



## Spital Hill traders suffer



Story: Bronte Matthews | Photo: Rohan Francis

**Traders have expressed how they feel let down by the Council's decision to make Spital Hill a one-way system while roadworks take place.**

Two weeks before work started, traders attended a Council meeting in Sorby House to explain how the work would be done.

Yvonne Hayes, co-founder of charity shop Rainbow's End on Spital Hill, attended the meeting but walked out after it was announced that a one-way system would be in operation.

Yvonne said, "we were told that work would take place to improve Spital Hill, which we fully supported. However we weren't consulted on how the work was going to take place. I was angry and upset - that is why I walked out of the meeting.

*"I feel abandoned and let down by the Council. They gave us no time to prepare for what has happened. It is a fight for survival in this economic climate and many of us are struggling."*

Yvonne explained that the lack of accessibility for people has meant fewer people are dropping off donations and buying goods. Many taxi drivers are refusing to drop people off on Spital Hill because of the diversion.

Nearly every shop on Spital Hill has signed a petition against the plans.

Shop owners in the area have seen a down turn in trade since the one way system has been put in. Mr Saddiq, from SR Raja, said,

*"It has affected us so much. We are devastated. We think we should have compensation or relief on our rates. Business went down from the first day of the roadworks - we are down by about £3000 per week. We were really worried at one point that we wouldn't be able to pay our suppliers, it's really bad.*

*"When they called us into Sorby House for the meeting we said, 'why can't you do the work at night?' It's a commercial area, it would have been better at night. We all signed a letter to say that to the Council.*

*"The time it's taken them so far is ridiculous. They couldn't find the services to take out a lamppost - that caused a 2 week delay. And then they waited two weeks for the paving slabs - they should have been bought in advance."*

Sheffield City Council said that "night working will extend the construction period and add significant cost, which we have no funding for. Additionally, there are safety issues with working at night in the area, which would further increase cost and effect productivity."

The owner of Jerusalem Café told the Messenger that a few weeks ago he put his shop up for sale because he is not making enough money. He said, "we have been here for two months but, as soon as the roadworks started, no one has come in. The Council do not care about us."

The road disruptions have affected people in the area in a lot of different ways.

A Sheffield City Council Spokesperson said, "after careful consideration to the choice of traffic management, works programme and organisation of this project, the improvement project will go ahead as planned and hopefully provide a much-improved Spital Hill shopping centre and public space at Ellesmere Green."

**The one-way system on Spital Hill was in place from October 6 until November 27. The roads will go back to normal from November 27 until January 6 2014. After this date Spital Hill will go back to a one way system until early February 2014 while roadworks are finished.**

Spital Hill shops  
OPEN AS USUAL



Our Spital Hill  
where variety is the spice of life

All shops are open as usual during the work on Spital Hill and Ellesmere. See page 9



**rainbows end**

## Christmas events

**Music and readings for Christmas  
read by local people**

Sunday 1st December 3.30pm – 5.30pm

**All-age Crafts for Christmas**

Sunday 8th December 3.30pm – 5.30pm

**Advent prayers and reflection**

Sunday 15th December 3.30pm – 5.30pm

**Spital Hill traders celebration and  
thanksgiving with sing-along carols**

Sunday 22nd December 3.30pm – 5.30pm

All activities are free with free refreshments

For more information contact Yvonne: 07954 149 297

*Please call in and help us celebrate this special time of year*

Sorby House, 44-46 Spital Hill, Burngreave, Sheffield, S4 7LG

**See Father  
Christmas  
for free!  
Saturday  
21st December  
11am – 3pm**



**Burngreave Tenants  
& Residents Association**



## CHRISTMAS FAYRE

BURNGREAVE VESTRY HALL

SATURDAY, 7TH DECEMBER 2013

12 NOON - 3 PM



COME AND FIND A BARGAIN  
LOTS OF CHOICES INCLUDING:



FACE  
PAINTING



HENNA



SCARVES



HEAD &  
SHOULDER  
MASSAGE

BRIC-A-BRAC ★ STRAW DIP  
HANDMADE GIFT BAGS AND CARDS  
CAKES AND BUNS ★ FINGER FOOD  
JEWELLERY



TEA, COFFEE AND  
BISCUITS AVAILABLE



## Jigsaw

Come & join us at St. Peter's Church,  
Ellesmere for an hour of Craft,  
storytelling, singing, games & food  
4pm to 5pm...

Monday 2nd December: Theme ~ Angels

Monday 16th December: Theme ~ Dreams

All ages are welcome ~ small children  
need to be accompanied by an adult

Please contact Nel for more details:

07809 320 986



## DO YOU WANT TO BREAK FREE FROM SMOKING?

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Information**

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one-to-one  
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Image courtesy of nosmokingday.org.uk

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

For further information contact Emma,  
Burngreave Community Stop Smoking Worker.  
Either call or text **QUIT** to **07847 893 134**

Alternatively you can leave a message at the  
Furnival Burngreave Community Projects on

**0114 272 7497**

THE FURNIVAL

Registered Charity  
No: 1092744



# Bedroom Tax win

**A couple from Shirecliffe have beaten the bedroom tax.**

The couple – who have lived in their Council home for 30 years – faced poverty as the bedroom tax took effect.

Both are severely disabled and the house had been fitted with a lift to the main bedroom. They had been offered a smaller bungalow but couldn't manage the physical task of moving house.

Douglas Johnson of Sheffield Law Centre, which helped them, said:

*"The family wants to stay anonymous but they are very pleased with the result. We advised them that applying the bedroom tax could amount to unlawful disability discrimination so the Council shouldn't do it."*

The Council has now agreed to introduce a new policy to discount bedrooms with a major adaptation like a lift shaft.

Douglas Johnson said about 70 families could benefit from this change.

# 16 new houses for Catherine Street

Story: Rohan Francis

**Arches Housing have announced plans to build 16 new homes on vacant land at Catherine Street. If their planning application goes ahead, the developer hopes to begin construction in July 2014, with new tenants moving in to the completed properties by mid-summer 2015.**

The proposed scheme consists of a mix of different-sized properties, all available for rent. These will include 10 two-bed homes for 4 people; 5 three-bed houses for families of 6, and 1 four-bed property to accommodate 8.

Arches Housing will be the first organisation to start rebuilding on Catherine Street since the clearance of flats and homes in 2010. The original plans aimed to provide 19 homes, but restricted space and services meant this had to be reduced to 16. Funding for the



scheme has been provided by the Government's Homes and Communities Agency.

Arches hope to prepare a planning application before Christmas this year, which will be available to view online via the Council's Planning Portal: <http://publicaccess.sheffield.gov.uk/online-applications/>

# Early Years loss

Story: Sheffield Law Centre

**Four women – one from Fir Vale – who challenged the Council in court about cuts to community nurseries – have lost their case.**

A judge at the High Court ruled that the Council did not act illegally when cutting grant funding to the nurseries in deprived areas of the city.

The judge praised the contribution the nurseries make to local communities and said he hoped they would all be "able to survive and flourish." In fact, the Meadows nursery at Shirecliffe closed shortly before the hearing in July. Other

nurseries have lost places for under-2s, as well as other services.

The Council admitted the cuts were to 'divert funding into early intervention and prevention.' 'Prevention and Early Intervention' is the formal name for the Council's own MAST service, now based at Sorby House. The judge accepted the evidence of Councillor Jackie Drayton, who explained the Cabinet members all read the impact assessments for each nursery so they were properly aware of the effect of the decision.

The Council had earlier denied the existence of these documents when originally requested. The impact assessments have still not been made public.



## Burngreave Messenger office move

Just to let all our friends and supporters know that we have now moved office from upstairs at Abbeyfield Park House, to the office directly below it on the ground floor.

The office is fully functioning but if you want to come and see us, please give us a ring first on 242 0564, as Abbeyfield Park House is currently covered in scaffolding while the roof is replaced.

## Funding success

Thank you to the Trusthouse Charitable Foundation, the Garfield Weston Foundation and the Scurrah Wainwright Charity, who have all agreed to fund us in the coming 12 months.

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# Black History Month at SADACCA

Story: Carrie Hedderwick | Photos: Rob Siamtinta

**On 6th October, SADACCA invited the community to a splendid event to commemorate the start of Black History Month (BHM).**

Ricky Bennett opened proceedings by explaining its origin. Carter G Woodson put on the first events in the USA in 1926 but it was 1970 before the commemoration became a regular annual event. Ricky emphasised that a community with no knowledge of its history or traditions loses its identity.

