



Folk singer of the year

Interview by Linda Cawley
Picture from Sweet Visitor

Local resident Nancy Kerr has won 'Folk Singer of the Year' at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards. Her latest album and solo debut *Sweet Visitor* features a song called 'Dark Honey', which Nancy wrote about the bees in the Burngreave Cemetery.

Some people in folk music don't approve of awards, as folk music is a movement about equality rather than an industry. However, the Folk Awards promote folk music to a wider audience and Nancy says winning the award is "a huge boost."

Nancy comes from a musical family with a diverse cultural background; her mother is of East End London/Irish/Scottish origin, her father is a Northumbrian piper and her husband is an Australian, as is her sister-in-law, Kate Fagan, whom she describes as "a very successful singer-songwriter and a huge influence on me." Nancy not only finds



inspiration from her family but locally too. She has lived in Pitsmoor for five years and in that time, she says, "I've gained a massive amount of inspiration - I find it a very inspiring area, because of the many different cultures and the history of the city."

In 2011, she worked with the Pitsmoor-based Melrose Quartet (nominated for BBC Best Group in 2014) to record the song 'Santa Georgina', which she wrote whilst pushing her son around Pitsmoor in his buggy. The song celebrates multicultural England.

Amazingly, Nancy started playing the fiddle when she was just five years old. This summer, as well as touring, Nancy will be doing a fundraiser concert for Pitsmoor Adventure Playground, which she describes as "such as lifeline to our area." Nancy also recommends The Dovetail Trio featuring Sheffield-based Rosie Hood. Sheffield, and particularly Pitsmoor, really is where folk music is happening!

Nancy's latest album *Sweet Visitor* is a completely self-written album and Nancy's solo debut. It is available on her website at www.nancykerr.co.uk and in shops. She also has a double A-side single called 'It was red'/'Gingerbread' available to download.

What next for Burngreave Library?

Story: Fran Belbin

The Save Burngreave Library campaign held a meeting in May to discuss the options for the library, which is still being run by the Council at Sorby House. It is open for 21 hours a week on four days and is well used by large numbers of residents.

Other libraries across the city are now being managed by volunteers running a reduced service, with some support from the Council, such as access to library IT systems and volunteer training.

The Save Burngreave Library group says a paid librarian is essential to meet Burngreave's complex needs. In 2014, the group raised enough funds to pay for a qualified member of staff but the Council rejected their plan because it was not

willing to employ the librarian directly. The campaign group does not have the resources to employ their own staff or to manage volunteers.

Councillor Mazher Iqbal, Cabinet member for Communities and Public Health, explained the Council was already under fire for keeping the library open, so an organisation must be formed to manage the service or the library will close.

Several organisations made offers of support at the meeting. The housing office, also based in Sorby House, offered to help supervise volunteers and provide onsite support. The Citizens Advice Bureau, Creative Pathways, Manor and Castle Development Trust, Northern Refugee Centre, SOAR and Voluntary Action Sheffield agreed to set up a



business planning group to look at managing staff and volunteers. They will then meet with the Council to negotiate a way forward.

While this support is welcome, Margaret Hill and Cllr Jackie Drayton of the Save Burngreave Library campaign insist that it is essential for local people to decide on the future of the library, not least on how to spend the money they have raised.



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Paddy Power closes

Story: Amy Palmer

When Paddy Power opened in the former East House pub, concerns were raised by many residents. However, the tenancy of Paddy Power has been short lived.

In that time there has been an observed rise in anti-social behaviour around the area, which culminated in a drugs raid on 17th March when four men were arrested. This was shortly after followed by a burglary on the premises, the aftermath of which was described by one resident as “a confetti of betting slips” all over Spital Hill.

Paddy Power have now vacated the premises and the East House pub is once again vacant.

Castle Market - used by many generations of Burngreave residents - is being demolished.

The Council's future plan is to develop the area as a city park after an archaeological investigation of the castle remains.

This bird's eye photo shows the market site and Lady's Bridge.



Photo: Sally Cuckney

Have your say

A great big 'thank you' to those of you who have responded to our survey, both on paper and online at www.burngreavemessenger.org/survey. Survey responses are really important, not only for keeping us up to date with what you want, but also to help us with our funding bids. So please do fill it out if you haven't yet done so.

Please accept our warm invitation to send us your ideas for articles, your letters, your recent events and achievements. We love to hear from everyone in our area so do get in touch.

Messenger readers' survey

Would you like to continue to receive the Burngreave Messenger?

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If yes, please tell us why (tick all that apply):

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- ☐ It helps me find out about new activities, services and opportunities in Burngreave
- ☐ It helps me find out about different groups and communities that live in Burngreave
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- ☐ It is free
- ☐ It gives positive news about the Burngreave area

- ☐ It helps us build a sense of community
- ☐ It is easy to read
- ☐ It looks attractive

Any other comments:

Please return this survey to **Burngreave Messenger, Abbeyfield Park House, Abbeyfield Road, Sheffield S4 7AT** or complete it online at www.burngreavemessenger.org/survey

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We aim to increase and encourage communication in Burngreave. Each edition is put together by an editorial team who write articles not otherwise credited.

This issue's team:
Fran Belbin, Helen Brown, Michelle Cook, Ange Droz, Saleema Imam, Douglas Johnson, Graham Jones, Jamie Marriott, John Mellor, Amy Palmer, Anwar Suliman.

Playground celebrations

Story: Fran Belbin

Children at Pitsmoor Adventure Playground can always find something to celebrate!



Volunteers and children put in extra effort in April to decorate the playground for St George's Day. The castle got a much needed new coat of paint and the flags were out, while children were busy making swords and shields to battle the dragon!

In May the children held a party to celebrate the Tour de Yorkshire, making model bicycles and banners out of recycled materials. Amaal, aged eight, said: "We really liked the men on bikes last year and wanted to do it again. I loved making the big bike!" Patrick Meleady, playground manager, added, "We all hope next year the tour will come to Sheffield!"

National anti-knife campaigner Teresa Cave, presenting a generous donation to the playground's Big Slide Appeal, said, "I have never witnessed a playground work as well as this one at Pitsmoor. It was clear to me after ten minutes I needed to help and I truly wish we could replicate this playground across the country." Playground users hope to get a new big slide in place over the summer.

Anna 'opens up'

Photo: Amanda Evans

Local pottery teacher Anna-Mercedes Wear is taking part in this year's 'Open Up' festival where she will open her ceramics studio to the public. Many local people will have attended her classes at Firth Park School.

Anna has lived and worked in Sheffield for 20 years, making ceramics and teaching. She says,



"My ceramic sculptures describe the figure in day-to-day scenes and observations of family life. Each piece is unique and has its own personal story."

The Dragon of Pitsmoor

Story & photo: Patrick Amber

Children from Pitsmoor Adventure Playground went on a trip to Sharrow Lantern Carnival and walked the Dragon of Pitsmoor. The theme this year was 'Life on Earth' and the Dragon of Pitsmoor fitted in just right.



Often, many of the lanterns haven't been seen illuminated until the night of the carnival. Hundreds meet up in Mount Pleasant Park at dusk, wait expectantly for nightfall and then get led by the Sheffield Samba Band on a procession to the General Cemetery where the lanterns congregate and makers celebrate with fire-spinners and local live bands.

The Dragon of Pitsmoor came into being back in 2007. I was busy running lantern-making workshops over in Sharrow, but as I live in Pitsmoor, I was keen to incorporate my own neighbourhood. These willow-framed constructions take shape incredibly quickly. It's such a magical craft, accessible and achievable.

It's a champion of community art. The dragon's head was thought up and made by young people at Pitsmoor Adventure Playground in just one day! Since then, we've made other lanterns that have made it to Sharrow's carnival, including a hammerhead shark and an armadillo made from old CDs. But the dragon has always been a bit special to me.

This year, the dragon was starting to look a little washed out and so, with the carnival approaching, I took the forlorn fellow up to Pitsmoor Adventure Playground, where the kids patched him up.

Who knows where the dragon will pop up next!

There is never a dull moment with a lump of sticky clay squishing slowly between your fingers.

