



Firvale celebrates its cultures



Story & photos Vivien Urwodhi

The Pakistan Advice and Community Association (PACA) organised a diversity day to bring communities together on Sunday 16th May.

It was an incredible day, which brought about 300 people from Burngreave and Firvale together to celebrate and to be entertained.

The event was introduced by Wahid Nazir and Lisa Harrison who encouraged people from different backgrounds to the stage. The audience were eager to hear the rhythms of the music and dancing styles from the talented performers from Slovakia, Burma and Iran. There was also the Arabic dancers from Whiteways, Islamic songs by Asad, Masai African dancers and many more.

The Slovakian Unity Thru Dance group gave an exciting performance, it inspired all the audience, who nearly all joined them on the stage! One young man from the Slovakian group, announced how life

had changed for him and Slovaks since they moved to the UK. He said people are treated more equally and there is less racism than in his country.

"Here in the UK we have the chance to live our lives, and to achieve."

The Burmese (Karen) community also came to the stage to perform some traditional songs, which were sung by children. A representative of the Karen Community Association said, "We are aiming to raise awareness of the situation in Burma, where there has been dictatorship since 1962. We are also aiming to promote unity in the Karen community in this country and preserve our culture".

It was good to hear so many music styles and dances from all over the world.

Gulnaz Hussain of the Pakistan Advice and Community Association told the Messenger, "for many years the community has felt disheartened with the tensions in the area, so as part of our community cohesion plan we developed this event to bring people together."

"Its nice to see all different cultures together," said advice worker Masarat

"It should happen more often. Everyone has enjoyed it and it has brought people together," said Serish, PACA worker.

Summer Festivals 2010

Firshill TARA summer fair: 3rd June 2-4pm,
Sheffield United Academy

Parkwood/ Shirecliffe Fair: 10th July 12-3.30pm

Firth Park Festival: 27th June 1-6pm

Firvale Fun Day: 4th July 1-6pm Osgathorpe Park

Abbeyfield Festival: 11th July 1-6pm

Here comes the summer!
Time to get fit, enjoy the outdoors and
save some money! GET ON YOUR BIKE!

FREE cycle training at Fir Vale School

Starting Monday 7th June

1.30 - 3.00pm Women Only

Learn to ride a bicycle or improve your skills
with friendly trainers - our success rate is
100% so far!

From 3.30pm onwards, by appointment

Book a one-to-one cycle training session with
Pedal Ready. Open to men, women and
children (adult bikes provided, children must
bring their own bike to the session)

Our bicycles have been provided by
CTC Sheffield for the Women's Cycling Group

For further details please contact
Rashida Hassanali on 07773 583 699.
Alternatively, phone Pedal Ready on
241 2775 or email admin@pedalready.co.uk

Learn to Ride sessions also available at
Hillsborough Park & Decathlon - contact
Rashida for details



Yemeni Parents Meeting

How important is your child's future to you?
How do you support your child's learning and development?
Do you interact with your child?

On Wednesday 9th June, at 5.30pm, the Yemeni Community Association is hosting a parents meeting with head teachers from neighbouring schools to discuss the achievements and current challenges facing Yemeni youth. This is a free event, with food and childcare facilities.

To book places in the crèche please call
0114 256 0933. LIMITED PLACES.

The event will be in the Yemeni Community Centres Fir Vale building (entrance on Earl Marshal Road, behind Fir Vale School). For more information please call 0114 256 0933.



ما مدى أهمية مستقبل طفلك إليك؟
كيف تشجع طفلك على التعليم والنمو؟
كيف تتفاعل مع طفلك؟

يوم الأربعاء الموافق ٩ يونيو في الساعة ٥:٣٠ عصرًا ستقيم الجالية اليمنية إجتماع
لإولياء الأمر مع مدراء من المدارس المجاورة ليتحدثوا عن الإنجازات
والتحديات الذي تواجه الشباب اليمنيين

هذا الحفل مجاني. سوف يكون هناك طعام وحضانة للأطفال تحت سن الخامسة.
لحجز مكان لطفلك أرجو الإتصال بهذا الرقم 01142560933

سيقام الحفل في Fir Vale Centre (بجوار Fir Vale School)
للمزيد من المعلومات أرجو الإتصال بهذا الرقم: 01142560933

SOVA

SUPPORTING OTHERS THROUGH VOLUNTEER ACTION

Sheffield Youth Justice Projects

Working in partnership with Sheffield Youth Offending Service (YOS), we are recruiting volunteer Appropriate Adults and Mentors.

Appropriate Adults attend Custody Suites in Sheffield police stations to ensure the rights of vulnerable suspects are upheld. Minimum weekly commitment needed is six hours.

Mentors are required to offer one to one support and guidance to young people referred by YOS staff. Minimum weekly commitment needed is three hours.

Full, accredited, training is given and expenses reimbursed. We particularly seek to recruit male volunteers and people of Black and Minority Ethnic groups who are under-represented in our current 'pool' of volunteers.

For more information and/or an application pack please contact Stephen or Farheen on 0114 228 8545 or email stephen.walker2@sheffield.gov.uk - farheen.khan@sheffield.gov.uk

All volunteers are required to undergo an enhanced criminal record check. A criminal record does not necessarily preclude involvement.

SOVA SYJP, 7 St Peter's Close, Sheffield S1 2EJ

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How Do You Want Sheffield to Develop?

The Sheffield Development Framework or 'SDF' is the Plan that says how the city should develop in the future.

The Council is gearing up to ask people their views on parts of the draft SDF during the summer. You know your streets and the places you spend your time in better than anyone. This is your chance to share your views on the future of the city.

The plan covers the whole of Sheffield. It is made up of a family of documents and a map. The consultation over the summer will be on the 'City Policies and Sites' document and the 'Proposals Map'. The 'City Policies and Sites' document will help us make planning decisions. It also identifies sites and areas for new development. The 'Proposals Map' shows how these proposals will affect different areas.

To find out more visit www.sheffield.gov.uk/sdfconsult - you will find information on where to see the document and map, how to share your views and details of SDF events. You can also email sdf@sheffield.gov.uk or call the SDF hotline (0114) 205 3075.

Sheffield where everyone matters

DP7000/J



Classes are back

In April the Council informed local campaigners that funding had been found to restore some adult learning classes in Burngreave and Fir Vale. This means ESOL and other basic skills classes will be running until July.

Story: Amal Ahmed

For the last three months we have been fighting to keep our ESOL classes. At last we got some good news this month from the Council. Our classes will now be able to run twice a week as normal.

There were a lot of people who stood with us and gave support, thank you to everyone who came with us and helped



us. Thank you also to the Council for returning our classes.

We hope the Council will never cut or reduce our classes again. English classes are very important for parents and their children. We gladly accept the good decision that the Council has made and we say to parents - be strong and never give up.



PITS Award

Photo: Anwar Suliman

At Sheffield's Celebrating Success Awards on 29th April local parents' group PITS (Parents Intervention Takes a Stand) received an award for their contribution to creating positive activities for young people.

The group, pictured alongside boxing coach Brendan Ingle, who also received an award, were recognised for the work

they've done in the last year on Verdon Street.

The group set up to make sure there were activities available for their children. Now they have set up their own office on Verdon Street which is due to be launched on 19th June. They have also made progress with getting Denholm Playground refurbished, which they helped clear last year. The Council is now in discussion with them about what equipment can be replaced in the park.

For more information about the PITS group contact Joyce on 07767 030 981.

Heads Off

Story: Douglas Johnson

Three local secondary schools will change their headteachers in the next academic year from September.

Chris Mallaband has been the head of Parkwood since 2005 and has been the Principal of the Academy for the last 12 months. In a letter to parents, he explained his decision to move to a post in London with another Academy.

Fir Vale School is to lose Lesley Bowes, headteacher after "five very happy years" as she moves to King Egbert's School. Commenting on the strong position she leaves the school in, she described the school's "outstanding position in terms of what we achieve with our students" and points to the "phenomenal results" last year. Lesley is confident of a good new head with appointment from "a very strong shortlist" due as we go to press.

Mo Laycock is retiring from Firth Park Community College, where current deputy Chris Keen will take over.



Why is the Sheffield Development Framework (SDF) important?

The SDF will affect how land in our area will be used during the next 10-15 years. This is important for Burngreave, as there is now a lot of empty land to develop. The SDF will be referred to when planning applications are put in, so it will influence whether housing or other developments get planning permission. It should also protect our green spaces from development.

Consultation is starting on SDF in June. More information on advert on page 2

Housing at Ellesmere Road

Plans for the first Council housing to be built in Burngreave for many years have been submitted to the Council planning department. Just two consultation events took place on designs for the Ellesmere road development. The Council have said that further consultation will take place following planning approval.

Check the Messenger website for more information.

BCAF's next Quarterly Forum Meeting is on Housing - see page 20 for details.

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This month's team: Caroline Harris, Saleema Imam, Douglas Johnson, Jamie Marriott, John Mellor, Lisa Swift, Vivien Urwodhi.



Firs Hill School speed signs

Story: Saleema Imam | Photo: Dean Hodson

Children from Firshill School are getting motorists to open their eyes and cut their speed with new Vehicle-Activated Signs near their school.

Kath Hobson, Firshill's Extended Schools Support Worker, took children out to give the road safety message directly to motorists - Children 'zapped' vehicles with a speed gun as they passed and gave the thumbs down sign when speeds of 31mph or more were registered. The children have already been learning about staying safe on the roads, watching out for cars and using crossings safely.