The theme of the BHM this year is leadership, responsibility and moving forward. Des Smith, President of SADACCA, stressed the importance of BHM to the community.



*"In the 1960s, when the first wave of Afro Caribbean people came to the UK, there was a lot of activism within the community, within local councils and also in national and local politics."*

Concerned that black Caribbean youth nowadays are not engaged in the community or political organisations, he asked 'How can we make SADACCA relevant to young people?' He believes that education and empowerment are the key to engaging young people.



The event then went on to celebrate Afro Caribbean culture – Moses Keita spoke about the history of music in Mali, in Niger, in Senegal and in Gambia – 'everyone there is born,' he said, 'to be singers and musicians!' Moses was followed by the Romano Jilo dance group who put on an elaborate, energetic performance of traditional Roma dance.

Ishaq Haywood, the key speaker of the evening, emphasised the need to remember the shocking brutality and discrimination faced by the black population in the USA, quoting Jefferson and Lincoln who both held and expressed racist attitudes. He stressed the important contribution that black people have made to society in the fields of medicine, research, literature and music. His message, in the face of prejudice, of hardship, of discrimination: 'we need to do it for ourselves.'

The Seventh Day Adventist Church's Carterknowle Singers followed and then Bob Marley's Redemption Song performed by Clinton McKoy. Carmelita Duncan delivered a hard-hitting eulogy to Maya Angelou, writer, director, journalist, actor and producer, ending with her poem, Still I Rise.

The rest of the evening was a feast of Afro Caribbean foods, music and general conviviality.

Throughout October, students from both universities organised events to celebrate black history and achievement, an affirmative example of BME youth remembering and celebrating the history and hopes of their communities.

## Yemeni workers recognised

Story: Rohan Francis | Photo: YCA and Cathy Soreny

**A film documenting the memories of retired Yemeni steelworkers from Burngreave was premiered at the Vestry Hall in October. The event highlighted the huge sacrifice these men made to improve the lives of their families both here and back in Yemen.**

The documentary, shot entirely in Burngreave, focuses on a group of elders who were originally invited to the city to help with the post-war skills shortage. In a series of interviews, the men describe leaving their families behind and starting a new life in a completely different part of the world. Few of these men saw the kind of personal wealth promised to them in return for the long shifts and harsh working conditions of the industry. Many waited years before they could afford to travel and be reunited with their loved ones.

The film was the result of an 18 month project designed to tackle health and well-being issues within the older population and involved members of the Yemeni Community Association (YCA), the NHS, Sheffield University and filmmakers Optical Jukebox.



The project included the recounting of individual life stories, which the participants then asked to be made into a film.

Many people who attended the film's screening were moved to hear about the contribution these men made to their families and to the Sheffield steel industry.

**'Sheffield Steel – Yemeni Dreams' is available to view online at: <http://vimeo.com/75967944>**

# Burngreave Nursery closes

Story: Lisa Swift | Photo: Rohan Francis

**Parents were left shocked, upset and angry at the sudden closure of the nursery at Burngreave Children's Centre.**

Just two weeks notice was given before the closure on 22nd November. Earlier this year, the Council announced plans to close the nursery in 2015, following cuts and changes to early years funding in the city. Since then, the nursery had stopped taking new children but existing users were promised that the nursery would stay open until their children started school.

The Council blamed the early closure on staff leaving but would not explain why new staff could not be recruited. Remaining staff have been transferred to the Firth Park Children's Centre nursery.

One parent, Laura, told us what happened:

*"When they told me it would close, I was really upset because my child has been attending since she was 5 months old. They offered me places at Primrose in Walkley, Broomhall or Firth Park, but it's a long way to travel. I found a local place at Ellesmere in the end. They said they can't recruit a new manager at Burngreave. There has been no new intake of children so they were always going to run out of children."*

*"They told us they would carry on until 2015 but really they had no intention of doing that; there was just no chance of it happening. I can understand staff leaving because there is no job security. I feel they've whipped the rug from under our feet."*

Another parent, Khadidja, was very upset about what had happened:

*"My son was there; he is now at Bright Beginners on the Wicker. I was sad and very angry when they told me Burngreave would close. They said they would find me a place at Pye Bank School but then there were no places available. We only had two weeks notice. If they had told us in September, I could maybe have found a place at Pye Bank, where he will go to school in 2014. I didn't move him before because I trusted them that he could stay there until he went to school. My son cried last week because he*



*misses his friends at Burngreave Nursery. He really loved the staff and his friends there."*

The closure comes just weeks after parent support groups came to an end at Burngreave Children's Centre, when all the prevention workers lost their jobs at short notice. The Council ran a flawed tendering process which collapsed when potential redundancy costs were discovered. £375,000 was to be spent this year on the service; this has now been lost in the cuts.

A Sheffield Council spokesperson said:

*"Burngreave Children's Centre is not closing and a range of activities will continue there. However, due to a large number of staff leaving, we have had to stop the childcare provision in the centre sooner than we intended. Fortunately, there are alternative childcare places available in schools and with private and voluntary providers in the local area."*

*Officers have contacted all providers and parents have been informed of what childcare places are available. Parents have also been supported to secure an alternative place for their child."*

## Page Hall in the national media

**National media descended on Page Hall following a controversial BBC Radio Sheffield interview with MP David Blunkett on 11th November.**

The next day the Daily Telegraph ran the headline, "Roma migrants could cause riots in cities, warns Blunkett". A string of negative stories followed in the Daily Express, Daily Mail and Daily Star, making the front page on several days.

During the height of the media frenzy, photographers with long lenses could be seen waiting in the street for something to happen, while residents complained

of being continually stopped by journalists asking for comments.

In the weeks before the interview, Radio Sheffield had been highlighting some residents' concerns about litter, noise and groups of people socialising on the street.

David Blunkett told the Messenger,

*"My interviews with BBC Radio Sheffield were entirely designed to ensure that we calmed rather than exacerbated existing tensions. I decided to do a walkabout in the area to demonstrate everything was peaceful and calm, and to explain to the journalist that people were working together for a long term solution."*

The media picked up on Blunkett saying there would be an 'explosion' unless

things changed in Page Hall. The interview also covered the positive work taking place in the area and the need for government to provide funding. The Government and the Council have cut funding which previously helped the area with environmental housing, family advocacy and community cohesion workers, safer neighbourhoods officers and children's centre services.

Work continues locally to support new residents, activities are being provided and developed for young people and construction of the new school is underway.

The media attention disrupted community activities, as well as increasing anger and tension between residents. The media's focus has now shifted elsewhere, leaving residents and local organisations to pick up the pieces.



## Akeel fights for playground's future

Story: Akeel Khan | Photo: Lisa Swift

**In October, Sheffield City Council shut Pitsmoor Adventure Playground, stating there were health and safety issues. Playground user Akeel Khan (aged 12) writes about the situation.**

I have been using the playground for over 5 years and I feel it is my responsibility to keep it open. Unfortunately, over the last month Pitsmoor Adventure Playground has been shut due to health and safety reasons, which is ironic because the playground hasn't had any problems with injuries or such in a long time.

I blame the Council because when I wrote to the cabinet member they said they will get everything sorted and they are trying their best. It is a load of rubbish because myself and the user group have worked really hard for this playground and the Council have been putting us down.

It has affected a lot of youngsters who come to the playground including me and has had a big influence on a lot of people who may not feel safe.

I contacted the Council to ask why nothing had been done to fix the problems that were causing the playground to be closed. Cabinet member Isobel Bowler told me it was going to take longer than they expected. They said they are working on a plan to make the playground safe and back open again. I feel absolutely devastated and will do everything I can to keep the playground open.

### Council agrees plan to reopen playground

After Akeel contacted the Council, they agreed to start work on repairs following an agreement for Pitsmoor Adventure Playground User Group to take on running the playground from April. The playground will be reopened before Christmas.

Between now and April the User Group is paying for the staffing of the playground (partly by the Council), with the support of Ellesmere Youth Project. Once open the playground will be open 3 days a week. From April the Council have promised to pay for the building costs for 3 years. The User Group will be creating an incorporated charity to take on the responsibility of running the playground. If you would like to be involved email [pitsmooradventure@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pitsmooradventure@yahoo.co.uk)

**Christmas Party at the Playground, 21st December. The event will include music, games and presents. Look out for flyers and posters for details**

## Burngreave Library campaign

Story & Photo: Lisa Swift

**Pye Bank Parents Group have taken a lead in campaigning for Burngreave Library to remain open and staffed.**

The parents started a petition after the Council announced plans that Burngreave Library would no longer have paid workers from April. The Council proposes that only 11 out of 27 local libraries be staffed. Five others could be managed by volunteers and the rest could close in April. Burngreave is one of the five the Council would like to see run by volunteers. Parents and other local residents do not think volunteers can run the library on their own but, if a group does not come forward to run and manage it, for no money, then the library will close in April.



