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www.burngreavemessenger.org

Voice of the Burngreave Community

# **Celebrating International Women's Day**



Story: Yiwen Zheng | Photos: Lisa Swift

#### Women in Burngreave joined in the celebrations for International Women's Day in March.

International Women's Day on 8th March celebrates the economic, political and social achievements of the past, present and future. Its origins are rooted in the struggle for women's rights for fair pay and working conditions, universal suffrage and equal rights. It has been celebrated worldwide since 1911.

Nearly 200 women celebrated on March 12th at Verdon Recreation Centre. There were stalls, activities and workshops at the event, including Somali dance, Zumba, henna, a live DJ, and laughing yoga. The women enjoyed delicious food and refreshments.



The celebration was organised by health workers, Tahira Faiz, Somshun Nessa and Shima Nazir and were assisted by Aislinn Adams and volunteers who run a women's project - Feeling Good - which started last September. It gives Burngreave women a chance to socialise, exercise, knit, sew and get health advice.

Local resident Ursula Myrie gave an inspiring speech at the event. Ursula, who runs the Adira support group in Fir Vale, talked about her experience of domestic abuse and encouraged women who are suffering to seek help.

"I have two daughters and we moved to Sheffield to flee domestic violence. I feel better in myself now and I want to give something back. So I set up Adira to support single parents. You cannot live in fear forever. I say to others, 'I found a way out so can you.'"



Adult students from Byron Wood School's English class wrote about their experience of International Women's Day.

"When we arrived there were lots of activities like hairdressing, eye examinations, facials and things for sale. We drank coffee and ate biscuits and fruit. We really enjoyed it there!"

Ebtesam Obaid

"The hall had a lot of people. Women did henna and massage. After that they played music and some people danced. I enjoyed it very much." Dama Abdi

"I saw someone doing make up, a lady with books from the library and someone with flowers and plants. I ate some fruit and bought a book for my daughter. It was a nice day, I loved it." Dhua Shaif

"It was great. We experienced hand massages, great free food and henna as well. We also saw great hair products and there was a nurse who checked people's blood pressure. Everything was free. It was very good." Khadra Liban



Burngreave women honour International Women's Day: Supporting women's enterprise in Fir Vale, looking after each others' health at SADACCA, and inspiring the next generation at the Town Hall. See page 4 for full stories.



# **JOB: Early Years Practitioner**

1 year Term time only post Could be extended subject to funding 16/22 hrs per week. Salary: £6.31 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
- Build on partnerships with parent/carers to increase involvement in children's learning and 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 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 Friday 18th April 2014

For application pack/informal enquiries call Sharon or Lillian on 0114 275 1817 or email manager@watotopreschool.co.uk

### **Prospective Board Members**

**Watoto Pre-School** are looking for four trustees who would enjoy the opportunity to contribute their expertise to provide robust and dynamic governance and help the Board achieve its ambition to grow and sustain the charity.

We are looking to recruit new members to our board of trustees in the following areas:

- 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

Closing date: Friday 18th April 2014

Watoto Pre-School, 139 Catherine Road, Sheffield, S4 7HJ. info@watotopreschool.co.uk | www.watotopreschool.com



### **Burngreave Cemetery Chapel**

#### We are looking for volunteers to:

- 1. Help with monthly sessions to plant and maintain the flowerbeds around the chapel
- 2. Learn to look after the beehives being sited within the cemetery
- **3.** Help create our annual well dressing. This year we are planning a visit to one of the Derbyshire wells

#### Coming events in the cemetery:

Bat walk with Robert Croxton Friday 25th April starting at 8pm

**72 hour Permaculture Design Certificate course** 6 monthly weekends beginning 3rd and 4th May

Interested in any of the above?

Contact Saleema on 07950 299 073 or saleema.imam141@googlemail.com

For further events check the website on www.friendsofburngreavecemetery.btck.co.uk





Registered Charity 1095725

Green City Action has a vacancy for the post of

#### **Toolbank Co-ordinator**

Salary: £10 per hour plus 5% pension contribution.

This post is part-time at 7 hours per week and is funded until 31st March 2015.

**Purpose of job:** To enable groups and individuals undertake gardening and DIY projects by giving help and advice, hiring out tools and equipment, tool maintenance and project publicity.

Applicants must have experience of using and maintaining a wide range of gardening and DIY tools and equipment.

Closing date: Monday 28th April 2014 at 5pm Interview date: Wednesday 7th May 2014

For an application pack please contact Green City Action on email at:

enquiries @ green city action.org.uk

Or by phone on 0114 244 0353

www.GreenCityAction.org.uk www.facebook.com/GreenCityAction





# Changes to concessionary travel passes

Story and photos: Graham Jones

Public transport is vital in Burngreave where over 50% of households have no access to a car, compared with 30% across the whole city. Even car owners take the bus to town or the Northern General Hospital because of prohibitive parking charges.

Funding for transport – which comes from the four councils in South Yorkshire – is being cut by £8.3 million this year. Part of the cuts will affect bus passes for disabled people and over 60s.

Passholders will no longer be able to travel for free on buses or trams before 0930 or after 2300 on weekdays. They will also lose free rail travel in South Yorkshire.

The FreeBee bus will be withdrawn on Sunday 27 April 2014.

A 50p fare increase will be put in place on all community transport services from Monday 31 March 2014. This includes the Door 2 Door, Dial-a-Ride and Shopper Bus services. It will be the first fare increase in four years.

Child fares will remain unchanged at 70p a trip.

#### Some fightbacks

At the budget meeting on 7 March 2014, Sheffield councillors promised £12,000 to help disabled children travelling to school in Sheffield.

The announcement is a big success for all the parents who campaigned against the restrictions. They told councillors the cuts were not just unfair, but a false economy because they would make it harder for young people with disabilities to become independent travellers. It would result in increased demand for special needs transport.

The parents also hope it will apply to passes for carers to escort a disabled child or young person to school or college - but this has yet to be confirmed.

At the other end of the age spectrum, around two hundred protestors gathered in Barnsley where councillors from across South Yorkshire had voted to cut bus pass use. Plans for further protests include a mass of elderly and disabled



concessionary pass users boarding a train on 31st March, the first day of the cuts, and refusing to pay the fare.

Members of Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind (SRSB) held a protest and lobbied Sheffield City Council on 7th March. Blind people are concerned at the difficulties of handling change and checking tickets.

Deaf people in Rotherham have condemned the changes too.

A legal challenge against the changes has been presented by Sheffield Law Centre due to alleged breaches of the Equality Act. The Law Centre has asked the South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority to reconsider and postpone the changes.

#### ... but even more bad news

First Buses will increase bus fares by up to 13% from Sunday 30th March. Ben Gilligan, Managing Director for First, said:

"We have worked hard to keep any increases to a minimum. We appreciate nobody likes any increase to fares but it has been necessary to review some of our prices to meet the ongoing challenge of rising costs to our business. However we have frozen a number of our fares, including all of our South Yorkshire-wide tickets and all our month and annual tickets."

First plans to invest £10m in new buses in 2014, following last year's investment in 41 new buses.

#### New prices from 30th March

- NEW! Child Week Ticket introduced at £5
- NEW! Child Day Ticket introduced at £2
- Sheffield £1.30 £1.90 fares increase by 10p
- Sheffield £1.50 £2 fares increase by 20p
- First Day Sheffield increases by 20p to £3.80
- First Week Sheffield increases by 50p to £12
- Student single fare increases from 8op to £1



#### **Roof repaired**



Now the scaffolding is down, Abbeyfield Park House is looking out over the park with its newly-repaired roof.

This important work will preserve this historic building in the centre of Burngreave and help security in the park.

The Friends of Abbeyfield Park are now looking for new trustees so we hope those who care about the future of the park will come forward and be a part of it. Details are on page 23.

The Burngreave Messenger office is now downstairs at Abbeyfield Park House, please use the side door when you visit.

ssenger Info

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**Proofing and editing:** Fran Belbin, Gaynor Carr, Robert Shaw, Julia Shergold, John Steers, Muneebah Waheed.

### **Enterprising women**

International Women's Day was celebrated in Burngreave in March showing women play a vital role in modern society.

Usha Blackham, the organiser of the celebration event in Firvale Centre, told us the event gave women the chance to leave their home and enjoy themselves. It also helped them develop businesses and boost their income for their families by having stalls at the event.

Jabeena Harif brought some facial products and helped women to cleanse their faces and clear toxins through face massage at the event. Some of her products were made of fruit which were

very popular. Customers could make appointments for the facial service in their own homes.

Hanan plans to open a women's hair salon so she gave free haircuts to women at the event and talked to them to find out what would be reasonable prices in her future salon.

Jameela runs a beauty salon and a wedding party planning service. She brought some perfume, candles and hand decorated flower vases to the event to find out what women like.

Rashida did massage for local women for relaxation and to raise money for Palestinian women. She also has a home based business as a part-time job, called Forever Living, selling natural products.



Shahzia sold some household items on her stall on the event, such as jewellery, perfume, clothes and children's shoes.

The event was an excellent showcase of women's enterprise.

