Burngreave Messenger

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www.burngreavemessenger.org

Voice of the Burngreave Community

Learners speak up to save classes



Story: Lisa Swift | Photo: Smaira Sadique

Adult learners have been fighting Council cuts in courses, after changes in funding. Over 300 learners stand to lose their classes from April.

Residents on basic skills courses, including Maths, English Literacy and ESOL, began writing letters to the Leader of the Council in January. By February a petition had been raised and learners attended Council meetings to voice their concerns.

The cuts were the result of adult learning funding being divided among Community

Assembly Areas in the city. While courses faced the chop here, new courses in yoga, art, local history and IT were started in other areas of the city.

Following the action of learners, the Council has found £15,000 from an underspend. With a further contribution from the WEA, most classes will be able to run once a week, instead of twice a week as before. It is widely accepted that one class a week in basic skills does not allow learners to progress, only to maintain their skills. Further action is planned in April to demand the remaining £28,000 that will restore the classes for the summer term.

Learners meet the Council

Story: Amal Ahmed

On Wednesday 24th February people from our ESOL classes met the Council in the Town Hall and we asked questions about our classes, but no decision was made about the future.

The second time over eighty people from Burngreave went to the big Council meeting on Wednesday 3rd March, but again we felt let down and so went back to meet Councillor Sangar. We had about ten people from different places but we all had the same aim.

Three of us were learners and we explained our past problems and how we have improved now. We were expecting to get some good news, but we finished the meeting very disappointed.

The ESOL classes are everything to us. We don't want to go to the university, we just want to improve our English. We just want to help ourselves and our children. We just want to get a job and to understand what is going on. Some parents can't understand their children and we are losing touch with them when they grow up and become teenagers.

ESOL classes are everything to us. Bring back our rights and our schools will improve, because parents can help their children and the community.

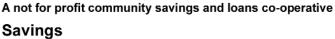
ESOL has helped me to find voluntary work with the NHS as I have a background of working in a laboratory and now I have experience of participating in voluntary work advising people on how to prevent the spread of infection in the community. I have also worked as a voluntary assistant in the maternity service to enhance the service for Arabic speaking women. Arwa

At first I didn't understand English and I wasn't able to speak. Every time I needed to use an interpreter but now I am able to solve my problems and even to help other people by interpreting. Though these classes are for our benefit, they also benefit the Council. If you count how much the Council pays for interpreters, English classes are cheaper and of more benefit. Lailuma

This class gave me the determination to progress and develop my communication skills. This class gave the opportunity to work as a volunteer by helping other adults to learn English. If you cut classes and leave people ignorant that will certainly lead to the big social issues in the country that's why education is the best weapon to confront our daily life and the future. Djamila

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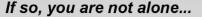
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Do you love cycling? Are you enthusiastic and patient? Could you persuade others to have a go?

Volunteer cycling champions wanted (male & female) to promote cycling to parents, children & the community in Burngreave & Fir Vale to encourage health & fitness and for fun!

Your role will be to encourage people to take up the offer of free bicycle training from Pedal Ready, help set up and support cycling clubs for children & families and develop cycling activities in the community.

Training and support can be provided by Pedal Ready. Bicycles will be available at Fir Vale School through CTC.

CRB disclosure will be required and reasonable volunteer expenses paid.

For further details please contact Rashida Hassanali on 07773 583 699



Not registered = no vote.

There will be local elections on Thursday 6th May to elect a new councillor for Burngreave. It is also the most likely date for the General Election to elect an MP.

The big change for Burngreave is that we are now in the new Brightside and Hillsborough constituency and no longer part of Sheffield Central, where Richard Caborn is currently the MP.

The final date for registering on Sheffield's electoral roll is 9th April. You can apply for a postal vote or a proxy vote (where someone else can go to the polling station for you) after this date – but only if your name is on the electoral roll. Make sure you are registered to vote.

To register, ring the Council's elections office on 273 4093 or visit www.sheffield.gov.uk/elections



Last Spring, the Messenger printed an article about the danger of the BNP gaining votes through people not turning out to vote in the European elections. Unfortunately the BNP did gain 2 MEP seats, mostly due to the fact that the Labour vote collapsed, rather than the BNP gaining more votes.

However this has given the BNP the resources and confidence to pose as a legitimate, respectable party. They are not – they are racist, as proved in a recent court case. In Sheffield, the BNP intend to stand 16 council candidates and 4 parliamentary candidates.

Local Unite Against Fascism (UAF) groups are springing up all over Sheffield. In the Brightside and Hillsborough constituencies, there have been door-to-door and shopping-centre leafleting sessions.

Can you help out at the next local session? Meet near Ellesmere Green on

- 27th March from 11am 1pm
- 13th April at 5pm
- 17th April 1-3pm

Look out for future events in Burngreave and Firth Park and - most importantly -

Use your vote to oppose the BNP.

Redwall win planning

Residents were surprised and disappointed to find that the Council's planning board had granted Redwall's application on 16th March, despite a large number of objections.

Redwall had previously beaten Council planners in an appeal and had gained outlined planning permission for a major development. In November 2009, they gained permission for 44 houses. The current plans are for a block of 63 additional flats and a 70-bed nursing home. Both buildings will look identical.

57 residents had objected to the design of the flats, complaining of the effect on the area and the loss of natural space. Another 28 people signed a petition calling for more family homes. However, councillors decided that "there would be little impact on the amenities of existing residents."

Redwall indicated that the flats would be for workers at the Northern General and that the nursing home would have the equivalent of 40 full-time staff. However, car parking has been limited to only 44 spaces. Residents will know that bus services are limited, although the planning application relied on the B1 and B2 routes, which were cut in 2008. 4 new bus stops are planned on Grimesthorpe Rd, despite the fact that no buses currently run on it.





Inside this copy of the Messenger you should find a questionnaire.

We are currently having the Messenger evaluated with the help of one of our funders, The Tudor Trust. This evaluation will help us show what impact we have in Burngreave, and if the work we do is worthwhile.

If you think the Messenger is important and useful, or even if you don't, please fill in the questionnaire and drop it off at one of the following centres

- All local schools (by 1st April)
- Pitsmoor Surgery
- Premier on Scott Road
- Pakistan Advice Centre
- Vestry Hall
- Upwell Street Surgery
- Sheffield Homes, Spital Hill
- Shirecliffe Community Centre

There will be a £20 cash prize for 3 residents, who will be picked out of the completed questionnaires.

Please return by 10th April

Please contact the Messenger for more information 242 0564.

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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

The Burngreave Messenger is a community newspaper with editorial independence, funded by the Tudor Trust, Comic Relief, the Scurrah Wainwright Charity, Sheffield Town Trust, Church Burgesses, J G Graves Trust and our advertisers.

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



Women's Construction Centre threatened

The Women's Construction Centre on Buckenham Street, heard news in March that they would have to close because of lack of funding. But at an emergency meeting of 25 women on 20th March they agreed to take on the running of the Centre themselves.

The Centre opened five years ago and has run courses in construction skills including tiling, plastering and brick laying for women and the community. Working with the Hindu Samaj, who own the building, they have done extensive

renovation work with the help of volunteers and learners. The Centre is part of the South Yorkshire Women's Development Trust who announced at an earlier meeting that they would be closing on 17th May because money had run out.

In response women, including tutors and learners, from all over Sheffield gathered for the emergency meeting and expressed how important the Centre had been for them and the community.

"It's unique in the city. This is the first place women come to when they want to find out more about working in trades." "The work in the community has been really important, people have got such a lot out of it."

"Its frustrating to think it might close, as there's such a need for the work we do."

"We've done an awful lot of work on this place, its been five years of hard graft. And we've made an important circle of friendships during that time."

"Its an amazing group of women that have been involved, its been really special and important to me."

"Its been crucial for me that it was a women only space, that has helped me progress and allowed me to build my confidence without feeling intimidated."

The meeting looked at setting up a management committee and subgroups, under the Tradeswomen South Yorkshire charity. Without any funding they are considering keeping the centre open with volunteers.

If you think you could help the project with funding or your time contact Tradeswomen South Yorkshire on 07813 263 388.

Wicker Works

Story: Rohan Francis

Since the devastating floods of 2007 shops and businesses on the Wicker have endured a particularly tough period of trading. Now, nearly three years after the Don burst its banks, work is finally underway to protect the area from flooding. More positive developments will begin this summer including a brand new footbridge, a pocket park and the reopening of the Five Weirs Walk.

Flood protection

In February the Environment Agency began to clear the river at Millsands and Blonk Street, taking out vegetation and trees that might block the water flow in times of heavy rain. According to one river expert, much of the damage to bridges is caused by small trees being uprooted and swept along in the flow, something which happened to Corporation Street bridge in 2007. This work comes as a relief to some of the area's retailers. Ellie Bennett, of the Wicker Pharmacy and member of the Wicker Community Forum said, "After taking two years to recover from the floods, it's reassuring to see the flood protection work finally underway."



When the Environment Agency's work is complete, Sheffield City Council will create permanent access to the water's edge at Nursery Street for activities such as fishing and canoeing. They will also put in sand bastions (sand filled wire baskets) to protect the area from high waters.

Pocket Park

The Council originally budgeted £10million for flood work but its investment has now been reduced to £500,000 meaning that plans for a 'pocket park' have been scaled down and landscaped terracing by the water's edge wont be included in the current phase of work. Tree and shrub planting will still go ahead in the summer.