At the same time, the Council has a plan to move the library to a smaller space in Sorby House.

The parents' group agreed the following wording and over 900 residents to date have put their names to it:

*"We the undersigned petition the Council to Keep Burngreave Library open and staffed.*

*"Burngreave Library is a vital resource for children studying, for residents to access the internet, and for reading materials which would otherwise be too expensive for people to afford. It is particularly important to children and the elderly who cannot easily travel to other libraries.*

*"In our diverse community it is a place where people can meet their neighbours from different backgrounds. As one of the areas of highest need in the City, it needs professional and experienced staff to make it a supportive and reliable service. We do not think a library run by volunteers is a sustainable option.*

*"We would like to see a proposal that does not set one area of Sheffield against another in a competition for Council resources."*

The Council says Burngreave Library's running costs are only £44,500 per year at the existing building. The library is run with two part-time members of staff, with the support of a Librarian who is shared between three libraries. As the Council still plans to cover the running costs of the building or its space in Sorby House, only a small amount of money is being saved by cutting library jobs.

**The Council is running a consultation process until January. Local residents are encouraged to fill in the questionnaire at the library or online before the Council makes a decision in February. The questionnaire is at [www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/libraries)**

# What the library means to us

Story: Schola Cashdan & Firs Hill Level I ESOL  
Photo: Lisa Swift

**Burngreave Library is a great resource for teaching and learning. I sometimes take my ESOL students there to explore and use the facilities.**

In November, we held a session in the library and the students borrowed resources for their class work and books to read with their children. They also had an opportunity to interview the staff about what the library offers and what the proposed changes are for the library in the future.

We usually take part in the in the Six Book Challenge which the students enjoy and it improves their literacy skills.

I was particularly amazed at the variety of services that the library staff offer, including supporting people with IT and running children and parent groups.

Library worker Janet Ring told us, "I have worked in Sheffield Library Service for 40 years, and here at Burngreave for 13 years. Burngreave is my favourite library. We give lots of help to people using the computers, finding information and directing them to other services. We are often run off our feet, but library users here in Burngreave are always very grateful for the help we provide. To work in a library you have to be patient, well organised and knowledgeable."

Librarian Sue Taylor said, "My job is very varied. I work across 3 libraries and I'm



**Burngreave Library team: Sue Taylor, Janet Ring and Mary Reid**

often asked to cover others. I go out to groups to talk about the library service, encouraging them to use it, and I work with groups who come in to visit. It's a very demanding job serving the public, you don't know what you will face each day, that's why I like it."

Here are some of the comments and ideas from the students:

*"Library staff put all the books in order and give information about the internet. They arrange toddler group sessions. Library staff give information about different courses like English conversation classes and computer classes. Volunteers are always less responsible and they would make excuses and they would not come on time. Because of this the library will wither away along with the precious books."*  
**Sobia**

*"Using volunteers to run the Library will be difficult to manage and co-ordinate if there are a lot of people. Some volunteers can't manage to come every day and on time. It is difficult to get a range of skills in one person."*

*"Library staff organise the Six Book Challenge for children and there are many benefits. It encourages children to read and improve their writing skills. They become more confident with reading skills. Children enjoy this activity and have fun. At the end of the Six Books Challenge they get a certificate or stickers"*  
**Masarat and Amal**

*"Library staff help visitors in the library. They help and show how we can borrow the books and help anyone who cannot find books. If volunteers take over the running of our library they must know how to put the books in order. They must know how to use the computer. They should be patient and they must be confident. They must deal with problems with the children and be happy in work because they will meet different people."*

*"The benefits of taking part in the Six Book Challenge for adults are improving reading, improving writing skills, being more confident, learning new vocabulary and information. You can share ideas if they have reading groups."*  
**Fatima**

*"Library staff offer information services, lifelong learning, special services, cultural and social activities. If the library was run by volunteers, then the opening hours are likely to be affected because there is less commitment. In addition, the quality of the service will not be good because volunteers do not have experience. The volunteers can help run the library but they should not replace employed, paid and trained staff."*  
**Amira and Faeza**

## 140 years of Burngreave Library

Research: Barry Swift, Elizabeth & Gordon Shaw

**Burngreave Library is one of the oldest branch libraries in Sheffield, first opening its doors over 140 years ago.**

Kelly's Directory for 1929 lists the opening of libraries in Sheffield as: City Central 1856; Uppertorpe 1870; Burngreave 1872; Highfield 1876; Attercliffe 1887; Park 1904; Walkley 1905; Hillsborough 1906; Tinsley 1905 but only taken over by the City Council in 1912. Firth Park was being built in 1929.

The Mayor opened the old library on 4th



**Burngreave Library, Gower Street before closing May 1990**

Photo courtesy of Sheffield Local Studies Library (ref u03149)

September 1872. At first it was called the Brightside Branch of the Free Library. Free Libraries were set up as a result of the Free Libraries and Museum Act of 1855. Towns were allowed to set up free public libraries funded from the rates.

However, only the costs of buying and running the buildings, and paying staff could come from council rates. It was intended that books would be donated by the public.

Pawson & Brailsford's Illustrated Guide to Sheffield of 1878 says there were then 3 branch libraries, Uppertorpe, Highfield and Burngreave "at Burngreave Road in September 1872". It states that "new buildings have been erected for the branch libraries from designs of Mr E M Gibbs, of the firm of Flockton & Gibbs. They are handsome buildings, carefully fitted and adapted for their purposes, and well warmed and ventilated. They include capacious rooms for the lending and reference departments, and a general and ladies' reading room, well supplied with magazines and periodicals."



## Castle Market's last day

Story: Lisa Swift & Saleema Imam  
Photos: Pedro Fuentes

**It was an emotional day at Castle Market on 23rd November as it held its last day of trading. The Market will now move to the Moor from Monday 25th November.**

While some stall holders packed up ready to move to the new market building, others were closing up for good. A combination of high rents and limited access to the building has forced some stall holders to abandon their stalls or move, some to outside Sheffield.

## New bus services to the Moor Market

Bus routes have been altered to include stops near the new market. Bus number 2 (town to Shirecliffe) is slightly changing its route in town to include a stop near to the new market on the Moor.

Bus numbers 75/76/83/87/88 already stop near to the new market which is planned to open on the 25th November.

## Wicker flood defence proposal

Story: Douglas Johnson | Photo: Lisa Swift

**A proposal to build flood defences from the Wicker Arches to Meadowhall is being planned. It will also increase the height of the flood defences on Nursery Street.**

Businesses in the Wicker area are being asked to vote on the scheme. The proposals will result in a small increase in business rates in the area, depending on the size and location of the business. The plan will only go ahead if businesses vote for it.

The outcome of the vote will be announced on 16th December.

Links to more information can be found on the Messenger's website.



## Another busy year for Burngreave TARA

**Work on Spital Hill and Ellesmere Green was the main talking point at the Burngreave Tenants' and Residents' Association second AGM in November.**

After presentations by the Council on the road changes and proposed new artwork, residents raised concerns about the impact of road closure on local businesses. Councillor Ibrar Hussain responded, saying they had explored all other options and had no choice but to go ahead with the temporary road closure. The loss of the public toilets on Ellesmere Green was also raised, which had resulted in the bus stop becoming an informal public toilet. Public toilets are now only available at Sorby House and Tesco.

The TARA went on to tell people about all the activities they had supported or organised during the year, including regular trips to the seaside, the youth club at Verdon Recreation Centre, Computer Drop-in at the Vestry Hall and a health project at Verdon Street along with a sewing class. In December the TARA will be organising a Christmas Fayre, see page 2 for details.

**If you would like to find out more about Burngreave TARA, email [burngreavetara@gmail.com](mailto:burngreavetara@gmail.com) or call 07983 921 653 Mon-Fri 10am to 2pm.**



# The New Oasis Academy Fir Vale\*



Oasis Community Learning is pleased to be working with Sheffield City Council to open a new primary school in the Fir Vale area of Sheffield. There is a high demand for primary school places in the area with many parents/carers having to travel a long distance to take their children to one or more schools. This brand new building will be situated on Skinnerthorpe Road / Bagley Road, and will serve the local community.

