

# Burngreave Messenger



Issue 92 • February 2011 • Free to everyone in Burngreave

[www.burngreavemessenger.org](http://www.burngreavemessenger.org)

*Voice of the Burngreave Community*

## Burngreave keeps going in the snow

More than 12 inches of snow and prolonged cold weather brought disruption for many residents in December.



Children at Byron Wood School enjoy the snow

Schools were closed for several days, and many events and local meetings were cancelled due to hazardous conditions on roads and pavements.

Despite the difficulties residents were well serviced by local shops who kept their doors open. The day after the snow fell Mr Patel's Wine Shop on Catherine Street was open as usual, and like many others across the area, keeping stocked up with bread and milk, which were in great demand. Mr Patel said,

*"I was here until 10pm last night and I was here again at 9.30am this morning. We never shut!"*



Similar to January 2010, pavements were icy for many days, and residents again complained about the lack of grit. Over the Christmas holiday frozen pipes affected some buildings. Earl Marshal Youth Centre was badly damaged, and Sheffield Futures report that it could be six months before it is repaired. Alternative accommodation is being sought.

More photos on page 10

## New Deal's buildings go to the Council



In December Sheffield City Council agreed to run Sorby House and Vestry Hall on Spital Hill, to avoid New Deal becoming insolvent.

Burngreave New Deal for Communities will close before the end of March 2011, and the buildings and all assets will go to the Council. The proposal was agreed by Cabinet on 22nd December, where the Council committed to keeping the buildings open and in use. Forum House, also owned by New Deal, will be sold. The Council will try to negotiate with the government to keep the money from this sale, under current rules the money would have to be returned.

More details on the story on page 19

## Cuts are coming



Government cuts have been talked about for months, but we will soon start to see the affects close to home. Despite claims that they will be fair, it is widely understood that the poorest and most vulnerable will feel the effects of cuts the most.

Details of what to expect are on page 6.

Keep up to date with local campaigns on the Messenger website.

Let us know if there is a cut that will affect you or your group.

### Young people ready to campaign

Many cuts will hit young people in education, after school activities, study support and employment. Support their campaign against the cuts by signing their petition - see inside.

Residents are also planning to join city-wide efforts to stop the cuts on **29th January** in a march from Western Park to the Town Hall from 12noon.

Main photo: Smaira Sadique. Inset photo: Rohan Francis



# Green City Action

Telephone: (0114) 244 0353  
enquiries@greencityaction.org.uk



## Burngreave Garden Share project

*Do you have an unused corner of garden that you would be happy to share with a grower?*

*Or are you looking for land to grow your own fruit and vegetables?*

Green City Action aims to match and introduce committed, enthusiastic and respectful growers with local garden owners who want to see their gardens being used more productively.

### What could I get out of this?

- A share of the produce
- The pleasure of seeing a lovely developing vegetable plot
- Being part of a sharing initiative
- A sense of community



LOTTERY FUNDED

For more information please contact Green City Action on 0114 244 0353

## The School for Vegetables

*A FREE 10 week course in organic vegetable growing*

9.30 - 12.00 starting on Wednesday 15th March at Grimesthorpe Allotments

Learn the basics of growing your own vegetables and fruit

Preparing the soil : Fertility  
Seed sowing : Plant care : Harvest

# SAVE YOURSELF

STAY ALIVE ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT

[www.safetycamera.org/saveyourself](http://www.safetycamera.org/saveyourself)



## 92 people injured on Burngreave Road over the last 3 years

Almost all of these road crashes were caused by people not being careful.

**You, your friends and your children are twice as likely to die in a crash if a seatbelt isn't worn.**

Look out for the Save Yourself message on buses and posters and don't forget to wear a seatbelt and not to use your phone whilst driving!

**It's a fact that young drivers and children are four times more likely to be injured on our roads.**

The South Yorkshire Safer Roads Partnership, which includes Sheffield



City Council's Road Safety team, is also conducting a range of improvements to the road and is doing lots of work in schools to make people safer.

**Is your son or daughter learning to drive?** The Council's Learn Safe Drive Safe driving instructors are trained to get young drivers to think about the risks they'll face after they've passed their test such as driving too fast, having friends in the car, and driving when tired.

To find out more Google search: Learn Safe Drive Safe

**Remember** – Burngreave Road is one of the roads with the highest number of casualties in South Yorkshire – road improvements make the roads safer but it's how you and your children use the roads that really makes the difference.

### Experienced a road accident?

If you want to share your experience to help keep roads safer email [mail@burngreavemessenger.org](mailto:mail@burngreavemessenger.org)

**MAKING SOUTH YORKSHIRE ROADS SAFER**



## Tesco starts building

Story & photo: Douglas Johnson

**Building work has started on the site of the new Tesco at Savile Street.**

Diggers and bulldozers are out in force, preparing the groundworks for the new store. Tesco now says the store is due to open on 21st November 2011, presumably to catch the rush before next Christmas. The separate retail shops, reserved for other traders, are due to open at the same time although the office blocks will be delayed.

Tesco plans to recruit staff from the local area (within 3 miles radius of the store) to fill about 50% of the new posts and will aim to engage long-term unemployed in the area through its Job Guarantee Scheme. Their spokesman said they would start leafleting the area in the summer to advertise an open day. From there they will offer pre-interview training in interview techniques with the

aim of helping possible job applicants present themselves well.

Those selected at interviews will start their employment with 6 weeks of paid training. This will be done in partnership with the jobcentre and education providers and may lead to NVQ qualifications. However, Tesco's promise to work with Burngreave New Deal may fall flat since the New Deal programme ends in March.

More controversially, Tesco recently advertised for a pharmacy manager and pharmacist for the new store at salaries of over £40,000. There is also to be an optician's department. However, specific planning restrictions prevent Tesco from opening a pharmacy or post office because of the damage it would do to established local businesses – such as the Wicker Pharmacy and Lloyds on Ellesmere Road.

At present, there appears to be conflicting views. Tesco's spokesman confirmed "yes, there will be a pharmacy". Planning officers, however, have apparently had confirmation that it was a mistake and Tesco have removed the advert from their website.

## A new plan for empty Firvale houses

**Sheffield City Council is looking to change its policy on 37 empty houses in Firvale, including five on Barnsley Road two on Earl Marshal Road and 30 in Page Hall.**

The houses were bought by the Council as part of regeneration plans, with the aim of improving the properties and housing market in the area. Houses in Page Hall,

which have already been renovated, have failed to sell and now the Council is looking at other options.

Following a decision at Cabinet on 26th January, the Council will look at each house individually and consider renting through Social landlords or Sheffield Homes. They will also consider sale to private landlords who are part of the Responsible Landlord Scheme.

Concerns have been raised, that money from the sales may not be spent in the Firvale area, but could be spent elsewhere in the city, despite the fact that some homes have been improved with regeneration money for Firvale.

### The Messenger on Facebook and Twitter

You can now follow the Messenger on Facebook and Twitter. With direct news feeds from our website, you can keep right up to date with what's going on. We'll also be letting you know about deadlines, stories you can contribute to and how you can get more involved in the Messenger.

**Twitter.com/thebmessenger**

**Facebook: search for Burngreave Messenger**

### Local History Class

The Messenger runs a local history class once a month at St Catherine's School, on a Friday at 10am.

We look at old maps, newspapers, directories and often use the internet and the library to help our research. The group is friendly and enthusiastic, and would welcome new members.

If you'd like to join the class and learn how to research your own local history project, please get in touch 242 0564.

#### Messenger Info

Copy deadline: 16th March

Published: 2nd April

**Burngreave Messenger Ltd**,  
Abbeyfield Park House,  
Abbeyfield Road, Sheffield S4 7AT.

Tel: (0114) 242 0564

mail@burngreavemessenger.org

www.burngreavemessenger.org

The Burngreave Messenger is a community newspaper with editorial independence, funded by the Tudor Trust, and our advertisers. Registered Charity: 1130836

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This month's team: Rohan Francis, Saleema Imam, Douglas Johnson, Jamie Marriott, John Mellor, Tim Neal, Lisa Swift, Vivien Urwodhi.

# Missing doors on Bressingham

Story: Lisa Swift

**Bressingham tenant, Saleh Shaibi, has been waiting for new doors from Sheffield Homes for over 12 months and despite repeated requests he is still waiting.**

Mr Shaibi explained that while all his neighbours enjoyed the security of new doors under the Decent Homes Scheme, his house was missed out. It was November 2009 when he first filled in the request form. Other work on this house has been completed, but not the doors, and in the last two months his house was burgled:

*"I've been to the Housing Office many times. Once they told me they didn't have enough money to replace the doors and I would have to wait until they got more funding. People broke in a couple of months ago and took some money and gifts. Now I don't feel secure leaving the*

*house - someone might break in again when I'm out."*

Mr Shaibi's daughter, Suria, told the Messenger, "I spoke to the Sheffield Homes Investment team in August 2010, and they promised to replace the doors. We filled in the forms again. But when I called in December to find out why they had still not been replaced, they told me there was no record of the request and we would have to fill them in for a third time. It's gone on too long now. My dad needs new doors like everyone else on the estate."

The family estimate they have contacted Sheffield Homes as many as 15 times in the last year about the missing doors, but the matter remains unresolved.

Simon Senior, Decent Homes Project Manager for Sheffield Homes gave us this statement:

*"We are really sorry that the tenant has experienced problems ordering his door.*

*"The process has been delayed due to a number of access issues to the property.*



*This meant that the new doors, which were ready to be installed in September 2010, could not be fitted and were used on another property.*

*"Our contractor has reordered the new doors which should arrive on 7 February 2011. We will contact the tenant to arrange a convenient fitting date."*

## Bus Route Changes

Story: Saleema Imam

**From Sunday 30th January bus numbers 45, 46, 46A and 72 will no longer operate and the 73 will cut out Firshill Crescent.**

New services 35, 36 and 37 will partially replace these services. There is concern that these changes will not answer the needs expressed by Shirecliffe residents in the autumn.

