



Fir Vale proposes admissions change

Story: Aishah Baroo

Fir Vale School is proposing a change to their admissions procedure from September 2015 to pursue a policy of “fair banding” and has issued a consultation document.

The widespread policy of “fair banding” has been adopted by many academies across the country. Its purpose is to ensure that a school admits pupils of mixed ability levels. If the proposal is adopted, this will mean the school will organise admissions directly as the Fir Vale School Academy Trust. Fir Vale School will be one of the first in the region to pursue this fair banding policy and leave the City Wide Learning Agreement, which other new academies in Sheffield have signed up to.

Children’s ability tested

The total intake of pupils will be set at 1,050 with 210 places per year group. There are five ability bands in total and each band will accommodate 42 pupils. The “fair banding” process will be applied if there are more applicants than the 210 places available. All applicants, including those from the feeder primary schools, will have to sit a Cognitive Ability Test (CAT) in November of Year 6. The scores of this test will determine their appropriate ability band.

If there are too many applicants for any of the ability bands then priority will be given to children who meet the criteria set out by the school. As stated in the consultation document, some of the priority factors include children who already have a sibling at the school or children with Special Educational Needs.

Children chosen by lottery

It is likely that in Burngreave and Fir Vale more applicants will be in the lower ability bands than in the higher ability bands, and so there will be more competition to for places in the lower



bands. Unlike the existing admissions policy, applicants at feeder primary schools linked to Fir Vale School (like Byron Wood or Firs Hill) will not have any priority. All other applicants will be subject to a lottery system which will determine whether they have received a place in a particular band. Once all the bands are full the remaining applicants will be placed in a waiting list for that band.

Catchment no longer a priority

The new admissions policy will be significantly different to the current admissions policy which is determined by the Local Authority. Traditionally, applicants for the school have been given high priority if they live within the catchment area. However, the new proposal means it will make no difference even if you live very close to Fir Vale School, as the ‘catchment area’ is not mentioned in their new criteria. For the rejected applicants, this could result in a long journey to another school if you do not acquire your first choice.

If a child who lives in the catchment area for Fir Vale School is rejected for a place under the new admissions policy, they can apply for other Secondary Schools in the locality. However, they will not be in the ‘catchment area’ for that school which

operates the Council’s admissions policy. Therefore any applicant who is rejected by Fir Vale School will automatically become disadvantaged when applying for other schools in the area.

In-Year admissions means that applicants will not have been able to sit the CAT test as they will have missed the specified date. In this case, applicants will receive an admission based on their KS2 SATs results (assessment at the end of primary school). This could put added pressure on primary school children. SATs results have always been forwarded to schools so that the secondary school can allocate children into the appropriate ability set. The new admissions proposal will essentially mean that KS2 SATs results will be used to determine entry into the school.

The full proposal can be accessed through the school website at www.firvale.com. Any comments regarding the new Admissions proposal can be emailed to enquiries@firvale.com or posted to the Head teacher at the Fir Vale School address. Any comments or feedback must be expressed before the deadline of 5.00pm on the 1st March 2014.

The Messenger would also like to hear your views call 242 0564 or email mail@burngreavemessenger.org

M20 bus changes

Story & photo: Graham Jones

From 27th January, the Hail-and-Ride M20 bus route was altered to run via Spital Hill, depriving Verdon Street of any buses at all.

According to the SYPTE, the reason "is due to worsening levels of congestion which are affecting the punctuality of the service. Figures show that the Verdon Street stretch of route was carrying only three passengers a week. Going via Spital Hill will allow quicker journey times into the city centre for the 85 passengers per week who travel beyond Ellesmere Green and it will also provide more convenient access to Tesco."

The M20 route is run by Sheffield Community Transport. It can be used by anyone and runs three times a day on Mondays to Fridays. The section of the route from Spital Hill, up to Malton St and to Fir View Gardens is Hail-and-Ride but elsewhere normal bus stops need to be used.

Passengers on the section of the route between Fir View Gardens, Malton St and Spital Hill do seem pleased with plans for the new route to run via Spital Hill shops.



However, Margaret Williams, Secretary of Burngreave TARA (Tenants and Residents Association), says:

"Members of the TARA use the M20 bus to go from Ellesmere and Bressingham to Verdon Street. I can't walk up the hill to get to Verdon Street; what I will have to do is get a bus to town and then get the 47 and 48 up Rock Street to get there. It's important that the bus helps people get to Spital Hill, Tesco and Ellesmere Post Office from the local estates."

"The TARA will be writing to SYPTE to see if the route can be altered to include Verdon Street and Spital Hill."

For more information about the M20, call Traveline 01709 51 51 51 or visit www.travelsouthyorkshire.com/timetablefinder/

Flood defences "yes" vote

Story: Douglas Johnson

Businesses from Nursery St, the Wicker and Don Valley have voted to pay higher business rates so flood defences can go ahead.

Businesses along this section of river were devastated by the 2007 floods. Some flood prevention work has already been carried out – the new "pocket park" at Nursery St is designed specially to help prevent flooding.

The next stage is to protect against more risks of flooding due to the more extreme weather patterns expected as a result of climate change. An example of physical flood defences is raising the wall along Nursery St. There will also be maintenance along the river for the next five years.

82% of businesses that voted were in favour. They will now have to pay an extra levy on their business rates, either 2.25% or 0.75%, depending on location. Small businesses with a rateable value of under £12,000 will be exempt from the extra rates. The Government will pay most of the money for the scheme. The work will take place in 2014 and 2015.

Housing moving to Sorby House early

Burngreave Housing Office will be moving to Sorby House ahead of schedule at the end of February.

The current Housing Office is due to close on Thursday 27th February and will reopen at the new 'First Point @ Burngreave' in Sorby House on Friday 28th February. On Friday 28th February

and Monday 3rd March the Housing office will be dealing with general enquiries only

From Tuesday 4th March the First Point will be open in Sorby House from Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm, and will be delivering more services alongside housing advice and support, including Council Tax enquiries, Social Services information, information on schools and free school meals, Blue Badge registration, with more services later in the year.



Get involved in the Messenger

The Messenger is put together with the help of volunteers. We also have several groups to join.

Local History Group

Meets once a month on a Friday at St Catherine's School with a local history tutor, who talks about different topics each month. The group also write about local history for the Messenger and have produced their own book.

Website team

Volunteers get together each week to update the Messenger website between the printed issues. They add news, events and jobs to the site, with help from our website designer.

Creative Writing

The Yemeni Community Association supports a creative writing group which we are helping to recruit new members to. They meet every 2 weeks and are a friendly and welcoming group; you can see their writing on page 18.

Messenger Info

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A “horrible situation” for local libraries

Story: Duncan Geddes | Photo: Lisa Swift

Local residents joined hundreds of protesters outside Sheffield Town Hall on Wednesday 8th January in an attempt to save libraries from closure.

1,239 people signed the petition by Pye Bank Parents Group to keep Burngreave Library open and staffed. Burngreave is one of 16 libraries facing closure. Libraries in Broomhill, Totley, Ecclesfield, Newfield Green, Frecheville, Stannington, Park, Uppertorpe, Southey, Gleadless, Greenhill, Walkley and Woodhouse are also at risk.

The Council, which has halved its library budget since 2010, plans to support five of these libraries if they can be staffed and run completely by volunteers. After the protest outside the Town Hall, 11 petitions with more than 23,000 signatures were presented to Sheffield councillors at their monthly meeting.

Sharlene Clark presented the petition for Burngreave library to the full Council chamber, and letters from pupils at Byron Wood Primary School were read out (see below). Sharlene said

“Burngreave Library is used a lot by my child. The majority of homework and school learning is done online. We don't have access to computers and things at home, so we do a majority of learning at the library - on the computers and with the books as well.”

Nicky Reed, regional chair of the Workers' Educational Association and Burngreave resident said:

“If we lose Burngreave Library, we've basically got no library within walking distance of local schools, who represent an area where people have the least access to books in their home and have high levels of deprivation. It matters hugely that it stays in place.”



Pye Bank Parents group present Burngreave library petition to local councillors, before joining other campaigners at the Town Hall



A combined petition from Totley and Greenhill libraries broke the threshold of 5,000 signatures required to trigger a full Council debate. Cllr Mazher Iqbal, the Cabinet member responsible for libraries, insisted that no decision had been made and that the Council had been working closely with local groups to find solutions. “Over the past three years we have faced unprecedented cuts, which mean some services will have to stop or change drastically.”

Public responses to the consultation, which has now closed, will be presented to the Council ahead of a final decision on 19th February.

Letters written by Year 6 pupils at Byron Wood Primary School

Ali:

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you because I am really unhappy about the decision that you have made about closing the amazing Burngreave library. This has been a terrible decision! Everybody in Burngreave wants their beautiful library. I love getting books from there.

Education is important! Therefore the library needs to stay open. Learning is important, and helps children have a brighter life. Books cost a lot of money, but in the library they are free.

The library is used not only for books, it is also used to help children do their homework on the internet.

I want you to leave the library open for at least four days a week. I am looking forward to your speedy response.

Hilal:

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you because I am disappointed in the closure of the Burngreave library. The children of Burngreave think that you have made a terrible decision. The children of Burngreave are extremely disappointed.

The British law states that “every council has to provide a comprehensive, and efficient library service.” This means that you are breaking the law because you are not providing the Burngreave people with a library. I would like to know if this is fair for the Burngreave children?

