



## Tesco prepares to open on Spital Hill



It's been a long time coming but the Tesco on Spital Hill is due to open on 31st October.

This huge store – over 70,000 square feet of retail space – will change the area significantly. Many residents say they welcome a supermarket close by and expect more jobs; others fear it will damage other local businesses and make traffic worse.

This issue the Messenger reports the views of local businesses, as the opening draws near, and residents' experiences of the recent recruitment process.

See pages 4 - 5 for our full feature.

## International confectioners arrive in Fir Vale

Story: Rohan Francis

Shoppers in Fir Vale will be able to satisfy their sweet tooth when Kashmir Crown Bakery, the biggest Asian sweet and confectionery manufacturers in Europe, opens its first South Yorkshire store in Fir Vale on 28th September.

Originally begun by proprietor Mohammed Saleem in 1969 with the tiny sum of £55, KCB has grown into a thriving business with outlets across the north-west and contracts to supply some of the country's largest retailers.

The Bradford baking giant has invested almost £200,000 in its premises at 502-504 Barnsley Road, transforming the interiors of two shops into one purpose



built retail space and bakery. Managing Director, Asif Saleem explained why they had decided to choose to open up here.

*"Many of our customers come from this area. People were regularly travelling from Rotherham and Sheffield all the way to Bradford for our products. We decided on Fir Vale because it has a good community, good transport links and*

*a thriving business centre. We are a family business and Fir Vale is somewhere we believe we can become established in the community and hopefully grow. We also hope to employ local people."*

The shop will produce and sell its own range of over 250 speciality celebration cakes, pastries, Methai and biscuits, the quality of which has earned the business the title 'The Mr Kipling of Asian sweets'. A deli bar will also serve savoury snacks, sandwiches and paninis.

**Kashmir Crown Bakery will open its doors on 28th September with a special celebration featuring 10% discounts on all products on 28th and 29th September.**

**KASHMIR CROWN BAKERIES & SWEETS**



# Green City Action

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

## Organic Gardening: FREE Autumn Short Course

Four morning sessions 10am - 12 noon:

**Wednesday 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th OR  
Saturday 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, October**

At Green City Action's School for  
Vegetables, Plot 3, Grimsthorpe Allotments.

The course is for novice gardeners and will focus on:

- **Digging without backache** - use of tools, weed and root recognition
- **Soil fertility** - manure, garden compost and fertilisers
- **Making garden compost** - types of compost bins, composting materials, building a heap
- **Autumn seed sowing and planting**



To book your place on the course or for further details, contact Rob on 0114 244 0353 or E-mail [rob.bullock@greencityaction.org.uk](mailto:rob.bullock@greencityaction.org.uk)

[www.greencityaction.org.uk](http://www.greencityaction.org.uk). Registered Charity 1095725

## PLACES AVAILABLE Pitsmoor Lunch Club

Tuesday or Wednesday, 11.30am to 1.30pm

2 course meal plus drink: £2.50

Transport may be available

Ring 243 5333 to book a place



## Pitsmoor Memories Club

First Monday of month 12 - 2pm

Meet friends old and new

Light lunches available. Everyone welcome

Pitsmoor Methodist Church,  
Burngreave Road/Christchurch Road

## Attention all patients of:

**Burngreave Surgery**  
5 Burngreave Road  
Sheffield  
S3 9DA  
Tel: 08451 242 528

**Herries Road Surgery**  
450 Herries Road  
Sheffield  
S5 8TP  
Tel: 08451 243 331

Dr Mooney and Dr Hobden would like to invite you to attend for a seasonal **flu vaccination**.

If you are over the age of 65 or have one of the following - **asthma, COPD, diabetes, chronic liver or kidney disease, heart disease, stroke/tia**, if you have a **weakened immune system** or are **a carer** or are **currently pregnant** you need to **book your flu vaccination now**.

We are holding **drop-in clinics** at both surgeries on the following days:

**Burngreave**  
Wednesdays 5th, 12th and 19th October  
Time 8.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.

**Herries Rd**  
Tuesdays 4th, 11th and 18th October  
Time 10.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

If you are unable to attend one of the above sessions, please ring your receptionist on the number above to make an appointment in one of our nurse-led flu clinics.

## ESOL Entry 1, 2, 3 and Level 1 & 2, IELTS & Intermediary Classes and Employability Courses.

You will receive Mentor Support while you are on the course.

Days to be confirmed. Classes are 2 days a week for 10 weeks, 100 hours in total. More for IELTS.



- Ongoing until July 2012
- Cost: Free (proof of refugee status is essential)

The Yemeni Community Association delivers ESOL, and can be delivered at venues near you. The course is delivered by qualified tutors and runs until July.

ESOL courses are Trinity accredited. To join the course you need to have the following status: Refugee, Subsidiary Protection or Resettled person.

Males who qualify need to be 16 -24 years of age. Females any age. Senior citizens may join too.

The venue has separate classes for men and women.

Crèche facilities are available.

Venue: Yemeni Community Association or a place near you!

Contact: Nasreen Iqbal on (0114) 256 0933



Actions co-financed by the  
European Refugee Fund III.  
'Working together to manage  
migration'

# Course fees campaign success!

Story: Douglas Johnson

**Local students and campaigners are celebrating the chance to keep on learning English.**

Classes in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) were threatened when the Government changed the rules so most people on benefits could no longer afford the classes. The only people still to qualify were those on jobseeker's allowance and actively looking for work. Most of the people excluded were women, many of whom need English to help in looking after children.

Previous steps in the campaign included a big meeting at the Fir Vale Centre with David Blunkett MP, where learners expressed their views. English was their key! They described how learning English had helped them manage in shops, with doctors and with neighbours and how this saved the Government money. Some learners took legal advice and the Law Centre challenged the Government on the lack of equality. Around the country, other groups were also taking action.

Success arrived in August when the Government announced a U-turn and allowed free or low cost courses for most of the learners. One student said,

*"I am so happy that I can study ESOL*



*this year. My husband receives income support because he is disabled. We could not afford the fees and so I was not going to learn this year. I am glad this has changed as I need to improve my English so I can deal with things myself and so I can help my children at school."*

Anesa Shaibi, who runs ESOL courses at the Yemeni Community Association said:

*"We are happy we don't need to send learners away but ESOL places are being filled straight away and we already have over 100 on the waiting list."*

ESOL tutor, Sandra Heilberg, said:

*"Firstly I just want to thank everyone who took part in the "key" campaign and the letter writing. It was great that everyone, even those with less English, could be involved and explain how important the classes are to them individually. We chose the symbol of the key because it represents opening doors. I hope it will be a reminder that people working together are powerful and can bring change. The fee campaign will have an impact on learners all over Sheffield but once again the people of Burngreave led the way."*

## Firs Hill dispute

Story: Lisa Swift

**More than 50 tenants and residents of Firs Hill met on 2nd September for what became a difficult, tense and occasionally angry meeting.**

People from the estate had already met in August to raise concerns about Firs Hill Tenants and Residents Association, and held a vote of no confidence. However, were as this was not arranged by the TARA committee, could not be classed as an association meeting, so the meeting in September was called.

There was a long debate about financial paperwork and a missing receipt, the details of which were difficult to understand for those who were not directly involved. The accounts have

already been examined independently, and activities have definitely happened, so it was clear that there is no money missing. The disagreement escalated to include concerns about how tenants' and residents' issues are dealt with and a dispute about the use of the TARA office.

Members of the committee defended their work strongly, explaining all the work they had done in the year, including supporting clean up days and attending many meetings.

Finally a vote of no confidence in the committee was called, 33 voted for the motion and 7 people against.

A Special Annual General Meeting has now been called, where tenants and residents can formally choose who will be on the committee. It will be 6pm on Wednesday 5th October at Sheffield United Academy.



This issue we have the good news that the Lottery Fund has agreed to support the work of the Messenger over the next three years. This will go some way to support the work of what we hope you agree is a valuable community newspaper.

The Lottery funding comes after generous support from the Tudor Trust over recent years, plus, all our advertisers and the people who have given donations directly.

We thank you all. The Messenger isn't just a newspaper that comes through your door six times a year but is an organisation that supports a lot of voluntary activity in Burngreave.

We would like to invite to you our AGM on Saturday 12th November at 11am at Pitsmoor Methodist Church on Burngreave Road. As usual, we'll have a lunch and will report on what we've been doing over the last year. Please do come and join us.

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**Burngreave Messenger Ltd,**  
Abbeyfield Park House,  
Abbeyfield Road, Sheffield S4 7AT.  
Tel: (0114) 242 0564  
mail@burngreavemessenger.org  
www.burngreavemessenger.org

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**This issue's team:** Michelle Cook, Rohan Francis, Saleema Imam, Douglas Johnson, Jamie Marriott, John Mellor, Laura Moya, Colombine Neal, Tim Neal, Lisa Swift, Vivien Urwodhi. **Proofing and editing:** Annie Blindell, Fran Belbin, Richard Belbin, Smaira Sadique.



# Spital Hill prepares for Tesco

Story: Tahira Khan

In a month's time, Spital Hill will hold the opening of a new Tesco Extra store. The superstore will have a bakery, clothes outlet and more, in addition to the regular food items.

