



Sheffield Somali Forum launched

Story & photo: Lisa Swift

Unity was the word at the launch of Sheffield Somali Forum on 3rd March. Hundreds of Somali residents gathered at the Burngreave Vestry Hall to launch an umbrella organisation which will bring together Somali organisations from across the city.

The attendance of MPs David Blunkett and Paul Blomfield, local councillors and the new Police Commissioner, alongside the Somali community's leading figures, demonstrated the significance of this event. It is something many people have been hoping to see for a long time.

Mohamed Ali, Imam at Al-Taqwa mosque, will be taking the role of chair of the Forum. He told the meeting:

"I am very proud to be standing in front of you today. I'm trembling because of the importance of today. There is nothing better than being united; together we are stronger. Today I am proud of our elders for making this day a reality. I have to practice what I preach and that is why I take on this responsibility: because community is more important than the individual."

The meeting was inspired and informed by Somali professionals, who spoke about the issues faced by the community. Mulki Galal, whose father was part of the committee that first wrote down the Somali language in 1972, is a teacher at Fir Vale School and Somali Education Breakthrough. She spoke about the culture of the Somali people:

"We are a proud people, we have strength of community, we are generous and help each other and we have strong loyalties."

Those present were proud to welcome Abdi Suleiman, President of Sheffield University Students' Union, who told the meeting:

"I was born in Somalia and moved to the UK at the age of 3. Now I represent 25,000 students. I have met many intelligent and



quick-minded Somali young people and many are not reaching their potential. Somali students are as good as other students but their talent is not recognised. We should be inspired by the trade union movement - that, working together, we can change things. I am extraordinarily proud to be here today."

David Blunkett MP addressed the meeting saying, "I am very grateful and proud to be here and I am encouraged by what has been said today about working together. We have talked about the services for those in greatest need but the government now has a deliberate policy to undermine public services. When there is a willingness to work together, we will find new ways to deliver services and help those in greatest need. We can come out of it better; we will come through it together."

Bringing the event to a conclusion, event presenter Safiya Saeed, who will be part of the Forum committee, said:

"I have 5 children and I have no time but this is so important that I want to help. Please, if you can, come and help us."

Residents campaign against cuts to children's services

Budget cuts are hitting children in Burngreave the hardest, and local people have been campaigning hard to change the Council's mind on cuts to childcare, Study Support, Pitsmoor Adventure Playground and Verdon Recreation Centre.

Find out more on page 6 and 7.



Two Temporary Posts *Term Time Only*

38 weeks per year

Subject to funds the number of weeks could be extended

Early Years Practitioner / Room Leader

Qualified to level 3 or above. On the job experience required to supervise, plan and lead a small team in the running and organisation of activities and provide a stimulating, varied, fun programme of play in our over 3s room, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children at all times.

Salary: £7.50 per hour / 30 hours per week

Early Years Practitioner

Qualified to level 3. To support the learning and development of children under two years. Previous experience of working with 2 year olds an advantage. Good communication skills and empathy with children essential.

Salary £6.19 per hour / 27 hours per week

The successful candidates will have experience of working within an under 5s setting and have very strong backgrounds in the early year's foundation stage curriculum.

For an application pack and informal enquiries call Sharon or Lillian on 0114 275 1817

Closing date for applications 5th April 2013

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Easter programme at Christ Church and St Peter's

28th March

7.30pm: Maundy Thursday at Christ Church
Passover Seder meal

29th March, Good Friday

1.45pm: Walk from St. Peters to Christ Church via Abbeyfield Park behind the cross.

3pm: Quiet service of reflection before the Cross at Christ Church

6 pm: Good Friday evening service with Rev Mark Goodhand

30th March Easter Saturday

10am: Christ Church litter pick and Easter tidy up.

31st March

10.30am: Easter Sunday morning service with Archdeacon Martyn Snow at St. Peters

10.30am: United Holy Communion at Christ Church

Party? Group? Meeting?

HIRE THE CAFE

£10 first hour then £5 per hour

Burngreave Ashram, 86 Spital Hill

Call **270 0972 or 243 6688**

Burngreave Cemetery Spring and Summer Fun

Every Sunday:

11am-3pm: Help with finding family graves

2-4pm: Craft workshops with Patrick Amber

Sunday 21st April, 11-3pm

Geocache day.

Help place our GPS Geocache container.

Saturday 4th May &

Sunday 5th May, 10-4pm

What is Permaculture? Come and find out! With visits and speakers to celebrate the Permaculture Association's 30th anniversary. Music and shared food. Free but donations welcomed. *Please book in advance.*

Sunday 2nd June, 12pm: The Big Picnic

Part of the Eden Project's national Big Lunch

Bring sandwiches or food and drink to share.

Outside if fine, in the chapel if wet.

Games, music, puppet performance.



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

Contact

saleema.imam141@googlemail.com

Telephone: 07950 299 073

www.friendsofburngreavecemetery.btck.co.uk

Dementia? Welcome! Café

Who is it for?

Local people with memory problems, carers, and others who believe that living with Dementia can and should include joy in life and a sense of community.

What is it for?

- A place to get out to in Pitsmoor
- Friendly atmosphere
- Support, and shared experience
- Information
- Refreshments



Wednesdays 11am - 1pm
The Furnival
199 Verdon Street, S3 9QQ

Contact Nick 07725 569 380
nickedmondson@phonecoop.coop

Or Georgina 07535 276 790
george.507@btinternet.com

The Café has received funding support 2012 - 13 from Burngreave Community First and from The Big Lottery Fund (Awards for All).

Please pop in sometime

Landlord Licensing for Fir Vale

Story: Rohan Francis

New powers to regulate private landlords could be introduced in Page Hall and Fir Vale in the next 12 months.

'Selective Licensing' gives local councils extra powers to manage the quality of private rented properties and ensure high standards are met by landlords and their tenants.

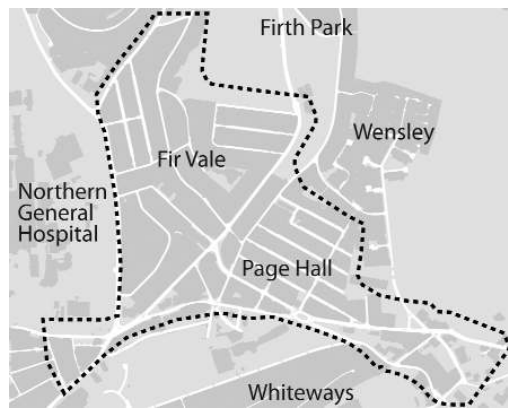
The plan to introduce the new scheme was announced at the Community Assembly meeting in March by the Council's Private Housing Standards team, who currently deal with problems in private rented homes across the city.

The need for higher standards in private rented properties in Page Hall and Fir Vale was highlighted in the latest housing sector study which showed the area has some of the highest levels of poor quality housing in Sheffield.

What is Selective Licensing?

The enhanced powers of Selective Licensing apply to private rented houses, not council housing or registered social housing, which are already regulated. Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) are also excluded as they are required to be licensed under existing rules.

If Selective Licensing is introduced in Page Hall and Fir Vale, any property owner who wants to rent property in the area will have to apply for a licence.



The Council will consider whether a landlord is 'fit and proper' before granting a licence.

The conditions of the licence will require that properties are made and kept safe and that landlords must seek references from prospective tenants.

What will it cost?

- A licence is required for each property the landlord lets
- Each licence lasts for 5 years and may cost around £750
- Landlords who let without a licence could face fines of up to £20,000
- Landlords who fail to comply with licence conditions could be fined up to £5,000

Consulting the whole community

The Council's Private Rented Standards team have estimated that the Page Hall and Fir Vale area contains 500 to 600 privately rented properties. In order to introduce Selective Licensing, the Council will have to carry out a minimum of 10 weeks statutory consultation, which includes getting comments from the whole community in the area. The scheme could take up to 12 months to introduce.

Housing changes

Story: Douglas Johnson

Many changes in the costs of running a home will take place in April, affecting many people in Burngreave.

Council rents will rise by 4.8%, higher than the rate of wages or benefits. At the same time, many people's housing benefit will be reduced because of the 'bedroom tax' which will affect thousands of people across Sheffield.

Whether in work or not, people receiving housing benefit will have to pay more, typically £13 a week, unless

they are overcrowded. For instance, a couple with two teenage daughters living in a 3-bedroom house will have their benefit reduced for having a 'spare' room.

Pensioners are exempt from the bedroom tax and the Government has just announced some other concessions for families with disabled children who need their own room, foster carers and people in the armed forces.

Council tax bills are now being issued. Many people will have to pay council tax for the first time, as every household of working age will now have to pay at least 23% of the full bill, regardless of their level of income – an extra £228 for a couple in Band A.



Children take the full force of the cuts

Cuts in Sheffield City Council's budget are being felt the hardest here in Burngreave. Worse than this, it is children in our area who are being affected the most.

Cuts to Pitsmoor Adventure Playground, Verdon Recreation Centre and Study Support will add up to more than 50 hours of provision lost per week for children. This, alongside cuts to Early Years services, will see children aged 0-15 severely affected.

In February, new child poverty figures show 3,077 children live in poverty in Burngreave, the 10th worst of the 9,434 wards in the entire country. In wards in the affluent west of Sheffield, fewer than 100 children face poverty. The Council will see this divide grow if it does not focus its remaining resources on those who need it most.

