissioning Group have enabled us to scale back up again. So our Open Day on Tuesday 10th September was a chance to show off what we do and to celebrate.

Group members circulated with cameras, snapping a variety of activity. Some people were doing veggie art – making weird and wonderful portraits out of fruit and veg. Others were digging for treasure on a new seed bed – and discovering mainly beans! Still others were pressing apples that we'd harvested locally the previous week and supping the sweet, fresh juice. And roving amongst us all was pop-up-poet, Matt Black, who gave a laugh-out-loud poetry recital just before lunch. His ditty describing the photographers sums up the mood of the day:

*"The photographic group are taking photos  
They're mad keen; they're really into this.  
Now that's what I call  
Proper photosynthesis!"*

Following a lovely lunch people expressed how much they had enjoyed the event:

*"It's brilliant, we've had nice food, and the decoration is nice with all the flowers. I enjoy coming here." Pat Hibbard*

*"It's nice to see everybody here today, I've enjoyed the atmosphere. I come here every week, I always help to chop the veg when we are cooking in the shed." Abu B Kamara*

*"It's been a very nice day, everyone has come together to enjoy the food. I have my own allotment here at Grimesthorpe with my family." Mrs Khan*

### Meet us at The Winter Gardens

SAGE is proud to have been asked by the City Council to organise an event for World Mental Health Day (Thursday Oct 10th). To give a wider audience a flavour of horticultural therapy we've decided to take our project to the Winter Gardens. Come and find us pressing apples, weaving willow sculptures and planting spring bulbs outside the Millennium Gallery, 11.30 – 3pm. Our local MP, Rt Hon David Blunkett, joins us from 2pm. The whole event is a chance to meet our current members, staff and volunteers.

Contact details: 0114 274 3651; [enquiries@sagesheffield.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@sagesheffield.org.uk); [www.sagesheffield.org.uk](http://www.sagesheffield.org.uk)



Photos by SAGE Greenfingers' service users as part of a workshop with the theme of 'framing' with local artist Jordanna Farrimond, who runs art and photography workshops in Sheffield