# **Supporting women**

The Women's Group at SADACCA (Sheffield And District African Caribbean Community Association) celebrated International Women's Day by focusing on the topic of women's health.

Carmen Franklin, the organiser, said, "International Women's Day was started to encourage women of all cultures and nationality to meet together, to listen to each other, to gain confidence and to share information and skills." Chair of SADACCA Women's Group Myrtle Walker also said, "Women are important and our group provides education and support to women. Our members share different ideas and sing together. Our group has a history of over 30 years."



After a welcome speech and introduction by the Chair, NHS Mental Health Officer, Shima Nazir, gave the first speech on the importance of mental health for women. Then there was information from Catherine Davis about Breast Cancer awareness. Guests then enjoyed lunch while children from a local dancing school Romano Jilo performed. All the food was provided by women from SADACCA Women's Group who were volunteers.

After lunch, Christine Handley, who was from SYBRG (South Yorkshire Biodiversity Research Group) talked about the Harvesting Our Heritage project, which is about how different cultures use different plant species to make medicines. Maxwell Ayamba gave the last presentation on Ecological Therapy to inspire people to heal themselves with nature and exercise in the outdoors.

To finish the day women enjoyed therapeutic massage, bringing to an end a successful and meaningful celebration of International Women's Day.



### **Inspiring women**

Burngreave women took part in events at the Sheffield Town Hall on Saturday 8th March to celebrate International Women's Day.

Sheffield Women's Network Chair, Councillor Jackie Drayton, introduced the event which aimed to encourage girls and women to challenge stereotyping and to believe that they can achieve anything they set their minds to.

The event included a panel of inspirational women including Sue Pearson, Chiwoniso Mukome, Elena Rodriguez-Falcon and Safiya Saeed, who shared their life stories. Safiya Saeed from Burngreave said:

"I was born in Abu Dhabi in 1972 and came to Sheffield in 1985 when I was 13. I learned English in 6 months, went to college, later I got a job in Marks and Spencers and then went on to set up my own business, Saf Saf Hair and Beauty. I won Cosmopolitan's Ultimate Women's Woman Award in 2007 for the business. I am inspired by my daughters and I hope

they see me being strong and are inspired too."

Responding to a question from the audience about Female Genital Mutilation, Safiya said, "It is a cultural thing, some women don't think it is wrong to use a razor and needle on a 10 year old girl. My friend in Cardiff started a campaign against the practice and I am supporting her. It is illegal, and men say they don't want their wives cut. Education is the most important tool, and I'm going to keep talking about it."

Closing the event, Jackie Drayton, Councillor for Burngreave said, "I hope you've felt inspired by today and I hope we will hold out our hands to help other women in the future."



# **Reach up for careers**

Story: Saiba Mahmood | Photo: Hajara Farooq

Burngreave based group 'Reach up' organised a careers advice day for young people at the Town Hall on 15th March, with support from Sheffieldr. Reach up is an organisation for girls, based on Verdon Street, that helps girls express their views, ideas and opinions.

The group invited people from different professions, including a doctor, dental hygienist, business owner, fire service and police

service, so children from year 8 onwards could get advice about the career they are interested in.

A young volunteer from Broomhall, Ahmed Abdi, who is studying at university said, "I would advise young people to follow what you want to do and stick to the subject which you are interested in." Doctor Shadia Ahmed said, "It's important to do volunteer work, and not to give up even when things don't go the way you had hoped." A Special Constable of South Yorkshire Police, Abaid Hussain, advised young people to get involved in volunteer policing or the Cadets; not only does it improve confidence, but it also gives good experience and a stable base when applying for other jobs.

The organiser of the event Safiya Saeed stated, "This event was all about inspiration and getting the right advice from the right person. All our guests are here to give advice and are good role models for the kids. It is a city wide event but our main target is BME children."

The local MP, David Blunkett also took part in the event. He said, "From my own experiences, I want people to have access to opportunities and do things that others think they can't do. I was determined to succeed and now I am determined to help others succeed."

# Service to be proud of

Story: Michelle Cook

Rashida Hassanali has been the lead professional in extended services at our local schools for seven years. Her post has now been cut, and she leaves in March. Rashida spoke about her experience.

"I feel proud that I've been able to help create and develop opportunities for adults and children to achieve and contribute in all sorts of different ways! When so many of my extended schools colleagues across the city lost their jobs in 2011, the local schools had the foresight to continue funding my post, to enable this important work to continue."

Women were at the heart of this work. Rashida was driven by enabling women to return to paid employment or make valuable contributions to the community. Women were empowered by this training and then took various posts, some in the community, and in schools as teaching assistants. "Our local schools are full of people who started out by accessing courses and learning in the schools they now work in!"

Burngreave's extended services earned respect citywide and was chosen for many pilots and projects as there was confidence and trust. The government says that schools should be outward looking; they hold big budgets, employ a lot of people and have a responsibility to the community. There is concern this will now slip and they will become inward facing.

"I've been a strong link between the schools and other organisations for a long time and Fir Vale family of schools has been involved in lots of exciting and innovative projects as a result. I worry that this outward-facing approach will be lost without this post in the future, and that some of the individual schools will go back to serving their own school communities without looking at the wider context."

Ofsted has said that extended services enabled outstanding, exemplary practice. Local schools currently work together to provide extended services so parents can access opportunities across Burngreave and Fir Vale. Parental involvement is now



embedded in all the local schools, impacting on children's motivation, attendance and achievement. Rashida is particularly proud of strands of work of her team, making massive progress with ESOL, family learning, employability programmes and citizenship through Women's Voices.

"Giving women the confidence to speak with their own voices directly to those who need to listen to them is my greatest achievement, and it is those women I will always remember."

As new communities join us, we face new challenges and it remains important that this work continues to the highest standard. Rashida would like to thank everyone she has worked with! We would like to thank her and wish her luck in the future.

If you want to know more about these extended services please contact:

Firs Hill: Kath Hobson 0114 242 0109

St Catherine's: Liz Smith or Tracey Samuels 0114 303 0381

**Byron Wood:** Smaira Sadique 0114 272 3624 **Whiteways:** Usha Blackham 0114 242 3169

Owlerbrook: Claire Shaw or Shamila Mudassar 0114 243 8611

Pye Bank: Zabeda Hussain 0114 276 0472

Fir Vale: Janet Lawson or Isabelle Galmes 0114 243 9391

If you're part of a project or service and want to develop strategic work with the schools, please contact the relevant head teacher.



# Admissions plan on hold at Fir Vale

Story: Lisa Swift

Fir Vale School has announced that controversial proposals to change their admissions process are on hold.

The proposed scheme would have introduced 'fair banding,' which means pupils have to take an ability test to get in.

In a letter to local parents, councillors and other local schools, the school confirmed it was suspending its consultation process on 18th February. It was due to finish on 1st March. The school stated: "On the basis of the responses and agreements already received, governors agreed with the Local Authority to put the current consultation process on hold."

The Council has announced it will be reviewing the city-wide school admissions arrangements. Fir Vale School said,

"This will hopefully address concerns regarding the ever-increasing number of students in the Fir Vale catchment area, which by far exceed the number of places."

Parents of children at local schools presented a petition against Fir Vale School's proposals to the Council's Cabinet meeting on 19th February.

Local parent Nargis Rahmatullah presented the petition, telling councillors,

"As well as bringing this petition to the Cabinet, we are also making a petition to the school. We have asked for open and transparent consultation, which we do not think there has been. We feel the proposals will harm cohesion in Page Hall. We feel it would put pressure on the community. We do not think it is fair to ask children to go through another test to get a place in school. Parents from different schools in the area are

concerned about it."

In response Jackie Drayton, Cabinet member for Children and Young People and Burngreave local councillor, said,

"Admissions by ability completely goes against the Council's approach. Jayne Ludlam [Director of Education] and myself have written to the school to express our concerns, not just because of the impact it would have on Fir Vale but also because of the impact it would have on other schools and other areas in the city. There has been disquiet from other schools on the issue.

"I have written to the headteacher as a local councillor expressing concern that she did not tell local elected members, the local MP or the Local Authority about the consultation. I have also asked for a public meeting on the issue.

"Fir Vale School is at the heart of the community and local people want their children to go there, and these proposals would have prevented that. It is very divisive.

"We are reviewing the admissions policy for the city, and we hope all schools will sign up to the city-wide admissions process again, including Fir Vale. If not, we can appeal against any decision to follow a different admissions process."

# **Licensing concerns in Page Hall**

Story: Rohan Francis

Landlords in the Selective Licensing area of Page Hall attended a series of Council meetings in February and March to discuss the conditions of the scheme, which begins on 22nd April.

At the February meeting, held inside Firth Park Clock Tower, around 25 landlords met to hear a presentation by officers from the Council's Private Housing Standards team on the details of the 'Standards and Conditions' document. About 200 landlords will now have to comply with these conditions in order to continue renting in the area.

The document lists the conditions required in private rented properties including the provision of safe and efficient appliances, home security, fire safety, kitchen and bathroom facilities, waste and rubbish disposal, energy efficiency and overcrowding.