Some are content with the idea that a weekly shop can now be done closer to home. Others, like Rose Almond, who commented 'once the new one opens there will be five Tescos within around a five-minute drive from where I live,' feel there are enough already. So how much of an impact is the new store going to have on the local area?

## Local shops

Spital Hill is currently home to 6 grocery and butcher's shops and there is worry the new supermarket will drive customers out of local stores. The owner of Sultan's grocer's shop, Ahmed, outlined his concerns saying "It is going to change things a lot, I'm really worried about my business."

Dur Dur Store's owner said, "We will lose some of our customers but we can't do anything about it ... It could mean the shop has to close." Supermarkets can sell products that these local shops offer, at very competitive prices, because they benefit from economies of scale and

bulk-buying. High food prices all over the world indicate local shops won't be able to offer much competition.

## Specialist food

There was also concern at the prospect of Tesco selling Halal meat and specialist Asian, Arabic and Caribbean foods and spices. Many of the current shops say these are amongst their biggest sellers. There is speculation amongst some shop owners that Tesco may have agreed not to sell continental foods.

Local resident, Mohammed, felt a sense that Tesco is going to change things dramatically in Spital Hill. He says he

## Successful applicants

Story: Laura Moya

**The Tesco job guarantee scheme for the new Spital Hill store is now well underway. The scheme, which initially received around 900 applications, now has 120 trainees working together over an 8-week period in preparation for the store's opening.**

As part of their planning application and partnership agreement, Tesco had promised that local residents would benefit from employment opportunities. The process was open to those who were unemployed for 6 months and was promoted specifically in Burngreave and Fir Vale to give local residents the best chance possible of gaining a job at the new store on Spital Hill.

Each applicant attended an open day where they were given advice on a number of topics; such as interview techniques, literacy and completing the application form.

We interviewed four successful candidates: Jason, John, Roger, and a young mother, about their experiences and thoughts about the scheme and working for Tesco.

As a part of their training, candidates have been volunteering locally at St Peter's Church and Verdon Recreation Centre, doing jobs including gardening, painting, and tidying up.

"The training has been great." said the mother. "It boosts confidence and self-esteem, and gives you the chance to learn more about yourself." The work they have been doing has even "made people enthusiastic" by encouraging locals to get involved as well.

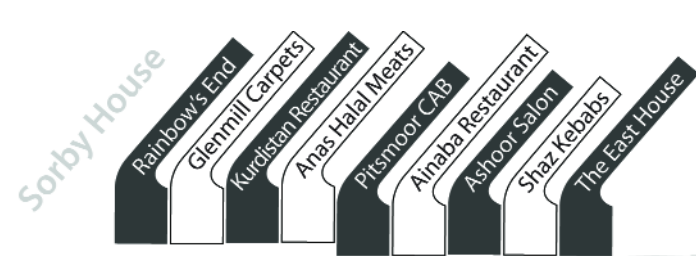


Along with the volunteering, team building exercises have been incorporated into the training, such as an assignment where they had to get into groups to promote Tesco and produce a radio jingle, poster and a newspaper article.

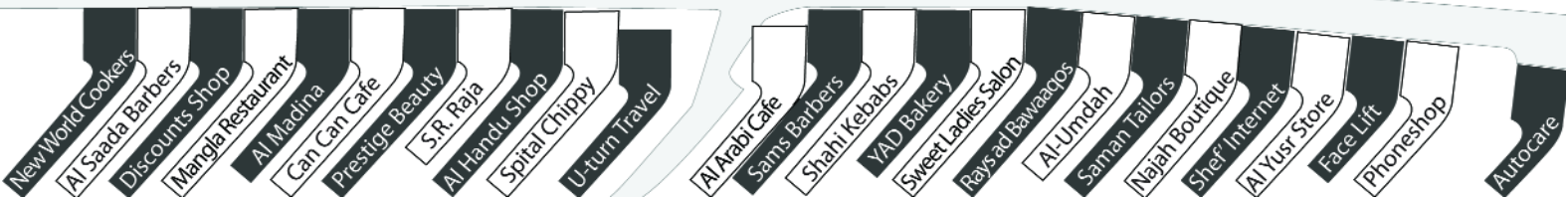
The scheme has also helped many people get back into work. Before being accepted, Jason was unemployed for three years due to a lack of jobs in engineering - his previous sector. Similarly, Roger was out of work for 12 years, and John hadn't worked since his old job at a nearby pub. "You know it will be decent work at Tesco," John said, "and it's close to home."

"Sheffield College, who have been providing the training, has done exceptionally well for all of us," said Roger. "It's important to feel satisfied in yourself."

Although some residents are worried about what will happen to the local community once the store has opened, the trainees are confident that it will have a positive effect: "It will change the face of it," they said.



TESCO



remembers when “years ago, the influx of continental food stores helped bring something new to the area; the low rent gave people opportunities to own businesses and improve their livelihood. Tesco looks as though it threatens the very thing that makes Spital Hill unique and this is worrying.”

### Traffic increase

Another point on many peoples’ minds is the increase in traffic. Already Spital Hill struggles during rush hours as cars, buses and people line the narrow roads to get into town. Although parking inside Tesco will be free, locals fear the movement of

cars into and out of the store will cause issues. Rainbow’s End staff said they “already have trouble with unloading deliveries and the traffic would make things a lot worse”.

There is the argument that shoppers using Tesco may be attracted to look at other shops in Spital Hill, although Yvonne from Rainbow’s End pointed out that “shoppers normally park their car, shop and then leave. Not many go for a walk around to other shops in the area.” Yvonne advocates building a relationship with Tesco, hoping that it will be able to help boost the area.

### Public arts

Tesco is arguably one step ahead, with improvements in the public realm and funding a public arts scheme - they are looking for local artists to create some artwork for the store. So there will be an investment on Tesco’s part, as well as an injection of jobs in an area where unemployment is high.

The full effects won’t be known for some time after the store actually opens its doors. As S&R Raja’s owner said, “we can’t do anything now except hope our customers are loyal”.

## Job disappointment

Story: Lisa Swift

**As well as the 120 jobs, the scheme also left 800 people disappointed. Some residents expressed concern that not enough jobs have gone to local residents.**

The Messenger spoke to Faysal, Mohammed and Hassan, who are all Somali and live near the Tesco store. They told us they know many people from the Somali community applied but they don’t know anyone who was successful.

Mohammed said, “the feeling in the community is we know a lot of people who were turned down. Some of them had experience and had worked in supermarkets before or got customer service skills but they were also unsuccessful.”

The selection process was quite involved - first an open day, then tests in literacy and numeracy, followed by sessions on interviews and filling in the application form. And finally a 20-minute interview.

Hassan said, “People put a lot of effort in,



researching about Tesco and preparing for the interview. Then all we get is a letter with no feedback. We were just told to go to the jobcentre.”

Faysal was concerned whether the new recruits reflected the local community and if the process had been more difficult for BME residents,

*“The interview panel did not have anyone from a BME background. They weren’t even from Sheffield so there was no understanding of the area. They asked, ‘Is there anything you do not want to do?’ It made me think, if I said I didn’t want to work with alcohol or meat, for faith reasons, it would go against me.”*

Another resident Logi, who is originally from Malaysia, told us she thought it was

a fair process but was still disappointed to be rejected.

*“I have previously worked as a secretary for a frozen food store in London before we moved to Sheffield. Also in Malaysia I had experience of customer service and working on checkouts.”*

Logi did not know anyone who was successful.

*“Some of the women I know also applied. They had experience and better English than me but were also rejected. My husband and I applied for jobs in the open recruitment in August but we were unsuccessful again.”*

Despite the let-down, Logi is still positive for the future.

*“I’m still applying for work. The process boosted my confidence really, the interview went well and the woman I spoke to was very positive.”*

The Messenger made several requests for the percentage of local people who were successful in the job guarantee scheme but this was not provided before we went to press. Instead, Tesco said the quality of applicants was very high and there was obviously a lot of competition for the jobs available.

# Improving mental health and well-being

Research suggests that one in four people will experience some kind of mental health problem in the course of a year. At any given time, one in six adults has a mental health problem of varying severity.

Problems with mental health and well-being are as

## Reducing inequality in mental health services

Story: Shima Nazir

High levels of mental illness amongst minority ethnic groups has been a cause for concern. For a very long time BME communities have experienced inequalities in their rates of mental illness, service experience and service outcome. BME groups are often over-represented in secondary mental health services.

Mental illness is still a taboo in lots of communities but this is even more common in BME communities. Often people feel embarrassed about their mental health difficulties and hide their problems, which affects people's ability and willingness to seek help. Some of the reasons behind this include stigma, cultural taboos, racism and discrimination, as well as the accessibility of services to different groups. This can mean that help is not sought until a crisis occurs.

*Yet, we know that early intervention and prevention leads to better outcomes.*

Many communities will initially seek help from religious groups. Mental illness in some BME groups is attributed to spirit possession, jinni, black magic or 'testing by God'.

The Sheffield Community Development Team has been working hard over the last 3 years to reduce the inequalities experienced by Sheffield's Black and Minority Ethnic community. We engage with communities and community organisations to have a dialogue about mental health. From this the team develops collaborative, preventative mental health strategies. We also work with statutory mental health to support them to develop and deliver culturally appropriate services.

