



Burngreave faces cuts

The Council decided its budget on 4th March, cutting £84million from its spending.

What will it mean for us? Some of it is very unclear. The budget describes cuts but does not detail every job or service that will go. Some things we do know:

Activity Sheffield reduced – many workers have had to reapply for their jobs and hours have been reduced. Young people campaigned to save Burngreave's worker - with success! See page 4.

More adult learning cuts – changes in the rules for free ESOL will mean charges to residents for their courses. A campaign has already started - see page 5.

Study Support reduced – although a successful campaign avoided a massive cut, it's funding has still reduced by 15%.

15% cut in grant aid to voluntary organisations like local advice services. The funding is only for 6 months; further cuts could be seen later in the year.

End of Connexions service – in the next 6 months, the careers service for young people will end. Responsibility will be transferred to schools, but with no extra money.

Community Assembly – Burngreave lost out when the Community Assemblies were created. Now the team is being reduced further.

£2million cut to Childcare – this will affect childcare providers in Burngreave, but not Sure Start.

Funding ending – the end of some funding like Housing Market Renewal and Migrant Impact Fund is a hidden cut for the area, especially in Fir Vale.

If your job is affected or a service you receive is being cut, we want to hear from you. Contact the Messenger on 242 0564 or mail@burngreavemessenger.org or come along to the BCAF Quarterly Forum on 14th May, 11am at the Vestry Hall.



People from Burngreave joined demonstrations against cuts in Sheffield and London in March. See Messenger website for more photos.



Young people challenge cuts

Story: Lydia Flanagan

On 2nd February Burngreave residents took a petition of 1080 signatures, mainly from young people, against these cuts in educational maintenance allowance (EMA) and study support to the Council. The outcome achieved was certainly something to be proud of!

The Council has no power over EMA funding but agreed they would write to the government on behalf of the petitioners. On the other hand, study support representatives Muna Abdi and

Yassar Mohammed delivered strong arguments against cuts to study support schemes proposed by the Council.

Study support groups help young people with their work at school, giving them confidence and motivation to get through their school work, and help them find a way of learning that suits them. It has a big knock-on effect on students going on into further education. These groups are held outside school hours, so give the young people something to do that is positive. The groups have very strong support from teachers, parents and pupils.

The proposed cuts would have brought Study Support funding down from £230,000 to just £80,000. However, after the petition, the council decided to fund the groups at £200,000. This was a big achievement for the young people!

Future and donations

The Messenger is still here, but needs some help...

The Burngreave Messenger is delivered free to 9,000 houses in Burngreave and Firvale, six times per year. We remain entirely independent of funders and the content of the Messenger is decided by local people.

For over 6 years costs of the Messenger were mainly met by Burngreave New Deal funding. Income from advertising has always been a big help but only covers around a quarter of the cost of the Messenger. As a registered charity, we have had some charitable funding, and we continue to have the generous support of the Tudor Trust, but cuts to public spending have resulted in fierce competition for funding and the Messenger does not have enough money for the coming year.

What it costs...

To print the Messenger and pay for a small staff team and the young distributors - for many, this is their first regular employment - costs just under £10 a year per household. This also covers the cost of the work to support all our volunteers, contributors and local groups.

You can help...

The Messenger belongs to people in Burngreave, and we know many of you think it's really valuable and want to see it continue. So we wanted to give local people the opportunity to help keep the Messenger going, and delivering top quality local news and views to your door.

We want to keep the Messenger FREE to everyone, so are asking for donations rather than subscriptions. Some readers have already donated and have told us why.

An Earlmarsal Road resident said, "I look forward to the Messenger. It keeps me in touch with what's happening in the area. Enclosed is a small cheque which I hope will help."

Kath Swinney said, "The Messenger has supported my friends when they have been threatened with deportation and has supported my ESOL classes when they were threatened with cuts. I would like to support the Messenger now and have donated £20 to cover the cost of my own Messenger for the year and one for somebody else."

A reader from Firshill Road donated £10 and wrote, "Just a note about the Messenger and what it has meant to me over the last ten years. A lot of people have worked hard to make the community one that works well and hopefully no one is left out. People in Burngreave have built something to be proud of and we need the Messenger to tell everyone about it. There are always interesting stories about ordinary people."

If you'd like to help please visit our website to donate (if you pay tax we can claim an extra 28% of your donation through Gift Aid via the website) or send a cheque to Abbeyfield Park House.

If you want to make a regular donation, please call the office on 242 0564.

Thank you. With your help, we can keep the Messenger going!

Burngreave Community Action Forum



BCAF aims to bring together residents and community organisations in Burngreave and to build our capacity for cooperation and communication. From April BCAF will not have enough funding to employ a worker, however it will continue to work for the community through the network it has built up over recent years and with the support of volunteers.

Public meetings

BCAF will continue to hold regular public meetings. In 2010, BCAF held four public meetings where local residents could discuss issues with professionals working in the area.

The next meeting will be:

Saturday 14th May, 11am - 1pm, Burngreave Vestry Hall

The meeting will aim to get a grip on the local affects of cuts. If your job is being affected or a service you receive is being cut, we want to hear from you. Come along to the meeting, or contact us at Abbeyfield Park House.

Network groups

BCAF supports four network groups working alongside other local groups and statutory organisations.

The **Adult Learning Working Group** plays a key role in planning provision and co-ordinating what courses for adults are offered locally. Through BCAF, the group has gained funding for local conversation clubs, run "ESOL into work" courses and other one off courses.

The **Burngreave Health Network** aims to bring organisations working health together in the area. BCAF has set up an online database of local health initiatives, held quarterly meetings, maintained a mailing list and helped organise a health zone at Abbeyfield and Firth Park Winter Festivals.

Burngreave Youth Network meets monthly to discuss local activities for children and young people so its members can aim to co-ordinate services. BCAF helps gather information to publicise holiday activities and is also updating the online database of young people's provision at www.burngreaveyouthnetwork.co.uk.

Burngreave Together is the name of BCAF's faiths network. In 2010, BCAF did a project to help make links between a number of faith groups in Burngreave and to map them out. Many are linked on the "Belief in Burngreave" section of the Messenger's website.

E-mail lists

BCAF has e-mail lists for people interested in Health, Adult Learning, Faith issues and Young People. It also has an e-mail list for jobs. If you want to be added to any of these lists, contact us at enquiries@bcaf.org.uk.

Office move

BCAF has now moved to Abbeyfield Park House, Abbeyfield Road, Sheffield S4 7AT.

Drop in any Tuesday between 2pm and 6pm. The doorbell is round the back of the house.

Contact us at enquiries@bcaf.org.uk

In support of Ali Bashir

Story: Sarah Finnegan

One of our friends at New Roots Café is being threatened with deportation to Libya. His name is Ali Bashir and he is a dedicated volunteer and friend to all at New Roots. He has been seeking asylum in this country for 10 years, but in March, was once again turned down by the Home Office.

He is much loved by fellow volunteers, customers and he is always a favourite with the children that come to the cafe. His contribution to the running of this community café for the last five years has been a key part in being able to keep the cafe open.

Due to the most unfortunate and traumatic experiences, Ali does not want to talk about his past and the reasons he came here. It is therefore up to his friends and local community to speak on his behalf and expose the injustice to a fellow human being if he were to be deported back to Libya.

Under the Gaddafi regime deportation for Ali anytime in the past would have led to his lifelong imprisonment or worse. However, given the current situation of



the war in Libya, it would almost certainly mean death. His whole family live in, or near, Tripoli and he is finding life difficult enough worrying about loved ones that are there amongst the bloodshed. Despite all of this, Ali wants one day to return to a peaceful Libya and until then all support that can be given to keep this wonderful member of the community safe would be gratefully welcome.

There will be a petition at the New Roots Café for people to sign, to raise awareness of his case and support his claim to stay and continue contributing to the local community. You can contact the Café on 270 0972.

should be allowed to remain in Sheffield as it not safe for him in Afghanistan. The UK Border Agency are now reconsidering his claim for asylum.

A poem written by Reza whilst in Colnbrook detention centre:

*I am going to nowhere land
They're deporting me from England
I was looking for my home land...
What a destiny that I am banned
I wanna go back to my home town
Sheffield is my home land
They say Afghanistan is your land
UKBA took me to Colnbrook
They're sending me to nowhere land.*

Reza Yosefi, March 2011

Reza released

Local resident Reza Yosefi has been released from detention after a second reprieve from deportation.