Landlords were unhappy that some conditions would mean upgrading their properties beyond the levels required by current law. For example, the Council will demand all private rented properties in the Selective Licensing area are improved to achieve an energy performance certificate of Band D. This is significantly more demanding - and with a much tighter timescale, than the current EU target, which asks that landlords' houses reach the lower Band E level by 2018. One landlord said, "There is a huge cost to meeting Band D, which could be thousands of pounds. Why not set the standard at Band E and help landlords reach D by 2018?"

Local resident and landlord, Ahsan Ashraf of Firvale Community Action Team, explained, "Whilst we all agree that property standards set out in law should be adhered to, what causes friction is where landlords are asked to satisfy Council conditions that are not part of the general law of the land."

Similar concerns were raised about requirements for landlords to provide kitchen appliances with A-rated or higher energy efficiency, which landlords explained would mean either buying all new machinery or, more likely, would see the reduction of 'furnished' properties in Page Hall, making life more difficult for families on low incomes.



At the follow up meeting on March 22nd at the Vestry Hall, the issue of overcrowding rules were again a cause for concern. Housing officers pointed out that existing tenants would be treated differently to new ones, with existing tenants allowed to have more people in a property. Landlords were concerned about how they would establish exactly how many tenants were living in a property especially when family situations often change, and how these conditions might lead to discrimination against tenants with growing families. Officers said they would look carefully at what was expected of landlords in order to meet the overcrowding conditions.

The Private Housing Standards team encouraged landlords to get in touch if they had any questions on 0114 273 4680 or email: selectivelicensing@sheffield.gov.uk

# **Evaluating mental health care**

Story and photo: Lisa Swift

Mental Health campaigners Maat Probe Group held a range of events in February to involve people in their evaluation of mental health care.

The group is asking service users if they have seen any changes in their treatment on psychiatric wards in the last 18 months. This would show if training staff in hospitals to use de-escalation or 'Respect' techniques rather than restraint has improved service users' experience.

At a networking event in the Vestry Hall on 19th February, they shared their experience of campaigning with other mental health groups and service users. The Maat Probe band played uplifting music at the Harland Café on 6th February and at the SPACES centre on Pitsmoor Road on 21st February. Members of the group shared their own experience of mental health care, which has motivated them to campaign for better services for people who are in hospital with mental illness.

Maat Probe Group member Paul told his story to service users at the SPACES centre, and about the campaign the group are involved in:

"With my struggle continuing I found hope with Maat. I spoke to others about my experience - the good, the bad and the ugly. I felt at ease talking to others with a similar experience to mine. Nerves, anxiety, tension, shyness are some of the things I felt. Slowly but surely I found my place with Maat. I found a voice, I found opportunity, I found hope.



"A new struggle has started, the struggle to stop people being hurt, damaged and killed in the mental health system using dangerous undignified control and restraint methods. We wanted to be heard, we wanted to be understood. We fought, we lobbied, we campaigned, we succeeded in Sheffield. Respect is an alternative de-escalation technique which is more respectful. If people help us with our struggle by filling in the questionnaire that will strengthen our campaign."

The group hopes that through their research they can spread their campaign across the country.

To find out more about Maat Probe Group contact Otis Hinds at SACMHA on 07878 219 867.



# Fundraising for Kenyan school

Story: Schola Cashdan | Photos: Rob Hindle

Firs Hill ESOL Level 1 students, tutors, families and friends organised a fundraising event for a school project in Kenya in February.

A big thank you to everyone who helped and Mrs Dina Martin, Headteacher, and Kath Hobson of Firs Hill School, for making it happen. More thanks to Rasha Hadi for designing the invitations and Faeza Scott for the cheesecake. We are grateful also to Rob Hindle from the WEA (Workers' Educational Association), the course organiser who supported us and attended the event. We raised an amazing amount of £700!

Here are the students' accounts of their experience.

Story writers: Amal Ahmed, Deka Mohamed, Fatima Al-Hidabi, Khadra Yusuf, Layla Husein, Manal Al-Hamidi, Masarat Bibi, Nargis Shakil, Noreen Kousar, Roda Oogle, Safia Ahmed, Samar Mohammed, Sobia Bi and Sobia Shah.

#### The planning stage

First we talked about the event and looked at the website (www.elimuaction.org) to find out about the project. We had a meeting to decide the details of the event. We organised ourselves in small groups and one group prepared the presentation to explain about the event. Invitations were then designed and sent out.

#### The activities

People suggested different types of food to sell. We also planned to have activities such as beauty and makeup, henna decorations, massage and hair styling. We had many other items like toys, books, creams and lotions, handbags, jewellery and ornaments.

#### **Future improvement**

Next time we will assign ourselves to do different jobs and put someone to be in charge of each section. We will buy cutlery and bags to serve the food and



have boxes for cash collection. In future we will also display all the items and put on the prices before we start selling.

#### How we felt

"On that day I felt excited and delighted because it was my first time to do something for charity!" Layla Husein

"We felt very happy after the event and we think we did a magnificent job!" Safia and Deka

"We felt very excited and happy because we helped to raise money for the Kenya school project." Masarat and Amal

"It was a lovely day and I got great experience of how to organise a fundraising event." Sobia Shah

"After the event I felt very proud of myself because I had done something good for someone who needs help." Noreen Kousar

"We felt very happy after the event because we all did a fabulous job for this noble cause." Sobia Bi and Nargis

# **Public meeting about Khat**

Story: Rohan Francis | Photo: Anwar Suliman

On 18th February, local residents attended a public meeting at the Vestry Hall to express their anger at the proposed ban of Khat. The Government has yet to confirm what date the plant will be banned.

Saeed Abdi from Somali Mental Health, opened the meeting followed by vice chair of the Yemeni Community Association YCA Gamal Al-Hadideh, who said, "We want to discuss this issue in a rational and democratic way. We are not here to promote or discourage the use of Khat. We want people to have their say."

Local Solicitor, Saleh Alnoud, was critical of the process the Government had used to introduce the ban. "The use of Khat has been divisive, and has polarised our community for many years. I'm not for or against a ban, but we live in a democratic society. Politicians have ignored expert opinion and done very little consultation. This has been forced on the community by the Government in a very undemocratic way."

Sheffield MP Paul Blomfield was concerned about the risks of criminalising a previously legal activity, but told the meeting, "Whatever we think, the Government will proceed with the ban."

Dr Axel Klein, from the University of Kent, had studied the arguments for introducing the ban and was sceptical about the links that the Government has made between Khat use and social harm, organised crime and terrorism. "The Home Secretary wants to show herself to be tough on immigration and that's what this ban is about. However, a ban is not irreversible and I will be collecting evidence to show the failure of the ban to reduce harm."

Simon Finney from the Drugs and Alcohol Co-ordination Team, said he had worked in the service for 30 years and had never come across a law change like this before. "This is new to all of us and we are concentrating on communicating to the public that the law is changing."



Police representative Brendan Pakenham said it was important people realised that the law will change and Khat will be illegal. The Police will be proportional and professional in upholding the law. "We do not want to see an increase in stop and search figures or complaints. However, if people are caught with Khat, they will be cautioned first, fined for a second offence and for a third time an arrest could result in a criminal record."

Following the panel's presentations, the meeting heard from members of the audience who expressed anger and frustration at the proposed law change. Ahmed said, "The ban was a systematic campaign against migrants. Just like the 'Go Home' poster, it's about getting votes."

A trustee of the YCA told the meeting, "Are we British only on our passports, or do we have rights as well? The Government don't care about us. Our well educated young people can't even get decent jobs."

Mr Hassan said, "This is our way to relax, like other people do at the pub, and yet there's less problems than with drinking."

At the time of going to press, Parliament have yet to approve the control of Khat as a Class C substance. Once this approval has been given, the new law will come into effect after 28 days.

# Open up Parkwood Springs!

Story & photo: Neill Schofield

The Friends of Parkwood Springs are pressing Viridor, the owners of the Parkwood Springs landfill, to open up the site much sooner than they have suggested.

The Parkwood Springs landfill is due to close in 2018 and be restored in 2020. Viridor have confirmed that they are sticking to this plan, despite the fact that increased recycling and incineration means the volume of tipped rubbish has decreased. Viridor have to apply to the City Council for planning permission for their new plans. They have been consulting with local residents, prior to putting in the planning application. This will probably happen in May.

The plans include letting the public onto a small section of the site and some



improvements to footpaths within the first five years after the site is closed. But, according to the consultation document, Viridor want to keep most of the area closed for many years.

Viridor want to keep people off the restored site because of the network of pipes and infrastructure to collect methane gas, which is used to generate electricity which Viridor then sell to the National Grid. The document doesn't set

a time limit but previously the company has spoken of up to 40 years.

The Friends Group recently visited the closed Beighton tip, now called Lindley Bank Meadows (pictured left), to see how the restoration has been managed there. Capping of that site only finished in 2008 but already the public have access despite methane gas being collected and used for electricity generation in the same way as is proposed at Parkwood Springs. Excellent paths criss-cross the site, including a section of the Trans-Pennine Trail.