Partially replacing the 45, the 35 will travel from Sheffield centre to Meadowhall via Carlisle Street then to Hillsborough via Herries Road and back to the city centre via Shalesmoor. The 37 will travel the same route in the opposite direction. Both will be every half hour starting 6.10am and ending at 8.15pm, with extra buses from Wincobank/Fife Street at 5.08am and 6.08am and evening extras finishing at Hillsborough at 8.53pm, 9.49pm and 11.00pm

The number 36 will replace numbers 46 and 46A between Sheffield centre, Wincobank, Firth Park and Firvale.

The 73 formerly turned off Barnsley Road to go up Firshill Crescent to Shirecliffe Road, but will now be following part of the old 72 route along Minna Road to Shirecliffe Road, then to Southey Green, Parson Cross and Ecclesfield. Buses run from Ecclesfield every ten minutes with the first bus arriving at St Catherine's Church, Burngreave Road at 6.16am. The last arrives at 7.22pm, finishing at the interchange ten minutes later.

Previous bus changes left much of the area near Penrith Road with a very limited service but the new routes do not show any improvement. Though the 35 and 37 do go to the school, parents and youngsters attending Parkwood Academy will now have the choice of a long route from Spital Hill via Meadowhall or catching two buses - 73 and 37.

For information about bus times contact Traveline 01709 51 51 51

## Smithies Field Landscaping

**Redwall, developers at Grimesthorpe Road, are proposing a small landscape scheme for Smithies Field, near the Carwood estate, which will include a path, a bench and wildflowers.**

Meeting Carwood Tenants and Residents Association in January, Redwall explained that they are required to provide a green space, equal to 10% of their development, alternatively they must make a financial contribution, which is used to improve nearby parks. This contribution has to be negotiated with the Council.

Carwood TARA are displaying the plans at Carwood Community Centre on Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd February 6-8pm. Residents with comments or concerns can inform Carwood TARA, local Councillors or the planning department on 2039182.

## Carwood's ready to start

**The Council's NEAT team have spent the last couple of months tidying up the public spaces on the Carwood estate, and the area around Sedan Street, with funding from the North East Community Assembly.**

They are now ready to start adding new low maintenance plants. Carwood Tenants and Residents Association have been busy deciding what species to include. Wynn and Gwen from the TARA said,

*"At the moment, we've got plants like azaleas and fuchsias on the list. Fushias will flower all through the summer, and well into the autumn, providing a lot of colour around the estate. We also planted 1500 daffodils last year, so we are expecting a good show in spring"*

The planting work will start soon and be finished by March.



## Mrs Schofield's "dangerous" dog

Story & photo: Sarah Cooper

**Sheffield Homes have threatened a resident with eviction, over a Jack Russell dog they have alleged to be 'dangerous'. Mrs Schofield, a tenant in a ground floor maisonette on Rock Street, was told that Sheffield Homes would be starting the process of eviction, and that her dog would have to be re-homed, after it nipped a cleaner at the maisonettes in August last year.**

The incident happened when the 3 year old dog, Belle, was startled by the cleaner. Mrs Schofield says: "The cleaner had wedged the communal door open with an orange carrier bag full of rubbish. So as I pushed the door to go through it, the cleaner's come and he's lunged at the bag.

So whether the dog thought he was going for her or he startled her I don't know, but all she did was just nip his glove. So he took his glove off... 2 little minute scratches. The following week the same cleaner came, so I said to him, 'How's your hand?' and he said it was fine."

Mrs Schofield thought nothing more of it until October, when Sheffield Homes staff visited Mrs Schofield at her home - and served her with a Notice Seeking Possession (the start of eviction proceedings). Sheffield Homes explained this was because Mrs Schofield was keeping a dog in the flat, and because the dog was considered to be 'dangerous or a nuisance'. Mrs Schofield was also told that Belle would have to be re-homed.

*"I've been here twenty something years", said a stunned Mrs Schofield. "I came from demolition across on Denholme Close and when I lived across there, I had 3 dogs. The reason I took the flat is because I was told I could bring my dogs." Mrs Schofield described her meeting with Sheffield Homes: "They just said to me, you'll have to get rid of the dog. I asked to be re-housed because I'm not going to get rid of her, no way, I'd walk the street first with her."*

But Mrs Schofield's request to be re-housed, so she can keep Belle with her, has been refused, because of the eviction proceedings. This has left Mrs Schofield, a disabled pensioner, facing eviction from her home of 20 years, with no chance of being offered an alternative property. Neighbours have rallied behind Mrs Schofield, and have signed a statement saying that they do not consider the Jack Russell to be either a nuisance or dangerous. The statement has been given to Sheffield Homes.

The Messenger contacted Sheffield Homes to ask whether it is their usual policy to start an eviction without first giving any warning or caution, and why after 20 years of living in the property with dogs, they have only now decided that Mrs Schofield is in breach of her tenancy for keeping Belle in the flat. The Messenger also asked whether there was any reason, apart from the incident with the cleaner, why Sheffield Homes would consider Belle to be dangerous. Sheffield Homes responded with this statement:

*"In view of Sheffield Homes serving a Notice Seeking Possession this has become a legal matter and it would be prejudicial for us to comment. We will be able to comment following any potential legal proceedings."*



The Messenger can report that Belle appears blissfully unaware of the commotion, and seems to be a very happy little Jack Russell. Mrs Schofield however has a battle ahead of her to stay in her home.

## Tenants asked to vote on levy money

**Sheffield Homes tenants without a Tenants and Residents Association (TARA) were asked to fill in a voting slip in October to say how their levy money would be spent.**

The 10p levy is collected from Council tenants every week with their rent. This money is given to the local TARAs to spend to make improvements in the area or to benefit tenants. In areas without a TARA the levy is collected by Sheffield Homes but not spent. This has meant Sheffield Homes have built up about £150,000 in unspent levy. The vote in October aimed to find a way to get the money spent, it was not clear if each area would get to spend exactly what it paid in.

Sheffield Homes told us that 19% of tenants in the East (Burngreave, Firth Park, Stubbin, Darnall, Tinsley) responded to their vote, and its proposed that a worker will be employed to help residents set up residents groups and support them to apply for funding for their area.

Resident, and former Burnbank TARA member, Delia Chadwick was concerned about what the this would mean for local tenants,

*"When Burnbank TARA closed three years ago there was £6000 in the bank, I think this money and all the levy that's been collected since should be spent in Burngreave, for tenants in this area, not elsewhere in the city."*

Delia is now part of the Welcome Residents group which covers the same area as the old TARA, the group is

planning a meeting on 16th March, 11.30am Verdon Recreation Centre for residents to discuss how the levy is spent.

The Welcome Residents group meets on the last Thursday of every month 3.30pm-4.30pm at the Welcome Centre, Nottingham Street – All welcome.

### Local bus review

*How well is the M20 and no 5 working for local residents?*

Public meetings with South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYLTE):

**10.30am Tuesday 8th February at Wensley TARA office**

**11.30am Wednesday 16th March at Verdon Recreation Centre**

# The cost of cuts

Story: Richard Belbin

**As the Messenger goes to press, details of spending cuts are still largely unknown, but it is clear that they will have a substantial effect upon the community.**

A reduction in the central government grant to the Council will amount to £219 million over three years, 16.2% of the total budget. And this is before lower council tax receipts and additional money set aside for social care are taken into account. According to MP Clive Betts, once these are included Sheffield faces a cut of at least 14.5% this year, with a further 6.5% cut next year.

400 council workers have requested voluntary redundancy, with at least as many posts also remaining unfilled. Many jobs will disappear from other public sector workplaces, such as the NHS and Department of Work and Pensions.

## Jobs, rent and benefits

With more than a third of Burngreave's working population employed somewhere within the public sector, the loss of income from wage freezes (announced by the Council and central government) and job losses will hit our area harder than many other parts of Sheffield. Together with the fact that Council rents are going up by 6.8%, this will take a substantial chunk out of Burngreave's economy.

The voluntary sector is braced for massive cuts, with many organisations not expected to survive. Maxine Bowler, Chair of the local voluntary sector union, said:

*"Everyone in the sector is worried for their job at the moment, a lot of good organisations will go to the wall. It will mean a loss of provision of important services for our communities, and it will be the poorest communities that will be worst hit."*

Those not in work also face many changes. The government plans to remove the mobility component of the disability living allowance (DLA) for those in residential care homes. This will save £160 million, but only at a severe cost to the 80,000 people in receipt of the benefit, say disability charities. Without the mobility money they warn that those in residential care will become institutionalised, unable to visit friends and relatives, or to take part in society.

## Childcare and Consultation

Cuts of £2 million are imminent for the childcare sector. Following a 'personalisation' agenda, money will go to

parents or carers rather than to the centres directly. In effect this will mean only 'Phase1' SureStart Centres (including the Burngreave and Firth Park centres) will retain direct funding, with community nurseries at risk. Speaking to Nursery World magazine, Chrissie Malready of the Community Childcare Group said:

*"The Council has not invested in these community nurseries because it has always prioritised its own Sure Start children's centres. Now it wants to cut £2m from their funding."*

Although the Council did announce a consultation, it gave affected groups just a few days notice of it. At the meeting, providers unanimously rejected the proposals. Sheffield's proposal is to phase out subsidies for childcare provision starting in October 2011 with a view to the ending subsidies by April 2012.

This limited consultation concerns Sharon Brown, manager of Watoto:

*"We have been operating for 15 years and consider Watoto an established voluntary organisation. We would call on the Council to be open, transparent and fair when making these decisions that will impact on our children and their parents ability to balance family life with work and further education."*

## Education and young people

Education cutbacks have been at the forefront of opposition to government spending plans, not only with the large increase in fees for university, but with the end of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA). 60% of students at Longley College receive the award, with some estimating that 20% of those students could drop out if they didn't receive the money. With significant cuts to Sheffield Futures - North East funding will fall from £443,000 to £199,667 including the loss of the equivalent of 4 full time posts - young people are facing the brunt of cuts so far.

