



A national champion

19-year-old boxer Waleed Din, from Earl Marshal Road, is the first national champion to come out of Fir Vale, winning the National Clubs for Young People title at 48kg class C category.

Waleed grew up in Pitsmoor. He started boxing at 16 and is with the Sheffield Lane Top Amateur Boxing Club. He won the Yorkshire Championships four times and holds the Yorkshire Title Challenge belt at 48 kg. Keith Palmer, Head Coach of the Lane Top club, offers his congratulations:

"Waleed comprehensively beat the Junior ABA champion, to take him to the national finals against Kane Smart."

"Waleed was leading steadily on points after the first round and stretched further away in round 2. By the third round, the



timing and accuracy of his shots were so precise that Kane Smart's coach threw in the towel mid-way in, to end the bout.

"Waleed has only been boxing for two and a half years and shows great promise and prospects for the future. He has worked hard for his success and is still only boxing to 50% of his full capability so I'm sure there is a lot more to come from him yet."

"He is a pleasure to have in the gym, the younger children look up to him with respect."

Waleed told the Messenger he'd like to give sponsors such as Mercury Taxis a big 'thank you' for everything they have done for him and the club.

"I worked as an apprentice joiner from 16 to 18 but left to concentrate on boxing. Where I am today is all due to coaches, Keith and Linden Palmer, who are an inspiration for the local community, keeping kids off the streets and out of trouble."

Thank you to Valerie

Story: Muneebah Waheed

A local resident of Fir Vale, Shabana Shahid, contacted the Burngreave Messenger, wanting to acknowledge the work of their local lollipop lady. Valerie Hanson is still crossing children safely over the road in Fir Vale after 27 years.

Shabana wanted to show her recognition and wanted the children in Fir Vale to show their appreciation to Valerie Hanson too. As Shabana said,

"Despite the bad weather, she's always been there, and I just want to say thank you. I remember her being there when I was at school - it was Earl Marshal School back then - and now she's crossing my kids over the road. There's not enough recognition for her."

Valerie spoke to the Messenger about her fond memories helping children cross the road safely for 27 years. "It was a friend of mine who first got me interested, although then there were no traffic lights and the road was much quieter".

Valerie has to cope under pressure and help kids cross quickly and safely, especially when hearing the sirens of a roaring ambulance coming towards them. "There were a few close shaves, but none too serious." The Messenger asked how the community has changed over the years.

"It was much quieter and the children were much politer then. Although the community is still really lovely and most of the children are polite. A 'thank you' doesn't hurt!"

Valerie Hanson has put her own life at risk to help school children cross safely for 27 years and remains committed to her job on behalf of Fir Vale, the Messenger wants to say "Thank You!".





Green City Action

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

The School for Vegetables

Learn To Grow:
starting this spring

FREE short courses for beginners in vegetable gardening at our lovely plot at Grimesthorpe Allotments in Burngreave.



Get a head start this spring!

- Soil preparation, weeds and pests
- Spring sowing and planting

Two four week courses will take us through the spring

Wednesday mornings 9.30- 12.00

First course:

March 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th

Second course:

April 25th, May 2nd, 9th and 16th

For more information and a registration form contact us on 0114 244 0353



LOTTERY FUNDED

Burngreave Garden Share Project

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

Or would you like to grow your own fruit and vegetables in a neighbour's garden?



What is a garden share?

Garden Owners make some space in their garden available to a Grower and in return the Grower undertakes to offer a share of the produce grown there.

Green City Action is aiming to link people close to each other. Green City Action will meet both the owners and the growers to explain the scheme in more detail and discuss the requirements before suggesting possible matches.

Green City Action will provide guidance and support to the garden owner and grower to take this forward. We can loan gardening tools too.

For more information please contact Green City Action on 0114 244 0353 or enquiries@greencityaction.org.uk



LOTTERY FUNDED

www.greencityaction.org.uk. Registered Charity 1095725



Inter-Active Art in the Community

Free Festival at Burngreave Cemetery Chapel

Independent film night

Thursday 29th March 2012, 7 - 11pm

Cabaret and music night

Friday 30th March 2012, 8 - 11pm

Interactive workshops

Saturday 31st March 2012, 11am - 9pm

Lantern-building, laughter workshops, yoga and more.

All events accompanied by interactive art installations, chai, food and more. **Come along and join in!**

For more information, look out for posters and flyers nearer the time, or contact **Katie Challis** on:

Telephone: 07792 415 264

Email: katiec@herdofcats.co.uk



Antique & Collectors Event

Saturday 3rd March 10.30am-5.00pm

Sorby House, Spital Hill, S4 7LG.

Free Drinks

Contact Yvonne 07954 149 297



**Lively worship • Growth groups
Youth group • Children's activities
Bible-based teaching**

Join us Sundays for worship at 10:30 a.m.
Just off Spital Hill at 75 Carlisle Street
Phone: 0114 2767630

www.rockchristiancentre.org

Burngreave Vestry Hall is back!

After the Council's repairs to the water leak damage that happened a few months ago, Burngreave Vestry Hall is now open again for business.

There are already some groups and activities happening at the Vestry Hall such as S3 Allcomers adult learning disability group and a youth club

Also, with the move of the building to ownership by the Council, the charges for hire of rooms has been reduced.



The current standard charges for hire between the normal hours and days of 8 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday are as follows:

- Main Hall - £30 for first hour and £15 for each extra hour
- Classrooms and ICT suite - £20 for first hour and £10 for each extra hour



The Vestry Hall can be booked between 5pm and 10pm and also at weekends, but this does carry an additional charge of £34.

A 50% discount on these hire rates is available for some community, voluntary and faith groups and for certain activities that benefit the community like education classes and youth clubs.

Finally, the building can be hired for parties for under 8 year olds.

If you would like to hire a room, want to find out if your group or activity can have a discount, or have any other questions, then please get in contact with Roy, Martin or Tom who deal with all the bookings and are based on the front desk at Sorby House.

You can contact them via
Telephone: 213 2302
Email: enquiries@sorbyhouse.com

Sorby House, 42 Spital Hill,
Burngreave, Sheffield, S4 7LG

Norma Clarke

Well known local resident Norma Clarke died in January.

Norma had lived in Burngreave since the age of 15. She regularly attended local meetings and made many vocal and incisive contributions. Over the years, Norma was a very active member of the community. She was one of the founder members of Sheffield City Council's 50-plus group and was very active in its development.

Fellow member of the 50-plus group, Dorrett Buckley-Greaves, had many fond memories of Norma and wanted to pay her tribute, "She was a kind person and we had good times together, we had some laughs. She will be greatly missed by many members of the community."



Norma receiving her Area Panel award in 2009



Budget time

Cuts in services on all sides means the end of March is when we will see a reduction in the level and quality services.

Councillors at the Community Assembly gave this example: up to now, streets have been swept on a regular schedule. Now it's possible streets will only be swept in response to public requests.

Traditionally this has favoured areas of the city where residents are more confident about asserting their requests. We urge residents not to be shy. It is important to put your requests forward and not just assume that someone else has. The council's main switchboard for requests is 273 4567.

Website

Look on our website for news between the issues. And don't forget to tell us if you have something for others to see.

Messenger Info

Copy deadline: 14th March
 Published: **31st March**
Burngreave Messenger Ltd,
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 Abbeyfield Road, Sheffield S4 7AT.
Tel: (0114) 242 0564
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LOTTERY FUNDED

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

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This issue's team: Michelle Cook, Rohan Francis, Mick Ibbotson, Saleema Imam, Douglas Johnson, Jamie Marriott, John Mellor, Tim Neal, Rob Smith, Lisa Swift. **Proofing and editing:** Annie Blindell, Gaynor Carr, Carrie Hedderwick, Liz Searle, Robert Shaw, Muneebah Waheed.

Caborn corner planting

Story: Saleema Imam



Richard Caborn in 1983 accompanied by his mother, planting the Blue Atlas Cedar presented by the British Bulgarian Trade Union Association in memory of his father George.

It's good to see trees being replanted again on Caborn corner outside the entrance to the new Tesco store on Spital Hill. The commemorative plaque to George Caborn and his accompanying evergreen tree have also been returned to a prominent position near the bus stop.



Sheffield City Council are responsible for planting a wide variety of trees, shrubs, climbers, perennials and bulbs for all year round interest. Tesco are supporting the future maintenance of the raised beds and other planting along the Savile Street boundary (see the website for a comprehensive list of plants).

New money for Burngreave

“Community First” funding is to provide an extra £203,460 for voluntary groups in Burngreave over the next 4 years.

The money is available to wards all over the country if they suffer from serious levels of deprivation. Burngreave is set to receive the second highest amount in the country, showing the very high levels of poverty in the area.

A panel is being set up to take applications from voluntary groups in the near future. Groups can apply for up to £2,500 if they can raise this amount through match funding, which can include volunteers' time.

At present, the panel is being managed by the Community Assembly and application forms are available on their website or you can ring them on 203 7562.

Council Budget 2012

Story: Douglas Johnson

Cuts to the Council's funds will particularly affect residents of Burngreave when it comes to setting the council's budget this month.

This year, the council has to reduce its expenditure by another £57m, on top of the £84m cut last year, and also has to find an extra £2m to start paying for the Highways PFI. The council has been upfront about some decisions and has had a series of public consultations about the cuts.