Until last summer I had a workshop at home but then a studio became vacant and I decided it was time for a change. So I now reside in my fabulous Studio 3, at Yorkshire Artspace's Manor Oaks.

This year I was invited to join the committee of Open Up to get this great art event out to the people of Sheffield and beyond."

Computer repairs at Abbeyfield

Story: Gareth Coleman | Photo: Amy Palmer

The computer cafe (BitFixIT) is moving from Verdon Street into Abbeyfield House and expanding our hours into the week so we can do home visits and computer repairs for small businesses too.

We've been fixing computers for over 12 years and in that time we've helped thousands of Burngreave residents with viruses, damaged laptops, and slow computers.

We've picked up some awards for our work over the years but the best rewards are when people tell us we've helped get a whole family back on the internet.

Nowadays the internet isn't a luxury, it's a necessity. When something happens to knock us off it, the consequences can be drastic. Job seeking, bargain hunting and talking with friends and family abroad are all more difficult, expensive or downright impossible without a working internet connection and some sort of computer, laptop or phone.



That's why we've been there, every Saturday from 12-3pm for the last 12 years and we'll continue to offer that same service completely free of charge (we do ask for donations to help cover the running costs). Now we are expanding we can offer home visits and other services during the week - although we will have to charge a modest fee for this as we can't expect our volunteers to give up their weekdays as well as their Saturdays.

We'll be having a bit of a party on our opening day - Saturday 6th June - so please come down to Abbeyfield house between 12-3pm (whether your computer is working or not) and share a cup of tea and a cake with us.

**Contact BitFixIT at
info@bitfixit.org.uk or
0114 299 4575.**

Pitsmoor Methodist Church to move



Story: Pam & John Eaton
Photo: Graham Jones

Pitsmoor Methodist Church on the corner of Christchurch Road and Burngreave Road has been home to a joint congregation of Methodist Christians for over 40 years and is now looking for new, smaller premises.

Built in the early 1970s Burngreave Methodist Church has now become too big for the present congregation and its activities. It is also in need of refurbishment. The adjoining housing association dwellings are now empty and their future remains undecided.

The worshipping congregation has decided to ask the Methodist Church to

put the building up for sale and we are hoping that more suitable premises within the Pitsmoor/Burngreave area may be found, either to buy or rent. We hope to continue our worship and other activities and to develop new enterprises.

Our current weekly activities are Sunday Worship at 10:30am, elderly and vulnerable people's lunch club at 11:30am on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Home Fires Craft Group on Wednesdays. On the first Monday in the month we have Nosh and Natter between 12-2pm, and a coffee morning is also held monthly on a Thursday. We have also put on occasional special events such as murder mysteries and dances.

Our two large halls with a kitchen and smaller rooms remain available for hire.

We are a small group of ageing but committed people looking to continue in this area and willing to work with others to do God's will. If anyone can offer us any ideas we would be very grateful.

Anyone interested in trying any of our activities would also be very welcome, please contact Pam and John Eaton on 0114 243 5333.

End of the Rainbow

Story: Fran Belbin | Amy Palmer

Charity shop Rainbow's End closed its doors to customers at the end of March after over six years of service to Burngreave.



The decision to close was not made hastily and it was with deep regret that the trustees concluded that the premises should be vacated. A number of factors influenced the decision, including a lack of funding to pay a worker and commercial challenges.

The charity was ultimately unable to draw down the £100,000 they were offered by TV's Secret Millionaire to buy a new building to develop their work.

Yvonne Hayes, co-founder and trustee, said:

"I thank God for the dedication, hard work and support of all our volunteers, the trustees and for the amazing generosity of the local people who have given us so much."

"We want to say thank you to the lovely people of our community for the love, the laughter and everything you have given us and Burngreave during the Rainbow time."

The Rainbow's End legacy lives on however. Donations and purchases enabled the charity to give £2500 in cash donations to local groups; £7231 in goods to local groups and individuals in need; £650 in necessary basic food shopping for people in crisis; 44 people were supported into work; 36 volunteers were supported with asylum issues; and 57 people came to the shop on placement.

Many others who visited the shop were offered appropriate support and signposted to the services they needed.

The trustees will be considering their future options in coming months.

Meet new MP Harry Harpham

Story: Carrie Hedderwick
Photo: Helen Brown

Harry Harpham was elected as the new MP for the area on May 7th.

After the defeat of the Labour Party in the general election, Harry admitted that Labour had run a “terrible campaign.” They had not managed to convince enough of the electorate that the party’s policies could turn the country around from the effects of the coalition government’s cuts and austerity.

One of Harry’s first comments is, “I have been fighting Tories all my life.”

Harry, though, is hopeful with what he considers a strong group of Labour MPs in Sheffield. They include two new MPs - himself representing Brightside and Hillsborough and Louise Haigh who represents Heeley.

Harry, born in Mansfield, became interested in politics while working at Clipstone Colliery, where a communist and fellow miner gave him a copy of *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists*, the classic novel advocating a society where work is performed to satisfy the needs of all, rather than to generate profit for a



few. Harry became active in the Labour Party and was on strike during the epic 1984-5 miners’ strike. Unlike miners in Yorkshire, the majority of Nottinghamshire miners continued to work.

Harry later left the pit and, encouraged by the National Union of Mineworkers, attended a two year course on Trade Union & Industrial Studies at Northern College. He then went on to university to study Politics & Social Sciences.

Night shifts at the WH Smith distribution centre at Sheffield station followed, until he got a job as a researcher for MPs Helen Jackson and David Blunkett. He has also worked as a volunteer adviser at Pitsmoor CAB.

Keen to represent Sheffield people, he won a seat as a Councillor for Manor in 2000 and for the last 11 years has represented the Darnall ward. He became deputy leader of the Council under Councillor Julie Dore.

Now he is Burngreave’s constituency MP with a determination to be the “authentic voice of local people”. He has spent the last few weeks canvassing around Brightside and also further afield in Colne Valley, Dewsbury, Halifax and Rotherham. He counters the view that “all politicians are the same”. He argues for more working class people at Westminster and policies of scrapping the bedroom tax, properly funding the NHS, capping private accommodation rents, reducing tuition fees and freezing energy prices.

Harry believes that private enterprise in key sectors of the economy is ruinous - jacking up costs, proving to be inefficient, and totally unaccountable. He stated that he supports the campaign to re-nationalise the railways and that a Labour Party win would have begun to steer the country in a more equal and more successful direction. He also thinks Labour made a mistake in not offering the British people a referendum on membership of the EU.

In Parliament he would like to be a member of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Health - he fears the government will privatise the NHS.

To find out more, visit www.harryharpham.com or email harry@harryharpham.com. Details of local surgeries will be coming soon.

Election hustings

Story & photo: Helen Brown

A General Election 2015 hustings event was held for the local constituency of Sheffield Brightside and Hillsborough. Six parties were represented at the event at Christ Church, Pitsmoor.

Harry Harpham was there as the Labour Party candidate, having recently taken over from David Blunkett, who was retiring after 27 years as an MP.

The candidates summarised their main focus in their individual introductions. Maxine Bowler of the Trade Union and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) stated she was distinctly anti-austerity and Tina Gilligan explained that the Green Party wanted to spend more as a country in order to build the economy. Elise Dünweber wanted the constituents to stick with the Conservative Party’s long term plan for the economy, John Booker (UKIP) focused on the UK leaving the European Union and Harry Harpham (Labour) promised to build houses in the area and vote against the privatisation of the NHS at every given opportunity.

The event lasted over two hours, chaired by the organiser of the evening, Huw Thomas, who told me that such events were extremely important back in the 1960s when it was the only way to meet your representatives.

In a lively debate, the full audience fielded questions over a wide



range of subjects such as immigration, education, unemployment, climate change, party spending plans, the integration of our community and challenges faced by young people. All parties had ample time to reply and to respond to each other. For the final question of the evening, candidates were asked who they would vote for if they could not vote for themselves. Tina from the Green Party chose Maxine of TUSC. Every other candidate then replied they would vote Green for Tina.