New river crossing

Once the river clearance is completed, the section of footpath along the Five Weirs Walk will be reopened. The Council will

then build a new bridge, to be called the Smithfield footbridge, which aims to connect the Wicker with the canal basin and Victoria Quays. Following this, Hotel group Holiday Inn have unveiled plans for a new riverside development on Victoria Station Road.

Long term proposals for the Wicker aim to reunite it with the town centre by improving pedestrian routes. City Development Manager for Sheffield City Council, Simon Ogden, said this work "will continue the plan to create good quality public spaces throughout the city centre".

For more information or to attend the regular meetings of the Wicker Community Forum contact Raymond Walton on: 223 2100 or email: raymond@syac.org.uk

Their next meeting will be at 2pm on Tuesday 30th March at SYAC, the Wicker.

Burngreave faces cuts

Story: Lisa Swift & Douglas Johnson

The Council is expecting less money from government in April but its budget is still £16 million more than last year and its total expenditure is over £1.3 billion. However cuts in services are still high on the agenda as the Council implements a low Council tax increase and and, in Burngreave, the new community assembly structure means we lose out to other areas.

No more free rat treatment

This years budget was full of cuts, but one 'saving' that caused much concern was the new £35 charge for rat control. Rat control is a public health matter, not a question of individual choice. As local resident, Dave Fisher, wrote in a letter (a full copy is on our website) to the Council, "Rats...carry parasites and other harmful organisms. By introducing a charge, people are less likely to use the service."

The Council told us they would be monitoring both rat populations and levels of demand.

Moving money across the city

The change to Community Assemblies means Burngreave loses out, as money is shared out per head of population, not according to need. It's already meant that we have less community assembly staff than we had under the Area Panels and less money for our Assembly to spend. As services realign to the new boundaries, we find Council staff who once only worked in Burngreave now cover an area four times as big.

The Council is also moving more budget decisions to Assemblies, funds that were once decided centrally and allocated according to need. This year, for instance, money for Child Safety Zones, which used to be based on the number of accidents in an area, will now be shared equally over all areas of the city. This is despite Burngreave having 8 times as many pedestrian accidents over the last five years (33) as Dore and Totley (4). The Council say that high accident spots will qualify for national funding and will always be addressed.

Luxuries or essentials?

Community Assembly money in Burngreave has to pay for essentials whilst more affluent areas can use it to develop new services. For instance, South West Sheffield recently benefited from a mobile computer training unit with 12 new laptops and a "team of experts". At the same time, Burngreave is seeing the loss of over subscribed English and basic skills courses.

What we can do about it

It's not all doom and gloom. There had been fears that the loss of two jobs in the team working on Parks projects would affect Burngreave's green spaces. Chris Heeley of the Parks and Countryside Dept told the Community Assembly meeting in March that no existing projects would be cut.

Projects like Activity Sheffield and Study Support have received some further funding for the time being. And the campaign to save the summer term adult learning has persuaded the Council to find money to continue some courses.

This shows it is possible to get at least some results. But in a culture of 'those who ask get', we'll just have to start asking. Talk to your Councillor (see page 18), phone the Council when you're not happy - 272 6444 - and get involved in local activities and campaigns through BCAF 272 8008.

BCAF

At Burngreave Community Action Forum, we think there's been enough talk about problems in the area and 'consultations' on decisions that have



already been made. We all know the main issues. The question now is what we are going to do about it.

As we saw with the cuts to adult learning, it's clear we have to fight to keep funding in the area, and to get the extra resources we need.

We think the people of Burngreave are the best resource that Burngreave has. And we want to make sure people working on areas of particular concern are supported to come together and agree what needs to be done.

Here are some of the things we are doing:

- Setting up a health network for workers and residents to co-ordinate their activities and make everyone aware of what projects are available.
- · Resurrecting the street champions scheme
- Creating e-mail lists to keep everyone updated (see advert to sign up for alerts)
- Assisting with the campaign against cuts to adult learning
- Supporting the Abbeyfield Park and Fir Vale Festivals
- Working on plans to address gaps in provision of youth activities and adult learning
- Funding conversation clubs across the area, giving an opportunity to meet people and learn English for free.

Can you help? Contact us on 272 8008.

You can find out more about BCAF on our website www.bcaf.org.uk

E-mail updates

E-mail BCAF on enquiries@bcaf.org.uk to join up to our current e-mail lists, for free updates on:

- Jobs regular emails about jobs locally and in Sheffield
- Events regular emails about Burngreave based events
- Training termly emails about courses and training oppportunities
- Youth Activities regular emails about things for young people to do, especially in the holidays
- Campaigns occasional emails about local campaigns eg against adult learning cuts
- Local Festivals occasional emails with information about festivals eg deadline for booking stalls



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



Verdon Street Bit Fix It Café

Story: Brent Moya

Bit Fix It Café is a volunteer-run computer repair service that offers residents the chance to bring in their faulty laptops and PCs for a free no-obligation repair.

Situated at 268 Verdon Street, the café is run by a team of regular volunteers, including founders Gareth Coleman and Dennis Macdonald. They first crossed paths in 2002 while Gareth worked for a redevelopment trust in computers. Dennis, a retired electrician who holds a university-of-life degree, says he wanted to put something back into the community.

"I'm 71 now. I have lived a life and needed a new challenge, so when I met Gareth and he asked me if I wanted to work with him, my answer was 'yes'."

They began providing a service at the advice centre on Gleadless Rd for several months but were then offered the chance to move to Burngreave where they set up Bit Fix It.

Gareth says providing an honest service to the public is at the forefront of his mind, especially in today's world where repairing a computer can often leave the consumer out of pocket. "We sidestep a lot of the problems for people, which means they don't need to take their computer to PC World. It's very common for people to pay over the odds when it's



only a quick fix. The fact that we provide a free service means people know we have their best interests at heart."

Dennis says repairing computers is a lot different to repairing a TV or washing machine as computers are the gateway to modern living. "If you want a job or some shopping, you can access this via the internet, which gives you an instant advantage in terms of speed and detail. Computers are rapidly becoming a necessity and those that have access often possess an advantage over others."

Idris Gadour, who is the group's treasurer, joined the team in 2004 after meeting at the Ashram Café where he met Gareth and Dennis. "I was out of work for about a year but had some experience in IT, which I used to get a job through an agency thanks to a written CV from Gareth." He has since become a key component in the infrastructure of the team, offering his advice while he also represents a success story.

The group have also recently received funding through Sheffield Homes Your Community Your Choice which will help keep them going for another year.

The team can fix a wide range of computer-related problems such as replacing parts, hardware problems and removing viruses.

Sessions take place every Saturday from 12-3pm and usually see about six people per week turn up. As to the future, Gareth says.

"There are lots of plans on the horizon; employing a development worker, offering training and increasing opening hours have been discussed; the thing we all agree on is that we should always continue to provide the local community with a free friendly service."

For more information email bitfixit@burngreave.net



Story & photos: Douglas Johnson

What was once Wilson
Tupholmes' department store has
now reopened as "World Class", a new, modern
supermarket at 290 Pitsmoor Road boasting of "foods
from around the world".

Inside, that certainly seems to be the case, with a range of fresh foods, fruit and vegetables, rice and spices, herbs, fresh meat, dried food and sweet pastries.

In between the stream of new customers, Billal and Wadhah, two of the proprietors, spoke of how they saw the shop, which opened on 14th March.

"It's to serve the local community. There's no local shop round here and it's about time there was one," said Billal. "It's a perfect location and there's free parking."

Wadhah explained they had done a survey and found people were struggling in this area, partway between Firth Park and Spital Hill. This was particularly difficult for the many people without cars but the easy access off Pitsmoor Rd makes it easier for people with cars too.

They realised there was a ready market for their foods. Wadhah pointed out, "our name says we do food from around the world and we're trying to back that up."

The light and clean feel of the shop certainly seemed to be attracting in the customers this morning and kept all the staff busy attending to them. It already has a good community feel to it.

Mixed response on hospital parking

Story: Douglas Johnson

18% of residents surveyed in areas around the Northern General Hospital responded to a questionnaire about parking needs. The Council was responding to long-running complaints of parking problems in connection with the hospital.

The areas surveyed included Norwood Road, Crabtree and Fir Vale, as well as roads running off Barnsley Road up as far as Hucklow School. Residents further up Herries Rd and in Longley were also consulted. 66% felt there was a parking problem in the daytime but far fewer reported problems in the evenings and at weekends.

However, there are mixed feelings about

what should be done. Only 38% think that the permit scheme proposed by the Council is the answer.

Unfortunately, this doesn't give the Council a clear answer, something the Community Assembly is due to address at its meeting on 21st April. Should the Council drop the scheme since 60% of responses are against parking permits? Or should they try a permit scheme in the areas where there is a clear majority in favour - roads such as Norwood Road, Crabtree Road and Blyde Road? Would residents on adjacent roads then want to change their minds? The Community Assembly has received 3 petitions specifically objecting to parking permit schemes in the Cannon Hall - Goddard Hall area, despite residents on these streets feeling the strongest about parking problems.

Of the comments, over 100 people objected to the cost of a permit and many felt the hospital should be doing more. 10% reported no problems at all on their road. Given the lack of action by the hospital to date, the Council has the difficult task of assessing what steps can actually be taken. Many additional comments were supplied. If a new permit scheme is proposed for some streets the Council will consult those residents again about the details.

Even if a scheme is put forward, it still has to be approved by the Council's Cabinet sometime later in the year.

The North East Community Assembly meets to discuss the matter on 21st April at 6pm. However, the size of the assembly area means the meeting is scheduled to be held at Chaucer School on Halifax Rd, a long way away from the residents affected.