Changing bin collections to fortnightly will have an impact on properties where there is already a lot of rubbish. The aim is to have black bins collected one week and then blue bins the next. Many people still don't use their blue bins and it is hoped this will encourage people to recycle more. Green sack collections will also stop. How the council will deal with requests for additional help is still to be worked out.

Regular street-sweeping may also reduce, with streets only being swept when specially requested, according to one Councillor at the recent Community Assembly meeting. Burngreave residents will have to put in requests for service to make sure the area doesn't get overlooked.

Parks and woodlands face further cuts in service levels and the Council is also looking at cutting funding for bowling clubs and for the environment weeks. Allotment-holders face a 7.5% rent rise with the plan to double rents by 2013/14.

However, services like the Police Community Support Officers are to be protected and the Council will limit cuts in grant funding to the voluntary sector to 5%. It is of course the hidden impact of continually reducing services that most affects an area like Burngreave.

Work on Spital Hill

No work has yet started on the planned improvements to Spital Hill, arising from the money paid by Tesco for public improvements.

Work is said to be “being costed” at present. There is still no decision on the council's request for money to improve the area around Ellesmere Green,

The council had received an additional £75,000 for public art on Spital Hill. It has now issued a tender for it, although only for £58,000. The Council had previously promised “consultation workshops” in the New Year and the tender makes clear that “community engagement is a key aspect of the role of the artists, and local people will be engaged and involved in the works.”

It is said the project will bring public realm improvements that will help support local traders.

Tesco jobs allocation revealed

The Messenger has received confirmation of the number of local jobs at Tesco.

Figures released by the Council's employment team, which organised the recruitment of long-term unemployed people, show a total of 185 people were selected for the training course, provided by Jobcentreplus and Sheffield College. 105 eventually accepted paid jobs. Of these 105, at least 72 people were from Burngreave or Firth Park.



Recognising Achievement

Story Vivien Urwodhi

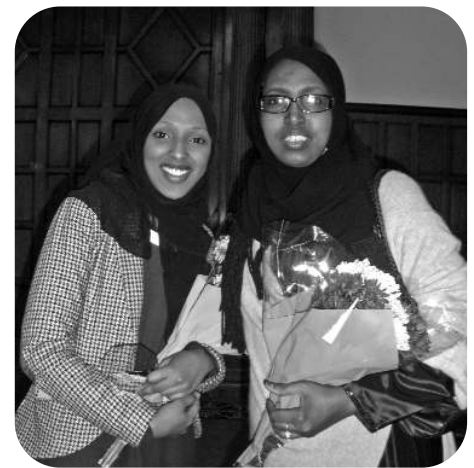
The Outreach Improvement Project's 2nd annual awards event took place in January. This year, it was in the Town Hall. Over 100 Somali residents attended to listen and acknowledge what the project had done and what it will provide again in the future.

The young Somali organisers announced an impressive list of winners from the Somali community, for achievements in education, community and professional life. They didn't stop there but congratulated each with a glass award,

flowers for the women and words that would encourage others to follow their example. Organisers said,

"We feel this event is important because our community usually gets a bad press focused on gangs, drugs and violence. Because of this, it is easy to forget the achievements of the majority within our community, who are working hard to better themselves and have a positive effect on society."

Guest speakers included the Imam of At-Taqwa Masjid in Burngreave, School



teacher Abdulrahman Mahamoud and Police Officer Paul McCurry, Head of Community Safety at the Council, who encouraged those present to keep working together and to work with the police.

Guest speaker Hamish Wilson, Director at Degmo Farm, spoke about the history of Somalia, with photos he had taken while living there 10 year ago. He described the traditional Somali lifestyle and the thousands of years that the Somali people had spent perfecting the rearing of camels, sheep and goats in challenging conditions. He described the significance of the camel in Somali culture.

Speaking to one of the young organisers after the event, Khalid explained,

"Our group is totally independent and self-funding. This organisation is for young people to improve their prospects for the future. We will be starting a mentoring programme and producing a newsletter and we hope to work with other communities in the near future."

A full list of winners is on the website.

Sheffield FC come to Pitsmoor

Local resident Kabeer Abbas is encouraging the oldest football club in the world to develop talent in Burngreave.

Sheffield FC's Futsal team and coaches are offering to provide training sessions in the area and to help set up local teams. Futsal is an official UEFA and FIFA recognised form of indoor football.

At 23-years-old, Kabeer has just graduated from university and is taking a year out, turning down several jobs to give back to the community. He is keen to see the club put something into his local area; he grew up in Pitsmoor, and went to



Pye Bank and Parkwood schools.

"When I was young we didn't see anything from the big Sheffield football clubs for local young people. I've always had an interest in football and I wanted

to give something back, so I'm volunteering for Sheffield FC as Community Manager to try to make something happen in Pitsmoor."

Working alongside Activity Sheffield and the FA, Kabeer is hoping to offer sessions with Sheffield FC coaches and first team players for young people between 11 and 16 years. Groups would need to provide an indoor hall but, other than this, the sessions would be free. He is also hoping to recruit new adult teams for the second season of Futsal at Hillsborough. Sheffield FC play their home games at Concorde. This is free to attend but they need to establish local support to gain funding for a new ground in Attercliffe.

To find out more about the opportunity, contact Kabeer by email at kabeer@sheffieldfc.com



Byron Wood parents meeting

Story: Lisa Swift



More than 30 parents met with members of the local police team in January to voice their concerns about community safety. The meeting was organised by Byron Wood Parents' Group, who have been active in the school for several years.

Many of the parents and their children live in the area affected by the Section 30 dispersal order put in place in December.

Police officer PC Daniel Laycock, and PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) manager Shaun Davis were there to explain what the section 30 was and answer parents' questions.

Daniel Laycock explained,

"The section 30 is not about arresting people, and we haven't made any arrests yet. It is to make the area feel safer for local residents by dispersing groups who may cause anti-social behaviour. Having spoken to local shops and residents, we believe that issues with large groups of young men have got better and the area is much quieter."

Parents pointed out that drug dealing was still taking place, though it had moved. One parent said she hadn't seen any police in the area.

"I was looking forward to the section 30 starting, but it's not as visible as I expected."

PC Laycock confirmed that patrols were taking place every day, including police on horses. He also said four arrests had been made on drugs-related offences. He said,

"It's important that people report what they see to the police, either directly to our officers or through the 101 number. You don't have to give your name. Sometimes things don't happen quickly; they take time, but each report helps us to target what we do in the right places."

Concern was also expressed about what activities were available for young people to help them. One parent said,

"We have been waiting for something to happen; now organisations are popping up. We need activities for young children."

Another said,

"It's all reactive. The last 3 times young people have been lost, there has been an increased presence of police and activities. Then it goes again. We want it to continue over the long term."

Another parent said,

"The young people don't make us feel unsafe. There is nothing for them to do. They need jobs and training. They shouldn't all be labelled as doing drugs."

The police responded, "We understand that not every child is a hoodie or involved in drugs. Every week we have the street-based team, which is a partnership of workers, who engage with young people. We are also fighting to keep this kind of resource in the area and we will keep pushing for resources to stay in the area."

The police promised to attend parents' meetings regularly to keep them up to date with progress on the Section 30 and local safety issues.

Finding positive ways forward

Story: Lisa Swift

Mubarak Hassan is the new Somali Community Development Coordinator.

Mubarak is working voluntarily for Somali Unity Committee, to develop and support the Somali Community, but much of his work is around young people.

A key concern is that young Somali men need to find positive ways forward, following recent deaths and concerns about young men taking the wrong direction into criminality.

Mubarak has recently set up employment and support sessions at 30 Burngreave Road, where the Somali Community Association is based.



"It's been identified that there are barriers for Somali young people in gaining employment, training and education, so the sessions help them update CVs, improve their interview

skills, fill in applications and take up volunteering opportunities."

Mubarak is currently in discussions about developing work with Burngreave Works, the local job-brokering organisation. He is also keen to see support focus on older young people.

"Moving on from the leisure activities young people find in youth clubs, it is important to see the senior age group (17-25) supported to gain employment through a focused programme of activities."

While it's early days, the first sessions have gone well. Mubarak explained "Young people welcomed it, and felt it was something that will be helpful. We are hoping to work with others to develop it."

For more information contact mubarak.suc@gmail.com or on his mobile 07753 294 981

Section 30 Effective or Not?

Story: Rob Smith

As my first report on my return to the Messenger as a volunteer I've been finding out how young people feel about the new Section 30 dispersal orders recently placed on the areas of Spital Hill and Ellesmere. It particularly affects the Bressingham area and the rear of the Vestry hall where a lot of local youths congregate after school hours and weekends.

Approaching a group of five or so young men who were stood in the car park and leaning by the wall of the Somali café, I quickly enquired if they had any idea about Section 30 and what it meant to them.

"Its bullshit," shouted one of the group claiming, "They don't do it in other areas."

"The more rules they make the more get broken," added an older boy

After talking to a few young men it became apparent that there had been a confrontation with the police on Wednesday 18th January. One of the guys admitted to being the subject of that confrontation outside the Vestry Hall. He informed me that officers had approached him and due to being nervous his action caused them to over react, adding that he was not charged or convicted of anything after the event.