Harry Harpham said afterwards, “Local issues did get addressed. I thought it was a very good discussion... I thought the audience were fantastic. It was great to see the hall full and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I think these things are very valuable for helping voters decide on their representative, who is going to make decisions that affect their daily lives.”

Farewell to David Blunkett

Story: Richard Belbin | Photo: Graham Jones

David Blunkett has served Sheffield, first as a councillor, then an MP for 45 years. This year he retired and passed his seat on to Harry Harpham. The Messenger interviewed him about his final reflections on the changing political scene of Sheffield.

Sheffield has changed enormously over his career especially in terms of the loss of industry and the new diversity, the heart of which is in Burngreave and Pitsmoor. Mr Blunkett is proud that Sheffield has remained “the largest village in England” in the way that we cherish community and come together against all odds.

Major challenges and successes

A major challenge for Mr Blunkett came in the 1980s with the loss of 50,000 steel working and engineering jobs. “We fought to keep the city together... continuing the investment in public services, by creating cooperatives, and above all giving people a reason for getting up in the morning.” Mr Blunkett reflects that one of his proudest achievements, his transport policy of 1972 to 1986, was realised during this time:

“It was more than just cheap fares; it was a symbol of how if you do things together, if it's a mutual endeavour, you can make it beneficial for everyone”.



He cites the achievements of Fir Vale and Parkwood Academy as successes stemming from his time as Education Secretary and also the introduction of the SureStart programme, which was greatly valued in Burngreave. As Home Secretary he made positive changes to the laws around sex offences, domestic abuse, and anti-social behaviour - laws that protect the vulnerable and help people in Burngreave and across the country.

Some regrets

Discussion of the Iraq war was unavoidable and Mr Blunkett admits that although at the time he did believe it was the right thing to do, he now regrets that the process was rushed and that there was no planning for the long term future of Iraq.

His other regret is a failure to get people engaged with politics in their daily lives. He told the Messenger that he believes government should be about changing the way people think and feel about themselves and the nation. “The second thing I regret is that we didn't spend more time in government on how we embedded a different outlook on society, so that government could have used its

influence and power... to reinforce people's sense of mutuality and reciprocity”.

“Keep hold of your roots”

Now, looking to the future of his constituency in the new hands of Harry Harpham, he hopes local government will unify to create a stronger voice.

What's more he wants to see a stronger voice and to empower the powerless through the new media, as at the moment social media is not universal but mainly in the hands of the “already articulate”. Summarising the problem he says, “the more alienated and disillusioned people are, the less they engage, the less the people already in power have to take notice of them.”

Challenging this cycle is something Mr Blunkett is now going to be working on with the University of Sheffield and he was keen to put across that people can use their voice to make change, especially when they work together.

He finished with advice for his successor, Harry Harpham to “be yourself - keep hold of your roots, spend as much time back in the constituency as you can, and do your utmost to be the voice of the less powerful here in the north of the city”, explaining that this was the key to not only gaining respect but having satisfaction in the job.

“The greatest part of the job was always being back in Sheffield listening, talking, sometimes being told off by people, but actually always feeling that that's where the roots are, and that's what it's all about.”

Gordon Brown visits Parkwood

Story & photo: Graham Jones

On 27th April, ex-Prime Minister Gordon Brown came to Parkwood Academy to face questions from the students.

The students asked questions on a range of subjects, including child care, employment opportunities and education. The questions were asked in a confident and articulate manner.

He then had a session with about 50 Labour Party supporters. In the second session there were at least two former



Sheffield Lord Mayors, three Members of Parliament (including our former local MP, David Blunkett), Labour parliamentary candidates and a number of city councillors, including the three representing Burngreave.

Apart from the Burngreave Messenger, there were other journalists from the national and local press in attendance. Highlights of the afternoon were shown on BBC One's “Look North” programme that night.

Sarah Champion, MP for Rotherham, introduced Gordon Brown, who seemed happy and relaxed as an ex-Prime Minister. Nevertheless, he was a forceful, witty and passionate speaker. He began by praising the students and the staff at the Parkwood Academy for their successes.

Unsurprisingly, he expressed no doubt about which might be the best party to form the next government.

Recycling losses

Story: Douglas Johnson
Photo: Saleema Imam

Residents have been dismayed at the loss of recycling facilities at St Catherine's on Roe Lane.

In December, residents spotted notices on the recycling centre warning that the bins for recycling plastics, glass, paper and cans would be removed due to "very low usage."

Saleema Imam said, "I spoke to the information line number on the notice. They took down my feelings about the possible closure of the site but didn't appear to have been aware of it before I phoned."



Recycling bins at Roe Lane have been removed and the area fenced off.

Another resident contacted Veolia to point out the demand for local recycling facilities and that promoting recycling at the entrance to a primary school was an important step to educate people about waste disposal. Many blocks of flats do not have recycling facilities.

When the Messenger asked in February about the mounting piles of uncollected rubbish at the site, Veolia explained there were no more collections and the site was no longer listed on their system.

By April, the bins were removed and the site fenced off. Now the only recycling facilities left are at the Sheffield United training ground at Shirecliffe, which is out of the way and up a steep hill.

The Council has also decided to remove recycling facilities at Popple St in Page Hall, Busk Meadows, Firth Park Library, Northern General Hospital and the Timber Top pub at Shirecliffe.

Find recycling sites online at www.veolia.co.uk/sheffield

A load of rubbish

Story: Graham Jones

Talk to most people in our community and sooner or later the subject of litter and rubbish pops up.

Litter is a real problem round here. Recently two local residents were fined £602.79 each by the courts for dropping litter, after ignoring the initial £75 fine. A lot of people are already taking action. Some regularly pick up litter in front of their house; others take part in organised litter picks in our streets and open spaces. We have the solution to this problem in our own hands.

We can put rubbish in a bin or take it home. We can tell our children and grandchildren that litter not only makes a mess, it also encourages rats, pigeons and flies which carry diseases.

Sheffield Environmental Health Service responds to calls concerning rats with

their helpful, efficient and free service. Phone 0114 203 7410 or 203 7411 between 8am to 6pm.

Local teachers are spreading the message. It might help if local shops, large and small, and takeaways installed bins outside their premises and put notices up inside telling people not to drop litter outside in the street. When a shop or a takeaway has a lot of litter and rubbish outside, customers might wonder about the hygiene standards inside the shop itself.

Veolia are asking for suggestions for new locations for recycling sites, so please forward your ideas to sheffieldenquiries@veolia.co.uk.

Fly-tipping of larger objects, such as furniture, fridges and mattresses is a criminal offence that could get you fined up to £50,000. It's not only ugly and unfair to the residents of the area but dangerous for children and may lead to arson. Issues such as fly-tipping, rubbish and dog fouling can all be reported to the "Fix My Street" website.

If you have a problem with such dumping in your area, phone the police on 101.

If you are trying to get rid of a larger object yourself you can dispose of it for free at the Shirecliffe Household Waste Recycling Centre, 111 Longley Avenue West or call 0114 273 4567 for a collection (you may be charged for this service).

If you are a council tenant you can have one collection of up to ten 'bulky items' per year removed for free by calling 0114 273 4567 and quoting your rent account number.

Lots of charities, including Emmaus and the British Heart Foundation, take furniture and electrical items. The "Why Waste" organisation can help recycle electrical appliances, IT equipment, paint, wood, furniture, clothing and textiles. If you can, recycle rather than reject.

Summer is here, let's take a pride our neighbourhood and show respect for our neighbours.

Fir Vale litter picking

Story & Photo: Janet Lawson

Fir Vale's Student Voice group thought it was the final straw when an article in the Sheffield Star said 50% of the worst streets for litter were in Fir Vale.

The students held meetings about the 'Love where you live' campaign and developed ideas for educating the community and role modelling, as a catalyst to prevent litter problems in the future. They also held a litter pick in April, working alongside the council litter campaigners.

Students Omar and Ghaith commented that, "more money could be saved to help hospitals and schools if we did not have to spend it picking litter up."





How would you and your family like to host a Spanish student this July?

Heart of England Courses Ltd are looking for friendly host families for Spanish students (aged 14 to 19) attending a Summer course in Sheffield from approx. 29th June for 4 weeks.