The area was chosen by the Community Assembly because of issues with speeding and a number of collisions. The signs work by flashing up a 'slow down' warning sign to vehicles that approach too quickly.

For more information about staying safe on the city's roads, go to www.sheffield.gov.uk/roadsafety

Byron Wood's Iron Man

Mr Hall, the Learning Mentor from Byron Wood Primary School in Burngreave will be taking part in the 'Iron Man' competition this summer in the very beautiful city of Zurich in Switzerland.

He will be swimming 2.4 miles, cycling 112 miles and running 26 miles. Mr Hall will be raising money for activities at school and charity, if you want to sponsor him contact him at Byron Wood.



St Catherine's official opening



Bishop of Hallam John Rawsthorne with headteacher Fiona Rigby, current and former pupils of the school, Cllr Jackie Drayton and Sheila Habbershaw of the Crescent Community Centre

St Catherine's School extension and the Crescent Community Centre were officially opened on 24th March. The school was opened by the Bishop of Hallam, John Rawsthorne, and the community centre was opened by Cllr Jackie Drayton. Local residents and users of the centre joined pupils and parents to celebrate.

St Catherine's headteacher Fiona Rigby said: "We are delighted with our new facilities at St Catherine's. We were very well supported through the entire design and build process by the diocese, the local authority and the builders, Kier." She added:

"The community which lost its community centre as part of the new-build process has now gained a fantastic new facility which is bigger and better equipped."

"We have really positive relationships with all of the users and work together to manage the facility. The purpose-built provision is amazing; staff and children love it."

The Crescent Community Centre is a community facility run by a management group made up of users and representatives from the school. If you would like to find out more, or book the centre for an event or activity, contact the school on 0845 421 0700

Stepping Up With Reading

Byron Wood Primary school are starting a 6 week Family Learning course in June, to help parents find out about the different skills needed for fluent and independent reading.

Monday 7th June 1pm-3pm for 6 weeks.

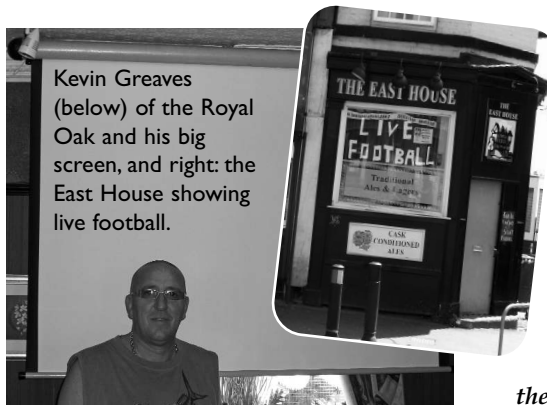
For Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)

Free childcare to parent's/carers with young.

Contact Smaira on 0114 2723624. Places are on a first come first serve basis.

World Cup World Culture

Story & photos: Douglas Johnson



Kevin Greaves (below) of the Royal Oak and his big screen, and right: the East House showing live football.

The World Cup is in June and South Yorkshire Police are aiming to promote Spital Hill as a safe to place to enjoy the matches and get something decent to eat.

Proactive work by the police has led to meetings with traders about the best way to advertise Spital Hill as a good place for people from all over the world to view the matches.

The police presence will be on Spital Hill for:

England v USA 12th June 7.30pm

Algeria v Slovenia 13th June 12.30pm

England v Algeria 18th June 7.30pm

USA v Algeria and England v Slovenia 23rd June 3pm

Inspector Simon Leake said,

"My view is that Spital Hill is a great place to be and I'd like to encourage people to come to Spital Hill and enjoy the food and football provided by local businesses. We also want people to feel safe knowing that the local people team will be there to support local businesses."

Yassin runs the Malii.com café and regularly has a full house with the sport on. He says,

"I've TV for anybody and not just the Somali community."

Kevin Greaves of the Royal Oak has a big screen ready to go – plus 3 small TVs, so no-one will miss out. For him, the event is going to be a big one and he is well prepared.

New Roots, new times

Story: New Roots volunteers
Photos: Davey Smith

New Roots Cafe has extended its opening hours from 11.30 – 5pm, ideal for after school. We are offering milk shakes and smoothies throughout half term.

New Roots is now run entirely by volunteers. We are building on the last 10 years' success and wish to develop local ownership of the project and its high ethical aspirations.

The previous co-ordinator, Caroline Norman, is a hard act to follow so New Roots appreciates her continuing as a volunteer for the food project. We hope that people get involved beyond the running of the cafe as this could enable additional events and services being available. Free training in food hygiene certification is offered.

However, the cafe is the driving force. We may explore breakfasts, sandwiches, an evening restaurant even: it mostly



depends on you. Everything is run on voluntary power... but many hands make light work. We believe New Roots can emerge. Times are going to get hard: we need to work together for our community.

Visit us, talk to us or simply look around. If you are unable to call in during opening hours, leave a message on 0114 270 0972.

Summer Festivals

Firvale Fun Day

**Sunday 4th July 2010, 1-6pm
Osgathorpe Park**

- Live music, dance and performances
- Food and local stalls
- Grass Sledging
- Henna, beauty and health
- Children's activities, bouncy castle and face painting
- Circus Skills, and sporting activities

Come along and enjoy the day with your family.

For stalls, to perform or to volunteer, contact BCAF, 272 8008, enquiries@bcaf.org.uk

Abbeyfield Festival

**Sunday 11th July 2010, 1-6pm
Abbeyfield Park**

- Performances and music from the whole community
- Local food and stalls
- Sports and circus skills
- Children's area
- Health Zone
- Police horses
- Story telling and poetry
- Betty's teas and outdoor chess

For stalls, to perform or to volunteer, contact BCAF, 272 8008, enquiries@bcaf.org.uk

No dogs this year at the festival please.

Have you got the talent to perform in front of a festival crowd?

Are you under 24?

Get in touch and tell us what you can do, and you could be performing live in Osgathorpe or Abbeyfield Park.

Contact Daniel at BCAF to get a form on 272 8008, email enquiries@bcaf.org.uk

Parkwood Academy / Shirecliffe Community Summer Fayre

Come along to our annual Summer Fayre

Saturday, 10th July, 12 – 3.30pm

To book a stall to promote your group / organisation or to arrange a performance please call Sue Powell 231 0221.

Highlights this year is the Police Dog Display Team, Jamie Oliver Healthy Eating, free children's rides, competitions, football competitions, climbing wall, displays, information, stalls, live music and much more.

Bus changes

Story: Lisa Swift

Local residents had a chance to comment on possible changes to the number 5 and M20 in May.

Sheffield Community Transport, who run the buses, and SYPTE (South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive), who pay for the services, met with residents at Carwood, Wensley and Verdon Street to discuss changes that could happen in July.

No buses to be cut

Both the number 5 and M20 are set to continue but changes may be made to their routes.

It's proposed that the number 5 will go up Carwood Road and along Grimesthorpe Road, instead of Petre Street. And the M20 will include Verdon and Andover Street before it continues on to Malton Street, Scott Road and Fir View Gardens.

Concerns, complaints and suggestions

Residents at the three meetings said how important having a bus service on their estate was to them - but many were unhappy.

Residents on Malton Street and streets off Scott Road complained to the Messenger that they had lost their service to Firth Park. And in the meeting, residents said they wanted a service to Meadowhall, which used to be covered by the B1 and B2 services. One resident said,

"It's a real hassle getting to Meadowhall; we live so close and yet so far away."

SYPTE said it was unlikely they would fund a Meadowhall service.

Another resident complained, "The number 20 is not reliable, it's a bad service. If it's running late, it just misses out Scott Road completely." SYPTE explained that this was illegal and unacceptable and residents should report any incident like this to SYPTE.

At the Wensley meeting, residents were relieved that the number 5 service would continue, as this is the only bus that serves Wensley. However residents said they would like a Saturday service, which SYPTE said they would consider. Many residents were concerned about where the number 5 stopped in town.

"They move where the bus stops without telling you."

SYPTE said there had been some problems but that new arrangements would be in place by July and there would be clear signs.

Verdon Street residents were pleased that the little bus might be coming to their estate, even though the service will only run three times a day. "It's a start," said one resident, "we've just got to make sure people use it or we will lose it again."

Changes in July or October

Like the commercial bus companies, SYPTE and SCT only have four opportunities per year to make changes to bus times. The deadline to make changes in July is 28th May. SYPTE and SCT are aiming to make changes to the number 5



and M20 by this date. If that doesn't happen, it will be October instead.

SYPTE have offered to meet residents again after the changes to see how they have been received. If you would like to be invited to these follow up meetings contact the Messenger on 242 0564.

For bus timetables and help with travel plans contact Traveline on 01709 515151.

New Residents' Group

For Verdon Street, Nottingham Street, Brunswick Road, Andover Street, Rock Street. Everyone Welcome

The group meets on the last Thursday of every month 3.30 – 4.30pm at the Welcome Centre, Christchurch, Nottingham Street. Tea, coffee and biscuits

Next meeting Thursday 24th June

Talking about things that matter to you

Practical action to make a change

Issues so far: Litter and street cleaning, getting a better bus service, keeping the parks safe and well used.

The group has already been involved in a community litter pick, and helped to organise a meeting to talk about a bus service for Verdon Street

What issues are important to you? Come and voice your opinion.

Family funday

Story: Cathy Cain

On Saturday 10th April we held a family fun day in the Women's Construction Centre.