Going inside the Vestry Hall it was fully active with young people. Diane Haimeed and Amin Qassim, both senior qualified youth workers, explain how up to a hundred young people attend the sessions at any one time. Opening three days a week, it not only allows these local young people shelter from the street corners its also provides encouragement into more positive alternative activities.

I asked some of the young men how they felt about the centre being here and what they thought of the Section 30.

"It's a cool place to chill here," said a young man playing on the pool table. Agreeing with him, his competitor Abdi added he would feel angry if it wasn't open for them. Although not aware of what Section 30 meant Abdi, like others, was there when the dispersal orders were carried out following an incident outside the centre a week before.

All the young people I met spoke highly of



Young people and youth workers making fruit smoothies, just one of the positive activities taking place in the Vestry Hall.



the provision they have here and are glad of having somewhere safe off the street. Gulied Jama, a young Youth worker who has been in the service for 3 years told me "Allowing the young people a place to socialise and meet their friends indoors is positive and needed around this area."

Hamed, in his late teens, said he knew that Section 30 meant not being able to hang around in a group of more than two people. He added he thought it was nonsense. "Not everyone in a group is doing bad stuff.... The police always approach us with aggression. This causes more tension leading us into refusing to move."

Also in his late teens, another young man, said he thought it was ridiculous. "We are always going to hang round with a bag of friends." He added that the area around the Vestry and the youth club was the only place they can chill. "I have associations with more than one person but meeting three or four friends will put me in direct confrontation with this Section 30." Referring to the incident that took place on the 18th, he added that the Police became very disrespectful towards all the people. "They began trying to agitate us into confrontation."

Mustafa said it was the good who get blamed for the actions of others. "We don't all sell drugs, but we like to hang in groups. We feel safer and don't think the Police should tell us we can't."

Saleem suggested it was a bad law that creates more problems "because we like to hang around in groups." I asked him why they liked hanging in groups. "It's more fun to associate with more people

especially when you're at our age ...We meet in numbers to go and play football or arrange other things to do...If they try stopping us doing this we will hate them and this will cause more problems."

Ahmed, age 21, added, "When normal people, like the old, see us in large groups they can feel intimidated. I think in some way the order could be good, but the way it has been implemented needs to be more tactful and sensitive."

Diane and Amin told us about more positive stuff they have going on in the centre, including job support, and plans for a youth work training course and job related training. However, they confirmed reports that there had been a very volatile incident outside the facility around 5pm Wednesday 18th.

Police used the dispersal after being called to the area by the mounted police officer. There were angry exchanges between a large number of youth and seven Police officers. There were complaints that the situation was not helped by the attitude of the police towards young people and the youth workers.

Amin explained, "In order to prevent this sort of tension it's important that the police work with others on the ground. As youth workers who have a better relationship with the young people...If we don't work together when an incident occurs, then tension will probably rise like it did last Wednesday."

The Messenger spoke to senior Police Officer Daniel Laycock,

"This is an isolated incident of assault at the Vestry Hall, the victim of the assault became aggressive and a hostile crowd had gathered around the two mounted officers who called for assistance.

"As supervisor at the scene I feel the incident was managed very swiftly and effectively by officers that were present. In relation to this I understand that people may question police tactics and methods and I am happy to discuss this with them in person once I re visit the Vestry Hall.

"Again, this was an isolated incident of assault and there have been no incidents since. The Section 30 order remains in place and is having the desired effect at present which is what we are being told by residents and partners."

Daniel Laycock has since visited the centre and to meet youth workers. Agreement was reached that the incident could have been handled better and commitments were made to develop more positive relationships with young people and youth workers at the centre.

Young people hear anti-crime message



Story: Ade Adeyinka and Lisa Swift

An event aimed at keeping young people away from crime was held in January by Burngreave Youth Development Centre at Verdon Recreation Centre.

Organiser Ahmed Abtidon invited guests to speak to young people and spread an anti-crime message in bid to calm the anxiety felt in the Somali community following the deaths of three Somali teenagers in recent months.

The event targeted both parents and children through several presentations aimed at educating young people and deterring them from offending which

could likely lead them to prison.

Speaking first, Ahmed asked parents to maintain a good contact with schools to support their children to attend school and do well. Then the Imam of At Taqwa Centre, spoke to parents about their responsibilities as role models to their children.

In2Change gave a hard hitting presentation about the reality of life in prison. In2Change is a charity based at SYAC on the Wicker which supports ex-offenders. Gary McWilliams, an ex-offender who now works for In2Change, spoke about his own experience of prison life, and revealed candid tales of prisoner violence, the hardships of losing your freedom, and the dangers of socialising

with criminals which can spiral into serious offences.

The children were totally captivated by another ex-offender working with In2Change, fellow Somali Adnan Hashi, who delivered a powerful speech. Now 25, he went to prison at the age of 15 and served 10 years of a 17-year sentence. He told the kids that if they learnt from his lesson they would have an advantage in life.

“I didn’t listen in school, I didn’t believe in school. I did the wrong thing, I started selling drugs. Sometimes when you are young you think these things are cool, they are not. The best way to prove yourself is to finish school. I made a mistake, but now I am telling you so you can take advantage of what I have learned.”

Speaking after the workshop, he said “If you speak to the kids like they are adults they listen and they can relate to you.” His talk had a real effect and left the children discussing the issues and how it had changed their minds.

The discussion continued with South Yorkshire police’s Point 7 presentation about the real dangers of knives and guns, and how young people’s lives can be ruined by weapons and gang culture.

Organiser, Ahmed expects bigger events will take place in the future considering the success of the event at Verdon Rec, which more than 50 people attended. The Burngreave Youth Development Centre was formerly based at the Plaza, and has now moved to Spital Lane, where it is open for young people each evening.

S.O.F.T: Sheffield Offenders Families Together

Story: Michelle Cook

We are a new Sheffield based group, supporting the families of people involved in the criminal justice system, living in Sheffield and South Yorkshire. We are based in Burngreave but our membership is citywide.

Imprisonment of a family member may result in a number of problems such as financial pressures; possible risk to housing; childcare difficulties and the negative impact on the 16,500 children who lose a parent to imprisonment each year; anxiety, stress and health problems

and rejection, stigma, and victimisation by neighbours and the community.

Families affected by imprisonment face a process of grief and readjustment throughout the course of the arrest, trial, imprisonment and release. They often have difficulty getting the information and support they need during periods of crisis and stress, making them feel out of control.

Our group aims to mitigate the effects on children and families of a family member being in prison through support and information, and consequently, a reduction in the likelihood of re-offending.

We aim to:

- Provide support and opportunities for mutual self-help - enabling family members to share their experiences with others in the same situation.

- Befriend family members in order to combat their isolation and reduce stigma.
- Enable family members to find new and better ways of coping with the situation
- Signpost families to support and information from other services,
- Provide well-written and accessible information on: the impact of imprisonment and offending behaviour, who can help offenders and their families and how families can help themselves.

Our group meets every month for coffee and a chat. New members are always welcome.

For details and how to get involved, please ring 07534 506 263.

Local lads top the 5 a-side league



Top of the league 2012: Top Row (from left to right): Kamiz, Sal, Kal and Raf Bottom row (from left to right): Mohammed, Yaz, Hanash and Suf

Story: Ade Adeyinka

A confident smile emanated from the Inter Yemen players in their post-match huddle, following their third consecutive League Championship medal in the Sheffield Powerleague at the Pitz, Woodbourn Stadium.

Just two years after they joined the league, the team of eight has entered 3 leagues and won all 3, making them league champions in both Thursday and Tuesday Five-a-side leagues. In December they played a sensational game against close rivals and former titleholders Barmy Army F.C. who lost their three-year trophy to Inter Yemen.

Yaz, team striker and winner of the Player of the League Trophy, hailed the game to be a comfortable victory for his teammates who now control the Tuesday Five-a-side league, one of the best leagues in Woodbourn stadium. He said,

"We played a total of 18 matches in consecutive weeks, winning 17 and losing only one".

If you think that's not impressive then you should know that no other team in the league was able to win more than 14 games.



Team mates in 1993: Top Row:- First left Suf, First right Yaz, Second right Raf, Third right Sal Bottom Row:- Second left Kamiz

Inter Yemen are now half way through the current league and are favourites to retain their title, although they do have stronger teams to play against this season. They are in a good position at the moment, sitting second in the league with a game in hand which if they win sends them top of the table.

This group of good friends go back a long time; they all grew up together around Burngreave and have been playing since the age of 11. Some of them played for the same teams and are still playing together now!

"We used to kick about with each other and most of us have continued to play together ever since then." Yaz said "The only thing is we didn't look like a team then because we had no kit."

The team now has the kit and local support to make it a prime competitor in Sheffield.

In the summer they came third in a one day tournament at Pitz, qualifying to play in the regional finals in Manchester, against some of the best teams in the north of England. Inter Yemen made it to the quarter-finals where they were beaten by the eventual champions.

"Our best achievement for now is getting through to the quarter-finals in Manchester and also winning the Tuesday 5-a-side league, which we hope to retain. We are considering moving up to the 7-a-side league in Woodbourn stadium."

Football is still one of their favourite pastimes and they certainly play it well.

Football Crazy

Story: Carl Kennedy, Ellesmere Youth Project

Friday 25th November; a freezing cold night but it was game on between Burngreave's multi-talented multi-agency squad and a group of young people from the Vestry Hall.