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holiday club

where: Welcome Center
Christ Church Pitsmoor

when: 10th-12th April
time: 10.00am-1.00pm
for ages 7-11

free admission

advisable to book
for more information contact
office@Christchurchpitsmoor.com



space theme

Reach High 2 Study Support

Do you want to:
Improve your child's grades?
Get them ready for exams next term?

Then Reach High 2 Study Support is for you!

Every Saturday
12pm – 2.30pm

Starting Saturday 20th April
at Firs Hill Community
Primary School



Reach High 2 has been developed to raise the attainment of
10 – 16 year olds from the BME community.

We are running 10 sessions from April to June 2013
at a cost of £4 per session; £40 full term.

To enrol and for further information come down with your
child to Firs Hill School on Saturday 30th March
between 12 and 2.30pm

All enquiries to:

Nasira Amin on 0783 446 8138

E-mail nasira.rh2@hotmail.co.uk



Burngreave After School Study Support



After the Easter Holidays, starting Monday 15th
April, BASSSP will be running English, Maths and
Science revision sessions for Y10 and Y11 pupils taking
GCSEs.

- **Mondays, 5.15-7.15: English and Science**
- **Tuesdays, 5.15-7.15: Maths**

At YCA Firvale Centre, Earl Marshal Road, S4 8LB.

All Y10s and 11s welcome. Just come along.

For more information ring the YCA on 0114 256 0933

Easter Holiday Activities

Friday 29th March - Sunday 14th April

All activities are FREE unless stated otherwise

Earl Marshall Youth Centre

Monday 2-4pm [8] April (8-12 years)
Monday 6-8pm [8] April (13-19 years)
Wednesday 6-8pm [3] [10] April (13-19 years)
Thursday 2-4pm [4] [11] April (13-19 years)
Thursday 6-8pm [4] [11] April (8-12 years)
Friday 2-4pm [5] [12] April (8-12 years)
Friday 6-8pm [5] [12] April (13-19 years)
Contact Community Youth Teams
☎ 201 8600 or 243 5597

All Saints Youth Centre

Tuesday 4-5.30pm [2] [9] April (8-12 years)
Tuesday 6-8pm [2] [9] April (13-19 years)
Wednesday 2-4pm [3] [10] April (13-19 years)
Thursday 2-4pm [4] [11] April (8-12 years)
Thursday 6-8pm [4] [11] April (13-19 years)
Contact Community Youth Teams
☎ 201 8600 or 243 5597

Osgathorpe Pavilion

Monday 6-8pm [8] April (13-19 years)
Contact Community Youth Teams
☎ 201 8600 or 243 5597

Arts & Crafts at Burngreave Library

Wednesday 3.45-4.45pm [27] March (8-13 years)
Contact Burngreave Library ☎ 203 9002

Pitsmoor Adventure Playground (8-14 years)

Willow Crafts and Lanterns - Saturday 12.30-5pm [30] March
Playground open during Easter Holidays - ask staff for times
under 8's must be accompanied by a responsible adult
Contact Pitsmoor Adventure Playground ☎ 273 4266

Easter Party in Wensley

Sunday 1pm onwards [24] March (all welcome)
picnic lunch - bring food and Easter Egg Trail
Contact Eden Fir Vale ☎ firvale@eden-network.org

Sports Camps Contact Activity Sheffield ☎ 273 4266

Firth Park Community Arts College
Wednesday 10am-3pm [3] April (8-16 years) £5

Parkwood Academy Football Camp
Thursday 10am-3pm [4] [11] April (8-16 years) £5

Easter Activities in Wensley

Tuesday 2nd - Friday 5th April (5-11 years)
Swimming 10am-12noon
Contact Owler Brook Children's Centre ☎ 261 2015
Dance, Boxercise, Sports, Craft & Gardening 2-4pm
Wensley Community Centre and field

Monday 8th - Friday 12th April (5-11 years)
Dance, Boxercise, Sports, Crafts & Gardening 2-4pm
Wensley Community Centre and field

Friday 5th April 2-4pm & Friday 12th April 10am-12noon
Cycling Lessons - Contact Owler Brook School ☎ 243 8611

High Sheriff honours Burngreave resident

Story: John Mellor



Every year the High Sheriff of South Yorkshire holds an awards ceremony to honour individuals and organisations that have made a significant contribution to their communities. The High Sheriff is the Queen's representative in the County and holds office for one year.

In her introduction to the award ceremony held early in March, the current High Sheriff, Mrs Julie Ann Kenny CBE DL, writes:

"Throughout my year as High Sheriff, I have met some truly inspiring people who, against the odds, have endeavoured to enrich the lives of others and give of their time selflessly in the pursuit of offering those less fortunate than themselves a better life".

One person whose work has been highly commended and was awarded a certificate signed by the High Sheriff is Burngreave resident, Victor Mujakachi. He has been honoured particularly for his voluntary work with ASSIST and the Archer Project, Sheffield charities which work in helping asylum seekers and homeless people.

The citation about Victor says "Victor is Highly Commended in the category of Unsung Hero in recognition and appreciation of valuable and devoted service in the community. He has volunteered tirelessly for several organisations in the city working to tackle destitution. He is a key member of ASSIST, a charity that supports destitute asylum seekers in Sheffield; he volunteers for the 6-9 Club run by the Archer Project to give homeless people somewhere to go in the evenings; and also at the Sunday Centre providing meals to homeless and destitute people, and at Football Unites Racism Divides, amongst other organisations."

In Burngreave, Victor is actively involved in running a night shelter for asylum seekers and giving valuable help at St Peter's, Ellesmere.



Commenting on his award, Victor told the Messenger:

"I would like to thank various people I work with who have submitted my name for the award. It is them, more than I, who recognise the things I do, as, for me, it is business as usual. I do what I do because, for me, it's just normal and nothing special."

Clearly Victor richly deserves this prestigious award and the Messenger is sure that readers will wish to add their congratulations.

Outreach Improvement Project

Story & photos: Lisa Swift

The Outreach Improvement Project held its third Annual Conference in February in the Town Hall, to celebrate the achievements of Somali residents, particularly young people.

The organisation was set up by young Somali adults to reach out to young people and improve their prospects for the future. Their annual event brought together Somali people from across Sheffield.

Imam Mohamed Ali, from the Al-Taqwa Mosque on Andover Street, addressed the conference:



"OIP is a great project that has come from the youngsters, who are educated Islamically as well as academically, and they strive hard to unite our community."

Saeed Abdi, from Maan Somali Mental Health, spoke about the history of Somalis in the UK and some of the issues people still face:

"Our community have higher than average mental health problems, high unemployment and under-achievement in



schools. But we have to be positive about what we can achieve here in Sheffield, through our homework clubs and youth support."

Young people presented a play, showing the difficult choices they must face and how young people can turn their lives around. This was followed by a presentation of awards.

Council cuts funding to study support

Story: Lisa Swift

Burngreave's four study support groups face an uncertain future after the Council failed to find any resources to help them from April.

Local residents and young people have campaigned for months to save the projects and show how important study support is in the Burngreave area. A petition, letters and meetings with MPs and councillors have not changed the Council's plan, despite evidence that study support significantly improves attainment for those who most need support. The cut will mean the loss of over 20 hours per week of positive out-of-school activity for young people.

The four groups will provide a much reduced service until the end of the academic year. Reach High 2 have asked parents to contribute to the costs so that they can continue their support. Burngreave Study Support Project are focusing their work just on Years 10 and 11 studying for exams. ITCSSS will be asking volunteers and parents to help out. Somali Education Breakthrough are focusing on Y6 pupils preparing for SATs.

It is unclear what will happen in September but groups will be looking to schools to help them to continue their work.

Council cuts nurseries

Story: Abtissam Mohammed



On 27th February the Council decided to go ahead with proposals to cut funding from 20 early years providers – mainly community nurseries operating in some of the most deprived areas in the city.

In Burngreave, Fir Vale Pre-School, Watoto and Ellesmere Children's Centre are directly affected. The Council decided to ignore the pleas of the very large and vocal early years campaign, the response from their own consultation and the largest petition ever handed in to Sheffield City Council (over 10,000 signatures). Parents are now mounting a legal challenge on the basis that the consultation has been flawed and equalities ignored.

The Council has offered 'business planning support' to the providers. It is unclear what this consists of and why the Council thinks its staff know how to run voluntary organisations better than their own staff. Providers are already operating on a shoestring and are unclear where the business support officers think they can reduce costs from.

Providers have to consider whether to cut childcare to term time only, reduce the hours in the day or stop offering childcare for under-2s. It will only make it harder for women in Burngreave to enter training and work.

Dear Messenger...



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

Keep Pitsmoor Adventure Playground as it is

Dear Sheffield City Council,

I am very concerned about the future of the Pitsmoor Adventure Playground. We (son and parents) have been using the playground and have witnessed how popular it is. It means a lot to the children. It gives them a chance to play safely outside of their homes. They can exercise through play and "let off steam".

The members of staff at the playground are excellent. They have a good rapport with the children and help them learn about teamwork, taking turns and positive conflict resolution. New arrivals improve their English outside school and make friends.

The playground is a safe haven in the busy neighbourhood of Pitsmoor/Burngreave. In my opinion it would be a very short-sighted decision to close the playground or to reduce its services. It would mean more children/young people would meet on the streets to play/hang out. They most probably would be without adult supervision. More anti-social behaviour would occur and the police would be called out more often. It makes much more sense to put money into preventative measures.