We had about 28 mums and children and one dad. They made mosaic shapes, framed mirrors and boxed shelves. It was great to see 8 year old girls and boys using drills, saws and other equipment. Everyone took home something they had made.

Everyone enjoyed the day and left some great comments. Thanks to everyone who helped on the day.



Wensley clean up

Story & photos: Lisa Swift

Wensley residents and 15 different organisations worked together in March to help tidy up the Wensley Estate.

The two-day event started with an information day in Wensley Community Centre, hosted by Wensley Tenants and Residents Association. South Yorkshire Police provided food and refreshments, while residents were able to find out more about local services.

On the second day the clean-up started in earnest, with residents helping out alongside the Safer Neighbourhood Team, Sheffield Homes and Wardens, Arches Housing, Rangers, Parks and Woodlands, Streetforce and Veolia, as well as school children from Owl Brook. Even the fire service helped tidy up the litter; they were also visiting residents to check fire safety in their homes and fit smoke alarms.

Local residents who took part told the Messenger how important they thought the event was for the Wensley area:

"Wensley TARA really appreciated the help from all the people who came on the day, especially local tenants," said Gladys, Secretary of Wensley TARA.

"It looks a mess and we use it a lot with the kids so we wanted to send out a message by coming to help tidy it up. One summer we did water slides with the kids on the grass, but you can't do that if there's glass everywhere. It needs a



proper playground. All the equipment, the round-about and climbing frame have been taken away." Perry and Janine

"I came out today with the children for something to do. It's an important place. My husband uses it for jogging, and we use it to be outside." Rashida

"I'm interested in my community being kept clean - I'm not happy with the situation; people are dropping litter, it's a constant battle. Once a year is not enough. It didn't used to be like this but over the years it has gone downhill. People don't care like they used to. I've been here over 17 years. I feel better about it when we do something like this. It shows that at least some care. We need to do more like this and do more to get people to realise their responsibility to keep it clear." Miss Williams



Annual General Meeting

Wensley TARA's AGM is Thursday 8th July, 2pm at Wensley Community Centre, Hinde House Crescent.

This is the opportunity for people to elect a new committee or to support the existing one to help them carry on.

All Wensley tenants and residents welcome.

Football

Football on Wensley now has ABC funding, and so it will be continuing, during the summer holidays, two days a week - Tuesday evening and Friday afternoon. There will also be a climbing wall and multi-sport area.

Firshill TARA's Annual General Meeting

Firshill Tenants and Resident's Association's AGM will be on:

Tuesday 15th June, 6pm at the Crescent Community Centre.

The Police, Councillors and Sheffield Homes will be in attendance.

There will be the election of officers to the TARA committee and the chance to have your say on issues for the estate.

For more information about Firshill TARA contact 256 0337

Firshill TARA Summer fair

Saturday 3rd July 2010

At Sheffield United Academy, Firshill Crescent, 2 - 4pm

Prize giving for competitions

Also crafts, girl-guides, tombola, bric-a-brac, cakes, local history, police, games, refreshments, raffle

Bingo

Every Monday

At Sheffield United Academy, 7 - 9.30pm

Come along or contact the TARA on 256 0337

Carwood clean up and community day

Wednesday 16th June, 10am-2pm

Carwood Tenants and Residents Association are working with the Council, Sheffield Homes, Veolia and the Police to organise this event.

Litter pick

Tidy and planting flower beds and tubs

Refreshments.

Information from the Fire Brigade and the Community Police Team.

Come along and help make the Carwood estate look great!



Political Debate in Burngreave

Story: Murcilla Mosleh

On 13th of April 2010, in the run-up to the General Election, the Yemeni Community Association invited five candidates from the main political parties to participate in a political debate.

The event at the Vestry Hall aimed to give Muslim and black and ethnic minority

communities (under-represented groups in the world of politics) the opportunity to ask politicians campaigning to become MPs about issues that mattered to them, as well as express their concerns about policies affecting their communities. The audience and discussions were lively and there were times when the debates were very heated. Members of the packed audience spoke passionately as they asked the speakers how they would tackle the issues facing them daily.

So why was holding the event important? On the 6th of May, the local and general elections took place to elect Britain's

government for the next five years. Parliament's main purpose is to make laws, debate topical issues and look at how our taxes are spent. The issues discussed in Parliament affect us all: health, immigration, education, jobs, crime etc.

I often hear people complain they feel discriminated against, that they are unhappy with how Britain is governed and how some policies are unfair. But what I most commonly hear is the feeling that nothing can be done to bring about positive change. Participating in the political process is not only a quality of an active citizen, but it is one of the most efficient ways of contributing to and shaping the future of politics and the society we live in.

Now our government has been formed, we must be patient and it will take some time for the trust in MPs to be restored. But now that the elections are over, we must continue to participate and lobby politicians on issues affecting our communities to bring about the real changes politicians so often speak about.

Developing mental health

On 21st April, organisations from across Sheffield gathered at Sorby House to discuss how to improve quality in mental health services for the BME community.

There are many issues faced by BME communities when accessing mental health services. Somali Mental Health's (Maan) Saeed Abdi explained,

"Community organisations working in mental health - like Maan - continue to struggle to create a bridge for communities into the mainstream mental health services at the same time as helping the community health and social service teams to deliver appropriate, culturally-sensitive services."

The MAAT probe group

Part of the conference looked at last October's report by the Maat Probe group, supported by the local mental health project SACHMA. The results of the report showed that service users from black and ethnic minority communities felt they were mistreated by some mental health services. The report became a focus for the conference, and Sheffield Care Trust, responsible for mainstream mental health services in the city, aimed to respond to the issues raised,

"Staff in the Trust are thankful to the Maat Probe group for providing us with such powerful feedback about our services. We have listened to Maat and created an action plan which responds to each of the Maat recommendations."

"Firstly Maat asked us to explore alternatives to the training we give our staff in preventing and managing violent behaviour. During the next year we will develop our training to improve how we work with people who may be getting angry or violent."

"Next we have considered ways to increase the numbers of staff from different BME communities who work for the trust."

"Our next steps are to meet with the Maat probe group to discuss and plan how we can work together to achieve their recommendations and develop better, safer services for everyone."

Members of the Maat Probe Group told the Messenger:

"The Maat Group feels that the PCT and Health and Social Care Trust have much to learn about service-user engagement that is based outside their organisation and their control."

"The Maat Probe will be having further discussions with both organisations to resolve a number of issues and build a more beneficial working relationship."

Development at Grimesthorpe

Residents have raised concerns about the development on Grimesthorpe Road by Redwall.

The company received planning permission for flats and an old people's home, despite objections from local residents that the development is too large.

Redwall have already begun building houses on the site. Some are five storeys high. Complaints have been made to the Council about the treatment of protected trees along the edge of the site and of blocking the road to traffic with works vehicles. There is also evidence that construction vehicles have been driven over Smithies Field, which is an area of natural interest and home to a wide range of plants and animals.

Residents have complained to the Council's Enforcement Officers who are in discussion with the developers. If you have any concerns about how the Developers are treating the area, contact the Council on **273 4590**.

For more information about what will be built on the site, go to the Messenger website: www.burngreavemessenger.org

Comedy night



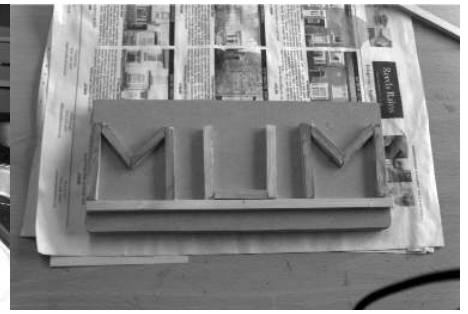
Story: Diane Haimeed

On the 5h May the Yemeni Community Associations Sub Group put on a Comedy Night in the Firvale Theatre for over 150 people.

The audience enjoyed a performance which had a powerful message to all parents about being involved in their children's lives. The audience also enjoyed family fortunes with two families playing against each other to answer the questions with help from the audience.

Future events for the Sub Group include a charity auction, football matches against other teams across the country, professional performance at the Library Theatre and many more family events.

For more details contact Diane Haimeed/ Ghamdan Assinani 0114 303 0141



Cellar Space

Story: Mark Dixon, age 16

Creating a safe learning place for young people

The Cellar Space was started in 1998 in a converted cellar of a pub called The Furnival on Verdon Street in Burngreave. It looks after young people between the ages of 11 and 16 who need support and help.

There are lots of activities on offer like cooking, art, help with English and Maths and outdoor activities like growing vegetables on the allotment or going abseiling.

One of the best things about it is the staff because they are easy to talk to and always listen. You can have help with your reading and writing, you can work in groups or one-to-one. Everything you do makes you feel more confident about yourself and ready to stand on your own two feet.

I've been coming to the Cellar Space for the last 4 years and it's certainly changed my life. It made me like school more and it's helped me get more qualifications. My attendance at school has got better and I've met new people.

Half-term activities

There's loads to do for young people in the half term, here are just some of the activities on offer.

Fir Vale Centre

Exam Revision

The BASSSP is still running revision for GCSE for Y10 & Y11 at the Firvale Centre every Monday and Tuesday 5 pm - 7.30 pm up until the end of June 2010.

1, 2, 3, 4 June revision Y10 & Y11 Students, Math's English and Science. 11 am - 3 pm

Play schemes

8-13 year olds - Positive Activities. 1, 2, 3, 4 June 10am - 4 pm. Limited places - call for a place

June 7th - July 20th Activities 8-13 yrs.