Yes, we got a 9 - 6 hammering, but it was all worth the defeat, as it brought workers and young people together in an activity everyone (in particular the young people) have a passion for.

Workers from Ellesmere Youth Project, Sheffield Futures, YOS North Prevention Team, Burngreave Study Support, South Yorkshire Police, Longley College and



Vestry Hall volunteers took to the pitch at Hillsborough Sports Arena to battle the agile, young, lightning-quick talented youth players who have the ability to scare off Lionel Messi. It was a great match, they were worthy winners and it was enjoyed by everyone who played – we will hopefully get a re-match soon to regain our pride.

But this wasn't just any old match, it had a purpose of developing relationships and breaking down barriers, this work now continues with a visit to the Emirates, home of Arsenal Football Club.

The tour of the stadium will take place on Tuesday 14th February during half term, where the majority who were involved will come together to enjoy some light entertainment.

Although we are fully behind female football, both teams were all male. However, I would like to share the fact that Danielle Sharp from Ellesmere Youth Project gave her Friday evening up to support the event and sit on the sidelines in sub-zero temperatures to take pictures.

Thanks to everyone involved and we look forward to more future activities.

New booklet for parents of under fives

Local GPs and doctors from Sheffield Children's Hospital have put together a booklet for parents of under five year-olds, which will be distributed throughout the city via nurseries and SureStart centres.

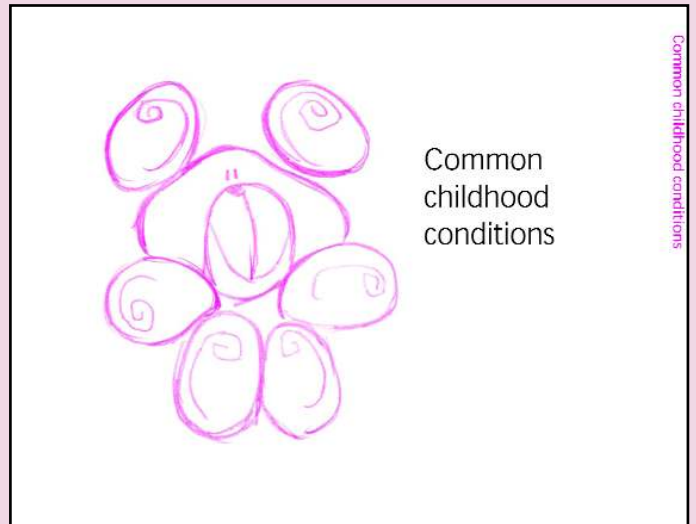
The aim of the booklet is to provide clear advice about a variety of common childhood conditions and illnesses, including:

- **What you can do to help your child**
- **When to take your child to a doctor**
- **When to take your child to A&E**
- **If you can take your child to nursery/school**

Richard Oliver, a GP at Ecclesfield Group Practice says:

"We all know how worrying it can be when a child falls ill and this booklet aims to give parents the most appropriate information needed to deal with the illness, whether that's treating the child at home or bringing them in to see the GP."

Since May of last year the booklet has been included in the PHCR (the red book) that is given to parents of all newborns but this new initiative aims to cover most of the



under fives in Sheffield, giving mums and dads valuable information about how best to treat their child.

The booklet covers conditions including:

- **High temperature**
- **Rashes**
- **Constipation**

And plenty of other common causes of concern.

The booklet is free and will be available in the next couple of months, so keep a look out for it at your child's nursery.



Quality education and play, for each individual child

Watoto Pre-School

Ready Steady GO

Ready Steady Go is a new parents/carers toddler group for children who need additional support with their development.

If you have any concerns about your child's development, why not come along to the group, where:

- **Your child can play and learn.**
- **There is a sensory room available for the children to enjoy.**
- **You can meet with other parents and carers.**

Advice will be available from a variety of professionals including Speech and



Language Therapist, Portage and the Early Years Inclusion Team.

Every Tuesday 1pm - 3pm

Speak to Lillian on 0114 275 1817 or Hafeeza on 0114 252 5220 to put your name down and/or for more details.

Free outings for you and your child

With support from:



Watoto Pre-School: 139 Catherine Road, Sheffield, S4 7HJ • Tel: 0114 275 1817
Email: info@watotopreschool.co.uk | Web: www.watotopreschool.co.uk

Coming Soon: Watoto Toddlers Dance Group

We have a dedicated and professional dance teacher.

Both boys and girls will love the fun and structured dance lessons.

The lessons will teach children a wide range of dance styles and promotes all the important life skills necessary for a child's development.

There are numerous positive benefits for the children who join our dance group— Learning different dance steps, building confidence, raising awareness of health and fitness, manners, and developing communication skills.

Age 3-5s: 4pm–5 pm

Over 5s: 5.15pm–6.15 pm

Parents stay for refreshments and a chat

Sign up today

Contact Lillian or Sharon on:

0114 275 1817

Limited places available.



Mothers of Burngreave Network

Story: Lisa Swift

Mothers in Burngreave have decided to take action in their community, following the deaths of young men from the Somali community over the last year.

Supported by Burngreave-based women's organisation, Rite Turn, the new Mothers of Burngreave Network will be holding sessions at Verdon Recreation Centre for local mothers and their children.

The Messenger spoke to one of the mothers from the Network's committee, who told us why the group had started:

"We felt nothing was going on for our young people. There are lots of community groups around, but they are not doing anything. Ever since the first Somali child died we have been asking for help, but nothing happened, so now we are doing it ourselves."

The group is led by Somali mothers, but they are keen to encourage mothers from any background to get involved. The aim of the group is to provide activities that mothers and children can do together. It's early days, but the committee has lots of ideas of what to do next.

"We want to have activities that help with education, health



and employment. It can also be about socialising and cultural activities. We only started the group in December, so we are still gathering ideas."

Mona Yusef, director of Rite Turn, said "We met the mothers at our centre on Spital Lane, where we help women into employment, through confidence building and self development. We have offered to help them set up the Network, but it is important that it is something the mothers control for themselves."

The group is meeting every Saturday at 4pm at Rite Turn on Spital Lane. Youth Programme at Verdon Recreation Centre on Monday and Thursday evenings. To find out more contact 0114 321 6563

Muslim Women's Voices
Annual General Meeting

Are you a Muslim woman in Sheffield?
Do you have opinions, concerns or issues that you want to voice?
Want to make a difference to improve the quality of life for Muslim women in Sheffield?

Then Muslim Women's Voices is for you.


An independent, proactive network; Muslim Women's Voices seeks out and values the voices of women across Sheffield.

Visit us on:

Thursday 23rd February, 10am - 1pm
Burngreave Vestry Hall,
Burngreave Road, Sheffield, S3 9DD

Food and refreshments will be provided.

Childcare is available but MUST be prior booked by calling Rafiza on **07940 984 998** or Nusrat on **07813 996 899**

Designed By 

Abu Hurayra narrated, the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said "A woman acts for the people," i.e. she gives protection on behalf of the Muslims. [Al-Tirmidhi]



Gaining a voice for women

Getting people with power to listen is a challenge, but this is what Muslim women from Burngreave plan to do through their new network Muslim Women's Voices

Since their first event in April 2011, the group have developed a clear vision of what they want to achieve and hope to share this at their first AGM in February. Committee member Zariena said,

"Our vision is to empower Muslim women through training and signposting so that they can gain the confidence to go out and get help and achieve their goals. It's a way of raising common concerns within Muslim communities across Sheffield that can be put forward to service providers, thus impacting on decision making and policies that affect our lives."

By talking directly to other Muslim women, the group are striving to understand the difficulties they face. These issues can then be raised with those who have the power to change services and address those issues. Shabana told us,

"I believe that this network is giving a voice to Muslim women in Sheffield, who want to put forward their opinions and points of views."

Find out more at their AGM on 23rd February, details opposite.

February Half Term Activities

Monday 13th – Sunday 19th February (All activities are **FREE** unless otherwise stated)

Youth Clubs with Sheffield Futures

Earl Marshall Youth Centre

Age: 13-19 years

Monday 13th - 12noon-4pm (Girls Only) & 5.30pm-8.30pm

Tuesday 14th - 12noon-4pm & 5.30pm-8.30pm

Friday 17th - 12noon-3pm & 5.30pm-8.30pm

Contact Sheffield Futures on 201 8600

Osgathorpe Pavilion

Age: 13-19 years

Monday 13th & Thursday 16th - 6pm-8.30pm

Contact Sheffield Futures on 201 8600

Vestry Hall

Age: 13-19 years

Wednesday 15th, Friday 17th & Sunday 19th

4pm-8.30pm

Contact Sheffield Futures on 201 8600

All Saints Youth Centre

Age: 13-19 years

Monday 13th - 1pm-4pm

Wednesday 15th - 1pm-4pm & 6pm-9pm

Also with sessions from Ellesmere Youth Project

Contact Sheffield Futures on 201 8600

Verdon Recreation Centre

with Activity Sheffield

Come along and take part in lots of fun activities.

Activities take place outdoors and inside in case it's a rainy day.