## Maan, Somali Mental Health

For the last 20 years, Maan has been a first point of contact for the Somali community. With reductions in funding, staff have become part-time but they continue to provide support in mental health and tenancy needs, advice and information and they are helping people to access the right services. They have an open door policy, so can work with all communities. They have recently worked with Eritrean and Kurdish communities.

*One of the most important issues in mental health is to handle recovery in a holistic way that is appropriate for people's cultural needs. A cure often doesn't come quickly; recovery is a journey.*

Maan's 'Recovery Folder' is now available in Somali and gives advice and information about recovering from mental illness.

**Maan is at 8 Paradise Street, Sheffield S1 2DF.**  
**Tel: 275 8556 or e-mail [admin.maan@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:admin.maan@tiscali.co.uk)**

varied and distressing as those that affect our physical health. The articles on these two pages describe a range of projects that are effective at supporting some people with mental health problems. People may also need help and support from services such as GPs, counsellors, psychiatrists and mental health teams.

## Emotional Wellbeing Service for Pakistani Women

*Emotional Health and Wellbeing: Everyone's Business*

Are you experiencing any of the following?:

- Persistent low moods or constant stress
- Ongoing difficulty in sleeping or eating
- Feeling anxious, scared, confused, alone or helpless
- Unable to cope with day to day life and relationships
- Difficulty thinking clearly or making decisions
- Very negative thoughts including self harm
- Depression after having a baby

One in four of the population will experience serious problems with these issues at some time in their lives and the sooner that people seek help the more effective it can be.

Emotional Wellbeing Services aims to assist Pakistani Women to address the problems that they face in their lives by providing one-to-one support and, when appropriate, work in groups with organisations.

The service understands the barriers that Pakistani women face in seeking help with emotional wellbeing issues and the stigma that exists in the community. The emotional wellbeing service is CONFIDENTIAL (except in cases of harm to others). It is an NHS service and works closely with GPs, hospitals and psychiatrists.



The Pakistani Women's worker is based at SPACES North, 259 Pitsmoor Road, but works in communities in the North and East of Sheffield. Contact Rafieda Nabi on 07814 371 076.

## SACMHA Health and Social Care Company



SACMHA is a registered charity that offers support and advice for individuals of African and African-Caribbean origin who are experiencing mental health difficulties.

They organise lunch clubs and other groups, including a carers' group, men's group and women's group. They offer community outreach services, supported accommodation, run a day centre and offer home and hospital visiting. They provide an advocacy service and aim to train, inform and act on a consultancy basis to health care professionals.

SACMHA also supports the user-led Maat Probe Group, who have successfully campaigned to change the use of 'control and restraint' in hospitals.

**SACMHA, 84 Andover Street, Sheffield, S3 9EH**  
**Tel: 272 6393 Email: [admin@sacmha.org.uk](mailto:admin@sacmha.org.uk)**  
**<http://www.sacmha.org.uk>**

## Sheffield Mind and Body Project

### Looking after our mental as well as physical health - why is it important?

Our physical and mental health are closely linked. We know when we have something wrong with our bodies it affects our mood. And when we are feeling low, it affects how our bodies feel - we feel lethargic and any existing physical conditions feel much worse.

At Sheffield Mind and Body Project (SMBP), we know there are lots of simple things we can do to look after our mental health, just as we do with our physical health. If we do this, we can significantly reduce our chances of experiencing mental health problems, as well as improving our wellbeing in general. The SMBP approach can also aid the recovery of people experiencing mental health problems.

### What are we doing to help?

SMBP aims to equip people with the knowledge, practical strategies, confidence and motivation they need to make positive changes to their lifestyles. This benefits both aspects of health. We challenge the stigma of mental health by helping people realise it is one part of our general health and wellbeing and there are many things we can do to keep us well.

Our workshops and courses are suitable for everyone who is interested in improving their wellbeing, whether they are currently experiencing mental health problems or not.

### Workshops and courses in 2011

Please note that the cost of some of the sessions is a suggested donation which helps us to cover some of our costs. Do not worry if you cannot afford it - donations are made in a confidential donations tin.

**Women's wellbeing:** Tuesday 27th September for 6 weeks, 10.30am - 12noon. Pakistan Advice and Community Association, 127 Page Hall Road. Free

**Wellbeing Taster sessions:** Starting Tuesday 27th September for 10 weeks, 10.30am -12.30pm you can pick and choose which sessions you want to attend- please get in touch for more information. Sorby House, 42 Spital Hill. £1 per session

**Anger Management:** Courses full for 2011- Dates and times to be confirmed for 2012- please get in touch for more information. Free.

**Zumba fitness and Gold:** Starting Tuesday 1st November for 8 weeks, 10am - 11am and 11am - 12noon Firth Park Clock Tower. £3 per session

Contact Dawn Rowley (Project Coordinator) on 258 4489 or dawn@sheffieldmind.co.uk

## Growing well-being with SAGE Greenfingers

SAGE stands for Support Arts Gardening Education. We support adults experiencing a range of mental health issues, recognising that mental health is strongly linked to physical and social well-being.

Here we offer gardening activity on 5 south-facing sites overlooking the Don valley. A typical session involves gathering to plan activities over a cup of tea before spending the morning gardening independently or with others. Around 1pm everyone gathers to eat a lunch made by members from produce harvested that morning. We pride ourselves on the diversity of our project and, via funds from the Big Lottery Ecominds, we have recently been able to support more refugees and asylum seekers. We also run art & craft activities on site, occasional days out and the singing workshops (see below).



As the recession bites, fundraising has become more challenging. We have recently launched a "Friends of SAGE" scheme for local people keen to support our work via occasional workdays on site or in other ways. For more info please look at our website [www.sagesheffield.org.uk](http://www.sagesheffield.org.uk) or phone 274 3651.

## Singing is good for you!

**9 workshops for women from October to December in Burngreave.**

You may be a keen secret singer or singing with other people may never have crossed your mind, but the good news is that all of us have a singing voice. Learning to sing in harmony with others in a friendly group is really good for your physical and mental health too. Helen Lyle and Kate Thomas who work and live in Burngreave are offering a new opportunity to benefit from this therapeutic activity for women who would like to improve their mental health and build their confidence. A participant from a previous workshop said,

*"I didn't know I can sing - it feels right good! I am amazed!"*

**Workshops start on 20th October and will cost £2 each.**

The workshops are funded by the Postcode Lottery and organised through SAGE Greenfingers. Contact Greenfingers on 2743 651 or Kate on 242 5565 and leave us a contact number. Looking forward to singing with you!

## Primary Mental Health Care Project at Pitsmoor Surgery

Pitsmoor Primary Mental Health Care Project aims to promote recovery, integration and social inclusion. We provide direct support to individuals and their families, and provide group work opportunities to enhance mental and physical health. We are also involved in community development, working with local primary care, voluntary, private and statutory services.

Currently we support a Chairobics session, a health walk that runs from Pitsmoor Surgery, SAGE Greenfingers, and a knitting group. A new group will use a variety of creative activities (such as storytelling, writing, collage) to help reduce stress, and improve health and well-being.



## Focus on Ellesmere Green

Story: Colombine Neal | Photo: Douglas Johnson

**Ellesmere Green is a central point and meeting place in the community. Although it is in a relatively sorry state at the moment, it is an area of greenery and flowers amid the urban area.**

A major rat infestation, which threatens the recreational use of the area, is now being tackled by Environmental Health officers. A further step to rejuvenate the Green will be thinning out the trees. Councillors have commissioned a survey to identify how best to reduce the tree cover. Vicky Williams of the community Assembly says:

*“There is an existing masterplan for the Green which may need to be looked at again. It’s unlikely there will be a big sum of money to upgrade it all at once but there is currently a small budget for the Highways Department to maintain it.”*

Councillors would like to attract sponsorship to install new decorative winter lighting, but this cannot take place until the tree work has been completed. There is no definitive timescale for the improvement project but it has been included as an important priority in the new Community Assembly ward plan for 2011-13. It remains to be seen how the impact of the £371,500 that Tesco has to invest in “public realm” work on Spital Hill will improve Ellesmere Green.

## Duncan’s farewell

**A small group of friends and residents gathered at Ellesmere Green in July to mark the passing of one of Burngreave’s well-known characters.**

Memories were shared and words of prayer tied to branches of the ‘Interfaith Tree’.

Duncan Drummond died in Doncaster Prison in July and is buried in Leeds.



## Wicker flood defences

Story: Douglas Johnson | Photo: Lesley Bolton

**Flood defences are still planned for the Wicker and Nursery St but not on the scale originally intended - leading to more uncertainty for local businesses.**



Since the 2007 floods, trees and silt have been cleared from the river and planners have drawn up schemes to protect against future floods, including flood defences and a new riverside park on Nursery St.

However, these defences could cause more problems upstream and the plans may have to be reduced. In addition, the cost of the Nursery St defences has risen from £40,000 to £140,000 as a result of the proposed PFI (Private Finance Initiative) road scheme.

Businesses in the Wicker Forum have expressed disappointment at the changes and invited councillors to visit the area. Many have found it difficult to get insurance because of the flood risk. The Forum will also be looking at the impact of Tesco on local businesses and on the area.