I urge you to rethink Pitsmoor Adventure Playground and to realise what an amazing place it is. Come and see for yourself what positive work for the community and its children/young people is being done at this place. Pitsmoor needs projects like this! Please keep the Pitsmoor Adventure Playground as it is.

Angela Kuster

Disgust at Playground closure

We are writing to express our utter disgust at the city council's decision to effectively close Pitsmoor Adventure Playground. Their proposals mean that no paid staff will be present to supervise the kids and that all the structures that have been built over the years will be demolished on health and safety grounds.

We moved into this area 34 years ago and our kids and now our grandkids have benefited from using the playground. Facilities like these are not just somewhere safe for kids to play, they are nurturing grounds for much wider reasons.

Confidence is nurtured, physical exercise is nurtured, fun is nurtured, and friendships are formed between kids from a wide variety of cultures that last for generations. These playgrounds have played a tremendous role in minimising vandalism, holding back the influence of drug abuse and keeping our kids safer. This has happened because of paid, professional, well-trained staff.

By proposing to make the playground an "open space" after tearing down the structures, they will be opening up the opportunity for dealers and drug users to return.

This council talks about the need for "social cohesion" and in the same breath ensures its demise by administering the Tory cuts when they should be joining (or dare we say leading) others in fighting against these vicious policies.

Sheffield and some of its leaders have a proud history of rebellion and struggle against the rich and powerful who would like to see "scroungers and shirkers" queuing up at food banks and working for a pittance. Where are those councillors now?

Mr. & Mrs. Lawson

Residents fight to save the playground and Verdon Rec

Local residents and children have been campaigning against Council proposals to cut staff at Pitsmoor Adventure Playground and Verdon Recreation Centre.

Petition

Over 1400 signatures were collected and presented to the Cabinet meeting on 13th February. The Council proposal was to cut all staff and allow the buildings to be rented out. The playground was to be left open, like a park, and almost all the play equipment removed for health and safety reasons.

Protest

Pitsmoor Adventure Playground Users Group responded with a playful protest. Children and adults made signs saying, 'don't destroy our happiness, save our playground'. Friends Of Verdon Recreation Centre held a meeting with their local councillor.

Cuts decision scrutinised

Residents put their case to a Council Scrutiny Committee in February, stating that both facilities could be staffed using the £1million budget Activity Sheffield have for the city. However, the Scrutiny meeting recommended that core staff be cut, and that mobile staff should run a small number of sessions instead. The buildings would be managed by the Council's Community Buildings Team.

Playground's opening hours cut

Activity Sheffield are currently proposing that the playground's opening times are reduced from 25 hours to 4 hours per week. Discussions are ongoing with the Council about increasing this. It has been agreed that the playground will not be converted into a park, but the big slide will still be removed as Activity Sheffield say it is too high to be safe.

Pitsmoor Adventure Playground Users Group will hold its AGM on Saturday 20th April, 2pm at Pitsmoor Adventure Playground.

To find out more about Pitsmoor Adventure Playground Users Group, or Friends of Verdon Recreation Centre contact the Messenger.

Byron Wood pupils have written to the Councillors...

Dear Councillors,

I am writing to complain about the closure of Pitsmoor Adventure Playground. In my opinion I think that adventure playgrounds should not be closed down. The majority of kids in our school go to the Adventure Playground and do not want it to shut down.

Most children go to the Adventure Playground because it is somewhere where they can have fun and meet new friends. The Adventure Playground is not like any other park - it has many activities and children love to go there. Think of how they would feel if you close it down.

In addition to that, it is the safest place for kids to play in around their area. Also it will keep kids off the street, which will prevent them from a likely chance of becoming badly behaved. This could lead them to becoming criminals.

The Adventure Playground is a place where children can come without their parents. Their parents can always trust the staff to keep their children safe. As well as that, think of the staff of the Adventure Playground. They have a family and they need money to pay all the bills and buy food. How would they feel about it?

I hope you have raised your concern about the closure of Pitsmoor Adventure Playground. Please think about it.

Yours sincerely, Ayat Elawej

Dear Councillors,

I would like to raise my concern that the Adventure Playground shouldn't be closed.

Because children will be sad and they won't know where to go - they like the activities such as painting, art, drawing and other things. What if your child would go there - would you close it? Please think of children and how they would feel. They give us snacks, drinks and food and they have a tuck shop there.

I am very disappointed that you want to close the Adventure Playground. Think what are the children going to do at home.

I hope that you will keep the Adventure Playground open and I hope that you will listen to my reasons.

Yours sincerely, Dominika Horvathova

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to complain about the closure of the Adventure Playground. I would like you to change your decision for the following reasons.

One problem is that the staff are going to lose their jobs. How are they going to find another job easily?

Nobody will go to the playground because it will be just plain grass and the best things will go to the dump.

Children will watch TV all day and feel bored. The children's weight will get bigger and bigger.

It will be a pleasure if you let the Adventure Playground stay open. I am sure that you are going to reply.

Yours sincerely, Juwairiya Khan

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to oppose the proposed staff changes at Pitsmoor Adventure Playground. I understand that budget cuts are rife, but there are more important issues to be dealt with. I have a number of reasons not to remove staffing from the site.

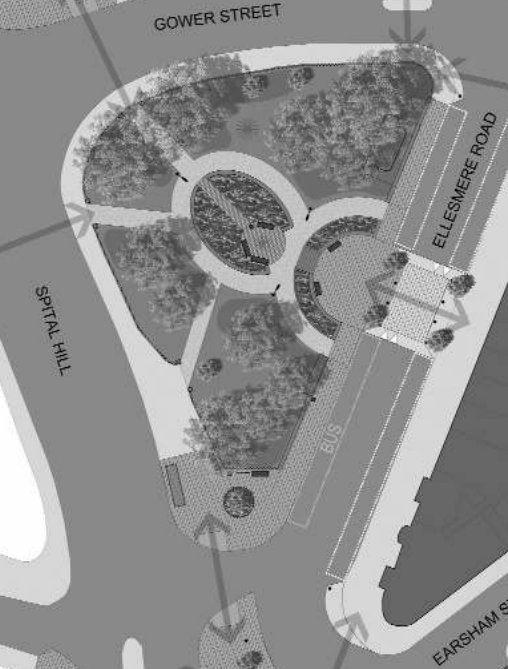
The playground, which, as you know, is a bedrock of the community, provides a lifeline for the hundreds of local children. One boy says that before he started coming to the playground, he would regularly vandalise local fences and postboxes. Nowadays, he enjoys the playground facilities. "I can't believe that the council are going to remove the employees," he says, "they're the ones that make it special!"

Despite a dismissal of Pitsmoor as an "easy target" for cuts, we can prove that this will have a detrimental effect on the youth of Pitsmoor and Burngrave.

Several children, who in the past have been attacked, have started hanging out at the playground and the mindless bullying stopped. Do you really want these children to spend their free time in a hospital bed?

Thank you for reading this. I can only hope that it will help you reconsider your atrocious decision. If you don't do it for me, do it for the young people of Pitsmoor.

Yours sincerely, Daniel Rhys Knight



Ellesmere Green update

Story: John Mellor

Final plans are being made for the improvements to Ellesmere Green which have been under consideration for some time now.

The revised plan shows some changes to the previous one shown in the August 2012 edition of the Burngreave Messenger. These include a footpath to the bus stop on Spital Hill and changes to parking arrangements.

The council officer co-ordinating the plans for the renovation of Ellesmere Green, Lucia Lorente-Arnau, told the Messenger,

“Following the initial consultation in July 2012, some traffic counts were undertaken before Christmas and it was decided to put forward a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to propose a two-hour parking limit on Ellesmere Road outside the shops. This would be free and would operate between 8am and 6.30pm from Monday to Saturday. In addition, 3 car parking spaces will be created on the opposite side of Ellesmere Road adjacent to the current toilets to compensate for those lost due to the pedestrian crossing outside the post office.”

The toilets themselves will be demolished due to lack of funding for maintenance. The Council is planning to close them from the beginning of the financial year on 1st April. Trees have already been removed in preparation for work to begin on the green later this year.

The estimated completion date for the project is November/December 2013.

Improvements to main roads

Story: Saleema Imam

The Streets Ahead road improvement programme is moving into what is termed the ‘Grimesthorpe Zone’ – which actually means main roads in Burngreave, Grimesthorpe, Page Hall and Wincobank.

Work will be done on Spital Hill, Burngreave Road and Page Hall Road. Work on minor roads will come later. According to Councillor Jack Scott, between April and June,

“We will be upgrading street lights and improving the condition of roads, pavements and the overall street appearance. We look forward to the benefits that this will bring and ask that people bear with us while these important works are carried out.”

All residents and businesses will receive a letter before work begins in their street.

In addition to work on roads, pavements and kerbs, there will also be improvements to drainage, replacement of traffic signals, new street lights and

replacement of trees. There are no trees affected on Burngreave Road.

The bulk of the work will commence at the end of March, with street lighting, drainage, gully, kerb, and footpath works all being carried out between March and the end of May.

Existing lamp posts will be replaced with new ones. State-of-the-art, low-carbon LED lights will provide a white light to improve visibility and safety, as well as reducing carbon emissions. Where existing lamp posts are not replaced, the lanterns will still be upgraded to LEDs. Where possible, lamp posts will be placed at the back of the pavement and away from the kerb edge to ensure an even distribution of light.