3.30 - 6.30 pm.

Contact Diane Haimeed for details. 0114 301 0141.

Activity Sheffield

Sports Camp

Fir Vale Secondary School
Tuesday 1 June, 1pm - 5pm
Cost: Free
Bring drinks

Sports and Arts & Crafts Camp

Verdon Recreation Centre
Tuesday 1st, Thursday 3rd,
Friday 4th June, 2pm - 5pm
Cost: Free
Ages 8-16 years
Bring drinks

Play Session

Play Rangers

Verdon Recreation Centre
Wednesday 2 June, 4pm - 5pm
Cost: Free
Ages 8-16 years
Bring drinks

Sport in Your Park

Wensley Estate

Tuesday 1 June, 6pm - 8pm
Cost: Free
Ages 8-16 years
Bring drinks

Abbeyfield Park

Wednesday 2 June, 6pm - 8pm
Cost: Free
Ages 8-16 years
Bring drinks

Firth Park

Tuesday 1 June, 4pm - 5.30pm
Thursday 3 June, 4pm - 6pm
Cost: Free
Ages 8-16 years
Bring drinks

Football Sessions/Camps

Fir Vale Football Camp

Fir Vale Secondary School
Wednesday 2 June, 1pm - 5pm
Cost: Free
Ages 8-16 years
Bring drinks

Adventure Playground Half Term opening

Tuesday to Saturday 10.30am - 6pm

Arts and crafts activities, sports, and adventurous outdoor play

PITS Youth Club

Verdon Recreation Centre
Wednesday 2 June, 6pm - 8pm
Cost: Free

Drama Group

Starting in half term with Ellesmere Youth Project

Starts 3rd June, 4-6pm at the Cornerstone (at top of Carwood Road)

Every Thursday for 8 weeks

Contact 07886 777 068 for more information

If you'd like to be kept up to date with what's happening for children and young people during school holidays, contact Burngreave Community Action Forum, on 272 8008 to join their emailing list .

You can also find info on Facebook, search for 'Sheffield Youth Network', or go to the Messenger website.

Interfaith walk

Story & Photos: Vivien Urwodhi

The march for diversity, faith and peace took place on 25th April for the sixth time since it began.

People from Sheffield marched from Fir Vale and Burngreave to demonstrate the unbreakable harmonies amongst all faith communities and backgrounds. This march united Christians, Muslims and Hindus against those who are putting blame and pressure on their religions. It had extra significance with both the British National Party and English Defence League trying to divide their unity.

The event and celebration began at St Cuthbert's church in Fir Vale at 2pm. Inderjit Bhogal stood up in front of the crowd and explained,

"It's not about talking about political religion or criticising others because of their religion, but we are doing this march to symbolise unity of peace and solidarity amongst each other."

He added some instruction of where the rally of people would walk from and



where it would finish. He also announced the march would stop at every church and mosque on the road, where everyone would pray, silently, for peace. Everyone walked a long way up Barnsley Road and stopped at each of the churches and mosques situated on the road side, ending at Al-Rahman mosque on Burngreave Road.

Approximately 200 people took part. This included the presence of vicar Louise Collins of St Cuthbert's church, the event

organiser Abdool Gooljar, the president of the Islamic Society of Britain, newly-appointed Archdeacon Martin Snow, the Bishop of Hallam John Rawsthorne, City Councillors and many more.

On the march, people opened up as friends to each other as they were making conversation together. It was a really dazzling and fantastic day seeing members of each different faith gathering together as a signal of harmonies and unbreakable unity.



Burngreave litter pick

Story: Inderjit Bhogal

A Community litter pick on 9th May had about 45 people participating in cleaning up three areas of Burngreave.

Some people worked on the area around Verdon St, others went to Spital Hill and a third set attended to the Crabtree Pond area.



There were people of different ages and faiths involved. Organising a litter pick is not about a dirty job that needs doing: the purpose is to say, "let's take more pride in the area where we live". It is also about bringing people together and in that, the event was very successful. Thanks are due to all those who participated and to the organisations involved: Sheffield Wildlife Trust, Yorkshire & Humberside Faiths Forum and the Furnival on Verdon St.



Alison Buxton, from the Sheffield Islamic Network for the Environment (SHINE), said,

"We do litter picks all over Sheffield; we try to do one a month. The idea behind the group is to bring out the Islamic teachings which are about saving the environment - so we try to practice our faith and do the right thing for the planet."

Local resident, Janette, commented,

"I think we had a good mix of people - more than we expected. It's encouraging because people have said 'when will the next one be happening?'"

The event was so successful that the intention is to hold another in the Autumn.



South Yorkshire
Fire & Rescue
WORKING FOR A SAFER
SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Fire service launches BME smoke alarm plea

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue is launching a fresh campaign to fit more free smoke alarms in black & minority ethnic (BME) homes in Burngreave.

The fire service is targeting BME groups as it continues to work with areas of the community which are most at risk from fire, in a bid to further reduce deaths, injuries and incidents in South Yorkshire.

As well as encouraging members of these communities to sign up for a free home safety check, South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue will be distributing a new range of fire safety leaflets and posters translated in a range of languages including Urdu, Polish and Somali.



The cornerstone of the organisation's fire safety agenda is its free home safety checks. During a check, firefighters or community safety staff will visit your home at a convenient time to carry out the Home Safety Check.

During the visit you can get advice on:

- How to make your home safer
- What to do in the event of a fire
- What to do if you are trapped by a fire

They will also fit a free smoke alarm if your house is without one and explain how to maintain it correctly.

To arrange your Home Safety Check, or for general fire safety advice, call 0114 253 2314 or text FREE to 87023.

A member of our community safety team will call you back to arrange the visit. There are a number of other things you can do to stay safe in your home, including:

- Make sure you have an evacuation plan
- Don't smoke in bed
- Don't overload electrical sockets
- Take care if using candles

And remember - if you discover a fire in your home:

- Do not investigate, get everyone out and stay out. Do not stop or go back.
- Call 999 and ask for the fire service.
- If you are unable to get out, stay together in one room near an open window and wait to be rescued.

Fir Vale Business & Enterprise Centre
Level 2 Award - Food Safety
Fundamental food hygiene training for all food handlers
The Food Act 1984 (as amended) provides that this responsibility is now a legal requirement. All staff who handle food must, by law, know how to avoid contamination and food poisoning.

1 FULL DAY COURSE
3 Year accreditation



Wednesday 14 July 2010
9am - 3pm

Designed for anyone working in catering, manufacturing or retail selling where food is prepared, cooked and handled.

- Introduction to food safety
- By law
- Food safety hazards
- Taking temperatures
- Refrigeration, chilling and cold holding of foods
- Cooking, hot holding and re-heating of foods
- Food handlers
- Principles of safe food storage
- Cleaning

£50

including refreshments

To book your place contact:
Fir Vale Enterprise Centre
Owler Lane
Sheffield, S4 8GB



284 2030 or email jlawson@firvale.com
How to find us and details of the centre visit www.firvale.com



Local housing at affordable rents

Modern and secure retirement apartments available now at:

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No deposit required. Housing Benefit accepted

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Conditions apply, contact us for information

For further details contact:

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Website: www.equityhousing.co.uk/findahome



Another great season

Story: Mick Ashman | Photos: Del Galloway

All three teams of local Pitsmoor / Burngreave football club Earl Marshall Juniors had cause to celebrate at the end of the 2009-10 season.

The Under-8's team had a terrific season. Their squad, strengthened with some fantastic new players, delivered some great performances. Their enthusiastic enjoyment of the game was a joy to watch. In September, they move up to Under-9's and will be in a competitive league for the first time. No doubt they will be a force to be reckoned with!

In a hectic schedule of matches in April, the Under-9's won their last eight games convincingly to secure a club record 'winning sequence' and a comfortable third place finish. Next season Damian De Souza and his coaching team can look forward to Division B football knowing that their squad of excellent young



All the teams will be holding trials for new players in early June. 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.



Other sessions at Verdon Street include:

Step Class – Tues 6.30 – 7.30pm, £1.50
Aerobics – Weds 4.45 -5.45pm, £1.50
Aerobics – Thurs 6.30 – 7.30pm, £1.50
Play Rangers – Weds 4 – 5pm, 8 to 16yrs.

The Centre is planning to start a users group, to help maintain and increase activities at the centre. The first meeting will be held in June. Contact Verdon Recreation Centre on 249 1626

Bike checks

Story: Jenny Tibbles

Building on young people's enthusiasm for Bike Check sessions last summer, Ellesmere Youth Project and Pedal Ready ran a bike maintenance course, ending with a bike ride from Carwood to Rotherham.

The four Easter-holiday sessions started with a general bike check at Pitsmoor Adventure Playground, where Dave and Fred from Pedal Ready helped with some minor bike adjustments.



During the bike maintenance sessions, young people worked together to fix their own and each other's bikes, learning how to check bikes for safety, fit new brake pads and cables and fix punctures. They also took part in bike-riding skills games and had much fun trying to win a cycle 'slow race'.

All the young people who took part enjoyed themselves, learned skills in bike maintenance and went home with improved brakes and fixed handlebars! Many asked if this was something they could do every week.

We finished with a bike ride from the Cornerstone Building at the top of Carwood Road, joining the official cycle route that took us past Meadowhall and along the River Don to Rotherham. Thankfully it was a nice sunny evening and we all made it without getting wet!

Well done to all the young people who took part, particularly the ones who managed to cycle back up Carwood Road without stopping!