Reza came to Sheffield at the age of 16, alone. His family fled Afghanistan before he was born, and were refugees in Iran. The UK Border Agency are now trying to deport Reza to Afghanistan, where he has never lived and where he knows no one.

Now aged 20, Reza has been detained twice since November ready for deportation, and twice received a last minute reprieve. Campaigners say Reza

World-Wide News

Poem: Sylvia Reaney

We read and listen, to the world wide news
Always distressing of evil and abuse
Murders, mobster's muggings, and
everything that is bad
Nothing to amuse just everything that's sad
Each day there's anger

Brutality near and far alas, now
Every country is at war
Still, there are many many good people
One day they will win
By giving creed and culture with
understanding
Then a peaceful world we all can live in



More online

The Messenger website is the place to go for local information.

We have a number of directories, which have been developed by BCAF staff and volunteers:

- Young people's services and activities
- Faith Organisations
- Local Health projects

There's also a link to adult learning courses.

If you would like to be added to any of these directories please contact us.

Also new to the website are pages in the 'Community' section about local campaigns on issues and against cuts. You can download petitions and read more in depth about why an issue is important to local residents.

We also have a well developed list of links to local organisations, include all local school website.

If your are part of a locally based organisation with a website, please get in touch and we'll add you to the list.

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

Young man killed in Darnall

Story: Rohan Francis

A young man from Burngreave has died after he was struck by a car in Darnall on Thursday 17th March. Abdulla Awil Mohamed, aged 18, was fatally injured when a vehicle mounted the pavement on Coleridge Road around 7.30pm.

A murder inquiry was launched following the incident and four men were arrested and later charged. The men appeared at Sheffield Crown Court on Monday 28th March 2011.

Investigations are ongoing and police are appealing for witnesses who were in the area between 5pm and 9pm on the evening of the 17th, to contact them on 0114 296 3016.



High Flyers

Story: Abtisam Mohammed

The High Flyers, a local informal youth group, was recognised by the North East Community Assembly with a 'Heart Of The Community' award on Friday 18th March.

The young people who came to accept the award were clearly upset because their good friend Abdulla Awil Mohamed, who regularly attended the activities, had died the night before. Dedicating the award to Abdulla, Yasar Mohamed said:

"Abdulla was a good kid who was friends with all of these kids. This one's for you, Abdulla."

The group, mainly boys of Pakistani, Somali and Yemeni origin, works informally in the area for other young people. They do regular football training every Friday and Saturday at the Woodbourn football stadium and have organised scuba-diving and go-karting activities.

They have also put on performances in Burngreave, on achievement, gangs and drugs. It's all for the sake of helping others, regardless of postcode or ethnicity.

To build their skills, they all did the Level 1 in Youth Work; some have gone on to university to pursue youth work as a career. Because they are young, the children listen to them, no matter what they are involved in. When young people in Burngreave get bad press, it is good to recognise those doing important work on the ground, keeping young people off the streets and engaged in positive activities.

Young people save sports activities

Story: Lisa Swift



Young People were again hit by budget cuts this month - this time, sports activities run by Activity Sheffield were under threat.

More than 17 weekly sessions were at risk as community worker Imran Ali was issued with redundancy. Sports in local schools, football in Firvale and the Burngreave Tigers were among the activities due to end. Many of these sessions are over subscribed.

Young people involved in these activities were determined not to see them end and, with the help of the Messenger and Burngreave Community Action Forum, they presented a petition of over 130 young people's signatures to the North East Community Assembly on 16th March. Saad Ali was among the young people who presented the petition, he told the public meeting:

"Closure of the Thursday football would leave more than 80 young people with nowhere to go but street corners. Imran's activities support loads of young people to keep doing positive things."

The local Councillors said they would use the North East Community Assembly budget to fund the Burngreave worker again when it came to their formal meeting on April 27th. They also agreed to talk to Activity Sheffield to make sure they keep Imran in post through April until the new funding could be used.

Man City Academy Day

Story: Imran Ali



On Friday 25th February 2011, in half term, we took over 25 kids to Manchester City's football academy to have coaching sessions, personally by the club's coaches.

The young people - representing Firvale School, Byron Wood, Firshill and St Catherine's - went through a coaching session in the morning and had a mini tournament in the afternoon. The club took details of one of them - which is a sign of them being interested in the future.

Overall the day gave the young people an opportunity to understand what football clubs look for - and they enjoyed it. Hopefully opportunity like this will raise their aspirations and maybe we'll see a future Rooney from Burngreave.

ESOL day of action

Story: Sandra Heilberg



People in English classes across Burngreave and the city took part in a national day of protest on March 24th. Their message to the government and council is simple – Learning English is the key to taking a full part in the life of our city.

The government proposes huge fee increases which will make the cost of ESOL classes beyond the budget of most ordinary householders. From September this year learners who are not on 'active' benefits, Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) or Employment Support Allowance (ESA) will have to pay hundreds of pounds for courses. This will impact particularly on women in Burngreave, who do not claim these benefits.

As part of their protest learners made keys to symbolize what ESOL means to them personally. The messages on the keys show the need for English in every day life, for communicating with doctors,















schools, officials and making friends with their neighbours and people from other cultures. They demonstrate the fear and isolation that learners felt before they started to learn English. Mrs Ibrahim explained that before it was as though she had been blind and that learning English is helping her to open her eyes.

Many of the learners are mothers and their concern is with helping their children "My children speak English. If I can't speak English how can I teach them behaviour and everything. How can I help them?" asked Mrs Kousar.

Burngreave Learners emailed more than 200 keys, with 100 from other parts of the city, to the local councillors and MPs to persuade them that English is a basic skill and should be supported like numeracy and literacy.

Read more about the campaign on the Messenger website:
www.burngreavemessenger.org.

If you would like to support the campaign to ESOL and adult learning from cuts, you can sign the petition on our website or call the Messenger to find out more.

-  ESOL is the key to not feeling depressed and lonely.
-  ESOL is the key to helping in my community.
-  ESOL is the key to helping my children at school and talking to their teacher.
-  ESOL is the key to making new friends and getting a job.
-  ESOL is the key to getting to university.
-  ESOL is the key to helping my children study.
-  ESOL is the key to making friends with other cultures.
-  ESOL is the key to talking to officials and understanding forms.
-  ESOL is the key to answering the telephone.
-  ESOL is the key to having confidence in myself.
-  ESOL is the key to going to the doctor myself.
-  ESOL is the key to talking to my neighbours.

Parents demand support for Whiteways

Story: Lisa Swift

Local parents have demanded answers from the Local Education Authority (LEA) after Whiteways Primary School was given a notice to improve in January by OFSTED inspectors.

Parents were angry that the school has not seen an improvement since the last inspection in 2007, when the school was graded as 'satisfactory'. Parents called a meeting with the LEA and the schools

headteacher and leadership in February to demand to know what had gone wrong and what was being done to improve the school.

One parent said, "We feel we were abandoned, when the school was 'satisfactory' it should have been supported then, instead its been allowed to slip backwards."

The report identified problems in attainment in English and Maths, and in the quality of teaching. It did however praise pupils who are 'consistently well behaved', and get on well together. It also praised the school for the extra support given to vulnerable pupils and the strong partnership work with parents, who are well engaged with the school.

In response to concerns about teaching

the LEA said progress was already being made through the leadership of a new headteacher, Mr Norrie who said "At the moment 50% of the teaching is good, we are aiming for this to be 80%. Teachers are planning together and each pupil's progress is being monitored."

Parents were pleased with the progress the school had made, but were concerned that another new headteacher, Mr McMullen was to take over. Mr McMullen said he was committed to maintaining the good work that had already begun, so that the transition would be seamless.

The parents were clear that the pressure was still on the LEA to make sure Whiteways maintained its improvement. A further inspection of the school will take place in a year's time.



No smoking day

Story: Emma Msigiti, community stop smoking worker

A special event at Sorby House on March 9th marked National No Smoking Day.

The aim is to encourage smokers to make a commitment to quit by making them aware of the financial and health costs and the benefits of quitting.