Childrens education is important because they need to use the library for home work, reading and to have fun. Not everyone in Burngreave can afford to buy books every week. I want you to reconsider your decision. “What would the world do without our libraries.”

Tayyibah:

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to complain about Burngreave Library closing down. I think it is a disgrace! This is a horrible situation, and you are making children depressed.

It is a law to provide a good library service, and you are not doing that. You are breaking the law! This is a serious matter!

75 people are losing their jobs and it is hard to get one now. You are making their life harder! It is not fair! What will people do now? Some might not have enough money to pay bills.

There are lovely books kids could read. Further more some might not have internet at home and they can come to the library and go on the internet here. You are also wasting books and throwing them away.

Selective licensing outcome

Story: Duncan Geddes & Rohan Francis

The controversial landlord licensing scheme for Fir Vale was approved by Councillors at a Cabinet Meeting in January.

Landlords will now have to apply for a licence to rent out property in the area after the Council introduced Sheffield's first Selective Licensing scheme.

The scheme will force private landlords to provide "minimum housing standards", with fines for breaching licensing conditions. Details of the scheme were released in a Council report alongside a summary of the public consultation and data to support its introduction.

The original proposals have been scaled down following consultation meetings, which were at times heated. Compulsory Licensing will now be concentrated on about 350 rented properties within Page Hall including those on Page Hall Road, Popple, Robey, Lloyd, Wade, Lauder, Willoughby and Hinde Streets and parts of Hinde House Lane. A voluntary scheme will be rolled out to around 520 rented homes in the wider Fir Vale area.

Landlords will have to ensure their properties are inspected and meet the minimum standards of health and safety. No more than two people per bedroom, including guests, will be allowed in a home under the plans.

Anyone letting property to new tenants will have to obtain 2 references. Landlords will have to ensure the correct use of Council services such as refuse collection and to manage anti-social behaviour occurring in their property.

Breaching the license conditions could result in a fine of up to £5,000. Anyone found to be letting without a licence could face a fine of up to £20,000.

According to the Council's consultation report, three quarters of local landlords, who will have to pay £725 for a five-year licence, opposed the regulations. Some residents also expressed concern about the new overcrowding rules. Ahsan Ashraf, of the Firvale Community Action Team, attended the Cabinet Meeting to express his fears that families could be kicked out of their homes.

"This will lead to evictions in order that the landlord meets the conditions of the licence. Tenants won't be able to invite an elderly relative - a grandmother, an

aunt, a grandfather - over for Christmas. That is now 'overcrowding'. The policy may have a negative impact on new migrants from the EU and could result in increased homelessness. If this policy was in force when we were growing up, my family would be made homeless as my parents lived with four children in a 2 bedroom house."

Ahsan spoke in detail about the potential impact of Selective Licensing on local people. His speech can be found on the Burngreave Messenger website.

The Council report into Selective Licensing suggests it will help landlords to integrate new migrant families into the community and reduce Fir Vale's high level of housing poverty. They defended fears that the scheme would cause an increase in homelessness by insisting action would be moderate.

Michelle Slater, co-author of the report, said, "What we would never do is go to a landlord and say 'you need to evict your tenants'." However, she added that the Council was, "looking at buying empty properties in the area to help rehouse tenants".

The Council's report gave significant focus to the area's migration issues, but Councillors were keen to point out that the scheme was aimed at managing landlords, who are being asked to do their part, by taking greater responsibility in managing their tenancies.

Councillor Harry Harpham told the Messenger, "I strongly believe that landlords have a responsibility to the wider community in which they operate. It is simply not right that they knock on their tenants' door, collect the rent money and walk away without a second thought about the impact of their business."

He emphasised the importance of landlords signing up for the voluntary scheme. "We need landlords to respond to a voluntary scheme in the wider area. If they don't, then we will look at bringing in Selective Licensing in the whole area."

However, concerned residents like Ahsan, believe the added pressure may mean landlords simply avoid letting homes to families. Ahsan said: "Landlords will evict them rather than take the risk. Why would you risk a fine of £5,000? It's going to cleanse the area of communities of people. And as for those houses, who's going to still want to live in there?"

Selective Licensing comes into force on 22 April 2014. For more information contact Private Housing Standards on 0114 273 4680 or email: selectivelicensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Roadworks in Fir Vale

Story: Muneebah Waheed

Work has been planned to start in March to resurface the roads and pavements and to upgrade street lights in Page Hall, Fir Vale and Wensley.

The majority of the work focused on residential areas. Not all roads will undergo resurfacing. Other work such as tree maintenance and gully repairs - drains - will be addressed too.

The roads which will be resurfaced include Hinde House Lane; Wensley Green, Gardens, Croft, Street; Idsworth Rd; Bolsover Rd; Willoughby St, Hinde House Cres; Dunmow, Selby, Cammell, Vickers and Wheldrake Raods . A full list of roads can be found at www.sheffield.gov.uk/streetsahead.

There will be inevitable disruption on the roads. Updates on the work can be found on Twitter @sccstreetsahead.

Fir Vale Primary

Story: Rohan Francis

The construction of Fir Vale Primary School is well under way at Skinnerthorpe Road, with the building's steel frame now in place and with the remaining elements on target for completion by September.



Construction of the poured concrete floors began in early January, followed by the installation of a lightweight metal framework which will provide the structure of the exterior walls.

With bricklayers starting work on covering these frames over the next few weeks and a roof lining beginning to go up, it is hoped that the building will be watertight by the end of February.

A new principal of the school has now been appointed. Debra Ward has ten years experience of being a headteacher and has overseen new school buildings before.

Concerns about Khat legal change

Story: Lisa Swift & Graham Jones

Government plans to ban khat have caused concern in Burngreave after Theresa May, the Home Secretary, announced plans to categorise it as a Class C drug.

Khat is a green, leafed shrub that has been chewed as a mild stimulant for centuries by people who live in the Horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. It is used socially by communities from Somalia, Eritrea and Yemen. Khat is always used fresh and is imported daily to the UK. Many shops in Burngreave sell it.

In July 2013, the Home Secretary said,

"The government will ban khat so that we can protect vulnerable members of our communities and send a clear message to our international partners and khat smugglers that the UK is serious about stopping the illegal trafficking of khat."

No evidence of illegal trade

However, there is no evidence that the UK is a hub for khat distribution to countries where it is banned. The Government ignored the advice of its own Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) which stated it, "considers that the harm of khat does not reach the level required for classification. Therefore, the ACMD recommend that the status of khat is not changed."

Gamal Suliman owns Aden Corner and specialises in selling khat (pictured above, right). He said,

"We don't know where we stand. This is our business and income. People who chew khat are very reputable. We have students, doctors, solicitors, taxi drivers. We know some people abuse it but it's very few. Chewing khat is part of our culture. Places where people chew are for young and old together. Chewing is part of weddings and important events. It's racist, the ban is targeted at Yemenis and Somalis. No one has come to speak to us about the ban. We need a clear message about what's going to happen. We want to know in black and white. We want dates."

Ban could start in April

The date the ban will come into force is still unknown. However local police and public health workers are preparing for the ban to be in place by April, and are planning an awareness raising campaign.



Gamal Al-Hadideh, Vice Chair of the Yemeni Community Association, said,

"There has been no consultation with the Yemeni or Somali community, no-one has told us what is happening and no-one has asked what the consequences of a ban could be. Khat is like coffee; there is no evidence of harm. Theresa May asked for the research to be done and then ignored it. People are really angry about it and wonder what they will do after the ban. One person said to me he only chews on Saturday. Compare that to the use of alcohol in the city."

Gamal's father, Mohsen, who is 82, said,

"I've been chewing for 65 years, only on Saturdays and bank holidays. It's been coming into this country for decades. Why ban it now? In those days there were jobs around, now there are no jobs. Chewing khat is important for socialising. If they stop it, it will cause problems."

The ACMD points out that khat is not an illegal drug, is not a high value substance and makes very little profit in the UK market.

No evidence of harm

There is little evidence to suggest that khat is physically addictive and most evidence suggests that khat alone does not directly cause mental disorders, although it complicates the treatment of existing mental health problems.

There is no evidence that khat causes any related crime or social harm. However, some people fear a shortage of khat will lead users to turn to alcohol instead and this will cause far more problems.

Mr Hani Al-Shami said,

"I chew khat in the evening and the next day I wake up early at 7.30 and go to work as normal. It's no problem. It's going to cause a lot of problems banning it. There will more fighting problems and problems in the street, because khat

makes you more friendly and it's chewed indoors."

Abdul Nasser said,

"If they stop it, the problems will increase. There will be trouble in the streets. People will start drinking instead, but people can't handle alcohol. Khat makes you relaxed and spend a long time indoors and people are very quiet. I'm afraid of what might happen after it stops."

Police who attended a briefing at Sorby House in January said they did not expect a lot of extra policing in Sheffield as most imports would be stopped at the airport. Policing khat would be the same as cannabis and they have no extra resources.

In their report the ACMD say that "generally khat chewing is a social event which takes place within family homes, community parties and at khat cafes. Traditionally khat has been used as a medicine and was widely perceived to be a food, not a drug."

Halima said,

"There is no problem with khat. There are other problems in Sheffield with crime but khat is not a drug. I chew it at home and I don't come out of the house after 6pm because it's not safe."