Taekwondo success

The Taekwondo students at Verdon Recreation Centre have excelled again. On the weekend of 8th and 9th May two students passed their Dan grading (exam) which was held in Mansfield.

To achieve this grade the students increased their training from one day to three days per week.

The following students were awarded the following Dan grades:

Ray Richards: 2nd Dan

Sammy Noor: 1st Dan

Pilsung Taekwondo club is on
 Tuesdays 6pm to 8pm &
 Fridays 6pm-7.30pm,
 Under 18's £2.00, over 18's £3.00



Environment Day

Story: Fran Belbin

This year's Environment Day took place on 23rd May and was possibly the most successful yet with residents once again treated to glorious weather and a brilliant atmosphere in Abbeyfield Park.

Many of the regular stalls and activities were here, promoting recycling, composting and environmental projects. Stalls selling plants and food and the bike doctor were doing a roaring trade and the kids had pony rides, football and a coconut shy to keep them entertained. A new feature this year was the "buskers' corner" on the steps on Abbeyfield Park House, with sets from John and Dick on



guitar and harmonica, Terry on ukulele and Julie on guitar.

Recycled clothes were also selling so well that Transition Burngreave are now hoping to organise a clothes swap on 4th July (for more info contact Lynn 243 6398).

The only disappointment was that some things sold out so quickly – Arwa's falafels were all gone by 2.15 and hanging baskets within an hour of opening! Fortunately extra supplies were brought in to keep everybody happy!

Another innovation this year were the Sustrans smoothies that were being blended by pedal power! Youngsters especially were enjoying using the bike



with a blender attached to mix up smoothies made with locally produced soft fruits. Ruth from Sustrans was also promoting the Sheffield Bike Festival in June and the Bike It scheme which is now working with St Catherine's School to get kids using their bikes more and cycling to school. For more information contact Ruth on 273 5828.

Friends of Abbeyfield Park were out and about collecting email addresses of residents who want to get involved with the group – email them at friendsofabbeyfieldpark@googlemail.com for information.

So all in all a fantastic day, made possible by "lots of different people putting in a huge effort and working together".

Fire and food

Story: Ann Creasey

The Grimesfire Initiative 2010

Take someone with imagination and a bright idea; add a willing partner and a handful of helpers and you end up with a party that will be remembered for a long time.



The weather turned wet in the afternoon but preparations went ahead any way. Food was prepared and cooked, fire wood collected and delivered and the meeting room on the allotment made ready to entertain those braving the weather in the evening. We may have had a moment of doubt here and there! Would anyone turn up? Would we have too much food? Will the fire light? In the end the food was consumed in quick time, even the 65 pancakes; and the fire kept everyone warm and entertained long into the night.

This event drew its inspiration from the Roman Rig, an ancient earthwork that stretches from the lower side of Grimesthorpe Allotments along the ridge over Wincobank Hill and out almost to Doncaster. The Grimesfire Initiative, generously funded by the North East Community Assembly, was the first of a series of annual Spring Fire Festivals to mark the beginning of the growing season.

Grimesthorpe plant sale

Story & photos: Lisa Swift



As is traditional now, Grimesthorpe allotments held their plant sale in May, in time for gardeners to purchase some all important additions for their vegetable plots.

The glorious weather brought residents and allotmenters together to exchange plants, drink tea and eat cake. Money raised from the sale will help Grimesthorpe Community Garden Group to maintain the kitchen and toilets for plot holders to use.

The next allotment event is planned for the 11th September.



Knit and Natter birthday bash

Story: Saleema Imam

The Messenger was invited to the 2nd birthday bash of the 'Friday Knit and Natter' group at the New Roots café on Friday 7th May. Knit, natter and nosh were the order of the day as knitting fought with biscuits and other goodies for a place on the table and a continuous supply of cuppas was served by New Roots' volunteers.

Val Ellis – activity support worker for Pitsmoor Primary Mental Health Care Project – told me that up to a dozen knitters come each week, though over the 2 years, many more than that have taken part. Skills are shared and everyone

supports novice knitters and new arrivals, teaching the basic skills and loaning patterns.

Most members are already good knitters but some have never lifted a knitting needle before such as Darren who is now knitting a 'Mrs' for the designer teddy bear he has already completed. Darren joined the group after spying them through the window when passing the Ashram. "Being nosy," he said, "I went in to see what was happening and I'm still coming. I got lots of support and I'd encourage other men to come along."

Many remarkable colourful garments, blankets and toys have been created by Georgina, Diz, Pat, Darren, Cynthia, Christine, Linda, Carol, Val and others, including lots of matinee jackets, hats and blankets for premature babies at Jessop



Hospital special care unit. Currently under way is a giant blanket made from knitted squares, which will be raffled at Rainbow's End charity shop when finished. Check it out if you can.

The group is community based and user run, with minimum support – donations of materials such as wool, needles and patterns are gratefully received.

The core group are now all firm friends, "It's a break from our problems, we enjoy the afternoon and we are creating something useful as well," one said.

Everyone is welcome, whatever their knitting ability, on Fridays between 1pm and 3pm. For more information or to donate materials ring Val on 114 276 2644.

Firshill Beauty Evening

Story & photos: Laura Moya

On Friday 14th May local residents were treated to an evening of fun and pampering at Firshill Primary School.

Upon paying a £2.50 entry fee, the entertainment on offer included threading, henna painting, belly dancing, (where guests were welcome to give it a go!) hair and make-up as well as a Body Shop at home and refreshments stall.

I spoke to the organiser, Nazakat Khan, who works on behalf of local the community project known as Healthy Cross as a Community Engagement Worker.

"I arranged the night to try and bring surrounding areas such as Pitsmoor, Firvale and Burngreave together to show



that they can get along." he said.

Healthy Cross is a volunteer run project that aims to provide help to those suffering from problems concerning drugs, mental health and family. They hold events regularly and offer both individual



support and group activities such as fitness classes to those who wish to improve their physical and mental health.

For more information about the project you can visit the website at www.healthycross.ik.com.

Corner Egg Café

Story & photos: John Mellor

The "Corner Egg Café" is now operating in the large downstairs hall in the Burngreave Vestry Hall. It is one of the projects initiated by the Sheffield charity "Launchpad" which recently moved from premises in the Wicker.

"Launchpad" developed from the Burton Street Project in November 2007 and is the brain-child of Sue Lane, its manager:

"We offer a wide range of activities for adults of all ages with learning difficulties; these are fun and encourage them to be independent and develop both employment and leisure opportunities. We believe everyone can learn and we aim to give everyone the opportunity to do so with courses tailored to work with each individual's learning strengths and overcome their disabilities."

"We have courses in media studies, gardening, creative writing, languages, cooking, music, computer skills, jewellery, craft, sign language, dance, drama and self defence. There are 'circles of support' classes which help students identify people within their own support network of friends, relatives and carers to better understand and talk to them. Students can choose whichever course(s) they would like to attend on days which are convenient to them. We also offer holidays in Britain and around the world where students have 24 hour care and door to door transport."

The "Corner Egg Café" is run by Rita Hardwick who says:

"The café is open to anyone who would like to drop in for a coffee, a snack or a hot meal at lunch time. I aim to provide tasty, healthy food at a reasonable price. The café is open from Monday to Friday (10 am to 3 pm) with a different menu each day. It also provides a training resource for students looking for a career in catering."

I spoke to Terry who had joined the project one month ago. He told me:

"I was looking for a new start and heard about Launchpad through my girl friend who was already doing a course here. I am keen to train as a chef with a view to starting a career in the catering industry."

Natalie Walters was running a self defence session with a group of students who clearly enjoyed what they were doing and showed great enthusiasm. Natalie is also directing rehearsals for the musical "Grease" which will be performed at a number of different venues in the near future.



There were a number of interesting groups around the tables. Hannah was leading a small group learning Spanish. Susan said, "I enjoy using my writing skills to write articles for our monthly publication 'The Rocket'". Other groups were playing 'Pictionary', table tennis, or doing jigsaws and word searches. Robert, from Mosborough, on his first day, was being introduced to the project by Tracey from the City Council Inclusion Team.

At the time I visited the project some students were on a holiday in Barcelona.

There was a really friendly and welcoming atmosphere in the café. The food was excellent and very good value for money – highly recommended!

You can find out more from Launchpad's website at www.launchpad.btik.com



Ace Self Defence

Free lesson for everyone
New Ladies Only classes starting soon
We are located at Vestry Hall

**Freephone now to book your FREE lesson
0800 084 8312**
or visit <http://selfdefence.yolasite.com>

We've seen the light!

Story: Saleema Imam

At last electricity has returned to the chapels in Burngreave Cemetery. Thanks to those in City Council who enabled the electricity to be connected. After two winters in the cold and dark the Friends group can now give more help to visitors looking for graves of their relatives.

In recent years Friends of Burngreave

Cemetery and Chapels have been transcribing burial records and other documents and inputting them to computer. These can now be viewed in the left hand chapel any Sunday between 11am and 3pm until October when we revert to 12 noon to 2pm. A microfiche reader also enables visitors to view transcriptions of Headstones, kindly provided by Sheffield and District Family History Society.

The City Council are still working on clearing unwanted trees and tidying graves, and with banks of daffodils in flower and the trees beginning to show their leaves and blossom, the cemetery is a beautiful place to be on a sunny Sunday.