Sports Camp with Arts & Crafts

Age: 8-16 years

Tuesday 14th, Thursday 16th & Friday 17th

2pm-4pm

Multisport (Bring a drink)

Contact Verdon Recreation Centre on 249 1626

Verdon Rec Youth Club

Monday 13th February (8-19 years) 4pm-6pm

with Sheffield Futures

Tuesday 14th & Wednesday 15th (8-16 years)

4pm-6pm

Thursday 16th (8-19 years) 4pm-6pm

with Sheffield Futures

Saturday 17th (13-19 years) 3pm-6pm

with Sheffield Futures

Multisport (Bring a drink)

Contact Verdon Recreation Centre on 249 1626

P.I.Ts Youth Club

Age: 8-16 years

Wednesday 15th - 6pm-8pm

Dance & Multisport (Bring a drink)

Contact Verdon Recreation Centre on 249 1626

Taekwondo

Under 18's - **£2.50**, Over 18's - **£3.50**

Age: 6 years up

Tuesday 13th - 6pm-8pm

Friday 17th - 6.30pm-8pm

Contact Verdon Recreation Centre on 249 1626

Hola & Groove - Learn to Sing & Dance £1

Age: 8-16 years

Thursday 13th - 3.15pm-4.30pm

Contact Verdon Recreation Centre on 249 1626

Sports Sessions with Activity Sheffield at

Firth Park Community Arts College

Activity Camp Unleashed £3

An exciting multi-activity holiday camp. Activities include; trampoline, football, tennis, badminton, dodgeball, street dance and more!

Age: 8-16years (not suitable for under 8 years)

Monday 13th & Tuesday 14th - 11am-3pm

Booking Essential (Bring a packed lunch & drink)

Contact Activity Sheffield on 273 4266

Table Tennis Sessions £2

Albert Premier Table Tennis Club

Age: 8-16 years

Friday 17th - 5pm-7pm

(Bring a drink)

Contact Activity Sheffield on 273 4266

Basketball Club

Age: 8-13 years

Monday 13th - 4.45pm-6pm

(Bring a drink)

Contact Activity Sheffield on 273 4266

Sports Sessions with Activity Sheffield at

Fir Vale Secondary School

Cricket & Football Camp £3

Age: 8-16years (not suitable for under 8 years)

Monday 13th, Tuesday 14th & Wednesday 15th

1pm-5pm

Booking Essential (Bring a packed lunch & drink)

Contact Activity Sheffield on 273 4266

Wensley Community Centre

Boxing Session with Sheffield Futures

Age: 8-19 years

Monday 13th - 6.45-7.45pm

(Bring a drink)

Contact Activity Sheffield on 273 4266

Fir Vale Sports Centre

Urban Box - mobile boxing ring. Try boxing skills in a non-contact environment.

Age: 8-16 years

Thursday 16th - 6.30pm-8pm

(Bring a drink)

Contact Activity Sheffield on 273 4266

Pitsmoor Adventure Playground

Age: 8-13 years (Under 8s welcome with an adult)

Come along and take part in lots of fun activities including a zip-wire and huge slide! Indoor and outdoor activities available – so no need to worry about the weather!

Tuesday 14th - Saturday 18th - 12noon-6pm

(Bring a drink)

Contact the Adventure Playground on 203 9394

Ellesmere Youth Project

Bike ride at Clumber Park £2

Friday 17th

12noon-3.30pm

Contact EYP on 07886 777 068 or

info@eyproject.org.uk to book a place



Join parents from Whiteways School to experience an evening walk along the River Don. River Steward, Hellen, from the Blue Loop project, will be guiding the group on the adventure.

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please bring your own food to eat by the fire. Wear warm clothing, footwear for walking and bring your own torch.

For more information contact Usha Blackham on 2423169

All Saints on Saturdays

All Saints Saturday Youth Club is an opportunity to do something a bit different.



Taking advantage of the fantastic facilities at the the All Saints centre, young people can do all kinds of creative activities including hair braiding, jewellery making and T-shirt printing.

The Saturday session is run 4.30pm- 8.30pm by Sheffield Futures, with extra volunteers from the Yemeni Community Association. For ages 8-16 years old.

Strictly come Singing at Byron Wood

Story: Sehrish Khan & Tamikka Reid | Photo: Smaira Sadique

On the 13th of December, at half past one, Byron Wood Primary School had their very own sing off, 'Strictly Come Singing'. Mrs Stroud, their amazing performing arts teacher, had thought of this wonderful idea and it has now become a great tradition in Byron Wood.

All the classes above year 2 competed against each other and sang a Christmas song.

Mrs Gill (Mrs Christmas) and Mr Critoph (Santa Claus) were the co- hosts of this whole event. They entertained people with their terrible jokes and funny costumes whilst the classes got ready to perform. Sehrish Khan and Tamikka Reid were in charge of the score board. They had to count up how many points each class got, as well as perform on stage with their own class.

The audience luckily got a treat: nearly every class had dressed up for this special evening and wore their costumes as part of their performance.



The staff were also a part of this sing off. They sang a Winter Wonderland remix. The judges were amazed by everyone's performance. Of course it wouldn't have been possible without our four judges, so Byron Wood gives many thanks to: Mrs Ashton (Head Teacher), Mrs Proctor Blain (Deputy Head), Mr. Cassin (Learning Mentor), Mrs Sadique (Family Advocacy Worker), & Special Replacement Leo Jones (Pupil)

It was the best 'Strictly come singing' ever at Byron Wood, especially for Mrs Gill's Class, Y5SG, who won the competition for their fantastic singing and fake snow which they somehow made look realistic.



Raggedy King

Written by Safeena Shafiq

On the 14th of December 2011, Byron Wood Primary School had its own nativity which was performed by the y1 and y2s.

There were lots of costumes and children with face paint. There also was a boy in y2 called Amaan Shahid who sang a solo. The angels were enjoyed by all the parents that came to watch this Christmas event.

It was not just a nativity it was also a musical. The story was about Jesus who was a raggedy king. David the shepherd thought that Jesus was a rich person but when he found out he was poor he refused to play his flute for him. At the end the others convinced him by saying you do not have to be rich to be king. A huge thanks to all the staff members who worked hard to put this play together. And also a huge thanks to all the parents who came.

Mummies come back!



Written by Nada Agila, Laila Dhoble, Aksa Shahid

It was a Thursday afternoon when Y5SG from Byron Wood School had an assembly based on ancient Egypt. First they had a school play; the teacher was a young student named Muna Yusuf. She had 6 students learning the hieroglyphics. One was always having a vision from the future.

Next a news report produced by Nada Agila and Laila Dhoble. They were talking about pharaoh Tut and his strange family. There was Hamed Ahmed as king Tut and Samsul Kahar who played Zannanza and Yalda Alkabary who had the hardest job of playing 3 characters at the same time – she was a stepmother, sister and wife.

Then, believe it or not this is true, in ancient Egypt king Pepi (who was played by Ellis Greenwood) poured honey on his slaves to keep the annoying flies away.

My little sister!



Written by Sehrish Khan

*I have a little sister,
They call her sweetie pie.
She sits in the corner and pretends to cry.
At night she takes up all the bed,
In fact last night she slept on my head!*

*I have a little sister,
She still wears a nappy,
She plays all day to keep herself happy.
She's clever, intelligent and really smart,
But absolutely messy when it comes to art.*

*I have a little sister, She loves to eat,
In the middle of the night I can smell her feet.
She acts like an adult and calls my brother Mister,
I just can't believe that she's my sister.*

Find more Family inspired creativity in 'The Family in British Art' at the Millennium Galleries from 1st February.



Music goes Tech

Story: Nic Cassin and Simon Dumpleton

Byron Wood may be the only school in Sheffield to provide a technology-based music after-school club. So far, 14 children have taken part but we now have provision for up to 30.

Initially we were limited to free software downloads. This meant that pupils learnt confidence in the basics, using software that was accessible without charge, before moving up to the more challenging applications.

However, we have recently purchased the "Dance eJay for Schools" software, which is a significant improvement on the freeware, allowing pupils to create musical arrangements with relative ease. It means Music Tech club activities underpin many of the subjects the pupils cover in the school music lessons, such as feeling the pulse, rhythmic counting, basic composition and arrangement.

A fishy story

Manoj is 7 years old and is in Y3 at Byron Wood Primary. He has written a story, "The fish who went to space."

The fish who went to space

Once upon a time there lived a fish under water. Soon the fish jumped up and saw stars and moon. Then he said how will I get there? Then a man made a rocket. Soon the fish was up and flying high. It was good seeing the stars and moon. But under the water it is better because I am a fish.



Christmas at the cemetery

Story: Saleema Imam

Natural materials such as Virginia creeper, ivy, holly and other berries were provided to create wreaths for either home decoration or to place on graves over the Christmas period.

With gold and silver paint, ribbons and bells brought by participants, each wreath was unique.

Do you remember our drama in the cemetery last spring? Performers are needed for our next event on Sunday 25th March. We also need seeds and plants to swap.

More information on the website
www.friendsofburngreavecemetery.btck.co.uk



Relax on a bat and a gnat

Keep your eyes peeled when you're next down near Crabtree Ponds and you'll spot the brand new carved bench depicting a bat and gnat, both creatures found around Crabtree Ponds Nature Reserve.