Amer Yafie said,

"I'm chewing right now. Look at me! I'm fine. You can ask my wife: she will tell you. I come home and talk to the children. We play on the X-Box together. It's good for family life. We get together to chew and we see the whole family."

Khat users in Sheffield can get confidential help from their GP or from the Arundel Street Project, 92 Arundel Street, O114 272 1481.

The full ACMD report is available www.gov.uk/government/publications/khat-report-2013



Plans for Spital Hill Works

Story: Rohan Francis

Perched on the hillside overlooking the Wicker arches, Spital Hill Works was once home to a collection of Victorian manufacturers working in steel and silver. Now, after years lying almost completely empty and exposed to vandalism and fire, the crumbling remains of one of Spital Hill's most neglected buildings could be about to receive some much needed attention.

Sheffield City Council's Planning Enforcement Team are encouraging the owners of Spital Hill Works, latterly known as Lion Works or Lyon Works, to apply for planning permission to repair the exterior and roof of the building.

The derelict brick built Victorian structure, (one of three listed buildings in the vicinity), is being tackled by Council officers under their 'Stuck Sites' project, with funding coming from the Council's 'Local Growth Fund'.

The project aims to improve the negative impact of neglected buildings by persuading owners to carry out renovation work or release the site for demolition so it can be used for redevelopment.

Renovation

Work on the Grade II listed factory, which consists of two long buildings to the rear of 87-91 Spital Hill, is likely to involve the complete replacement of the timber roof structure and covering, which has been badly damaged by fire in the past. As a listed

building, repairs will have to be made without alteration of the original architecture. Any materials, such as roofing slates, will have to be approved by planning officials.

Planning officers told the Messenger that they expected the building to be weather-tight and visually improved by the end of the summer.

Student accommodation

A new lease of life is also planned for the three storey building fronting Lion Works. Number 87-103 Spital Hill is currently occupied on the ground floor by several shops and businesses. Council planners have granted permission for the two upper floors to be converted into student accommodation for 20 people.

The design for the building's conversion, involves the removal of existing internal partitions and the installation of new bedrooms and shared dining and bathroom facilities. Sound and thermal insulation will be upgraded and existing windows and entrances will be renovated.



Because of the building's Grade II listed status, the Council can only allow minimal changes to the brick exterior. The applicants have had to win approval for a change of use from office to residential and to pay careful consideration to the rules on changes to historic buildings.

Full details of the plans are available at the Council's online planning portal:

<http://publicaccess.sheffield.gov.uk/online-applications/> using the application reference number: 13/03704/FUL

Spital Hill shop fronts

Story: Caroline Brockelbank

Spital Hill businesses will receive investment to refurbish their shopfronts and regenerate the area.

Sheffield City Council will be offering a maximum of £4,500 to each independent shop.

The work could include repointing, repair of architectural features, brick cleaning, new signage, painting existing timber and the painting of pipes.

People in the area have mixed views

about the investment. Usman Jahangir works in his grandfather's shop, S.R. Raja's Continental Food Store on Spital Hill.

"I think because of the outside you're going to get more customers in. Look at the Tesco, it's really new and looks really clean from the outside as well as from inside. A lot of people go inside because of the cleanliness."

"If it's really new and nice, people are going to look from the outside and think, oh yeah that's a nice shop. So I think it's a really good idea."

Ali Saleh, owner of Food News, is unconvinced by the refurbishment plans. He said,

"I think they're just taking the Mickey with it, to be honest, not just this road

but with the whole of Burngreave. They're going to have parking meters outside for people who park for over 30 minutes.

"That's what I heard and I think they're going to increase business rates in this area so it's good for them but not for us. They're trying to keep us quiet by doing the shop fronts."

The Council is funding the project with £300,000 from the Local Growth Fund.

In Darnall, a similar idea was piloted with 100% of shopkeepers in the boundary taking up the scheme, which is due to finish in March.

Evening drop-in sessions for business owners will start this spring/summer. The council expects work to start in the autumn.

Earl Marshall Juniors Under 11s Look For Perfect Ten

Story: Mick Ashman

The recent wet weather has led to a number of postponed football matches so local team Earl Marshall Under 11s are having to wait for their perfect ten wins in a row.

Having secured their fourth consecutive victory against Hillsborough Pumas in November, Assistant Coach Patrick Turner told the players that he believed they could achieve a "Perfect Ten" and win their next ten matches. At the time it seemed like a brave prediction but five more wins followed, with Earl Marshall averaging an impressive five goals a game. The 5-1 victory against promotion rivals Hoyland Town just before Christmas – their ninth – set a new record for Earl Marshall Juniors Football Club, breaking a record that was set in the 2009-10 season by the then Under 9s

When asked what had made the difference, Manager Shane Bramhall said, "It's been a bit of everything: new players, new coaching staff and a bit of luck. But I also think that these kids have increasing self-belief and confidence in their own abilities. It has been fantastic to see how much they have come together as a team."

At the time of writing, the Under 11s were waiting for



confirmation that their away fixture against league leaders, Rawmarsh St Joseph, would go ahead - despite the threat of more wet weather. Regardless of the scoreline, the Under 11s are already guaranteed a top 3 finish and promotion to Division B next season.

If you would like more information about Earl Marshall Juniors – a football club that is proud to reflect the diversity of our local community – then please contact Mick Ashman on 0784 373 1430 or Shane Bramhall on 0781 855 1110.

Local boxers become national champions

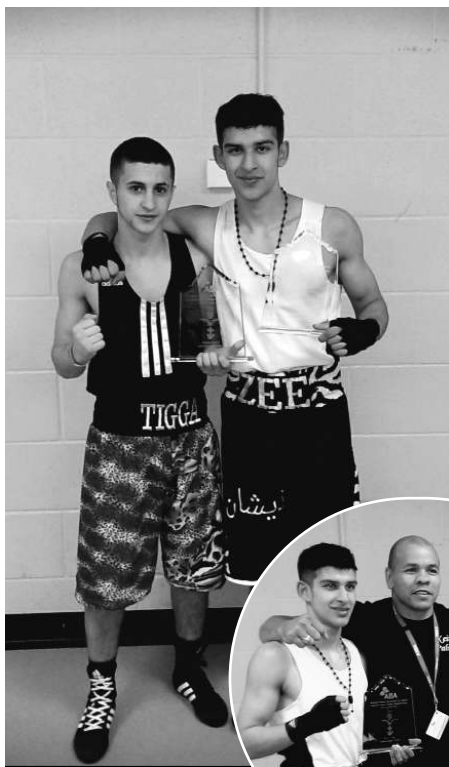
Story: Salim Al-Hussein

Zeeshan Maughal and Aseel Lahsoon were crowned champions in the Senior Novice Championship, hosted by the Amateur Boxing Association. The championship took place in Cranwell in Lincolnshire on 7th December 2013 and 50 senior amateur boxers competed with each other.

I met up with the boxers to talk about their boxing career so far. Both boxers train in the same gym at Sheffield Lane Top with trainer, Keith Palmer.

Zeeshan, a 17-year-old from Burngreave, took on opponent 22-year-old Marvin Lombi from Dagenham in the Championship. Zeeshan won the featherweight bout over 3 rounds by a majority decision. His total now stands at 13 wins and 1 loss.

When I asked Zeeshan what he thought about his opponent, he was clear that he was a good fighter. He said, "He came out to win and I came out to win as well." He



went on, "It's not just about the fight but having that respect for your opponent too."

Zeeshan explained that they trained 6 times a week for 2.5 hours per day in the run-up to a competition but he pointed out, "you can be physically strong but, if you're not mentally strong, then there's no point."

Aseel, who is also 17 years old, beat his opponent, Talvinder Singh, by stoppage. Aseel was quick to beat his opponent, just 40 seconds, which didn't only win him the match but a good reputation too. That brings him to 12 wins and 3 lost matches. Aseel explained this wasn't the first time he fought Talvinder. He said "We fought before and I beat him then, so realistically I knew I had him."

I asked Aseel if he researches his opponents before going in the ring with them. He said, "I would rather not know about my opponent and then I've got a fresh mind."

I asked them both who they take their motivation from and they immediately said Mohammed Ali was a big inspiration for them. Aseel explained, "Ali was not only involved with boxing but religion and human rights too."

We then caught up with their trainer, Keith Palmer, and he had this to say: "They were out of this world. They both boxed well. It was a national championship so there was a lot of pressure. Zeeshan won against an older fighter from a good gym and Aseel was far too much for his opponent. They are both very committed and dedicated and I'm expecting good things from them in the future. They are a joy to have in the gym."

Lloydie wins World titles

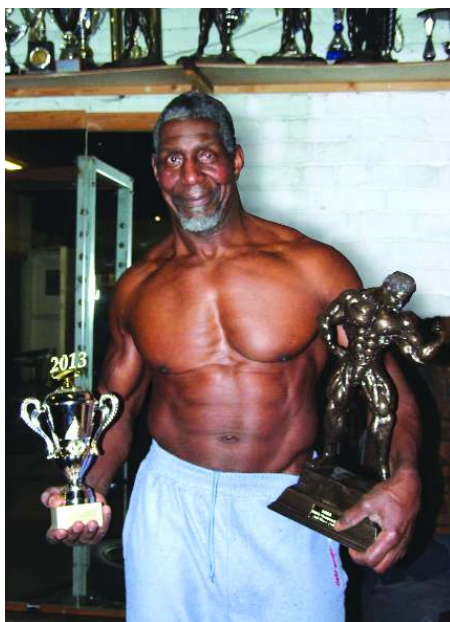
Story: Lisa Swift | Photo: Rohan Francis

Legendary Burngreave body builder, Lloyd Stewart, has brought home the trophies again, winning two world titles in 2013.