Professor Danny Dorling - author of 'A Tale Of Two Cities', a report commissioned by David Blunkett about inequalities in Sheffield, warned:

*"You may be about to see a situation where your children's life chances are worse than yours: the curtailment of young people's opportunities right up to the top of the social scale. This will be a generation of young adults emotionally battered by not being able to get employment."*

Even before the cuts take effect, one in five 16 to 24-year-olds nationally are out of work, after a rise of 32,000 to 951,000 without jobs, the highest figure since records began in 1992.

# Forum calls for cuts campaign

Story: Saleema Imam and Lisa Swift

**More than 150 residents, mainly young people, attended Burngreave Community Action Forum's public meeting on 11th December, to hear from young people's services about the impact of cuts so far.**



Joanne Holt from Sheffield Futures, said;

*"There have been cuts in our funding, and we have lost permanent workers, but we have aimed to protect front line work. In Burngreave All Saints Centre will now open three nights instead of four, other centres will remain open as before."*

Jenny Tibbles, from Ellesmere Youth Project, explained how youth work could become more 'targeted', rather than being open to all and voluntary groups could see funding change, "We might see companies and larger organisations chasing the same funding and competing with projects run by local people."

Tony Tweedy, representing Children and Young Peoples Service, explained that some education money will be diverted from the Council into schools, at the same time the Council faced funding cuts, so they would have less power to help after school activities and Study Support.

Abtisam Mohammed, local resident and Programme Director of the Yemeni Community Association, talked passionately against the cuts,

*"We have come a long way, Burngreave has seen a massive increase in young people going to university, up 139% in the last ten years. Projects like study support have had a big impact. But we can't be complacent. We have to fight cuts for young people in our area, who are some of the most vulnerable."*

Young people asked why education was not a priority, and how they were meant to stay in education and achieve good results without study support and EMA. Residents called on the Council to prioritise young people, and for there to be a campaign against cuts.

# Study Support at risk

Story: Kath Swinney

**Reach High 2, a study support group which offers six hours of support for school age children in Burngreave, is under threat of funding cuts or closure with the new council budget in March. School students in the group work with qualified English, Maths and Science teachers to enhance the work they do in schools.**



The government pledged to close the gap between the achievement of children from ethnic minority communities and the rest of the population. Even though the initiative has been very popular and successful in Sheffield, its funding is only guaranteed until March. Year 7 and 8 students wrote questions for a survey which the students conducted on Saturday 15th January. 94% said it helped them with their school work.

The results of the survey and a report will be available on the Burngreave Messenger Website. Students have already begun to write to councillors to ask for their support. One year 7 student from Firvale, when asked if she would recommend it to a friend, said, "Yes of course. I've told them many times!"

Burngreave's other study support groups are also at risk this March, Burngreave After School Study Support, ITCSSS, Somali Education Breakthrough. You can support them by signing the Young People Against the Cuts Petition available on the Burngreave Messenger website, or at the YCA, Earlmarshal Road or at BCAF, in Sorby House.

## Councillors campaign for EMA

Story: Cllr Jackie Drayton

**For young people from low income families the EMA offers the knowledge that your family will not have to make sacrifices to support you through college or sixth form.**

Without EMA many young people will not feel able to continue in full time education or training – these young people often come from groups under represented in post 16 education, like working class, minority ethnic groups and young people living independently, many of them will find themselves not in employment, education or training (NEET). Young people who find themselves NEET have a 15% statistical likelihood of dying within the next decade and 3 times greater likelihood of becoming involved in crime and anti social behaviour.

Please help us to get the Government to reconsider getting rid of EMA, and sign the on line petition 'Sheffield Says Save EMA'

<http://www.gopetition.com/petition/40972.html>



## Youth Campaign to stop cuts

Story: Lydia Flanagan

**After hearing about proposed cuts, young people from across the country are campaigning against the loss of EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance) in fear of it damaging their ability to stay on in further education.**

As well as cuts to EMA, other cuts are being made to funding supporting young people, such as those for study support groups and youth clubs. There are worries that these cuts could cause real problems for young people, as the potential to spend time in education and out of school activities decreases.

Young people at Burngreave After School Study Support have been making banners ready for a demonstration on the 29th January organised by the Sheffield Anti Cuts Alliance and would like to encourage other young people to support the campaign and join the protest. The march will start at 12noon outside Weston Park (near the Children's Hospital) and finish up at the Town Hall. Also part of their campaign is a petition going around the local area and schools to take their views to the Councillors on the 2nd February. A great number have already signed to show their support, but more signatures will show the Council how strongly the local area feels about the cuts.

## The importance of EMA

EMA is a financial support scheme set up in 1999 to help young people from more disadvantaged backgrounds with the costs of education, and provides an incentive to carry on after compulsory education finishes. Pupils between the ages of 16-18 can receive between £10-£30 pounds a week depending on their household income. This money over the years has been used to pay for things such as text books, various equipment for courses, uniform and important everyday things like travel fare and lunch money.

However, from 1st January 2011, the Government has decided to stop EMA because they feel that it is too expensive to carry on with the scheme as it costs them millions per year, only those who have applied before this date will receive EMA until the end of this academic year. Many feel that cutting funding to young people is not the best way to secure a brighter future, as it has been proved to make a significant difference on young people in education. Research by the Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS) has shown that the uptake of further education significantly increased in those eligible for EMA after it was introduced.

Download the Young People Against the Cuts petition from their website <http://youngpeopleagainstcuts.wordpress.com/>. Follow local campaigns on the Burngreave Messenger website [www.burngreavemessenger.org](http://www.burngreavemessenger.org)

# One to one support to a healthier life

**Being healthy and happy is not always people's top priority; there are other things to worry about like your family, work and money. But if your health suffers so will everything else.**

Health Trainers are there to make it easier to look after yourself - they can help you make changes in lifestyle that can have a big effect on your health and well being.

The Messenger talked to Paul Nash and Sophina Asghar, who are Burngreave and Firvale's Health Trainers, about how they help people make improvements in their health, Sophina explained,

*"The first thing we do is have a one to one meeting, we talk about what kind of changes people want to make and what activities might help, then we write some realistic goals in a Personal Health Plan. They might be small things like joining a course, to help with depression, or getting some help to quit smoking."*

Sophina became a Health Trainer in 2008. Having done a lot of volunteering in her community, she wanted to help people to improve their health. Studying health and interpreting means she can work with people using different community languages. She speaks Urdu and Punjabi.

"We can also help people as 'buddies'. If people lack confidence we will go with them to new activities for the first time, or help to attend an appointment." Sophina added.

Paul Nash became a Health Trainer after being made redundant from a job in tool making in 2008. He decided to change his career, first volunteering at Healthy Cross in Parson Cross, and then becoming a Health Champion before applying to be a Health Trainer. He spoke enthusiastically about what people can achieve with help from Health Trainers:

*"If I have to put a figure on it, I'd say 98% of people achieve a positive impact on their health and wellbeing. It's very rare that people who receive our service don't take something from it. My work particularly focuses on Type 2 Diabetes, when people need to change their lifestyle to manage the condition. Sometimes people just need to make a small change to make their health and lives better, like cutting down on sugar in your tea or*



*coffee. We always work with people on what they want to do."*

The Health Trainers help people lose weight, eat healthily, stop smoking, be more active, and make life changes that can help with conditions such as depression and diabetes. The service is free and confidential, with at least six sessions with the Health Trainer.

## Drop in service with Sophina

Page Hall Medical Centre Thursdays 10am-12pm

Pitsmoor Surgery Mondays 10am-12pm (ask at reception)

**Or contact Paul** on 07823 558 700, paul.nash@soaregen.org.uk

## Burngreave Health Matters

The Health Matters Shop on Spital Hill has now closed. The Health Trainers who were based there are now in Sorby House.

## Stop Smoking

### Burngreave Stop Smoking Service

Appointments are available in the community on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday mornings. For patients at Page Hall Medical Centre appointments are available on Thursday afternoons from 2 - 4pm.

To arrange appointments, text or call Emma Msigiti on 07847 893 134.

### New City Centre Stop Smoking Service

A brand new city centre Stop Smoking Drop In service has opened on Charles Street. It is open 6 days a week, including late evening on Wednesdays until 7pm and Saturday mornings 9.30am to 12.30pm. There is no need for an appointment, so you can simply call in anytime during these times.

# Health Champion volunteers

**Since November local residents have been volunteering as Health Champions to help people in their community lead healthier lives.**

Health Champions will be based at Pakistan Advice & Community Association, Yemeni Community Association, and Pitsmoor Citizens Advice Bureau, who will help the Champions increase skills and knowledge so they can help others in their neighbourhood.



**Mike Smith, Health Champion Coordinator at Pitsmoor CAB**

The Health Champion volunteers will be supporting people to make health changes, perhaps to take more exercise, eat a healthier diet, take part in a walking group or swimming lesson or just to get more involved in local activities.

The Messenger spoke to the Health Champion based at the Pakistan Advice & Community Association:

*"I'm volunteering to help me gain confidence, and to get back into a work environment after being a housewife. I would like to work in health in the future, so being a Health Champion is a good stepping stone into that."*

*"I've helped with several projects already including healthy cooking courses, and I've done some courses myself, so I'm learning and picking up skills too. We are organising some classes for the Slovakian community, and I will be helping to organise health days in the centre soon."*

*"Being a Health Champion has really boosted my confidence. I've really enjoyed working with different people."*

The Health Champions will also support the work of Health Trainers where they can, being buddies for people who are attending new activities or going to an appointment.

Pitsmoor CAB still have places on their scheme for more Health Champions, contact Mick Smith on 275 5376.