150 years of Catherine Street

Story: Elizabeth and Gordon Shaw

Properties on Catherine Street and Brotherton Street are presently fronted by scaffolding prior to demolition. These properties are over a hundred years old and the property on the corner of these two streets has probably been a part of the lives of many locals over the years.

In 1868, No. 31 Catherine Street, the corner property, is entered in White's Directory as G E Swift & Co., Merchants. By 1876 George Stanley was running a grocery and beer retailer from No. 31 and the adjoining property at 29 Catherine Street. Over twenty years later, in 1898, there was still a George Stanley – Grocer – at this address, and at No. 11

Brotherton Street was an Inspector of Weights and Measures, a Mr G A Bridges! Next door to him, at No. 9, resided John Stanley - possibly a relative of the grocer?

The property continued to be run as a grocery shop until around 1948 when it is listed as the Catherine Arms, with Herbert Whitlock as the licensee. According to Michael Liversidge in his book 'Sheffield Public Houses', the Catherine Arms was one of only two Public Houses in the Sheffield area to double up as a grocery shop where, at one time, you could walk through from shop to public bar.

The photograph used in 'Sheffield Public Houses' shows a mural on the gable end of the property on Brotherton Street, called "Birth of Pegasus" and dating from 1977. An article on the internet describes the painting of a horse with wings as being painted in Dulux Weathershield's new range and goes on to state, "The artist was not paid for this work, but

completed the piece as a part of his studies, with some assistance from a number of fellow students. The house owner at the time was also a student in Architecture at the University of Sheffield."

Troubled pub loses licence

By 1995, the street had become very run down. The Catherine Arms was still trading but was one of the first pubs to lose its licence after numerous police complaints of the number of people gathering outside the pub and on the street. A report in the Sheffield Star Inspector Gary Boughen of Attercliffe Police said, "It was known to attract drug dealers, and it's nice to think there might be a downturn in drug dealing in the area in light of the decision."



Later on, the premises reopened as Al-Nur's bakery, selling fresh Arabic bread and pizzas for a short while until a fire put the building out of action. It has been unoccupied since then. Now it has gone.

International Women's day

International women's day was on 8th March. All over Burngreave, women gathered to enjoy themselves and reflect on women from all over the world...

Verdon Street party

Story: Michelle Cook

At least 200 women gathered at the Verdon Recreation Centre for a day organised by Shima Nazir of Sheffield PCT and Fatima and Fisa from MAAN, the Somali Mental Health Project.



In the main hall the party had started, with impromptu dancing and women and children enjoying themselves in the relaxed atmosphere. Music and lively banter was provided by Burngreave Community Radio. In between the women were led in chairobics and dance exercises.

There were plenty of interesting stalls from the council and various community groups including healthy eating and exercise, childcare info, drugs, police and community safety, walking, domestic violence, and computer courses.

Women relaxed under the skilled hands of talented henna artists Beauty By Chanda and were pampered with hand and back massages.

The day had an International flavour and women from other parts of the world in worse circumstances than ourselves were not forgotten, as a raffle was held in aid of the earthquake victims of Haiti.

Everyone joined together to share a delicious celebratory feast. Afterwards, women showed their talents for singing and dancing and poetry reading. It was highly entertaining. It was a wonderful day. It was really nice for all the women to come together, young, old, from all the many different cultures of Burngreave to have a great time celebrating womanhood.



Fir Vale festivities

Story: Grace Kamsika

On 8th March, Fir Vale School held a celebration event, hosted by their Student Voice Group, to celebrate women's triumphs from around the world.

Around 50 people attended the event, including men, women, children and young people who all had a brilliant time. The event included dancing, massages, henna designs and creative activities, such as making a cushion cover, and had stalls for Smoking Awareness and jewellery. The students and teachers at the event were extremely supportive and encouraging towards each other, making the event enjoyable and fun.

The Student Voice Group chose to do this for an event to bring the community together and commemorate the women in the world who have made a difference.

Vestry Hall celebration

Story: Saleema Imam

Saturday 13th March saw Burngreave's Yemeni community fervently celebrating International Women's Day. Faiza Shaiba, the organiser of the event, welcomed everyone and introduced children reading excerpts from the Koran and nasheeds.

A tasty meal was shared by all and it was fantastic to see the Vestry Hall bursting at the seams once more, full to the rafters with women and children enjoying the music, dance, henna and face painting and other cultural activities.

I am a Woman

By Djamila Djaroud

Please look at me as a woman.

I know I'm a mother but I'm a woman.

I know I'm a carer but I'm a person.

Don't stop me from being a woman.

I can prove my capability to be strong.

I can prove my capacity to handle men's work.

Give me my independence and I will show you how good I can be.

Give me my space. I want to be me.

I want to do my work in my way.

Good or bad, I'll be the only one to be blamed but the choice is mine.

Good or bad, I'll be the only one to be proud.

Look at my kindness and my softness.

They're my arms to confront the world

I don't need to be loud to be heard.

I don't need to be strong to fight.

I'm a communicator, I'm a good speaker.

I can make the things change quietly.

I can make the things change nicely.



Make a Wish

Story: Michelle Cook

Family and friends of a local woman with terminal cancer are appealing for help to turn despair into hope. She has requested that we do not reveal her identity at this time.

She lives with her young family in Burngreave. She has spent years working in various roles, including school mentor and volunteering at the CAB, training to work in immigration advice, devoting her life to raising her family and helping others. Now she has cruelly had her time cut short and has a dying wish. Her wish is to make a return trip to Jamaica with her family before she dies.

Her parents were from Jamaica, and she remembers how important the return journey was for her as a child following her father's death. She told me, "The minute I stepped off the plane I felt at home."

She would like to give her children the opportunity to walk the same roads she did with her mother. To feel some of the culture which they have never seen, especially to witness some of the hardship there and greater appreciate the advantages they have here, a feeling perhaps shared by many people in our community whose families are spread over continents.

She always vowed to return with her family, for them to experience their roots. Sadly, time is running out for her to fulfil this wish as, despite all her extended family chipping in and saving herself, she cannot save enough money for them all to go before it is too late.

Drawing strength from her Christian faith, she believes she will be granted the time to fulfil this dream.

Family and friends have formed a group "Make a Wish" and are launching a fundraising effort to not only raise money for the trip but to donate any excess money to the Palliative Care Unit and the Northern General, where she is currently undergoing treatment and their Macmillan Nurses.

Although very newly formed they already have events in the pipeline with proposed dates;

- "Come Dine With Me" style celebrity dinner on 29th April
- 5-a-side football match at Sheffield United Academy in June
- Dance at SADACCA provisionally on the 10th of July

Other ideas are: Sponsored walk, coffee morning, fashion show, ladies' day.

She told me,

"I need to remain focused on this it helps me, through the dark times, to think I can leave a wonderful memory for my children."

The committee is busy planning as much as possible in the short time available. They need people to come forward with offers of premises, raffle prizes, etc.

None of them have ever done anything like this before and would be really grateful for any help local people and businesses can offer to make this happen. She would also like to thank the doctors and Macmillan nurses for all their care and support in the last 11 months.

If you can help in any way or for more information please contact Lynn on 07979 593 588.

Please look out for flyers advertising upcoming events and on the Burngreave Messenger website.

Twentieth Century Woman

This is a poem by a member of Write Horizons, a group of local writers, who meet in the area once a week. The group write poems and stories some fact some fiction, enjoying one another's company and sharing ideas and encouragement

If you can keep your hair straight when all are curling theirs

If you can trust yourself when all about you say you will never make the diet, you were a fool even to try it.

If you can forever wait on others and expect that you will never be waited on.

If you can stand being gossiped about and not gossip back, and feel good about having more curves than the page three girl.

If you can daydream about that handsome man on TV and still have tea ready for the family.

If you can still find pleasure in the common chore and quiet your screaming babe before he wakes the street.

If you can, each Wednesday and Saturday night, hope for a fortune but to be just one short, and carry on smiling all the same.

If you can pile up all your clothing and not be bothered if it's ironed or not.

If you can hear the facts that you have spoken be twisted to please the small minded, knowing your truth will come out soon, on Loose Women!

If you can watch the young people you gave life to try to make a life on their own, and bend and stoop till they get a washing machine of their own.

If you can force your heart, breasts and belly into a dress that fitted perfect last year, and go out and dance the night away and give it lots of wellie

If you can talk to those with brass and not give away your common class.

If you can get out of the internet a willing minute, sixty seconds of good and useful information instead of others rehashed opinions.

The world is yours and you've earned it and what's more, you're a woman my daughter!

Make a Wish Fundraiser

Fundraiser coming up at the beginning of June at Sheffield United Academy.

Help a terminally ill cancer patient make her dying wish/dream for her family come true

Football teams of 7-a-side needed – players must be over 16. Any standard welcome

Fee to enter goes towards Make a Wish fund

Prizes awarded on the day to winning team

Guest celebrity appearances

Spectators welcome to come and have fun and cheer their team

Entries by Friday 30 April

Call or leave a message with:

Marvin on 07917 114031 or Anton on 07590 561665



Street Pastors

Story:Vivien Urwodhi

A lively evening ceremony at the Seventh Day Adventists Church on March 12th saw the launch of Burngreave's Street Pastor scheme which aims to provide young people with a caring and supportive service on the street.

Ever since the murder of Jonathan Matondo in 2007, Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt has tried to bring together people from many churches and create a group of people willing to go out and engage with young people.