After opening a show in Huddersfield, Lloyd was invited to compete in Miami, America, where he claimed the Masters over-60's title. Just weeks later, he went on to Paris to win the Natural Physique Association (NPA) World Championships title.

Lloyd has been competing in natural body building since 1987. He has travelled all over the UK and Europe, winning hundreds of trophies in his career. Lloyd explained,

"There's no drugs in natural body building. It's all diet and training. I start preparing for competition in April and I'll keep to the diet until the end of November. I drink a lot of water and weigh the food I eat. It's worth it when



you look good on the stage."

From the age of 17, Lloyd was a boxer but, after more than 10 years, he was forced to give it up due to a shoulder injury. It was while working as head doorman at Josephine's nightclub that someone set down the challenge to take up body building.

"This body building guy had said, 'tell Lloyd if he ever gets up on stage I'll blow him away.' There was nothing to him, so I trained and practiced a few poses and the next year, when he was defending his title, I was there, and I won. I haven't stopped since."

Lloyd runs his own gym on Carwood Road, near Carlisle Street, which has been the training ground of other champions, and he is happy to share his knowledge with the next generation, "Lloydies Gym is different. People come from all over Sheffield to train here because it's friendly and relaxed. There's no aggression or showing off. Young and old train together and I'm happy to help people out."

After a short break for Christmas, Lloyd is now thinking about the start of the next training season, "I'm 65 this year, but do I look like a person who will sit around twiddling my thumbs and doing nothing? My son would say 'the only time Dad is happy is in the gym.'"

Lloydies Gym is open 6 days a week, Monday to Saturday – tel 261 7767. New members are welcome to come and have a free trial before joining.



Taekwondo talent at Verdon Rec

Story: Robert Shaw

The Verdon Street Pilsung Taekwondo club has been a Burngreave fixture since the 80s, helping many youngsters learn self-confidence, and getting some onto the British national team.

Now, five more local youngsters have got a massive boost, winning multiple medals at the "Ultimate 1 to 1" Northern region

tournament, held at Concord this December.

This tournament was specially designed to introduce Junior and first-time candidates into regional competition, helping them to break the confidence barrier that can sometimes hold them back from national success.

The club entered five promising students, four of them first-timers. All did well. Shaquille George, Sharmin Osoo and Dayne Sampson each won gold medals in the junior sparring, while Sumayah Hussein and Ahmed Hussein took second and fourth place in the Kup Grade Poomsae event.



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Chronic Pain

Chronic pain is often defined as persistent pain lasting in a certain area for more than 6 months and remaining for years.

This pain can be mild or severe, episodic or continuous, merely inconvenient or in some cases totally incapacitating. Impact of this is massive, it can both take a physical and emotional toll on a person's life. The most common source of pain stems from the pain of injuries, joint pain, backaches and headaches. Chronic pain may originate from an accident, injury or infection. Long term Chronic Pain can have a huge impact on people's emotional wellbeing. Emotions such as anxiety, stress, depression, anger and fatigue interact in complex ways with chronic pain making the pain worse.

People who suffer from chronic pain complain about symptoms such as:

- pain that may be described as shooting, burning, aching or electric
- soreness, toughness, stiffness and discomfort
- it can make people feel fatigue, sleeplessness and withdrawn
- weakened immune system
- mood changes, anxiety, depression, irritability and stress

Health trainers in Burngreave are now trained to give one to one support to those suffering with chronic pain. You may self-refer or ask your GP about Health Trainers.

A pain self-care tool kit has been developed by Pete Moore who suffers from persistent pain himself. Here are some of his guidelines on how to manage chronic pain:



1. Accept that you have pain or long term conditions... and then begin to move on
2. Get involved – building a support team
3. Pacing yourself
4. Learn to prioritise and plan out your days
5. Setting goals and action plans
6. Being patient with yourself
7. Learn relaxation skills
8. Stretching & exercise
9. Keep a diary and track your progress
10. Have a setback plan
11. Team work
12. Keeping it up... putting the tools into daily practice

For more information on these go to www.paintoolkit.org/mobile

Chronic Pain Self Help Group

At Burngreave Children's Centre,
19 Spital Street, S3 9LB

Socialise with like minded people and gain new skills to self-manage your Chronic pain. Including workshops on pain management and relaxation.

FREE service running once a month.
Next sessions 12:30 - 2:30pm on
Tuesday 25th February and
Tuesday 25th March .

Learning to cope

(This story is based on a real person's experience but the name has been changed)

After a bad fall, Sharon's life was changed forever. The fall caused long term damage to her back which left her with severe pain and restricted movement.

Sharon had been a very active person, who loved exercising and had a full time job. The accident meant time off work which, after a few months led to financial difficulties. Not being able to do normal everyday activities or regular exercise as she had previously enjoyed, made her feel down, resulting in depression.

Sharon's doctor referred her to a Health Trainer, who can really focus on talking about how to cope with pain. Sharon was able to speak to the Health Trainer about the sense of loss she felt because she wasn't able to lead the active life she once had. The Health Trainer helped her to think about new things she could do, such as swimming or yoga, developing new IT skills and identifying things to enjoy like reading. The Health Trainer helped Sharon make a plan for the next 12 months, which included pacing herself and introducing new activities gradually depending on how she was feeling.

After just 6 sessions with the Health Trainer, Sharon could now think about returning to work, using her new IT skills, and look forward to things she enjoyed. She also felt she had more control over what she did, on days when pain was bad she could take it easy and on better days be more active.

For further support contact the Burngreave Health Trainers, Somshun Nessa, Pamela Daniel and Sophina Asghar (Urdu speaking) at Sorby House on 213 2591

Women Only Exercise Course

For ladies who would like to lose weight.

Starts: Tuesday 4th February 2014 for 6 weeks, 1.00pm – 2.30pm at Verdon Recreation Centre, Verdon Street

Each session involves a 30 - 45 minute session of exercise for weight loss with support and advice for exercising. You will have the opportunity to have a voluntary health check.

You need to be either:

- A woman under the age of 55 and have two or more lifestyle risk factors
- Diagnosed as a Type 2 Diabetic or at risk / family history.
- A waist circumference greater than 80cm.
- Have a BMI no greater than 35.

For all courses and groups, contact:

Somshun Nessa
Tel: 0114 213 2591 or
07960 084 119
Email: Somshun.nessa@soarcommunity.org.uk

Diabetes Self Help Group

Burngreave Children Centre, 19 Spital St.

This is a chance to learn new cookery skills, socialise and gain new skills to self manage your condition.

FREE service running once a month.

Next sessions: 12-2.30pm on Monday 24th February and Monday 31st March.

Domestic Abuse Awareness training with Vida

For men and women working in Sheffield

Wednesday 19th February at Sorby House

To book a place contact Somshun Nessa, Community Development Worker for Burngreave.

For more info on vida courses see <http://www.vidasheffield.org.uk> .



Lunch club volunteers

Story: John Mellor | Derwent Levick

Christ Church, Pitsmoor's Thursday lunch club, serves nearly 40 meals to older residents.

Nick Edmondson, a volunteer, says.

"I help co-ordinate the lunch club, which serves meals cooked at the local primary school. I am a point of contact for the shared work of the project, including volunteering, introductions, training, supervision and finance, but I also wash up, drive, do accounts - whatever is required."

Why do you volunteer?

"I started as an art student in 1980. Helping feed elderly patients on a hospital ward introduced me to a whole new world. I was impressed with the way nurses got on with the tasks that needed to be done for those old men facing death. This led to nursing training, something no one in my family had done before."

Why do you feel lunch clubs are important?

St James lunch club

Story: Brenda Hill | Photo: Linda Jones

The current club has been meeting since 2000 and serves a home cooked lunch to about 20 local people aged 50 plus. It is self-supporting never receiving any grants.

The members plan buy, cook, serve and clear away the meals themselves but the Parent and Toddler Group who use the room before us help put up the tables and chairs. We have a retired professional cook in the kitchen and everyone, even the most disabled and elderly (at 103) help.

Members prefer to chat, but we occasionally try chair aerobics or simple crafts and every week run a raffle with donated prizes. The club buys greetings cards wholesale, suitable for most occasions, to sell on at reasonable prices,

Pitsmoor lunch club

Tuesday and Wednesday 11.30 - 1.30pm

Pitsmoor Methodist Church
131 Burngreave Road Sheffield S3 9DG

A meal costs £2.50



"A lunch club is part community social work and part practical tasks. People who are struggling emotionally, are isolated or lonely, can get out more, and maybe consider the needs or distress of someone other than themselves. These simple acts are powerful medication. One of our volunteers says he benefits from 'just being there, thanking God, and seeing the people we know carrying on.'"

How do you see lunch clubs developing in the future?

"I always hope for more informal lunch clubs developing relationships with professional care workers. It's not easy. It's an adventure that takes time and forbearance on both sides."

Contact Nick Edmondson on:
07725 569 380



especially at Christmas.