# Projects for young people in Page Hall

Story: Arzoo and Farah, Jigsaw youth workers

The young people's services at the Pakistan Advice & Community Association on Page Hall Road have been involved with some exciting projects over the last few months. At the moment, there are several projects running for youths in the centre:

**'UTD' (United Thru Dance & Drama)**, a new project that aims to unite the young people from the area through performing arts. Past projects have been street dance and Romani dance, which have been very successful and attracted a lot of youngsters from the Slovakian and Czech community. The boys completed a 6 week street dance project and gained ASDAN accreditations for their achievement. The Romani dance group was very popular and performed at many local festivals. It has raised a lot of awareness about Romani culture in the area. We have just started a new drama project in partnership with Point Blank Theatre Company.

**'Just 4 Girls'**, as the name suggests, is a weekly girls-only session for girls aged 13-19. This project aims to tackle issues that young girls face such as confidence building, bullying, personal safety, sexual health, relationships and anything that is relevant to their personal development. In the past months we have taken the girls on numerous recreational trips and done many dance sessions including a



**The UTD group at the Concord Blast off event last summer with their street dance teacher Nathan.**

bellydance workshop with the famous TV star Sophie Mei. We are hoping to have a six week self defence course after the Christmas holidays for which funding has been provided by Sheffield futures.

**'Kids Can Do'**, an arts and crafts project for children aged 8-13. This project aims to make children more aware of cultures and heritage through art. In the past children have made papier-mâché masks and a worker from Heeley City farm came to show us how to make art using recycled materials.

**'Our Voice'**, a project based on helping young people aged 13 - 19 understand local and national politics. The young people of our voice have taken part in a consultation by the Centre for the Study of Children and Youth about 'participation'. They are currently



**'Kids Can Do' image: 8 year old Daniyal created a drawing of the Pakistan floods when asked to draw something that reminded him of his heritage.**

analysing David Cameron's Big Society.

"Our Voice has had a great impact on me. It is a chance for my voice to be heard in the community. The atmosphere here is calm & enjoyable. We discuss numerous amounts of topics such as: the effect of the media on us (young people), racism, politics and how it is affecting not only us but everyone in the country. I love politics and this is a fantastic opportunity as I can take action on my thoughts. In the future we hope to visit the Houses of Parliament." Anisah aged 16

**'Jeevan'**, the long running disability project for 13-25 year olds in the BME community. The aim of this project is to include people with disabilities in educational and recreational activities and encourages the young people to try different things. In previous months the project has been involved in animations and cooking.

**For more information contact Farah, Tel: 0114 2619130**

## Community Wellness Project

Story: Serish Bibi

**In June this year the Pakistan Advice & Community Association successfully launched the Page Hall Community Wellness Project, a programme of exciting events and activities designed to improve the health and wellbeing of local residents.**

The aim of the project is to increase overall awareness of local health issues and to provide fun and informative workshops supporting people to lead healthier and more fulfilling lives. This is an on-going project and we are adding new programmes to it in 2011.

Some of the programmes include:

**MESP (Muslim Elders Support Group):** MESP is a culturally appropriate support service for older people of Pakistani, Yemeni and Somali origin and provides a holistic service of advocacy, education, and health and social activities to promote preventative care and independent living.

**Chair Aerobics/Lunch club:** Weekly chair aerobics and provision of a healthy lunch, with separate class times for men and women.

**Gardening and Food growing:** In the new year PACA will be converting part of the community centre's rear space into a food growing area, an excellent opportunity for keen gardeners to grow healthy produce to be used to support our lunch clubs and cooking classes, and also

a great keep-fit experience..

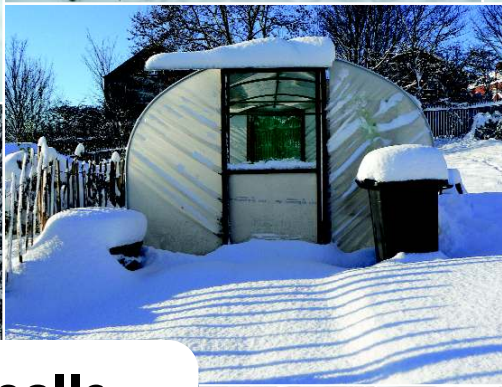
**Healthy cooking classes:** A series of workshops that will teach healthy cooking methods with an Asian theme, advice about nutrition, and how to eat healthily.

**Emotional wellbeing service:** Addressing the needs of local Pakistani women and supporting them to manage emotional problems.

**Eating disorders:** Beginning in January and partnering with SYEDA a series of workshops designed to improve understanding of eating disorders for young women.

**For more details please contact:**

**Serish Bibi, Health Project Worker  
Tel: 0114 2619130  
serish@pacasheffield.com**

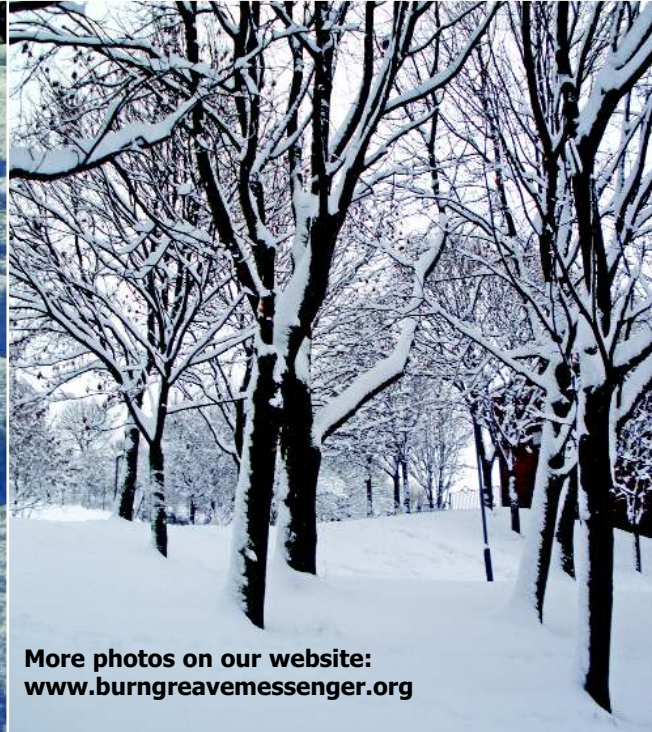


## Calendar calls

Story: Friends of Abbeyfield Park

The Friends of Abbeyfield Park in collaboration with the Burngreave Messenger are producing a 2012 Wall Calendar. We will be using photos taken in the Messenger area from October 2010 to September 2011. We want a LOT of photos. There will be pictures on some individual dates and a main picture for each month.

Any photo will be considered but we need to know WHERE/WHEN the photo was taken and WHO/WHAT it features. So get those phone cameras snapping and send them direct to [mail@burngreavemessenger.org](mailto:mail@burngreavemessenger.org)



More photos on our website:  
[www.burngreavemessenger.org](http://www.burngreavemessenger.org)



## Keeping your bike on the road

Story & photos: Vivien Urwodhi

**Burngreave's COMAC bicycle repair project first opened in Brambles Housing Cooperative on Andover Street. It stayed there for three years, and then moved to Ashram Café for nine months, now it has found a new home in the Burngreave Cemetery Chapel, where there is more room for making repairs.**



The project has helped, and still helps, many people who have difficulties affording their own and public transport. The project is a place where local people can bring their bike, and access tools and knowledge to help them maintain or repair it.

It aims to encourage people to cycle more to work and others places, because riding a bicycle causes little harm to the environment and doesn't create pollution, its also cheap and healthy.

One of the volunteers on the project, Jeff said, "All the bicycles are free of charge to anyone who can use them, it is up to the person if they can donate some money to help the project." Jeff explained that bicycles are actually donated to the project, "Some of them can't be repaired but we can use them for spare parts."

Olli, another volunteer, said: "I work with Pedal Ready and travel around colleges, schools and universities to advise people about riding safely on the road. I also teach them how to fix their own bicycles."

Fred, also helping out on the day, told me he had always loved fixing bicycles since he was a little boy. He enjoys travelling long distances and would like to cycle from Sheffield to London. "It would take about two days, there are many accessible roads for cycling through England but you have to look them up on map and plan the route."

COMAC Bicycle repair project is at the Chapel open the first Wednesday of every month, 3-7pm and the 3rd Wednesday 3-5pm, and is open to everyone.

**If anybody has an old bike they would like to donate to the project, please get in touch on 07981 452 174, COMAC is especially after men's bikes.**

## Fresh water for allotments

Story: Rob Bullock

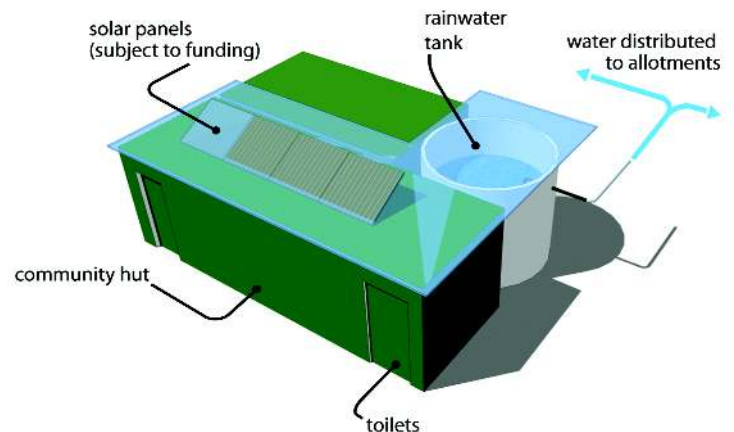
**Grimesthorpe Allotments has long suffered with low water pressure, with some plots unable to access mains water at times of high demand. Now a new project to collect rainwater will help some plots take advantage of what falls from the sky.**

Grimesthorpe Community Gardens Group, working with Green City Action, have secured funds from the Council's Climate Change Fund to harvest rainwater from the roof of the Allotment hut and distribute it to nearby plots. Allotments 45-47, 53-59, 96 and 97, which benefit least from the mains water supply, will be included in the scheme. Supplying these plots should also reduce demand on the mains supply and could improve the pressure for other plots.