The public is encouraged to make suggestions at any time. Amey say they intend to be open to approaches as they want their contract to be popular as well as successful.

Further detailed information is available on:
www.sheffield.gov.uk/streetsahead
 telephone 273 4567 or email deborah.yewdall@amey.co.uk

More information on the trees to be removed is on our website:
www.burngreavemessenger.org

Spital Hill artworks

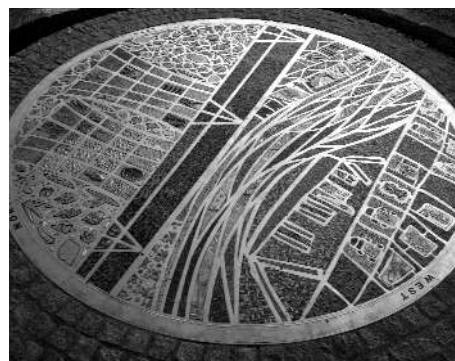
Three artworks have been commissioned in the Spital Hill area from the sculptor, Michael Johnson, who has made many works in Sheffield and across the country.

The works along Spital Hill will be about the area and its connections with the steel industries.

They will mostly be made of stainless steel, to mark 2013 as the centenary of its discovery by Harry Brearley, who spent the early part of his life living just off Spital Hill. Bronze and mosaics will add colour to the works.

The first work will be sited at Caborn’s Corner, named after George Caborn who led political rallies and marches from the site during the 50s, 60s and 70s. The artist will be meeting with George Caborn’s family and friends to help create the design.

The second site is part of the refurbishment plans for Ellesmere Green. This will be a floor-based work with contributions to its design and details



from local people and schools.

The final work, sited outside the Vestry Hall, will be a free-standing work, again with contributions from local residents and schools.

The artist will be making contact with local groups to develop both the themes and content of the artworks. Any individuals who wish to be involved can contact the artist through his website or the Burngreave Messenger’s.

The work pictured above was installed in Tinsley last year and involved many members of the community in its design.

More examples of artwork can be seen at: www.michaeljohnsonsculptor.co.uk

International Women's Day at Verdon Rec

Story: Julia Shergold | Photos: Lisa Swift

March 8th is International Women's Day and in Burngreave women came together to celebrate at Verdon Recreation Centre.



This was a chance to share information, learn about opportunities in the area, meet new people, relax, chat and, above all, to appreciate the talent of local women.

The event is a regular annual event at Verdon Street and never fails to show the variety and vibrancy of Burngreave. Over 200 women shared food, music, poetry, songs, and dancing, as well as taking advantage of the many information stalls and health and wellbeing treatments.



Faisa, from Maan Somali Mental Health, who was hard at work in the kitchen, said she felt "inspired and motivated" by the whole event. Permjeet, who attended the event on behalf of NHS Sheffield felt that it was "wonderful to see so many women... bringing stories of the fantastic work and achievement of their families and friends, and their role in supporting their local communities."

Somshun, who helped to organise the event told me it was "the first time I've been, but not the last!"



Muslim Women's Voices

Story & photo: Lisa Swift

Muslim Women's Voices held their second AGM in February, following a year of successful work and projects.

One of the founding members, Zaiada Bibi, opened the meeting with encouraging words,

"We are mothers and we also have to work but it is important that we are at the front of activity in our community."

Following a very successful AGM last year, women have taken the initiative and set up projects, most notably in Darnall, where new activities for women and children have been developed. Women have taken part in an Appreciative Inquiry Project at St Mary's Community Centre to help understand the barriers to learning for Pakistani women. Women have also built their confidence to interact with those in power through a



'How your area works' course.

The event concluded with a lively discussion about what changes people had seen for Muslim women in the last 12 months. It was certainly the case that more women had been active in their community but there is still a lot more to do if services are to keep going and reach Muslim women in the future.

Get active and feel good

There is a huge amount of research and evidence that proves being physically active is essential if you want to live a healthy and fulfilling life.

There are many medical benefits to being physically active. For example:

- up to a 35% lower risk of coronary heart disease and stroke
- up to a 50% lower risk of type 2 diabetes
- up to a 50% lower risk of colon cancer
- up to a 20% lower risk of breast cancer
- a 30% lower risk of early death

Exercise and mental health

Being physically active is good for your mental health. Research shows exercise releases natural chemicals in your brain that improve your mood and make you feel happier.

Taking part in physical activities offers many opportunities. It's a great way to meet people, increase your self-worth and improve your confidence.

Other benefits include:

- less tension, stress and mental fatigue
- a natural energy boost
- improved sleep
- a sense of achievement
- focus in life and motivation
- less anger or frustration
- a healthy appetite
- better social life

What kind of activities do I need to do?

Being physically active does not mean we have to sign up to the gym or go jogging. There are lots of ways to be active - and they don't need to cost much money.

You should aim to do 30 minutes of moderate exercise five times a week. Moderate exercise means, when exercising we should find ourselves breathing heavier than normal, increasing our heart rate and feeling warmer.

Activities can include: walking briskly (health walks), swimming, dancing (Zumba), outdoor games (cricket, light football) or digging in the garden.

For more information contact Somshun Nessa: 07960 084 119, somshun.nessa@soarcommunity.org.uk

Gardening for mental well-being

Will Spring ever come? SAGE Greenfingers are the first to know about it when leaves start to bud, crocuses spring up and the battle with weeds starts all over again! Like everything in life gardening has its highs and lows, but getting active in the garden and watching the turning seasons can be wonderfully therapeutic.

Burngreave resident Ken, who has been attending Greenfingers gardening sessions for 5 years, has found the project a real lifeline. He sank into depression after retiring from work in 2007 and became increasingly socially isolated. His GP referred him to SAGE and he has become a regular attender. He has made new friends, helped grow and eat fantastic harvests of organic fruit and veg, and is now getting help with developing his own small garden. Because of all this he's beginning to feel more positive about what life has to offer:

"It's been a fantastic support and helped me through some really low times. Now I'm beginning to look forward again."

Health Walks

The Health walk, has proved to be very popular over the years, with some original members still attending, and other walkers becoming health walk leaders themselves.

We have two walks to choose from. A very short one, which is around half an hour and a longer one which is about an hour. We socialise over tea and coffee afterwards in Abbeyfield House.

The walks are for all abilities, and suit people recovering from physical illness or an operation, or people who may want to lose weight or get a bit fitter. The walks are also a great way to improve mental health and wellbeing, break isolation and make friendships.

Women's Wellbeing

This Sheffield Mind and Body Course is for those who are experiencing anxiety, low levels of confidence or mild to moderate low mood. Topics include: understanding emotional wellbeing, relaxation, stress and anxiety, food and mood, self-esteem and assertiveness.

Start date: Tuesday 16th April 2013
End date: Tuesday 21st May 2013
Session time: 10am - 12pm
Venue: Verdon Recreation Centre



SAGE Greenfingers supports adults experiencing a range of mental health problems through therapeutic gardening and arts and craft activities on Grimesthorpe allotments.

Monday - women only - 11 - 2pm
Tuesday - mixed group - 11 - 2pm
Thursday - mixed group - 11 - 2pm

There is also a group for adults with a personal budget on Wednesday 11 - 2pm.

To find out more phone 274 3651 or visit www.sagesheffield.org.uk



"It lifts your mood" Brian

"Gives you someone to talk to" David

"You make new friends" Shane

"It gets you out of the house" Owen

The walks start from Pitsmoor surgery every Tuesday at 1.30pm

For more details contact Val Ellis on 0114 276 2644 or email val.ellis@nhs.net



Free to attend, Free Crèche.
To book call: 258 4489
or email: info@sheffieldmind.co.uk

University boxing champion

Story: Lisa Swift

Arsalan Othman is hoping to inspire young people, after winning gold at the British Universities Boxing Championships in February.

The victory followed 7 fights in the competition, which took place in Coventry, Birmingham and Don Valley Stadium. Arsalan trains with Brendan Ingle at Wincobank 5 to 7 days per week. Arsalan explained,

"Brendan inspired me to go to University. He said, 'get your education sorted and then you can do the boxing.' So I'm studying Sports Coaching at Sheffield Hallam University. I'm in my first year."

Arsalan was born in Yemen and was brought up in Pitsmoor from the age of 7 but is also well known in Wensley, where he has worked part-time at the community shop for 3 years. It has long been his ambition to work with other young people.

"I was involved in the Streetworx youth project when it ran up at Verdon Street. I saw the youth workers help others and I wanted to give something back. I want to inspire young people to get into sports: that's why I'm studying to be a sports coach."

The positive publicity from this gold medal victory is something Arsalan is also pleased about,

"I'm glad I got something positive in the Star about the win. It's something positive about Pitsmoor, they usually only want to write bad news about our area."

Bus Fare increases

Story: Muneebah Waheed

First Buses have announced an increase in fares from April 1st. Single fares will increase by 10p, whilst day tickets are set to increase by 20p and weekly tickets by 50p.

The student fare is amongst the fares which are set to increase, from 60p to 70p in April. For a return journey, this will cost the average student £1.40 and, when calculated weekly, will cost students £7 a week, an increase of one whole pound.

A local student spoke to the Messenger about the bus fare increase saying "Prices are increasing but the service is still really bad. Bus journeys are getting expensive but the bus will probably still arrive late."