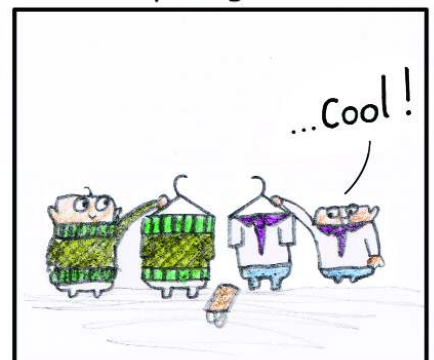
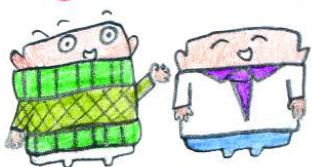
The gnat and the bat aren't to scale though, so don't worry about being chased by giant midges! Young people from Ellesmere Youth Project worked with local artist Jason Thompson to design the new woodland bench, now located next to the pond. So thank you to Jason and the group for the brilliant bench, and Big Lottery for funding it.

Whilst you're in the nature reserve, keep an eye out for a variety of other interesting wildlife including woodpeckers, moorhens, song thrush, mice and voles, and no doubt the odd fox or two as well.

George & Brian

January Sales

by Edgar Lowman





Food-i provided a buffet for Health Secretary Andrew Lansley's recent visit to Sheffield. Here he is seen with Ben Harper, Councillor Jackie Drayton (back row), Claire Altamura and Jakob Swindells.

Food-i @ The Furnival

Story: John Mellor

Food-i is a new project of Cellar Space based at The Furnival in Verdon Street. A team of catering trained learning mentors works with young people who, for a variety of reasons, have been unable to fully engage with the mainstream education system.

Cellar Space is a registered charity which was started as a small project in 1998 to meet the needs of local disadvantaged youngsters. It has been so successful in transforming their lives that it has grown into a city wide resource, working in partnership with schools and other support services. It provides a personalised programme based on the young person's individual strengths and interests in a safe and nurturing environment.

The centre manager, Ben Harper, told me:

"It was exciting to launch our new project with the support of the Lord Mayor and local schools. At present we have five trainees and plan to increase that to ten over the coming months. Project managers, Tim Hirst and Bex Roberts, work with the young people in producing appetising and nutritious individual meal portions which are delivered to a variety of schools and work places around the city or can be collected from The Furnival."

"Trainees also work towards a food safety certificate and the ASDAN key steps award. We have recently been awarded our 5-star rating from environmental health; in other words, our hygiene standards are excellent!"

Meals can be ordered via the Food-i website:
www.food-i.co.uk or e-mail tim@thefurnival.org.uk
 (Telephone.0114 2799 276)

Ben kindly provided me with a complimentary sample of one of their menu items. It was a delicious, mouth-watering, culinary experience which encourages me to visit Food-i again in the near future!



Arzoo clothing



*Asian ready made clothing,
 material for abayas,
 scarves and jewellery.*

*Elegance at affordable prices.
 Why not come and take a look?*

*52 Owlter lane,
 Sheffield S4 8QA
 Opposite Ghousia Mosque*

Telephone 0114 242 4545

*10% off purchases over £30
 with this advert in February*



£500 Grants Available
 From Rainbow's End shop profits



Rainbow's End Trustees are pleased to invite applications for **grants of £500** for organisations and charities in Burngreave working for the relief of unemployment or poverty.

Details and application forms available from the website: www.rainbows-end.org

Closing date 15th March 2012



Fir Vale Food Bank

Story & photo: Tim Neal

Fir Vale Food Bank opens at St Cuthbert's Church, Barnsley Road, every Thursday from 2 to 4pm. Revd Louise Collins, Vicar of Fir Vale and co-founder of Fir Vale Food Bank, explained they were responding to an ever-increasing need:

"Since last summer we noticed people were asking for food and not for money. It started with parishioners bringing in food."

"There is no means-testing. We don't ask for an address or ID. We are giving away food for one day. We don't want to encourage dependency, nor replace statutory support."

Revd Collins also encourages those seeking assistance to become volunteers themselves. When we visited, there were a number of people helping sort food, making tea and offering each other support and company.

"People can share, build community, swap stories and learn from each other."

If you would like to know more contact Alpha and Revd Louise Collins on 0114 261 1605.

Christmas wreath-making on Parkwood Springs



Story: Carol Schofield. Photo: Catherine Brown

On a cold December's afternoon, about 30 people came together under a lantern-lit awning close to the new Parkwood Springs sculpture to make themselves Christmas wreaths using withies, holly and greenery cut from local woodland.

Rangers from the Council's Parks and Countryside Department provided the materials and expertise - and it was all free of charge.

Neill Schofield, Chair of the Friends of Parkwood Springs, said, 'We all had a really nice evening, and there were some really beautiful wreaths. I was amazed how quickly people picked up the idea.'

Afterwards people had mince pies and mulled wine, and sang carols to celebrate the installation of the sculpture.

For more information about the Friends Group, please visit the website at www.parkwood-springs.org.uk or email parkwood.springs@gmail.com

Sowing Seeds of Sanctuary

Story & photo: Tim Neal

As part of their Ecominds-funded project, SAGE Greenfingers has produced a film about their mental health gardening project's experience of engaging with refugees and asylum seekers. The film, *Sowing Seeds of Sanctuary*, was premièred at the Welcome Centre, Christchurch, last December.

Filmed on site at Grimesthorpe Allotments, through voice-overs and interviews with refugees and asylum seekers, the film explores the healing experience that gardening can offer. The film communicates very directly and bears witness to the potential of such work. This made watching the film profoundly poignant, a sense that was enhanced by the presence at the screening of a number of the participants alongside members of their families.

The film was made by Jamie Marriott, with a moving narration by John Lawson interspersed with interviews with some volunteers on the project and others working with asylum seekers and refugees. The discussion that followed the event was very rewarding and considerable support was voiced for the film to be made available as widely as possible; it was felt that it could act as a support, model and inspiration to other groups.



As we reported in the last issue, SAGE Greenfingers is restructuring the services it offers. Their Refugee and Asylum Seeker project has drawn to a close but the meeting heard that there is a new volunteer initiative developing to offer allotment gardening sessions with refugees and asylum seekers starting from Easter.

For more information about the film, please contact Diana Tottle on: enquiries@sagesheffield.org.uk



Wensley NEAT

Residents may have noticed a transformation on the Wensley estate recently. Its thanks to the **Neighbourhood Environment Action Team, or NEAT Team as they are known.**

The make-over was funded by the Community Assembly and Wensley TARA, who bought the plants. Sheffield Homes estate team were also on hand to help with the work. TARA secretary Gladys Newbolt told the Messenger,

"The NEAT Team have been working on the estate to tidy up patches of ground that were overgrown and really a mess.

They have done a great job. These areas have been neglected for years. They've removed unsuitable shrubs and replanted better ones. The work they did was excellent."

It is now hoped the areas will be easier to maintain, so helping the estate look better into the future.

Look out for activities for young people in February. Wensley TARA will be working closely with Owlbrook School and Arches Housing to provide out of school activities.

Find out more about Wensley TARA's activities at their General Meeting on Thursday 9th February, 2.30pm at Wensley Community Centre.

Carwood TARA

Carwood TARA enjoyed a successful festive season with an excellent Christmas Fair, with stalls, raffle and prizes, and an entertaining Pantomime trip, which 45 residents enjoyed.

The TARA has continued into the New Year with a range of activities for local residents including Zumba and IT classes. To find out more about the TARAs activities, come along to the General meeting:

Monday 5th March 5.30-8.30pm at Carwood Community Centre

Carwood TARA's current activities:

- *Zumba for women: Tuesdays 11.30am- 12.30pm £1*
- *New - Zumba for women: Fridays 9.30am-10.30am £1.50*
- *UK online: Tuesdays 4pm-6pm*

For more info call in at the TARA office. Drop-in: Thursdays 10.30am – 1.30pm

Ideas for Burngreave TARA

Burngreave's newest Tenants and Residents Association will be holding its first general meeting in April, when it will be deciding how to spend some of the levy money it receives.

Levy money is paid to the TARA by Council tenants, and any residents who wish to become a member. Its just 10p per week, but it adds up to around £5000 each year from all the tenants. This money is used by the TARA for the benefit of tenants and residents and the local area.

If you live in the Burngreave TARA area, they want to hear your ideas for what could benefit local people. The TARAs current ideas include:

- A trip to the sea side
- A cooking and healthy eating courses
- Activities for children under 8 years old

If you have ideas for things the TARA could do please email burngreavetara@gmail.com, or call the engagement team at Sheffield Homes on 293 0000

Burngreave TARA covers Spital Hill to Christchurch Road (including Verdon Street area) and Ellesmere to Lucus Street (including Bressingham area). Look out for the forthcoming newsletter and information in notice boards around the area.

Changes in housing

Story: Douglas Johnson

Burngreave has many Council and Housing Association tenants who face several changes in housing policy.

Council tenants will already have received ballot papers asking if they support or oppose the Council taking Sheffield Homes back in house. If the proposal goes ahead, homes will be managed directly by the Council although, in practice, by the same staff and offices. The ballot closes on 10th February and the outcome will guide the Council's decision, even though it does not have to follow it.

The Council is also consulting on the way it lets its houses – many of which belong to Housing Associations. The Government is changing the way councils allocate homes. It is a difficult task for the Council to get a balance between people who really need to move house and those who just want to. At present about 34% of all council houses are let to people who have norecorded need to move.

Council tenants are seeing a big increase in rent. At 7.8% the increase is well above inflation and is linked to the Government's cut in housing subsidy to the city. However, the council is not increasing district heating charges.