Each plot will be provided with a second hand 1000 litre container, gravity fed from a large water tank by the hut. The roof area will collect about 55,000 litres of rain per year. The combined storage is enough to contain the rainfall collected between September and March, approximately 36,000 litres. The system will supply each plot with about 5,000 litres (over 1000 gallons) of water per year.

Grimesthorpe Community Gardens Group applied for planning permission and hope to start work in March 2011. There will be no charge for this installation or for water supplied and it will not alter the rent or water rates tenants pay each year.

**We are holding a meeting to discuss this at the Allotment hut on Saturday 19th February at 12.00noon after the EGM. Please join us then if you want to inspect the plans.**



## Grimesthorpe Community Garden's Group

### Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting

A meeting will be held at the Grimesthorpe Allotment meeting room on Saturday 19th February at 11.00am to discuss (i), the amalgamation of the Grimesthorpe Community Gardens Group and the Grimesthorpe Allotment Society and (ii), the adoption/retention of the name Grimesthorpe Allotment Society under the constitution of the Community Gardens Group.

All plot holders are welcome. Cake and coffee provided.

# Firth Park Christmas festival



Rev Louise Collins displayed a Christmas tree decorated with prayer cards for those who request some prayer announcement.

There were plenty of refreshments and information laid out on the table for people to view, plus lots of activities to take part in, including music, community choirs and bands, a lantern parade from Hatfield School, a fun fair, Father Christmas, Shine health bus, and more.

Story & photos: Vivien Urwodhi

**Cold weather could not stop residents attending Firth Park's annual Christmas festival. Many residents and visitors came to celebrate together, even with freezing weather and the appearance of snow.**

It started at 3 o'clock and was hosted by Chris Fox, who had helped organise the

event with the Firth Park Festival group. He said, "Without the effort of the community and support from funders, we wouldn't be able to run the event."

The Mayor stepped in to show his support for all the attendees at the front stage with members of his family. Lastly, he switched on the display of sparkling fireworks, which delighted children and amazed parents, putting smiles on their faces.



# Children In Need

Story & photos: Claire Shaw

**The staff and children at Owl Brook School had a fun packed day raising money for Children In Need, helping to raise nearly £200 towards the National event.**

The school council thought hard about how they could help, coming up with a list of ideas and putting it to a vote across the children and Senior Leadership team. They spent some time making lots of 'spotty' buns to sell on the day.

All the children and staff had a lot of fun dressing up either in their new Eid clothes or in fancy dress. They then got chance to have a fun packed cat walk at the end of the day.

As ever they did a great job at fund raising for another great cause.



# Byron Wood Nativity 2010

Story: N. Khan, parent of Byron Wood pupil

**What a wonderful production the nativity at Byron Wood Primary was! I would choose to watch this nativity over a Hollywood film any day.**

The cast were confident and natural born actors, some of the nursery children were funny without even realising it. I've never seen an angel throw off his halo before but I'm glad he did because it made the audience giggle with delight. Yes he was 3 years old and the halo throwing wasn't in the script but that's children for you.



All the children that stood up on that stage were focused and had memorised 11 songs... yes you read right... 11 songs. I don't think I could ever go up on stage in front of my peers and adults and act. It shows what a fantastic job the staff did and the changes that have taken place at Byron Wood over the years. The show was that good that The Lord Mayor was

in the audience and we all heard him say 'it is the best nativity I've seen'.

If I could bottle what I saw on that stage I wouldn't ever need to work again! Well done Byron Wood staff and children for a wonderful performance and the cakes and coffee afterwards. I'll be there next year!

# Interfaith celebration

Story: Nirmal Fernando  
Photos: Cecelia Vincent

**Sunday 21st November 2010 saw over 200 people from 14 religious communities join together for "Interfaith Praxis Sheffield".**

Organised by the Multifaith Chapel & Library at Burngreave Ashram as part of the UK's 2nd Interfaith Week, the day's programme commenced with interfaith prayers at Burngreave Ashram and ended with a social at New Roots Café.

Unveiling the plaque at the first 'Interfaith Tree' on Ellesmere Green, the Chief Executive of Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum, Rev Dr Inderjit Bhogal, emphasised the role of faith communities in reducing the global energy crisis while the Lord Mayor called for many more trees to be planted.



The Hindu Samaj hosted a forum during the day addressed by Dr Elizabeth Harris who emphasised the importance of learning about other faiths. The Rev Dr John Vincent facilitating the forum invited all to join the Learning Community to be launched for this purpose at Burngreave Ashram in 2011.



## Diwali at the Hindu Samaj

Photos: Kamalbir Singh

In November the Hindu Samaj at Buckenham Street hosted Diwali celebrations, to mark the Festival of Lights and the Hindu New Year. Around 200 people from across the community came to enjoy the 2 day long celebrations, which included a meal, the handing out of sweets, and dance performances. Plans are now being made for March, when Holi, the Festival of Colours, will be celebrated.

**For more information about Hindu Samaj please go to [www.hindusamajsheffield.org.uk/](http://www.hindusamajsheffield.org.uk/)**

## Christmas Fayre at St Catherine's

Story & photos: Saleema Imam

**The Crescent Craft Group Christmas Fayre, hit by the snow, began disappointingly, but parents collecting children piled into the community room and saved the day.**

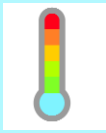
Marjorie, who organised the event, was delighted with the amount raised, £603. "We'll share it between the craft group and the social group which arranges trips for members."



The craft group this month received Christmas presents in the form of donations from the Freshgate Trust, Birdall's, the Student's Rag committee and the Freemasons. Sheffield City Council also gave a small grant to fund a pottery course and materials and a canal trip. The group would like to thank all the above for their support.

The craft group meets on Thursdays 10am-1.30pm at the Crescent Community Centre, St Catherine's School, Firhill Crescent and welcomes new members over 50. Refreshments are available all day and a very reasonably priced soup and sarni lunch available.

Contact Marjorie on 242 4673



**Choose well**  
[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

The NHS offers a wide range of services to help if you are ill or injured. This is a guide to how each service can help you. Choosing the right one will mean you get the best service, and help the NHS do its job well.



**Self-care**  
Hangover.  
Sore throat.  
Cough.

A lot of illnesses or symptoms can be treated in your home by using a well stocked medicine cabinet and by getting plenty of rest. Self-care is the best choice to treat very minor illnesses and injuries.



**NHS Direct**  
Unwell?  
Unsure?  
Confused?  
Need help?

NHS Direct offers confidential health advice and information by telephone and on the internet. Contact NHS Direct if you are ill and have any questions about health. The service can also help you to find health services in your local area, such as GPs and Pharmacists.

**0845 4647\* [www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk)**

*\*Calls to NHS Direct cost a maximum of 5 pence per minute from a BT landline. Calls from mobiles and other networks may vary. Your service provider may charge a minimum cost per call. For patients' safety, calls to NHS Direct are recorded.*



**Pharmacist (Chemist)**  
Diarrhoea.  
Runny nose.  
Painful cough.  
Headache.

Your local pharmacist is a highly trained healthcare professional, and can give you advice on common illnesses and the medicines you need to treat them. Most now have a quiet area away from other customers where you can speak to the pharmacist more privately.

James Wood, Pharmacist, Associated Chemists, Wicker says, "Pharmacies can help with a range of common conditions, such as aches and pains, cystitis, cold and

*flu. Pharmacies are also able to provide additional specialised services such as Emergency Contraception, Chlamydia Testing, Stop Smoking Service, Pregnancy Testing, Travel Advice, Needle and Syringe Exchange Services and Cholesterol and Blood Pressure Testing (Please note, there may be a charge for some of these). Many pharmacies are open evenings, weekends and bank holidays - you can always see a pharmacist without an appointment.*



**GP (Doctor)**  
Vomiting.  
Ear pain.  
Stomach ache.  
Back ache.

You can make an appointment with your GP for medical advice, examinations and prescriptions. Make an appointment with your local GP when you have an illness or injury that will not go away. GPs also provide an out-of-hours service - just ring your normal GP's number.

Ted Turner, GP at Shiregreen Medical Centre and member of North Sheffield Consortium for Health says, "GPs spend much of their time managing long term health problems like heart disease,

*diabetes, respiratory conditions and also patients with cancer or other specific conditions. We provide basic family health services and can advise on self-care of minor ailments. Contact your GP when your condition is not responding to simple treatments or if you feel you need some advice about a long term health problem. Many surgeries offer a wide range of additional services like smoking cessation, smears, travel vaccinations, weight management and counselling."*



**NHS Walk-in services**  
Cuts.  
Strains.  
Rashes.  
Sprains.

Walk-in services treat minor illnesses and injuries that do not need a visit to A&E. Sheffield's walk-in services are open **8am - 8pm, 365 days a year**. You do not need an appointment and will be seen by an experienced nurse or doctor.

**Sheffield City GP Health Centre**, Rockingham House, Broad Lane, (please use S1 4BT with your sat nav)

**Sheffield NHS Walk-in centre**, Royal Hallamshire Hospital (Nurse led)

**Sheffield NHS Minor Injuries Unit**, Royal Hallamshire Hospital (Adults only).

Mary Wren, Lead GP at the Walk-In Centre, on Broad Lane, says: "Patients from anywhere can walk in and be seen by a doctor or a nurse, even if they are registered at another practice. Patients find us very useful for acute illnesses such as flu, tonsillitis, musculoskeletal pains, bites, burns etc - any new problem that you would normally consult your own practice about. We can also give advice on minor injuries such as sprains, grazes and minor cuts or anything non-life threatening.



**A&E or 999**  
Choking.  
Chest pain.  
Severe bleeding.  
Blacking out.

Accident and Emergency (A&E) provide immediate emergency care for people who show the symptoms of serious illness or are badly injured. If you call 999 and say there is a medical emergency, a response vehicle may be sent to your location. Emergency services are very busy. **They should only be used in very serious or life-threatening situations.**

**Going to A&E with minor injuries or illnesses puts additional pressure on the NHS and means staff cannot look after the people with urgent medical conditions who really need them.**

Adults A&E is at the Northern General Hospital

Children's A&E is at Sheffield Children's Hospital

## New community garden for Pitsmoor

### *Your help needed!*

Community gardens are great places to have in any area.