The night began with Pastor Andrew welcoming the assembled guests, many of whom had supported the scheme from the beginning three years ago. He was joined by members of Sheffield Futures, Shaun Davis from South Yorkshire Police, Mike Pargeter, coordinator of Havering Street Pastors and Bishop Lynette Melville from Shiloh Church, Burngreave, all of whom voiced their support for the project to operate in Burngreave. Street Pastors has been operating in some of the UK's biggest cities such as London, Birmingham, and Glasgow to reduce crime.

Vernon Collymore of Sheffield Futures congratulated Pastor Andrew on his efforts to make this the first such scheme in the whole of Sheffield and offered him the backing and assistance of Sheffield Futures whenever their help is needed.

Community Support Officer, Shaun Davis, added his voice of support to the initiative and hoped that something could be done as soon as possible to guide teenagers towards more positive futures.

Mike Pargeter explained that the role of a street pastor is not to preach "Heaven and Hell" but to help and support young people, adding that their job is not to talk about Jesus Christ but to help young people and the community.

After these words of encouragement, Pastor Andrew asked the assembled Street Pastors, all from different churches from around Sheffield, to gather at the front. He asked the audience to pray and bless them for their work before they commenced their duties on the streets. They were then presented with their own uniform and hat to help the public identify them as helpful and supportive individuals.



Bishop Lynette Melville asked all the Pastors to swear an undertaking to help everyone they meet during their work, before Pastor Andrew closed the event with a thank you to all who had attended and supported the initiative during the difficult moments up to this final launch. He added that anyone who wants to join the scheme would be welcome.

Byron Wood walk

Story: Amal Ahmed

On Monday 15th March a group of parents from Byron Wood Primary School had an opportunity to cross the countryside around Sheffield.

We visited the Moorland Discovery Centre in the Peak District. The High Peak estate is moorland between Sheffield and Manchester. We discovered how beautiful our countryside is. Most parents had never been there. We learned a lot of historical information and we felt fresh.

All the parents enjoyed themselves and we walked round for a few miles and saw dramatic views. It's a wonderful place. We are so pleased that the National Trust protect the High Peak estate and the environment and they keep our countryside peaceful and colourful. We want to send thanks to Zohra Chowdry.



She is the Community Champion and organised our trip and made it easy for us to visit that place.

Also we are saying a big thanks to Rachel. Rachel is a Learning Officer in the Moorland Discovery Centre. She is a very helpful and friendly person and she helped us to see everywhere in that area. Thank you both, we hope to visit again. It is a wonderful place and an unforgettable experience.

summer festivals 2010

Local residents have already begun meeting about this year's summer festivals. Both Fir Vale Funday and Abbeyfield Park Festival have set dates and are looking to secure funding.

Building on last year's success, volunteers will be taking the lead again this year, keeping the costs low and the involvement of local residents high.

There will be plenty of ways to get involved, by booking a stall, performing on stage, or volunteering on the day, which might include showing people where different activities are happening, litter picking, first aid support, support for stallholders or supporting entertainment. Both events are also looking for new ideas and people to help in the preparation, so get in touch if you can help.

A new feature this year in the run up to the festivals will be a Talent Show for young people, which will be held on 15th May at the Vestry Hall, where young people can develop their stage performance and show off their skills. Winners from this event will perform on the main stage of both festivals. Contact BCAF to find out more on 272 8008.

Fir Vale Fun Day Sunday 4th July, 1-6pm Osgathorpe Park

This year the event will focus on caring for the environment and your health.

Attractions will include sports activities, games, performances, dance, food and stalls. Activities for all the family.

If you are interested in booking a stall contact Elaine Virgo by email firvalefunday@googlemail.com, or request a booking form at the BCAF office on 272 8008.

If you'd like to volunteer contact Rashida Hassanali rhassanali@firvale.com 07773 583 699

All volunteers who wish to be allocated a support role involving children (eg supervising bouncy castle) will be asked to provide evidence of a current CRB check.

Abbeyfield Festival Sunday 11th July, 1-6pm, Abbeyfield Park

The festival is all about celebrating culture

Stage acts, music, dance, stalls, children's activities, food from around the world

Contact Burngreave Community Action Forum to register your interest in being involved on 272 8008

Basic Food Hygiene Course

Basic Food Hygiene Course available for people who wish to sell food/ refreshments at Fir Vale Funday

Weds 21st April 2010 from 9am - 4pm

(six hours of teaching followed by 1 hour written test to gain a three year certificate from the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health CIEH)

Suitable for those with minimum Entry 3 English language. £10 deposit required - please contact Janet Lawson at Fir Vale Enterprise Centre on 284 2030.

Only 10 places - first come, first served!

Reach High 2 trip to London

Story: Nasira Amin

Reach high 2 organised a day trip to London on 6th March 2010. A group

of 34 young people and 8 adults went down. The visit funded by Youth Opportunities Fund (YOF) was applied for by the young people and involved visits to Madame Tussauds, London Dungeon and London Eye.

Yet again YOF has provided local young people the opportunity to broaden their horizons. We need such funding streams which are allocated by young people for young people.

Comments from young people:

"London was a blast, we had loads of fun. The three attractions were great and the London central mosque was beautiful, the golden dome lit the whole place up." Ramaiz Bashir, 14 years old

"I liked Madam Tussauds because it was fun looking at the celebrities and I liked the London eye even though at first I was







a bit scared afterwoods I wanted to go again." Ayesha Latif, 13 years old

"In Madam Tussauds there were waxworks and a live performance area called 'scream' this was scary because real actors would come and scare you. The London dungeons were meant to be scary but not as scary as 'Scream', because in scream you don't expect people to be where they are! They can be anywhere." Chigozie Osammor, 12 years old

Wensley is football crazy

Story: Lisa Swift

Just as the sun was setting on a warm spring evening, the green near Wensley Close was full of activity. It was the weekly Tuesday football sessions by Activity Sheffield that were bringing the place to life.

More than thirty children were playing football and practicing their skills in and around the inflatable pitch, and nearby the police community van was serving hot drinks and handing out the biscuits.

Karl Reynolds from Activity Sheffield has been running the sessions since January,

"Its been really good, we've only had two sessions indoors because of the weather, and there's been lots of kids every week. There are regulars we see every time, and this week we've got 10 new children."

Each Tuesday boys and girls aged between 8 and 13, turn up and form into 5-a-side teams – they play matches and practice their ball skills. Its been funded by the Council's Small Grants and the Police, through the Wensley TARA. Their Secretary Gladys Newbolt said,

"I'm just glad to see the children enjoying themselves, its a lot warmer this week than it has been,

which is good. The children have come from all over the estate, from Arches, Page Hall and Earl Marshal, some of the players are really talented."

The local Safer Neighbourhood Team have also been involved from the start, PCSO Stephen Shipley said,

"Its been a fantastic turn out, and there have been some really good matches. They have all been really well behaved too."

The children were keen to tell us exactly what they thought of the activities:

"It's cool, we come home on a Tuesday and we all come here to play together. It's the first chance I've had to play football in ages." Faisal



"It's good, it means we don't have to stay at home being bored." Abdulla

"It's good for your fitness too." Jerry

"It's good to get out with all your friends, and its good for the environment." Usama

"It's fun, its better than staying at home." Nasr

"It's very good, it keeps people off the street." Duane

"Gives kids something to do so you're not at home annoying your mum."

"It's great, it keeps people occupied." Joy

"It's very good, it keeps kids fit and healthy, we are having a lot of fun." Waleed

Burngreave Blastoff



Story: Nick Gill | Photo: John Reilly

Burngreave had its second Blastoff area based football final on Friday 5th March at Fir Vale Sports Centre

There had been three weeks of football training sessions building up to the finals throughout the area. It was decided to extend the age groups to allow more young people to access the project therefore the competition was split into three age groups, 11 - 13, 14 - 16 and 17 - 19 year olds.

We had a record of 17 teams entering the tournament with 102 young people attending on the night which was double the attendance of November's competition! It was an action packed night with everyone giving their all, but it was the High Flyers 11-13 and Streetworx All Stars 14-16 who came out as the winners. The winners and runners up will now go forward to the city-wide finals which are at Concord Sports Centre, Friday 26th March 6pm - 9pm.

The event was organised by Activity Sheffield in partnership with the Police, Sheffield Futures and the Fire and Rescue Service. The football just doesn't stop there! Every Friday night at Concord Sports Centre, come along and take part in Friday 5ives, 5 aside football league for boys aged 11 – 16 years of age. No booking required, just turn up with your team!

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For more information regarding the Blastoff Project and Friday 5ives, please contact Lee Smith on 205 3725 or if you would like information on what Activity Sheffield is delivering in your area please contact Nick Gill on 273 6496.

Young Achievers make the final



Streetworx Young Achievers, along with other young people from the Burngreave area, entered the Fir Vale Blastoff tournament and won, qualifying for the city-wide Blastoff tournament. Young Achievers are a group of young people who set themselves up in order to deliver youth club sessions. They were successful in getting funding and, as a reward, they recently went on a residential to Manchester to watch a premiership match between Fulham and Manchester United.

Help for Haiti



Story: Laura Moya | Photos: St Catherine's

News of the January earthquake in Haiti has led to a multitude of fundraising events to support the victims of the quake in their efforts to rebuild their lives.

Many local schools got actively involved in fundraising; and not only the children!

Pupils at St. Catherine's Primary dedicated a whole day to fundraising and each year group held different activities. Key Stage 1 children enjoyed facepainting whilst Year 5 made a copper trail and tried their hands at circus skills, like juggling. The Year 4 pupils sweated it out in an aerobics class and Year 3 played



bingo. Their efforts raised ar impressive £514.