If you're not ready to quit yet, a positive step is to make your home and car smoke free. Children are particularly vulnerable to

second-hand smoke as their bodies are still developing and they breathe faster than adults. This means they inhale more unfiltered smoke.

If you want more information about making your home smoke-free or you are thinking about quitting, help is available locally. Anyone in Burngreave/Fir Vale can access free and confidential one-to-one stop-smoking support.

For more information, please call or text Emma Msigiti, community stop smoking worker on 07847 893 134 or at The Furnival Project on 272 7497.

Smoke facts:

- Cigarette smoke contains over 4,000 harmful chemicals including carbon monoxide, arsenic and cyanide.
- Opening a window doesn't get rid of risk from tobacco smoke
- One cigarette takes two hours to leave a room.
- The chemicals stick to clothes so you are still breathing them in even after the visible smoke has gone
- Tobacco smoke gets into every cell in the body
- It can cause heart and lung problems
- It can trigger allergies, and irritate eyes, nose and throat
- Approximately 17, 000 children go to hospital each year because of second-hand smoke
- Children are less likely to start smoking themselves if they live in a smoke free home



Preventing cancer

Story: Chetna Patel – NHS Sheffield

In the Cancer Awareness Project, I've been talking to people in community groups, schools, GPs surgeries and at local events.

It's been great working back in Burngreave again, meeting old faces and new ones. I've been privileged to meet community members and to hear their stories about cancer. It's still a taboo subject and can be a very scary subject to talk about. However, treatments are getting better and people are recovering better from cancer. In Burngreave, some people are unaware of screening programmes so it's important to tell them so they can participate.

At over 20 different groups and venues, I received lots of positive feedback:

"After this session I will go and ring for my home test kit."

"I understand better now what the signs are for cancer."

"She covered embarrassing information in a sensitive way."

"I didn't know about the breast cancer screening programme

until today's session."

"I will check my breasts regularly now."

"I would not have got this information anywhere else."

"Information given in a friendly manner, thank you."

Remember to be Cancer Aware

We can't do anything about getting older but we can minimise the risks. We recommend you:

- Know what is normal for you,
- Familiarise yourself with the main symptoms of cancer.
- Self examine regularly (particularly your breasts or testicles and skin)
- Participate in cancer screening programmes and
- Report any changes, however vague, to your doctor. DON'T DELAY
- Don't just put changes down to getting older.

Reduce your risk of cancer:

- Maintain a healthy balanced diet and weight,
- Keep as active as you can,
- Moderate your alcohol intake and,
- Stopping smoking is the single biggest thing you can do to reduce your risk.

For further information and advice on cancer contact:

Macmillan support line free on 0808 808 00 00 or visit www.macmillan.org.uk

Breast Cancer Care helpline 0808 800 6000 or visit www.breastcancercare.org.uk

Cancer Research UK at www.reduceyourrisk.org.uk



Carwood makeover complete

Carwood has new plants in place, replacing shrubs planted when the estate was first built decades ago.

After years of asking for improvements, Carwood's Tenants and Residents Association (TARA) have finally seen action taken. The Council's NEAT team, funded by the Community Assembly, have remodelled the existing beds and reseeded some of the bare green spaces to make the estate more attractive and simpler to

maintain. Dean Fearon from the Council said,

"This has been a great project which has allowed local people to influence how their area appears. We have worked closely with the TARA who advised on where they would like to see improvements and what kind of plants should be planted. Another benefit of funding a NEAT team has been helping young people get the skills they need which will help them into full time employment."

Wynn March from Carwood TARA said, "The NEAT team have done a very good job, considering what a state it was in. Now it's up to people in the community to help keep it looking nice."

Clean up Day 28th April 10am-4pm

- Help plant bedding plants to complete the Carwood make over
- Bring Out Your Rubbish (see leaflets for more instructions)
- New memorial bench dedicated to residents from the estate who have recently passed away.

With support from Burngreave Safer Neighbourhood Team and Sheffield Homes. Light refreshments provided.

Come along and get involved in the TARA.

Spring cleaning on Firshill

Firshill is getting ready for a Big Spring Clean. On 12th April Firshill Tenants and Residents Association (TARA) will get help from Streetforce, Sheaf Training, Sheffield Homes, the Safer Neighbourhood Team, Fire Service and St Catherine's School to get the estate up to scratch.

Horticulture trainees from Sheaf Training have been working with the Community Foresters to plant cherry blossom trees ready for the start of spring. Maureen Scott from the TARA said:

"It's brilliant what they've been doing on the estate. Everyone is commenting on how much cleaner and safer the area feels."

The Clean Up day will continue the planting and litter picking. If you would like to be involved, contact Firshill TARA on 256 0337 or turn up at the Sheffield United Academy car park from 9am – 2.30pm.



Welcome residents meeting

The Welcome Resident's group held a public meeting in March to review their community bus service and discuss funding for the area.

The group covers streets around Verdon Street, Brunswick Road, Rock Street and Nottingham Street.

At the meeting, South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive promised to improve promotion and signage for the M20 bus, which serves Verdon Street 3 times a day. They committed to protect the service for the benefit of older residents.

The meeting also discussed the Tenant's Levy, paid by Council tenants with their rent. For over 3 years, it has not been spent as there is no Tenants and Residents Association for the area. Sheffield Homes will soon employ a worker to help local groups apply for the money. The meeting agreed it was important to help groups work together through the residents' group, so the Levy money could be spent for the benefit of residents.

To get involved in the Welcome Residents' group, come along to the Welcome Centre on the last Thursday of each month, 3.30pm-4.30pm or contact the Messenger on 242 0564.

Wensley residents support the Number 5

Wensley residents met with South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive in February to tell them how important the number 5 bus is to the estate.

As the only bus that comes to Wensley, the No.5 is vital for older residents to get their shopping in Firth Park and town.

Despite possible funding cuts, SYPTE said they were committed to maintaining the service and would encourage better promotion but an extra Saturday service would not be possible. Building work at Whiteways had affected reliability at times but the service should run smoothly again from March.

SYPTE encouraged residents to report any problems directly to them or to local councillors.

Help to manage your weight

Being overweight or obese could soon overtake smoking as the major cause of preventable ill health. In 2010, almost a quarter of adults in England were obese.

Causes of obesity

People become obese by overeating, eating fatty foods, having irregular meals, or through a lack of daily physical activity. Obesity can be hereditary, which means the risk of obesity increases if being over weight runs in your family. It is lifestyle that determines if you will be over weight. Also certain medications can cause weight gain.

Health problems and obesity

Obesity can cause common physical problems including, difficulties breathing, difficulties walking or running, increased sweating, pain in the knees and back, skin conditions such as acne and gallstones.

It can also cause more serious diseases including: high blood pressure, high cholesterol, type 2 diabetes, some types of cancer, heart disease and heart attacks, strokes and colon cancer (now associated with excess fat consumption in the diet).

Help is available

The Watch It programme supports young people, and Weigh Ahead supports adults, to change their lifestyles so they can lose weight, details are on this page.

Or, speak to the local **Health Trainers**: Sophina Aghar on 07903 328020 or Paul Nash on 07823 558700. Health Trainers offer one-to-one support in leading a healthier lifestyle, including advice and information, how to eat healthily, support around weight loss, support in accessing physical activities, referral to stop smoking and more. The Service is free and confidential.



Does your child suffer from low self esteem?
Does your child not enjoy PE?
Do you struggle to buy clothes that fit your child?
Does your child get teased due to their weight?
Are you worried about your child's health due to them being over weight?

If you have answered YES to any of the above, you may want to think about getting in touch with WATCH IT.

Watch It works with overweight children by supporting families to lead healthier lives.

This is a 12 week programme where families are asked to commit to 1.5 hours a week.

This includes a fun filled activity session for the children delivered by Activity Sheffield.

Alongside this you are offered a family appointment with a Watch It Health Trainer who will work with your family on how to manage weight, including advice on health issues such as portion sizes, healthy eating and how to increase activity.

Watch It is a FREE service and is delivered at various sites across Sheffield. For children aged 7-14 years

To find out more contact Nazreen Iqbal via:
Telephone: 0114 270 2045
Email: sheffieldwatch-it@zestcommunity.co.uk
Website: www.zestcommunity.co.uk



Weigh Ahead

Weigh Ahead is a free NHS weight management service designed for people who have been unsuccessful in their attempts to lose weight and are significantly overweight or obese. This includes anyone who has a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 40 or over or someone who has a BMI of 35, but has another medical condition such as diabetes.