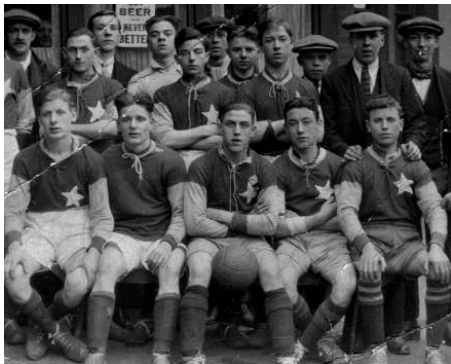
Finally, the future holds yet more cuts in housing benefit, not just for private tenants but also for many council tenants. Older people will be particularly affected, especially those whose children have left home. Under Government plans, these older people will see their benefit cut to encourage them to move out of their family homes. However, no-one will be forced to move.

A Pitsmoor life

Story: Elizabeth Shaw

Early Days

Aileen was born in 1929 in a back-to-back house on Verdon Street, where two families shared each lavatory. Father, Jim, was a wages clerk at Brown Bayleys. He was a very good chess player and took a keen interest in sport. Aileen has a photograph of the football team 'Star Athletics' which shows her father seated 2nd from the left on the front row. He was also a cricket umpire and liked to watch cricket at Bramall Lane, sometimes taking Aileen along too.



In the Home

Washday was hard work. First, clothes were boiled in a copper boiler then transferred to a zinc tub for pummelling and rinsing, before being fed through the mangle to squeeze out surplus water. All this was done in a very steamy atmosphere. Meanwhile a stew, and possibly also rice pudding, would be cooking slowly in the oven.

Most people had relatives nearby and Aileen had her maternal grandparents living next door, along with their son and daughter. 'Grandma was a very good cook and excelled at bread making and soups'. Aileen described how oven bottom cakes were put on paper or a tea towel on the floor by the door to cool, 'looking like a row of millstones'. On one occasion an apple pie, left to cool in this manner, was trodden on. As Aileen left her footprint, there was no doubt who the culprit was!

Street Life

Aileen remembers that there were several street sellers in her childhood. There was the man with a large basket selling 'Oatcakes and Pikelets'; he rang a bell as well as calling out his wares. Another man with a basket sold lettuces and radishes. The man who called to sell donkey stone, for whitening doorsteps, carried his goods around on his head!

There were horses on the streets too – the rag-and-bone man and another who sold



Uncle Ellis during the 1914-18 war

sticks for firewood. The Co-op delivered milk from a cart drawn by a large dray horse. Aileen recounted a sight she witnessed involving this horse and her uncle.

'The horse had slipped on the icy road and was on its knees. Uncle Ellis put a rug on the ground and pushed himself against the horse's shoulder to get it back upright. He rubbed the horse's knee and told the milkman to take it back to the stables.' Aileen thought her uncle to be 'the bravest and kindest of men' as he wasn't a big man. He had, however, served in a cavalry regiment in the First World War.

Shops

Besides the street sellers, there was a grocer, butcher, newsagent, post office, chemist and cobbler. At the beer-off, you could take a jug for beer from the decorative pumps. On Nottingham Street, there was a Co-op, which ran a dividend scheme to be paid out at Christmas.

School Days

At the age of five, Aileen started school at Pye Bank, which she described as being 'a gloomy, dismal place with teachers to match'. There was a row of 'squalid lavatories' outside with no hand washing facilities. It was during her time at Pye Bank School that a teacher made an assessment of Aileen's intelligence that still rankles to this day. Aileen presented her arithmetic book 'adorned by a large inkblot' for marking and received this comment 'I thought you were an intelligent girl when you came into my class, but I see that I was mistaken'. For the information of anyone who attended

school after biros became acceptable, each desk had an inkwell filled by a monitor. The ink came as a powder to be mixed with water. The nib had to be continually dipped to load with ink, which was inclined to clog and stick to the nib.

Aileen took the '11 plus' exam, which she passed, though not with a good enough grade for grammar school. Instead she was sent to Greystones Intermediate School, graded somewhere between the grammar school and the local secondary school – Byron Wood. She didn't enjoy her time at this school, and it was made even more difficult by the war and air raids. During the Sheffield Blitz, the family took refuge in the cellar and emerged next day to find a huge crater in Fitzalan Street. One great influence of the school was that Aileen never again wore navy blue – the colour of the uniform!

Adulthood

Aileen left school aged 14 to help at home as her mother was ill. In 1945, when the war was finally over, she started work as a 'lowly junior library assistant', first at Hillsborough Library, then at the Walkley branch, before spending the next 10 years at the Central Library. She enrolled for evening classes to improve her qualifications but it was not to be. Her mother died when Aileen was 17 and there was no time for study as there were 'more pressing domestic responsibilities', supporting her father and 11 year old sister. She enjoyed her time at the Central Library and made friends she still has to this day. They attended Hallé Concerts at the City Hall and went to the Playhouse Theatre on Townhead Street. There were also opera and ballet performances at the Lyceum theatre.

Moving House

The slum clearance, which had been planned for the Verdon Street area before the war, had still not been carried out by the late 1950s. Sacrifices were made and the family managed to get together the money for a deposit for the house, nearer to Firshill, where she and her sister still live.

A Senior Viewpoint

I asked Aileen if she thought things are better or worse now than in her youth.

"I am not sure. Social inequality is rife and I do not like the onset of computerisation and mobile phones. Health care is much better due to the advances in medical knowledge and the NHS. Gone are the days of doctor's bills! People did not go there if they could not afford it. But nowadays, unemployment being at its present level, I fear for the future of the younger generation."



Healthy Living for residents affected by Type 2 Diabetes

Throughout January and February, a six week 'Healthy Living with Diabetes' course is being delivered in two Burngreave venues. The HCP-funded course is being delivered at the Yemeni Community Association and Burngreave Children's Centre.

Sessions focus on practical ways to reduce the risk of getting Type 2 Diabetes and tips for managing the condition once diagnosed. The courses are delivered by a trained tutor in nutrition and physical activity and a local Health Trainer who is able to provide 1 to 1 support with setting health goals. The courses have proved very successful so far, with up to 15 learners attending the sessions. Sophina Asghar, the Burngreave Health Trainer, says,

"The group have really enjoyed it. They have had a chance to share their stories around diabetes and it was different to do practical things. They have learnt to be healthy in a practical way and have been able to share ideas and experiences as a group."

When asked what the main attractions of these courses were to learners, Sophina said,

"It's a very comfortable environment and they learn more by doing practical activities. There is less theory and it's less time-intensive".

Sophina is able to support learners by translating into Punjabi and Urdu, which has also increased accessibility for the course to learners who may otherwise struggle to understand.

Due to the success of these two courses, a third course is planned to take place at the Pakistani Advice & Community Association, starting at the end of

February. The course would appeal to individuals at risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes or those already diagnosed with the condition. Individuals who care for family members with Type 2 Diabetes are also welcome to attend. **For more information or to register your interest for this course, contact Becky Gunn, Health Development Worker, on 07960 084 119.**

Are you at risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes?

Some of the risk factors associated with Type 2 diabetes are out of your control but you can act on others, such as being overweight, to reduce the risk of developing diabetes. You should ask your GP for a test for diabetes if you are a) white and over 40 years old or b) black, Asian or from a minority ethnic group and over 25 years old, and have any of the following risk factors:

- *A close member of your family has Type 2 diabetes (parent or brother or sister).*
- *You're overweight or if your waist is 31.5 inches or over for women, 35 inches or over for Asian men and 37 inches or over for white and black men.*
- *You have high blood pressure or you've had a heart attack or a stroke.*
- *You're a woman with polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) and you are overweight.*
- *You've been told you have impaired glucose tolerance or impaired fasting glycaemia.*
- *You're a woman and you've had gestational diabetes.*
- *You have severe mental health problems.*

For more information, speak to your GP or diabetic nurse or visit www.diabetes.org.uk.

Getting active!

You can reduce your risk of Type 2 Diabetes by being more physically active. Here are some of the local activities. *(If you have diabetes speak to your GP before changing your activity levels)*

Verdon Recreation Centre

Contact 249 1626

Zumba, Women Only: Mondays, 11:30am –12:30pm, £1.50

Chairobics / Games for over 45's, Men & Women: Mondays, 1:30 – 3:30pm, £1

Aerobics, Women Only: Tuesdays, 6:30 –7:30pm, £1.50

Aerobics, Women Only: Wednesday, 10:30am –11:30pm, £1:50

Chairobics / Games for over 45's, Men & Women: Weds 1.30 – 3.30pm, £1

Zumba, Women Only: Thursdays (from 23rd February), 10:15 –11:45am, £2

Step n Tone, Women Only: Thursdays, 6:30 –7:30pm, £1.50

Boot Camp/Circuit Training, Women Only: Fridays, 1:30pm –2:30pm, £1.50

Wensley Community Centre

Zumba Fitness – Thursdays, 9.30-10.30am, £2.30.