Meanwhile, Firs Hill Primary School saw everyone getting involved: parents hosted a table top sale selling things such as toys, games, clothing and books whilst the children held a tombola prize draw. The school collectively raised about £322.

Students at Parkwood Academy were lucky enough to meet boxing professional Brendan Ingle. Students paid 50p to have a go at "sparring" with one of his boxers, an event which proved very successful. Another group of students went around school with a bucket collecting loose change and one student, John Rwothomach, even held his own sponsored run, raising £79 towards the fund.

Fundraising is also encouraged through the "Shelterbox Appeal", an organisation that provides essential aid such as tents in response to disasters. Parkwood has a biscuit tin for staff to donate a small amount of money which goes towards whichever appeal they are helping at the time. £55 from this contributed to a total of £490 raised at the school.

Whiteways Primary raised £535 through a series of activities over a week, including a toy sale and sweet stalls during their breaks and play times. Staff at reception organised their own collection too.

Organiser Usha Blackham said "We all felt terrible to see people in Haiti suffering and children, parents, school staff and visitors gave generously."

You can still donate money to the Disasters Emergency Committee, one of the main organisations that has been helping earthquake victims, by visiting their website at www.dec.org.uk.

Healthy Cooking Course

Story & photos: Danielle Sharp

Over the past few weeks, Ellesmere Youth Project have been running a Healthy Cooking Course for local young people to learn how to cook healthy food from scratch.

The idea for the course came from young people themselves who said they would like to learn to cook more of the type of meals they have at home and to learn some new recipes.

The group spent the first week designing their own recipe folders which they have been adding to each week with every meal they have made. During the session the group prepare and cook their food and then we all eat the meal together, any leftovers are taken home. At the end of the 10 weeks one young person will be given a 'Little Chef' award for their efforts and everyone will get some cookery books. These sessions have been funded through 'Awards for All' which is part of the 'Big Lottery Fund'.



have learnt how to chop a pepper." Zoe, aged 10

"Something new I have learnt is how to make kebabs. My favourite thing about the group is meeting friends and sitting down together to eat."

Charlotte, aged 11

meal I have cooked has been Chicken Curry. I have learnt to make kebabs and have learned about loads of different spices. My favourite thing about the group is that we all know each other and get on and we make nice stuff."

Advia, aged 13

Fruits of the Forest at Parkwood Springs

Story: Leoni Kapadia

Thursday 18th March was an industrious and sunny spring day at Parkwood Springs when work took place to plant the fruit trees and bushes at the Forest Garden.

As well as members of the Friends of Parkwood Springs, volunteers on the day included pupils from Sheaf Training who are studying for NVQs in horticulture and young people from Endeavour Training who are gaining experience and confidence by taking part in a range of environmental activities with the Greenwatch Ranger Team. Members of Sheffield's Abundance project, who aim to harvest city fruit and redistribute the surplus to the community, also got planting, and aim to be involved in the long-term management of the Forest Garden.



The next Forest Garden work day will take place on Saturday 29th May 10 am - 3pm, during Sheffield Environment Weeks, and will be an Interfaith event inviting faith groups across the city to come together through practical environmental work.

For more information on Parkwood Springs or on the Friends of Group please see:

 $\label{lem:http://www.parkwood-springs.org.uk/orhttp://www.sheffield.gov.uk/out--about/parks-woodlands-countryside/parks/a-z-city-district--local--parks/parkwood-springs$

Or contact Leonie Kapadia, Community Forester on 07976 9886278 or Leonie.Kapadia@sheffield.gov.uk.

Community litter pick

Sunday 9th May 2010

Do you care about Burngreave? Do you want to be part of Sheffield Big Spring Clean? Come and join us in doing something positive for our local environment. A group of local people are having a community litter pick around the Burngreave area on Sunday 9th May 2010 between 2pm and 5pm.

We aim to involve a range of different community groups, faiths and local residents. The litter pick creates an opportunity to develop community pride, get people together, have fun and enhance our environment. Tea, cakes and equipment provided.

Our next planning meeting is on Monday 29th March 2010 at 7pm at the Furnival, Verdon Street. If you want to get involved, please come along to find out more, or get in touch by email at h.wittram@wildsheffield.com.



Interfaith vibes at Hallam

Story: Fran Belbin

Last edition, we brought you news that local residents Derrick Okrah and Farhan Ahmed were starting up a new society at Sheffield Hallam University's students' union. Two months on, and SAMEEM has had a successful launch meeting with about 100 students attending.

SAMEEM groups in UK universities are open to all faiths and none. Muslim, Jewish, Christian, agnostic and atheist speakers took the floor at the event - themed "Mercy" - and future events aim to connect those of different religions and views and explore common issues. Ian Maher, the Multi-faith Chaplaincy Coordinator, endorses their approach: "It is encouraging to see them create opportunities for people from different religions to discover more about each other and focus on the positive things shared in common".

"We're cooking love!" announces Farhan.

From a diverse background like Burngreave, Derrick and Farhan enjoy studying at university with people from around the world. "Our experiences in our first year made us want to understand more where others are coming from." They have found "massive support" by being active in the students' union. Farhan was elected International & Black Students Officer in 2009 - Hallam Union's first officer from Burngreave.

The pair, who met at Longley College, both credit Burngreave for their experiences and opportunities. They volunteered at the dementia café, which helped Derrick select his BA(Hons) Mental Health Nursing course. "On my first placement, I lacked confidence but getting involved with local activities opened up a new world. It's not easy taking the first step but once you've done it - it comes naturally!" He can also be heard on Burngreave Community Radio's Friday evening show, "kicking the interfaith vibes!"

Farhan, studying LLB Law, also feels "blessed" to be from Burngreave. "How many other communities have their own radio station, their own newspaper? And Ozmen's open 24 hours!"

He is still excited about his role representing BME and overseas students at Hallam and encourages other students from Burngreave to contribute their ideas and time, and to consider standing for election. "We want your knowledge, experience and passion!" he says. "If one person from Burngreave can do it - let the floodgates open!"

For more information, email sameemhallamsociety@yahoo.co.uk or join the lively Facebook group. Any students interested in becoming a Hallam Union officer can contact Farhan for advice -f.ahmed@shu.ac.uk. You can hear Farhan and Derrick on Burngreave Community Radio every Friday night 12.30am till late, 103.1 FM



Growing your own

Are you currently staring at a derelict garden?

Or are you wondering if the allotment can be tamed?

Perhaps it's your balcony that looks very bare?

Why not grow your own vegetables. We can help you to get started and support you throughout the seasons.

Green City Action can offer friendly advice on your particular gardening problem and we can offer free seeds to get you started. Soon we will also be offering some excellent free short courses where you can learn how to grow your own food from scratch. We have our well stocked tool bank so you do not have to buy expensive tools, and a resident expert in growing your own food.

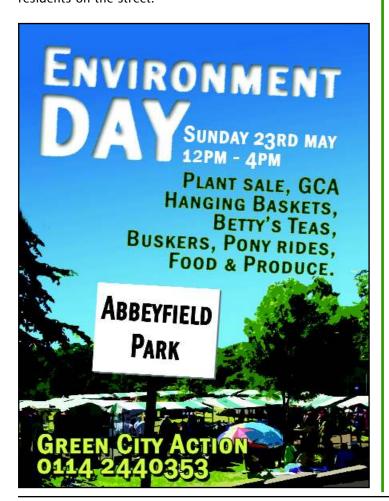
Get in touch with us today to see how we can help. Ring Rob or Garry on 244 0353 or email the address above.

Projects near you

Grimesthorpe Allotments: we are restoring two plots after years of neglect ready for growing veg.

Wensley estate: we will soon be talking to residents to see if they need help with their gardens

Firs Hill Close: we will be creating a new bed for veg with residents on the street.



Cut and Come Again

Its easy to get started growing your own food. You can grow healthy salad leaves in a seed tray on a window sill.

Sow them in a seed tray filled with potting compost. Place in a light, warm place but not near a radiator, keep the compost moist and cut the leaves with scissors



Ready to harvest. Thompson and Morgan mixed salad leaves sown 1st February. Photo taken 17th March

about six weeks after sowing, leaving the growing point for the plants to re-grow. The crop can be cut three times.

Come and get a free packet of cut and come again salad leaf seeds from the Tool Bank and give it a try..

Tool Bank

Having a spring clean?

Does your garden need a tidy?

Is the house ready for a makeover?

Then you ought to call round to Green City Action's Tool Bank.

We have an extensive stock of hand and power tools, carpet cleaners, jetwash, decorating tools, ladders, cement mixers, in fact we have the whole works and all at affordable rates.

The tool bank is open to residents of S3, S4 and S5 and membership is *free*.

Open Wednesday 1pm to 4pm and Saturdays10am to 12am.

For more information, call us on 244 0353 or email enquiries@greencityaction.org.uk

Garden Pledge

Green City Action is pleased to announce the continuation of its Garden Pledge project this spring.

We have received support from the Community Assembly to tidy up gardens for OAP's and people with disabilities.

We only have the resources to tackle 60 gardens, so it is strictly on a first come first served basis. Please ring us now on 244 0353 if you are an OAP or registered disabled and need some help tidying your garden.

There is no charge for this service and you should pay no money to anyone claiming to be from Green City Action. If anyone claims to be from Green City Action and asks for money please refuse politely and contact the police.

Dementia? Welcome! Café

The Café is held at the Furnival, 199 Verdon Street every Wednesday 11am – 1pm.