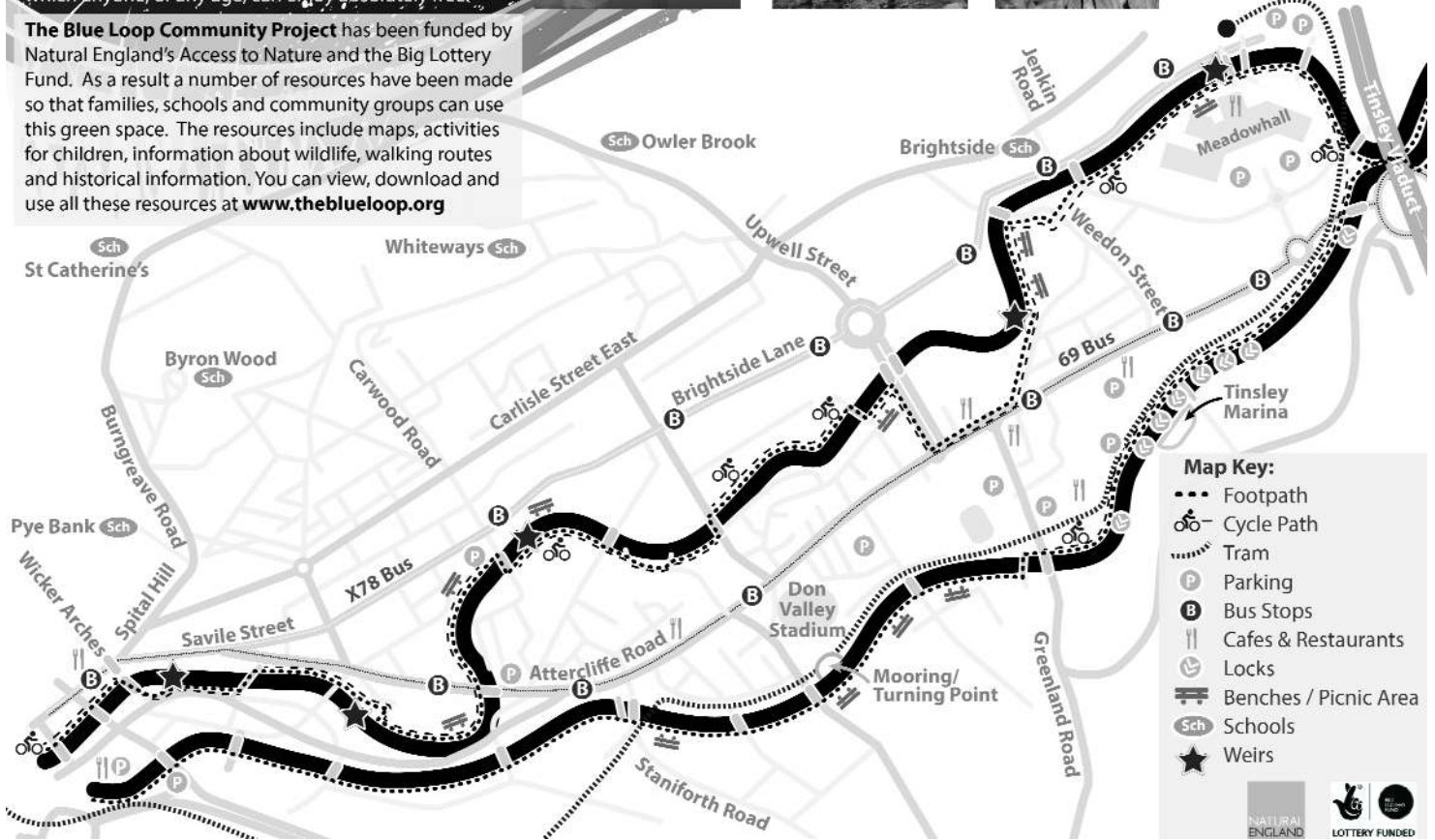


The **Blue Loop** is a continuous loop of waterways and riverside walkways in the heart of Sheffield, made up of the River Don and Tinsley Canal. It flows very close to Burngreave, and is an amazing natural place right on the doorstep. It offers a place to walk, cycle and see wildlife, which anyone, of any age, can enjoy absolutely free.



the  
**blue loop**

The **Blue Loop Community Project** has been funded by Natural England's Access to Nature and the Big Lottery Fund. As a result a number of resources have been made so that families, schools and community groups can use this green space. The resources include maps, activities for children, information about wildlife, walking routes and historical information. You can view, download and use all these resources at [www.theblueloop.org](http://www.theblueloop.org)



## Councillor Surgeries

Your local councillors, Jackie Drayton, Ibrar Hussain and Talib Hussain (pictured top to bottom) share surgeries on a rota basis.

**12th October:** 11am-12pm,  
Burngreave Library, Talib Hussain

**15th October:** 12pm-1pm,  
Norwood & Bishopholme Tara, Ibrar Hussain

**17th October:** 2pm-3pm,  
Pakistan Advice Centre, Jackie Drayton

**9th November:** 11am-12pm,  
Burngreave Library, Jackie Drayton

**19th November:** 12pm-1pm,  
Norwood & Bishopholme Tara, Talib Hussain

**21st November:** 2pm-3pm,  
Pakistan Advice Centre, Ibrar Hussain

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



## Yarnbomb meetings

The Burngreave Yarnbombers are meeting at the Burngreave Library on **Friday 18th October at 2pm** and **Friday 15th November at 2pm**.

All knitters, crocheters and yarn workers invited.

**All are welcome.**



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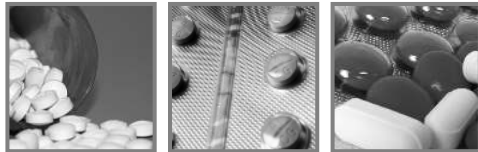
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