First have said that the increase is due to 'rising business costs'.



Jobs, training and employability support for residents. All welcome!

**YCA, Firvale Centre, Earl Marshal Road.
10.30-2.30pm Tuesday 21st May**



- Colleges, training providers and community organisations on-hand to help with information on jobs and training.
- Find out where you can get help getting online.
- Support for job search, online applications, creating CVs, interview skills and help finding training.

Contact davidcurtis@bopps.org.uk for more details.

**Youth Event at Burngreave Vestry Hall
4-6.30pm Wednesday 22nd May**



- Partners and service providers are invited to bring information stalls and displays.
- Colleges, training organisations and employers present to offer employment and training support.
- Find out about apprenticeship opportunities.

**Contact Carl or Leon on 0114 2133 120 or
Email: info@eyproject.org.uk**

**Open evening, Sheaf Training, Norwood Drive
4-6pm Thursday 23rd May**



Come and see Sheaf Training services, opportunities and courses on the doorstep!
Children welcome

Online prospectus: www.sheaftraining.co.uk

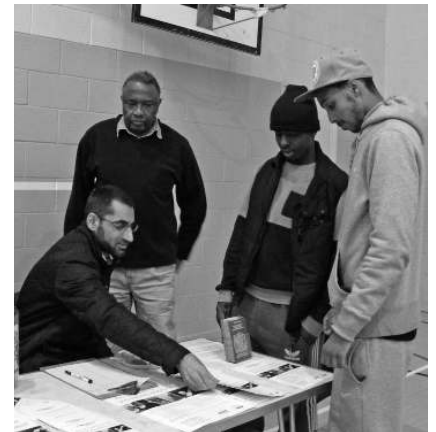
Telephone: 0114 403 1007

Employment support to build confidence

Story & photo: Julia Shergold

MAAN (the Somali mental health project) hosted an Employability Skills Event at Verdon Recreation Centre on Thursday 14th March.

Employers, support organisations, and voluntary groups provided stalls, all aimed at helping people into work, education or volunteering.



I spoke to Saeed Abdi from MAAN who told me that the event "aimed to give people employment opportunities which are vital for mental health service users and survivors, to help recovery and rehabilitation." He went on to say:

"Employment is vital for the wellbeing of people in general. It builds self-esteem, confidence and the ability to engage in everyday life. The simple act of helping people realise they are employable and have skills is important. It's about confidence and community cohesion."



Owler Brook opens extension

Story: Fran Belbin

The expansion of local primary schools continues with a £3.8m extension at Owler Brook Nursery, Infant and Junior School, opened by Lord Mayor John Campbell on Monday 11th March. Owler Brook will now be able to take pupils up to Year 6, offering an extra 150 primary school places to local children.

Visitors to the opening event, including local MP David Blunkett, were treated to dance and martial arts performances by current Owler Brook pupils. Headmistress Sue Bridges described the reaction to the latest development: "The children, parents, staff and whole community are thrilled with the new building. Children deserve to be educated in the best possible environment and this building really does the job." New facilities include a



food technology room, a media hub and an outdoor play deck; the addition of a caretaker's house has freed up even more room for teaching and learning inside.

The growing demand for school places in the north east of Sheffield has prompted the Owler Brook expansion. St Catherine's, Pye Bank and Whiteways primary schools have also been extended, and a new primary on Skinnerthorpe Road is scheduled to open in September 2014.

Dressing up at Pye Bank

Story: Zabeda Hussain

At Pye Bank CofE Primary, the children dressed up based on a book their class chose. In Foundation, the story was 'Space Ant.' The story is about Space Ant who travelled to different coloured planets. All the staff dressed up as the planets and the children as aliens.

Red Nose Day

On Red Nose Day, the children and staff at Pye Bank CofE Primary School had great fun dressing up in red and the parents sold cakes and buns. Together they raised £373.53.



George & Brian



Spring collection!

by Edgar Lowman

Brian, have you seen my new spring collection?




I didn't know you were into fashion.

No no no




My Spring Collection!






Fir Vale Reading Community

Story & photo: Janet Lawson

Students at Fir Vale School were encouraged to sign up to join our wonderful public libraries on 7th March.

Penny Leigh, Learning Resource Manager, and Library Development Worker Sue Taylor organised the event. Sue said, "The aim of the event is to increase awareness of all the great range of resources the community libraries have to offer, not just to students but to their families as well. I'm hoping that by talking to young people on the day, I can encourage them to use the libraries at Firth Park and Burngreave."

World Book Day at Firs Hill School

Story: Kath Hobson

On Thursday 7th March, lots of schools around the country dressed up as storybook characters for World Book Day.



At Firs Hill there were some unusual visitors to the KS1 assembly! Wally, Harry Potter and Hagrid, Dorothy, the Fairy Godmother, Maid Marian, Winnie the Witch and Red Riding Hood all made an appearance. Lots of children dressed up and everyone read a story to each other in the Hall.



Red Noses at Whiteways

Story: Samera Aslam

The air of joy and charity, construed through splashes of red, was present at Whiteways Primary School on Red Nose Day, 15th March 2013. Children, staff and parents alike dressed in red attire and bold noses, ready to indulge in the many Red Nose themed events.

The main hall bustled with stalls of sweet treats, games, henna art and trinkets. The Y6's were very creative in their approach, making games such as 'Red Nose treasure hunt map' and 'find the longest straw.' However the most popular involved throwing balls at bowling pins with teachers' faces taped onto them. Here are some of the children's thoughts on helping out on the fundraising morning:

"We can raise money for children in need and it's fun when you can win prizes." Armaani, Y6

"I like that everyone is trying to come in and donate for a good cause. Our KS1 box was nearly full so we are doing a good job so far." Thamina, Y6

"You can wear red which is a change from normal uniform and raise money from it." Cameron, Y6

In the playground, children participated in 'sponsored skipping,' where they were paid for every skip they did. After the flamboyant chocolate fountains, it was evident the children had a great time, not only by getting involved with activities but also



raising money for a great cause. Mrs Younis, from Whiteways Parents Group, said:

"It's a fun day where parents, teachers and children can be as one and raise money for a good cause."

Teacher Mrs Woods commented,

"I think it is a lovely opportunity for everyone to get together for a common purpose where there is no difference what faith, race or background you are. Everyone is here to help those in need."

Well done to everyone involved in raising nearly £500 for Comic Relief.

Earl Marshall Juniors Successful Season

Story: Mick Ashman

This season is turning out to be the most successful in the history of Earl Marshall Juniors Football Club, with all three junior teams in strong contention for a top three finish in their respective leagues.



After narrowly missing out on promotion to Division A at the end of last season, the Under 12s are well placed to secure a top three finish this time around. They are also enjoying a fantastic Cup run, having beaten Abbey Lane 4-0 in the last round. They face Greenhill in the quarter finals.

The Under 11s recent 4-0 win over Heeley FC means that victory in their two remaining games will see them promoted as Division B Champions. Manager Garfield Walters and his assistant Cecil Clarke, who have coached many of the boys since they started as Under 7s, are immensely proud of the team's steady year-on-year progress. Garfield believes this has come with hard work during training, a willingness to learn and a tremendous team spirit with every player making a key contribution to the season's success.

It has been a similar story for the Under 10s who have also made excellent progress over the last couple of seasons. They are currently battling for third place in the league and are through to the quarter finals in their Cup competition. Manager Tony Herrington believes that any team who can take four points from league leaders Chesterfield Town is a match for anyone, and believes that the boys are capable of going undefeated until the end of the season.

The Club will be holding trials for next season at the beginning of June (for Under 11s, Under 12s and Under 13s). If you would like more information on Earl Marshall Juniors – a football club that is proud to reflect the diversity of our local community – then please contact Mick Ashman on 07843 731 430.



Byron Wood visits the 1960s

Story: Samsul Kahar, Ammal Mohamed and Sana Khan.

During the Autumn Term, the Y6 children at Byron Wood Primary School were busy learning about the 1960s, which included a visit to the 'Beatles Story' in Liverpool, not to mention preparing for our Strictly Come Singing competition.

On Friday 6 January 2013, a 1960s band came to our school and played a variety of songs, for example: 'Love Me Do', 'Twist And Shout' and 'Let It Be'. They ended with 'Born To Be Wild' which had everyone up singing and dancing.

There were three members of 'The Band With No Name'. One played the drums, another played bass and the third played the electric guitar as well as bottleneck guitar. In between playing songs, the band spoke to us about their experiences during the 1960s and answered our questions about music.

Towards the end of our 1960s topic the whole school including the staff all sang a Christmas song in their classes. Some classes changed the lyrics to well known songs and others had amazing props. It was difficult for the judges to choose a winner but eventually the winners were announced. In 3rd place were Y6DW singing 'Rocky Robin'. In 2nd place were Y5RM singing 'Calypso Carol' and Y6SO came 1st singing their own version of 'Octopus's Garden' by the Beatles – 'Under the Tree', which was influenced by our 1960s topic.

Gothic Bites!

By Mohammed Ali & Mubeenah Waheed

A group of Fir Vale Y9 students were given the chance to express their creativity by producing a film trailer based on Gothic literature.

The students attended a series of sessions at the University of Sheffield where they were given the opportunity to analyse extracts of gothic literature, which influenced them and made them feel the deep and mysterious content of texts written by authors such as Ann Radcliffe.