Annually the club subsidises a meal provided by outside caterers and a summer outing subsidised, from the £3-00 charge for the meal, has visited places like Carsington Water, Cannon Hall Farm and Bakewell.

The club can't cater for more than 20 members but there are vacancies sometimes.

Contact Brenda Hill on 0170 955 0019
or 07528 422004.

There are limited places on the Club's own transport for people with walking difficulties. Transport costs £1.50

Contact: Janice Gear on 249 2514 or
Pam Eaton on 243 5333



Dementia café volunteers

Story & photo: Caroline Brockelbank

The Dementia Welcome Cafe is a cafe set up to help people with dementia to have a better quality of life.

The cafe at The Furnival, 199 Verdon Street has volunteers from many different countries who help to provide support for people with dementia.

One volunteer - 18 year old Sahra Deria, was born in England but her family are from Somalia. Sahra aspires to be a mental health nurse.

She said "In Somalia, although some people understand about mental health and how it can be treated, they aren't the majority. There are only 22 mental health nurses in Somalia and two mental health charities that I'm aware of. For the people who don't understand, to them, it's a matter of 'possession' and 'devilry', so they lock the violent ones away so they can't hurt anyone, and use the Qur'aan to try and 'cure' the others. Many people are not familiar with medical or psychological treatments. To them, it's a matter of 'if you don't know, ignore it because you don't want to make it worse'. I want to go to Somalia and raise awareness."

At the cafe people play board games, do craftwork, and take part in workshops. Most recently they had an improvised drama workshop. It was a lot of fun

Sahra said "Laughter is important. Making people laugh will help to improve their quality of life."

Rihana Mohamed, another volunteer, used to be a nurse in the Yemen and has been in England for five months. She said she enjoys volunteering at the cafe and it helps her to improve her English.

Wednesdays 11am - 1pm, at The Furnival, 199 Verdon Street. For more details call Nick Edmondson on 07725 569 380



Donations for Christmas

Fir Vale based group, Adira, worked with the Church Of God Of Prophecy to donate gifts to Haven House women's refuge this Christmas. Ursula Myrie from Adira helped to organise and distribute the gifts. She said: "We asked everyone to buy an extra gift. They brought them to the Christmas carol service and then we donated them to the women and children at the refuge."



Christmas Bazaar at Christ Church

Story: Jenny Tibbles

Saturday 14th December, was the first Christmas Bazaar at Christ Church Pitsmoor in many years. It was a great afternoon with around 15 stalls, representing local groups and individuals. We also ran a cafe on a 'pay what you think it's worth' basis and raised £93 for ASSIST. Many people came through the door, some regulars at the church and others just popping in. There was a great atmosphere, thanks to music from Julie and Roger Walters. Thanks to all who were involved.



Ashram Christmas meal

On Christmas Day at Burngreave Ashram 86 Spital Hill, volunteers provided a Free Christmas Meal with all the trimmings, for 25 guests. The Wednesday 'Burngreave Banquet' Free Meal continues every week from 6pm until 6.30pm. All are welcome.

Karen New Year celebrations

Story: Philip Ireson

Many Karen families from Burma (also known as Myanmar) are now living in Burngreave. They celebrated their New Year at Forge Valley School early in January.



The Karen are one of a number of minority groups in Burma who have been discriminated against during 60 years of military dictatorship. Many Karen people became Christian when Burma was a British Protectorate from the 19th to the mid-20th century. Many now live across the world but their sense of cultural identity is still very strong alongside their traditional values of patience, joy, generosity and hard work. Christ Church continues to be hugely blessed by the Karen families who have made their spiritual home in Pitsmoor.



The picture shows a group of Sheffield Karen young people performing a traditional dance in the New Year celebrations.



St Peter's Christingle celebration

Story: John Mellor

On 15th December families from Christ Church, St Peter's and the local area held a Christingle service, which in recent years has become a popular event in the celebration of Christmas.

Before the service a team of volunteers formed a 'production line' to make 80 Christingles. Each Christingle consists of an orange with a candle stuck in the top and a red band around it. Then four cocktail sticks with small pieces of fruit (fresh or dried) are added around the orange.

The service included carols and a drama of the Nativity, ending with the singing of 'Away in a Manger' by the candlelight of the Christingles. An offering was taken for the work of the Children's Society which supports orphaned and homeless children.

TARA Christmas Fayre

Burngreave Tenants and Residents Association organised a Christmas Fayre in the Vestry Hall in December.

Local residents sold hand made cards, cake and scarves, along side clothes, toys, household items and bric a brac. The TARA raised over £80 for Sheffield Children's Hospital and Yorkshire Air Ambulance.



Joanne's beautiful hand made cards determinedcrafter.blogspot.co.uk



Christmas gifts

Story: Safiya Saeed

Two weeks before Christmas Asha and Chloe had an idea. They wanted to do something wonderful all by themselves, but how would they do it?

So they met up with Mr. Westerdale, Head Teacher at Parkwood Academy, and Ms Smith (deputy head). They fully supported the two young ladies, both in year 9.

With baking and sponsorship they managed to raise £170. With that money they bought presents for all the kids at the Children's Hospital. £35 was left over which they donated directly to the hospital.

It was Christmas Eve when they dropped in to deliver their presents. Asha said "I don't celebrate Christmas but I love to be a reason to make them smile." Chloe said "These children are going through so much pain we just wanted to put a smile on their faces."

Feeling Good Bring and Share

On 18th December over 30 women from the Feeling Good Project at Verdon Recreation Centre, gathered to celebrate the festive season.

Women brought food to share, and local women provided henna and hand massage. One volunteer brought a juice maker for healthy drinks and volunteers helped organise the day. Women shared their knitting skills and showed what they had made.

"It was amazing that everyone brought food from their own cultures to share with each other. We had a huge turnout and it was a great way to finish the first 3 months of the Feeling Good project," said Aislinn Adams, Feeling Good Project Coordinator.



George & Brian

Motherly love

Starring George's Mum!



by Edgar Lowman

Oh, you're such a cutie pie!



Thanks Mu-



Oh, you meant that pie.



Forest Schools



Children at Byron Wood Primary School are taking part in an innovative new programme which gets them out of class and experiencing their natural surroundings. The school has just begun to include 'Forest School' in its curriculum.

The children work in a natural environment; exploring the area and becoming familiar with the woodland, before taking part in a range of activities. All of the children in Year 6 have had lessons in the forest. They have learnt about the variety of species found in the local woodlands, built mini-shelters and made artworks with natural materials, including sculpting with mud and weaving their own Christmas wreaths!

The next stage will be for every child in the school to have some lessons in the forest, seeing how the environment changes through the seasons. The school has invested in the project to ensure that it is successful. Mr Surridge, one of the Assistant Headteachers, is a qualified 'Forest School' practitioner.

"So many of our children do not have the chance to experience the world around them and understand their natural environment the programme gives them that opportunity" says Mr Surridge.

Firth Park Winter Fun

Story & photo: Saleema Imam

The rain held off on Saturday 25th January for the first hour of the winter fun festival at the Ripple on Firth Park Road, but thunder and lightening soon sent everyone inside the clock tower building for Fun and Games and Festive food.



Face painting, stilts, ball games, plate spinning, diabolos, treadle skates and the Mad Hatter and his White Rabbit all kept the children entertained in the dry.

Sew me a story

Story: Saleema Imam

Since the autumn halfterm, mums from Firs Hill Primary School have been meeting to learn sewing skills in order to tell their stories in fabric.



On 9th January, they met to show off their creations - cushion covers and wall-hangings - to tell their stories and receive their certificates.

"We've enjoyed learning new skills and we've made some beautiful things too," said one participant.

London Chess Classic



A group of Year 4 children from Firs Hill School went down to London on 11th December, accompanied by Mr Foster, to take part in the 5th annual London Chess Classic at the Olympia Stadium in Kensington.

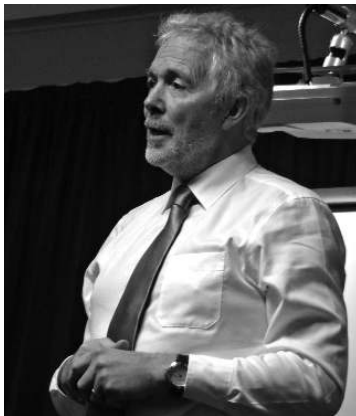
They had the chance to have a chess lesson from a professional chess player who has been playing for over 30 years!

They had a brilliant day and even scored 44 points during their chess tournament, despite having to be at school for 6am and enduring a 4½ hour coach journey.

Paul Hopkinson retires

Story: Zabeda Hussain

Paul Hopkinson retired at Christmas after over six years as a Headteacher at Pye Bank CE Primary School. Paul considered it a bonus in his career and regarded it as a privilege to lead in this community.



He always tackled all challenges with optimism, resilience and graciousness - STILL loving the teaching profession and being a staunch advocate for this as a career, believing in children and so valuing those who give their all for those children.

Paul was highly regarded by all at Pye Bank School, children, staff, parents and the community and will be greatly missed.

Our MP, David Blunkett, sent this message:

"My very best wishes for a well deserved retirement and a rest from the slings and arrows. There can be no greater challenge than heading a school with such diversity, multiple and competing pressures. Taking this on is a measure of Paul's commitment and service. Thank you for this and all you have done. May all go well with you for your future."