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(after 6) ON 07780 561477 or 0114 2205036
OR EMAIL my01@blueyonder.co.uk

Families will be paid a weekly allowance of £105 and will need to provide breakfast, evening meal and a packed lunch. The Spanish students will spend their mornings on a course at Sheffield Hallam university and their afternoons on organised trips and activities but will be expected to spend evenings and weekends living as a member of the host family



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Quit smoking

Have you ever thought of stopping smoking? Did you know that Sheffield has an NHS service that can help you to quit?

Yorkshire Smokefree Sheffield at 'The Quit Stop', 39 Charles Street, Sheffield, S1 2HU is open six days a week and has trained advisers based at over seventy venues throughout the city, including Burngreave. We are a FREE, friendly and confidential service and have already helped over 10,000 Sheffield smokers to quit successfully.

Don't worry - you don't have to quit in your first visit; your adviser will help you



to pick and mix the support that will suit you. You can quit face to face with an adviser, by telephone - even on Sundays, or using our new on-line support programme. Why not use all three ways to quit for good!

Advisers provide you free advice and information, tips for beating cravings, and support to help you quit for good. This includes information on nicotine replacement (if you have free prescriptions we are usually able to give you a voucher for products e.g. patches or gum).

Visit us at www.yorkshiresmokefree.nhs.uk or call for more information on 0800 612 0011 (free from landlines) or 0330 660 1166 (free from most mobiles). Advisers are available 9am to 9pm Mon-Fri and 9am to 4.30pm weekends.

Quitting smoking is the best thing you can do for your health and with our help, you are four times more likely to succeed!

Healthy eating during Ramadan

With Ramadan around the corner here are some healthy tips for fasting:

- Choose complex carbohydrates to help release energy slowly during fasting e.g. basmati rice, brown rice, wholemeal flour, lentils, chick peas, kidney beans, wheat and oats
- In the short space of time you have to eat and drink, drink as much water as possible
- Avoid drinking tea, coffee and fizzy drinks as they all are diuretics, which cause dehydration
- Avoid deep fried, fatty or sugary foods

- Use less oil in curries or none when making chapatis
- Bake or grill food
- Try fruit salads/water rich fruit for dessert with low fat yoghurt, kheer with skimmed milk and 1 teaspoon sugar
- Include salad in every meal
- Avoid opening fast with burgers, kebabs or pizza as fast food is fatty and salty causing you to spend the following day very thirsty and hungry (trust me I know).

It is very important to avoid too long in the sun as this will cause dehydration, which may cause faintness. If you're thinking of cutting down on smoking, Ramadan is a very good time to start!



For Healthy Asian recipes, go to www.bhf.org.uk and download the 'Healthy meals healthy heart' booklet or collect a copy from Sorby House (whilst stocks last).

Ramadan Mubarak! May this Ramadan be the best and healthiest one yet!

Women Only Support Group

Women who have suffered or are suffering from domestic abuse can come along and talk to likeminded people and have fun.

Next sessions at St Cuthbert's Church, Barnsley Road.

- 10am -12pm
- Monday 1st June 2015
- Monday 15th June 2015

Ramadan break may be decided at last session.

Zumba

- Verdon Recreation Centre, Verdon Street
- Tuesdays 6:30 -7:30pm
- £3 per person

No sessions during Ramadan, sessions restart 28th July 2015.

Chronic pain support group

Sharing tips on pacing, relaxations, and stress relief for the management of pain.

Next sessions at Sorby House:

- 12.30pm - 2.30pm
- Tuesday 2nd June 2015
- Tuesday 16th June 2015
- Tuesday 30th June 2015



For all activities contact:

Somshun Nessa
Telephone - 0114 213 2591
Email: somshun.nessa@soarcommunity.org.uk

Women only exercise



- Verdon Recreation Centre, Verdon Street
- Tuesdays 1:30-2:30pm
- FREE

We will be having a short break during Ramadan, last session June 8th, but will be continuing during the summer holidays, starting back Tuesday 27th July 2015.

Activities are tailored and include aerobics, circuits, floor work, resistance bands, Zumba and weights. Please arrive by 1:20pm as doors close at 1:30pm for security.

Preparing for Ramadan

On Monday 4th May six pupils from Oak Tree School visited the Messenger. Many of the girls had been former pupils of Byron Wood primary, who recently launched their *Byron Wood Bugle* so it seems fitting that Oak Tree School is now thinking about launching their own school newspaper. As part of their research visit to the Messenger, the girls worked with us to write an article about Ramadan.

Story: Aliya Shafiq, Safiya Begum, Bushra Bari, Asma Osman, Nadia Mohamad, and Maryam Bouleghalegh

Ramadan

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim year and this year starts on 18th June. Ramadan is not simply an exercise in fasting by day, binge-eating by night and setting the clock early to have a meal before the fast. Apart from total denial of food and drink from sunrise till sunset, Ramadan is a time to practice self-restraint; to cleanse the body and soul; to re-focus on the worship of God; to seek nearness to God and beg for his pleasure and forgiveness. Ramadan helps us to understand the struggle of those in third world countries.

Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam. It celebrates the Quran being revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him) in 610 CE on Laylat al-Qadr, "the Night of Power".

Fasting and why we do it

Fasting is 'fardh' (compulsory) for all Muslims except those who are pregnant, breast feeding, sick, elderly or travelling. People with a short illness can catch up on their fasts after Ramadan or give to charity. Fasting can help reduce junk food and possibly lose weight in a healthy way. Most of us started full fasting in Year 7 or 8 but younger children do smaller fasts. Before dawn, many Muslims observe a pre-fast meal, the suhoor. Then it's a long wait until the sun goes down. Ramadan is a discipline but it is great being part of something.

This year Ramadan starts on 18th June, so the daylight hours are long and you get thirsty. Oak Tree School is a Muslim school so we adjust what we do in Ramadan: we'll start from 11am and have a shorter break at lunchtime. Iftar is the evening meal in which Muslims break their fasts with dates; according to tradition, Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) broke his fast with three dates.

Daff Workshop

Story: Muneebah Waheed

The walls of Norbury Hall were echoing with the sounds of lively drum beats as enthusiastic learners tried their hands at the traditional daff.

The daff, otherwise known as the frame drum, is deeply rooted within Islamic culture and tradition, played often on many different occasions. Beats vary, with the echo of the drum able to transform the atmosphere and mood of the audience in mere seconds. The workshops, hosted by Saalik Education, were presented by Desert Echo Daff School.

The Daff School aims to revive creative expression within the Muslim community whilst rejuvenating the strong artistic culture and

heritage in Islam. Instructor Anjum Kasmani spoke to the Messenger, saying:

"Rhythm is all around us and within our very essence. Tapping into it and becoming aware of it is the challenge! It was a welcome change to be invited by Saalik to run a daff workshop; often with workshops and classes such as these taking place regularly in bigger towns, Sheffield can often be overlooked! The Sheffield community is warm-hearted and hospitable, with the classes upbeat and lively! I look forward to working with Sheffield further projects in the future."

Those who attended the workshops really enjoyed the sessions and the creative outlet it provided, leaving the session eagerly drumming their fingers against everything they came across!

For more information on these workshops, contact Saalik Education via their Facebook page.



Ramadan in Burngreave

It's easier to do Ramadan in Muslim countries because people aren't eating or drinking in front of you. It's good if people ask before eating in front of us if they know we're fasting. We asked some non-Muslims about Ramadan. Wayne said, "Ramadan is a time when people follow religion. I admire the Muslims who don't eat or drink when there is so much temptation around them during their fast. They are strong and I would love try what they do." Others thought it would be helpful for dieting.

There's more to Ramadan than fasting

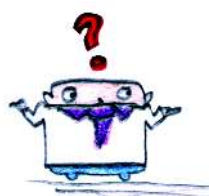
In Ramadan Muslims must also refrain from backbiting, swearing, lying and having arguments. Evening prayers are conducted during which long portions of the Qur'an are recited. These prayers are taraweeh, which means to rest and relax.