The service offers personalised, tailored support delivered by a range of qualified health professionals, over a period of 12 weeks. This approach helps people make long lasting changes to their lifestyle and overcome their difficulty in reducing and maintaining their weight.

Since its launch in October 2010 the service has already been successful in helping a number of local people achieve their personal weight management goals.

Jane Bird, local Councillor, and the city's Lord Mayor in 2009:

"It's about a life-style change, not just about what you eat. I don't like the gym or keep fit, but I love walking, so the Weigh Ahead staff advised me to do more of that. They were really lovely to talk to and gave useful information about how to read food labels quickly, and little things like using smaller dinner plates. I've lost 4 inches off my waist, gone down 2 dress sizes, and I feel healthier in myself. It's the best thing my doctor ever sent me to."



The following comments have been provided by people who have used the service:

"Excellent service, not a diet but a change in lifestyle" Female, 60

"The service helped me a lot to get on the track to losing weight" Male, 34

"Weigh Ahead was fantastic. I received loads of good exercises and advice" Female, 28

"Thank you for your support and all the help you have given me as I don't think I could have got this far without you" Male, 35

"I am glad I went on the programme, the team have done great, a big thanks" Male, 55

If you think that you may benefit from the service you can speak to your doctor or another health professional about arranging an appointment.

Further details are also at <http://sheffieldweighahead.nhs.uk/>

International Women's Day

Story & photos: Colombine Neal

On the 8th of March it was the 100th year of International Women's Day. Verdon Recreation Centre was the venue for Burngreave's annual celebration.

The International Women's day has unofficially existed since the 1900s. It started in 1908 when 15,000 women marched through the streets of New York demanding better pay and the right to vote. International Women's Day became part of the campaign when it was first honoured in 1911. Ever since women have been running towards equality, fighting for their rights.

Burngreave's event was funded by NHS Sheffield and was organised by women working in the NHS and voluntary organisations.

The event was vibrant and colourful. It was a huge success which over 200 women attended. There were a range of different nationalities, to name a few: Kurdish, Pakistani, Somali, African Caribbean, Bengali and Chinese communities.

Throughout the day there were a number of activities ranging from poetry, traditional singing and dancing; belly dancing and an international fashion show with women showing off their colourful and enigmatic traditional garments. The event also had health information stalls that encouraged women and children to look after their physical, emotional and social well-being. Women were also given health checks and were able to try out complimentary therapies. There were even raffle prizes to be won



which had kindly been donated by Lush Cosmetics and Chanda Rehman from Chanda Hair and Beauty.

Some of the quotes from the women were:

"There was cohesion, networking, sharing of different cultures and positive interaction."

"There was a strong community spirit, this is what was needed for the women and children in the area."

"It was nice to feel so welcomed by women I had never met before."

"I feel there were some wonderful and talented ladies in Sheffield and loved the way they shared their culture with us."

Every year on the 8th of March, thousands of events are held throughout the world to inspire and celebrate women in their achievements. So make a difference, make every day International Women's Day and do your bit to ensure that the future for girls is bright, equal, safe and rewarding.

New hair salon on Spital Hill

Story & photo: John Mellor

Priscilla Waring has recently opened her own hair salon at the former BCAF office on Spital Hill. Known as "Cassy's Salon", it provides a comprehensive service for men, women and children of all cultures.



Priscilla first began learning about hairdressing from her mother as a 9-year-old child in Zimbabwe, although at that time she never thought it would become a career. Five years ago she started a mobile hairdressing service, visiting people in their own homes, before finding permanent premises. She is clearly enthusiastic about providing a service that meets customers' wishes for whatever style they choose, in a friendly and welcoming environment.

As well as her hairdressing business, Priscilla leads a busy life, doing part-time work as a residential care assistant and studying with the Open University for a qualification in relationship counselling – clearly a valuable extra skill for a hairdresser!

Contact Cassy's Salon on 07584 024 586

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HARD TIMES

The impact for women and how to respond. Discuss and understand the impact of the tax, benefit, pension and other economic changes affecting home and work.

Book by 8th April

Contact Shirley Allen-Jackson, Workers Educational Association (WEA) on 246 3162, sallenjackson@wea.org.uk

**Monday 18th April 2011, 9.30am - 3.30pm
at Sheffield Hallam University, City Campus
Eric Mensforth Conference Suite**





NEW Multi Sensory Room

Watoto's multi sensory provision is a special place where children explore, develop their senses and skills in a relaxing and fun environment

This specialist facility is designed to use light and sound to enhance children's development, including hearing, sight, touch, hand-eye co-ordination and language development.

- You can book sessions in the sensory room in advance for an hour or less.
- Activities are designed to meet children's individual needs.

Group and block bookings welcomed

Contact Sharon or Lillian

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Family Time events



| Day/date | Time | Venue | Event |
|-------------------------|--|--|---|
| Saturday 16th April | 12.00am – 3.00pm | Firth Park Sheffield S5 6HH | Ever wanted to make a den? Join Art in the Park to create some exciting dens in Firth Park and then join in a poetry session. |
| Tuesday 19th April | 11.00am – 12.00pm & 1.00pm – 2.00pm | The Furnival 199 Verdon Street Burngreave. Sheffield S3 9QQ | Family fun for all ages. Ever wanted to try your hand at African Drumming? Come along and have a go! Have you got the rhythms! For younger children there is also singing, stories and puppets! |
| Wednesday 20th April | 11.00am – 12.00pm & 1.30pm – 2.30pm | The Gallery Sheffield Cathedral, Church Street Sheffield S1 1HA | An exciting workshop allowing families of all ages to come along and mould their own hands and feet, creating a trail throughout the Cathedral. |
| Thursday 2nd June | 11.00am – 12.00pm | Oasis Meadowhall Shopping Centre Sheffield S9 1EP | In partnership with Meadowhall come and join us to celebrate 'Family Time'. Take part in singing rhymes and songs and listening to stories. |

All events are free of charge and aimed at families with children aged 0-13 years.
For more information please telephone 0114 293 0984 or just come along on the day!

Sheffield *where everyone matters*





150 Years ago

Story: Christine Steers, with information courtesy of Albert Jackson

150 Years ago, most people were buried in church yards. In Sheffield and other big cities. This became a problem because too many bodies were polluting the ground water and the air smelled foul. Many of the diseases, cholera, dysentery etc, became rampant. An 1855 by-law decreed that no one should be buried in churchyards (except already purchased family graves) but only in cemeteries.

The Brightside Bierlow Burial Board commissioned the making of a cemetery in Burngreave, which at that time, was a semi rural area. The building, composing of two chapels joined by a carriage arch and clock tower, was designed by William Flockert and set in 27 acres of ground purchased from the Duke of Norfolk. Both the consecrated and un-consecrated (Dissenters) areas were opened in 1861 and the first burial was that of a five year old boy named Oscar Brooks.

All religions and faiths used the cemetery to bury their loved ones, including people from other countries who settled in Sheffield, mainly from the European and Asian Continents.

Sultan Mohamad. One such person was Sultan Mohamad. He was a colliery worker whose wife and two sons lived at home in India. He supported them from his wages but sadly was killed in an accident while at work. His employers, who said that he was a willing and hardworking man, purchased his grave and erected a stone to his memory.

Hubert Sugg. A solicitor during his lifetime, Hubert Sugg died at the early age of 38, leaving his wife Ellen and son Walter to cope alone. Walter grew up to be a talented sports man, playing cricket and football at first class level. Gradually, his business interests took over his sporting activities and he founded the sporting outfitters called H.B.B Sugg. It was a well known store in Sheffield but over the years it became unsustainable as a business and finally the name disappeared in December 2001.

Elizabeth Kreeft. Although the name Kreeft is thought to be Dutch, Elizabeth's family can be traced back in the late 1700s to Berlin in Germany, which in those days was a series of states with fluid boundaries. She was born in Barton on Humber, her father having arrived from London and marrying a local lady Christiana Ingram, who was of Scottish descent. Elizabeth married Albert Bottom, was widowed and married again.