The Friends Group does not want the public to go onto the site until it is safe but we think Viridor should learn more from the experience of places like Beighton. We should not have to wait 30 or 40 years for access to this area, which links the northern and southern parts of Parkwood Springs. In particular, we will campaign strongly against any provision in the planning permission that restricts access until the gas pipes have been finally removed.

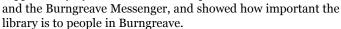


# Residents support Burngreave Library

Story: Lisa Swift

Residents, families and children flocked to Burngreave Library on 8th February to support their local library and celebrate National Libraries Day.

Byron Wood Parents Group ran activities for children, while Burngreave Tenants and Residents Association and supporters of the Save Burngreave Library Campaign provided cakes, biscuits and refreshments. The event was also supported by Pye Bank Parents Group



One mother at the event, Halima Ahmed said, "I have a child with Downs Syndrome, it is really important that she can mix with other children, so that we can increase understanding between children. The library is a good place for her to meet children from other schools."

Rayan said, "It is important that the library doesn't close because kids need to read and get books for homework."

Idil Arab said, "I love the library because you can do your homework on the laptop, and you can learn a lot from the books they have."

#### Keeping the library open

Burngreave TARA submitted a plan to the Council on behalf of local residents in January, which proposed fundraising to keep the library open with current staff. The Council accepted the plan, and this prevented the library being closed in April. Save Burngreave Library Group are now meeting regularly to plan fundraising activities. The library will continue with its current opening hours until September 2014 when the Group will need to have funds in place to keep it staffed. The group hopes the library will remain staffed by Council employees after September, funded by the community and donations.

The group have said they will not be running the library directly, and will be working to keep it a Council-run service. Save Burngreave Library Group is supported by local primary schools and will be part of Burngreave Tenants and Residents Association (TARA) who will be managing any money that is collected for the library. Margaret Williams, Secretary of Burngreave TARA said,

"We are raising money for staff at the Library, because we know the library needs to be a professional service so it can help and support local residents and children."

#### Library moves to Sorby House

Burngreave Library is moving to Sorby House in March and will reopen on the ground floor, next to the new Housing Office on 7th April.



A sad farewell to the Burngreave Library building. The library will reopen in Sorby House on 7th April.

Residents have told the Council they are not happy with the move, but the Council said it will save money,

"Moving the Library into the building ultimately saves tax payers' money. The library and housing office functions are being relocated into Sorby House as it is no longer financially viable to continue to run them in separate buildings. Sheffield City Council is currently in negotiations with Sheffield College regarding the proposed use of the Burngreave Housing Office and Library buildings following vacation by the Council."

Baby Time restarts at Burngreave Library, Sorby House, Monday 14th April, 10-11am. All babies, parents and carers welcome.

#### Make a donation or get involved

If you would like to help Save Burngreave Library Group to keep the library open you can join the group, or organise a fundraising event or make a donation.

Contact Burngreave Tenants and Residents Association 07983 921 653 Monday-Friday 10am—4pm, burngreavetara@gmail.com or the Burngreave Messenger 242 0564, mail@burngreavemessenger.org

Or visit **burngreavelibrary.wordpress.com** to make a donation.

#### **Fundraising events**

Burngreave TARA Easter Fayre, Burngreave Vestry Hall, Saturday, 12th April 2014,12 noon till 3.00pm

Pitsmoor Adventure Playground Funday, Saturday 26th April, 12.30-4.30pm

### Health development course

In March a group of Burngreave residents completed the Introduction to Community Development and Health (ICDH) course, which is an accredited course that looks at the issues which matter to you and your community.

Participants learn about different views on health and what it means to them, they identify opportunities for empowerment, they look at building on strengths within the community, how to achieve change for health and developing skills for working with

Course tutor Tahira Faiz said, "It has been an absolute honour and privilege to deliver this course in the Burngreave area. I am extremely proud of all the participants who have worked very hard on this intensive course. I hope that participants will be equipped with the tools to make a positive contribution in their own lives and the community. I wish them all the best for the future whatever they choose to do, be it further education, running their own groups, voluntary work or paid employment."

Course participant Ursula said, "I already do community work in Fir Vale through my charity Adira which I run full time on a voluntary basis. I am hoping that by doing courses like this it will support and strengthen any application grants for funding. I hope this enables me to get paid to do a job that I love. This course has helped me to become more confident, sociable and grounded. Tahira as a tutor has taught me the real meaning of patience and professionalism. She was understanding, diplomatic and sensitive to the needs of the students."

Another course participant said, "On the ICDH Course it felt at first like self-counselling which has helped me in my personal life. Also I got to understand people from different countries. I see with different eyes now and I am more open minded. It has



helped me so much in gaining a better understanding of health, I have gained confidence and I have improved my health for the better."

The course really helped local people to develop their skills and confidence.

Students' comments on the course included:

"It's a stepping stone to further education." Shaiesta

"I gained a broader understanding of public health and met a great group of people."

"I gained confidence to speak out. I found out what the community needs and about working with them."

"The course has given me confidence to do more courses involving helping in the community and confidence to learn more health awareness and sticking to it to achieve a qualification. "

"I've really enjoyed the course because Tahira has delivered it in a fun and enjoyable way." Nieda

#### Pain Support Group

Tuesdays 12.30pm - 2.00pm on 1st April, 8th April and then once a month at Sorby House, Spital Hill.

Socialise with likeminded people and gain new skills to self-manage pain. Includes workshops around pain management, relaxation, massages and meditation.

Translators are available.

Everyone is welcome. The sessions are delivered by Sarah Morrey and supported by Page Hall volunteers.

#### Diabetes Self Help Group

Next sessions: 12.00 - 2.30pm on Monday 31st March, 28th April, 19th May and 30th June at Burngreave Children's Centre, 19 Spital Street.

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.

#### **Health Experience Course**

6 week course for anyone over 40 starting: Thursday 1st May 2014 12.30 - 2.30pm at Burngreave Children's Centre, 19 Spital Street.

This course will help to reduce isolation and help you maintain your independence.

Find out about the importance of a balanced diet, learn about how a healthy diet can impact on health.

Get motivated to 'try out' new activities, learn about opportunities for independent travel and learn new skills such as meal planning. You will also develop friendships and social networks through the course.

#### For all courses and groups contact:

Somshun Nessa Office - 0114 213 259 Mobile - 07960 084 119 Email: somshun.nessa@ soarcommunity.org.uk

#### **Domestic Abuse** Awareness training with Vida

For men and women working in Sheffield

- Wednesday 21st March
- 9.30am 4.30pm
- At Sorby House, Spital Hill

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

For more information on Vida courses visit the website at: www.vidasheffield.org.uk



# Emotional Wellbeing Service changes lives

Story: Yiwen Zheng

The Emotional Wellbeing Service is continuing to help BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) 'isolated' residents by employing Emotional Wellbeing Practitioners to provide a confidential service to address emotional wellbeing issues for the Pakistani community and the Arabic speaking community (male and female); primarily in the areas of Pitsmoor, Burngreave, Fir Vale, Page Hall and Firth Park.

The team work closely with GPs in the area. Senior Practitioner Rafieda Nabi explained that the service has already made a big difference to people, giving them the confidence to follow their GP's advice and to take medication when it's needed. She also said,

"The community has seen that this service is really needed, and it supports



them. It is completely confidential, people can talk about their day to day issues and know that they are talking to a professional NHS service. We have been able to help individuals, but it has also been life changing for the whole family.

"Mental Illness is something that can happen to anyone, and can be triggered by a death in the family, by having children, by losing a job or by relationship difficulties. You can get help and this can change your life for the better." Emotional health and welling is everyone's business. One in four of the population will experience serious problems with the following situation at some time in their lives and the sooner that people seek help the more effective it can be.

- Persistent low moods or constant stress
- Ongoing difficulty in sleeping or eating
- Feeling anxious, scared, confused, alone or helpless
- Unable to cope with day to day life and relationships
- Difficulty thinking clearly or making decisions
- · Hearing voices
- Very negative thoughts including self harm

If you are seeking help or for more information about the service please contact Senior Emotional Wellbeing Practitioner Rafieda Nabi on 0114226 2099 or email rafieda.nabi@shsc.nhs.uk



# **Community Stop Smoking closes and service changes**

Story: Emma Msigiti

Over the past five years, I have been employed as Community Stop Smoking Worker for Burngreave. Unfortunately, the Community Stop Smoking Service will be closing at the end of March due to changes in the delivery of tobacco control in Sheffield.

My work has involved working with residents of Burngreave, Fir Vale and Page Hall to give advice and support to people who want to stop smoking, engaging more than 400 people in one-to-one support. As a local resident myself, it has been a real privilege to be able to help people from my own community, and I have been very fortunate to work with some great people who have made this job an extremely rewarding experience. I would

like to say a really big thank you to all the clients who have engaged with the service, and for those who have quit, a massive "well done" as stopping smoking is a major achievement.

For others who want to quit but haven't made it yet, it's important to remember that each time you try, you will be a step closer to quitting for good. Although my post is ending, you will still be able to access support from the citywide Smoke Free Service (the contact details and local clinics are listed below).