Essentials of Ramadan Include:

- Fasting on Sunnah (teachings of the prophet) days i.e. Mondays and Thursdays.
- Eating healthily
- Reciting more Quran
- Trying not to sin
- Visiting the mosque

Eid-al-Fitr marks the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan and the beginning of the new lunar month, Shawwal. People offer presents and money to one another and spread love. Sadaqat-ul-Fitr is an obligatory donation to charity for Muslims who can afford it, given before Eid. Muslims should always pray no matter what month it is.





Don't know what to do this Summer?

Let George and Brian help...

SHEFFIELD FUTURES YOUTH CLUBS

Earl Marshall

Pool, table tennis, crafts, computer games, making clothes & cooking!

Where? Heathcote Street, S4 8GB

Who? Seniors (13-17)

When? Mon, Weds & Fri 6-8pm

Who? Earl Marshall Girls' Group

When? Tuesdays 3.30-5.30pm

Who? LDD Group

When? Tuesdays 6-8.30pm

Who? Juniors (8-12)

When? Thurs 6-8pm Fri 3.15-5.15pm

Osgathorpe Pavilion

Environmental projects plus

Where? Heathcote Street, S4 7UR

When? Mondays, 6-8pm

All Saints

Pool, ping pong & computer games

Where? Lyons Close, S4 7EP

Who? Juniors (8 - 12 years)

When? Tuesdays 3.15-5.15pm

Who? Seniors (13 - 17 years)

When? Tues & Thurs 6-8pm

Call 0114 201 8600
or 0114 243 5597



Watoto Holiday Club

Call 0114 275 1817 to book

Who? Up to 8s

Where? Watoto, Catherine St

When? 9-4pm, 21st-31st July

£3.30 per hour

FAMILY FUN

Firth Park Summer Fun Day

Stalls, games & music.

Where? Firth Park

When? Saturday 28th June. 12-5pm

Firs Hill School Summer Celebration

Bouncy castles, stalls, games, face-painting & prizes to win.

Where? Firs Hill School, Orphanage Road

When? Sunday 30th June. 2-4pm

Watoto Fun Day

Face painting, tombola, jumble, BBQ, bric-a-brac, cakes, henna, children's karaoke & more.

Where? Catherine Street

When? Saturday 18th July. 12.30-4pm



BURNGREAVE CEMETERY WELL DRESSING

Who? Everyone! Children must be with an adult.

When? 3rd/4th July from 2pm for preparation

5th July for unveiling with the Lord Mayor



Pitsmoor Adventure Playground

Who? 8-14s, under 8s with an adult

When? Weds, Thurs & Fri 3.15-6.15pm
(12.30 -3.30pm in school holidays)

Saturday 12.30-3.30pm



For updates please check on:

- The Messenger events' page www.burngreavemessenger.org/events/
- Sheffield's 'Activity Finder' www.movemoresheffield.com/activity-finder/
- Sheffield Future's 'Things to do Guide' www.sheffieldfutures.org.uk/home/my_life/what-s_on/

ACTIVITY SHEFFIELD

A variety of sports activities

Friday Night Football

Where? Fir Vale School

When? Friday nights

Call 0114 273 4266

Please call to book

Street Games

Who? Age 8-16

Where? Earl Marshall Youth Centre

Where? All Saints Youth Centre

When? Saturday 1st July, 2.30-3.30pm

Activities on Tour

Who? Age 0-16

Where? Firth Park on the grass

When? 6pm, 27th July, 3rd & 10th August

Where? Wensley Park Greenspace

When? 1.30pm, 8th August



Ellesmere Scouts

for Boys & Girls

Where? Cornerstone Building
(Grimesthorpe/Carwood Road)

Who? Beavers. Age 6 & 7

When? Tuesdays 6-7.15pm

Who? Cubs. Age 8 to 10

When? Wednesdays 6.30-8pm

Who? Scouts. 10-14

When? Fridays 7-9pm

Who? Explorers. Age 14-18

When? Monday 7-9pm

Call Will on 07955 546 989



EDEN FIR VALE CLUBS

Call St Thomas' Church on 0114 267 1090

Flourish

Baking, crafts & exploring Christianity

Who? Girls from Y6 to Y11

When? Fridays 7.15-8.30pm

Where? Varies, call for details.

Cost 20p

Shout

Songs, games & Bible stories

Who? Primary school pupils

When? Wednesdays 3.30-5pm

Where? Wensley Community Centre



JUST A BUS RIDE AWAY

Children's Craft Session

When? Saturday 18th July & 15th August

Where? Heeley City Farm

Cost: £1

Bus route 47

Weston Park Museum

When? Mon-Sat 10-5pm, Sun 11-4pm

Where? Opposite Children's Hospital

Bus route 52 from Savile St

Bug Hunting: 19th July, 10.30-12 noon

Den Building: 16th August, 10.30-12 noon

Who? Children and families

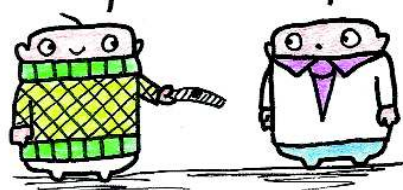
Where? General Cemetery,
Cemetery Road, off Ecclesall Road

Bus route 83

Exam results

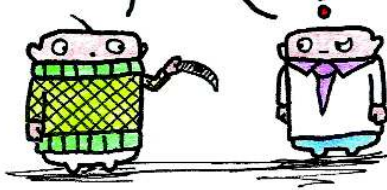
by Edgar Lowman

Brian, I got a B
on my exam!
Oh, that's good

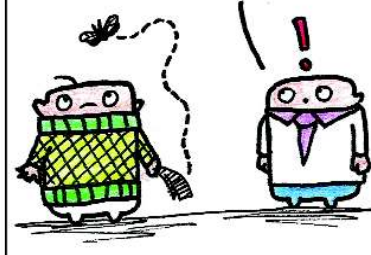


Not really,
it stung me

Eh?



Oh!



Bats, bees and blessings

Spooky Saturday night in Burngreave Cemetery

Story & photo: Saleema Imam

On Saturday 18th April around 30 people from as far away as Rotherham came to search out bats in the cemetery.

Robert Croxton from Sorby Natural History Society started the evening with an interesting slide talk in the old mortuary chapel. At dusk he led the group out into the darkness to listen and look for the bats, which we know live in and around the graveyard.

Unfortunately the night was too cold for them to appear and the only bat we saw was Patrick Amber's homemade version.



Cemetery Bees

Story: Saleema Imam
Photo: Patrick Amber

Sadly the two bee colonies sited in our cemetery perished during the winter. We still don't know why. However several local people have recently attended the 'Basic Bee Keeping Training' offered by Sheffield Bee Keepers Association and will be sharing the care and maintenance of the two new bee colonies we will shortly install in the cemetery.



We spent a lovely warm sunny Sunday together in the apiary at the Sawmill in Ecclesall woods inspecting their hives and handling the bees.

If you are interested in learning about bees visit the cemetery any Sunday between 11.00am and 3.00pm. We have protective clothing available if needed.

Cemetery ceremony

On Sunday April 18th Vicky Smith the current artist in residence at the cemetery chapel launched her latest mixed media installation. Afterwards a moving blessing ceremony took place for all those buried in the cemetery - both in the chapel and outside in the sun.



Stories from the Byron Wood Bugle

Byron Wood scales new heights

Story: Eden, Y3

I am here to introduce you to a magnificent club at Byron Wood School. This club gives children an opportunity to try something completely new and different. This club will truly blow your mind because it teaches you amazing skills on climbing walls.



Every Friday, some pupils come to climbing club to learn how to climb and belay (to hold a climber on a rope). We get changed at school or at the climbing centre, but we leave at 3:00pm. Climbing club is for Y4 and over. Our group leader, Will, takes us there with Miss Sadique and, when we arrive, we are looked after by a climbing centre member who teaches us how to belay and climb.

Climbing club is very fun with all the games we do at the beginning and the end, and in between we do wonderful climbing. At the end we use our money to buy some sweets from the counter. You must come to climbing club because it will blow your mind! Also you'll enjoy the wonderful, fun and remarkable games.