They give everyone visiting a safe, peaceful space where they can relax and enjoy the local environment together.

BTCV and S.P.A.C.E.S. propose such a garden at the S.P.A.C.E.S. North centre, 259 Pitsmoor Road, for the use of both local residents and users of the centre. It will feature trees, sculptures, seating and plants that will not only look great but will attract wildlife to the area too.

The garden will be designed by local people and created through the work of volunteers. We'd very much like your input about how the project should develop and turn out.

**If you'd like to get involved and share your thoughts, please come to the meeting at 2pm, Friday 11 February at S.P.A.C.E.S. North, 259 Pitsmoor Road, Sheffield, S3 9AQ.**

*S.P.A.C.E.S. North support people experiencing mental health issues and will be an ideal opportunity to create a new community greenspace and develop greater understanding of these types of health issues.*

For more information contact Will Mayor (Assistant Team Manager) on **226 2660** or email [will.mayor@shsc.nhs.uk](mailto:will.mayor@shsc.nhs.uk).

The community garden is a joint BTCV and Sheffield Health and Social Care Trust, S.P.A.C.E.S. North project.



# Musical in a Day

Roger Jones presents his exciting new musical

## TWO SISTERS AND A FUNERAL

(the moving story of Mary, Martha, Lazarus and Jesus)

at St Peter's Ellesmere, Lyons Close, S4 7EP  
**Saturday 12th March 2011**

*Come and join the choir or be part of the audience*

**Choir Rehearsal from 11 am  
Public Performance at 5 pm**

*Everyone welcome*

The production is put together in one day - arrive at 11am to join the choir, learn and rehearse the songs and perform the show to the public at 5pm!

**For further information please contact:  
John Mellor on 243 6305  
or e-mail: [jrmellor77@hotmail.com](mailto:jrmellor77@hotmail.com)**



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*Free taster sessions available.*

FREE places for children 3-4 yrs

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Children up to the age of 8 years old.



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Facilities available for hire:

**New sensory room  
(available from March 2011)**

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Email: [bwrc72a@btconnect.com](mailto:bwrc72a@btconnect.com)

Web: [www.watotopreschool.co.uk](http://www.watotopreschool.co.uk)

# Exchange Youth Worker

Story: Lydia Flanagan

Christ Church Pitsmoor has in the past 5 months been working with 19 year old German youth worker Julia Meier. Julia comes from a village in Germany on the French border called Altenheim and was a part of the youth group team there, assisting in organising and leading the groups and activities available for the young people.

After finishing A-level studies, Julia heard about a youth work role in England, and talked to her own youth leader about the possibility of spending a year in this country. It is quite common in Germany for people of Julia's age to graduate and move to another country for a year to live and work there, but leaving home, family and friends can nevertheless still be a little daunting!

Julia has been working alongside Christ Church's Youth Leader Hendrik Klaver, getting involved in the youth groups and activities run by the Church. One group - GenR8, is a Friday drop-in at the Welcome Centre, where 11-18 year olds from the local area can simply take part in the fun activities and games going on.

As Hendrik is a Youth and Families Development Worker, Julia is active in the community helping out at the local school, Pye Bank Primary School, assisting in lessons and teaching some German to the Year 6 pupils. She has also started helping out at a women's English for Speakers of other Languages group based in Pye Bank school.

In Germany, there are programmes for young people from 14 years old, to start thinking about being a youth leader and they are taught the principles, techniques and activities for this over 2 years.

In Christ Church there is a similar group called Kinetic which teaches young people the values of being a good leader and encourages them to think about their own positive qualities and adapting them for leadership. Julia believes such programmes are important for youth work because young people need a space out of school to socialise and grow in themselves; and having passionate and committed young adult volunteers is important to the success of any youth group.

After spending 5 months in Sheffield, Julia has seen people from all backgrounds, cultures and faiths successfully living and working together and has become more open to the difficulties people from different cultures face.

She is also more aware of the influence the British culture has had on her own culture and the small everyday differences between England and Germany, such as the amount of tea you drink, that you wouldn't usually notice,.

**For more information about Christ Church Pitsmoor's youth activities contact Hendrik on 07771 590 034.**



# From Pitsmoor to Pyramids

Belly-dancing in Christ Church Pitsmoor was the start of Sophie Mei's journey onto National Television. Born on Abbeyfield Road, Sophie tells the Messenger how she got from bellydancing in Pitsmoor to making her own documentary in Egypt.

*"I discovered my love of belly-dance after watching the Sahar Wal Farashat at the first Abbeyfield Park Multicultural Festival.*

*"I attended classes at Christ Church in Pitsmoor, paying for costumes, workshops and new music with a part-time supermarket job.*

*"Whilst studying for a degree in Manchester and dancing part-time I was spotted by Taste of Cairo agency and the degree took a backseat as I performed on stage. For the first time, I felt that I was starting to fulfil my ambitions.*

*"Reality TV gave me my lifeline - an audition for 'Britain's Got Talent' where I made it through to the finals.*

*"Following this I began work experience at ITV. 'Wood you Believe it?' a new series by Calendar's Duncan Wood, agreed to film me presenting a documentary on belly-dancing in Egypt.*

*"I was able to return to Cairo last November to film my own documentary with the support of Calendar News."*

## Cairo Travels

*"We arrived in the week of Eid, with the world-renowned 'Nile Festival' in full swing.*

*"I took part in the weeklong event where teachers and performers from across the world congregate and share their love of belly-dance at the daily Hafla's (belly-dance parties).*

*"You cannot go to Cairo without visiting Giza to see the Sphinx and Pyramids, a bizarre place. Looking from the Pyramids, Giza appears as a shanty town but looking toward the Pyramids it is one of the most scenic views I have ever seen.*

*"After a magical week in Cairo, I was ready to return home having filmed the Nile and belly-dancers. The footage was screened on ITV Yorkshire in December and my belly-dance improved massively, just in time for the busy Winter season."*

## What Next?

*"This year I hope to complete my degree in Manchester as well as learning to drive and pursuing a career in Broadcast Journalism. I have set up Sophie Mei Schools which teaches dance workshops across the UK and hope to extend into language classes and health activities."*

**For more information on Sophie visit:  
<http://sophiemei.co.uk>**





# Rocky and the undercover cop

Story: Sophie Mei

**Burngreave resident, Anthony Mullen, spoke to the Messenger about being an environmental activist and how he got caught up in the national under-cover police controversy in Nottingham.**

'Rocky', as he is known to everyone, has been involved in environmental activism for many years. At a young age, Rocky's kitten was killed by a car and this ignited his passion to cut down on pollution and make the decision not to drive. He also gained inspiration from a Geography teacher at school.

At the age of 23, Rocky joined his first rally - 'Reclaim the Streets' - held here in Sheffield. His life as an environmental activist was a natural progression as he assisted with the logistics behind many national environmental protests.

Now self-titled 'retired activist', Rocky has not given up his fight to help reduce the carbon footprint entirely. In April 2009, Rocky was one of 114 activists arrested in a school near Nottingham, the day before a planned break in to Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station, in the hope of preventing the emission of 150,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.

All charges were dropped against 88 of the activists. Another 20 were found guilty, but given lenient sentences as the judge said they had been acting with "the highest possible motives."

In January 2011 Rocky and five other



protestors, were due to stand trial accused of 'conspiracy to commit aggravated trespass.' Some of the six were to argue that they 'have not planned to break in' to the power station but were supporting more active protestors.

Three days prior to their trial, it came to light that a policeman - Mark Kennedy, calling himself Mark Stone - had been working undercover for the past seven years within the heart of green activities. As an 'agent provocateur', it is claimed that Mark Kennedy not only spied on the activists but helped organize some protests, including 'Ratcliffe-on-Soar.'

Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has now dropped charges against Rocky and his five friends 'because new evidence has come to light which substantially undermines their case'. The CPS won't say what the evidence is, but it's likely that it supported the defendants' version of events.

*"Unfortunately, the case has done little to promote eco-activities but what it*

*does do is reveal how the police and government work with big businesses."*

Rocky is still idealistic, and hopes to live somewhere rural in the future, away from it all. He believes that if society continues the way it is, climate change will cause a 'catastrophic collapse'.

*"Injustice and bad things in the world have to be challenged if we want the world to be a better place, that's what protest and direct action is about."*

Rocky now works with 'Pedal Ready' Cycling Scheme and helps refurbish old bikes. He may have retired from 'activism' but he still gets involved with protests, and continues a sustainable life, one that is far from a 9-5 job:

*"I am happier than I would have been if I'd lived a 'normal' life."*

## 5 ways to get green

- Food. Grow your own vegetables. Eat less meat. Collect wild fruit.
- Get on your bike. Free 'cycling in traffic' lessons available from Pedal Ready. Reconditioned bikes sold by Recycle Bikes in Heeley.
- Heat your house less (turn off radiators in rooms not in use) - turn down the thermostat. Insulate / draught-proof.
- Don't fly. There are loads of amazing places to visit in Britain. Ireland, France and Spain can all be visited by boat.
- Buy second hand from charity shops (like Rainbow's End on Spital Hill). On eBay search for 'used' items.

# Burngreave Fungi

Story: Saleema Imam

**Steve Clements, fungus recorder for the Sorby Natural History Society, has for the past few months been documenting the fungi he has seen on his travels in our area.**

Currently teaching ESOL in Burngreave, Steve walks to and from his classes spotting mushrooms and other fungi on the way. Some of them are rare such as the Black Earth Tongue, or poisonous, such as the Brown Rollrim, seen outside YERO on Verdon Street.

Interested in fungi since his childhood in Parson Cross, Steve expanded his knowledge during 25 years working in the pathology laboratory at Hallamshire Hospital, where he gave talks to staff on poisonous mushrooms and their effects on the body.