### Wicker chemist

As part of their 60th anniversary celebrations, Wicker Pharmacy are looking for people with memories of the pharmacy or of the Wicker from 1952. If you remember the area at that time, please contact Ellie Bennett at the pharmacy on 253 6868.

## “Allcomers” at Vestry Hall

Story: John Mellor

**The Vestry Hall is back in action after flooding but, for the last few months, “Allcomers” (formerly “Launchpad”) endured cramped conditions on the top floor.**

Sue Lane, who runs the project, told me:

*“Allcomers’ is a project working with adults with learning difficulties and we are glad to be back in the hall downstairs. It gives us the space we need to run all our activities and to provide a cheap, nutritious lunch and hospitality for our customers.*

*“Sadly Sheffield College have left the building but we are hoping to start new groups and activities including a job club, computer classes, keep fit, self defence, and conversation classes for people wanting to improve their English.”*

There will be an Open Day at the Hall in November. Any local group wishing to have a stall should contact Sue Lane at the Vestry Hall on 213 3800 or at [sues3a@gmail.com](mailto:sues3a@gmail.com). As Sue says:

*“It is a wonderful old building with a beautiful modern interior. With the new activities, we hope it will have a lively and exciting future at the heart of the Burngreave community.”*



# Page Hall to lose £1.7 million

Story: Rohan Francis

**Residents in Page Hall are set to lose out on £1.7 million of regeneration cash after the Council was unable to identify any housing projects in the area to spend it on.**

37 Council-owned Houses in Page Hall and Fir Vale, which were renovated using Housing Market Renewal (HMR) funding, are for sale. The HMR funding was allocated to regenerate Page Hall in 2005. So far, 13 properties have been sold, generating nearly £580,000 for the Council. The remaining houses could make a further £1.1 million when they are released on to the market.

Previously, the Council had planned to reinvest the money back into Fir Vale. However, new rules, introduced in January by the previous Lib Dem administration, will allow cash from the sale of Council-owned properties in Page Hall to be spent outside the area.

Under the new plans, proceeds from the sale of Council property can now be spent on housing regeneration projects across any of the City's three HMR areas – The South, which includes Park Hill, Norfolk Park and the Manor; The North, which covers Southey and Owlerton and The East, which is our area of Burngreave, Fir Vale and Page Hall.

In order to prevent Page Hall's money disappearing across the City, a suitable local housing regeneration project must now be identified. There is some hope as the new rules state "Funding can still be allocated to activity in Fir Vale where this is identified as a priority."

In previous years, residents have fought, and won, against Council plans to demolish their homes. Instead of spending HMR on knocking down the streets of Page Hall, residents got the money spent on small projects such as the 'Homezone' on Wade Street, improvements to green spaces and the '£50K Homes' refurbishment project.

Asked what projects they had developed so that money could be



reinvested in Fir Vale, Harry Harpham, Cabinet member for housing could not identify any, but went on to say,

*"We have actively encouraged Responsible Landlords to buy properties and those landlords in breach of their obligations will be tackled using enforcement action. The Council have invested a substantial amount in the houses that were acquired and I am confident that we have improved the quality of the majority of the houses now being sold. This in itself is a benefit for the area and is making available affordable housing across a mix of tenure."*

In the absence of a suitable reinvestment scheme from the Council, the Messenger asked residents what they thought £1.7 million could be spent on in Page Hall:

#### **Farida:**

*"They should use it to make the housing better. How can they not find projects to spend the money on?"*

#### **Khaled:**

*"Some of the houses here are not suitable to live in. I've seen some houses from private landlords that are not suitable - some are good. Why not regenerate the houses and make them good to rent? Other areas can find their own money."*

#### **Page Hall resident for 20 years:**

*"It needs to be upgraded like any other area, why single it out? It's not fair. Other areas have been modernised but not here. I think it's wrong that landlords buy cheap housing, they get good rent - they are benefiting. I've been here 20 years and nothing's improved"*

# Burngreave to become Central?

Story: Fran Belbin

**Last election, Burngreave became part of the new Hillsborough and Brightside constituency. Now, the boundaries are set to change again.**

Since the government decided to reduce the number of parliamentary constituencies in England from 533 to 502, they are consulting on changes to boundaries. Under the plans, Burngreave Ward will become part of Sheffield Central constituency again, alongside Broomhill, Hillsborough, Walkley and Central Sheffield. Wards - which elect

local councillors - will remain the same.

Firth Park voters will fall into a new 'Barnsley West and Ecclesfield' constituency. Sitting MP David Blunkett expressed his anger, saying the new boundaries "make no sense in terms of anything that local people in Sheffield would understand to be 'community'."

The official reason is that "there are good communication links along the A61 road that connects the urban Sheffield wards with the more rural Barnsley wards". One disgruntled voter commented, "By that logic, Sheffield may as well be North London."

To view the proposals in full and have your say in the consultation, visit <http://consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/have-your-say/>; write to Boundary Commission

for England, 35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BQ; email [yorkshumber@bcommengland.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:yorkshumber@bcommengland.x.gsi.gov.uk) or attend the public hearing at Sheffield Town Hall on 17th - 18th October. The deadline for responses is 5th December 2011.

## Register to Vote

Regardless of the changes, people will need to register to vote. Residents should receive electoral registration forms through their doors to check and return. By law, every household must respond to the form but the council also uses the numbers to know where services are needed.

**If you haven't received a form, look at [www.sheffield.gov.uk/elections](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/elections) or ring the elections office on 273 4093.**



## Recovering from disaster

Photos: Richard Hanson

**Pitsmoor photographer Richard Hanson recently visited Haiti for his work with Tearfund. His new exhibition comes to Sheffield in October, featuring images and stories from three visits to Haiti since the devastating earthquake last year. Richard told us:**

*"When I first arrived, only ten weeks after the disaster, the scale of the tragedy was overwhelming. Hundreds of thousands of people were homeless. Everyone we spoke to had been affected by destruction, grief and loss. But there are glimpses of people rebuilding their lives; men digging a road from their village; bakers restarting their business; a woman who started a hair dressing salon; people regaining a sense of purpose and dignity."*

'Haiti: Beyond the Rubble' is at the Workstation Atrium Gallery on Paternoster Row, weekdays 9.30am-5pm, from 3rd October to 2nd November. For more information see [hansonphoto.wordpress.com](http://hansonphoto.wordpress.com)



Richard also reported on the recovery process from last year's flooding in South Pakistan. Tearfund is helping build safer houses, cleaner sanitation, and is working in education in the area north of Karachi. "I was really excited to visit Pakistan, as I've never been before despite its strong links with Pitsmoor." Sadly, this month, flooding has again affected millions of people in Pakistan.

### Donations to Disaster Appeals.

Richard works for the Tearfund, which is just one of the members of the Disaster Emergency Committee DEC. The DEC has previously coordinated appeals for Pakistan and Haiti. It is currently appealing for funds to support people starving people in East Africa and Somalia.

To make a donation visit <http://www.dec.org.uk/>

## 26 years serving the community

Story & Photos: Rohan Francis

**After 26 years of unceasing service at the Burngreave Wine Shop, the Patel family have decided to take retirement and sell their shop on the corner of Burngreave Road and Catherine Street.**

The family - brother Ramesh Lal and sister Debbie and their partners Hansa and Ramesh, came to Sheffield from Bradford in 1986. For the first 5 years they lived above the shop, working all hours to get the business established in what were often seen as tougher times in Burngreave.

As today, the shop formed a hub for locals during the 80s and 90s, its surrounding streets and houses home to a large Jamaican community fondly remembered by Ramesh: "There were lots of people living round here and many community festivals back then. Music in the Sun started just up the road and then there was the Catherine Pub which was always lively!"

Demolition and renovation brought changes with local pubs closed and houses cleared. Trade was tough but the Patels soldiered on, renewing the shop and bringing in new products. "We got our first freezer after a year, then we could stock many more items for our customers."

Customers were always the key to the shop's success. Ramesh and his family always responded to customer's requests however varied, stocking everything from veggie sausage to a miniature sherry. There can't be many shops so well stocked!

Now Ramesh believes the area has improved. "It's always been a good community but the streets are better." During this time of transformations, he has watched as his customers have grown up, some from tiny children into parents themselves and even some whose children have had children and still support his shop!

In all this time, the shop has never closed, not even in heavy snow or floods -



although he did close for half a day when his mother-in-law passed away. After so many years hard work what does Mr Patel have planned for his retirement?

*"I will be staying in Burngreave, but travelling too. I want to visit friends and relatives that I haven't had a chance to see for a long time. And gardening, which I enjoy. Oh, and having a rest!"*

Finally, Mr Patel wanted to say thank you to all his many friends and customers for supporting his family's business over the past 26 years.

# Wensley's summer fun

Photo: Gladys Newbolt

Young people in Wensley have enjoyed another summer of activities, thanks to Wensley Tenants and Residents Association and Activity Sheffield.

Funded by Sheffield Homes' Your Community Your Choice, every week Wensley field has had football and a climbing wall. An average of 70 young people joined each session.