Do the Sahara shuffle

Story: Gresha Y3

During the last half term, Miss MacNair's class were learning Egyptian dancing in P.E. We all had a fantastic time learning amazing, groovy Egyptian moves.

The first four basic moves were the Cleopatra arms, pharaoh flick, Egyptian walk and then the last one is the Cleopatra hop, my favourite. The other few dance moves are a little bit tricky, but I will tell you them anyway: Tutankhamen turn, Sahara slide and Sahara shuffle.

In the last session of Egyptian dancing we had to put three of our favourite moves together to make our own dance routine. The most popular Egyptian dance moves are the Cleopatra arms, Sahara shuffle and the Cleopatra hop. My dance routine first started off with the Cleopatra hop, then the Sahara slide and ended with the Sahara shuffle.

Lowry landscapes in Y6

Story: Roanne Y6

In Y6 we have been learning all about the famous artist L.S. Lowry (Laurence Stephen Lowry). Lowry was born on the 1st of November 1887, in Stretford, Lancashire, and died on the 23rd February 1976.

The vast majority of the Y6s have enjoyed learning about his inspiring art. We had the opportunity to produce paintings in Lowry's style. Most of Lowry's paintings were drawings of industrial areas in England, and he mainly used dull colours. We practiced sketching some of Lowry's drawings in our art books then put together all our ideas and painted our own drawings - using Lowry's ideas.

Running the Yorkshire Half Marathon

Story: Helen Brown | Photo: Thomas Brown

On Sunday 12th Sheffield I ran the Plusnet Yorkshire Half Marathon - Sheffield with over 6000 others including Burngreave's own Pauline Neita and Kate Thomas.

Standing at the start line I knew that I wasn't ready. I had only signed up to the Yorkshire Half Marathon three days previously, and I hadn't done much training. But it was hard to feel nervous - the atmosphere was amazing. There was a group of medics running with a stretcher for St John's Ambulance, women dressed in tutus for breast cancer, and a man dressed in a giant beer bottle. There was a mixture of people from all ages, backgrounds and fitness levels.

The Plusnet Yorkshire Half Marathon was new to Sheffield this year. The route



involved an initial five miles - getting gradually steeper, reaching a peak at Ringinglow Road, before tapering down to the city centre. The last steep uphill section was a mile long and timed, and was named 'King of the Hill'. By the

time I had reached this mile I was seriously struggling, but the support of the people that had come out to watch pushed me on. Getting to the top of that hill was like coming first in an Olympic race - people cheering and offering sweets and bottles of water.

This support was constant throughout the route. This is unusual as you often find a lull of activity around the middle section of races, and this is when you most need inspiration to carry on. It would have taken me longer to finish without that support. As it is, I finished in 2hrs 43 minutes.

That was my first half marathon and I cannot recommend it enough. My initial barrier was fear - 13.1 miles is a challenging prospect. However, once you cross that finish line you realise that your fear was groundless. Afterwards, my legs were killing almost straight away. I could barely walk for two days, but the sense of achievement was immense. I was immediately wondering what race to do next, and have now signed up to the half marathon in Clumber Park in June. It definitely motivates you to want to do more!



Knife crime conference

Story: Muna Abdi, Educational Researcher and Coordinator of the Somali Professionals Association

Saturday 28th March saw youth workers, community members, young people, activists and councillors come together at Burngreave's Vestry Hall to discuss how to challenge gang violence.

The event was hosted by the Somali Professionals Association (SPA) in partnership with the Knife Awareness Project. It aimed to create a dialogue as well as a call to action. The workshop followed a successful family fun day

organised by the Knife Awareness Project and the Sheffield Muslim Community Forum.

The workshop was run by Raymond Douglas and Craig Pinkney. Raymond is the founder of 'Gangology' - a development programme for practitioners working with at-risk youth. Craig is a criminologist, urban youth specialist and director of Real Action UK - a charity which specialises in working with disaffected youth.

Raymond and Craig came to share their experiences of community-based initiatives to tackle youth and gang violence in Birmingham, so we can try and copy them in Sheffield. They looked at why some young people become involved in gang-related violence and stressed the importance of educating workers and communities as well as the young people.

Raymond Douglas asked "Where are the gang intervention steering groups in Sheffield?"

Both speakers were surprised by the lack of collective action in Sheffield, which was a wake-up call for those present. We discussed the need to use our skills and work together to educate and train community members, activists, youth workers and young people. We also discussed the need for leadership programmes to empower and involve young people.

Although the event was open to people of all ages, the organisers knew how crucial it was to have young people participating. However, when two local police officers in uniform arrived at the start of the workshop, we knew this would cause tension. Some groups of young people saw the officers and refused to enter the room. One of them, Omar, complained, *"We didn't know they would be here. I'm not coming in because they don't want to listen to us. They just think we want to cause trouble."*

Despite the best intentions, there is often a massive barrier between young people and authority.

The event concluded with everyone agreeing we now had a platform to call for action. We have created a mailing list and had a follow up meeting. We would like to extend the invitation to anyone in the community who can commit to working with us to develop an active youth awareness steering group. Members from all community groups and age groups are welcome but we particularly encourage young people to come on board. No one knows youth issues better than the young people themselves.

If you would like to get involved, please contact Muna Abdi at m.abdi@sheffield.ac.uk or 07889 672 412.

Singing Through The Seasons

Are you feeling isolated?
Would you like to try something new?
Why not join a friendly, informal women's singing group?



The group runs for 10 sessions beginning
Monday 11th May to Monday 13th July
Abbeyfield Park House, Burngreave
2.30pm – 4.30pm
£2 per session

The sessions aim to build women's confidence and self-esteem in a warm & friendly atmosphere through singing together.

For more info or to book contact Miriam on 0114 274 3651 or email
miriam@sagesheffield.org.uk



www.sagesheffield.org.uk



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The ground floor meeting room can comfortably accommodate 10 people whilst the 1st floor meeting room can easily hold up to 20 people. This room can be set up in a variety of layouts depending on your requirements.

There is also disabled access to Hucklow Learning Lodge, but disabled access is only available to the ground floor meeting room.

- ◇ All Day (9-4pm) Top Floor Hire Charge **£90.00**
- ◇ All Day (9-4pm) Ground Floor Hire Charge **£90.00**
- ◇ Whole Building Hire Charge **£120.00**

Refreshments and catering also available at an additional cost

If you would like any further information or to make a booking for please contact Lu Bradbury on
0114 242 6736.

Hucklow Learning Lodge
Hucklow Road
Sheffield
S5 6TB

Phone: 0114 242 6736
Fax: 0114 261 0154

E-mail:
enquiries@hucklow.sheffield.sch.uk



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South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS
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There's a new way to quit!



Pick and mix your support

Yorkshire Smokefree Sheffield provides NHS advice and support - including nicotine replacement therapy - for anyone who wants to stop smoking.

So when you're ready to quit, we're ready to help.

0800 612 0011 **0330 660 1166**

free from landlines free from most mobiles

www.yorkshiresmokefree.nhs.uk

Drop in to see a trained stop smoking adviser at:

Pitsmoor Surgery, 151 Burngreave Road S3 9DL

Swift Pharmacy, 1 Gower Street S4 7HA

Upwell Street Surgery, 93 Upwell Street S4 8AN

Wicker Pharmacy, 55-59 Wicker S3 8HT

Page Hall Medical Centre, 101 Owler Lane

(Advisers in practices can support registered patients)

Or call into the city centre drop in service at 39 Charles Street

messy church

A fresh way of doing church for all the family

When?

Sunday 31st May and
Sunday 28th June

Where?

St Peter's Church, Ellesmere, S4 7EP

Time?

4-5.30pm

What?

Creative family church
with arts and crafts, music and food!

All welcome to join us for our messy church gatherings.
Children need to come with their parents/carers.

SAGE Greenfingers host sun-blessed theatre!

Story: Diana Tottle | Photo: Joshua Waller

For the fourth year running SAGE Greenfingers hosted a performance by Mikron travelling theatre company, based this year on the history of the Women's Institute (WI) from before the suffragette movement to the present day. The event took place at the Grimesthorpe allotments on the wonderfully sunny evening of 13th May.