Other than the Burngreave green survey several years ago, when a few varieties were spotted in the cemetery, very little has been recorded about mushrooms in Burngreave. Steve is doing his best to rectify this and has been amazed at the number of different varieties he has already been able to photograph and identify (currently over 20).

Found in three main areas - grassland, woodland and in piles of rotting woodchip - some stand out in bright colours and unusual shapes, but a number, like the mildews, are almost too small to be seen without magnification, (e.g. the Maple mildew - which is new to the area and may be spreading because of global warming; and the black sycamore tar spot - which was never found here before the clean air act.)

**See [www.burngreavemessenger.org](http://www.burngreavemessenger.org) for a full list of all Steve's finds.**

**SNHS are planning a 'Fungus Foray' in Burngreave Cemetery, led by Dave Buckle, for the 12th October from 10.30am - all welcome.**



## Outreach Improvement Project

Story: Ahmed Mohamed

**A conference took place on the 8th Jan 2010 in Sorby House aimed at promoting the presence of the Outreach Improvement Project (OIP).**

This independent (and entirely self funded) project was initiated by a group of young adults to reach out to our youth and improve their future prospects in Sheffield. The event was also aimed at celebrating and rewarding positive Somali role models, who have excelled in educational and professional fields.

Achievement awards, in four categories, were given to community members and the event was highly successful with 100 people in attendance. We have received encouraging feedback from numerous community members and this Awareness

and Awards event is now planned to be delivered on an annual basis.

The programme included an introduction from OIP Chairman, Saceed Cideed, a recitation from the Quran by 16 year old Mohamed Farah and a video about issues faced by the Somali community. One of the highlights of the event was a reading of the poem "Ghet to Know", recounting the hard journey many Somalis have had to make to seek a better life.

We are currently working on a mentoring programme, a quarterly newsletter and religious programmes that we aim to use as a tool to address the current challenges faced by Somali youths and to bring about a new generation of young Somalis that are talented and well educated.

**For more info or to contact us:**

*Email:* oip.crowd@gmail.com.

*Website:* www.oiproject.com

*Facebook:*

www.facebook.com/OutreachImprovementProject

*Telephone:* 07958 612 408

## Byron Wood Sing Up

Story: Smaira Sadique

**Byron Wood primary school has been working hard to get their silver 'sing up' award, no easy feat with such strict criteria. Recently the school has held several 'Strictly Come Singing' competitions between the year groups with parents invited to attend.**

Tuesday 7th December saw their first ever X Factor style 'sing up' with their very own judges Mr Carter, Mrs Ashton and special guest, Mr Cox, from Sheffield Cathedral. Years 3 through to 6 took part along with the choir who sang Christmas songs. The KS2 staff performed 'Do they know it's Christmas' but Mr Elgy, despite an Oscar worthy performance, could not do enough to pursued the judges.

On Wednesday 15th December the choir sang at The Lime Tree residential home. This is the third consecutive year the children have gone out to sing for the community. The staff took a hamper full of Christmas goodies for residents to enjoy.

In the KS1 competition the sunflower room children, singing a cappella of the French classic 'etoile de noel', were victorious. The judges included Mary Heyler, Head of the Sheffield Music Service and Mr Cassin.

Parents turned out to support their children for a final 'sing up' outside school on the last day of term. One of the parents's summed up everyone's thoughts: "What a lovely way to end the term!"

Mr Carter thanked Mrs Stroud and congratulated all the children, "If you hadn't sung with such gusto and enthusiasm we wouldn't have had a competition at all. You should feel very proud of your efforts"



## Jim Gilbert's Retirement Party

Story: John Mellor | Photo: Nicholaus Hall

**Nearly forty past and present members of the 76th Sheffield Scout Group, along with the Don District Scout Commissioner, Steve Clayton, and other official representatives, paid tribute to Jim Gilbert's work as a Scout Leader over the last 50 years.**

Jim's entry to his 'surprise' party was greeted by loud cheers and applause from the all-age crowd who were present to share the evening with him. A team of helpers had put on a marvellous spread of food for the occasion, which was clearly much enjoyed by everyone present at the St Peter's Cornerstone building where the group meets every Friday evening.

Presenting Jim with a long service award, District Commissioner Steve Clayton said, "Jim's leadership of the group over so many years has been a fantastic achievement. Such excellent work among the young people in this area doesn't just happen by chance. It's the result of much patient and dedicated effort year after year. One of Jim's outstanding successes has been the way in which he has built an effective, hard-working team around him to continue the project after his retirement."

Jim was also presented with gifts to mark his retirement. At the end of the party Jim said, "I enjoyed every minute of it!"

**The Scout Group is open to both boys and girls aged 10+ to 14+ and meets every Friday evening from 7.30-9.30 pm (but there is a waiting/joining list at present).**



## Assets transferred to the Council

Story: Douglas Johnson & Lisa Swift

**Burngreave New Deal for Communities will officially come to an end by March and its assets transferred to the Council. Sorby House and Vestry Hall will be owned and run by the Council while Forum House will be sold.**

March 2011 is the official end date for the New Deal for Communities government programme which brought £52 million into the Burngreave area over 10 years. The New Deal Partnership Board had planned to continue after March as a charity, but the threat of insolvency, following years of losses in running their buildings, meant they could not continue.

Sheffield Council approved the proposal to take over New Deal's buildings at its Cabinet meeting on 22nd December. During public questions Ronnie Lewin, Chair of Burngreave New Deal board, said there had been a lack of support from the Council. He said they had been working hard to avoid a liability for Sheffield Council tax payers for the last three years, but felt there simply hadn't been adequate support from the Council. Ronnie continued by saying he thought the current situation "could have been avoided," and that all those who had been part of a board were responsible.

In reply, Councillor Paul Scriven explained that current issues didn't date from the last three years and blamed the previous management for "spending too much money too fast" on buildings. He went on to reject allegations that the Council had not supported New Deal commenting that council officers had

spent "hundreds, if not tens of thousands of hours of officer time" on New Deal.

Joe Horobin, from the Council's Neighbourhood Renewal and Partnerships Service, presented the Council's report on New Deal. The Council is required to guarantee the pensions of the New Deal employees and will work with New Deal to transfer the buildings into council ownership investing the "limited amount" necessary to prevent closure of the buildings. This will avoid the Council paying the £10 million spent on capital investments in Sorby House, the Vestry Hall and Forum House back to the Government.

The Cabinet report stated that ownership of Sorby House would be temporary, and they would be exploring a sale to a commercial or community organisation demonstrating "benefit to the local community". Reassuringly for existing tenants the report commits the Council to "work within the terms of the existing tenancy agreements... and ensure [tenants] have opportunities to be involved in discussions about the future of the building."

For the Vestry Hall it states, "The Council's Community Buildings Team will work with existing tenants and other local groups and people to support them to take an active role in the management of this building."

## Pitsmoor CAB Annual Meeting

Story & photo: Douglas Johnson

**Former Home Secretary David Blunkett was the guest speaker at Pitsmoor Citizens Advice Bureau's AGM on 10th December 2010.**



He first reflected on reports by the Bureau's chair, Kate Heath, and by the manager, Chris Walker, who told the gathering at Sorby House of the fantastic work put in by paid staff and volunteers at the CAB. Presenting the annual report, Chris showed how the bureau had helped 3,900 people last financial year and had already helped over 4,000 so far this year – one effect of the cuts already.

The annual report lists 31 paid staff and 90 volunteers. Volunteers deliver a lot of the advice, on a wide range of topics, but the most common issues are problems with welfare benefits and tax credits, debts, housing, immigration and employment. The "volunteer of the year" award was shared by Kate Thomas, Margaret Everitt and Liz Giles.

Chris Walker warned of threats to funding of the service – not just from cuts in council grants but also from the risk of private businesses competing for public funds to deliver an alternative service. The Government is consulting on abolishing the legal aid funding that the Bureau receives. Chris said:

"The whole city and many of the poorest people will be the worse for the changes."

David Blunkett then spoke of the "devastating" cuts to local authorities about to be announced by the Government and the effect it would have on communities. He said he hoped to see control of the City Council change to Labour in May's local elections but even so, he said the effect could only be a "marginal" difference.



Instead, he called for "greater mutuality and solidarity" as there was a hundred years ago. He also talked about the role of big business and told how he had already had two meetings with Tesco. He suggested they could help, with examples such as using accommodation in Sorby House for training and providing staff to work as volunteers.

Like every other advice service and voluntary sector organisation in the area, Pitsmoor CAB faces a challenging year ahead when its services will be needed more than ever.

**If you would like to volunteer for Pitsmoor CAB contact 273 8838.**

## Funding for voluntary, community and faith groups

Over £10,000 has been awarded to local groups in the Burngreave ward during the financial year 2010/11. A total of 24 groups have benefited from the Community Assemblies funding.

**Fir Vale Netball Club** received £115 for equipment such as bibs, netballs and nets. The group's aim is to provide access to the sport, improve the health and fitness of local women, promote social interaction and engage women and girls in physical activity.

**Burngreave Women's Health Network** received £240 towards a Health Promotion day to raise awareness of heart disease, diabetes, mental health. The funding went towards providing an interpreter, resources and stress busting complimentary therapies.

**Somali Education Breakthrough** received £152 for new footballs and a trampoline workshop for the children that attend homework clubs which aim to tackle underachievement and disadvantage, and raise self esteem and confidence.

**Firhill Agewell Social Group** received £100 towards a trip out on the Sheffield Canal. This group has elderly, disabled and people with learning disabilities and they meet together at bingo sessions and coffee mornings at St Catherine's School.

A complete list of groups that have been funded is available on our website [www.sheffield.gov.uk/northeast](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/northeast).

If you would like to hear about any funding that is available for your local group do make sure you are on our



*Community Assembly funding helped Firvale Netball Club buy more equipment.*



*Firhill Agewell Social Group provides lots of activities for Firhill residents, funding will pay for a trip on Sheffield Canal.*

mailing list – contact us on 203 7562, by email at [communityassemblynortheast@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:communityassemblynortheast@sheffield.gov.uk) or the postal address on the right. Regular emails are circulated and details can be posted.