Gladys Newbolt the TARA secretary told the Messenger:

*"It's been absolutely fantastic, and the kids have been great. Over the summer around 180 different children have taken part. It's been very challenging, but also very rewarding."*

The TARA and Activity Sheffield will be working together again in half term, with more football, but also something new – streetdance! To find out more about the TARA come along to their General Meeting on 13th October, 6pm at Wensley Community Room.

## October Half term at Wensley

**Multisports** Thursday 27th October 3.30 pm – 5.30 pm

**Blast Off Football** Monday 24th October 3.30 pm – 5.30 pm

**Street Dance** Wensley Community Centre, Wednesday 26th October 3.30 pm - 4.30 pm



## Devon Gardens award

Story: Gaynor Carr

For the second year running Devon Gardens, the Victorian nannies' park on Abbeyfield Road in Pitsmoor, has been awarded a prestigious Green Pennant Award, part of the Green Flag scheme which recognises great green spaces and the work done by the community to maintain and develop them.

The award ceremony, attended by over 100 people from parks across the city, took place on 14th September in the newly-opened JG Graves Woodland Discovery Centre in Ecclesall Woods. Receiving the pennant on behalf of the Friends of Devon Gardens group were Steve and Gaynor Carr, with our new Parks partner David Rice (right), Area Officer for Sheffield North East.

**If you'd like to join the Friends group, or just find out more about what we do, please contact John Chapman on 07860 101907 or Phil Jakob on 07796 977 856.**



## Carwood TARA's office opening

Story: Michelle Cook

**Carwood estate TARA opened their new office on 6th September.**

Sheffield Homes staff, local councillors and tenants attended. Cllr Jackie Drayton welcomed the bringing into use of the previously run down shop unit and hoped it would be a valuable resource for the local community. She thanked all the TARA members for their hard work. The office, on Carwood Green next to the community room, will be open every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. The TARA's new address is 10 Carwood Grove, Sheffield S4 7EE.

This summer the TARA also organised a trip for local families to the Animal Park in Doncaster. 25 children and 15 adults attended. The TARA will report back on their activities at their next General meeting on 4th October 6pm in the meeting room.

## Landfill restoration plans

Friends of Parkwood Springs will be holding a special meeting on **Wednesday 28th September at 6pm at St Catherine's School, Firshill Crescent**, to hear about Viridor's plans for the restoration of the landfill site when it closes.

Everybody is welcome. Further information from Neill Schofield (on 272 4499 or [neill.schofield@googlemail.com](mailto:neill.schofield@googlemail.com)).

### Fungi walk

Find out about the fungi on Parkwood Springs on Saturday 8th October with Council ecologist 'Ziggy' Senkans. Meet at Little Pear Tree Field, by the Cooks Wood Road/Shirecliffe Road entrance at 10.30am, for a one and a half to two hours walk. Dogs allowed on leads.

**For more information, go to [www.parkwood-springs.org.uk](http://www.parkwood-springs.org.uk)**



# PITS party on Nottingham Rec

Story & Photos: Delroy Galloway

The Party in the Park in August was organised by the PITS Group members Joyce and Donna Divers.

The day was a great success and brought together a community over a weekend that saw many others involved in riots across our country.



A wealth of diversity enjoyed the sun, music, food, drink and a conversation which reminded many of days gone by.

# A Wish to Walk

Story: Muhammed Ahmed



The Burngreave community came together in the summer to help a child to live the kind of life that most of us take for granted.

Amaan, age 5, suffers from the crippling condition Cerebral Palsy, which leaves him in constant pain and wheelchair bound.

Whiteways Community Learning decided



to help Amaan by organising a garden party to raise funds, held in Whiteways Primary School playground and field. Many of the parents, staff and local community came together to make it a successful event, allowing Amaan to have surgery in late September.

That afternoon, the school showed off the talents of local people, exhibiting a charming ambience with music and dancing from around the world, face painting, nail art and henna and African Drumming. There were also opportunities for people to get their own health checked out, with Healthy Community health trainers and information stalls. Blood pressure and diabetes checks were provided by Lloyd's pharmacy.

The Parent Teacher Association came with a guest from the Sheffield Steelers, Tom Squires. There was also Slovakian and Bollywood dancing. Food was provided from the school's kitchen, serving parents and many more. Local businesses and parents contributed to Amaan's cause by donating products that were sold on the day, with all proceeds going towards his treatment.

Whiteways Community Learning raised £4812.32 from the event, contributing towards the £45,000 Amaan's parents have now achieved. They will now take him to the USA for life-changing surgery at the St Louis Children's Hospital.

Whiteways Community Learning parents group would like to thank the school and governors and those businesses and individuals who have supported Amaan's cause.





# Sages, Greenfingers and Songs

Story: Tim Neal | Photo: Carl Rose

**On Tuesday 6th September SAGE Greenfingers held their autumn open day, gathering around sixty people on the plots at Grimesthorpe Allotments.**

The amazing work done by the team is known to many in Burngreave and further afield. Many of the project's clients and their families and friends attended, as well as supporters and those interested to learn more. The value of gardening and vegetable growing, particularly for those with mental health issues, is apparent when spending time at the site.

After admiring the season's abundance, we were treated to a series of three songs, composed and performed by Sally Goldsmith. With the Don Valley as our

backdrop, the music reinforced the powerful message that everyone's mental wellbeing is supported by the creation of such an environment.

John Lawson, the project manager, unperturbed by Sally's explanation that "not all allotment holders are men in flat caps", put his flat cap on and led a tour of the wider allotment site. Diana Tottle, the project director, and other members of the team were on hand to answer questions, introduce people to each other and help cement the relationships that will assist SAGE Greenfingers in negotiating these challenging financial times.

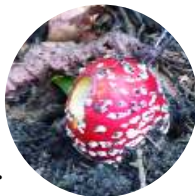
A treasure hunt and vegetable face-making activity amused some of us while those whose stomachs had been rumbling since the first sight of a bean were treated to excellent vegetarian fare served from the greenhouse and a fine flat bread and chicken barbecue.

**For more information about the project or to offer your support, please contact [enquiries@sagesheffield.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@sagesheffield.org.uk) or tel: 0114 274 3651**

## Finding Fungi

Story & photos: Christine Steers

**The weather was OK for the walk around Burngreave Cemetery on 10th September.**



It was organised by the Sorby Natural History Society, and led by Dave Buckley and Leonie Kapadia. Dave explained that as the summer had been dry and it was a bit early in the season, we may not find many mushrooms and toadstools – but we did!

Many common species were found nestling in the fallen leaves and a few unusual ones too. The favourite was the Fly Agaric which we had heard did grow in the grounds but had not seen yet. Dave Buckley gave us some interesting facts about each species we found as well as the scientific names for each one. The "Fly" from Fly Agaric refers to the story that witches used to make a potion from the fungi and soak their broomstick handles in it, thus enabling them to fly! The Sorby Natural History Society has a site on Flickr and they will be putting named pictures of our finds on this site. We finished the walk with a visit to the Chapel.

Please remember, according to the Health Protection Agency,



More mushroom photos on our website



over 100 people were poisoned this year through eating the wrong mushrooms, at least 45 with moderate or severe symptoms.



## Apple Day is here again!

Story: Saleema Imam

**The Friends of Burngreave Chapel and Cemetery invite everyone to a Celebration of One World week and Fair Trade at the Apple day event in the cemetery chapel on Sunday October 16th from 11am.**

Learn about local apple varieties from Julian - help juice local apples - bring your seeds, plants and books, to swap - view the Climate change exhibition - play Fair Trade games - share home made soup, apple crumble and chutney and bring your turnip or pumpkin lanterns to win a Fair Trade prize.

**All welcome! Contact Friends on 0114 2816950**



LITTLE RED LIGHT  
AND MAGIC LANTERN FILM CLUB  
PRESENT

# CHEAP THRILLS

ZERO BUDGET FILM FESTIVAL

**SATURDAY 1ST OF OCTOBER**  
7 PM BURNCREAVE CEMETERY CHAPEL  
MELROSE ROAD S4

10 PM OUTSIDE THE HOWARD PUB  
OPPOSITE THE RAILWAY STATION

**FREE ENTRY**

LOTS OF LITTLE MOVIES  
EVENTS LAST 2 HOURS

as you would expect  
this image in no way  
resembles the movies  
you will actually see.

ALL FILMS MADE IN SHEFFIELD

Story: Martin Currie

On the 1st of October we need volunteer help with stewarding, decorating and a litter pick for the Sheffield mini film festival.

The entire programme of films made by local people, professional or not (one is from a couple of seven year olds) will run for 60 to 90 minutes.

We decided to put prize money from the annual "2 Weeks 2 Make It" music video competition into a new project. Team members submitted ideas but none needed any money; so we decided to make them all and involve other people in a festival.

We plan to have two screenings:

- 7pm in the lefthand cemetery chapel on Melrose Road, for a community event. Food will be served, voting forms and popcorn distributed, films screened and prizes awarded.
- At 10pm we will project the movies onto the side of the Howard pub in the city centre.

Acts to make the event more festive are welcome and it's not too late to enter a film, if it's short and entertaining.

We do need an audience, so bring a crowd. Children are welcome and entry is FREE.

**Call Martin on 07748 654229, or email [martin@littleredlight.co.uk](mailto:martin@littleredlight.co.uk) for more information or to volunteer**

Aged 16-18?