Fir Vale School fundraiser

Story: Janet Lawson

A fantastic community fundraising event took place at Fir Vale School in December when students hosted 90 guests for a special evening.



The event was organised as part of the appeal to support students who are helping build an Orphanage in Ghana next Easter. Guests enjoyed an evening of student performances, a 3 course meal served by the students and a variety of fundraising activities.

With the generosity of local businesses, we were able to host an auction which helped towards our overall fundraising target of £28,000. The money raised on the night reached an incredible £4,000. The students' efforts and commitment were highly commendable and a credit to the school and the fundraising project. To date students at the school have raised £18,200 and are continuing their efforts to raise the remaining £9,800.

To support these events, to make a donation or provide sponsorship, please contact the school on 0114 243 9391.

Community fitness at Parkwood Academy

Parkwood Academy opened a new community fitness suite at the school in January.

27-year-old Sheffield welterweight boxer Kell Brook officially opened the new sports centre at the high school he once attended as a pupil. Brook said: "I was really happy to be a part of the official opening. I've grown up here, I used to go to this school and I think it's great that they've built something that will genuinely help the community for years to come".



The £80,000 development facility has created several new jobs for local people and aims to be part of helping to regenerate the area. Paul Howard, Parkwood Academy Community Coordinator said: "We see this as a partnership exercise and the fact that we can offer this to the community reinforces the bond we have with them. As the school grows, so the community will."

People can become members of the Parkwood Academy Sports Centre for the introductory offer of £10 per month (Normal price £14 per month, £10 concession -OAP and Students) For more information call the school on 0114 231 0221 or email sports@parkwoodacademy.org.uk.

Fundraising for Kenya

The WEA Level 1 class is organising a fundraising day for a school project in Kenya and you are invited!

Thursday 6th February 9.30am until 12.30.

Firs Hill Community Primary School (Parents' Room)

Come and enjoy a variety of cuisines and beauty and massage activities.

Bring anything to sell and support the project.

If you can't come, please send your donation to Kath Hobson at Firs Hill School or Schola Cashdan on 07717 834663.

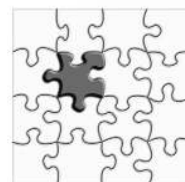
Jigsaw

Come & join us at **St. Peter's Church, Ellesmere** for an hour of Craft, storytelling, singing, games & food
4.30pm to 5.30pm...

Monday 10th February: Theme ~ Sky
Monday 3rd March: Theme ~ Sea
Monday 17th March: Theme ~ Land
Monday 31st March: Theme ~ Birds
Monday 14th April: Theme ~ People

Please Contact Nel for more details:

07809 320 986



All ages are welcome ~

Small children need to be accompanied by an adult

Something for Everyone...

Activity Sheffield

Walk Boost

Free community walks for adults

- Socialise with members of the community
- Visit local shops / cafes on your high street
- Learn about your local area and visit the local beauty spots

All our activities are accessible to those with disabilities.

Women Only Walk

An open walk aimed at getting women of all ages out and moving.

Every Monday 10:30am – 12:00 noon.

Meet outside Pitsmoor Surgery, Burngreave Road.

Pram Push Walk

An easy walk aimed at getting new and expectant parents out and about and socialising with other parents.

Play area and refreshments at the end of each walk

Every Monday 12:30pm – 2:00pm.

Meet outside Firs Hill Community Primary school.

Plodding Pitsmoor

An easy walk for the whole community to enjoy.

Every Thursday 1:30pm – 3:00pm.

Meet outside Pure Gym, Spital Hill.

To find out more please call 0114 273 4266
email activity.sheffield@sheffield.gov.uk

www.sheffield.gov.uk/activitysheffield

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DP15085



Staff Recruitment Evening

Oasis Academy Fir Vale*

**26th March 2014 at 5pm
at the Pakistani Advisory Centre
(PACA), 127 Page Hall Road, S4 8GU**

In September 2014, a new primary Oasis Academy will open on the corner of Skinnerthorpe and Bagley Road in Fir Vale, Sheffield. It will be in a brand new building, delivering an innovative, exciting and inclusive curriculum in the context of the Oasis Ethos. We need outstanding teachers and support staff to realise our vision of a school where all abilities will be catered for and every child is encouraged to reach their full potential.

Please come along to our recruitment evening to find out more. To register your interest in attending please email hannah.brown@oasisuk.org

Please visit our website at www.oasisacademyfirvale.org for more information.

*At the time of publication, Oasis Academy Fir Vale is a working title and could be subject to change after consultation

Children's Centres

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- From birth to age 5, we have services and activities to support your child's health, learning and development
- From breastfeeding clinics to talking toddlers and reading groups, we'll have the right support for you and your child

Your local children's centres:

Burngreave Children's Centre 19 Spital Street, Burngreave, S3 9LB Tel: 0114 252 5220	First Start Children's Centre 441 Firth Park Road, Firth Park, S5 6QQ Tel: 0114 203 9307	
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Find more information about children's centres at:
www.sheffield.gov.uk/childrenscentres

DP14253

South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

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 or go to our Facebook page [NHSSmokefreeSheffield](https://www.facebook.com/NHSSmokefreeSheffield)

Join thousands of smokers in making your New Year's resolution to stop smoking for good!

follow us on facebook at [NHSSmokefreeSheffield](https://www.facebook.com/NHSSmokefreeSheffield)

Maat Probe Group campaign for Respect

Story: Otis Hinds, SACMHA supporting Maat Probe Group
Photo: Carl Rose

Mental health campaigners Maat Probe Group continue to fight hard to have Respect (de-escalation rather than restraint) used nationally. In August last year they went to Whitehall to talk to Health Trusts from around the country and in October they took part in an IPCC (Independent Police Complaints Commission) event to review work around deaths in custody.

There is no national policy on restraint even though the mental health service equivalent of Stephen Lawrence, ie the death of Rocky Bennett and subsequent inquiry, occurred over 10 years ago. Nationally there has been very little progress. As a result of Maat Probe Group's campaigning, Respect was successfully introduced to Sheffield health settings in 2012. As a result Sheffield patients when they become unwell do not experience the dangerous and undignified prone position. We will not have our arms twisted behind our shoulders, or our thumbs twisted back when we are deemed to be aggressive. This is why Sheffield service users should support the Maat Probe Group's next big project which is the evaluation of Respect starting in January 2014.

Respect, which is centred on de-escalation and holds which do not cause pain, has been in Sheffield for 18 months. As part of the evaluation we would like to speak to service user who have been an in-patient in Sheffield in the last 18 months, and may also have been in hospital prior to Respect coming into the wards; so we may be able to get a comparison.

We will be working in partnership with the Sheffield Health and Social Care Trust to gather information on the wards. Also the



Maat Probe Group will be hosting various live music events around the city which will be called 'From the ward to the stage'. The groups' band will play an uplifting reggae music set. This will give service users the opportunity to fill out the evaluation questionnaire and get involved in some of the work that the Maat Probe Group has been involved in and so improve the services for all of us. The report for the evaluation could provide the evidence that the government requires for there to be a national policy on restraint, with Respect being rolled out across the country.

We would like service users to contact us if they or someone they know could get involved in the evaluation. Maat Probe Group are working with Mind, Sod it, and NSUN (Network for Mental Health) to organise a networking event on the **19th February, 10.30am to 3.30pm Burngreave Vestry Hall**. The event will bring together people with experience of mental health problems to share their experience, knowledge and opinions. There will also be a chance to take part in Maat Probe Group's research

From the ward to the stage – 6th February Harland Café, John Street, 5.30-7.30pm. Come along to enjoy the music and get involved in Maat Probe Groups research.

Burngreave residents defend democracy

Story: Graham Jones | Photo: Mark Jones

On Saturday 7th December a group of constituents, including people from Burngreave, visited our MP David Blunkett in his Firth Park surgery and handed him a copy of a petition containing more than 200,000 signatures.

The petition—organised by campaign group 38 Degrees—expresses our concerns about the proposed “gagging law” (more formally known as The Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Bill) which is scheduled to become law in May 2014. This law is supposed to address the very real problem of high-powered, big-money corporate lobbying.



Instead—unless it is heavily amended—it will severely limit the abilities of not-for-profit and grassroots organisations to do any campaigning at all during any year in which an election is to be held.

More information about this story is on the Messenger website www.burngreavemessenger.org

Law Centre moves

Story: Douglas Johnson

Sheffield Law Centre has moved from its office on Joiner St near the Wicker after 20 years.

It has become part of the new Sheffield Citizens Advice and Law Centre, along with Pitsmoor CAB on Spital Hill and Firth Park Advice Centre on Stubbin Lane.

The Law Centre will no longer be so near to Burngreave. The housing advisers are now based at the old Castle Advice Service building on Duke St and the employment and discrimination advisers are based at the Circle near Division St.

The new number for advice on all these topics is 0114 205 5055.

Writing creatively

Burngreave's Creative Writing Group have been busy with their thoughts and their pens. They meet every two weeks to discuss writing, sometimes their own and sometimes published authors.

Here are just a couple of examples of what they have been doing.

One of my earliest memories

by Kate Sheldrick

It is dark. I am warm. Tucked in, with a hot water bottle to cuddle. My teddy bears are safe on the chair. My eyes are closed and I am waiting for sleep. A man's voice comes from the living room. It is low, and slow. It is melodic. It rolls up and down, and pauses effortlessly. It is soothing.