Frank Wilson. Frank died at the young age of 25 in 1933. He was a member of the Young Communist League, the Spartacus Rambling Club and the Esperanto Club. Over four hundred people attended the funeral. Comrade George H. Fletcher, founder and owner of Fletcher's bakery and a lifelong member of the Communist Party, gave the speech at the graveside.

WW1 Soldiers. Many soldiers and civilians, casualties of the first and second World Wars are interred here. There is an official memorial (designed by Sir Ronald Blomfield) and a mass grave of soldiers who were injured on duty and sent to hospitals in Sheffield. Many are remembered on family headstones although they died and were buried in foreign lands.



In the late 1970s the cemetery became run down and had a neglected air. An improvement programme was carried out in 1980 and many of the headstones were removed or laid down as being unsafe. Funerals in the chapel building ceased in the 1990's and the grounds again became neglected, but in the last decade there have been many positive improvements. In 2003, Bereavement Services employed a gate warden and they have recently carried out some extra work on the

memorials and generally tidied up the grounds. The Friends group, formed in 2002, were allowed to meet in one of the chapels which is now open to the public where they have various exhibitions, guided walks and events.

150th Anniversary of Burngreave Cemetery

Sunday 17th April 9am – 4pm

Melrose Road, Sheffield S3 9DN or Scott Road (pedestrian access only)

We are inviting you to visit us in Sheffield on this day to mark the fact that the Cemetery has been open for 150 years.

The main event will be at **1.45pm**, a "Promenade" – a series of vignettes written and performed by Burngreave Promenade Players depicting the stories of some of those buried in the Cemetery.

There will also be an exhibition, information about Burials and Headstones, history of the cemetery buildings and grounds, an ecological display and large street maps of the area from 1850 onwards.

Refreshments and a wheelchair access toilet are also provided.



Visit our website for more information and details of how to get there.

**For further information contact:
Steve: 0114 242 4174
Christine: 0114 281 6950**

Event funded by North-East Community Assembly



Story: Smaira Sadique

In January this year, the children began thinking about what act they could perform in the first ever Byron Wood's Got Talent!

Each class held auditions and decided which acts would go forward to the semi finals. There were two semi-finals - the acts performed while the rest of the

school decided who deserved to remain in the show. Children could be seen practicing their singing and dancing in the playground for weeks.

The long awaited final was held on 15th February; the stage was constructed, the lights checked, the music at the ready. The judges, Mr Carter, Mrs Ashton, Mrs Davies and Mr Surrudge, told the audience that they were looking for an act that showed originality and creativity.

The audience was buzzing with excitement, the parents had their cameras, this was no less exciting than the X Factor. The judges awarded each act points but waited until the end for the results. The audience waited with baited breath for the winner to be announced...in first place was Bilal Yousef who wowed everyone with his skipping skills; in 2nd place was Asmahan Awadh, who performed an Arabic dance and third place was given to Irfaan Parwez who it seems is a natural at performing circus tricks.

If you look up the word 'Talent' in the dictionary it says; a person or persons with exceptional ability, that definitely describes Byron Wood children, they were outstanding!

World record attempt

Story: Lydia Flanagan



On 1st March, Byron Wood School took part in a Guinness World Record attempt to have the biggest game of heads, shoulders, knees and toes, ever!

Byron Wood was one of many schools taking part in this Chatterbox Challenge event for charity ICAN, who raise money to support children with communication problems. It's songs like heads, shoulders, knees, and toes that teach children the relation of words to actions and meaning.

To make sure the record was met, the young children had to be on the playground ready to start at exactly 11am, and they had to keep going for 5 minutes. Three adjudicators were at the event to witness and confirm the record attempt went to plan.

The current record was set by Butcombe Pre-Preparatory School in Bristol in October 2007 with 448 pupils participating. Kate Freeman, who is a senior member of the charity ICAN, said that on the day around 100,000 people took part in the event. Whether the record has been broken or not is yet to be heard, but the figures look promising!

Firvale's got talent

Story: Vivien Urwodhi



Firvale's Got Talent was organised by the Creative Arts Department to discover the most talented young people in their school.

Pupils, parents and teachers attended to support their school's local talent show, which aimed to raise funds to provide better facilities for drama and other future school productions. Many of the young people volunteered to participate in the competition, with different genres of performance including singing, acting and dancing.

Before the close of the show, voting took place. The winner was Hassan Khan, who sang in Arabic, his voice was absolutely stunning. He was called to the stage to receive a trophy with the runners-up. The show was the first of its type run by the school, hopefully the first of many!

School and community celebrate

Story: Liz Smith

St Catherine's school and the local Firshill community celebrated St Patrick's Day and Comic Relief Day on 17th March. Everyone was asked to dress up in green and red.

The Agewell Craft Group met in the morning for a demonstration of flower arranging and made some beautiful displays before staying on for lunch in the Community Café prepared by Team AJ (Alison and Joanne, volunteers from the Parent Forum). Adult Learners from the Sheffield College English and Maths courses also came to the lunch, which is provided every Thursday during term time and is open to everyone.



The School Council and the Sultana Gang had a Fairtrade Stall selling chocolate, sultanas and snacks and some of the Year 6 children were selling cupcakes or washing cars outside as part of their Tenner Tycoon project, a national competition to promote enterprise in schools. We also had a visit from our neighbours at Firs Hill School who brought in red noses to sell to adults and children.

The Agewell Craft Group meets every Thursday morning in the Crescent Community Centre, they get involved in a wide range of craft activities including card making, glass painting and rug



making. If you are interested in joining the group, please get in touch with Mrs Marjorie Thorpe c/o the Crescent Community Centre.

The Crescent Community Centre Management Group will be holding its first Annual General Meeting on Monday 11th July at 6pm, members of the community are very welcome to attend.

For more information about activities in the Crescent Community Centre, or to find out about booking the hall for an event, please phone 0114 218 9730, or call into the school office.

Whiteways reaches out

Story & photos: Usha Blackham



Over the years Whiteways Primary School has been trying our best to reach out to parents, carers and people in the community starting from family learning to families getting involved in school activities.



We have reading mornings which give parents a chance to come and read with their children. We also have books in many languages so children have the chance to boost their first language. Thanks to Sue Aldred our EAL co-ordinator and her team for making this work and to parents for attending.

We run charity fund raising events each year. For Comic Relief in 2007 we raised £275.83, 2009 £700.18, in 2010 £583.68 and on Friday 18th March this year - £868.88. Money was also raised for Children in Need.



We are so pleased to have such a good parental involvement in our events and children's wellbeing. Our winter mela 2011 was a fantastic event lots and lots about Wild Life; African drumming packed the hall with a teachers and pupils multicultural fashion show and children performing Indian Arabic and Slovakian dance. Each Year had their own enterprise projects. It was really good to see children showing their own products and parents and other visitors taking part.

Watoto Red Nose Day

Red nose day was marked at Watoto Preschool with a day of fancy dress, raffles and a cake stall.

All children, staff and parent/carers made this a successful fundraising event. The children made positive contributions towards this day and had lots of fun in the meantime.

We would like to thank all those who made this event worthwhile.





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Telephone: 0114 273 4785



History on your doorstep

Story: Elizabeth Shaw

Local resident, Tom Barnard, an archaeology student at Sheffield University lives next to Osgathorpe Park. Digging up pieces of worked bone in his garden led to a five-month archaeological dig that could put Osgathorpe Park on the map as an historical site. The Messenger went to meet him at the University Archaeology Department to find out more.

We started by looking at some pieces of bone, some of Tom's earliest finds. He explained how marks on the cross section of bone indicated it had been sawn to use for bone handles within Sheffield's cutlery industry and dated to the mid 17th century.

Osgathorpe Cottage

Tom explained how his garden had once been within the site of Osgathorpe Cottage, which had a number of outbuildings used for metal working. The cottage, demolished in the 1970s, had stood since the 16th century. Tom explained how aerial photography and a geophysical survey had shown up where a boundary ditch had been. Tom was intrigued, so the dig focused on an area three metres by seven overlapping the trench area.

Pipes from the 17th Century

Among the finds were clay pipe bowls for smoking tobacco, which have been dated between 1630-1670. The pipe stem was very long so the smoker would sit with the pipe bowl resting on a table. Dating of a pipe bowl can be accurate to within one-third of a century by noting the angle of the bowl to the stem. This has helped to date other finds in the dig.