Interested in media?

Want to do something creative or make a documentary?

Not in employment, education or training?



Sheffield Independent Film and Television (SHIFT) are offering 4 two-hour taster workshops.

*The taster sessions are about you, your ideas, what it is you want to say. Maybe you are not sure what you want to say. The tasters can help you find out.*

**Taster workshops**

10 am - 12 noon on:

Tuesday 4th October,  
Tuesday 11th October,  
Tuesday 18th October,  
Tuesday 25th October

At Yemeni Community Association, Fir Vale Centre  
Earl Marshal Road.

Have fun and find out about Foundation Learning and SHIFT: Employ from the workshop leader and tutor.

To book a place, or if you have any queries about the tasters, contact Bridget Kelly or Dave Woodcock on 0114 272 6304, or email [bridget@shiftmedia.org.uk](mailto:bridget@shiftmedia.org.uk).



## Caribbean Sports fun day

Story & photo: Angela Barrows

**Sheffield Caribbean Sports Club had their 3rd Family Fun Day at the Ecclesfield Ground on Sunday 14th August. Over 400 participants from in and around Burngreave joined in free activities.**

Entertainment included food and drink stalls, music, inflatable slide and football pitch, sumo wrestling, mini football, volleyball, boxercise, zumba, african dance and football. There was something for everyone.

The highlight of the day was the England vs Jamaica re-match, in which England regained the trophy. The next Family Fun Day will be on Sunday 12th August 2012. Mark your diaries! Special thanks to sponsors Football Unites, Racism Divides and Youth-in-Action.

**For more information contact Angela Barrows on 07565 550 358.**

# Study Support's positive summer

Story: Diane Haimeed

**Burngreave After-School Study Support Project (BASSSP)** ran a number of positive activities over the summer including a trip to Knowsley Safari Park, go-karting and trips to the cinema.



Young people can now attend BASSSP on Monday and Tuesday evenings.

From 3.30 -5.00, outdoor activities and arts and crafts will take place followed by study support for Y4-Y11 students from 5.00-7.15pm. Young people will receive help with homework and have targeted lessons in maths, English and science. Refreshments are provided after school.

**For details, contact Diane Haimeed on 303 0141.**

## Burngreave's hidden gems

Story: Hannah Wittram



**Sheffield Wildlife Trust** ran a series of events and guided walks over the spring and summer as part of the Burngreave's Hidden Gems project.

People took part in guided walks around the woods and parks, including Crabtree Ponds Nature Reserve, Osgathorpe Park and Little Roe Woods.

Residents discovered mysterious creatures on a guided bat walk in the summer and bird walk in the spring. There was also family fun dipping in the pond catching newts, and working with the Jeevan Project creating bird boxes.

Young people from Ellesmere Youth Project have also worked with local artist Jason Thompson designing a new woodland bench for the nature reserve. It is currently being carved and will soon be on site next to the pond. Come down and see it! For more information about upcoming activities **see page 19.**



## Successful summer of activity

Story: Imran Ali

**Activity Sheffield's** summer programme was a great success in Burngreave, with sports and play activities across the area.

Highlights were definitely the well attended sports camps despite children fasting from Ramadan. An average of 31 kids attended each session and 88 sessions were provided.

### In the October Half term

Cricket and Football Camp at Fir Vale Secondary School will be on Monday 24th, Tuesday 25th and Thursday 27th October 1pm - 5pm. The cost is £3 per day, bring drinks and suitable clothing.

Blast Off Football session at Verdon Recreation Centre will be Wednesday 26th October 7pm - 8.30pm. The Blast Off finals will be on 28th October.

**For more information contact Activity Sheffield on 273 4266**

# Park improvements under fire

Story & photos: Lisa Swift

**Burngreave residents feel they have been badly let down after projects to improve local green spaces have failed to make the grade.**

Denholme Close playground and Burngreave Recreation Ground, were both due to be finished in April of this year, but residents near both projects say they were not finished properly.

The Council commissioned the projects with a range of funding it pulled together, including Play Builder and Viridor money. The Council has to bring in contractors to work on projects like this.

The Denholm project has been a real disappointment to local parents. Back in 2009 the Parents group PITS campaigned for the playground to be renovated and helped clean up the park to show the Council how important it was to local people. Two years on, PITS member, Donna Divers said it was a mess:

*"It's not finished. It's a real shame because the kids love it. When we got involved in helping design the playground we were expecting a lot more. It's not safe really, the surfaces are stuck up and uneven, we've had a few accidents already. And the Zip swing has broken a*



*few times and had to be fixed,"*

The soft surfaces of the original playground are full of holes or are badly patched, while the new equipment is installed above a patch work of surfaces that stick up at all angles.

At Burngreave Rec residents complained that the project had over run by five months, and when launched in August still wasn't finished.

One local resident said, "It's just a mess. The old playing field is lumpy because the contractors have been driving all over it. And the steps and paths are not finished properly."

The stone steps have already been



damaged by misuse of the park, rocks have been rolled down the steps chipping the surface. Residents say the rocks, used to edge the path, were not cemented in properly. There are also concerns about an increase of drug dealing; one part of the scheme has created a secluded spot perfect for such activity. Planting promised for the area has yet to materialise.

Local Councillors have said they are very concerned about the quality of the work and have promised to look into it urgently. Council officers are also working to get the contractors to complete the agreed work to an acceptable standard.

A further victim in September was the Ripples in the Pond project in Firth Park, where unfortunately the launch event had to be cancelled due to work not being completed to a satisfactory standard.

# Learners' success in community course

Story: Andy Stockton  
Photo: Anwar Sulliman

**A group of adult learners from Burngreave and Page Hall recently collected their certificates for completing the Introduction to Community Development and Health (ICDH) course.**

The ICDH course has run in different parts of Sheffield for over 12 years, a number of times in Burngreave. This year their Annual Award Ceremony was on the 27th July and learners from all over the city, as well as volunteers from the Expert Patients Programme, gathered to have their efforts recognised.

The course ran from February to June 2011 and was well attended by learners



from North East Sheffield. It was collaboratively delivered between NHS Sheffield's CD&H Programme, the Yemeni Advice Centre, Health Workers from Parson Cross and other partner organisations, enabling members of

different communities to work together in a way that doesn't usually happen.

Nine learners submitted portfolios for accreditation with the Open College Network, but the discussions and exchange between different cultures and communities was the most striking outcome of this unique and special group learning experience. As a tutor on the course, I saw a real bond of mutual respect develop within the group.

Local mum Waheeda Younis (pictured with the Deputy Lord Mayor, accompanied by her children), said of the course:

*"ICDH was like exploring the heart of the community. We were all adults and students from different backgrounds under one roof, exploring how each community lived."*

I'd like to thank everyone who helped to make the course such a success, the local partners and funders, the staff at the Yemeni Advice Centre and especially the learners, who all showed great dedication and commitment to complete it.



# Sheffield Sickle Cell & Thalassaemia Foundation

Sickle Cell & Thalassaemia are genetic conditions, affecting the red blood cells.

There are two types of the illnesses. The trait form does not always show any symptoms. Testing is essential before conception, because two trait carriers can produce a child with Sickle Cell Disease or Thalassaemia Major.

These conditions require lifelong specialist care and management. The illnesses are present in all community groups, but more commonly found in BME Communities. Sickle Cell & Thalassaemia are two of the most common genetic disorders in the UK.

SSCAT F works in collaboration with voluntary and statutory agencies to raise awareness with workshops exhibitions and conferences and provides a range of services to clients & families including:

- Support Plans • Home and Hospital Visits
- Housing • Benefit Entitlement • Immigration
- Support Groups • Advocacy • Referrals
- Signposting • Education • Training
- Empowerment • Advice & Information
- Emotional Support

For further information please contact one of the development workers on Telephone 0114-275 3209

Or at::

SSCAT Foundation,  
Syac Business Centre, 110 – 120 Wicker, S3 8JD

## The Dorothy Dixon-Barrow 8th Annual Health Conference

Sheffield Sickle Cell  
& Thalassaemia  
Foundation

6th October 2011,  
9.15am - 3.00pm

SADACCA Day Care Centre,  
4 Willey Street, Sheffield, S3 8JU

To confirm attendance please contact  
Sonya Chattoo on:

Phone: 275 3209 Fax: 279 6870

E-mail: sscatf1@btconnect.com

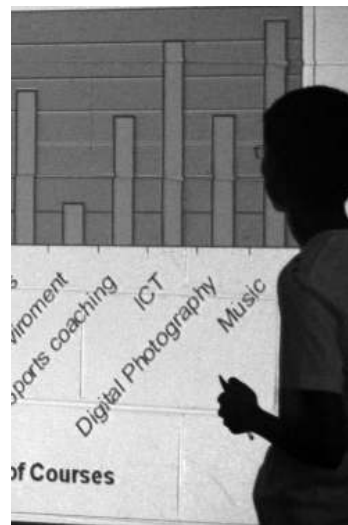
Refreshments and lunch will be provided

RSVP by 29th September 2011



# Verdon Recreation Centre open day

Story: Vivien Urwodhi



Verdon Recreation Centre, invited residents to try the many affordable activities provided at the centre on 10th September.