"Forties, Cromarty, Forth; North Westerly 5 to 6, becoming severe gale 8 later; rain; moderate or good. Tyne, Dogger, Fisher, German Bight; North Westerly 5 to 7; moderate or good; low 1020, rising more slowly. Sole, Lundy, Fastnet, Irish Sea; Northerly 6 to gale 8; moderate or good. Rockall, Malin, Hebrides, Bailey; Westerly backing Northerly; 7 to severe gale 9; moderate or good, occasionally poor; decreasing to 5 later."

I don't know whether I, or the radio, drift off first, but when I open my eyes, it is morning.



Garanwaa... The Stranger Tree

By Saeed Y. Abdi, November 2011, Somaliland

In the beginning not many noticed this green ruffled bush and then they realized it was getting around a lot. In the towns first and now along the roads into the countryside were the first to stop and stare. It ignited arguments and they talked about it for so long. All were fascinated by this invader, cropping up in all the unexpected places, and they didn't like it at all. In a true nomadic fashion, wary of the stranger, they were scared of this unknown arrival.

They didn't do anything about it though, maybe because after all it was just a shrub and they had more pressing issues to worry about. Slowly but surely, while they were busy eating the wrong tree (Khat)

New members are welcome to join this supportive group to share ideas and get motivated to write creatively.

and burning the right tree (for charcoal), the unknown tree was safe to invade unchallenged right across their land and homes.

'Garanwaa' was doubly unwelcome because "our livestock doesn't like it. It has no ample shade and you can't burn it for charcoal. We want to tell the president something must be done about it." As a result of pushing responsibility to the state, it is not at all absurd that this tree is now the excuse for NGOs and local 'politicians' to obtain funding and hold seminars on the 'threat' while there are so many more pressing problems to deal with. But then it is not so strange because they need to be seen dealing with something and this shrub is a readymade visible enemy. It even has a horrible name which sounds more like a disease than a plant and it's always easier to blame the other.

Now that as predicted, the world's truly shrunken, with limitless travel of both people and goods just a mouse click away, the migration of any species to far flung lands is not so extraordinary anymore. Plants, animals, diseases and the people who carry them are finding themselves called 'Garanwaa!' in new environments. They are the alien, the one no-one knows, the stranger. The Garanwaa in the Somali soil following in the footsteps of earlier invaders may or may not be defeated, but for now, accepted or not, it is here to stay.

The group is supported by the Yemeni Community Association. To find out details of the next meeting contact the Burngreave Messenger on 242 0564.

Tour de France 2014

Story: Priya Blackham

The Grand Départ (the opening stage of the Tour de France) will come through Burngreave this summer. Stage One will be from Leeds to Harrogate. Stage Two will be from York to Sheffield on Sunday 6th July.

The route through Sheffield on Sunday 6th July 2014 – will run from Midhopestones to High Bradfield, Worrall, Oughtibridge, Grenoside, Shiregreen, Burngreave, Attercliffe, Wincobank and the Lower Don Valley. The finishing line for Stage Two will be the Sheffield Arena.

The route through Burngreave will go through the following streets: Shirecliffe Road, Cooks Wood Road, Rutland Road, Minna Road, Burngreave Road, Brunswick Road, Gower Street, Sutherland Road, Savile Street East and Brightside Lane.

For the first time, a Cultural Festival will be run prior to and alongside the Grand Depart. The festival will run in Yorkshire for over 100 days from March 27th to July 6th. The Festival will consist of a series of activities along the route during the weekend of 5th/6th July, and throughout the city. Abbeyfield Park is one of the places where community-based activities will take place.

Hamilton courses stop

Hamilton College at Forum House ran into difficulties in January with the suspension of courses and staff redundancies.

The college was delivering a range of vocational courses including warehouse storage and forklift truck operations, employability skills, professional taxi driver qualifications and IT. However, funding difficulties and a staff restructuring prevented them from taking on new students and from starting courses after the New Year.

Hamilton College, which is based in London, moved into Forum House just over a year ago. The Council spent £100,000 on the building so that the college could move in.



Community litter pick

Story: Bronte Matthews

On 29th November over thirty local residents helped to clean up the streets as part of a voluntary litter pick.



The event was organised by Somali parents with support from ITCSSS Study Support Group, Burngreave TARA and Sheffield City Council.

It took place along Grimesthorpe Road near the Vestry Hall. Around 50 bags of rubbish were collected by the team who covered over two miles of road and communal areas. The bags were filled with a mixture of sweet wrappers, drinks, food packaging and cigarette packets.

Mohamed Issa from ITCSSS Study Support, based at the Vestry Hall said, "Parents wanted to contribute to making our area clean, we can't just wait for the Council to clean it when there is this

amount of rubbish outside. We want to set a good example for the whole community; we hope everyone will help to keep this area clean in the future."

Jessica Thorn, Waste Management Officer, said: "We are helping out as part of the Love Where you Live campaign, where we give advice and education to local people about waste management, such as recycling and getting rid of your rubbish correctly. Using the same approach we saw a 45% reduction in fly tipping on Verdon and Lopham Street."

Since the litter pick there has been a significant reduction in littering and fly tipping in the area.

Future plans for Abbeyfield Park House

Story: Fran Belbin, Friends of Abbeyfield Park

The scaffolding around Abbeyfield Park House will soon be removed with the repairs to the roof scheduled to be completed by early February.

Friends of Abbeyfield Park will be holding our next meeting in Abbeyfield Park House community room at 7pm on Wednesday 19th February.

We will be discussing our proposed new constitution, and providing an update on projects related to the house and park.

Come along to hear the latest news and give us your views on the future of the house!

<http://abbeyfieldpark.wordpress.com/>



Your Local Area

Contact: 0114 203 7562
www.sheffield.gov.uk/northeast

You said - we did

At the last meeting of the Burngreave Ward on the 27th November 2013:

You said – Litter was a problem on Rock Street.

We arranged for additional litter clearance to be carried out but we have noticed that a further build up of litter has occurred.

You said – Parking near the Dar-ul-Uloom Siddiqia mosque on Burngreave Road was a problem.

Councillor Ibrar Hussain arranged a meeting with Parking Services to look at resolving this issue.

You said – You had concerns regarding the current improvements in the Ellesmere Green and Spital Hill area and the impact it's having on traffic, shops and services.

We are continuing to improve the Spital Hill area and the Council's Cabinet has just agreed to allocate additional funding for major improvements to shop fronts in the area.

You brought – a petition regarding the future of the library.

This was brought to the attention of the Full Council.



Councillor Surgeries

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

8th February: 11am-12pm, Burngreave Library, Jackie Drayton

18th February: 12pm-1pm, Norwood & Bishopholme TARA, Talib Hussain

20th February: 2pm-3pm, Pakistan Advice Centre, Ibrar Hussain

8th March: 11am-12pm, Burngreave Library, Jackie Drayton

18th March: 12pm-1pm, Norwood & Bishopholme TARA, Ibrar Hussain

20th March: 2pm-3pm, Pakistan Advice Centre, Talib Hussain

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

Next Burngreave Area meeting

Thursday March 27th at 6.00pm
(refreshments from 5.30pm)

At St Peters Church meeting room, Lyons Close

Intended agenda items:

Streetsahead road improvements, Tour de France, Local policing issues

Jean Clack (1939 – 2013)

Story :Philip Ireson

A memorial service for Jean Clack was held at Christ Church Pitsmoor on 20th December 2013, attended by a congregation of family and friends.

Jean was born just as the Second World War was starting in September 1939. Her father was a railwayman and the family lived in Osborne Street throughout the blackout and the blitz. Osborne St was near Rock St and the railway. The house was demolished in the 1970s and the whole street disappeared.

During her childhood Jean learnt about God at the Denholme Chapel Sunday School on Spital Hill. She attended Pye Bank School and then Burngreave School



but did not have a happy time there – in fact she really preferred the Sunday School as an educational experience. Jean's faith stayed with her all her life; she prayed regularly for her family and used the Lord's Prayer before she went to sleep.

Jean worked as a tool assembler at John

Bedford & Sons Ltd in Mowbray Street, Neepsend, where she was remembered as a popular member of the workforce and received a gold watch for 25 years of loyal service. In 1962 Jean moved to the new maisonettes on Pye Bank Road. She and her nephew Kevin were amongst the last to move out of there in 2002 before the housing was demolished.

Since then she has lived at Polka Court and operated an 'open door' policy – her home was always a place for people to call in at any time. Her family remember especially her Yorkshire puddings, meat and potato pie and birthday cakes, amongst other Yorkshire delicacies. They also enjoyed many family outings and picnics together at Millhouses Park. She has enjoyed being a regular member of the Christ Church Lunch Club, as shown in the photograph. Her family are grateful to the care workers from Care UK and Allied Healthcare who worked so hard to make Jean's life as comfortable as possible.

A Soldier from Sheffield

Story: Saleema Imam

Alan Billam who spent much of his life in Grimesthorpe has published a book in memory of his father— its a limited edition of 200 copies.

The book begins and ends with an account of his father Thomas Anthony Billam's experiences in the First World War. Born in Crookes, on January 5th 1895 he was the 9th of 13 children. He joined the army in December 1915 and was stationed at Catterick camp, N. Yorks, with the machine gun corps. Little is known of the next two years because many military records were destroyed during the blitz in the Second World War. However on Christmas Eve, 1917, he married Laura Lockwood at St Thomas's church, Brightside, and moved to live with her in Brightside Lane. He subsequently transferred to the Tank Corps.