The laugh-out-loud play performed by four multi-talented actors attracted an audience of over 130 adults and children. High points included the slow handclap given to Tony Blair by the WI at Wembley stadium in 2000 and a very camp song and dance romp through the WI history from farmers' kitchens in rural Canada through to its current nationwide network of groups.

SAGE Greenfingers collaborated with Grimesthorpe Allotment Association to provide a wonderful spread of refreshments consisting of hot dogs, cakes, teas and soft drinks. SAGE volunteers and staff did a sterling job behind the scenes and thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

If you are interested in volunteering with SAGE please contact us on 274 3651 or email volunteer@sagesheffield.org.uk.

Oromo Cultural Day

Story: Muneebah Waheed

On 11th April 2015, Sheffield Oromo Community Association (SOCA) hosted its annual cultural day at SADACCA.

Present at the event were many distinguished guests, including Paul Blomfield MP, alongside various NGO representatives. The Oromo Cultural event included dances and drama performed by the Oromo members, and cultural food and drinks for all to enjoy. Certificates were also presented to the management committee and volunteers of SOCA.

Badasso Safawo, chairperson of SOCA, spoke at the event highlighting the aims of SOCA. In the closing speech, he reaffirmed SOCA'S aims, stating that SOCA is "not a political party, but a social community based association that seeks to predominantly address the Oromo community's life sustaining needs." Mr Safawo developed this further and said that:

And your new Lord Mayor - Councillor Talib Hussain

Story: Carrie Hedderwick
Photo: Helen Brown

The Burngreave Messenger interviewed Talib Hussain, the Burngreave Councillor, a week before he becomes Lord Mayor of Sheffield for the next year.



Talib said he is excited and a little nervous, and wants to do his best for the city.

Talib has lived and worked in Sheffield for the last 20 years. He has been a councillor for the last 5 years and has served on various committees. This experience will help him when, as Lord Mayor, he chairs full council meetings.

The outcome of the general election came as a shock to Talib. He believes councils should be given proper powers and funding to cater for the needs of their communities, instead of the increasing budget cuts from central government that make it impossible to deliver adequate services.

His priorities are for job creation and for supporting and giving opportunities to young people. Local councillors' surgeries are shared with Councillors Ibrar Hussain and Jackie Drayton and take place monthly at Burngreave Library, Bishopholme, Norwood and the Pakistani Advice Centre.

We discussed the Selective Licensing of accommodation in Page Hall. Talib described the dangerous housing conditions in some private rented accommodation and thought that the licensing scheme was certainly starting to make a difference. He felt also that there was a lot of good work going on in Page Hall to integrate different communities.

You can contact Talib on 0114 273 5588 or at talib.hussain@sheffield.gov.uk.



"SOCA has the basic belief that every person has the capacity to learn and develop, and benefits from the opportunity to do so. The community improves when everyone is learning and developing; thus SOCA works with their local communities at a grassroots level to create economic opportunities and better social conditions, particularly for those who are most disadvantaged."

Calling all volunteers - the Bureau needs you!

Story: Malcolm Reed & Zaiada Bibi | Photo: Zaiada Bibi

The Citizens Advice Bureau has been a long-standing landmark at Spital Hill, offering free advice and help to all members of the community. In recent years, the service has changed from Pitsmoor CAB to become part of Sheffield Citizens Advice, a single organisation meeting the advice needs of the people of Sheffield.

To enable us to provide the comprehensive service that we do to our community, we rely heavily on our team of volunteers. The Bureau offers a whole host of roles, from receptionists and administrative workers to advisors who work with clients. The Bureau offers comprehensive training and support and we look for people from all walks of life and experience to bring their skills to this unique rewarding role, especially those who speak more than one language.

We are currently recruiting volunteers to support the work of the Bureau. So if you are interested in a hugely rewarding volunteer role working with a dedicated team, please contact Pat or Zaiada on 0114 275 5376 or pop in for a chat and an application form or complete the application form online at www.advicesheffield.org.uk.

No previous experience is necessary, although some roles have requirements. We are recruiting across all our sites and volunteers can be placed at a site which best suits them.

The Volunteer Experience - Malcolm Reed

I've been a volunteer with Citizens Advice since 2009 when I took early retirement from teaching. I have a background in community education and in mainstream schools, working with young people who have special educational needs. So I guess I've



always been motivated by a sense that worthwhile work involves helping to secure fairness for people who have been disadvantaged or pushed to one side by 'the System.'

To be an adviser, you have to go through a training process. The real learning takes place when you talk to other people and in the whole-hearted support offered by the experienced workers. Whole-hearted, because there's an appreciation that volunteers are the lifeblood of the service and also because there is such a strong shared sense of commitment to a vital community service. There is the genuine sense of being part of a team with a common purpose.

As to what I feel I've got out of my time working as a volunteer, I can point to a number of benefits. For a start there's a feeling that, however small the scale, I can make a difference to the fairness of it all. There's the knowledge that finishing one career doesn't mean that your development comes to a full stop. I'm in the happy state where it all feels like a bit of an adventure but I'm in control of where I want it to go. I don't know how long this phase is going to continue but for the time being I'm enjoying the ride.

How to organise a litter pick in your street

Story & Photo: Gareth Coleman

If your street is anything like mine, it's probably carpeted with discarded cans, crisp packets and other rubbish. Inspired by a neighbour in the next street, I decided to follow her example and organise a litter pick.

It was easier than I thought and the first pick in April went well, with a dozen neighbours coming out to clean the street together. As well as making Scott Road look nicer, I also chatted with some neighbours I'd never talked to before, which was a real bonus.

It does help if you have a neighbour or two to start off with - just to break the ice - although don't be discouraged if you



don't. Once you set a date and publicise it, you will be bound to get a few people joining you.

So once you've set a time and a date (make it at least two weeks in the future), the next step is to speak with Naomi Hinch at the Council (0114 203 7562 or naomi.hinch@sheffield.gov.uk) who can help you arrange the equipment and publicity. Put a flyer through everyone's door and put a poster or two up if you can. Amey will drop off some litter-picking sticks and plastic bags for you a few days before the pick.

On the day itself, make sure you count out the picking sticks as kids seem to love them and may not want to hand them back at the end! It is good if you can put recyclable items like cans and plastic bottles in green bags and general rubbish in black ones but don't worry too much if they get a bit mixed up or you just put everything into the same bags.

After it's all over, you should have a few bags of rubbish and all the sticks you started with. Amey will come and collect the bags as arranged and you can enjoy your lovely clean street. But don't expect it to last for too long - after a few days you'll start seeing litter again. It feels like painting the Forth Bridge but that's how it is. You'll just have to have another one next month and do it all over again!

Hopefully over time you will make a lasting difference because, when people see litter around them, they are more likely to drop it themselves, but a lovely clean street discourages people from being the first to muck it up. Good luck!



Burngreave Ward Priorities

The three Burngreave Ward Councillors have worked with local groups and listened to local people to identify the priorities for Burngreave Ward.

Local Councillors aim to achieve the outcomes by working in partnership with local service deliverers and community organisations.

In 2014/15 the ward priorities were as follows:

Priority 1 - Community Support and Wellbeing

Local councillors will:

- Support the distribution of community grants in the area
- Carry out appropriate ward based communication and engagement
- Help sustain the library service in the ward

Priority 2 - Environment and Public Realm

Local councillors will:

- Support campaigns around litter and fly-tipping
- Carry out walkabouts with local service providers
- Support and encourage volunteers and friends groups to be involved in improving the local street scene.

Priority 3 - Cohesion and Safety

Local councillors will:

- Celebrate the diversity of the area and if there are community tensions develop action plans where necessary
- Work with the community and police to improve people's perceptions of crime in the area to inform local priorities
- Encourage positive activities for Children and Young People in the area
- Encourage better working relationships and consult on options for the regulation of private sector landlords in targeted areas.