There are 60 places available for Reception in 2014 and places available for Years 1– 6. The academy will be fully inclusive accepting children regardless of ability or faith. Reception places can be applied for now using the Sheffield admissions process at [www.sheffield.gov.uk/education](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/education). More details about the Years 1-6 places and how to apply for them will be published during the consultation period from December 2013 to February 2014.

Oasis Community Learning currently runs more than 30 academies nationwide and is continuing to grow. It is part of a wider group of charities that were established by Steve Chalke OBE over 25 years ago. It was set up with the express purpose of transforming communities through an integrated approach, and started running Academies in 2004.

The vision for Oasis Academy Fir Vale\* is to create a new academy based on the belief that all students, regardless of background or ability, should be able to reach their full potential as they develop aspirations, self-belief, justice, and respect for community and one another. The new primary academy will create responsible and empowered citizens of the future; we want it to be a place where students, parents and staff work alongside each other and the local community. Oasis Academy Fir Vale\* will be a place all members of the community are

welcome and, in time we hope it will become a community resource used for many activities including adult education.

We will be recruiting for positions in all aspects of academy life, including teaching and support staff in Spring and Summer of 2014. All positions will be advertised on our website or please email [info@oasisfirvale.org](mailto:info@oasisfirvale.org) to register your interest.

There have been a number of consultation meetings held but we would be happy to meet with members of the community that have not been able to attend, please contact Hannah Brown at the above email address or telephone 020 7921 4207 to arrange this.

**\*Oasis Academy Fir Vale is a working title and could be subject to change after consultation. We would really appreciate your input to the name of the school, so please do get in touch if you have any ideas for a suitable name.**

**Please visit our website for more information on any of the above at [www.oasisacademyfirvale.org](http://www.oasisacademyfirvale.org)**

## Spital Hill shops OPEN AS USUAL

Visit your local shops

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All shops are open as usual during the work on Spital Hill and Ellesmere

Traffic will go back to normal for the Christmas period from 27th November 2013 until 6th January 2014.

# Our Spital Hill

where variety is the spice of life



## Cook & Eat at the Furnival

The Cook & Eat that took place at the Furnival on the 25th October was very successful and very well attended. This was a great opportunity for people from the local area and all communities to get together, socialise, make new friends and share their recipes.

We had collectively decided to cook a healthy version of Spaghetti Bolognese and vegetables using Quorn mince with salad (see recipe) Everybody in the session took part and got involved.

## Living with Type 2 Diabetes

**Are you diagnosed with type 2 diabetes? Are you confused about what foods you should be eating?**

It's all about balancing your diet, which should include fruit and vegetables, starchy foods, meat, fish and pulses and dairy. You should be able to enjoy a wide range of foods as part of healthy eating.

### What are these foods?

- **Fruit and vegetables** - a piece of fruit e.g. apple, banana or pear, a slice of a large fruit e.g. melon, mango or pineapple, two small fruits e.g. satsumas or apricots, a cupful of berries or grapes, a small (150ml) glass of unsweetened fruit juice, three tablespoons of tinned or stewed fruit, half a tablespoon of dried fruit.

Here are some comments:

*"I never knew Quorn could taste so good."*

*"I have never thought of putting vegetables in Spaghetti Bolognese, but it really adds to the taste and the great bit is it's good for you"*

*"I can't wait till the next session"*

*"This is great way to learn healthy recipes; hopefully I can learn how to make my traditional foods healthy"*

*"I can't wait to try this at home"*

### Recipe

- 1 bag of pasta of your choice
- 1 bag of Quorn Mince (buy from any supermarket)
- 2 onions
- 1 red pepper and 1 green pepper
- 2 courgettes or mixed vegetables of your choice
- 1 tomato
- 1 teaspoon mixed spices (e.g. chilli, paprika, cumin, coriander etc use according to your taste)
- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
- Half a teaspoon salt
- 1 tin tomato sauce/ pasta sauce (we used supermarket own brand 39p)
- 1-2 fresh chillis (or more according to your taste)
- 1 tablespoon fresh coriander
- Juice of 1 lemon to taste

We used leftover vegetables from the recipe above to make a healthy salad.

1. Boil the pasta
2. Chop the onion and the vegetables in to small pieces
3. Put one teaspoon of vegetable oil in to a deep frying pan
4. Add onions to the pan for two minutes then add the vegetables and chilli – cook for 5 minutes
5. Add half of one teaspoon of salt
6. Add 1 teaspoon of mixed spices (according to your taste )
7. Add Quorn and pasta sauce and cook for 10-12 mins
8. Add coriander and lemon juice to taste
9. Serve with the cooked pasta and salad



- **Starchy foods** - Bread, rice, potatoes, porridge, all bran, wholegrain breads like granary, pumpernickel and rye
- **Dairy foods** – as dairy foods are high in fat, try and consume lower fat products, they will still contain the same amount of calcium and protein. E.g. semi-skimmed milk, low-fat yogurt, light crème fraîche or low-fat fromage frais, cottage cheese, Edam, reduced-fat hard or soft cheeses. For cooking, use small amounts of strong cheese such as Parmesan.
- **Meat** - choose lean red meat without the skin to cut down on saturated fat,
- **Fish** –choose oily fish such as sardines, salmon and mackerel and try to eat fish twice a week.
- **Pulses**- baked beans, butter beans and lentils
- **Quorn or soya** – such as tofu which is low in fat.

- **Nuts** are a good source of protein when replacing meat in a meal.

### Cooking with diabetes

- Reduce the fat you use by swapping high fat ingredients for lower fat alternatives.
- Grill, bake, poach, steam, microwave or boil foods
- Use low fat dairy products where possible
- Use fats and oils which are high in monounsaturated fat.
- Reduce the salt used in cooking and at the table. Flavour your food with lemon juice, herbs, spices or mustard instead.

**To get support or for more info contact Somshun Nessa, Health Trainer and Development Worker  
Tel: 213 2591 Mob: 07960 084119  
Somshun.nessa@soarcommunity.org**

# Chatter Matters at Firs Hill School

Story: Schola Cashdan & Firs Hill Level 1 ESOL  
Photos: Kath Hobson

In October Kath Hobson invited us (WEA Level 1 class) to a talk by Anne Hill entitled Chatter Matters which is basically about how to relate with your children. The students found it very interesting and wanted to share their knowledge with other parents and Messenger readers.

These are some of their ideas, comments and questions raised by the talk:

*"Bringing up children in this country is very different from where we come from so we need a lot of help on how to deal with situations when they come up."*

**Roda Oogle**

*"I heard an important point - the lady said that dummies would not help children to talk but are ok for bedtimes."*

**Masarat Bibi**



*"One of the interesting things I learned is that when you ask a child a question, you have to allow her/him time to respond. For example a 7 year-old needs 8 seconds to internalise the information before they can respond. It was very useful information for me because I always get cross with my daughter when she doesn't respond quickly."*

**Sobia Shah**

*"The other thing I learnt is that you shouldn't interrupt a child when they say something wrongly. Instead just repeat it in the right way and the child will know his/her mistake."*

**Noreen Kousar**

*"I often play games and read with my 3 year-old son. It's such fun."*

**Amira Al-Ashwal**

*"We were also advised not to have a TV set in children's bedrooms because we cannot supervise what they watch in their bedrooms all the time. This also applies to letting them use the computer on their own - we parents should try and monitor the websites that they use, but how can you do that if you are busy with something else and they tell you they want to do their homework?"*

**Amal Ahmed**

*"When you help children with spelling, counting numbers or anything else, do it in an interesting way like singing a song or teach them with stickers, colours or sticking pictures."*

*"One thing that I want to know is: what do you do if the children misbehave in front of our visitors or friends? It usually is a very embarrassing moment! What should one do when it happens?"*

**Sobia Shah**

*"Another difficult situation is: What do you do if you have children of different ages and they all want to watch TV at the same time?"*

**Roda Oogle**

*"I enjoy the evenings with my children when we sit together for dinner and talk about what they did in school. They usually also ask me to tell them what I learned in my class."*

**Fatima Al-Hidabi**

*"We were lucky to listen to a children's expert who talked about child development and how to cope with our own children. It was useful to know that when talking with young children, you should sit down or bend to their level to get their eye contact."*

**Faiza Scott**

## Now is the time to quit

Story: Emma Msigiti

**From April 2014, the way in which Stop Smoking Services in Sheffield are delivered will be changing.**

The current community based team which includes Burngreave, Firvale and Page Hall will finish at the end of March but there is still time to access this service as referrals will continue to be taken up to the end of January 2014.