More information about potential funding from the North East Community Assembly and other sources is also available on our blog which is updated regularly [www.sheffield.gov.uk/northeastnews](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/northeastnews).

## Come along and 'Have your say'

You are invited to the next Public Business Meeting for the North East Community Assembly which will take place on Wednesday 27 April at Shirecliffe Community Centre, 349 Shirecliffe Road, S5 8XJ.

The meeting runs from 6-8pm and you are invited to share a sandwich with your local Councillors from 5.30pm. This is a meeting where your local Councillors make their decisions in public.

Your local Area Ward meeting where you can discuss more local issues takes place as follows:

**Burngreave ward – Wednesday 16 March from 6-8pm, Burngreave Vestry Hall, Burngreave Road.**

The main agenda item will be 'Update on physical regeneration in Burngreave including new housing and other major developments'

### Contact us

For more details and to 'Have Your Say' make sure you are on our mailing list by contacting us on 203 7562, on email at [communityassemblynortheast@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:communityassemblynortheast@sheffield.gov.uk), or writing to:

North East Community Assembly,  
Firth Park Library, 443 Firth Park Road, Sheffield, S5 6QQ.

News blog - [www.sheffield.gov.uk/northeastnews](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/northeastnews)

Website – [www.sheffield.gov.uk/northeast](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/northeast)

### Councillor Surgery Dates

**12th February:** Talib Hussain,  
11am–12pm Burngreave Library,  
12.15pm–1pm Firhill TARA

**15th February:** Jackie Drayton,  
11am–12pm Shirecliffe Community Centre,  
12.15pm–1pm Norwood and Bishopholme TARA

**17th February:** Talib Hussain,  
2pm–3pm Pakistan Advice Centre

**26th February:** Ibrar Hussain,  
11am–12pm Burngreave Library

**12th March:** Jackie Drayton,  
11am–12pm Burngreave Library,  
12.15pm–1pm Firhill TARA

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

**17th March:** Ibrar Hussain,  
2pm–3pm Pakistan Advice Centre

**26th March:** Talib Hussain,  
11am–12pm Burngreave Library



Your local councillors Jackie Drayton, Ibrar Hussain and Talib Hussain.

[jackie.drayton@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:jackie.drayton@sheffield.gov.uk)

[ibrar.hussain@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:ibrar.hussain@sheffield.gov.uk)

[talib.hussain@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:talib.hussain@sheffield.gov.uk)

## Statement from Burngreave New Deal

As regular readers of the Messenger will be aware there has been a great deal of activity surrounding the future of the New Deal Company over the last few months.

We have, as those who attended the public meeting will be aware, been working with Sheffield City Council to try and reach a solution for the future of the Company and its assets; this is because the Partnership Board have had to make the regrettable decision that the Company will have to close at the end of the Programme in March 2011.

This decision was a very difficult one for the Partnership Board to accept but in order to secure a future for Vestry Hall and Sorby House they felt they had no choice but to act in this way.

By working with the Council the Board have been able to secure the transfer of these buildings to the Council who are committed to ensuring that they continue to operate as far as possible in line with the aims and aspirations of the New Deal company.

The Council will pass Vestry Hall to their Community Buildings Team to operate within their portfolio of premises providing services to both commercial and community occupiers, whilst Sorby House will probably pass into the control of Kier Asset Partnerships who manage the council's operational portfolio of accommodation and who will operate it to the benefit of our existing tenants and seek to secure new occupiers.

Jeremy Diskin Executive Asset Manager for BNDfC confirms: *"it has been a long and difficult process to get to this position and there have been a great number of obstacles to negotiate in reaching what I believe is the best possible outcome for the community, the buildings and our occupiers."*

The Board are now working to finalise the transfer of the buildings and at the same time are looking to ensure that the achievements of the programme are not forgotten, so watch the next issue for more information.

## Reflecting on the achievements of Burngreave New Deal

Burngreave New Deal ensured that it employed an array of dedicated individuals that helped to ensure it delivered the most effective service to members of the local and business community.

Roy Sinclair is currently the senior administrator for conferencing and events at Sorby House and Vestry Hall, and as a former resident of Burngreave he has witnessed the numerous changes that have been made as a result of the work carried out by Burngreave New Deal.

We asked Roy for a few minutes of his time to ask him to reflect on Burngreave New Deal as it draws to a close in March:

### What improvements have you noticed in the Burngreave area thanks to BNDfC?

The general crime rates are down and the area has undergone a facelift, with pleasant green areas. The amount of litter has also been reduced which helps to raise the look and feel of Burngreave, not forgetting the two landmark buildings that have undergone a complete refurbishment and now offer the area a real resource.

### What do you feel is the greatest achievement made by the Burngreave New Deal?

I would find it hard to name just one, but I have to say that helping to raise school attainment grades is fantastic.

### What improvements could have been made that would have meant more would have been achieved over the last 10 years?

I think the main problem has been financial management and constantly changing staff – no continuity. When good work had been instigated a key figure in the team would leave and then it would be difficult to continue what had begun without them.

### Did the Board governing Burngreave New Deal utilise your knowledge of the local area?

At the beginning they did, although it was not as essential in the later years. We employed a good few local members of staff in the early days that ensured that



Roy Sinclair has been part of New Deal for ten years, since it started in March 2001.

we had a wealth of information at hand.

### What do you enjoy the most about your job?

I have enjoyed meeting and getting to know many people in the diverse community.

### Do you have an anecdote that you would care to share with us from your time with Burngreave New Deal?

We had a member of staff who left a bag at one of the Abbeyfield Park festivals whilst we were setting up stalls. This caused a scare because no one knew what it was or what it contained – if I remember rightly the police evacuated the park. Hilarious looking back, but not that funny at the time!

### Finally both professionally and personally what do you think the Board could have done to ensure its Burngreave New Deal's legacy was one of good work, rather than reported financial difficulties?

I'm not sure that anything could have been done to alter the legacy. We have funded some excellent projects over the years, some of which were not documented and therefore residents will not be aware of our involvement. However no matter what we have achieved they will always be overshadowed by anything that didn't go the way you expected it to.



## Big Day at the Cafe

Story: Laura Pearce

**'Dementia? Welcome! Cafe' is a place for local people with memory difficulties and their carers to come together to chat and share experiences in a welcoming and friendly atmosphere.**

Refreshments are always available and the cafe is open to anyone every Wednesday, 11am-1pm at the Furnival in Pitsmoor. Alongside this weekly service, the Cafe has begun to host bigger events.

On the 10th November 2010, the Furnival was brimming with noise and excitement as people of all ages came together to enjoy a fun day of activities and socialising. It was the Dementia? Welcome! Cafe's very first 'big day' of free fun and food. Here are some words from volunteer Fran:

"Running the Big Day in November was a fantastic experience for all involved. As a new volunteer it enabled me to see the importance of running the Cafe in Burngreave and how such a reliable service can benefit the area. It was really great to see everyone enjoying themselves, with painting and art activities, games, music, socialising and good home-made food! It was touching to hear everyone ask if they could come again soon and with more big events to follow, it would be lovely to see some more new faces!"



**The next Big Day at the cafe is planned for February 2nd 2011, 10am-2pm at the Furnival.**

"It's the time of year for planting seeds" so come along to our February arts and social event to enjoy a fun-filled day. Everyone is welcome and free to help out. We hope to put some simple finger food together as part of the day, where people can contribute and help clear up at the end. The important thing is to bring people together to enjoy the activities in a friendly atmosphere. We hope to see you there!

**To get a taste for what the Dementia? Welcome! Cafe is about, come along to any of our weekly meetings, every Wednesday 11am-1pm, The Furnival, Verdon Street. Contact Nick Edmondson: 07725 569 380. Everyone is welcome!**

## Work starts on the Rec

**After several months delay improvements to Burngreave Rec have begun.**

Diggers are already on site, but contractors will try to keep access to the Rec open as much as possible during the 12-16 weeks of construction. The work could be completed by April.

Improvements includes new ramps, steps and paths, new play equipment and a 5 aside football pitch. New seating, litter bins, orchard trees and shrubs are also due to go in. Some trees and shrubs will be removed, in particular two trees on Burngreave Street to make way for new steps.

**For information contact Amie Rowland on 273 6952**

## Palestine Falafel night

Christ Church, Pitsmoor hosted an evening in solidarity with Palestinians on 6th Dec 2010. People were treated to delicious Palestinian food served by Pitsmoor's own "Queen of Falafel", Arwa Havard. The group then watched a short film by her husband Deacon Dave made during their most recent visit to Hebron last summer, which was followed by a lively discussion.

Next event: Palestine Falafel and Film night at Christ Church, Thursday 24th February 2010 at 7.30pm. Everyone is very welcome. **Contact Deacon Dave on 272 9695.**

### Wensley Tenants and Residents Association General Meeting

Thursday 10th March, 6pm, Wensley Community Centre  
All tenants and residents welcome

## Abbeyfield Festival needs help

**BCAF are holding a public meeting on 12th February, 11am, Sorby House to discuss how Abbeyfield Festival can happen in 2011.**

For the last two years Abbeyfield Festival has been run by volunteers, with support from Burngreave Community Action Forum. BCAF now has less staff to give time to the festival, and some of the key volunteers cannot help this year, so Abbeyfield Festival needs a new organisation to support the festival to happen.

Anyone who would like to see the festival happen is welcome to attend the meeting. **Contact Yasmeen Iqbal on 272 8008 or email enquiries@bcaf.org.uk**



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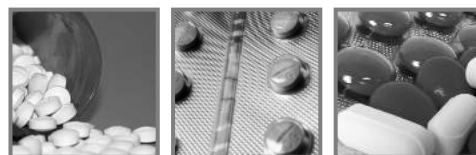
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for the North East Community Assembly Area

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