They then examined the infamous Dracula text tearing each paragraph apart to analyse it in depth and from this they were encouraged to try to start their own story.



The students then developed their ideas as they began to produce their own story which they would then convert into a trailer. The Y9 group were so excited to hear they could actually make a professional piece using only the storyboards they had created earlier! The

groups worked in teams showing leadership and communication skills whilst also showcasing their passion for writing.

Raj, a member of the University, helped students create the trailers back at school which were sent off to be presented at a screening in front of the students and their families and friends on 20th March. Students enjoyed the project thoroughly with Thaiba Ayub saying,

"It was a great insight into the Gothic world and I would love for something like this to happen again. I was so delighted to find I was chosen for this project, me and my team put 100% in to this. We are awesome!"

The students would like to thank the University of Sheffield and everyone else involved in the process.

Dear Messenger...



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

Working with Harry Brearley

Dear Messenger,

I was intrigued to read the article on the discovery of stainless steel, as my late grandfather, John William Lindley, was a member of the small team that assisted Harry Brearley in the project.

I'm afraid I never met him as he died a few months before I was born and my father never spoke of him. I feel this was because of the tragedy of my grandmother, Clara, who hung herself in the family home (at the time Wheldrake Road) which cast a dark shadow over the family.

It was my late aunt Dorothy who told me of my grandfather's part in the process. At the time of the discovery my father, newly married in September 1909, was residing at 20 Catherine Street and it seems Harry was a regular visitor, enthused at the prospect of the discovery.

My grandfather (an engineer by trade) produced one of the first test pieces in stainless steel, a wheel rim and axle miniature about 6 inches in diameter. We held this piece in the factory until the late 1980's when my father (also John) lent it to a colleague at GKN Sharncliffe for a paperweight. As happens with these things, it "disappeared", but I wondered if any present owner knows they hold a piece of history in their junk drawer

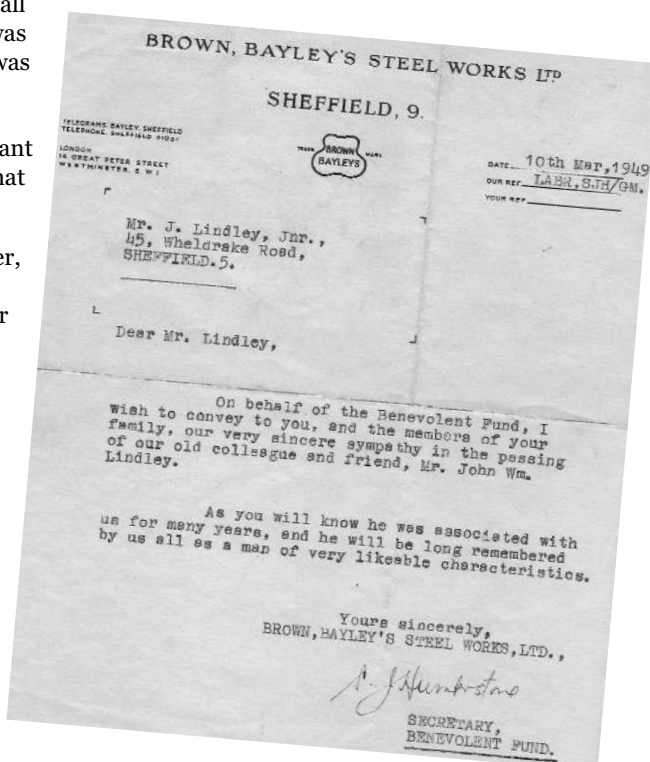
In later life, my grandfather went to work for Brown Bayley's steelworks until his retirement. I understand he held a staff position and in the 1920's was responsible for organising and arranging exhibition stands our local steel companies would take out to trade shows all over the country. This was at a time when Britain was still somewhat the workshop of the world, and Sheffield an important part of the machinery that drove that workshop.

My grandfather's brother, Frank Lindley, was a talented footballer. After success with Milford Athletic in 1907/8, he signed professionally with Scottish side Motherwell where he won a Scottish Association medal in the 1911-12 season. I still possess a photograph of him. Hopefully this is of some interest.

John Lindley



My grandfather, John William Lindley, on holiday with Aunt Bessy and Auntie Lily



Politicians focus on Fir Vale

Story: Rohan Francis

David Blunkett MP, Shaun Wright - the new South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner, local police officials and councillors heard residents' concerns at the monthly Police And Communities Together (PACT) meeting hosted by the Pakistan Advice and Community Association on 7th March.

Litter and antisocial behaviour

In response to residents' concerns about litter and antisocial behaviour, councillors told the meeting that Amey, the Council's contracted rubbish collection service, had increased the frequency of street cleaning in the area.

Crime figures falling

The meeting also heard from the police who presented new crime statistics demonstrating an overall drop in incidents, particularly burglary and robbery which fell by 19%, despite being on the increase across the city.

Street improvements

Residents insisted that existing measures to tackle litter and environmental decline were inadequate and that the streets were now in a very poor state.

The police recommended that improvements to the streets, such as those seen recently in Shirecliffe, would be beneficial and could help to combat the issues raised. They told the meeting that a request had been made for Amey to bring forward the Streets Ahead project so that improvements could be begun immediately.

Refusal from Amey

Amey has since told the Messenger that this request has been refused and the work will be carried out, as planned, in 2015.

Residents questions continued on the subject of litter, with much frustration from local people who have seen a decline in Page Hall over the last 10 years. One angry resident stated, "You'll never improve the area until you stop letting landlords have the houses".

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LAUNCH DAY

Wednesday 24th April 3.30pm - 6pm



For further information contact Mr Kemali at Fir School Academy Trust, Owl Lane, Sheffield S4 8GB
Tel: 0114 243 9391 or email mita@firvale.com

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Contact: Mr Kemali at Fir Vale School Academy Trust
Tel: 0114 2439 391 email: mita@firvale.com



Contact the Centre for more specialised courses

Further tales of St Catherine's Scout Group

Story: Patrick Duggan

It was 1st April 1943 when the 205th St Catherine's Scout Group was formally affiliated into the Scout movement. 70 years later, Patrick Duggan continues with reminiscences of the group.



Peter Whitely and his Scouts at a district cub camp.



Knocking in pickets for an aerial runway at Whitely Wood Hall 1984

As related in February's Messenger, the 1960s dawned and the group completed the building of its HQ at Holtwood Road. This was opened in 1962 by District Commissioner Reg Bruce and the Parish Priest, Father John Ward.

The building was in use four nights a week, with meetings of Cubs and Scouts troops. Patrol numbers rose from three to four. The troops went on Easter and Whit camps at Hesley Wood, Squirrel Wood or Silverwood. Midsummer Camps were further afield - the Lake District, Cheshire, Walesby Forest, Auchengillen

in Scotland or Kingsdown on the Kent Coast.

The Scout Leader acquired a cine camera, projector and screen. As well as cinematic records of camps and hikes, epics were filmed on location at the HQ Holtwood Road.

During this period, the club leader Peter Smith and the Brownie Leader Anne Buckley married in St Catherine's Church - the cine camera was again in action.

The following decades saw the group shrink in numbers but not in enthusiasm. In the 1970s, there were changes to the movement following the 1966 'Advance Party Report'. However the scout troop gained four advanced scout standards. When, in 1984, the scout movement in Sheffield celebrated 75 years of scouting, the cubs and scouts of the group, together with the leaders, all played their part in the '75 show', held at The Octagon. A District Camp was also held as part of the celebrations at Taly Migned, Snowdonia, Wales. Mount Snowdon was climbed, a slate quarry visited and canoeing practised on a nearby lake. Once again the group played its part.



Summit of Snowdon 1984

Since those days, the group has had a grant to refurbish the hut, its HQ and the toilet block, most of the work being done by the leaders, many of whom are either qualified tradesmen in the building industry or very good DIYers. The results of their efforts are very good and, despite being a small group, the Scouts and Cubs keep going. Four Scouts have joined the District Explorer Scout Unit and are enjoying scouting at another level, as well as with the group. In fact this year, the group celebrates its 70th birthday and various activities are being planned.

The group has had the privilege of having the following Scouts attending World Jamborees:- Robert Taylor (1956 Sutton Coldfield), Paul Gerrard (1976 Norjamb, Norway) and Brendan Hudson was chosen as first reserve for the 13th World Jamboree at Asagiri Heights, Nippon (Japan) in August 1971.

New recruits, both children and adults, are always welcome. Age ranges are: - Beavers 6-8 years, Cubs 8-11 years, Scouts 11-14 years. Adults 18 years plus may become leaders. Why not give it a try? If you are interested, please contact our Group Scout leader, Mr. A. Whiffin, Telephone - 0114 246 3728.

Ellesmere loses its head

Story: Robert Shaw | Photo: Ann Smith

The council have removed the wooden head carved out of a rowan tree stump which appeared on Ellesmere Road North last year, saying it was not authorised and was a safety risk for road users.

Local residents have expressed their disappointment. One said she would really miss "looking out of my window and seeing a work of art." Local businessman, Michael Shipley, has since claimed he commissioned the artwork to enrich the area. He said:

"It was inspired by the Stanwick Horse Mask - an artefact from the time of Christ when the Wincobank Hill Fort was built and Sheffield lay on the southern border of the land of Brigantes, ruled over by Queen Cartimandua. She was responsible for handing over a fleeing King Caractacus to the Romans. It was intended as a curiosity, a talking point, a landmark even."