It is inspired with the belief that living with Dementia can and should include joy in life and a sense of community. The Café welcomes anyone who feels they would benefit.

Among other things, we make each other welcome with drinks and biscuits, tell and listen to each others' long stories, play dominoes and sometimes follow the rules, and share information.

We are also a resource for carers, including a range of communication methods: eg games, ways of framing conversation, music and more, demonstrations of possible approaches to care and a safe place for carers to talk.

Café Volunteers wanted

Thanks to a recent offer of funding we are in a position to recruit 4 new volunteers over the course of a year, and offer some training.

Tasks could include:

- · welcoming and serving,
- giving undivided attention,
- conversation,
- encouraging participation,
- creative play and communication activities,
- responding to problems,
- first aid,
- potentially home visiting and demonstration work in residential care homes.

Skills required

A respectful attitude to frail or elderly people is essential. Volunteers who have experience, skills or qualifications that relate to any of the tasks above would be most welcome. We can arrange a CRB check, which is necessary because of the vulnerability of the people who use the café.

If you are interested please call Nick on 07725 569 380.

Tenants and Residents Associations (TARAs) are run by local people who volunteer their time to help make their areas better for everyone living. They rely on other residents getting involved and supporting their meetings and activities. Details of our TARAs are below, get involved if you can.

Wensley TARA

Wensley TARA is there to support residents and to make Wensley a good place to live.

The TARA office at 5 Wensley Croft is open on Mondays 10.30am-12noon and Wednesdays 2.30pm-4pm every week.

The next General Meeting will be on Thursday 15th April at 2 pm in Wensley Community Centre on Hinde House Crescent. Everyone is welcome – come and get involved we will be – reviewing the Spring Clean which is happening in March, looking forward to the AGM in July, and talking about issues for the estate.

Carwood TARA

Carwood TARA are working on a new project to brighten up the estate. In May they will hold a clean up day and prepare some of the planting beds, ready to plant herbs.

The herbs will all be ones that can be used in cooking, and it's hoped that if they become established tenants can just help themselves.

Also look out for the hanging basket day on 5th May

For more information contact Wynn on 243 0766 or Gwen on 243 3192

Firshill TARA

Firshill TARA formed a new committee in November and is working on new projects to benefit local people.

Social Light Lunch Club

Every Monday Marjorie Thorpe organises a light lunch for residents to enjoy. Soup, sandwiches, tea, coffee and cakes for just £1.50, at the TARA office. Money from this will help pay for future trips.

Agewell Coffee Morning is on the last Friday of the month 10am-12pm

Police Surgery

On the 1st Tuesday of each month 12-1pm, PCSO Helen Turner is on hand in the TARA office to listen, in confidence, to any issues the Police can help with.

Firshill in Bloom

This year sees the return of the In Bloom competition – the categories will include: Best Garden; Best Balcony Display; Best Hanging Basket. So get your hands dirty and get planting!

Summer Fair 3rd July

This years major event will be the summer fair, this year at the Sheffield United Academy. Attractions will include stalls, prizes, games, cakes and refreshments, and presentation of competition.

If you have any ideas for projects please contact the TARA

For more information about Firs Hill TARA, or to get help with an issue on the estate contact 256 0337

Christchurch Lunch Club

Do you have free time on a Thursday morning? We need your help!

The club is run by volunteers, and aims to foster a sense of community. We always welcome help and enjoy meeting new people, for part or all of a club day, which runs from 9 am till 2 pm and there are a wide range of volunteer tasks to do.

This is a good opportunity for volunteer work in a community with a rich cultural mix, a transient population, and in some cases, severe social isolation and deprivation. It is an introduction to a variety of other activities aimed at addressing these problems, networked well with other agencies, such as Primary Care, Social Services and other Voluntary organisations. It is also an opportunity to practice conversation in English.



If you want to help, we can arrange a CRB check. Call Nick on 07725 569 380 or Janet on 0114 244 3370

Come and join in!

The Lunch club is financed by members with help from a council grant, uses a Pitsmoor and Shiregreen Community Transport minibus and buys meals from Pye Bank School.

Maan's Guide to Recovery

On 23rd February around a hundred people gathered at Sorby House to review the new recovery guide for mental health users from the Somali Mental Health Project (MAAN).

The recovery folder was originally developed for patients leaving hospital after treatment. Now, it has been adapted to suit the needs of the Somali community. It's not just translation but addresses a different cultural approach to mental illness and recovery.



Maan's Saeed Abdi tells us more about the importance of the recovery folder.

Story: Saeed Abdi

This story is about recovery. We hear a lot about mental health and mental illness, about "well-ness", wellbeing and early intervention which are all important parts of the human health journey. In this folder, we address the recovery bridge in the journey to be travelled from illness to wellness.

The recovery period is important as there is no shortcut to instant wellness. It is a time for gathering strength and growing health. It is about properly managing gains and applying them for the whole person's health, independence and dignity.

It is like a broken arm when plaster is removed - the bone is mended and healed but you cannot immediately start using that arm.

The rationale behind the folder is to place the person at the centre of decision-making in their life. This is particularly important as it is the practice in the Somali culture to remove responsibility from the service user and exclude them from the decision-making process in their affairs. In everyday life, but especially in the presence of professionals, it is quite common to find patients, carers and relatives struck by the doctor or other professionals interviewing the "mad person who does not know anything" and asking them all the questions. A typical reaction from a carer is "why is he/she talking to this person? We are here and we know what the problems and issues are!"

As usual in the rich poetic Somali culture there is a proverb which covers each situation. This one says "Nin Waalan, tolkiis baa u miyir qaba," meaning: "For an insane man, his kin are sane." But then one might forget the one which says "nin buka boqol u tali," which means a sick person has a hundred advisers, in the relatives and friends circle who would be telling them what is 'best' for them. This is precisely the reason the recovery folder is so important; it is about keeping the service user in control.

National No Smoking Day

Story: Emma Msigiti

March 10th saw the annual No Smoking Day campaign across the U.K. In Burngreave we marked the day with an event at the Health Matters shop on Spital Hill – lung age and carbon monoxide testing were available, along with free entry to a prize draw for all those who attended.



Cigarette smoking is the single greatest cause of preventable death in the UK so stopping smoking is

one of the most important things a person can do to improve their health. The No Smoking Day aims to encourage as many smokers as possible to make a commitment to quit. It raises awareness of the financial and health implications associated with smoking and gives information on the benefits of quitting.

I am the community stop-smoking worker in Burngreave, part of a team of 6 community-based advisers located in areas of the city identified as having higher rates of smoking than average.

In Burngreave and Fir Vale, about 1 in 3 of the adult population are current smokers. This is 10% higher than the city average and is a significant factor in the lower life expectancy of people in our community, compared to those in more affluent areas of the city. There is a 10-year discrepancy between people living in Burngreave compared to residents in areas such as Fulwood.

Smoking Facts

- A 20-per-day smoker spends over £2,000 a year on their habit
- Smokers inhale a toxic mix of over 4,000 chemicals including arsenic, cyanide and carbon monoxide
- Smoking causes 13 different types of cancer, with 90% of all lung cancer being directly related to smoking
- · 1 in 2 smokers will die prematurely as a result of their habit
- 17,000 children are admitted to hospital each year in the UK with illnesses caused by breathing in 'second hand' smoke

It is never too late to stop smoking, and the benefits of quiting start as soon as you stop.

Getting support to stop smoking can make quitting easier and greatly improve the chances of success. Anyone living or working in the Burngreave/Fir Vale areas can access free and confidential one-to-one or group support. I aim to provide a friendly and flexible service to help people through the process of quitting, and can support clients on a weekly basis at local community venues, work places or provide home visits where necessary.

In addition to one-to-one support, I also do 'smoking awareness' talks to community groups and have worked with schools to promote the Smoke Free Homes campaign. This aims to reduce smoking in the home and car in order to prevent the health risks to children from breathing in 'second hand' smoke.

I am employed by The Furnival Burngreave Community Projects and also work closely with the NHS Stop Smoking Service.

If you want to stop smoking, or require further information please call or text Emma Msigiti on 07847 893 134.



Community Assemblies

Contact: 0114 203 7562

Assembly raises residents' concerns

Adult Learning and Parks

Those who attended the Community Assembly meeting in the Burngreave Vestry Hall in February, found it a very lively affair and two issues raised by residents resulted in Assembly members being requested to raise them with the City Council's Cabinet - the proposed reduction in the Regeneration Team within Parks & Woodlands and the impact this may have on schemes planned for our Assembly area and also the reduction in the Adult Learning classes which have been so popular here. Unfortunately, when it went to cabinet, Councillor Jackie Drayton was not allowed by the Leader of Council to address the meeting and put the concerns expressed by the assembly. However the recommendation was formally received by Cabinet and minuted. We are still hoping that we will be able to get them raised at Scrutiny board meetings. We also took a petition objecting to the introduction of a residents' parking plan around the Northern General.

Grants approved

On a more happy note, the meeting did agree the allocation of all our community chest money. Thankfully, all the community groups who made bids for grants and met the criteria, were successful. Similarly, we were able to agree all the small highway schemes supported by the area wards, and several schemes using up our Climate Change fund.

We also managed to identify a little underspend and the Assembly agreed to fund more bring out your rubbish days and following our free swimming for the under 16's, the meeting agreed to support another pilot scheme, but this time in addition to the swimming, extend the option to include other activities within the sports centres and also extend the pilot to include the over 60's. Both meeting priorities identified within our delivery plan.