Another important aspect of my job has been liaising with local schools, community groups and other local partner organisations to deliver workshops, training, and information sessions. Many thanks to all local colleagues and the Burngreave Health Network for supporting and promoting the Community Stop Smoking Service.

#### Stop Smoking support from April

For local Stop Smoking Support, drop in to see a trained stop smoking adviser at:

- Pitsmoor Surgery, 151 Burngreave Road S3 9DL\*
- Swift Pharmacy, 1 Gower Street S4 7HA
- Upwell Street Surgery, 93 Upwell Street S4 $8\mathrm{AN}^*$
- Wicker Pharmacy, 55-59 The Wicker S3 8HT

\*please note that advisers in practices can only support registered patients

Alternatively, you can call into the city centre drop-in service at Sheffield Quit Stop, 39 Charles Street S1 2HU, just off Pinstone Street.

For further information call Sheffield Stop Smoking Service on 0800 0684490, visit the website www.sheffieldstopsmoking.org.uk or go to the Facebook page NHSSmokefreeSheffield.



# Trip to the Deep

Story: Amirah Rizam, Asma Haybe, Farrida El-mansoob, Hero Aziz, Nura Ali and Farhia Ali | Photo: Smaira Sadigue

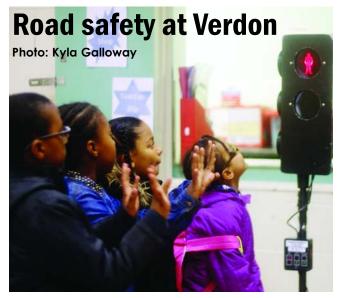
On 25th February, during the half term week, ESOL students at Byron Wood went on a trip to Hull. Here is the Entry 3 students account of the day:

We went to the Deep aquarium in Hull with the children. It was a school trip and we travelled in two coaches. We bought tickets from Byron Wood Primary School. We left Sheffield at nine o'clock and arrived there in one and a half hours.

When we arrived we walked around the Deep and we looked at different fish. They were so beautiful. We took lots of photos. There were many different activities for the children, for example face painting, drawing and carving fish from wood. They watched the fish and saw divers feeding them in the water.

We had a talk about fish and the activities that happen there. Some of the sea life that we saw were jellyfish, sharks, clownfish and many more. We enjoyed the view because we could see the ocean from the restaurant windows.

The people who work in the Deep are very nice and friendly. We loved it. It was an amazing trip. The children were so happy we hope to go back again. We would recommend it to anyone. It's a lovely place to go to with your family or friends.



#### Children at Verdon Youth Club were practising their road safety skills at half term.

Road Safety officer, Kayley Taylor, showed children how they should cross the road, using the Stop, Look and Listen routine.

Verdon Recreation Centre Youth Club is changing its opening days to Monday and Wednesday 4.00pm-5.45pm. The club is for 8 to 16 year olds and is run by Burngreave Tenants and Residents Association.

# **Climbing challenge**

Story: Anthony Stevens

On 24th February, Christ Church Pitsmoor and St Peter's Ellesmere took 20 young people to challenge themselves at Awesome Walls Sheffield, near Petre Street.

The instructors were really friendly and pushed the young people to try many different styles of climbing. The hour flew by, afterwards the young people chatted for ages about how much they enjoy challenging each other. They went back to St Peter's for drinks, snacks and games. Young people said they enjoyed trying something they have not done before.



# Make-up volunteer

Local resident
Nawar Adel Alwai,
volunteered for a
make-up masterclass
with celebrity make-up
artist Nina Ubhi in
February, as part of a
week of workshops for
Sheffield College
students.

# Pancake day







#### by Edgar Lowman



# **World Book Day**

#### Fir Vale School

Story & photos: Seema Ghazal

On World Book Day Fir Vale secondary school had an outstanding time: games in the Learning Resource Centre, Stop, Drop, and Read.



The Learning Resource Centre gave lollipops, signed books and stickers to the students, who borrowed more books than they normally would.

I interviewed an Y9 student called Umayr Hussain who seemed to enjoy reading in school and also outside of school.

Who is your favourite author and why?

Rick Riordan. I started reading his books from Y4, his stories are fantasies but seem so real. He is very inspiring. If you



read his book or even the blurb you will think that 'I have to find out what happens next'. In other words, it's a real page-turner.

What was the last book you read? And did you enjoy it?

I read the book Card Turner. I enjoyed it because there were a lot of mysteries that got solved but in a very tragic way. It also had a lot of suspense which made me want to carry on reading.

Would you say you were a book worm?

Yes, because I am always reading books or I will be reading Naruto on the computer. If I am reading The Hunger Games I like to carry on reading till I finish the book and move onto the next sequel. If I read at home, I feel like I am in my own world and I am having the same adventures the character in the book is experiencing.



Haleema Kabir in Y6 with her favourite book and the review she wrote.

#### **Firs Hill School**

Story: Kath Hobson

On Thursday 6th March children and staff at Firs Hill dressed as their favourite book characters and paraded round the hall in a fashion show so everyone could see each other's fantastic costumes.

The children have been writing reviews about their favourite books in the half term holiday. The school council judged the best ones and they won a £5 book voucher. Also the best dressed in each year group won a prize.

Year 2 teacher Mr Simpson was dressed as Willy Wonka and won a box of chocolates!

In KS2 some of the characters included witches, crocodiles, rabbits, Superman, clowns and lots of other colourful characters.

#### St Catherine's School

St Catherine's School joined in the World Book Day celebrations, and children dressed up as their favourite characters.







### **Fantastic show at Owler Brook Primary School**

Staff put on a fantastic show for the pupils of Owler Brook with a storytime show which featured lots of familiar book characters.

The children were in panto mode thanks to the play written by Richard Bradford and Linda Lawrie-Kelly from the Manor Operatic Society. There was lots of singing and dancing and plenty of fun for both staff and pupils.

# Anne Gilbert turns 100

Story: Elizabeth & Gordon Shaw Photo: John Mellor

Anne celebrated her 100th Birthday on 15th March and we went to her home to talk about her life. She received so many cards that there were just too many to display them all at once.

One of the cards bears a photograph of the Queen; no prizes for guessing who sent that one! The biggest card is an A3 sized hand made design done by her great granddaughter, who is in the Brownies. The card is well designed, neat and individual; Anne is clearly very pleased with it.

Anne was born and grew up in one of the farm cottages at Manor Castle. She left school in March 1928, aged 14 years. Her mother had just had a baby and was confined to bed for 3 weeks. Anne was needed to help at home. In September of that year she started work as an errand girl at a dry cleaners' on Leopold Street. In an upstairs room the clothes were packed in big baskets ready to send by train to Liverpool for the dry cleaning process. She carried on working for the same company and eventually became a relief manageress travelling to Worksop and Derby to cover for staff on holiday.

Since the age of 17, Anne has been a member of All Saints Church (now St Peter's) on Lyons Street, attending Sunday services and taking part in many of the social activities attached to the



church. Besides the Girl Guides, which she had joined in 1923 as a Brownie, she mentioned a football club, civic group, operatic events, tennis and swimming. I asked if she had taken part in any of the drama productions she said, "No, more behind the scenes sort of thing." She was secretary of the Tennis Club and played regularly on courts belonging to a private school, Oakwood, on Norwood Road, and also on one of the two courts at Crabtree Lodge. Friday night was swimming club at the baths on Sutherland Road followed up with a penny'orth of chips from the chip shop opposite or a 1d Hovis loaf from the bakery.

It was through the church that Anne met her husband Wilf, a Precision Engineer, and they were married in All Saints Church on 16th December 1939. The couple moved in with Wilf's mother and lived on Lyons Street where they brought up their four children, Jim, John, Pat and Tony. "It was very busy, there were always people coming about the church, or the Scouts or Brownies."

In 1951 Anne took over a draper's shop on Petre Street. There were quite a few shops together, several butchers' shops one of them next door to her, hairdressers', cobblers', newsagents' and fish and chip shops. I asked Anne what sort of things she sold in the shop, "cottons, wool, knitting needles, sheets, clothes and I knew all the customers. They came in regularly and could pay for things weekly."

As well as attending the church services and attached activities, Anne also helped to clean the church. She told of the damage done to the church in the gale in the early 1960s. "There were over a thousand tiles came off the roof and a lot of dirt came in."

For nine years she worked as a Home Help before retiring at the age of 65. It was during this time that her husband died. She took one week off and then returned to work. She went from one job to the next on foot. One day a regular cancelled at short notice and so Anne was sent over to Halifax Road on foot only to find when she got there that she had to collect some washing to take to Southey Green Laundry!

Clearly Anne has had a very active life — tennis, swimming, walking. She did yoga for 16 years and is currently attending a weekly class doing a half hour of carpet bowls plus a half hour of chairobics. She has been a member of the Girl Guide movement for 91 years, as Brownie, Guide, Helper, Leader and is now part of the Trefoil Guild. She is enjoying every bit of it. However, she laments the fact that there is a waiting list of girls wanting to join but there are not enough adult volunteers willing to run the groups.

# Long lost friends

Wensley resident, Surtag Hack, was found by an old friend through a story on the Messenger website.