The original Stanwick Horse Mask, made from bronze, was found in Stanwick, North Yorkshire, the site of Queen Cartimandua's royal palace, but is now in the British Museum.

Councillor Jack Scott, the Sheffield City Council Cabinet Member for Environment, Recycling and Street Scene, said that the carved wooden head was removed "cleanly and without damage so that it can be used as a free standing piece of art elsewhere. The carving has been kept in storage at the Olive Grove Depot for safe keeping until it is re-claimed and sited anywhere off the highway for safe enjoyment. We hope to get a conclusion that everyone is happy with."



Focus on Bressingham

Story & photos: Margaret Williams



Burngreave Tenants and Residents Association has been very active around the Bressingham area in the last few months.



Handrails have been painted and new signage is to be erected shortly. The TARA arranged a Bring Out Your Rubbish day on 28th February and tons of unwanted household items were collected. They have done a litter pick, with the help of Sheffield Homes, and purchased new shrubs to be planted on the estate. They are continually reporting the problems with litter to make Bressingham a nicer place to live.

You can help the TARA by reporting rubbish to the Council on 273 4567.

TARA of the year



Burngreave Tenants and Residents Association has been awarded the Paul Key 'TARA of the Year' award at Sheffield Homes' annual award ceremony at the City Hall. The awards are in memory of the late Paul Key, who worked for Sheffield Homes supporting TARA groups.

Concern over Roe Woods green space

Story & photo: Lisa Swift

Residents near Roe Woods and Firs Hill TARA have raised concerns with Sheaf Training about the management of land around the Centre.

A recreational field has been churned up to be planted with wild flowers, which has also disrupted a public right of way. Residents first became concerned when the Learning Centre was fenced off; previously the land had always been publicly accessible.

Residents of Norwood Drive submitted a petition against the 2.4 metre high fence, stating that it would be an eyesore and restrict their access to the green space. Planning permission was granted in December, despite the area being designated an 'open space', which was gifted to Sheffield City Council by the Duke of Norfolk in 1897 for that purpose.



Local resident Peter Mappin told the Messenger,

"We are very concerned. This land has been used for recreation by local residents for over 40 years. They have churned up the grass and made it a field of mud. It's impossible for local people to use it now."

In a meeting with residents and local councillor Ibrar Hussain, Sheaf Training managers explained that the fencing is needed due to repeated vandalism to the newly built extension to the centre. Windows and cladding have been damaged on every side of the building. A further meeting with residents is planned to try to resolve the issues of land management.

Wensley improvements

Story: Louise Johnson

A group of local residents have received £2,500 from the Community First grant, plus a further £1000 from Arches, to make improvements to a piece of land at the top of Wensley Street, which has often been used as a place to dump rubbish.



The group has formed links with Owler Brook School, whose children will have the opportunity to leave their classrooms and make the most of the space. The excitement the project has generated has led to the possibility of more projects with Owler Brook School and perhaps some with Whiteways School too.

With the help of Groundwork (the environmental group), the local residents propose to build wooden raised beds and apply trellis to the brick walls to grow climbing plants or fruit trees. Half the site can be used for growing food, depending on what the residents want. To keep costs low, most of the ideas plan to improve the already existing infrastructure. Groundwork has also suggested "the finished plan should definitely include some permanent features, for sustainability, low maintenance and easy interaction."

Crafts at Carwood

Carwood TARA will be restarting its craft club after Easter with brand new sewing machines.

The sessions are on Tuesday evenings 6.30pm till 8.30pm at the Carwood TARA office, 10 Carwood Grove.

And an Easter Spring Clean will take place on Thursday April 4th. It will be the third litter pick of the year with local scouts, Sheffield Homes and Veolia. Meet 10am, at Carwood TARA Office. Everyone is welcome and all equipment is provided. A light buffet will be served afterwards for those taking part

For more information, contact carwoodtara@gmail.com

Adult Learning at Firs Hill

Story: Schola Cashdan

WEA run an ESOL English Level 1 women's class at Firs Hill Community Primary School which has 14 students. We feel a real part of the school especially due to the endless help of Kath Hobson, the co-ordinator. Most of the students have progressed through all the levels.

I have taught most of them for a couple of years now. The class comprises students from Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen and I am myself from Kenya. They are a lovely keen group and I enjoy teaching them. As part of their writing coursework, they wanted to write and share their learning experiences with the community through the Burngreave Messenger.



Writers: Zatoon Bibi, Farzana Khan, Wasiya Khan, Rasha Hadi, Aisha Malik, Amal Ahmed, Deka Mahammed, Istahil Jama, Ekram Ali, Nargis Shakil, Roda Oogle, Faeza Scott, Khasin Bibi and Masarat Bibi

Support from the family, teacher and school

"Our experiences as students have been useful and interesting since we started the classes. Our families give us a lot of support to make us more powerful women and build our confidence."

"My teacher Schola is one of the best teachers I have ever seen. She is very kind, helpful, and friendly. She gives us lots of support, and she pushes us to complete our work. She gives us useful information that is easy to understand."

"My husband gives me lots of support to make me more confident and stress free. Also the school plays a big role. It provides childcare and that has made it possible for me to attend the class."

"I have support from my husband. He never stops me coming to my classes and he encourages me. I appreciate the work of WEA to organise the English classes"

"Teacher support helps me to be more confident and makes the information easy to understand and gives advice to us. Also she is very kind."

"My friends in the class, they are also very nice, helping each other working on the course. We also gather together as a team to correct spelling and grammar, and to improve speaking skills."

"Our teacher Schola encourages us with a lot of different work... She's a special teacher who really helps each and every student."

"The school and WEA provide free childcare so that we can attend classes. The school provide laptops and other facilities to make our learning comfortable and easy. They also provide refreshment."

Interesting and useful learning

"Group discussions help us practise and improve our speaking and listening so that we can talk fluently with our children's teachers, report children's absences or discuss their progress. And also to manage daily life by communicating with doctors, friends and neighbours... Writing helps to correct my spelling mistakes and also to learn new vocabulary... This enables us to read and understand our mail, newspapers and the information in the Burngreave Messenger."

Encouragement to other women

"I am happy to say that I speak good English because of the English classes. I want to encourage other women to join the English classes to improve their speaking, reading and writing and gain confidence in speaking to other people."

"My skills through learning English help me a lot because my English was very poor before. Now I am very confident and I want to continue to improve."

"I try my best to give encouragement to other people especially women who have the same difficulties and situation as me. I tell them my progress from learning to improve my English. I tell them how important these courses are so you can help your children and build your confidence in your daily life."

"I look after my sick mum and I work as a volunteer but I still manage to come to my English course because it's useful for my future."

"My advice to the other women is to encourage them to come to the English classes at least two days a week because learning English is very important in this country. Otherwise you can't help your children, yourself or anyone else."

"My goal is to build confidence, especially how to speak without being ashamed. My experience of learning as a student at level 1 has made me encourage other women to be confident in their lives and never stop learning whatever their age!"



Schola Cashdan

Where are you from?

I am from Kenya, in Africa

Could you tell us about your background?

In Kenya I was a teacher in a primary school. 12 years ago I came to the UK, I went back to University to do a PGCE so that I could teach adults.

When did you start your job?

I started working as an ESOL teacher in 2002

How did you decide to do this job?

My father was a teacher and five members of my family are teachers. So my father encouraged me to become a teacher.

Do you like your job? I love it. I feel I have travelled all over the world by teaching ESOL here, because the people I meet are from all over the world.

What satisfaction do you get in this job?

I am very satisfied with my job. It makes me happy when I am changing someone's life. When you teach someone who doesn't know English at all, it changes their life. And when someone improves their English and they can go out shopping or buy a bus ticket by themselves, that makes me very satisfied.

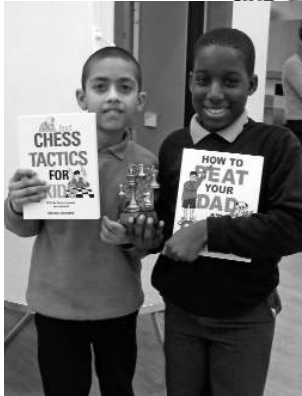
Inter-School Chess Tournament

Story: Abas, St Catherine's School, Y6 School Council Rep

On Monday, 4th March, St Catherine's School held an Inter-School Chess Tournament for Burngreave and Shirecliffe.

The tournament featured children from St Catherine's, Byron Wood, Firshill, Owlter Brook and Watercliffe Meadows Schools. The competition was set up so each child was given a random opponent to play. There were 6 children in each team. Whoever won their match would play someone else who had won, while the people who lost would face another person who had lost.

The matches continued until there were just two people left in the competition, battling it out. It was a gripping final and



in the end both of us were crowned the winner of the Chess Competition. We received a certificate, a trophy and a book all about chess. It was a great competition, and it was set up so everyone could play the same number of games. Everyone felt they had a real opportunity to get better at their chess game and to experience playing against others.

I enjoyed playing with people with different strengths. Hopefully, there will be many more competitions like this in the future; chess is a great game that really gets your brain cells working.

Nomad Chess Club



This was a match played in February at Abbeyfield Park House between Nomads Chess Club's first and second teams (Nomads I won 5-1).