At the end of the war Thomas Anthony Billam - T'ant to his friends, was involved in the occupation of the Rhine, mostly in Cologne. He and Laura set up home in Ruthin Street and two years later moved to Grimesthorpe Road and, not long before his death in 1978, to a flat on the Whiteways estate.

The majority of the book is a detailed history of the 12th Battalion of the Tank Corps, comprising a miscellany of photographs, maps, facsimiles of military war diaries and other war records. Photographs towards the end of the book are more personal, depicting Thomas Anthony Billam's war medals and badges, postcards sent home and visits to war graves at Serre by his grandson.

To buy a copy of the book contact Alan Billam on 01552 811 177

Peggy Doman

Story: Philip Ireson

Peggy Doman came to the UK in 1956 and has lived here for fifty-eight years. For most of that time she has lived in Pitsmoor. From 1968 Peggy has been a member of Christ Church and just two years ago she was confirmed by the Bishop of Doncaster.

Peggy, who lives alone, is very independent and full of life but her remarkable mother, Violet Moss-Brown, will be 114 in March. Her eldest child is in his nineties and her oldest grandchild is over seventy. Last August, Peggy hosted a large birthday party at SADACCA in honour of her mother and this year she is hoping to fly to Jamaica to celebrate the birthday.



Heritage showcase

Story: Saleema Imam

Friends of Burngreave Cemetery had a stall at the Heritage Lottery 'jamboree' at St Mary's Community Centre Friday 17th January. On display was research about the mining history around the Burngreave Cemetery. Other local projects also took part and enjoyed a full afternoon of activities including a spectacular film projection by Steve Poole onto the outside of the church.



The Adventure reopens



In December Pitsmoor Adventure Playground reopened after being closed by the Council for 2 months.

Thanks to the hard work of local residents, who repaired and removed equipment, and to persistent campaigning by playground user Akeel Khan, the playground was able to reopen in time for the Christmas party. The Council made minor alterations to the building.

On one work day in November, twenty local residents moved ten tons of sand to the top of the playground to improve the surface under the zipwire. Considering how steep the playground site is, it was a massive achievement. Akeel said,

"Everyone's hard work has paid off. It's brilliant to be back, and it's getting bigger. There were 50 kids here on Saturday, I think they know the effort people have put in. I'm feeling positive about the future. Where would we be without the playground?"

The Christmas party was a great way to celebrate what everyone had achieved. The playground's own Santa gave out 70 gifts



donated by Hallam FM, there were food and games and everyone enjoyed the newly improved zipwire and their favourite activities.

Local residents now have to take on running the playground to prevent the Council from closing it permanently. They are setting up a new charity and will be employing staff directly from April.

If you are interested in getting involved please email pitsmooradventure@yahoo.co.uk

Playground jobs coming soon

The playground charity will be recruiting staff to run the playground in February and March

To express an interest please contact the group by email at pitsmooradventure@yahoo.co.uk

Selection will be by application only

Application packs will be available in February/March

Photo: Erin Blythe



March of celebration

Over 100 women and children marched through Fir Vale on 26th January to celebrate the birth of the Prophet Muhammad.

Fir Vale based Islamic group Minhaj-ul-Quran organised the event, Waheed said, "It's for the whole community anyone can join in. People are also giving food for the children. Local businesses and local residents come out to see us."

Shahida said, "It is important that our children learn from us we want them to be good citizens for the future. What a blessing that the rain stopped, it was raining heavily this morning and just as we stepped out it stopped."

Hindu Samaj volunteer

Story: Liz Searle

"Volunteers are the life and soul of Britain's breathing spaces..."

Chamu Kuppaswamy is a Volunteer Ranger with the Peak District National Park, as well as being well known locally as a dance teacher at the Hindu Samaj in Burngreave. She has won a National Parks Volunteer Award for her dedication to opening up the countryside to people who do not normally visit it.

Chamu is passionate about the benefits of volunteering: "I've met and found out about people from all different backgrounds, who are all willing to give and share their time. I've found out about this country through the land and the people."

For the full story visit:
www.nationalparks.gov.uk/aboutus/jobs/volunteerawards-2013



Julia Mary Pidd

1927-2013

Julia Pidd (nee Postlethwaite) died in October 2013 aged 86, after a number of years of ill health. She will be remembered by many Firshill residents and members of St Cuthbert's Church Fir Vale as one of the most active people in her community.

Julia was born on Skinnerthorpe Road Fir Vale on 19th August 1927. Her mother died when she was 8 and Julia helped bring up her 3 brothers; Jim (who is 92), Wally and Morrel, who died in 1944 in Scotland where he was training pilots for the RAF

In 1953 Julia married Jack from Addison Road, at St Cuthbert's Church. They had two sons John and Mark, and lived on Goddard Hall Road. Julia had a number of challenging jobs, first at Jessop



Saville Steelworks, where she worked in the research department as a PA (personal assistant). After having children she went to work at Utley plumbing and glazing merchants in Fir Vale. Later she worked for an accountants firm near the Northern General, where she stayed until she was 72. The firm asked her to stay on part-time after she was 60, but found they couldn't manage without her and she continued working full time.

Julia moved to the Firshill estate in 1991, and was a long standing member of Firshill TARA. She loved the estate and had many friends there. She set up and helped maintain the Firshill community garden, which includes roses planted in memory of Jean Hayden, former chair of Firshill Tenants and Residents Association. She helped organise the summer fair, and volunteered at the lunch club in the old Firshill Community Centre and later St James Lunch club. She was also an active member of the craft group. In 2009 she received an Area Panel Award for long-standing contribution to the TARA. Councillor Jackie Drayton remembered the great contribution she made to the community,

"Julia was a wonderful person, kind, thoughtful, hard working and totally committed to getting the best for all members of her community and to



improving the Firshill estate, where she lived. She was especially interested in gardening and wildlife and was instrumental in working with Green City Action to create the small Community garden on the estate. She will be missed!"

Throughout her life she volunteered at St Cuthbert's church. She was heavily involved in the Guides, for which she won awards, as well as many church activities. Reverend Louise Collins, Vicar of St Cuthbert's Fir Vale said,

"We at St Cuthbert's love and miss Julia Pidd very much. She was a lifelong member of this church and one of the 'busy bees' who make church and community life happen, a member of the Mothers Union, Women's Fellowship, Friends of St Cuthbert's, the Parochial Church Council and much more.

"Julia's toy tombola is legendary. All year round she would scour the charity shops, looking for sad and neglected soft toys, buy them and nurse them back to life with a spin in the washing machine, ready for a new home.

"Julia broke down the generation gap, relating to the young and not-so-young alike. No doubt her brilliant sense of wit and humour made this possible. Julia's faith, the Christian faith, was integral to her life and made her who she was."

Julia will be sadly missed by her family, including grandchildren Rachael and Mark. Rachael wrote this moving tribute to her Grandma:

Quite simply, my Grandma was the most wonderful, incredible person I will ever know. Grandma was so much more than a Grandma to me- she was my everything; my soul-mate, my friend, my role model. And what a role model I had!

Grandma was clever and witty; strong

and courageous. She had a voice that was heard and a faith that could not be shaken.

Grandma had a love of life and a unique ability to look around and see the world in all its HD, 3D, glorious technicolour. She saw beauty in the smallest of things and this is one of the most precious gifts that she passed on to me.

Grandma had a generosity of spirit and a kindness that is unparalleled in this world. She cared passionately for her friends, her church and her local community, dedicating her time for many years to help out wherever she could and to make the world a better place for the community she lived in.

Grandma had a firm belief that it is better to do things, to get out there and experience life, than it is to own material things. This is something Grandma instilled in me and I am so grateful to her. Above all, Grandma loved her family - without hesitation, unconditionally, and she showed her love every day.

My Grandma's love and guidance made me the woman I am today.

Julia's tree

Story: Lisa Swift

Just before Christmas a tree was stolen in Firs Hill which was planted by Julia Pidd. Julia died in October and it was very upsetting for all who knew her to see the tree go missing.



Julia Pidd paid for and planted the Monkey Puzzle tree in 2007, with support from the Council's Forestry Team. She was active in the community for many years and wanted to plant her favourite tree for the whole estate to enjoy for years to come.

As the tree was so significant to local residents local Councillors and the Forestry Team have agreed to pay for and plant a replacement, which will hopefully be planted in spring.



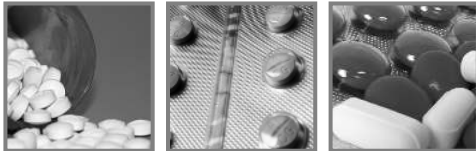
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- Marketing & communications (including social media)
- IT/Systems
- Legal
- Finance / income generation
- Property leasing

The board currently meets monthly however the frequency of this meeting is under review. Meetings are held in the evenings, normally at our premises in Burngreave but sometimes at alternative venues.

If you are interested please ring for the Watoto Pre-School Trustees Information Pack on 0114 275 1817

Or visit our web site: www.watotopreschool.co.uk

Please email a copy of your CV and a covering letter describing why you are interested in becoming a trustee and what you hope to contribute to: manager@watotopreschool.co.uk

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