Carwood Community Centre

Organised by Carwood TARA

Zumba for women: Tuesdays, 11.30am-12.30pm, £1

Zumba for women: Fridays, 9.30am-10.30am, £1.50

Whiteways School

Contact Usha Blackham 242 3169

Walking group: Thursdayss 9-10am

Zumba for women: Wednesdays 9-10.15am, £2

Zumba for women: Thursdays 4.15-5.15pm £2,

Owlerbrook School

Contact Usha Blackham 242 3169 or Dawn Mirfin 243 8611

Zumba for women: Mondays, 4-5pm, £2,

Zumba for women: Thursdays, 9.15-10.15am, £2

St Catherine's School

Contact St Catherines on 218 9730

Aeorbics for women: Tuesdays 10.30 – 11.30am, £2

Yoga: Tuesdays 6.30pm – 8pm, £3
More classes planned

Fir Vale School

Contact Rashida 07773 583 699

Cycling for women: Fridays, 9.30 -10.30am

Byron Wood School

Contact Smaira Sadique on 2723624

Walking group: Mondays, 9am,

Cycling for women: Wednesday, 9am

Environmental Improvements

The Community Assembly funded Neighbourhood Environmental Action Team (NEAT) have been busy carrying out environmental work to improve the area. Some of the highlights over the last couple of months have been winter uplift work to parks, including Busk Meadows and Denham Close, and working with Wensley TARA to improve the communal spaces on the Estate. The NEAT team has one supervisor, and up to five trainees. Together, they carry out a variety of small



projects across the area.

If you would like to nominate an area for the team to work on please contact the Assembly.

Help with rubbish

The North East Community Assembly (NECA) has gained an extra member of staff in Andy Christian, one of two Community Cohesion lead officers who has been asked to look at a wide variety of issues in the area, including researching and developing the 'People Getting on Together' community plan.

One of his immediate concerns is to address the problem of fly tipping and street dumping in Page Hall. Several agencies will be working together on this. Among other activities, they will remind tenants and landlords that the correct procedure for disposing of bulky waste is for them to take it to a Household Waste Recycling Centre themselves.

The nearest centre is the 'dump-it' site at Longley Avenue West, Shirecliffe, S5 8WA. If you don't have access to appropriate transport, you can arrange collection of bulky material by ringing (0114) 2734567. There will be a charge of £39.36 for collecting up to 10 items with a reduced charge for



people on benefits (contact the Council for more information). If you and your neighbours have bulky items like furniture or mattresses to dispose of, then you could bring up to 10 items together for one collection and share the cost.

This year, in this area, the Council will be taking a much more active approach to people who dump rubbish on the streets. There will be two 'Bring Out Your Rubbish' days in February for streets in Page Hall:

Wednesday 15th February.
Willoughy/Hinde/Wade Street area

Thursday 16th February.
Popple/Rushby/Owler Lane area.

Please look out for a leaflet for instructions or ring (0114) 203 7562.

Next public business meeting

The next public business meeting of the North East Community Assembly will be held on Wednesday 21 March 2012 at Shirecliffe Community Centre, 349 Shirecliffe Road, S5 8XJ

The meeting runs from 6-8pm, but you are invited to share a sandwich with your local Councillors from 5.30pm. Previous minutes and the agenda for this meeting will be published at www.sheffield.gov.uk/northeast from 14 March.

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

New Money Available for Community Groups

Community First is a government-funded initiative that will run until March 2015. Over £500,000 is available in this Assembly area.

It will fund both new and existing community groups with grants of up to £2,500 which must be match funded with other money, in kind contributions or volunteer time.

Closing date for the first round is 27th February 2012

If you require more information about how your community group can apply for funding please see our website or contact us.



Jackie Drayton Ibrar Hussain Talib Hussain

Councillor Surgery Dates

Your local councillors share surgeries on a rota basis.

11th February: Jackie Drayton,
11am–12pm Burngreave Library,
12.15pm–1pm Firshill TARA

16th February: Ibrar Hussain,
2pm–3pm Pakistan Advice Centre

21st February: Talib Hussain,
11am–12pm Shirecliffe Community
Centre, 12.15pm–1pm Norwood and
Bishopholme TARA

15th February: Ibrar Hussain,
11am–12pm Burngreave Library

10th March: Jackie Drayton,
11am–12pm Burngreave Library,
12.15pm–1pm Firshill TARA

15th March: Talib Hussain,
2pm–3pm Pakistan Advice Centre

20th March: Ibrar Hussain,
11am–12pm Shirecliffe Community
Centre, 12.15pm–1pm Norwood and
Bishopholme TARA

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

jackie.drayton@sheffield.gov.uk
ibrar.hussain@sheffield.gov.uk
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Mas Audio

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Mas Audio have just returned to Fir Vale after several years trading from their base in Attercliffe. The company specialises in designing and fitting custom car audio systems. They have recently moved into a unit on Chambers Lane, off Oowler Lane.

Speaking to one of the Mas Audio team, the Messenger discovered the firm had been trading for around 15 years but left Fir Vale 3 years ago in search of larger premises.

They expanded their services to include custom headlights and automotive tints. New premises were required so, after finding a suitable building, they moved back to Fir Vale. Apart from being back on their home turf, the proprietors told us that the return to Fir Vale made commercial sense: "The area has become a central point for a lot of business".

The new base is expected to provide an ideal location for the business, allowing both a space for the fitting and servicing of car audio and lighting systems and a showroom where customers can get advice from the experienced team. One of them explained,

"If you're not sure what equipment's best for you or what your budget might allow, give us a call and test our knowledge and experience in the car audio & security field. We promise you won't be disappointed".

Alongside the array of car audio products on offer from JVC, Kenwood, Sony, Alpine, Pioneer, Vibe, Ground Zero and FLI, Mas Audio also carry out repairs and decodes and can provide custom audio systems ranging from "a simple head unit upgrade to a competition-style boot install".

Headlight solutions are offered from a carefully selected range, with advice on the brand and specification. Mas Audio also specialise in Ipod integration systems, in-car navigation, Bluetooth car kits and high-tech vehicle tracking security for personal or business fleet vehicles. Mas Audio is open Monday - Saturday 10.00- 6.00pm. Their new premises can be found at Unit 7, Elliot Business Park, Chambers Lane. S4 8DA. Telephone: 0114 244 8700 or visit their website: www.mas-audio.co.uk.

You can follow Mas Audio on Facebook to keep updated with the latest promotions and offers.



Taste of Punjab

'Taste Of Punjab' is the new name for the recently re-opened takeaway at 186 Barnsley Road, providing curries along with pizzas, kebabs, fried chicken and burger meals.



Mr Urfan, owner of the block of shop units for the last 7 years, decided to re-open and run the takeaway service himself. A resident of Burngreave for 37 years, his aim is to provide good quality food at reasonable prices, and has brought in expertise from elsewhere by investing in a reputable chef and qualified staff with previous experience.

"All our food is prepared fresh daily," says Mr Urfan. "Rather than prepare food a few days in advance, we prepare less but on a daily basis."

"We're here to provide a service and to give something to the community. During these difficult times, people can't afford to spend a lot on food, so we work with a low profit margin to provide meals at affordable prices."

Barnsley Road Café

Mr Urfan will also soon be re-opening the Barnsley Road café a few units down from the takeaway. Open throughout the day for breakfast and lunch, the café will provide English food alongside curries. "People can come in, buy some toast and a cup of tea, and we'll even give them a free top-up!"

The café will open throughout the day until early evening. When the café closes, the Taste of Punjab takeaway opens for the evening until late-night, so there is always the opportunity to enjoy a good meal any time of day!

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(Opening times will change when the Barnsley Road Café is opened)

Dear Messenger...



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

Residents campaign for St Hilda's



Dear Bishop Steven,

As a resident in Firth Park, I am writing regarding the planned demolition of St Hilda's Parish Church on Windmill Lane. I want to express my concern at the destruction of this incredible building, a part of the heritage of an area not blessed with many buildings of note.

What process has the church followed in order to come to this conclusion? Is there any chance of finding an alternative destination for the building?

I am an active member of the local community, but have heard of no public consultation process to gauge the feelings of local people. A petition and website have been created to enable people to air their feelings and already over 30 local families feel strongly that an alternate use for this building should be found.

I truly believe that the church as a building even put to other uses, exudes a powerful message. This building symbolises the heritage of this area and the community would be robbed by its destruction. It remains structurally sound, with only superficial vandalism damage to the interior. Even a private redevelopment would be better than demolition, but ideally community use that engages the local people and works to re-establish lost values. Once gone it is lost forever.

With respect,
Hendrika Stephens and Family, Firth Park

Dear Mike and Hendrika,

Following the closure of St Hilda's (an unlisted church, largely destroyed) in 2007, a marketing campaign was undertaken by the Diocese which resulted in the acceptance of an offer for re-developing the site for residential use.

Notification was published in Sheffield Star on 15 August 2011, issued to our consultees and placed on the church door. No representations were received against the draft scheme. The Commissioners are satisfied that Pastoral Measure Procedures have been followed and see no reason why the Scheme should not be implemented.

This may disappoint you, but your interest has come at the very end of the consultation process, after an offer has been accepted. I am happy to notify you of any further developments, please contact me if you have any other questions.

Ross Brazier, Closed Churches Division, Church Commissioners

The campaign's website at sthildaswebs.com also has details of the church's history.

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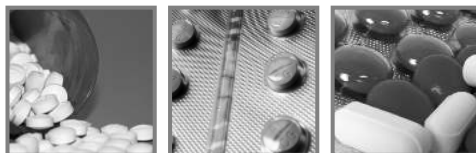
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