Many people who have used the Community Stop Smoking Service have initially lacked confidence or been fearful about taking the step to stop smoking. However, with the right treatment and the weekly support sessions they have often found the process better than they expected and have gained confidence through their success.

Here's what a local Burngreave resident recently had to say:

*"Try to quit - there's nothing better than stopping smoking, especially for someone like me who was a heavy smoker (60 per day). It changes your life. The support has been spot on and I would recommend it to anyone who wants to quit."*



If you are thinking about quitting and would like to access free local support from the Community Stop Smoking Service, please contact Emma Msigiti (contact details below).

**The Furnival, 199 Verdon Street, Sheffield S3 9QQ.  
Telephone: 0114 2727 497 or mobile: 07847 893 734**

# Ella Road bonfire

Story: Rohan Francis | Photos: Lisa Swift

**Friends, families and residents from local streets gathered at Ella Road on November 5th for the 7th annual community-run bonfire.**

Lee, a bonfire volunteer from Ellesmere Road North, has been organising the event with a group of local residents since it began. "We started putting on a bonfire because there's nothing locally for our kids," Lee told the Messenger. "Safety is important. The fire is cordoned off, there's plenty of water buckets and we only use 'clean timber' so nothing toxic gets into the smoke."

The huge stack of timber took two days to collect and prepare, Lee's fellow



organiser, Steve, added that "It's all worth it because it's for everyone in the community."

Donna and Debbie, from Ellesmere Road, provided refreshments throughout the



evening. "There's free hot-dogs and drinks, which were kindly donated by a local shopkeeper, and we've also made chilli and cakes."

# Hindu Samaj lights up Burngreave

Story: Priya Blackham | Photo: Hindu Samaj

**On Sunday 3rd November, the Sheffield Hindu Samaj, in Burngreave, celebrated Diwali (the festival of lights) and the Hindu New Year. This is the most important festival in the Hindu calendar.**

There were many energetic performances, in particular: classical Indian dancing, Bollywood dancing and a children's performance of Ramayana 'The story of Rama and Sita'. In the story, lights (candles that Hindus call Divas) are used to guide Rama and Sita home, which is why Diwali is called the festival of lights.

About 100 people attended from all over Sheffield. The special guest was Councillor Vickie Priestley, Lord Mayor of Sheffield who handed out certificates to performers.



One of the organisers of the event, Ashwin Patel, said:

*"Diwali is all about children and the children being able to dance makes them happy, which in turn makes parents happy."*

**To find out more about Hindu Samaj, which is a registered charity, visit [www.hindusamajsheffield.org.uk](http://www.hindusamajsheffield.org.uk) or email [hindusamaj@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hindusamaj@hotmail.co.uk)**

# Christmas costumes for St. Catherine's

Story: Liz Smith

**The Craft Group meets weekly in the Crescent Community Centre, which is at St. Catherine's Catholic Primary School on Firhill Crescent.**

Many months ago, school staff asked the ladies from the Craft Group if they would be able to help with Nativity costumes for the children, and they very kindly agreed.

Once the children were measured and fabrics selected, the Craft Group made a full set of Nativity costumes for both the



Reception class children, and the Year 2 children. There is an entire clothes rail full of colourful costumes and they are totally gorgeous!

School staff and children are absolutely delighted with the costumes! The Three Kings had a practice at presenting gifts on Thursday 14th November (there were actually Six Kings, three from each age



group) and here are some photos of them.

Thank you so much to the Craft Group for all their help and hard work. We really appreciate it, and we hope they can join us in school for the performances to see all the costumes worn together! Special thanks to Mrs Marjorie Thorpe, organiser of the Craft Group. We know how hard she has worked to get those costumes finished.

# Owler Brook is out of this world!

Story: Lisa Swift | Photos: Rohan Francis

Visitors from outer space inspired the design ideas of Owler Brook pupils in November, as they tackled the big questions of the universe while also gaining skills to become better learners.

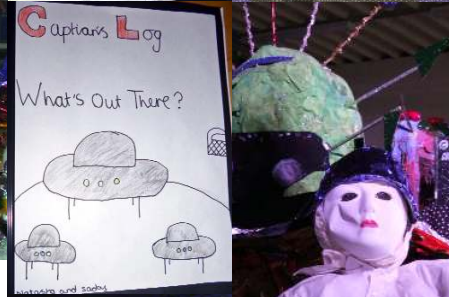


Children debated the possibility of the existence of life on other planets after Headteacher, Sue Bridges, introduced the week of learning with an image of UFOs above Sheffield. Children showed that there are different ways of seeing unexplained events by playing characters from a sceptical NASA scientist to the concerned Lord Mayor.

The children spent a week making work that responded to these ideas including poems, models and drawings, all the time thinking hard about what skills they were using to learn.

Natasha and Sadas explained in their 'Captain's Log' about what 'learning powers' they were using:

**Resilience:** To manage distractions and keep on going



**Reciprocity:** To work independently and to work as a team

**Reflectiveness:** To talk about your learning with others, remember to stop, think and do

**Resourcefulness:** To use things that are around you and help with your learning



Children designed alien transport and then reflected on their designs.

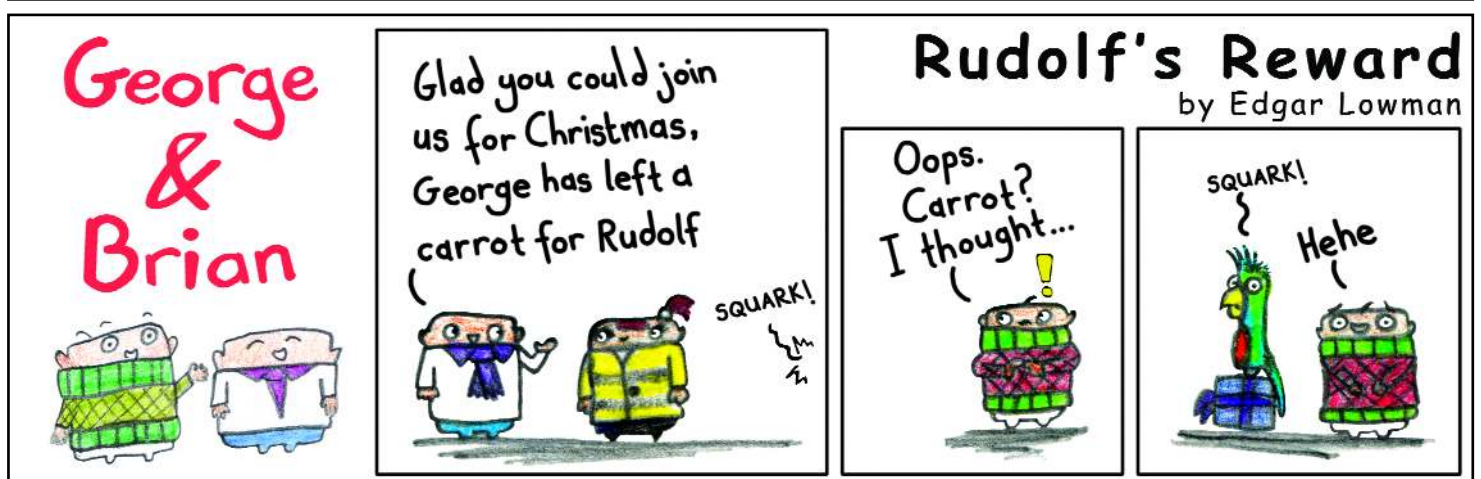
Uzqir wrote: "I like the rocket because fire is coming out, I like the cone it has a point on it. I would change the masking tape because I put too much on, I would change the rocket because it is too small, although it took a lot of time."

Zaynab and Afifah wrote: "I like the colours on the model. I like the design of the balls and also the sticks and the glitter because they look like stars. I don't like the masking tape on my model and I don't like the label, but we needed it so we know it's ours."

Zana explained what the aliens are like:

*The aliens are good and they are really nice  
The aliens are sneaky and wobbly  
I like the aliens  
My aliens are stinky  
The aliens have three heads  
My alien was big*

The children put on an amazing display of their work in the school hall to celebrate all they had achieved in their week of Building Learning Power.