The revolution in metal work

A large amount of smelting waste was found, which at first sight looks like lumps of clay, but is much heavier. Tom explained this was formed when flakes of iron came off during the heating process. This waste can also be dated by the presence of coke (more recent) or charcoal (earlier period) which were used in the fire, and shows the changing processes as metal technology developed. Tom said,

"This dig shows that the site of Osgathorpe Cottage was important in the early metal production of Sheffield."

Medieval find

Tom made a rough sketch of the excavation area showing a workshop area above the trench. The trench itself revealed stone walling, which was found to be a typical medieval drying kiln, perhaps for wood or crops. It was in this burning area that he made one of the most exciting finds, several sherds (fragments) of Lincolnshire shell-tempered pottery. This ceramic, dated between the 11th and 14th centuries, would have been a part of a rim and body of a large vessel for holding water, for quenching thirst or dowsing the fire of the kiln.

The exciting thing about these discoveries is that it takes us back to the foundations of Sheffield industry, the very beginnings of smelting iron. With evidence of medieval activity, Tom has found valuable links in Osgathorpe's long history, from its Norse origins as 'Osga's Farm.'

Eventually, Tom would like to set up an information point in the park with diagrammes, photographs and information about his finds. He said,

"I'd like people to know what used to happen here and how important Osgathorpe has been in Sheffield's past. We should be proud of our area and its rich heritage."

Parkwood walk

Story: Douglas Johnson

Photos: Catherine Brown

Some days just feel like spring; on such a day the Friends of Parkwood Springs and Sheffield Rangers arranged a guided walk of the site.



Led by commentary from ranger Jon Sharrocks, a dozen or so people walked from Little Pear Tree Field, past the Forest Garden, up to the point with the most amazing views over western Sheffield and back again.

Parkwood Springs fascinates because the traces of so many types of human activity can be found. World War II was particularly busy, with the site of an anti-aircraft gun battery and remains of munitions huts to be found at the top of the hill. The group also viewed the remains of the old Parkwood estate which once housed 2000 people: now only traces of roads remain.

On the hillside itself, work done by many different people is beginning to pay off, as the whole area returns to the type of sustainable, mixed-use woodland it was hundreds of years ago.

The rangers plan further guided walks, including a Fir Vale History Walk on Wednesday 18th May. Meet at the Barnsley Road entrance to the Northern General at 12 noon.



The Friends of Parkwood Springs can be contacted at parkwood.springs@gmail.com or on www.parkwood-springs.org.uk

Finding refuge at Greenfingers

Story: Tim Neal

In February, the Welcome Centre hosted a shared meal and short film show to launch a new project run by SAGE Greenfingers. From their base at Grimesthorpe Allotments, SAGE Greenfingers, an established local charity, offers creative therapeutic activities to a community of adults experiencing mental health problems (www.sagesheffield.org.uk).

John Lawson introduced the new Refugee and Asylum Seeker Project, funded through Ecominds, a Big Lottery grant managed by Mind. This project hopes to enable 20 refugees and asylum seekers



with mental health concerns to work alongside other members on the Greenfingers allotments over the next year or so. Workers and volunteers from many Sheffield based food growing initiatives attended the evening as well as a number of refugees and asylum seekers.

Continuing with the theme of asylum and

allotments, in early March the Welcome Centre showed "Grow Your Own". This film, a comedy, fictionalises the arrival of a number of refugees and asylum seekers on a 'typical' allotment site somewhere in Lancashire. Within the comic setting of cantankerous northerners, the film allows the painful stories of the refugees to be told. There was a large audience for this event who were all moved by the film as well as having a good laugh. The film highlighted the way that growing vegetables and flowers, together with a supportive group of people, can help improve life for people in distress.

There is a strong network of local allotment projects and anyone interested should email the Messenger for further information. If anyone would like to find out more or knows of refugees/asylum seekers or others who might benefit from the work of SAGE Greenfingers, contact them on: enquiries@sagesheffield.org.uk.



Community Forestry season...

Story: Leonie Kapadia, Community Forestry Development Officer

Look out for the new trees that have been planted in our area this winter:

Firth Park

Ten new trees were planted at Firth Park in February funded by the Friends of Firth Park and the North East Community Assembly's Climate Change Fund. Five replaced those vandalised in the summer at the Vivien Road end of the Park and 5 more were planted around the centre.

On 17th Feb. the Sure Start gardening and the Friends Groups, Hucklow Primary School pupils & The Lord Mayor - Cllr Alan Law 'dug' in. On 21st Feb nursery pupils from First Start and the Brushes Busy Kids group got stuck in too.

Firshill Estate

The Sheaf horticulture dept has been working with the Firshill TARA since the New Year, clearing, and hopefully replanting, a neglected area between the estate and Sheaf Training, with ornamental and water-loving plants. On March 9th, students planted 3 Yoshino Cherries (*Prunus x yedoensis*) originating from Japan, and a Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) - a tree which was discovered in China in the 1940s.

John Absom from Sheaf Training said "On April 12th we will be having a 'community action' day to get everyone involved - Sheffield Homes and the Police have already shown an interest and I'm hoping to get Kier and Street Force involved as well."

Abbeyfield Park

This winter a new lime tree took the place of the diseased mature beech tree that was felled in the park last year.

Burngreave Rec

In April, following the completion of the site works currently taking place on the Rec, four new trees should be planted at the top of Burngreave Bank.

Parkwood Springs

On March 28th, the Pitsmoor Road Community Payback team, worked on the Forest Garden at Parkwood Springs, planting new trees and shrubs as well as a



general clean up. A further workday is planned for April or May to continue planting the herb and ground cover layer.

The future

The Community Forestry Team has been reduced from four full time posts to three (full time equivalent) for 2011-12. The team is now our manager Tim, and three foresters, but all staff will become part-time. Since Community Assemblies began we now cover all 28 city wards. This means trees can be planted in all areas of the city, but with a zero budget, the year ahead looks challenging. If you wish to see more trees planted in our area, it is now more important than ever that you petition your Community Assembly.

Telephone: 0114 2734190

Mobile: 07976 988 627

Census 2011

The census is a count of all the people and households in England and Wales which happens every 10 years. Every household will have received a questionnaire from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) which must be filled in for 27th March 2011.

What is the census used for?

The census is vitally important for communities. All sorts of decisions are taken based on census statistics, for example, where new housing needs to be built, or where to locate leisure centres, schools, hospitals and fire engines. Numbers of school places, development of traffic systems and funding for local authorities are all heavily influenced by the census.

It's straightforward

Completing the census is straightforward. Most questions can be answered by simply clicking, or ticking, in a box. The form comes with a pre-paid envelope to return in the post, or it can be completed online www.census.gov.uk.

Your census answers are confidential

Personal census information is never shared with any other government department, nationally, regionally, or locally. The information collected is kept confidential by ONS and protected by law for 100 years.

Help and support is available

Support is available online at www.census.gov.uk.

Local completion events have also been planned at libraries, community centres, schools near you. Look out for posters advertising these events.

Information about the census has been translated into many languages including Arabic, Urdu, Somali, Kurdish and Slovak. Call the helpline on 0300 0201 101.

Census collectors

If you do not complete your questionnaire on time, census collectors will visit your house to remind you to fill in your questionnaire. If you are having difficulties or you have questions about the form, the census collector can help you. They will have a photo identity card to confirm they are a census collector.