Does anyone remember when a club chess match was last played in Burngreave? Certainly in the 1950s there used to be an active club which met at The Limes on Barnsley Road – but since then? Contact the Messenger if you know.



Don't be a fool! Slow down near the school...

Fir Vale year 8 student wins overall competition between 8 secondary schools in Sheffield.

Based on the Road Safety theme 'Slower speeds = happy people', Nedwa Al-Gulaidi won a £25 Meadowhall voucher for designing the best sign, which was earlier part of a display in the Winter Gardens.

Councillor Leigh Bramall judged the competition on behalf of Sheffield City Council Road Safety Team.

The School's Road Safety Officer, Margaret Naylor, who worked with our KS3 students to raise awareness of road safety issues around the local community said, "We chose Nedwar's design because of the strong message it carries "Don't be a fool, slow down near the school'.

Nedwar commented, "The project was good because if you can help people to slow down near schools and hospitals it will keep the children safe from road accidents."

Parkwood Academy in top 100

On 27th January 2013, Parkwood Academy received a letter of praise from MP David Laws, Minister of State for Schools, for the excellent performance of Parkwood students in 2012 GCSE results.

The letter confirms that Parkwood's 2012 exam results place the academy amongst the top 100 most improving schools in the country, in terms of the progress students make between Key

Stage 2 and GCSE. Principal Mike Westerdale said,

"The letter from the Minister of State for Schools has given us the additional momentum to maintain our excellent levels of progress. We are excited and ambitious for our future and look forward to working with our partner primary schools and the local community to ensure we provide our young people with a world class education."

Parkwood is also continuing discussions with the Department for Education to allow Parkwood Academy to be re-designated as an 11-18 Academy from September 2013, delivering A Levels and AS Levels to students in a small number of specialised subjects, in collaboration with our partners at Longley Park VI Form College and Sheffield College.

Push against food poverty

Join us to help stop UK hunger



Burngreave Foodbank Trolley Push

10.00am - 11.30am on Monday 22nd April

We are pushing our trolley (subject to permission) from the Town Hall to Carlisle Street to raise money by donation and sponsorship. We need your help!

foodbank trolley push 2013

Organised by the Trussell Trust

Charity auction 7pm on Saturday 27th April

At Burngreave Foodbank, Rock Christian Centre, Carlisle Street. Please support us by donating items or services and by coming along to bid!

Phone
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676 316
for details



Residents promote Fairtrade

Story: Liz Searle | Photos: Ruth Walton

In Fairtrade Fortnight, on Saturday 9th March, local volunteers ran a stall offering residents a wealth of information on Fairtrade products and the movement.

The ethos seems impossible to disagree with: suppliers such as coffee farmers and pickers in developing countries are paid a fair rate for their work and goods. The Fairtrade logo identifies products where growers are paid a decent price and with fair working conditions.

Ruth, Dylan, Anne and other willing helpers spent a cold but enjoyable morning outside the Saturday veg shop on Firshill Road, chatting to passers by about Fairtrade and sharing the delicious cakes made using Fairtrade sugar and cocoa.

"It's been absolutely lovely," smiled Anne. "We met some people who were new to the idea and also lots who already knew about Fairtrade." People across all the local communities were very interested, friendly and supportive. "It's been a great opportunity to chat to people we wouldn't normally meet," added Dylan.

I joined the group outside Rainbow's End, where they gave away stickers, hot drinks and lots of cake - honey buns, gluten-free ginger cake and bizarre but beautiful chocolate beetroot cake! Ruth described how they'd visited fifteen local shops in the last two weeks, discussing Fairtrade with the owners. "Lots of shops do stock Fairtrade items, like chocolate and cocoa," Ruth explained. See if you can spot the Fairtrade logo next time you're in your corner shop. You might even ask if the owner would think about bringing in more Fairtrade products. Coffee and tea are no more expensive than other kinds but you get the added satisfaction of knowing you're making conditions better for workers everywhere.

Free Early Learning

All children aged 3 or 4 are entitled to 15 hours a week at nursery free of charge. **Now this is being extended to 2-year-olds** from low-income families. Places for two-year-olds are available to families on benefits or incomes below £16,100 a year. Places for 3 or 4 year olds are available to all. To find a place, contact:

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www.watotopreschool.co.uk

Fir Vale Pre-School (Earl Marshal Rd)

Tel 303 0176; Email firvalepreschool@hotmail.co.uk

Ellesmere Children's Centre (Buckenham St)

Tel 281 2143; Email sharon@ellesmere-cc.fsnet.co.uk
www.ellesmere-family-centre.co.uk

Burngreave Children's Centre (Spital St)

Tel 252 5224; Email burngreaveycc@lea.sheffield.sch.uk

New African support group

Story: Louise Johnson | Photo: Lisa Swift

Elodie All Sainte, a new African support group, is setting up in the Verdon Recreation Centre.



In the last few years, there has been a steady and significant increase in the number of people from various African countries settling in Sheffield. Occasionally the move is difficult and frightening, with some people arriving as refugees or asylum seekers. Concerns about isolation and access to appropriate services have been raised. The organisation, a private limited company with charitable objectives, was created by a group of African professionals who wished to tackle issues affecting their community. Chairperson Emmanuel Kei says,

"We have set up the group because it is important to encourage our children and provide activities and education from an African background. We want people from different African backgrounds to come together to share our culture and to support each other."

Issues the group want to address include education, health, isolation, poverty, crime, housing and racial harassment. The organisation also finds it important to create opportunities for greater integration.

Elodie All Sainte have an open day on **30th March at Verdon Recreation Centre, 10.30am -12.30pm. Free entry.**

For more information, contact Emmanuel on 07897 138 745 or Mozes on 07914 615 504.

Dear Messenger...



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

Rainbows End break in

I was greatly saddened to hear of the break in at Rainbows End. It happened in the early hours of the morning of the 15th of February. A large piece of concrete was thrown through the door and a TV and digital photo frame was stolen.



Fisheye Lens – a walk through the cemetery

Jill DesForges

We enter through the wrought iron gate, always open to the outside. I let Maisie off her lead and she pads off into the leaves, as I stride beneath the magnificent canopy, offering dappled protection, bowing to greet us.

I walk straight on today, down the avenue dividing this retreat, towards the spire and arch. The golden hands of the clock caught between 8 and 9 minutes past 2. I am drawn to the glistening view of the city centre. The sun highlights the hills of the South on the distant horizon. The presence of the silent, observing dead offers comfort to the passing of time and gives perspective to the struggles of the day.

I hear Maisie barking at trees, failing to catch her bushy tailed prey. Every day we pass amongst this haven of souls and we find companionship with them and others walking their dogs. It is beautiful, ever changing in light, through the seasons and the mood of moment. This heart in our midst.

We spot Alice, who is known by all, playing with another dog. One of her eyes is blue. The children used to walk her here, when she was very young, but the family moved to the other side of the world and now they stay in touch with her via Skype.

Often, I bring my very young grandson in his pushchair. He insists on holding Maisie's lead too, on the way. They are great friends. We often sing as we walk, or make meaningless noise. He has just started talking and he responds with "Yeah", every time I say something. This is a novel experience for me. "Yeah, yeah, yeah" we both call up through the trees, into the sky.

Everyone was shocked and many customers expressed their anger and concern for those who work in the shop. Rainbows End is such a good place to visit and they do their best to help Burngreave through their work and funding helpful activities.

As a Christian I believe that the people/person who did this should be forgiven, but I hope they know how much pain and distress they have caused and get caught soon. This act was selfish and totally wrong. The good folk of Burngreave have been very kind and supportive and I give thanks to God for this. I believe that good always wins and know that the Rainbow people will continue to give their best for Burngreave.

Carol Kallend, Rainbow Volunteer

For a long time I took the same route on automatic pilot. Starting with the higher path which looks over the valley of leisure, once a valley of industry and beyond to the hills of the East. Reverberating wind brings sounds from below. The hammer and clang of the remaining works compete with jubilant birdsong. From two miles away, you can sometimes even hear the platform announcements from the train station, more clearly than when you are there.

I often come across people lost in the search for particular resting places. I am sorry I cannot help, but happy to chat. Once I met a couple from New Zealand, one of whom was tracing his ancestry.

Today, I keep time and return towards the gate. I call for Maisie to attach her lead. A taxi driver was murdered on this spot. The next day we carried on as usual, as we have to. By doing this we respect our community and refuse to be further victims.

A bus stops and drops off friendly neighbours, some with rustling Primark bags, another balancing a Marks & Spencer re-usable. The traffic backs up, but this regular occurrence creates only a casual frustration. I take advantage and cross the road with a smile on my face at the vivid pale green of the corner shop, which cheers me with its vibrancy and contrast to the environment. I pop in to buy chocolate. The older Mr Khan is waiting outside. I leave the shop and greet various other neighbours. Then as I reach our street, I remember I have left Maisie tied up around the corner. Once I left her there for an hour and a half. She was just sat there quiet and bemused, soaked to the skin.



Maisie pulls me towards someone else's cat and I persuade her home. It is a generally quiet street. My children could play on it when they were younger. This diverse community can offer its own kind of freedom.

It starts to get dark, so I hurry to ready Maisie for her late walk. I hesitate at the cemetery gates, but relax as I walk towards those city lights. It is strange how safe I can feel here in the dark. Many people use it as a short cut at all times. This must be a measure of something. Bad things have happened here, but they can happen everywhere. At certain points you can see around for miles.

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