Carol Fardoe was looking for Ms Hack after they lost touch over 40 years ago. "I knew Surtag in Yemen in the early 1960s when I was about 12 years old. Even after we left we stayed in touch and saw each other in London. We lost touch but I had always wanted to contact Surtag again. I saw her story on the Messenger website, so I looked up her address and wrote her a letter."

Ms Hack told the Messenger, "I was overjoyed to receive a letter from Carol, including old photos of us both, and recent ones of her family. Carol remembered each one of our family. When we were teenagers in Yemen we would go to each other's houses, we made smoothies and we had a little club. Thanks so much to the Messenger for bringing us together after all these years."

# St James annual feast

Story & photo: Graham Jones

On 4th March, St James Church Lunch Club held their annual feast. Apart from the usual attendees and supporters, a number of close friends and family members came along too.



The excellent meal was provided by outside caterers, giving the regular volunteer cooking team a well deserved break. Apart from the food, everyone enjoyed the friendly atmosphere and being in a happy group.

### **Parkwood OFSTED Success**

Story: Priya Blackham

Parkwood Academy is celebrating their success following their OFSTED inspection in January 2014.



They were awarded a 'Good' OFSTED rating overall and also in the achievement of pupils, the quality of teaching, the behaviour and safety of pupils and in leadership and management. Parkwood has improved as they were previously rated 'satisfactory.'

What does a 'good' rating actually mean? It means the school effectively provides for all its pupils' needs and ensures its pupils are well prepared for their next stage of education, training or employment.

OFSTED believes, "the academy has improved its effectiveness significantly since the previous inspection," and praised the combined efforts of "effective leaders, governors and sponsors; committed and capable staff and the students' own positive attitudes to learning." OFSTED even stated: "Elements, such as senior leadership, are outstanding."

OFSTED was impressed with how improvement has been made in certain areas that were seen as areas to improve at the previous inspection. For example, there has been a 'major' improvement in the achievement in mathematics and in the provision for students new to the English language. Students at Parkwood Academy with special educational needs, who are supported by the pupil premium, and students from minority ethnic heritages are said to make better progress than children in other schools nationally.

The future for Parkwood Academy looks positive as OFSTED has said the rising trend in the last three years "is set to continue."

# Oromo Language School

The UN International Mother Language Day was on 22nd



The Oromo language is spoken in the Horn of Africa — in parts of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. Badasso Safawo, chair of the Sheffield Oromo Community Association spoke of plans to start the Sheffield Oromo language school. Two teachers will provide 2 hours of teaching in Oromo and children will learn language, history and maths and get help with homework.

# **Youth Councillor Daanyaal Alam**

Fir Vale student Daanyaal Alam, has been voted in as a Youth Councillor for the North of Sheffield for 2014.

Daanyaal will help to decide council policies that affect the North of Sheffield. Youth Councillors are consulted by various council departments on policies that affect young people and can make the role as varied as they want to. Daanyaal will also sit on the local Youth Forum.



He will be in this role for one year and then in February 2015 there will be elections for the whole of the Youth Cabinet.



# **Tree planting at Fir Vale**

Local children from Fir Vale School planted five new trees on Wednesday 5th March on Earl Marshal Road, with help from Burngreave councillors .

This will create an avenue of sweet chestnut trees along Earl Marshal Road. The children will also help create an edible garden for residents of Crabtree Grange sheltered housing.

For more information please contact Angus Hunter, Community Forestry Officer on 0114 250 0500.

# Precious wins design prize

Pye Bank student, Precious Bryan, won 1st place in the Horrid Henry design competition she entered last October.

Precious designed a hat for a character from the Horrid Henry TV cartoon. The best designs will be featured in a brand new episode of Horrid Henry this year!



Precious received a goody bag, congratulations card and certificate and her family are really proud.



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# In-year Admissions Open for Oasis Academy Fir Vale!

The new primary school on Skinnerthorpe Road is now accepting applications for in-year admissions. This means if you have a child in Year 1 to Year 5 (age 5 to age 10) you can apply for them to start at Oasis Academy Fir Vale from September 2014.

If you live in the Oasis Academy Fir Vale catchment area but your child is currently attending a school outside your local area, or you have two or more children who are currently attending different schools, you should have received an application form in the post from Sheffield City Council. Application forms will also be available from the Pakistani Advice Centre on Page Hall Road.

Please call **0207 921 4207** or email info@oasisfirvale.org for more information.



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**INCLUDES WHITE** 

# S & J's Pantry

Stall 139, Moor Market Sheffield

10% discount with this advert until the end of June 2014

Local, Artisan-made, Traditional and Fairly Traded produce



MONTHS GUARANTEE

# Hope Community Allotment project

Story & photo: Yiwen Zheng

Hope Community Allotment project is a practical project helping people with mental problems, while also appealing to people who like gardening and volunteering. The project was started by Andrea Hardy ten years ago.

The chairman of this project, Phil, said he originally began to work for the project because he suffered an aneurysmal subarachnoid haemorrhage (SAH) ten years ago. SAH occurs when blood leaks into the space between two of the membranes that surround the brain. It can cause a stroke. After fighting this disease for five years, he joined the project to do more exercise to improve his health. The project provides tools, seeds, compost and training.

Sheena Clark, the organiser, said, "the volunteers and service users come on Monday, Thursday and Saturday. They plant a range of different vegetables, fruit, flowers and herbs, including potatoes, onions, cabbage, kale, leeks, spinach, broccoli, garlic, lettuce, apples, cherries,



strawberries, blackcurrants, thyme, sage and rosemary. All the plants are organically grown and the volunteers and service users take vegetables home after harvesting. Recently some volunteers built a poly-tunnel which helps some vegetables grow faster and better in warm temperatures. We sow seeds for tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and chillis in the poly-tunnels."

John, a volunteer, said he retired three years ago. He has an allotment plot as well and gardening at Hope Allotment has become part of his routine to help other users. Michelle, another volunteer, joined the project two years ago. Every Saturday, she walks for 15 minutes to the allotment with her son. She said they get fresh air, meet people and make new friends while enjoying gardening vegetables. A new volunteer, Dominic, told me he had become a volunteer two weeks after he heard about this project on

Sheffield Forum. Currently he spends three days a week working here.

Sheena Clark said they raised the funds in various ways to carry on this project. This year they received £940 from ESH, a construction company, supporting them for the first time. In 2013, they successfully applied for a donation from Tesco. Some volunteers' children sold flowers in their schools to help raise money for the project and they had a stall at the fair at Firth Park Academy. In addition, the committee got sponsors and donations through online applications. They hope more and more people will get to know about this project, come to the allotment to participate and or volunteer to help.



If you would like to join or help, please contact Sheena Clark on 07792 605 138.



# **Old buildings of Burngreave**

Story & photo: Graham Jones

This entertaining walk around Pitsmoor on 5th March revealed a wealth of history and the back story of local old buildings we pass every day.

The walk was organised by Todd and Francesca of the Walk Boost scheme, part of Activity Sheffield, and is one of a series around Burngreave.

The tour was led by Ron Clayton, a 'Professional Sheffielder,' wit, raconteur and local historian (a phrase he hates). Ron was well-informed, funny and observant, a natural storyteller. He intrigued us with his humorous tales of the area. He taught us how to spot crozzle (a form of black slag used to decorate walls

and buildings in north Sheffield). Ron cleverly recreated Pitsmoor Road in our imaginations as a village street of two hundred years ago. Ron mentioned several times that Burngreave is a real community.

Apart from viewing wonderful buildings from the outside, including Abbeyfield Park House and Toll Gate Cottage, we were kindly invited into the Vicarage on Pitsmoor Road by Rev Philip Ireson and into the church with its amazing stained glass windows.

Another highlight was the 18th Century Bay Horse pub, with many fascinating old features - apart from the regular clientèle.

The walkers themselves made very positive comments on the morning:

"A very enjoyable and informative walk. Ron had given us a wonderful insight into this area's history."

"A fascinating and informative walk. Didn't expect to be going inside the vicarage! We've had a lovely morning. Thanks Ron"

"The peek inside the Georgian Vicarage was a real treat."

"Fantastic walk as usual, good to learn history of Sheffield."

If you missed this excellent event, there are more Walk Boosts to come. Hope to see you there!

Activity Sheffield is a Sheffield City Council service that helps residents lead an active lifestyle. You can improve your health while having fun, meeting new friends and learning new skills. If you want to get active, get in touch on 0114 273 4266 to find out more.

# 150 years since Great Sheffield Flood 1864

Story & Photo: Elizabeth & Gordon Shaw

Floods were much in the news this winter. 150 years ago, the Great Sheffield Flood of 1864 not only damaged and destroyed large amounts of property; it caused a great loss of life, wiping out whole families.

The reservoir at Dale Dyke was completed during the winter of 1863-1864. By 11th March 1864 it had almost reached its full height. On the stormy night of 11 March, the dam burst and 600 million gallons of water swept down through Bradfield and Loxley destroying mills and cottages. The flood roared on to Hillsborough, then along the River Don valley, through Neepsend, the Wicker and Brightside to Attercliffe, leaving death and destruction in its wake.