# Fir Vale School presentation

Story: Janet Lawson



**Ummesalama Hassanali one of our high achievers with 11.5 A\*-C GCSEs including English and Maths**

## Fir Vale School celebrated its record summer GCSE results at their annual Presentation Evening.

The sports hall was transformed with a stage setting for the evening and packed with parents, staff, governors and special guests who warmly applauded the achievements of the returning Year 11 students who achieved the best ever GCSE results.



**Akeel Khan received a special award - South Yorkshire Police Award for Outstanding Community Service**

Individual prizes were also presented to current Year 8, 9, 10 and 11 students.

The guest of honour was councillor Alan Law JP one of Sheffield's longest serving councillors and 114th Lord Mayor who recently retired from Fir Vale's governing body after 20 years' of service.

The evening concluded with former Fir Vale student Sahir Ali who graduated this year with a degree in Orthoptics from Sheffield University. She shared her past memories of Fir Vale and how the help and encouragement from the teachers gave her the inspiration to 'make her dreams a reality'.

# Pye Bank School's Top Teeth

Story: Julie Roberts, Valerie Monti Holland, Zabeda Hussain

**Children & parents at Pye Bank CE Primary celebrated the launch of the film 'Top Teeth' which was made at the school.**



The school worked with a professional film director and the dental health service to help children and parents understand the importance of taking care of our teeth.

Parents were delighted with the film and said they would use it at home. The film will be used across Sheffield and other cities.

Top Teeth was created to give positive dental health messages in the wake of research that points to the increasing importance of keeping teeth healthy as a contributor to tackling obesity. Assistant Headteacher Denise Vintin requested that a film using the pupils' voices be made to help parents and carers recognise the importance of good dental hygiene. Project Manager, Valerie Monti Holland of the Children and Young People's Public Health team (Sheffield City Council) asked Rob Speranza of the South



Yorkshire Filmmakers' Network to shoot the film emphasising these key messages:

- brush teeth twice a day
- use a pea sized amount of toothpaste
- don't rinse your mouth straight after brushing
- visit the dentist at least once a year

**The film is available as a resource for all Sheffield schools for free and will be accessible through the school's website [www.pyebank.sheffield.sch.uk](http://www.pyebank.sheffield.sch.uk)**





# Fir Vale School Orphanage Appeal

Story: Janet Lawson

**A team of 15 Sheffield students are answering an emergency appeal to provide a 600 place orphanage in Ghana.**

The Fir Vale School students, aged 13 and 14, accompanied by three teachers, will be helping to build accommodation, schooling and a sports centre in the remote Volta region of Ghana next April.

The students are fundraising to pay their own expenses but the project needs an additional £20,000 towards the building costs.



The school is appealing for donations from the local community and sponsorship from businesses to ensure the much needed orphanage is completed.

**A community dinner with auctions and raffles will be held at Fir Vale School on 4 December 2013 followed by a business lunch on 11 December 2013. To support these events, make a donation or provide sponsorship, email [jlawson@firvale.com](mailto:jlawson@firvale.com) or contact the school on 0114 234 9391.**

A donation of £50 will pay for two beds in the boys' or girls' accommodation. Sponsorship of £250 will provide a laptop in the school for children who have no access to computers. Major sponsors will be acknowledged and have their company name painted on the wall of the orphanage.

## Parkwood Academy Winter Bazaar

Longley Avenue West, S5 8UL

**Tuesday 3rd December  
5.00 pm - 7.00 pm**

Musical Performances, International Food, Candle Making, Prize Bingo, Craft Stalls, Bell Ringing, Face Painting, Christmas Carols, Community Sing Along

Jubilee Food Bank on site & accepting donations from the community

## Sheffield Sea Cadets spice things up

Story & photos: Priya Blackham

**On Friday 25th October the Sheffield Sea Cadets, Marine Cadets and their families came together for a fundraising curry night at their base near the Wicker.**



On the night there were a selection of curries as well as a raffle, a naval themed quiz and many stalls. Stalls sold a range of items, such as: Christmas gift-wrap, sweets, hand knitted scarves and beauty products from Temple Spa.

All the money raised will go towards equipment and running costs of the Sea and Marine Cadets, which is a registered charity. Being a cadet enables you to develop important life skills, confidence and discipline. Sheffield Sea and Marine Cadets (also known as T.S Sheffield) do training twice a week and go on all sorts of outdoor activities. An example of this is their annual camp at Pier Cellars in Devon, where they go boating, do orienteering, drills and practice management skills.



T.S Sheffield are based at Conquest House, Stanley Street (near the Wicker) and take on young people, both boys and girls, in three groups: Junior Cadets 10-12 years old, Sea Cadets 12-18 years old and Royal Marine Cadets 13-18 years old.

**If you would like to get involved, call 0114 279 6223 or email [sheffieldsc302@gmail.com](mailto:sheffieldsc302@gmail.com)  
Search on Facebook: Sheffield Sea Cadets.**

## Christmas Church Events

### Sunday 15th December

4.00pm: Christingle Service at St Peter's  
Followed by refreshments  
*In support of the Children's Society*

### Sunday 22nd December

10.30am: Carols at St Peter's  
11.00am: Nativity at Christ Church  
6.30pm: Carol Service at Christ Church

### Tuesday 24th December

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

11.30pm: Midnight Communion at Christ Church  
11.30pm: Midnight Communion at Pitsmoor  
Methodist Church

### Wednesday 25th December

#### CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00am: Christmas Day Family Service  
at St Peter's  
10.30am: Family Communion at Christ Church

*Everyone is very welcome to share in celebrating  
Christmas with us.*

## Adult Learning Guide

for North-East Sheffield

Your guide to courses in the area

Spring term course details  
online Monday 9th December

For courses in:

**Burngreave,  
Fir Vale,  
Brightside,  
Shiregreen,  
Firth Park,  
Wincobank,  
Southey,  
Longley,  
Parson Cross  
and Fox Hill.**



[www.ne-adultlearning.org.uk](http://www.ne-adultlearning.org.uk)

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

Drop in to see a trained stop smoking adviser:

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

(Advisers in practices can support registered patients)

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

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

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# Clean up fun with Christ Church

Story: Jessica Hanson

Photos: Jessica Hanson & Philip Ireson

**On a sunny Saturday afternoon in late September, Christ Church Pitsmoor and All Saints Ecclesall came together to organise a fun day at Nottingham Cliff Park - but first, a clean up was needed.**

Over fifteen young people from both churches went and did some litter picking and general clearing up in the morning, then it was time for the fun to begin! There was a bouncy castle, a climbing wall, face painting, nail art and more.



The event was very well attended with people coming from all over the city. All the activities were supervised by members of the youth team and we had a very enjoyable day with a barbecue at the end.



## New homes on the horizon

Story & photo: Rohan Francis

**Community consultation on the design and construction of over 60 new homes on empty land at Earl Marshal Road could begin early next year (2014) after Sheffield Housing Company announced they were considering bringing forward the development due to the high demand for affordable housing.**

The Earl Marshal site was cleared in 2007 as part of the Fir Vale Masterplan. The land was originally planned to provide 63 new family homes, with a number of properties promised to residents of Skinnerthorpe and Bagley Roads, whose homes were awaiting demolition under the previous Government's Housing Market Renewal clearances. Unfortunately, years went by without any redevelopment of the site and local residents were forced to rehouse themselves outside the neighbourhood.

### Sheffield Housing Company

After years of waiting, it looks like the site will finally be developed by Sheffield Housing Company (SHC) – a partnership formed in 2011 between house-builder Keepmoat, housing managers Great Places Housing and the land owner Sheffield City Council. At Earl Marshal, the Council will provide their land and the other partners will invest the building and management costs. Any profit or loss from the project will then be shared amongst the partnership.

### To buy and to rent

SHC has said most of the new properties planned for the Earl Marshal site will be for sale, with about a third available for rent or 'shared ownership' – partly rented and partly owned.

### Long life homes

The houses will be built to 'Lifetime Homes' standards, which simply means they can be easily adapted to include lifts and other mobility devices to allow the occupants to live in the property independently for as long as possible. Furthermore, 10% of the properties will be designed with mobility in mind and

15% will be built for people who use wheelchairs.

### Looking forward

Councillor Talib Hussain, said: "Local people and local councillors have been waiting a long time to see houses being built on this site, so this is great news which I am sure will be welcomed by the Fir Vale community. It's wonderful to see the consultation process starting and I look forward to seeing people moving into new homes."

### A promise of community consultation

The developers have promised local residents they will be able to comment on the proposals during the consultation process. SHC Project Director Tom Fenton said, "Once design teams are fully appointed, we will begin to engage with the local community to incorporate their views into the design and development of the homes."