An open weekend will take place on Saturday and Sunday July 17th and 18th with displays and information about graves in the cemetery, children's activities and a return of the annual well dressing if enough volunteers can be found. Look out for more information nearer the day. Guided summer walks around the cemetery are being discussed and another 'Apple Day' planned for the third week in October as part of One World Week.

Please contact Christine on 0114 281 6950 for help with finding a family grave or information about Friends of Burngreave Cemetery and Chapel.

Firshill's working days

Story: Marion Graham, Firshill History Group

It is very sad that young people are unable to find jobs these days. When we reminisce, all of us remember "leave school Friday, start work Monday".

There were jobs to be had in the factories for the boys, and the girls would mostly choose to work in a shop or office. Before the war, most women stopped working when they married – they stayed home and kept house. The war changed all that when the women did all sorts of factory jobs (previously "men's work") while the men were away and they kept on doing it, to some extent, when the men came back.

A few of our members recalled their "working days" and the following are extracts from one of our books of memories.



Anne Murdoch

Anne Murdoch's first job was with a firm of sign printers where she applied paint to the signs. Later they applied camouflage paint to army helmets. It was a job with health hazards because they were inhaling the paint fumes and she often fell asleep on the bus going home from the effect of the fumes – they were given milk to drink at work every day to offset the health dangers – obviously the Health and Safety measure of the time. She was paid seven shillings and six pence (7/6) per week for working 48 hours – she gave her mother 7/- and had 6d left for spending money which often went as 4d to get into the Hippodrome on Saturday night leaving 2d for the rest of the week. Although she really liked that job, her parents eventually insisted that she left it because of the health hazards.

When she was 18, she was sent to work for the war effort at Baldock near Letchworth and she lived in a girls hostel there. Once, when she came home on leave, she was unwell and unable to return to Baldock on time so her place at the hostel was allocated to someone else and she could not work there any longer. Whilst she was at home she was called to the Labour Exchange to find out where they would send her to work next and they said that - provided she could pass a medical examination - she would be able to work on the trams and stay at home in Sheffield. She did pass the medical and worked as a conductress on the trams for 17 years – right up to the night when the last tram ran.



Flo Gill recalls

"My first job on leaving school was at a silver-plating company and then I went to work at Batchelors (canned pea factory) while the war was on. I remember we used to have to sort the peas before they were canned and, when the fruit came in, we had to work overtime and nights and weekends because it had to be packed quickly while it was still fresh.

"Sometimes they would give us some fruit to take home and once they gave us a big bag of damsons and the bag burst on the tram going home – there were damsons everywhere. I used to work in the cannery where the peas were cooked in big retorts for two hours and then a crane would come along and take the peas to be packed. I worked there until I got married in 1945. Later I worked at a cutlery firm and Stanley Tools and Fletchers Bakery. I became a "home-help" and then worked at Firth Browns until my retirement."

Lewis Boam

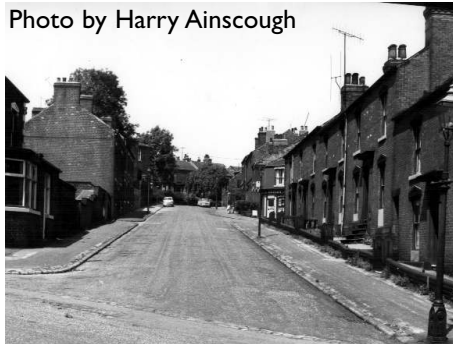
Finally, we have Lewis Boam (pictured above on the right) spent all of his working life at the Co-op. Lewis told us:

"Over the years I worked in most of the Society's branches, the first one being at 370 Staniforth Road. Were one of today's shop assistants to walk into a shop of that era, they would find it a totally alien place. No E.P.O.S tills or pre-packed goods and certainly no self-service. Each item sold was brought to the customer by the assistant behind the counter. Most commodities came loose and had to be weighed and packed on the premises. Lard, butter, sugar, vinegar, treacle, dried fruit and many more came into this category. Bacon came as half a pig which had to be cut up and boned before being sliced on a huge hand-operated slicing machine. All the bills had to be totalled manually. I was the "flour-lad" responsible for weighing and bagging the flour. The hours were long and my wage was the princely sum of 11 shillings and 9 pence per week and nobody wanted to sit next to me on the tram going home as I was covered in flour! On some occasions, I would go out with a wheelbarrow delivering orders and sometimes I would go out with the horse and dray and help the delivery man. After work, we were required to attend evening classes on two nights a week at Salmon Pastures school until 9pm and for this we had to pay 4 shillings and sixpence per term plus the cost of text books!"

In those days, most of the shops were staffed by men and the only female in the shop was the office girl who attended to the accounts – until the war started and the men went off to fight. The 1950s brought us self-service stores which at the time were quite a novelty. Over the years, the Co-op branches all went "self-service" but many of them closed as they were unable to compete with the huge supermarkets. The wheel has now turned full circle and the Co-op is once again expanding via late-night convenience stores.

Brotherton Street memories

Photo by Harry Ainscough



Story: Elizabeth Shaw

After last issue's article about the Catherine Arms, The Messenger had a call from Mr Frank Goodwin who lived on Brotherton Street until 1980. His aunt Nellie also lived there between 1930 and 1974.

Nellie was 10 when the Ashford family moved into number 5. There were four children – Nellie, older sister Marjorie and younger sister Elsie and a brother. Father Joseph was a tram driver and mother a housewife. This house later had a mural painted on the gable wall when students lived there.

The house had two rooms downstairs plus a single storey extension at the back, known as a slop kitchen. Upstairs there were two bedrooms and an attic. In 1930 there was no electricity; lighting was by gas and candles. The toilet was in the yard outside. Having a bath meant lading water into a tin bath. Later Mr Ashford had a bath fitted in the kitchen.

The living room had a coal fire with an oven at the side for cooking. The cellar steps ran between front and back rooms and, besides storing coal, it had a stone table to keep food items cool and shelving at the top of the steps for other food items. In the corner of the kitchen there was a fire to heat water in a boiler. Washing was done in a tub and then put through a mangle, turned by hand. Ironing meant heating an iron on the fire with a second one heating to take over when the first iron had cooled.

Shopping

With no fridges, people had to do food shopping daily and Mrs Ashford regularly walked her children to town to get supplies. Milk in the 1930s arrived by horse and cart and householders took their own jug out to receive a measured amount of milk. This was before the Co-op took over milk deliveries. Another visitor to the street with a horse and cart was the rag-and-bone man and Frank



remembers that, depending on the offering, you could get a balloon or a goldfish in exchange.

School

Nellie went to Pye Bank School at the top of Andover Street.

"On my first day, while my mother was talking to the teacher, I decided I didn't like school and I ran back home. Later another child told me it was nice at school and there was a sand pit to play in so I decided to give it a try and enjoyed my schooldays after that."

Both Frank and Nellie mentioned the steep hill up to the school. Nellie talked of the time she had ringworm on the scalp and had to have her hair cut off. To cover her head she wore a mob cap and, after school, boys would chase her down the hill to try and pull it off! Frank spoke of the difficulties of staying upright on the hill on icy winter days.

After Pye Bank School, Frank's mother Marjorie passed to go to the Central School on Leopold Street. However she was not happy there and her parents had to pay £2 so that she could leave. After this expense, her parents were wary of taking that risk again so Nellie went to Burngreave School - now Byron Wood. The boys and girls were not allowed to mix. The Headmistress was a Scotswoman called Miss Yates and her second in command, Mrs Harris.

Frank also went to this school and told us of being locked in the coal bunker by a prefect and, on release by a teacher, getting the cane.

After leaving school, Nellie worked at Wisewood in Shentall's grocery shop and returned there after her war work, for a total of 25 years. She then did an office job at Fletcher's bakery, having gained experience in the army, before retiring in 1979. Sister Marjorie, previously a seamstress in Hyde Park, became a crane driver at Tinsley in the war. The fact her

eyesight was not very good did not appear to be a hindrance. It was while working there that she met Frank's father and, when they married, they lived at first with her family at number 5. Eventually the house next door became available and Frank and his parents moved in there.

In the Street

Next door at number 9 lived Mr Godson, a policeman, with his wife and two daughters. Marjorie and Mrs Godson had many a chat over the dividing wall at the back of the house. In the evenings, Mrs Godson made a regular trip down to the beer-off with a jug. Across the road lived Mr & Mrs Payne who apparently did not speak to each other for years!

Children played in the street in the evenings till quite late and it was safe to do so. Hide and seek was good because the yards and passageways gave lots of hiding places. The ominous-sounding "Hangman" involved fixing rope to the cross bars of a gas lamp for swinging on. Boys dared one another to walk on the walls on Catherine Street; Frank fell and broke his arm doing this. Girls would turn a long skipping rope with up to four girls at a time running in to jump.

A more unusual sight for these suburban streets in any age would be an elephant. Nellie once saw one in Somerset Street where it was occasionally used to pull steel bars!

Entertainment

Nellie liked to go dancing, mostly at the Cutlers Hall, although she did make a couple of visits to the dance hall that later became the Mojo. Her brother-in-law was MC at the Cutlers Hall and he often took Nellie to the dance,

"One time I had to help him bounce the car into a small parking space because there was no other spaces available, all this while wearing my long dance dress."

Frank's father was a singer and comic when not working in the steelworks. He visited OAP homes and the Little Sisters of the Poor to put on a show. At Christmas time he played the role of Father Christmas at the Children's Party in the works canteen and again at Pitsmoor Methodist Church. Frank also joined the church drama group and Ellesmere Drama Society. Frank said that often people would become members of the church through having first joined the social activities.