The recovered bodies were taken to nearby pubs or the Kelham Workhouse where the Sheffield Daily Telegraph described the scene:

"We visited the Workhouse yesterday and a more distressing appalling sight it is altogether impossible to imagine. We entered a room where lay the dead and we counted one hundred and twelve bodies. Although there was an anxious crowd seeking their loved ones very few had at the hour of our visit been recognised. Nor is this to be wondered at. Whole streets of houses have been swept



away - fathers, mothers, children, neighbours, friends and there are none left to recognise many of the bodies"

More casualties were found in the following weeks as buildings, mud and debris were cleared. 240 fatalities were recorded. Others may have died later as a result of injury or illness caused by the flood

#### **Burngreave Cemetery**

Around 30 of the victims were buried in Burngreave Cemetery. One of the graves is on the left of the central avenue leading up from the chapels. The headstone reads:

Peter Webster aged 31 years

Sarah Webster his wife aged 30 years

Also Robert aged 4 years and Joseph Edward aged 18 months

All the above were drowned in the flood at Sheffield March 12th 1864

In a moment shall they die, and the people shall be troubled at midnight, and pass away; and the mighty shall be taken away without hand. Job 34.20.v

Another grave (pictured) of the King family can be found to the left of the chapels near Woodland Walk.

Burngreave Cemetery Chapel is open on Sundays: April to October from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and November to March from 12:00 noon to 2:00pm.

#### **Compensation Claims**

A Commission was set up by Parliament to deal with claims for injury or losses caused by the failure of the dam. The Sheffield Water Company increased their charges by 25% for the following five years to recoup some of their losses. Samuel Spooner, a pocket blade grinder of Burngreave Road claimed for loss of working tools (£6), loss of wages, employment and rent (£3 15s) and damaged work (£1), a total of £10.15s and he was lucky in that he received the full amount.

Elizabeth, widow of Edward Riley of Hillfoot put in a much larger claim of £45.13s. She claimed for loss of and damage to furniture and effects, a fat pig and piggery, loss of clothing, food, funeral expenses and administration. She received £15; this barely covered funeral expenses and loss of food and clothing.

A Doctor at Hillsborough, claimed a total of £840, including £300 for:

"Damage to Claimant's Practice from drowning of Patients, removal of Patients, deterioration of district for practice and from Claimants own past and present ill health." He was awarded £177.

# Flats to be demolished

Story & photo: Rohan Francis

Foundry Court Flats on Burngreave Road are to be demolished, following the rehousing of current tenants.

South Yorkshire House Association (SYHA), who own the flats, have taken the decision to knock down the building after it became too expensive to maintain to modern standards. The flats, near Minna Road, which provided 31 homes, were built in 1972. The building is physically connected to Pitsmoor Methodist Church which shares a lift with some of the flats. The church will not be included in the demolition.

Since last year, SYHA have been gradually rehousing tenants and told the Messenger that they did not have a date for demolition but would keep neighbours informed. Project Co-ordinator Dee Hiley said:

"Disturbance will be kept to a minimum and times of work will be restricted on the site to core hours. This will ensure that any



deliveries are planned so that they do not conflict with peak pedestrian and traffic times and that on-site provision for contractor parking is prioritised."

SYHA will post information about the demolition at www.syha.co.uk, on Facebook (SouthYorksHA) and Twitter (@SyorksHA). Alternatively, people can call SYHA on 0114 2900 200 to ask questions or get an update.



# Cabinet in the Community

Shirecliffe Community Centre Thursday 10th April 2014 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Shirecliffe Road, Sheffield S5 8XJ

Leaders at Sheffield City Council are to hold a 'Question Time' style session to discuss the issues that matter to residents in the North East Area. The North East Area 'Cabinet in the Community' will be taking place in Shirecliffe this year and is one of seven that will be hosted by the Local Area Partnerships.

The items for discussion will be put to the Cabinet by local people in an hour and a half session starting at 6:00pm. This will be followed by an opportunity to talk directly with individual Councillors.

To be part of this you can submit your question on the evening or for a more informed response up to five working days in advance of the session by emailing: CabinetintheCommunity@ sheffield.gov.uk

Where possible questions will be grouped together, so that a more focused discussion can take place. For more information about Local Area Partnerships and issues affecting your area go to: https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/your-local-area







#### **Councillor Surgeries**

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

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

**15th April:** 12pm-1pm, Norwood & Bishopholme TARA, Talib Hussain

17th April: 2pm-3pm,

Pakistan Advice Centre, Ibrar Hussain

10th May: 11am-12pm,

Burngreave Library, Jackie Drayton

15th May: 12pm-1pm,

Pakistan Advice Centre, Talib Hussain

20th May: 2pm-3pm,

Norwood & Bishopholme TARA,

Ibrar Hussain

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

### Jigsaw

Meet for Crafts, stories and Cake at St Peter's Church, Ellesmere.

4.30pm to 5.30pm on the following Mondays:

14th April, 28th April, 12th May and 2nd June.

Please phone or text Nel for more details:

07809 320 986





All ages are welcome. Small children must be accompanied by an adult.

# Easter programme at Christ Church and St Peter's

#### 17th April

**7.15pm: Maundy Thursday at Christ Church** Passover Agape meal

#### 18th April, Good Friday

7.30am: Early morning prayers at Christ Church

1.45pm: Good Friday walk from St Peter's to Christ

Church via Abbeyfield Park

3.00pm: Quiet service of meditation at Christ Church

7.00pm: Reflections on the Cross at St Peter's with Rev

Mark Goodhand

#### 19th April, Easter Saturday

**10.00am:** Christ Church litter pick and Easter tidy up.

#### 20th April, Easter Day

**10.30am:** Easter Sunday morning service at St Peter's with

Rev Hannah Jackson

**10.30am:** Holy Communion at Christ Church with Rev Philip Ireson

**Green Homes Sheffield** is a new network to help you make your home warmer and more energy efficient.

We invite you to visit homes in Burngreave that have been retrofitted to make them greener and more comfortable.



#### **Green Homes Sheffield Open Days:**

April 12th, 13th, 23rd and 24th May 3rd, 4th, 5th, 16th, 17th and 18th

**To book a visit** or to find out more about Green Homes Sheffield and **open days around the city**, please visit:

#### www.greenhomessheffield.net

Call 07904 300 606 or email: jenny.patient@regather.net



# **Cat control**

Story: Graham Jones

Love cats or hate them, it is not in anyone's interest for our neighbourhood to be overrun by unwanted strays.

The leading charities all agree that neutering both pet and feral cats is the most effective way to control the cat population. For those on low incomes, help is available to pay for neutering.

Male and female cats reach sexual maturity as young as five or six months old. The Cats Protection League (CPL) recommends neutering from 4 months.

A female cat can produce two or three litters a year. With an average litter size of 4-6 kittens, it's easy to see how numbers can get out of control. Hallam CPL receives up to 40 phone calls a day from members of the public looking to rehome unwanted cats or kittens.

#### Pet cats

Pet cats benefit from neutering, by preventing disease and unwanted kittens. Unneutered pets can wander away from home in search of a mate. These cats become free roaming strays or form feral groups. Many cat owners are not aware that unneutered, related cats will mate with each other.

Senior Veterinary Surgeon at the PDSA, Sean Wensley, explains: "Thousands of much-loved family pets are at risk every year from potentially life-threatening conditions, simply because they haven't been neutered. Neutering is a vital part of responsible pet care and is particularly important in cats, dogs and rabbits."

#### Feral cats

Feral cats have been born wild or have lived away from humans so long they can no longer live as pets. They are the same species as our pets and are equally protected in law.

An uncontrolled feral colony will grow quickly. If the cats are removed, a new colony will soon move in. A controlled, healthy and manageable colony will deter other ferals from moving in and will keep vermin levels down.

#### Good news

At Springfield Vets Surgery at Firth Park, people on means-tested benefits, pensioners and students can get their pet cat neutered for free. Other people on low incomes will be considered on a case by case basis.

The CPL may help towards the cost of neutering a feral colony, provided that the cats are returned to their original site. You can apply for financial help and practical assistance.



The PDSA can also offer discounted cat and dog neutering for pet owners who receive Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support. The RSPCA might also be able to help with vets' fees for neutering and vaccination too.

All of the charities mentioned welcome donations to help them in their animal welfare work. A contribution, however small, is always welcome.

#### **Further Information**

Cats Protection League 0114 327 0348 www.catsprotectionshop.com

**Springfield Veterinary Group Practice**, 1 Stubbin Lane, Firth Park
0114 242 2815 - Leanne Rason RVN
(Head Nurse)

**PDSA** Pets Aid Hospital, 14 Newhall Rd 0114 243 3232 www.pdsa.org.uk

RSPCA Sheffield Animal Centre, 2 Stadium Way, Attercliffe 0114 289 8050 rspcasheffield.homeip.net

# **Cemetery bees**

Story & image: Saleema Imam

With funding from Community First and donations from last year's Permaculture course, we are making two hives in the cemetery.