**For more information on the project contact Tamsin Auckland or Ellie Roden on 202 7129 or email: [sheffieldhousingcompany@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:sheffieldhousingcompany@sheffield.gov.uk)**



## Firth Park Halloween party

Story: Maggie Hoyles, Treasurer, Friends of Firth Park

**The Friends of Firth Park held a Halloween Party in the Clock Tower and Ripples in the Pond area of the Park on 31st October.**

It was funded by the Big Lottery Community Spaces - Celebrate your Space. There was music, entertainment, crafts, food and fun - and lots of very scary ghouls and witches! It was a really fun event and we hope we can do it again in future.

We also hope to have a Christmas Carol Sing-along in the Ripples in the Pond area later in December. Look out for the posters around the Park with dates and times, also on the Burngreave Messenger website. This will be the third year we have held a Sing-along and we will have mince pies, hot soup and fruit punch free for all who come and sing. Everyone is welcome!

**For further information on the Friends of Firth Park, ring Maggie on 242 2067.**

## Christmas fun at Verdon

Photo: Aislinn Adams

**Verdon Youth Club have been preparing for Christmas at their regular twice-weekly sessions.**



Children and parents - come along and join in with crafts and sports activities every Wednesday and Thursday 4.30pm to 6pm. Children aged 8 to 16 are welcome; Under 8s need to be accompanied by an adult.

Get involved now so you don't miss out on the Christmas party.

**For more info, contact Aislinn Adams on 07939 394 037.**

## Good year for EYP

Photos: John Mellor

**Ellesmere Youth Project brought a range of stalls and information together for young people at their AGM in October.**



EYP is the most well established youth provider in Burngreave, and its achievements during the year show it is taking on even more responsibility for the well being of local young people.

This year work continued at the Vestry Hall and Verdon Recreation Centre. They took on conflict resolution, mediation and employment projects, as well as detached youth work and supporting Pitsmoor Adventure Playground to secure its future.

After over 10 years in the area, the project plans to keep working with others to provide services for young people.



## Creative writing group

**Local residents have relaunched a creative writing group to help people get into producing their own writing.**

The group is meeting every two weeks at the Yemeni Community Association building at 68 Burngreave Road. At each session people can discuss their writing and get help and support from other members of the group. The group also looks to published writers for ideas and inspiration.

One of the founding members, Chris Searle, who has published his own work in the past said, "We have members of the group who are interested in poetry, script writing, fiction and autobiographical work as well as the stories of ordinary people. It's a supportive group, we also aim to help people get motivated by setting tasks to do each week."

**To find out more info or to join the class contact the Burngreave Messenger on 242 0564**

## Engaging and Involving Communities in North East Sheffield

**The North East Community Assembly has been replaced by a new model of Locality Working. The new team will support local ward councillors as community leaders.**

The new approach still has the same North East area and covers the four wards of Burngreave, Firth Park, Shiregreen and Brightside and Southey.

Each Ward has a lead Ward Councillor. For Burngreave Ward this is Councillor Talib Hussain. Your other councillors are Councillor Ibrar Hussain and Councillor Jackie Drayton (contact and surgery details can be found on the right).

The North East Locality Officer is Dave Aspinall and is supported by a Lead Council Officer, in Burngreave this is Chris Shaw the Director of Health Improvement.

A Ward Plan will be produced every year and a small amount of money will be

allocated to assist with the priorities in the plan.

The current Burngreave Ward Plan priorities are:

- Community Support and Wellbeing
- Environment and Public Realm
- Cohesion and Safety
- Children, Young People and Families

The four wards will feed into a Local Area Partnership (LAP) to address common issues that exist across all the wards. This is chaired by Councillor Peter Price.

The Ward Councillors are keen to hear from you about your issues and priorities in the Ward. Four ward meetings will be organised throughout the year at various locations around the area. You can either contact the councillors directly or you can ring Dave Aspinall on 0114 203 7562 0771 8512 929 or e.mail him at dave.aspinall@sheffield.gov.uk



### Councillor Surgeries

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

**14th December:** 11am-12pm, Burngreave Library, Ibrar Hussain

**17th December:** 12pm-1pm, Norwood & Bishopholme TARA, Jackie Drayton

**19th December:** 2pm-3pm, Pakistan Advice Centre, Talib Hussain

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

**16th January:** 2pm-3pm, Pakistan Advice Centre, Talib Hussain

**21st January:** 12pm-1pm, Norwood & Bishopholme TARA, Ibrar Hussain

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

## Metal sculpture designs revealed

Story: Rohan Francis

**Designs for the proposed artworks on Spital Hill have been revealed by the Council. Images of metal sculptures for the area outside Tesco and the corner by the Vestry Hall and a series of pieces for Ellesmere Green are on display at Burngreave Library and Sorby House.**

The Council and sculptor, Michael Johnson, have spoken to local shopkeepers, residents and people on Spital Hill about the designs. Michael said, "We held a well-attended library session for members of the public and I have shown the designs to the retailers along the street and they are very positive about it all."

Michael explained the concept behind his designs: "The woven and knotted image is intended to symbolise the different communities and cultures of the area - bound and working together. The metal knot also makes reference to Harry



Brearley's autobiography 'Knotted String' and allows a range of interpretation - flowing water or pouring metal for example."

An opportunity for children to contribute to the artworks is currently underway at local primary schools.

There will also be a drop-in session at Burngreave Library on Monday 2nd December from 2-6pm, where local residents will be able to contribute drawings, sketches, writing or notes



about any aspects of the community, such as history, friends and family, shops and activities, which could feed into the making of the finished artwork. All are welcome. You don't need to be an artist!

Michael Johnson has been commissioned by Sheffield City Council to make artworks for Spital Hill, to coincide with the renovation of the pavements and Ellesmere Green. £75,000 was allocated for public art as part of the Tesco supermarket planning application, including the already completed photo hoardings on Savile Street.

The works are due to be completed alongside the improvements at Ellesmere Green which reopens in February.

# Remembrance memories

Story: Reverend Philip Ireson,  
Vicar of Christ Church

The Elliott family, Dad Frank, Mum Edith and daughter Dorothy, cowered in their brick shelter with another family in their yard on Brunswick Road in Pitsmoor on the fateful evening of 12th December 1940. The sound of bombs dropping further away made the ground tremble. The drone of bombers could be clearly heard overhead.

Dorothy Radley, aged 12 at the time, says she "remembers the night as if it was yesterday...

*"The shelter was cramped and uncomfortable. The sound of bombs falling and exploding seemed to be getting closer; the noise of the bombs got gradually worse and the ground would shake.*

*"There was a hoarse shout outside the shelter, it was an ARP warden. 'Is there anyone in the shelter? Get out, it's getting too dangerous around here'. So we ran up the street; it was terrifying. It was like daylight with many fires caused by the hundreds of incendiary bombs that had been dropped. As we were running Dad shouted, 'Get into the entrance!' We sheltered there. I was wounded in the leg, possibly by some flying shrapnel. Eventually we took shelter in Lopham Street chapel. The basement, newly reinforced, was packed with people chattering nervously.*

*"We stayed in the basement all night; a medic cleaned my wound and dressed it. We weren't allowed out until dawn. My father went out first - he was a veteran of the First World War, and had joined the Home Guard as a Sergeant. There were fires all over the place, with ambulances rushing to help the wounded. My school, Burngreave School, had been totally destroyed.*

*"When we got back to our house we found that only half of it remained. The piano had been blown across the room by the force of a blast from a nearby bomb. Strangely my Christmas tree had survived but without the trimmings! To our amazement our cat, Tiger, was also alive but his paws were all cut. My Mother walked over to Spring Street with him, the dispensary was surprisingly open for people to bring in their injured pets. Sadly Tiger had to be put down.*



*"A lorry eventually came to take what remained of our furniture and Christmas tree into store. My Auntie walked over from Handsworth to see if we had survived as she had heard that Pitsmoor had been devastated. I went to stay with her whilst my parents stayed with relatives in Sturton Road. Of course the bombers came back on the following Sunday but this time I watched the flashes and fires from the relatively safe distance of Handsworth."*

Pitsmoor was very vulnerable due to its nearness to the Don Valley steel works and during the two nights of the Blitz 90 people were killed and many houses damaged or destroyed along Nottingham Street, Rock Street, Woodside and surrounding streets. Christ Church narrowly avoided being hit but Burngreave Methodist church was destroyed.