Both Frank and Nellie enjoyed living on Brotherton Street. They spoke of the sense of community at a time when the ladies worked in the home and had more time for their neighbours. It was a good place to live and it is a shame that is gone.

North East meeting in April



Permits not the answer

Councillors at the North East Community Assembly recommended that the parking permit scheme around the Northern General Hospital be turned down.

Residents around the area had been consulted widely by the Council and voiced their views at several public meetings. Most people felt that while there was some parking problems, permits were not the answer.

However, four streets – Crabtree Close, Fairbank Road, Norwood Road and Blyde Road, who indicated they would like some parking restrictions, will be consulted further.

Funding Agreed

Over £360,000 of funding for the area was also agreed at the meeting, which was attended by about 50 people at the Chaucer Business and Enterprise Centre. Included in the funding for Burngreave was more Bring Out Your Rubbish days, further Community Chest funding, funding for additional street tree pruning and the continuation of the Saturday afternoon opening hours at Burngreave library.

NEAT team tackles grot spots

One of the projects that Councillors agreed to fund was for the NEAT team (Neighbourhood Environmental Action Team) to continue work in the area. This team responds to requests from local residents to tidy up the area and improve ‘grot spots’ and is made up of young people who are gaining training and work skills. In the last few months the team has:

- Cut back vegetation on footpaths, gennels and walkways, especially where this is growing from neglected private land such as Kirton Road
- Removed litter and small scale fly-tipping and small areas of graffiti
- Planted and maintained the flowers that you can see on roundabouts such as Herries Road
- Removed self-set trees and done minor tree works
- Joined in community clear-ups in areas such as Shirecliffe

Over a third of the NEAT trainees will go on to gain paid employment.



Green space projects

An Update on two projects that form part of the North East Community Assembly Plan that will ‘Improve Parks and Green Spaces’ and ‘Provide More things for children and young people to do’:

- **Play area at Denholme Close.** Chris Roebuck, Project Dev Officer for Parks and Countryside has met with the PITS project and with other local young people to discuss the design of new play equipment for this area. If you want to get in touch about this project the telephone number is **273 5604**.
- The new **Osgathorpe Youth Shelter** is almost ready to install. The design was based on sessions carried out by the artists (Coralie and Amanda) with the Fir Vale Youth Group and a local lunch club. It is planned to install it mid June above the playground.

The North East Assembly Team will be out and about this summer asking you for your views about what is happening in your local area.

Come along and meet them at:

- Firth Park Community Festival, Sun 27th June from 1-6pm
- Parkwood/Shirecliffe Community Summer Fair at Parkwood Academy, Sat 10th July from 12-3.30pm
- Abbeyfield Festival, Sun 11th July, 1-6pm

Councillor Surgery Dates

12 June: Talib Hussain, 11am–12pm Burngreave Library, 12.15pm–1pm Firshill TARA

15 June: Ibrar Hussain, 11am–12 pm Shirecliffe Community Centre, 15th June 12.15pm–1pm Norwood and Bishopholme TARA

17 June: Jackie Drayton, 2pm–3pm Pakistan Advice Centre

26 June: Jackie Drayton, 11am–12pm Burngreave Library



10 July: Ibrar Hussain, 11am–12pm Burngreave Library, 12.15pm–1pm Firshill TARA

15 July: Jackie Drayton, 2pm–3pm Pakistan Advice Centre

20 July: Jackie Drayton, 11am–12.15pm Shirecliffe Community Centre, 12.15pm–1pm Norwood and Bishopholme TARA

20 July: Talib Hussain, 5pm–6pm Carwood TARA

24 July: Talib Hussain, 11am–12pm Burngreave Library

jackie.drayton@sheffield.gov.uk

ibrar.hussain@sheffield.gov.uk

talib.hussain@sheffield.gov.uk

Sorby House and Vestry Hall Good News!

Despite the gloom and doom surrounding the economic outlook we are having a boom time at Sorby and Vestry Hall with events, conferences and training bookings definitely on the increase.

There are many encouraging trends to see from this, an increase in repeat bookings by organisations, an increase in bookings from organisations from outside Burngreave, an increase in bookings from private companies and increased use by the community.

On a daily basis for much of the last two months we have had at least 50% of our

conference/event rooms occupied and on a number of days we had to use some of our vacant offices to house bookings as our main rooms were occupied.

This has meant that more and more people are visiting the venues and experiencing the quality of our buildings and also the high level of service BNDfC offers to all of our customers, which we hope will manifest itself in more occupiers relocating to Burngreave once they have seen what the area has to offer.

So if you are thinking about hosting any kind of event, seminar, celebration or gathering the please consider YOUR local venues, you won't be disappointed!

Contact us on 0114 213 2300

All change at BNDfC

The move towards Burngreave New Deal for Communities becoming a stand alone business is continuing, but at a slower pace than we envisaged, we have still not achieved sign off of our succession strategy but behind the scenes we are working with the Department for Communities and Local Government, Government Office and Sheffield City Council to ensure that the successor body has a bright future.

This will mean some changes to the organisation and how we operate as business. As we will no longer have any New Deal funding we have had to review our situation and staffing levels from both a financial and operational perspective.

Unfortunately due to the economic climate we are not achieving at the present time the occupancy levels from our buildings which were originally envisaged when the projects to refurbish Sorby House and the Vestry Hall were approved. Therefore we have had to look to make some changes to the way we operate.

The Partnership Board with great regret have approved a plan to reduce the staff team. This has meant that unfortunately four of our team will be leaving or have left the Company, in the next few weeks. This was a decision that was made only after the Partnership Board received reassurances that the operation of the buildings would not be compromised and that all our tenants and visitors would receive the high level of service we provide and more importantly be safe in our buildings.

By working with those members of staff who are to remain with the company we are still going to have a full time presence at Vestry Hall in the form of one of our Administrative Officers and Sorby House reception will be manned by two of our Administrative Officers. The quality of service we offer will not be compromised but we had to make changes to reduce our overheads and therefore ensure that the Company was operating efficiently.

The Partnership Board would like to thank those staff who are leaving for their contribution to the success of BNDfC whilst they have been with us and wish them all the very best for the future.

Harleston Street: An opportunity for local groups

When we relocated to Sorby House we vacated our former Head Office on Harleston Street and were able to let one of our two floors very soon after vacating the building.

We are now offering the first floor accommodation to the market and as the lease now expires in March 2011 we are prepared to consider short term occupancy of the space on highly advantageous terms for local groups.

The space comprises a large open plan office with a number of private offices off



it, a small meeting room, staffroom and small office.

We would consider the letting of any of these offices to local groups so if you have a short term requirement please contact us on 0114 213 2300

99-103 Spital Hill: A business opportunity

As many of you may have noticed we are marketing the former Advocacy Now offices on Spital Hill.

99-103 Spital Hill comprises three offices, a small kitchen and w.c. The property is available to let on a lease with four years to run at a rent of £8,500 per annum. The landlord has indicated a longer lease could be available if required

Jeremy Diskin BNDfC's Executive Asset Manager reports, "We have already received a significant amount of interest in the property but it is not too late to register your interest as we have not as



yet set a closing date for expressions of interest."

If you are interested please call 0114 213 2300

Ghanaian Literacy Group

Story: Laura Moya

We spoke to Nurra Hooper, founder of the Ghanaian Literacy Group.



The group allows Ghanaians to unite through leisure activities, indoor games and movies. It also educates members about Ghanaian culture and fights against problems such as knife crime and racism. The first meetings, only a year ago, were held in Nurra's house. The group now meets monthly at Firth Park Old Library. Nurra told us:

"I started the group because I saw my daughter was growing up and I needed to let her know about her culture. In Ghana children have a role and they learn how to take part. I spoke to other Ghanaians and they felt it was a good idea to start the group to share our culture."

The group is hosting a "Miss African/Caribbean Sheffield" on July 24th at Firth Park Methodist. For tickets, registration and more information you can contact Nurra on 07904 686 444, 0114 246 5624 or at nuhoo25@yahoo.com.

The GLG's next meetings will be on 12th June and 10th July, between 1pm and 3.30pm.

Kashmir Earthquake Relief Fund



Kashmir Earthquake Relief Fund is organising a sponsored climb up Ben Nevis in Scotland in May.

A multi-ethnic group of 46 is taking part in the climb on Bank Holiday Monday to raise funds to rebuild a girls' college that collapsed in Azad Kashmir in 2005. The college will be renamed Sheffield Girls' College, Bagh

However, building on the hillside site and inflation are increasing the cost so the fund wants to raise money as quickly as possible so the project can be finished. Kath Swinney, an ESOL teacher from Burngreave, said,

"I taught in a summer school at the college the summer after the earthquake and was so impressed by the bravery of the girls and their determination to study, in spite of their own personal losses and the harsh reality of working in tents through the winter snow and the summer monsoons. I would love to return to Kashmir and see the college finished. It will be a proud day for Sheffield and Burngreave in particular."

More information is on www.kashmir-relief.org and on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Af4d4vqm7Jc>

Contact the Messenger to sponsor Kath's Ben Nevis climb.

BCAF



June will see the next quarterly public meeting run by Burngreave Community Action Forum, which will look at what the housing issues are in our area.

We want to make sure our public meetings lead to action that helps and involves local people. So what have we done with what was said at the last meeting?

Cuts

In response to concerns about cuts in services, we continued to support the campaign for adult learning. In April the campaign won back provision for the summer term.