Peter Price - Chair North East Community Assembly



Allocation of North East Community Assembly funds

At the Community Assembly meeting on 10 February Councillors:

- a) Allocated the remaining £16,000 of the funds provided at the beginning of the year to:
 - Additional Bring Out Your Rubbish Days
 - New floral features on Shirecliffe Road
 - A summer festival project for young people in Burngreave
 - Pages in the Burngreave Messenger

- b) Reallocated over £22,000 which could no longer be used for the projects to which is was originally allocated to:
 - Extra Bring Our Your Rubbish Days, total 12 in all
 - Activity Sheffield for Street Dance and free activity sessions
- The infrastructure for new festive and Christmas lights at sites across the assembly area.

Councillors also agreed to continue funding 3 staffing posts with Activity Sheffield for 2010/11 (pictured).

Highways budget

The assembly considered how best to spend the remaining Highways Budget. Schemes that have been ordered including purchasing a mobile speed sign.

The following schemes were approved subject to funds being available: Completion of Clun Street car park; An additional mobile speed sign.

Your highways grumbles!

If you are fed up of people speeding up your road, or having trouble crossing at a local junction, then tell North East Community Assembly. We will have a budget of £275,000.

Money can be sent on dropped kerbs, handrails, path improvements, and even pelican crossings.

All requests are recorded and passed through to the highways department for assessment so please let us know what you think needs to be done.

Free skips for groups

The North East Community Assembly can offer free skips every year for community use.

You will need to find a prominent place for the skip; it will arrive at 7am and be collected from 12.30pm on the same day. A member of the group must stay with the skip and make sure only appropriate items are put in it.

Please contact the team to register your request on 0114 203 7562 or community assembly northeast@sheffield.gov.uk.



Councillor Surgery Dates

10 April: Ibrar Hussain, 11am–12noon Burngreave Library, 2.15pm–1pm Firshill Tara

15 April: Ibrar Hussain, 2pm–3pm Pakistan Advice Centre

20 April: Jackie Drayton, 11am–12pm Shirecliffe Centre and 12.15–1pm Norwood/Bishopsholme

27 April: Steve Jones, 11am–12noon Burngreave Library

8 May: Jackie Drayton, 11am–12noon Burngreave Library, 2.15pm–1pm Firshill Tara

22 May: Ibrar Hussain, 11am–12noon Burngreave Library

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



Charitable status

We have now achieved charitable status, which was one of the aims of New Deal moving forward. The company is now registered as a charity and we are in the process of setting up our trading arm, which will deliver the services for the charity. This new structure means that there are opportunities for the residents of Burngreave to be involved with the companies and have their say as to how they operate. The aims of the charity will be to reinvest any surplus back into the community.

The new charitable board will take over running of the company in mid 2010 and there are still places on this board for community and business representatives, so if you want a say as to how New Deal operates in the future, please contact us for further information.

We have been working with Fir Vale School to provide us with the name and a corporate image as a project for their students. That initial piece of work has been completed and the students are to present their ideas to the Partnership Board in March. So watch this space for the designs and ideas by these students.

New Deal update

Members of the board and executive team of New Deal attended the recent NDC conference to meet with other NDC's to share experiences, gain knowledge and challenge the Department of Communities and local government about the programme.

Our Succession Strategy has not yet been formally signed off but we are working to seek that this is achieved as soon as possible. This process is likely to take a little longer than envisaged but we will update you on this page.

An interesting statistic which came out of the presentations by DCLG is that they estimate that from the £2billion invested in the projects, over £6billion of outputs have been achieved to help benefit the 39 New Deal areas accross the country.

Learning and fun at Vestry Hall

To many residents of Burngreave, Vestry Hall is the physical evidence of the changes New Deal has made to the area. When we took it over the building had suffered from a substantial period of neglect and required a full internal and external refurbishment to allow it to become the vibrant heart of the community.

The transformation has been spectacular from the photo in the left corner, through the dereliction years (far right) to the reemergence as a modern

community building which serves the whole community in 2007 (top).

Since its re-opening Vestry Hall has become a major local centre for learning with many of our residents passing through its doors as they seek to improve their skills allowing them to achieve their aims and aspirations. It has not all been about learning and working though - we have seen a number of celebrations from children's birthday parties to wedding celebrations for a number of the communities in Burngreave, who want to hold their celebration locally. We of course are only too happy to accommodate these celebrations.

The Hall has recently had a new occupier as many of you will remember from previous issues we are working with Launchpad to develop a number of social enterprises at Vestry Hall including the opening of the Corner Egg Café in the hall which is open every day from 9 am and offers a daily special and the usual







sandwiches etc. This is something that has been often requested by the residents and now is being run with charitable aims.

To help us work with the community we have established the Friends of Vestry Hall working group to enable New Deal to understand what the community require from Vestry Hall. The meetings to date have been very productive in generating new ideas to enable us to increase usage of the Hall. Get in touch if you would like to be involved.

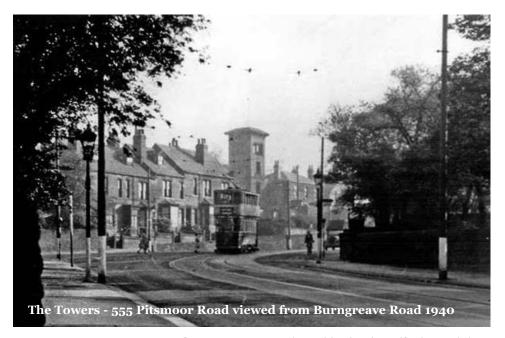
We are still offering our BOGOF promotion at Vestry Hall – so if you book a room you can have the same room at no cost for your next event and we are able to offer local groups the use of our small meeting rooms at the excellent rate of £10.00 per hour (for the first 2hours). We also encourage the community and organisations to use the facilities so offer discounts to residents and community groups. Telephone 213 3800.

Sorby House - an update

In our last issue we featured our other major asset Sorby House and things continue to improve at our flagship building. We have secured a number of further tenants who are able to provide services to the local community, including Morgan Dias, the Immigration Lawyers and You Study, who aim to increase the educational attainment of residents. We

are also working with a number of our existing tenants to renew their leases. The positive news from all this is that Sorby House is now 67% occupied, a little behind our projections but still a very respectable level in these difficult economic times.

So if you are looking for a new office, we are sure that we can accommodate your requirements. Please give us a call to have a look round. Telephone 213 2300.



The mystery of Roe Lane Tower

Story: Christina White
Photos courtesy of the Local Studies Library

The house

I was intrigued when I came across the above picture which was taken in 1940. Whatever is the large structure at the bottom of Roe Lane and who would build a house with a tower attached? I had to find out who lived in that house and why they built the tower.

A visit to the Local Studies library was required and it was there that I found out that a Wright Chadburn had built the house in the 1860s and that he lived there with his wife Frances and daughter Ida. In the census of 1891, Wright's profession is listed as 'retired optician'.

The Chadburn family

Wright's father William Chadburn went into business with David Wright in 1818. They manufactured spectacles, reading and opera glasses, telescopes and were also dealers in all types of hardware. Their premises were on Nursery Street where the Harlequin Pub now stands.



Wright and his brother Alfred joined the firm in the 1830's and the firm was named Chadburn Brothers in 1837.

The firm prospered

By 1845 the company was described as opticians, mathematical, electrical and philosophical instrument manufacturers at the Albion Works. They also had a photographic portrait gallery on Norfolk Street.

In the Local History Library I found an old catalogue of the prices and description of the glasses that they made. I have listed a few below:-

Common Spectacles, 1s
Buffalo Horn Spectacles, 1s 6d
Tortoise Shell Specs, 4s 6d
Strong Silver spectacles, 10.00s
Extra Strong Fine Gold, 70.00s

They manufactured 1,000 dozen pairs per week.

The great exhibition 1851

Britain was one of the leaders of the Industrial revolution and Queen Victoria's husband Prince Albert was interested in all new inventions. It was his idea to hold



a Great Exhibition in Hyde Park where British goods could be displayed. Crystal Palace was specifically built for this purpose and goods from all over the world were on display. Millions of visitors attended. Wright and his brother Alfred exhibited and received an honourable mention.

By 1860 they were shown as being opticians to Prince Albert. They must have made quite an impression.

Wright died at the age of 72 in 1891. As Wright's wife had already died his daughter moved out of the house and married in 1896 in Christchurch, Hampshire. The extended family carried on the opticians business. Many of you may remember Chadburn opticians on Spital Hill in the 1960s/70s.

What happened to the house and tower?

The house eventually came into the ownership of Mrs E Dey and she ran a dance studio from the premises from the 1930s to the 1950s. It was called 'The Tower Ballroom'.

In the early 1960s the house was bought by Peter Stringfellow and became 'The King Mojo Club'. The artists that appeared there included Ike & Tina Turner, Rod Stewart, Jimmy Hendrix and Elton John. When the club closed in 1967 it was used as a bingo hall named 'Kings Bingo'. The house had quite a chequed history.

The answer to my question as to why the Tower was built is pure speculation. As Wright manufactured telescopes, I believe he had it built as an observation tower and would even bring his clients to the Tower in order to sell his goods.

I am not sure when the tower was demolished but I do know that a bomb fell at the bottom of Roe Lane in the second world war (The Sheffield Blitz – December 1940), so maybe it was damaged and had to be taken down.

The House was demolished in 1982 and Firshill Mews now stands on the site.



Martyn Snow appointed Archdeacon

Story: John Mellor | Photo: Richard Hanson

After being vicar of Christ Church Pitsmoor for nearly nine years, Martyn Snow is moving on to take up the post of Archdeacon of Sheffield and Rotherham. Martyn has spoken to the Messenger about his time in Pitsmoor and the changes involved in starting this new appointment.