A sad record of all those killed can be found along with personal stories on <http://www.chrishobbs.com/sheffield/pitsmoorwardead.htm>

## More memories

Compiled by John Mellor

### Anne Gilbert (99)

*"Walking back to our house in Lyons Street on 12th December 1940, the siren went as we came over Scott Road. We had only just got near All Saints church when the bomb fell on the houses on Ellesmere Road North. 11 people lost their lives.*

*"On December 16th there were 12 adults in our cellar which had been reinforced. We heard the screaming as the bomb came over our house. A few minutes later*



*the warden shouted down the coal hole "Get out quick there's a bomb under the church - go down the street". The bomb did not explode but it took several days to make it safe.*

*"When we were allowed back home there was no water, gas or electricity. A house on Petre Street was letting us have some water. I was walking up Lyons Street with two pails of water when some houses blew up on Lyons Road. It was a frightening bang and I did spill a little of the water!"*

### Doug "Taffy" Jones (Normandy veteran)

*"My father had a bad time in the First World War; he was shell shocked and gassed and never worked again after returning from the war.*

*"Although I hated the war, it was necessary to fight the evil of Nazism which was seeking to dominate the world. The other good thing about the war was the tremendous comradeship that developed between those of us who were fighting together."*

### Dorothy Gilbert

*"My uncle, Albert Edriss Moody, is one of those whose name is inscribed on the memorial at Vis-en-Artois for those who died within the battle near there whose bodies were unidentifiable. He served with the King's Own Yorkshire Light infantry and died on September 14th 1918 aged 22."*

### Ken Riley (Normandy veteran)

*"The worst thing about the war was seeing all the avoidable death and destruction - war is a fool's game. The one good thing I could say about it was the total comradeship, sharing and risking our lives together, sharing our last cigarette. This is something I haven't found since returning to 'civvy' street."*

### Margaret Mellor

*"My uncle, Harold Nelson, was reported as 'missing' during May 1918 somewhere in France. Despite extensive enquiries at the War Office by my grandfather, a local businessman in Rochdale, no information was forthcoming about how, where, or in what circumstances he died and there is no known grave. He was 23 years old, a Methodist local preacher and had become engaged just before he enlisted in 1916. His fiancée never married.*

*"On a visit to the World War I battlefields a few years ago we discovered that his name is engraved on a war memorial in Soissons, Northern France."*

# Feeling good on Verdon Street

Story: Feeling Good volunteers | Photos: Lisa Swift

**Women have been flocking to Verdon Recreation Centre to enjoy new activities at the drop-in every Wednesday morning.**

It's organised by Burngreave TARA (Tenants and Residents Association) with local health professionals and women who are helping as volunteers each week. It's funded by the People's Health Trust and will continue until next summer.



Activities include exercise, Somali dance, sewing, knitting and crochet. Women can also check their weight and get advice on diet and well-being. There is a lot of chatting and sharing of skills and knowledge. The women said:

*"I am happy because I lost some weight and I made new friends. I'm also doing volunteering and exercise. We achieve a lot from this project; it's very helpful."* Helen

*"It is a good idea to meet each other once a week. I got help to lose weight and I learned how to knit from friends I have made here."* Khadidja



*"I attend this weekly session. I volunteer by listening to people's problems and offering advice. I get involved in the knitting, teaching English, interpreting and filling in forms. I really enjoy this and have fun."* Farzann

*"I have just joined as a volunteer and I sat down beside an old friend. We haven't had a chance to talk for years. I am a mad keen knitter and I am thinking of involving people in 'yarn bombing' (street art with knitting or crocheting)."* Diz

*"I have been doing exercise here. I would like to be a volunteer because I would like to help people and make new friends."* Roza

*"I am very glad to come to the centre because I meet people from different backgrounds. I like to be here for the simple reason it is socialising and exercising. It is a good place for women in the community to meet."* Sarah

*"It is very helpful and I meet people from different backgrounds."* Zahra

**Come along any Wednesday during term time, 10am to 12noon. You can bring your children along. For more information, contact Aislinn on 07939 394 037.**



## Somali projects ask for support from Councillor

Story & photos: Lisa Swift

**Parents from the Somali community gathered at the Vestry Hall on 5th October to meet Councillor Jackie Drayton. They asked for her support to continue projects now running at the Vestry Hall for children and families.**

The meeting showcased Somali run projects including ITCSSS, Mothers of Burngreave and Rite Turn, who run a range of activities such as study support, positive activities for women and young people and a new lunch club. There were information stalls, registration for study support and many people were signing up as volunteers for the projects.

Responding to parents' concerns about keeping the project going after funding cuts, Jackie said, "The Council is struggling with the budget, but I promise to do everything I can to help, particularly with the rent costs of the building."

Mohamed Issa, Manager of ITCSSS Study Support, said. "It was a good turn out and everyone was positive and wanted to contribute as volunteers or offering to pay for study support. We are also organising a clean up day around the Vestry Hall on 29th November and people were signing up to do that. We are working with Burngreave TARA and Sheffield Futures on this. People understand we are in difficult times and they know we need to come together."



**New Somali Day Care group based at the Vestry Hall, every Wednesday. It's a free service aimed at women over 60 and includes a free lunch. Women share their skills in embroidery, sewing and knitting. To find out more contact Halwo Hassan on 07951 956 591.**



## Mushroom walk



Story: Saleema Imam | Photos: Saleema Imam & Christine Steers

**A few intrepid explorers braved the wind and rain at half term, to search for fungi in Burngreave Cemetery. Michael Senkans - SCC Biodiversity officer -led the tour starting and ending at the old mortuary chapel near the Melrose Road entrance.**

We already had evidence of the presence of Turkey Tail and Fly Agaric in the grounds but several species new to us were found. Unfortunately none were edible so we won't be able to supply local restaurants!

Michael will be writing a report of this and other recent visits explaining the diversity of the flora in the cemetery. This should be available in the New Year.

## Art in Burngreave Cemetery Chapel

Photo: Ken Wild

**'COLOURS' - an exhibition by Lois Palframan will be in Burngreave Cemetery Chapel in early December.**



The exhibition runs from Monday 2nd December to Saturday 7th December, from 11am to 3pm, at Burngreave Cemetery Chapel, Melrose Road (There is parking available in the cemetery).

“Low-tech eco-paint leaves- inspired by nature- bits of wall- to see colour- what it is- saying nothing and everything- freedom and possibility,” said Lois.

Lois Palframan has an MA in Fine Art and degrees in Environmental Science and Art. She has exhibited widely both regionally and internationally, including an artists book in the Tate Library.

Burngreave Cemetery Chapel is kept open by the Friends of Burngreave Cemetery for exhibitions and events. The clay paints in the exhibition are supplied by Earthborn and Sharrow Vale Hardware.

**Contact details: Lois Palframan 0114 243 5504.**



## Heritage at the House

Story: Fran Belbin | Photo: Lisa Swift

**Members of Sheffield Community Heritage Forum visited Abbeyfield Park House on 26th October to hold their quarterly meeting.**

The Forum was set up to share information on community heritage projects run by voluntary groups across Sheffield.

There were presentations from South Yorkshire Archaeology Service, Friends of the General Cemetery in Sharrow, Friends of Bishops' House (in Meersbrook Park), Sheffield Cathedral and the Shire Brook Valley Heritage Group.

For FOAP, it was encouraging to see community projects that have got off the ground and made real progress. We look forward to inviting SCHF back in the future when Abbeyfield Park House is more habitable!

Sheffield Community Heritage Forum can be contacted at schf@sheffield.ac.uk. To share your ideas about the future of Abbeyfield Park House, join the Friends of Abbeyfield Park Facebook group or visit <http://abbeyfieldpark.wordpress.com/>.

## New courses in Burngreave

*Why not try something new for the New Year? There are three new courses starting in Burngreave in January.*



### Confidence with money (venue to be confirmed)

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### Maths with ESOL – daytime at Burngreave Vestry Hall

A Maths course for learners with English as a Second or Other Language.

### ICT level 1 - daytime at Burngreave Vestry Hall

Develop your computer skills, and learn how to use software.

For more details or to book a place contact **Usha Blackham** or **Nadeen Al Shaibi** at Yemeni Community Association.

Telephone: **(0114) 256 0933**

Email: [ublackham@ycasheffield.co.uk](mailto:ublackham@ycasheffield.co.uk)

Or: [nalshaibi@ycasheffield.co.uk](mailto:nalshaibi@ycasheffield.co.uk)

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