Many groups use the centre to provide activities for the community, including Pilsung Taekwondo club, Verdon Agewell group, PITS parents group, Activity Sheffield and Sheffield Futures.

Verdon Agewell group, established in 1991, encourages elderly people to be more active in their daily life by doing crafts such as knitting and designing bags. The Agewell participant's passion for crafts - from the youngest at 51 to the oldest at 93 - is evidenced by the craft items they displayed.

Slide presentations by young people based at Osgathorpe pavilion showed activities and courses young people would like to see at Verdon Rec. MC Nigel, who runs PITS-street dance on Wednesdays, demonstrated dance skills including body popping. People enjoyed the music, drinks and especially the cakes.

## Half term at Verdon Recreation Centre

**Blast Off Football** - Wednesday 26 October 7.00 pm – 8.30 pm

**Youth Club for 8-19 year olds** – Monday 24th, Tuesday 25th, Wednesday 26th October, 4-6pm.

To Find out more about activities or to book a room at Verdon Recreation Centre call 249 1626

## Pye Bank praise

In August, Pye Bank Primary School received congratulations from the Director of Children's Services, Dr Sonia Sharp, for moving out of the Local Authority's group of schools that were causing concern.

The end of year assessments of pupil attainment showed the children in Year 6 had reached all the targets set for them for the second year running. The Year 2 pupils achieved the highest standards in the school's history.

The new term starts with much optimism for the future with the quality of provision and rate of pupil progress being good to outstanding in nearly every area. The Early Years work, led by Mrs Ann Dawson, is receiving special attention and praise. A recent visitor from the National Strategies Team declared,

*"I judge the quality of a school by whether I would want my children educated there. I'm here at Pye Bank and I wish I could be learning here!"*



Headteacher, Paul Hopkinson, puts the improvements down to the hard work and skill of the staff team, as well as the unmatched enthusiasm of the children and their families. He says,

*"We still have a journey to make, as do all schools, but we know where we want to go, and most importantly we know how to get there."*

## Top marks at Parkwood Academy

The students at Parkwood Academy celebrated their best ever examination results. Results this year have maintained the year on year trend of constant improvement.

The results reflect the commitment, enthusiasm and hard work of all our students, staff and parents. The Principal, Mike Westerdale, is looking forward to even better results in the future as the academy moves into its state of the art new building at Easter next year.



## Keeping fit at St Catherine's School

Activity Sheffield is running Aerobics sessions every week at St Catherine's Catholic Primary School with a qualified instructor.

The sessions are for any adult wanting to get fit, with a particular focus on 45+. They are held every Tuesday, 10.30-11.30am. Fee £2. Contact Imran on 07768 888 716.

K-Fit are running fitness sessions on Mondays at the school. Children's sessions are from 5.30 – 6pm, at a cost of £1.50. Sessions for Mums are 6-7pm and cost £3. Contact K-Fit on 07841 747 173

## Byron Wood pupil is a winner!

Story: Smaira Sadique

Daniel Knight, from Byron Wood Primary School, was a finalist in Scholastic Book Fair's national writing competition, judged by Horrid Henry author Francesca Simon. Over 19,000 children from across the country wrote their own stories, poems, letters, diary entries, observations and recipes for the competition.

Daniel was one of the 100 finalists, who were chosen by the award-winning author herself, alongside the eventual winner. Daniel wins the prize of a copy of the Scholastic Yearbook featuring his very own published story.

Byron Wood headteacher, Mrs Ashton, said "I am very proud of Daniel. It is such an achievement to be chosen from 19,000 other children."

## Governors needed at Byron Wood School

Two Community Governors and one parent Governor at Byron Wood Primary School are needed.

All interested parties should contact, Headteacher Mrs Ashton on 0114 272 3624



# HUCKLOW NURSERY

## Open Day

Did you know we now have a fantastic new nursery on site?

Places available for children aged 3 to 4 years old for an immediate start.

Do you have pre-school age children?

Are your friends, families and neighbours aware of our nursery?

Come along to our 'Open Day' on Friday 21st October 10am to 2pm

Hucklow Primary School  
Hucklow Road, Sheffield, S5 6TB  
Telephone: 0114 242 6736



# JOBS at Pye Bank CE Primary School

## Catering Assistant

To work as part of the school's catering team.

**Hours: 10 per week (11.30am to 1.30pm)**

Term time only.

**Rate of pay: £6.29 - £6.83 per hour**

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and we expect all staff to share this commitment.

Enhanced CRB check and Basic Food Hygiene Certificate are required for this post.

*If you are a disabled applicant please see notes below.*

## Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant

To supervise primary school age children in the dining hall and the playground, and occasionally in the classrooms during wet weather across both KS1 and KS2.

**Hours: 7.5 per week (11.45am to 1.15pm)**

Term time only. There will also be the occasional training sessions to be held within school hours.

**Rate of pay: £6.29 - £6.83 per hour**

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and we expect all staff to share this commitment.

Enhanced CRB check required for this post.

*If you are a disabled applicant please see notes below.*

## Wildlife Trust events

### Free Environmental Play for 8 to 13 year olds

Crabtree Ponds, off Barnsley Road, Fir Vale

3.30 to 5.30pm every Friday during term time in September and October

Environmental play activities will be open to everyone aged 8 to 13. Activities will include: pond dipping, bug hunting, arts and crafts and loads more! Under 8s can attend with an adult.



Sheffield & Rotherham

### Free Environmental Play For 8 to 13 year olds

Parkwood Springs, off Cookswood Road

3.30 to 5.30pm every Tuesday during term time in September and October

Environmental play activities will be open to everyone aged 8 to 13. Activities will include: bug hunting, den building, arts and crafts and loads more! Under 8s can attend with an adult.

### Willow Fish & Twizzling Eels

Crabtree Ponds Nature Reserve

Thursday 27th October, 1pm - 3pm

Try something new this half-term holiday, and join us at Crabtree Ponds for an afternoon of creating willow sculptures. See what inspiration you can draw from the wildlife here, it could be a fish, a snail, or even one of the mysterious eels weaving their way around the pond! We've got plenty of willow that you can bend and twist to make your creature, so pop down and give it a go.

Contact details for all of the above:

The Sheffield Wildlife Trust

Telephone: 0114 263 4335

Email: mail@wildsheffield.com

Website: www.gethookedonlife.co.uk



For further details and an application form, please contact:

Mrs Stanley, Business Support Manager at Pye Bank CE Primary School, on 0114 276 0472.

**Closing Date: Friday 14th October.**

Sheffield City Council is an equal opportunities employer and has publicly committed to this by signing up to the "Two Ticks - Positive About Disabled People" scheme.

This ensures that all disabled applicants, able to demonstrate that they meet the minimum criteria of the job description, are guaranteed an interview.

It is not enough to tick that you are disabled on the monitoring form. If you are disabled and feel this applies to you, please let us know by quoting:- "I am eligible for a guaranteed interview under the two ticks scheme" on your application form at the bottom of the "Suitability for the Job" section. Please make sure this is written as a separate paragraph to make sure it does not get lost in the content of your application

## Council's cabinet come to answer your questions



Cllr Julie Dore, the leader of Sheffield City Council, and the seven other members of the Cabinet will be coming to the North East Assembly. Come along and ask them your questions and tell them the issues that affect you in your local area.

Wednesday 26 October 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.

The Cabinet discusses and takes decisions on the most significant issues

facing the City Council. These include issues about the direction of the Council, its policies and strategies, as well as city-wide decisions and those which affect more than one Council service.

Meetings are chaired by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Julie Dore.

The other seven members of the Cabinet are:

**Cllr Mary Lea** – Health, Care and Independent Living (includes adult social care)

**Cllr Bryan Lodge** – Deputy Leader – finance

**Cllr Leigh Bramall** – Environment and Transport

**Cllr Helen Mirfin-Boukouris** – Business, Jobs and Growth

**Cllr Mick Rooney** – Communities (Voluntary, Community and Faith sector, Libraries, Community Safety and Assemblies)

**Cllr Jackie Drayton** – Children, Young People and Families

**Cllr Harry Harpham** – Homes and Regeneration

### Report back from the last Community Assembly meeting held in July:

- Local Councillors approved the plan for the Thriving District and Local Centres project – this plan proposes which centres are priorities for further work and investment and what actions the Council and their partners need to take to realise the potential of all the centres. More information is provided at [www.sheffield.gov.uk/thrivingcentres](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/thrivingcentres).
- Cllr Joan Barton was appointed to join the Sheffield Homes North Area Board and Cllr Ibrar Hussain the East Area Board
- Local residents presented a petition asking for a car park to be built on Skinnerthorpe Road demolition site. Cllr Ibrar Hussain met with residents and officers and will meet again in Feb/March 2012. A clearer picture will be available once the demolition has been completed and the new plans for the site are available.

Full minutes and the agenda for the next Community Assembly meeting will be published at [www.sheffield.gov.uk/northeast](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/northeast) from 19 October.