Easter holidays

Sports Camp - Cricket and football

Firvale School, Owler Lane
Age: 8-16 years
Tuesdays 12th and 19th, Thursdays 14th and 21st April, 1.00pm - 5.00pm,
Call Activity Sheffield 273 4266
or Imran on 07768 888 716

Sport in the Park

Age: 8-16 years
Firth Park - Mondays 11th & 18th April
Abbeyfield Park - Wednesdays 13th & 20th April
Osgathorpe Park - Thursdays 14th & 21st April
4.00pm - 6.00pm
Contact Activity Sheffield on 273 4266

Activity Camp Unleashed, Multisports

Firth Park Community Arts College
Age: 8-16 years
Mondays 11th & 18th, Tuesdays 12th & 19th, Wednesdays 13th & 20th April
11.00am - 3.00pm, £2
Bring a packed lunch and a drink
Booking essential, call Activity Sheffield 273 4266

Osgathorpe Park Pavilion

Open Access Youth Club
Age: 13 - 19 years
Monday 11th April - Firvale Youth Group
Thursday 14th, Friday 15th April with Earlmarsal Connexions
6.00pm - 8.30pm

Verdon Recreation Centre Sports Camp, Arts and crafts

Age: 8-13 years (Under 8s with an adult)
Mondays 11th & 18th, Tuesdays 12th & 19th, Thursdays 14th & 21st April
2.00pm - 4.00pm
With Activity Sheffield
Call Verdon Recreation Centre 2491626

Taekwondo

Age: 6 years upwards
Tuesdays 12th & 19th, Friday 14th April
6.00pm - 7.30pm
Under 18's £2.50, Over 18's £3.50
Call Verdon Recreation Centre 2491626

PITS Youth Club

Age: 8 upwards
Wednesdays 13th and 20th April
6.00pm - 8.00pm
Call Verdon Recreation Centre 2491626

All Saints Community Centre

Open Access Youth Club
Age: 13-19 years
Tuesday 11th, Wednesday 14th, Friday 15th April, 6.30pm - 9.00pm
Contact All Saints on 256 0246
Extra Easter activities, contact the centre for more information.

Pitsmoor Adventure Playground

Age: 8-13 years (Under 8s with an adult)
Tuesday 12th - Saturday 23rd April
12noon - 6.00pm
Adventurous outdoor fun, arts and crafts, sports and game. Plus Easter activities
Contact the Playground on 203 9394.

Abbeyfield Park Festival 2011

Story: Richard Belbin - Festival volunteer

This years Festival will take place on Sunday 10th July 1-6pm.

Volunteers for Abbeyfield Park Multicultural Festival are setting up a new, independent organisation for the festival. Many of last years volunteers are involved, there are also some new faces. We will still be putting on the same festival that has been such a success over the last two decades, with stage and music acts, children's area, stalls and much more.

This year we are looking to raise sponsorship from companies and organisations to help cover the costs. In earlier years the festival was funded by New Deal, and then by a variety of smaller grants, many of which are no longer available. So, we are looking at new ways of raising money.

The festival will remain free entry. We



will not try to raise money going door to door, and if anyone does so claiming to be from the Festival - they're not!

To book a stall for the festival, please mail apmf.stalls@gmail.com, food stalls apmf.food@gmail.com.

If you are interested in appearing on stage, mail apmf.acts@gmail.com.

For general information, mail apmf.festival@gmail.com.

Or call 07415 414 499.

Further information will be available on the Messenger website, and on our blog

<http://abbeyfieldparkmulticulturalfestival.wordpress.com>.

Sheffield Youth Council's Holly

Story: Colombine Neal

Holly Pool is an ambitious 17 year old girl from Burngreave, Pitsmoore, who went to Firshill Primary School and now King Egbert Sixth Form in Totley where she is doing her A-levels.

She decided to stand for Sheffield Youth Council a few months ago and has now been elected to represent the North East of Sheffield :- Burngreave, Firth Park, Shiregreen, Brightside and Southey. To say that she has a lot on her hands is putting it mildly, but she seems to be a very focussed, confident and generally enthusiastic and happy person. The Messenger caught up with her to find out why, how and where she is going and how the youth of the North East of Sheffield can participate.

So Holly, why exactly did you stand and how did you hear about it?

I stood for Sheffield Youth Council because I felt that I have enough experience. I was the chair of my school council in year 11 and got a feel for working with adults and students alike. We had a guest speaker called Tess come to talk to us about the Sheffield Youth Council and if we wanted to get involved. I chose to stand for the North East because I believe it fits with where I have grown up and my personality and I feel like I would have more to offer. There are two from each area, me and a boy called



Bilal, from Firvale, who got elected.

What are you doing right now and how can we contact you?

We want to find a way to communicate with the north east, so I have created an email address, Holly.YouthCouncil@hotmail.com, through which people generally aged 11-21 can contact me with problems or questions, things they want changed or questions they have about the way the city or the area is being run and I will do my best to find them answers. We also have representatives from the Lesbian, gay and bisexual group, and people who are from different ethnic groups, carers and children with learning difficulties or disabilities. So you have a wide range of people who then get together and discuss what you want.

Is there a main issue or goal you would like to address?

One of the main goals I have whilst on this committee is the way the people in this area are represented. All we ever get

is negative press. You never get to hear, for example, what the young people are doing, about the youth groups, the church groups, the many great organizations, and generally the amazing things about this area. Like the whole culture which is incredible. The reputation of an area is quite important. We have loads to offer and I think that that isn't being shown. I am not sure how yet, but I am going to find a way to boost this reputation.

Holly seems to have a great set of ideals which will surely be achieved in time and if you want to read the full interview please go to the Messengers website www.burngreavemessenger.org.

So just to remind you, please join in, voice your opinions, and get in contact with her at Holly.YouthCouncil@hotmail.com and a website with a wide range of information you can have a look at: www.sheffyc.org.uk



High hopes

Story & Photos: Jenny Tibbles

Young people, parents, staff and trustees from Ellesmere Youth Project headed out on a cold January morning for a sponsored abseil.

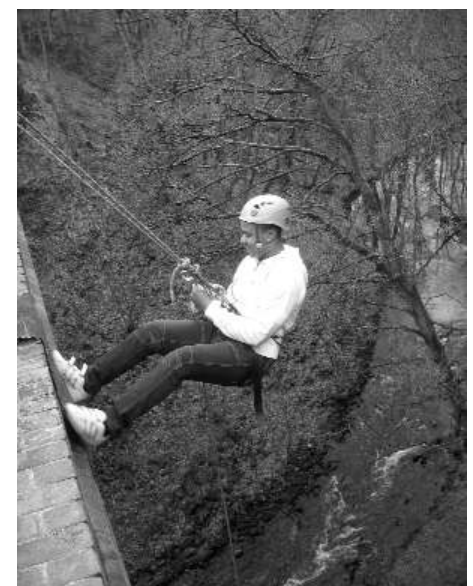
After looking at the 75-foot drop from the old railway station at Millers Dale, everyone was nervous, even the old hands. But after encouragement and hot chocolate, everyone made their way down. Star of the show Zoë, aged 11, abseiled five times after initially refusing to go.

'It was brilliant', said youth work apprentice, Tabijah, 'I felt like I'd conquered a fear. Everyone was really good in encouraging each other to take part'.



The event was a great success and raised over £463.

EYP is looking to recruit new trustees - abseiling is not compulsory! We particularly welcome applications from women and BME communities to increase the diversity of our committee. If



interested, please email info@eyproject.org.uk or speak to Jenny on 0114 213 3120 or 07886 777 068.



Heart Of The Community Awards

The North East Community Assembly 'Heart of the Community' awards recognise those who have gone the extra mile in the community.

The unsung heroes and heroines living in the local community were given special awards at this ceremony to thank them for going beyond the call of duty. Twenty individuals and groups were nominated in the Burngreave Ward and Councillors chose three to receive an award.

The ceremony included some touching and some heartbreaking winners. A group of young people who organise activities for other young people from Yemeni, Somali and Pakistani backgrounds who call themselves The High Flyers were given an award. Also Ricky Bennett who has recently retired after 25 years service with SADACCA.

Wendy Skelton (67) from Wincobank nominated the third award winner, Gwendoline Sanderson, who has been a Brown Owl and District Leader for over 60 years. Wendy says: "It will be brilliant to see Gwen get the recognition she deserves. Through her dedication to guiding she has touched hundreds of lives.

"I was in Gwen's Brownie pack at



Gwendoline Sanderson, Wendy Skelton who nominated her and Alison Rayner, North East Assembly Manager.

St Cuthbert's in 1951, and the guidance she gave us then has stood the test of time. She taught me the value of giving before you receive. We are the people we are today because of the support we received from Gwen in our younger lives."

The North East Community Assembly area is in the shape of a heart, and the award was a small clock engraved with a heart.

You are invited to share a sandwich with local Councillors from 5.30pm. They will be discussing and agreeing funding allocations for the discretionary and highways budgets. There will also be a report from the Parks Officer.

Public meeting

You are invited to the next North East Community Assembly meeting will be on Wednesday 27th April. 6-8pm at Shirecliffe Community Centre, 349 Shirecliffe Road, S5 8XJ.