We have started to build stands and are now looking for more people to help maintain the hives once we receive the new bee colonies. Does that sound like you? Would you like to learn the ropes at a training course, help to increase the biodiversity in the cemetery and share in the care of the bees and production of the honey?

If so, contact us or visit us in the cemetery any Sunday 11am to 3pm. http://www.friendsofburngreavecemetery.btck.co.uk Saleema on saleema.imam141@qooglemail.com

# Trout at Firvale Pre-School

Story: Gillian Booth, Firvale Pre-School

The children of Firvale Pre-School have been learning all about trout.

With Helen and Darren from the River Stewardship Company, the children have had a fish tank fitted in their nursery and the responsibility of caring for a number of Brown Trout, from eggs to young fingerlings.

The children worked hard to make sure they were fed every day and the chemicals and temperature in the tank were just right for the trout to thrive. The children enjoyed watching the trout grow and swim around the tank. Sacha, aged 3, said "I like the fish. They're getting bigger now from the food".



The children have shown a great interest in this project. Being able to watch the trout develop in front of them has really helped the children gain an understanding and appreciation of the natural world around us.

Children and parents will release the trout into their natural environment of the River Don, along with pupils at Owler Brook School and Pye Bank School who are also helping to raise trout fingerlings.

# Playground honoured

Story: Patrick Meleady | Photo: Kyla Galloway

Pitsmoor Adventure Playground User Group was officially recognised and commended highly at this years UK Play Conference in Eastbourne, which represents the UK play sector and community. The judging panel selected Pitsmoor as being one of the six best playwork teams in the whole of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Playground worker Laura Watkins said, "It is a great honour and it demonstrates to the Council, and others making decisions on cutting services to children, young people and families, that a rush to make cuts is not always right, and that valuable services can be lost and can cause detriment. Pitsmoor Adventure Playground User Group has proven the Council wrong, this service was worth saving, play is essential in the lives of children and families and if given a chance and support, they can thrive and succeed as we have proven."



Children enjoy a half-term drumming workshop at the playground, organised in partnership with Haven House women's refuge

#### Playground celebrates St Patrick's Day

Story: Chrissy Meleady

The Craic was mighty in Pitsmoor Adventure Playground on St Patrick's Day.

Molly Hanley, aged 10, of the Scoil Rince Carney School of Irish Dance, West Cork, Ireland, accompanied and supported by Lucy Wragg, aged 11 of Mylnhurst School, undertook a masterclass in Traditional Irish Dancing at the Playground. Seventy two children and young people attended, providing an opportunity for them and their families to take part in Irish Dancing and music.

Patrick Meleady said, "These opportunities help to celebrate and reflect some of

the rich cultural heritage of Burngreave and Sheffield as a whole and build community cohesion."

Abrar, aged 11, said, "It was a great day. We had a go at learning how to do Irish Dancing - it's harder than it looks on the telly!"

Olga, aged 9, said, "It was brilliant and the Irish Dancing was great."





Story: Will Hopkins, Beaver Scout Leader

# On 19th February, the 76th St Peter's Ellesmere Scouts invested our first Beavers and Cubs for eight years!

**Beavers and Cubs return** 

Beavers and Cubs are perfect for my kids – they meet friends, play games, learn about the world and get outside! Beavers and Cubs promise to try their best, help others and respect all religious faiths.

Beavers (aged 6 and 7) meet Tuesdays 6:00 - 7:15. Cubs (aged 8 to 10) meet Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:00. Cornerstone Building, Grimesthorpe Road (top of Carwood Road).

Just come down, or contact Will Hopkins on 07955 546 989, or Nico Hall on 07941 480 380.



# **Japan visit for local Scouts**

Story: Patrick Duggan | Photo: Seema Ghazal

We are pleased and proud to announce that two members of 205th Sheffield Saint Catherine's Scout Group will be attending the next Scouting World Jamboree in Japan in 2015. This is an international event which young people from 160 countries attend.

All of our scout troop put their names forward to attend. Four of our Troop were selected for interview, Kirsty Whelan, Paul Whelan, Raheem Baker, and Aqeel Hussain. The interview panel selected Kirsty and Paul to go on an assessment weekend. After a rigorous weekend we were informed that Paul had been selected, with Kirsty as first reserve. Our next news was that a scout had dropped out, and that Kirsty had a place. There are reports coming in of Kirsty walking up walls and dancing on ceilings! Kirsty and Paul will now have to raise over £3000 each, some of this money will help young people from poorer countries to attend the Jamboree.

To get involved in Saint Catherine's Scout Group, based on Holtwood Road, contact Alan Whiffin, 0114 246 3728, 07721 730 638. New leaders needed. Each week there are Beavers 6-8 years, Cubs 8-10 years, Scouts 10-14 years.

# Fir Vale's Bollywood Fashion

# meets **President**

Story: Aaliyah Khan

On his recent visit to **England the President of** Kashmir, Sardar M. Yaqoob Khan, toured 6 cities on a mission to help the partially blind in remote parts of Pakistan, Kashmir, Burma and India.



Left to right - Mr Karamat **Hussain of Bollywood** Fashion, Fir Vale, with Sardar M. Yaqoob Khan, the President of Kashmir.

With the support of Sheffield's

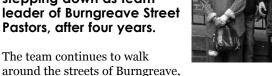
very own international Nasheed singer Ahmad Hussain, who mesmerised audiences with his melodious voice, the Gift of Vision tour was successful in raising funds to help approximately 10,000 people undergo free surgery for cataracts and other visual impairments.

One of Fir Vale's well known businessmen, Mr Karamat Hussain of Bollywood Fashions on Firth Park Road, attended the event in Bradford and had the opportunity to meet with the President and thank him for his commitment and hard work.

## **Street Pastors**

Story: Philip Ireson

**Howard Golding is** stepping down as team leader of Burngreave Street Pastors, after four years.



Pitsmoor and Ellesmere every Friday evening, 7.30 to 10pm. You may have seen them out with their distinctive high viz jackets and caps. They provide a safe, friendly presence on the streets.

#### Community Choir

A community choir meets every Thursday at 7pm in the Welcome Centre, on Nottingham Street. Contact Natalie on 07984 426 958. Everyone of any ability is more than welcome.

# **HJ Tuition** Sunday tuition club 1-3pm

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Home support for the elderly

Having experienced the shortfall in the level of care offered to the elderly while her Nan was seriously ill, Kimberley Davison set upon the idea of providing a mobile service tailored to each persons individual needs.



With the numbers of people aged over 65 living in Sheffield set to increase from 83,000 to 103,000 in the next 25 years, there is no doubt that motivated individuals like Kim can help people out with essential services they may otherwise go without.

Kim is experienced and qualified in Food Hygiene, Gardening and First Aid, and importantly is also CRB checked.

Whether it's assistance with shopping, gardening, tidying the house, crossword clues or just someone to accompany you or your loved one to the sewing circle, call, text or email Kimberley for references and see how Five Rivers can help.



# Your PC fixed for a donation to charity

If you have a PC or laptop in need of repair, service or an upgrade, local resident Zeeshan Khan will fix it for you and donate the fee to charity.

Zeeshan is a qualified IT technician and volunteer at the Pakistan Advice Centre, and is offering to provide a full computer repair service for both PC and Mac. including virus removal, setting up

parental controls and installing Windows and Office for you, as well as repairing and replacing parts if needed.

There is a minimum charge of £20 which he will donate to Muslim Hands (or a charity of your choice) - but as it's for charity you can donate more if you like! There are no other hidden costs and Zeeshan will let you know the price of any parts if they are needed before he makes any repairs.

If you'd like to get your computer fixed or upgraded for the cost of a donation to charity, then call Zeshan at Zeetec Computer Solutions on 07846 947 048, or email zeeshankhan2005@hotmail.co.uk

Facebook: zeeshankhan2010@hotmail.co.uk

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Dr K M Ackom-Mensah

139 Burngreave Road, Sheffield S3 9DL Tel: 0114 272 3076

Fax: 275 0963

Mobile: 07831 116 340

#### Friends of Abbeyfield Park

#### TRUSTEE VACANCIES



The Friends of Abbeyfield Park (FOAP) are reconstituting as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, and seeking individuals to join the Trustee Board that will govern the organisation.

The Trustee role is a voluntary position that sets the direction and oversees the work of charities.

We are seeking to recruit Trustees from diverse backgrounds and particularly those with the following skills/interests:

- · building/facilities management
- · heritage, arts and culture
- · community/volunteer development
- business development
- · fundraising

Becoming a Trustee is not only a valuable way of contributing to a charity, but also a rewarding experience that can help individuals to broaden their interests and develop skills such as strategic planning, decision-making and project management.

The typical commitment for a Trustee is to attend a monthly Board meeting; other responsibilities may be taken on according to the skills and availability of the Trustee. Trustee training will be provided.

To discuss this role further please contact abbeyfieldpark@gmail.com.

Further information about FOAP's proposed aims and objectives is on our website http://abbeyfieldpark.wordpress.com/

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#### Free Phone: 0800 0345 150

Main office: 01296 318579

Email: info@accidentpeople.co.uk Web: www.accidentpeople.co.uk

Sorby House, 42 Spital Hill, Sheffield, S4 7LG

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