Contact us on 203 7562, email [communityassemblynortheast@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:communityassemblynortheast@sheffield.gov.uk), or write to: Firth Park Library, 443 Firth Park Road, Sheffield, S5 6QQ.  
Blog - [www.sheffield.gov.uk/northeastnews](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/northeastnews)  
Website - [www.sheffield.gov.uk/northeast](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/northeast)

### Bring Out Your Rubbish Days

- 4 October**  
Vivian Road area
- 5 October**  
Whiteways area
- 6 October**  
Longley Avenue West area.

Please wait for a leaflet through your door with more information and instructions, or call 203 7562.

The following estates had Bring Out Your Rubbish days in April funded by Sheffield Homes: Wensley, Carwood and Firshill.



Jackie Drayton Ibrar Hussain Talib Hussain

### Councillor Surgery Dates

Your local councillors share surgeries on a rota basis.

**8th October:** 11am–12pm Burngreave Library, 12.15pm–1pm Firshill TARA

**18th October:** 11am–12pm Shirecliffe Community Centre, 12.15pm–1pm Norwood and Bishopholme TARA

**20th October:** 2pm–3pm Pakistan Advice Centre

**22nd October:** 11am–12pm Burngreave Library

**8th October:** 11am–12pm Burngreave Library, 12.15pm–1pm Firshill TARA

**18th October:** 11am–12pm Shirecliffe Community Centre, 12.15pm–1pm Norwood and Bishopholme TARA

**20th October:** 2pm–3pm Pakistan Advice Centre

**22nd October:** 11am–12pm Burngreave Library

[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)

# Shared housing on Pitsmoor Road

Story: Rohan Francis

**Plans to convert a three storey office building on Pitsmoor Road into a 'House in Multiple Occupation' (HMO) and ground floor shop were approved by planners on 11th August after a third application for 'change of use' was finally given consent.**

The building, which was previously the offices of Wilson Tupholme Limited, occupies 290-308 Pitsmoor Road, opposite the derelict Pitsmoor Working Men's Club. The ground floor is currently in use as World Class Foods.

The latest application was made by the shop's owner who sought permission to continue trading on the ground floor and convert the upper storeys into shared accommodation for 18 people.

## Proposals

The plans show limited changes to the ground floor including new staff toilets (plus a disabled facility), and an entrance ramp for wheelchair users. Outside, the shop's awning and grocery stalls will be removed as they were built without planning approval. Ground floor windows will be enlarged and the entrance doorway renewed.

Upstairs, changes to the existing layout will be more extensive. Each of the two upper floors will be converted into nine



single bedrooms creating accommodation for 18 tenants. One room on each floor will be made into an open plan kitchen/dining/living room for residents to share. The architect's drawings show a total of three toilets, one bath and one shower on each floor. The proposals also include the replacement of upper floor windows and an outside garden area to the rear of the building, which will occupy part of the existing car park.

## Local objections

Neighbouring residents were notified of the proposals in June this year. Over half of those contacted objected to this or previous similar proposals made by the applicant. All expressed a strong opposition to the HMO, voicing concerns at the high concentration of shared housing locally and the negative impact that another HMO would have on the existing community. Planning documents do not show any residents in favour.

Many respondents did support the continuation of the shop, although concerns were raised over unmanaged organic waste and discarded packaging.

In response to residents' concerns,

Council Planners insisted that the concentration of HMO premises in the vicinity of the site (within a 200m radius) was "significantly less than the 20% threshold permissible" and this application would therefore be acceptable. Other issues such as waste disposal are to be regulated under specific conditions set down in the approval document – for full details see application number 11/01912/FUL on Sheffield City Council's planning website.

## Support for residents

The Council sets limits for the amount of HMO in an area to prevent a high concentration of temporary residents, for example students. Without support for more vulnerable tenants, developments can have a negative impact on both their residents and the community as a whole

The Messenger spoke to the owners of the shop and building, who said support would be on offer for residents,

*"We're helping the community as the rooms will be for elderly members of the Yemeni Community. We will be providing support with language and translation we'll also help with things like taking people to the doctors. We are connected with the Yemeni Community Association, so there will be support there as well. We also expect to be supporting members of the Sudanese community."*

They explained that the Council had now sorted more bins for the shop, and that the building will meet all the HMO requirements. They expect the work on the building to be completed in a month.

# Advice service closes

Story: Tim Neal

**On 8th July the Immigration Advisory Service (IAS) unexpectedly went into administration.**

Nationally the organisation employed 300 people offering free advice on immigration issues. It served a large community of asylum seekers and refugees, as well as settled residents. The services it offered were literally a matter of life and death for some people.

The Sheffield office was in Albion House on Savile Street and its services will be hugely missed. Albert, an asylum seeker who was awarded leave to remain after many years here, found the IAS invaluable:

*"It was good, it was helpful. It wasn't very fast but it was helpful. They launched my fresh evidence to the Home Office. I wanted to do that through the solicitor; I'd been told to pay £40 but I did that for free through the IAS."*

Albert doesn't know where people can go now. For Rodney, who remains destitute as a result of a failed asylum claim, the IAS had been the first port of call:

*"They offered legal services to the asylum seeker. Most people are in a very bad situation now. It is not easy because you have to have money to pay most lawyers and we cannot afford that."*

Richard Chessum, vice-chair of ASSIST, commented that ASSIST took a lot of asylum seekers down there. When other solicitors had their books full, the IAS was the only place that would see them.

*"We took people there not just with asylum cases but people who wanted to*

*bring their children here after they got leave to remain. They will be really missed."*

IAS is not the first national charity to go bust after changes to the funding of legal aid. IAS trustees stated it happened after it did not "prove possible to reach agreement on a way forward" on legal aid funding.

IAS' closure leaves a big gap in service provision. It makes the situation for asylum seekers and refugees feel, at times, hopeless. As Rodney expressed it:

*"The immigration laws are designed to kick people out; they are not designed to help people. The main laws of the land and immigration law are two different legal systems."*

If you would like to know more about the work done by ASSIST, please contact [jennyrichardson@assistsheffield.org.uk](mailto:jennyrichardson@assistsheffield.org.uk) Telephone: 0114 275 4960



## Affordable furniture

Opened in July 2010, 'Affordable Furnishings' on the Wicker sells a range of household furniture, including beds, sofas and dining room furniture.

### New beginnings

Store owner Mr Aziz has long been involved in furniture retail. The shop has always belonged to his family but, shortly after opening a larger store behind Queen's Road, the Wicker shop was devastated by the floods and closed for a long time. When his family sold the larger store to developers, they decided they no longer wanted to continue with the business and Mr Aziz chose to re-open the Wicker store.

*"I said 'no, I can't let it finish there' and wanted to continue. But I wanted to do it my way. I wanted to make furniture more affordable so that's the name I gave it - 'Affordable Furnishings'. Before, I was influenced by my family but this time I've done it how I wanted to do it.*

*"As a young person with a family, I could relate to a lot of younger families who found it difficult to afford setting up a new home. That was my reason for opening the shop, to make it all affordable. When I told my family, they said 'but this is like*

*giving it away.' I said 'well, that's the whole idea. I want to feel like I'm giving it away. I genuinely want to make it affordable."*

### Carpets

*"The main thing that I've introduced, that we didn't do before, is carpets. I'm the first one in the family to start carpets."*

*"All the furniture is new, but I can keep prices low because I've built up a reputation with suppliers over the years. We also import as well on certain products. I've reduced our profits but we do more volume."*

*"Many of my customers are from Burngreave and surrounding areas. They are the people coming in day-to-day at the moment, but as word is getting round my customers are now coming from as far as Barnsley and Doncaster."*

### Out with the old ...

Mr Aziz explained that they also provide a service to remove customers' old furniture.

*"If anyone wants to donate their stuff to a charity, we're quite happy to take it there free of charge. Or we can take it to a registered dump to dispose of it. For a small fee, we'll also deliver it to someone they know, to a family member or friend."*

**Please note if donating:** charities usually won't take beds but will take furniture like wardrobes or chests of drawers. Sofas are accepted so long as they still have the fire label attached.

<h2>Affordable FURNISHINGS</h2> <h3>The Factory Outlet</h3>	<p>Wide range of furniture including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seating</li> <li>• Dining</li> <li>• Bedroom</li> </ul> <p><b>FREE measuring</b> <b>FREE delivery</b> <b>FREE fitting</b></p> <p>10% discount running online</p>
<p>Open 7 days a week 9am - 6pm All major credit cards accepted. 122/126 Wicker, Sheffield, S3 8JD. <b>Telephone: 272 8031</b> <a href="http://www.affordablefurnishings.co.uk">www.affordablefurnishings.co.uk</a></p>	

## Eastern Eye Pakistan Independence Day

August 14th saw another huge celebration event at Mohammed Akram's Eastern Eye take-away restaurant on Firth Park Road. The event, which Mohammed has hosted every year for the past 30 years, drew hundreds of people together for a special meal in honour of the day Pakistan achieved independence back in 1947.

Local people, friends and dignitaries from around the region gathered to join in the celebrations.

Mr Akram said "I came here in 1966 after visiting many European countries. This one is the best but I don't forget where I came from, Pakistan."

The event is an opportunity to look back but also a chance to reflect on the present and toward the future. "Many young people attended the event. We prayed for peace. This was a good thing to



do in light of recent unrest and all the rioting they had seen."

The event fell during the Holy month of Ramadan, when Mr Akram's shop also gives away free food.

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