Martyn's journey to becoming a vicar was a long one. It began when he was a teenager as a member of a church youth group, an experience he thoroughly enjoyed and which started to develop his leadership skills.

In 1986 he came to Sheffield University to study Chemistry, although at the time he wasn't quite sure what he would do with that qualification! Following two years working in the civil service he took a year out to do voluntary work with his local church in Netherthorpe. He found this such an enjoyable experience that he felt it was worth enquiring whether this was the right way ahead for the future.

Describing the next period in his life, Martyn said:

"There is a long selection process to becoming a vicar in the Church of England but they eventually said 'yes' to me. After theological training in Oxford, I was ordained in 1995 in Sheffield Cathedral and began my first post as a curate in Rotherham for a couple of years."

Martyn and his wife, Lynn, then travelled to the French-speaking west African country of Guinea to work with the Church Mission Society (CMS) where he was vicar of a parish and also initiated youth work projects across a number of churches. Lynn, who is a doctor, was involved in primary health care work. After three years, unrest and fighting in Sierra Leone and Liberia spilled across the border into Guinea and they had to return home earlier than planned.

Speaking about this sudden change of plan, Martyn commented:

"At the time it was a disappointment not to be able to return to Africa, but we felt that Pitsmoor was the next best thing! – and the vacancy occurred at just the right time, in 2001.

"It's been a fantastic nine years, no two days are ever the same and you never know what's going to 'come round the corner'! Pitsmoor is an area where there has been so much change in recent years and as a church we are now more involved in the wider community and more confident in engaging with the needs of those living around us."

Bringing about this change has involved recruiting a number of staff to help with projects in the community, including work with asylum seekers, children and young people (including Pye Bank School), vulnerable and isolated people, a charity shop ('Rainbow's End' on Spital Hill) and the Welcome Centre. All these ventures involve many volunteers who have been through a training process to increase their skills and confidence.

Martyn observed:

"Some amazing people come to us as asylum seekers, very highly qualified in their own countries, obviously gifted and skilled, but who then have become almost completely de-skilled and told they can't do anything. The church offers them a way to contribute something to the wider community, for example



through voluntary work in the shop, helping them in their learning of English and giving temporary accommodation to those who have nowhere to stay."

Martyn said that he and his family had mixed feelings about their imminent move – very sad to be leaving their many friends in Pitsmoor but also excited by the new challenges ahead. For their three children it will mean moving from the only home they have known and also from Pye Bank School where they've been very happy. They will be moving to their new home near Hunters Bar in mid-April.

Of his role as vicar over the last nine years, Martyn reflected:

"It has been a huge privilege to be involved with people at very significant times in their lives through the regular duties of a vicar, such as baptisms, weddings and funerals. Some of the funerals have been for victims of shootings in the area and have been very moving occasions with the church full to overflowing with grieving family and friends."

Martyn's new role as Archdeacon ("it's a strange title!") is an extension of the work he has been doing for the last three years as Area Dean of the Ecclesfield Deanery, covering eighteen churches in north Sheffield. The role has two aspects, the first being an assistant to the bishop, "a bit like an area manager", responsible for finance and buildings. The second is helping to facilitate the changes which are necessary for the church to respond to the culture around it and be relevant to people's needs. This will involve supporting vicars in the various situations they find themselves in, helping them to reflect on what they are doing and the direction the church is moving in.

As he leaves us, Martyn has a positive message for his former parishioners:

"I've loved working in Pitsmoor. It's a community that has had its problems and issues, but a community that people should be proud of in all sorts of ways that are not reported on, or talked about, and not known by the rest of the city. So I've seen myself as something of an evangelist for the area, as well as the church, which I shall be able to continue in my new role."

Martyn's induction as Archdeacon will take place at Sheffield Cathedral on 29th April at 7.30 pm.

His final service at Christ Church will be on Easter Sunday, 4th April, at 10.30 am.

Snow-time Memories

Story: Marion Graham
Firshill and Pitsmoor History Group

We've had a slow start to this year - we are all getting on a bit and the weather has somewhat restricted our normal outings. This situation started us reminiscing about the weather conditions when we were young.

Keepng warm

It was unanimously agreed that wintertime in those days was very much worse that we have become accustomed to in recent years. There was no central heating and no running hot water. We mostly washed our hands and faces in the mornings in cold water - or if we were lucky there might have been some hot water in the kettle to spare. For some baths were a weekly event when probably all the family used the same hot water in a tin bath in front of the kitchen fire taking it in turns - so if you had a big family the water could get a bit nasty if you were at the end of the queue. We had hot water bottles sometimes to warm the bed at night or even "oven plates" which were the shelves from the coal-fired oven that were taken out and wrapped in a bit of material and popped into the bed to warm it up. Some of our members recalled having no heat at all in their beds but overcoats and almost anything else would be piled on top of the blankets to try to keep warm. In fact, on going to bed sometimes we put on more clothes than we took off!

Getting to work

Whatever the weather, though, it did not stop normal day-to-day living - the men had to go to work (they usually walked to work anyway) the women had to do the shopping (although it was probably just at the local corner shop) and the children went to school. No telephones then, or local radio to tell you not to turn in to school, it was just like any other time, except a bit colder.

One thing we did not have much of was traffic problems in the snow, because there was not much traffic. We had trams, which our members remembered as not having too much difficulty except on steep hills, and the buses made an effort to run. However, some remembered that if the bus got stuck in the snow going up a hill, people had to get off to lighten the load and as many as could helped push the bus up the hill. Then everyone piled back on to the bus until the next hill.



Snow drifts on the Firshill Estate

Staying on your feet

There was no salt or grit, except maybe on the main roads in town, but people used to clear the snow from the pavements in front of their homes and spread the ashes from their coal fires on to paths to try to make it a bit easier to walk on them. One of our members, whose father delivered coal by means of a horse-drawn lorry, remembers that they used to get straw from a farm for the horse and in snowy weather this was put down on the road for the horse to get a footing. She also recalled that very often mixed in with the straw there would be eggs which had been missed by the farmer before the straw was cleared out at the farm. Her family enjoyed lots of meals from those eggs over the years!

Sledging in Roe Woods

Another memory was of the really bad winter of 1947 when there was lots of snow which staved for a long time. Being at the top of the hill in Roe Wood the "Atlas and Norfolk" sports ground (now the Sheffield United Academy) had huge drifts of snow covering the lower field. The sports club/caretaker's house was in the middle, between the top and lower fields. Somehow or other, the groundsmen cut a path through the snow on the lower field going from the clubhouse down to join the path which went through Roe Wood. It must have been a massive job. My best friend's grandparents were the caretakers of the ground, and she and I walked up to see them by this path which was like a "topless tunnel" with the snow on each side reaching higher than our heads. We were about 10 and 12 years old at the time so it must have been pretty deep. The most exciting thing that winter though was the sledging down the hill in Roe Wood. It was fantastic, but quite scary I remember, and people came from all over Sheffield to sledge there.

By and large then the conclusion of our members was that we all appreciate our central heating, hot water, and a cooker which all help to keep us warm whatever the weather.

The high & the low of snow

Looking out of the window seeing Snow flakes fall, Slowly and silently a white carpet covers all,

This virgin snow is a picture a Pleasure to be seen, Shining like a crystal glass so Perfect and so clean,

We hear the children's laughter Playing happily in the snow, Grown-ups clearing pathways to Every place they need to go,

This winter wonderland brings Pleasure in more ways than one Making most of every moment until It melts away and gone,

Sometimes this doesn't come to pass Soon we realise it isn't going to happen, We look and realise, it has turned into solid ice.

Then comes another snow fall thick and very deep

Covering all the ice underneath
The snowploughs are kept busy
Clearing roads where traffic is at a halt
Men in lorries working hard following up
with grit and salt

Snow was all around us, in the beginning in its prime,

Giving many their enjoyment only just in time

Remembering when it was a pretty sight on that first fall,

A picture of the scenic snow could be hung on any wall, Knowing it would be still and silent Never change at all

Sylvia Reaney

Dear Messenger,

Just a note to say that all my correspondents I sent copies of The Messenger to were very impressed with your article about my book and the magazine as a whole. They all wish that they had a similar community magazine in their areas. One friend, who lives in Sheffield 12, has asked me to pass on copies of The Messenger when I've read them, as he and his wife enjoyed them so much. I will be happy to do this. Thank you for your lovely article and for being so kind to me.

Best Wishes, David

David Norris Kay's book of poetry 'From Time-burried Years' is now available in Burngreave Library.

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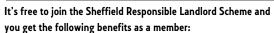
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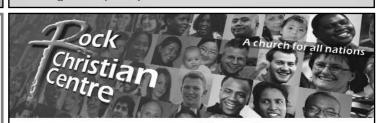




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for the North East Community Assembly Area

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www.ne-adultlearning.org.uk Online from 19th April

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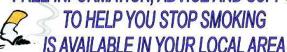








FREE INFORMATION, ADVICE AND SUPPORT





Vestry Hall

Thursday evenings from 5.30–7.30pm 2 Burngreave Road S3 9DD. Please call on the number below to book an appointment.

Health Matters in Burngreave shop
 Drop-in on Tuesday afternoons 12.30–2.30pm.

 131 Spital Hill S4 7LF.

Individual appointments at alternative venues can also be arranged.

For more details call Emma Msigiti (Community Stop Smoking Worker) on

07847 893 134

(or text quit and your name to the same number)









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