Health

Working with the Health Network, we have started a audit of health projects which is available on our website:

<http://www.bcaf.org.uk/meetings/burngreave-health-network/>

In response to discussions at the Forum meeting we will also be exploring non-

electronic communication for this group, including a health zone at this year's summer festivals.

Young people

"There's a lot happening for young people, but residents don't know about it," was one comment at the last meeting. Youth Network is planning to promote all holiday activities, not just for the summer, by email, Facebook (search for Sheffield Youth Network), schools and through the Messenger and website

Festivals

"Keep the festival local," was the call at the last meeting. We are working with local schools who are developing performances and encouraging local young people to perform. We also held a meeting for local residents and organisations who came up with great ideas and things they could contribute. See page 5 for festival news.

We hope to see you at the next meeting, or you can join one of our mailing lists. E-mail BCAF (address below) to receive regular emails with local information including jobs.

Tel:2 728008
enquiries@bcaf.org.uk
www.bcaf.org.uk

Quarterly Forum Meeting

Saturday 12th June 2010
11am Burngreave Vestry Hall

Housing in Burngreave

At the request of our last QFM, a special meeting to tackle this major issue in our area.

Including discussions on:

- How to avoid overcrowding and improve the standard of local housing
- When we will see new housing development in Burngreave
- Strengthening tenant groups and neighbourhood action.

We also want your suggestions on what should be part of the discussion, and who should be invited to take part.

Light Lunch and Crèche will be provided.

Contact BCAF 0114 272 8008 or enquiries@bcaf.org.uk

Sisters

Story: Saleema Imam & Laura Moya

Women in Burngreave were offered the chance of a free trip to the Crucible Studio Theatre on 24th March to see the world premiere of 'Sisters'.

Writer and actress Stephanie Street interviewed 43 Muslim women from the UK and used their words to form the play. The characters talked about their experiences as Muslim women and touched on some controversial issues such as gender and sexuality.

Tickets for 50 women were funded by Burngreave Community Action Forum and South Yorkshire Police.

A follow up workshop, funded by Sheffield City Council's Strengthening Communities was held at Sorby House on 22nd April. Around 55 women met to discuss the play and share their opinions with both each other and the director Ruth Carney and playwright Stephanie Street (via Skype as she was delayed in Singapore).

A lively question and answer session took place, before we split into groups to discuss themes from the play. Here are some of the points women made

Being an Active Citizen

Women felt they were active citizens in different ways:

"Being from a minority community makes me feel stronger to stand up against discrimination, demand equal rights and to use my vote."

"There is an Islamic duty on all Muslims to serve the society in which they live."

"Muslim women actively support their communities and local schools."

Being a Working Woman

Although a lot of women worked, some felt the demands of home were greater than employment:

"In general not working is perceived to be a negative thing in today's society."

"Khadeja, (Prophet Muhammed's PBUH 1st wife) was a successful business woman and mother."

"Women of any faith have difficulty in balancing work and family responsibilities."

Being a Role Model

Women talked about being role models



within their families as well as in the outside world:

"Women have a strong presence and position in Islam and they are starting to feel stronger and more confident in challenging traditional expectations."

"Media refuses to portray positive Muslim role models despite there being many."

"Though boys seem to get more leeway, most women agreed that they are trying to bring up their children more equally"

Women of Faith

Concerns were expressed about how the media represents Muslims:

"Islam is a simple religion, but there is a confused picture of Muslims which Muslims share responsibility in creating."

"The media does not represent Muslims fairly."

"The play 'Sisters' did show that wearing Hijab and Niqab was a personal choice and not something forced on women."

"Media portrays that women that wear a Hijab are oppressed, when it is the opposite."

One final comment summed up what was expressed throughout the day:

"We are Muslim women; we are articulate, free thinking, generous, motivated, educated, sophisticated and active members of our society. If you want to hear what we say then come and speak to us. We want to be heard and contribute to change!"

Comments about the play

Response to the play amongst women who attended the Sorby House discussion was mixed. Some felt that the play had tried to represent all Muslim women, but had failed; portraying controversial lifestyles and not reflecting ordinary Muslim women's lives. Some women were angry with how it had portrayed Muslim women, others felt it was a step in the right direction.

"I really liked the play, in some sense it touched me because I was seen in those people's lives in the play. Two weeks after the play women were invited to talk about the play and share their opinions. I was so disappointed that some people, without watching it, commented that it was a bad play. I am a Muslim and proud to be, in my opinion there wasn't a bad thing in the play about Islam, Quran or Muslims. They pointed out good things about Islam. There are good and bad in every religion and we can't hide or ignore it. I am not saying who is bad or who is good but the play was about women's real life stories which was very well played by actresses." Lailuma

"Initially I was so excited to explore the crucible from the inside and for me that was a big privilege. We went there and it was good to see that the audience came from different ethnic groups but with one common gender, they were all women. The show took place in a living room where five amazing and very talented actresses who played different characters and showed the emotions which made each role express a real picture. Sometimes it was so sad that it made me cry. They discussed issues that are hardly understood by Muslim society. They also expressed that Islam is all about love, respect and education, even though some people confuse religion with tradition. They played all the scenes with energy and enthusiasm, breaking taboos and sending a message to Muslim women telling them that silence never solves problems." Djamila

"I thought it was very entertaining, but the writer could have done some more accurate research on the more controversial issues. I feel she should have referred to the Quran and looked in a bit more depth. It bridged some gaps for people in terms of understanding Muslim women - it's a start. I felt there was a character missing though, a professional woman who is a practising Muslim, who is happy - a lot of women they are happy to juggle their profession, their religion and their family, unlike the characters in the play." Local resident

Dear Messenger...



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

Dear Editor,

Your article, I think, misses the real issue of the parking. The issue has been caused by the local hospital trust charging its staff excessively for permits and not always allowing them to gain one even if they pay. The permits themselves do not give the staff a place to park either; there are more permits than allowable places to use them. As a result many staff members are forced to park on the surrounding roads, which they are legally entitled to do so if their vehicle is taxed and insured and of roadworthy condition.

One other key point missed in the report is that the Trust's parking scheme covers the entire trust and not just the Northern General site workers, so you have vehicles of staff from Jessop's, Hallamshire and Weston Park also parking there and using the free staff bus to travel to their workplaces.

Regarding the scheme itself, it seems to be overwhelmingly rejected and, as the chap who was running the scheme told the Firth Park ward meeting recently, effectively dead in the water as it stands. As regards the full Assembly meeting being held in Parson Cross for the first time, the previous three being held in Burngreave (twice) and Firth Park (once), in the interests of moving it around, seems fair. I'm not sure what exactly you were driving at with the last barbed comment. Perhaps you felt the meeting should be held in the Burngreave ward again?

For what it was worth, I'm glad the scheme's been rejected as it stood. Creating the restriction zones would have just moved the problem to surrounding estates and not tackled the root problem. The hospital trust's inability to provide suitable parking for their staff despite excessive profits on parking made by the trust year on year.

Mick Ibbotson, Longley Resident

Questionnaire responses

Thanks to everyone who completed our questionnaire, we had 77 responses and lots of useful comments about what the Messenger does well and what we can do better.

People said they enjoyed reading about events and activities, local news and issues. Local history was also very popular. 70% of people who responded said they got involved in something locally because of reading about it in the Messenger, while 86% said they use the Messenger to find out what's happening locally.

We've now done the prize draw and three lucky winners will receive £20.

St Catherine's Scout event

205th Sheffield Saint Catherines Scout Group.

Our meeting times are as follows:

Beavers Children 6yr to 8yrs: Mondays 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm.

Cubs Children 8 yrs to 10yrs: Mondays 7.15 pm to 8.30 pm.

Scouts Children 10yrs to 14/15 yrs: Fridays 7.15 to 9.00 pm

Subscriptions are £1.50 each.

All meetings held at The Scout Hut., Holtwood Rd.

Contact the Group Scout Leader Mr A Whiffin 0114 2463 728

"I Like to Write Things Down in Rhyme..."

Story: Saleema Imam

One of our regular contributors, Sylvia Reaney, has had a volume of her work published.



'I Like to Write Things Down in Rhyme' comprises over 30 poems on themes from special occasions, life's lessons, to our world and family (some long, some short and some which could easily be set to music).

The volume was put together for Sylvia's 80th birthday by her grand daughter Claire. Sylvia told the Messenger, "I didn't know anything about it, I thought it was brilliant. I've written poetry for years, I often write for family and friends on special occasions."

On the back of the book Claire writes, "From her vast collection we've selected just the best. If this book is a best seller then we may publish the rest!"

Verses from one of my favourites runs like this:

An ode to the Forties

*Anderson shelters, siren suits
Wedge heeled shoes and welly boots
Dinky curlers, Victory roll
Sandbags full and rationed oil*

*Torches covered, windows black
Searchlight posts and guns 'Ack-Ack'
Air raid shelters, barrage balloons
Wire netting spread on the dunes*

*Battleships and submarines
Call up papers in your teens
Gas mask cases, identity card
Stirrup pumps and home guard*

"I Like to Write Things Down in Rhyme..." is available from Sylvia's website <http://sylviareaney.co.uk/>

Men's Health Day

A FREE health event for men in Burngreave and Firvale

Thursday 17th June

11am - 3pm

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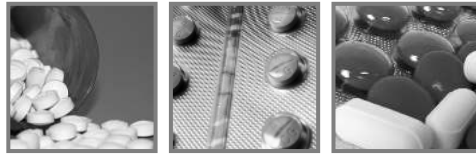
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