Progress Report on the Burngreave Ward Plan

Vicky Williams, Planning and Performance Officer gave a progress report at the Burngreave Ward meeting on 16th March on projects funded at the end of the year.

Overgrown street trees have been pruned on the Norwood and Bishopholme estate and other areas (Abbeyfield/Firshill) will be covered next financial year

Two extra Bring Out Your Rubbish Days took place in the Scott Road and Crabtree areas in March

The Neighbourhood Environmental Action Team had been working to tidy up areas not normally maintained by the Council. Since October a project has been taking place on the Carwood estate with the support of the TARA and Sheffield Homes

£20,000 has been committed to match fund the project to redevelop Burngreave Recreation Ground and Play Builder funds have been secured for improvement to Denholme Park

£10,000 had been given to 33 community groups during the year through the community chest

Funds had been provided to update the Carwood shop to become a TARA office and some funding provided for publicity for a Jobs Fair

More information on the progress of the Burngreave Ward Plan can be downloaded from www.sheffield.gov.uk/northeast

A full list of the year's spending can be found on the website.

Contact us on 203 7562, email communityassemblynortheast@sheffield.gov.uk, or writing to: Firth Park Library, 443 Firth Park Road, Sheffield, S5 6QQ.

Councillor Surgery Dates

9th April: Talib Hussain,
11am-12pm Burngreave Library,
12.15pm-1pm Firshill TARA

19th April: Jackie Drayton,
11am-12pm Shirecliffe Community
Centre, 12.15pm-1pm Norwood and
Bishopholme TARA

21st April: Jackie Drayton,
2pm -3pm Pakistan Advice Centre

23rd April: Ibrar Hussain, 11am-12pm
Burngreave Library

14th May
11am-12pm Burngreave Library,
12.15pm-1pm Firshill TARA

17th May: Talib Hussain, 11am-12pm
Shirecliffe Community Centre,
12.15pm-1pm Norwood and
Bishopholme TARA

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

28th May: Jackie Drayton,
11am-12pm Burngreave Library



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

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

Pitsmoor convenience store supports Firs Hill

Pitsmoor Convenience Store donated 192 bottles of water to Firshill School in February.

Shop owner Harry Singh said, "We've been supplying the school with water for about 5 years. We started giving them for free this year as we want to help the school so they can buy equipment."

His son Arron said, "We want to give something back to the community, many of our customers go to the school."



Firshill School said, "We just wanted to say thank you to Pitsmoor store. The money we raised will be used to buy sports equipment for pupils to use at break and lunch times."

Byron Wood Primary is visited by aliens!

Story: Smaira Sadique

On 14th March 2011, the children of Byron Wood Primary School were introduced to Mr Zingroll, an alien ambassador from the alien Croot race, a race without legs.



A balloon powered vehicle for Mr Zingroll and his race to use.



His people need to find a way to move around their new planet without polluting it, so would like to investigate how animals and people on Earth move around. As all the scientists on Earth appear busy he asked for our help.

All week the children have been involved in Science projects to answer this problem. The whole school have been involved, doing experiments and investigations, researching animals and trialling different ideas.

Mr Surridge Assistant Head Teacher said:

"Any visitors to our school this week would have found children making rockets powered by water, cars powered by balloons or elastic bands, and turbines powered by the wind. Pupils have suggested what the alien's skeleton might look like and have tried to copy different animal movements to try and find one which is suitable for Mr Zingroll. They have learnt all about the Solar System and experimented with friction.

"It has been a fantastic and fun week, but at the heart of everything has been science - giving the children a chance to investigate different problems and, hopefully, helping them see how fascinating and varied science can be."

Firvale builds a gate



Story: Firvale School students

As part of Citizenship Day at Firvale School on 24th March, and in an effort to build positive relationships in the community, eight students and several staff set out to build and fix a gate. The gate will prevent access to a private landlord's property used by local young people as a 'hang-out' and smoking area.

"We had to cut and sand the posts, measure the pieces and fit it all together! We varnished the wood and made it sparkle! We tried to make the project sustainable by using mostly reclaimed materials."

Students feel that local residents often blame them for litter, sometimes with good cause, but it can also be others who are the worst offenders, and they wanted to show that most Firvale students are doing the right thing.

"It was nice for local residents to see our school helping clean up around the area."

The students also worked with the Streetforce Community Team to think about the impact of litter around the school.

"We went out in teams to litter-pick the area, and came back with bags of rubbish and some stories too! We knew that even after picking most of it up, by lunchtime the litter would most definitely be back! The worst part of the day was when we found a dead RAT in the middle of the patch we were clearing!"

Doing this activity changed the way the students saw the environment around the school and made them realise what a difference they can make.

"By just throwing your litter in the bin it helps make our community a cleaner and better place."



Musical at St Peters

Story: Vivien Urwodhi & John Mellor
Photos: Vivien Urwodhi

St Peter's Ellesmere welcomed Roger Jones on Saturday 12th March to present his new musical 'Two Sisters and a Funeral'. Roger comes from Birmingham and brought a talented team of soloists and instrumentalists with him – all volunteers of professional standard.

The musical is based on the moving story of Mary, Martha and Lazarus. When Lazarus dies, the two sisters send for Jesus, who brings Lazarus back to life. The musical continues with subsequent events leading to the trial, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, central historical events of the Christian story. The leading role of Lazarus was taken by Devon Brown whose rich bass voice and keen sense of humour were a highlight of the performance.

Roger has been writing Christian musicals since the 1970s when he taught music in an inner city comprehensive school in

Birmingham. The enthusiastic response to these led to the setting up of Christian Music Ministries which has supported Roger's prolific musical output since 1984. He has previously visited various venues in Sheffield with some of his earlier musicals, as part of national and international tours, including 'Angel Voices', 'Wildfire', 'Pharisee', 'Jail Break' and 'Rock'.

A 60-strong choir from different parts of Sheffield arrived at 11am to start rehearsing the musical, under Roger's direction, with a public performance at 5pm to a capacity audience who greatly appreciated the special quality of the music. Comments included:

"Wonderful, amazing, quite stunning!"

"It brought the story to life in a very refreshing way."

The event was the highlight of St Peter's 30th anniversary celebrations.

There are plans to have a short video of the day on the Burngreave Messenger website shortly.

Investing in people and diversity



The Yemehi Community Association is very proud to have been awarded the 'Investors in People' and 'Investors in Diversity' quality standards. This is a recognition of the high quality services we deliver to ensure the needs of the community are effectively met.

We are proud to have a strong, enthusiastic and diverse work force whose passion and commitment to helping people in the community helps to drive the organisation forward.

The assessor commented:

'Recognition should be made to the team for their achievements to date and for the outstanding team spirit that exists. Learning is at the heart of everything YCA does and there are good examples of how learning has helped them develop. There is a 'can do' attitude running throughout the organisation'

The YCA delivers high quality services for young people, including study support, ESOL and activities to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

PACA wins Diversity of the Year Award

Story: Lisa Harrison

On 18th February 2011, the Pakistan Advice and Community Association (PACA) won the prestigious 'Diversity of the Year' award from South Yorkshire Police.



The award is an acknowledgement of the extensive work carried out with people from all backgrounds to improve social inclusion and community cohesion in the North East Sheffield area by PACA projects.

Through identifying local needs, these projects have improved employment opportunities, knowledge of the English language and culture and given people a say in how local services are run. Citizenship sessions have improved understanding among new migrants of their rights and responsibilities in the UK. These services have been very successful, and PACA sees users from a very broad range of backgrounds, with the range of different groups served growing exponentially year on year.

In the present economic climate PACA is endeavouring to improve the situation faced by individuals in the community, by providing support tailored to their needs.

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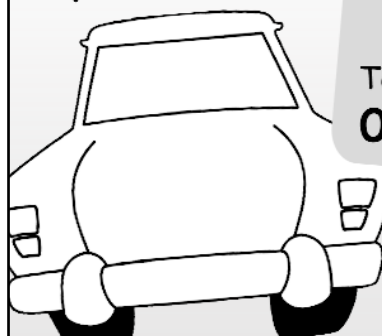
At Yemeni Community Association,
Firvale Centre, 2nd Floor, Earl Marshall Road.

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