Priority 4 - Children Young People and Families

Local councillors will:

- Encourage the take up of free early learning places
- Support the plans for additional school places in the ward
- Work with partners to deliver adult learning to meet their training needs in the area

Would you like to see these priorities carried forward to 2015/16?

Are there other priorities you think should be in there?

Please contact Naomi Hinch, Locality Officer for North East Sheffield. Naomi.Hinch@sheffield.gov.uk or 0114 203 7562

Community litter picks

In 2015/16 Burngreave Councillors would like to support a series of community clean-ups and litter picks. We hope to bring together council officers, community groups, local people and other partners to help tackle the issues of litter and fly-tipping.

Please let us know which areas you think we should concentrate on.



Can you offer some time to help? Are you a member of a local club, organisation or a local business and think you could organise some people-power?

Please contact Naomi Hinch
Naomi.Hinch@sheffield.gov.uk or
0114 203 7562.

Councillor Surgeries

Local councillors, Jackie Drayton, Ibrar Hussain and Talib Hussain (top to bottom) share surgeries on a rota basis.



13th June: 11am-12pm,
Burngreave Library

16th June: 12pm-1pm,
Norwood & Bishopholme TARA

18th June: 2pm-3pm,
Pakistan Advice Centre

11th July: 11am-12pm,
Burngreave Library

16th July: 2pm-3pm,
Pakistan Advice Centre

21st July: 12pm-1pm,
Norwood & Bishopholme TARA



No surgeries in August

Contact details

Cllr Jackie Drayton
jackie.drayton@sheffield.gov.uk
Tel: 0114 243 5388

Cllr Ibrar Hussain
ibrar.hussain@sheffield.gov.uk
Tel: 07866 571 750

Cllr Talib Hussain
talib.hussain@sheffield.gov.uk
Tel: 0114 273 5588

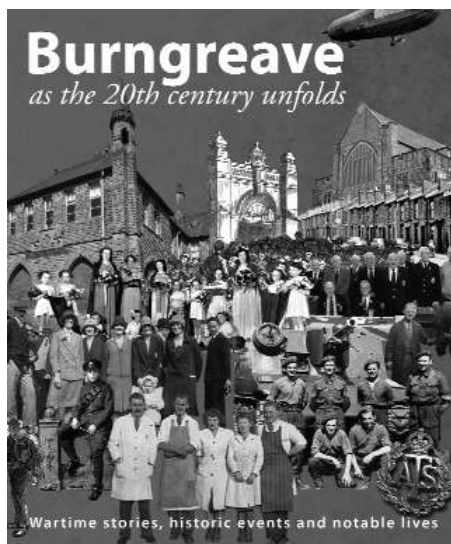
New Burngreave local history book

Story: John Mellor

Following the successful book *Pitsmoor – a peek into the past* about the history of Burngreave in the 19th century, the Burngreave Local History Group has just released a sequel after several months of research and hard work entitled *Burngreave – as the 20th Century unfolds*.

This new book covers some of the important events of the 20th century that took place in Burngreave. The photo on the inside cover, taken from Castle Market, shows the Burngreave skyline as it was in 1970 – it isn't difficult to spot the changes in the last 55 years!

There are dramatic pictures of zeppelins over Burngreave in September 1916 along with the devastation they caused to local properties and residents. Moving on to the Second World War, there are moving first-hand accounts from local members of the Sheffield Normandy Veterans Association recounting their experiences during the beach landings in France in June 1944.



A local resident born in 1929 gives a graphic picture of the daily routine of life in Pitsmoor. Other features include an article about the Brightside and Carbrook Co-operative Society, the story of a much loved and respected local policeman, the history of local schools and uniformed organisations, and much more besides.

The book, priced at £7, is excellent value for money and adds a valuable contribution to the recorded history of Burngreave.

To purchase a copy of the book please email Saleema at saleema.imam141@googlemail.com

Ken Riley: Normandy Veteran (1924-2015)

Story: John Mellor | Photo: Richard Hanson

Ken Riley, of Torbay Road, was the Chairman of the Sheffield branch of the Normandy Veterans Association for 12 years and one of its founder members.

In common with other members of the association, Ken landed on the Normandy beaches during 'Operation Overlord' which began on 6th June 1944. Ken, at the age of 19, was a radio operator with the Royal Armoured Corps.

Ken said that the worst thing about the war was seeing all the avoidable death and destruction - "it was a fool's game". On the other hand, the good thing about his war experience was "the total comradeship, sharing and risking our lives together, sharing our last cigarette; this is something I haven't found since returning to 'civvy' street".



In late March Ken died, aged 90. He had lived on his own following the death of his wife a few years ago and was active right up to the end of his life.

His funeral at City Road was attended by a large number of family and friends, including a guard of honour by the Sheffield Normandy Veterans Association and other veterans associations - a truly memorable occasion honouring a remarkable veteran of the Normandy landing in June 1944.

Normandy veterans return to Holland

John Mellor has written about Ken Riley and many Normandy Veterans and was invited by the Normandy Veterans Association to visit Holland on the 70th anniversary of the Dutch liberation from Nazi rule.

Story: John Mellor | Photo: D. Bates

Holland had endured five years of brutal occupation including starvation during the winter of 1944-45. The war ended in Holland when two Nazi generals signed the surrender document in Wageningen on 5th May 1945.

The veterans are always received with extremely warm hospitality. 5th May is a Dutch national holiday marked by a silent march through Wageningen and the lighting at midnight of a 'Freedom Flame' with a lamp from Portsmouth. Torches lit from this flame are carried by young people to every town in the country. A procession of veterans from Canada, USA and Britain marched through streets lined with cheering crowds.



One of the veterans who helped liberate Holland 70 years ago was Douglas Austin (pictured, right), now 92, of the 6th Guards Tank Brigade. Douglas arrived at Sword Beach in Normandy on board a tank landing ship in July 1944. This was the start of an arduous campaign from France, finishing at the Baltic Sea one year later.

Douglas recalled,

"The brigade fought against the German army as we advanced through France and Belgium, past the First World War cemeteries, into Holland where we spent the cold winter months sleeping outdoors most nights. We had hoped to spend Christmas with Dutch families but had to move at short notice to stem a Nazi armoured advance."

Travelling with these Normandy veterans made me realise how much gratitude and respect the Dutch people had for the men who had liberated the population after five years of ruthless occupation.

Arrivals in Burngreave

Story: Amy Palmer | Photos: Jeremy Abrahams

The last week of May was celebrated as Refugee Week. The Messenger invited photographer Jeremy Abrahams to talk about his photography project 'Arrivals', which will be exhibited in Weston Park Museum in Autumn 2016.



'Arrivals' is a project to reflect the backgrounds of newcomers to Sheffield from 1939 to 2016. It is about people's journeys to, and relationships with Sheffield.

Jeremy is finding a person who immigrated to Sheffield in each year from 1939 to 2016. Of the 77 portraits needed to complete his exhibition Jeremy has 33 so far, including locals Abtisan



Mohamed from Yemen and Patrick Meleady from Ireland. All the participants are photographed at a place meaning something special to them.

The exhibition is a portrait of the city as well as the people and Sheffield Museums hope it will encourage more people to take part in activities at Weston Park Museum. Jeremy says that his project shows that immigration "is not a monolithic thing". Many people have come here for work, or to escape difficult political situations in their home countries; they have come from the Commonwealth and Europe, intending only a short stay but putting down roots.

If you would like to represent one of the remaining 44 years and tell your story alongside a professional portrait photograph then Jeremy is keen to meet you! He will be at Abbeyfield Park House on Monday 22nd June 10am to 12 noon where he will answer any questions about the project.

Alternatively you can contact him on 07570 400 181 or info@jeremyabrahams.co.uk.

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News from Parkwood Springs

Restoration of the closed landfill

The Friends of Parkwood Springs have commented on Viridor's plans for the restoration of the landfill site which had been submitted to the Council. These and other comments have been discussed between Viridor and Council officers, and Viridor have now submitted revised plans.

Improvements at the Shirecliffe end of the site

Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, working with the Council, have applied to Viridor Environmental Credits for over £100,000 to make improvements at the northern end of the site and put in a new footpath linking the two ends. So far the bid has been rejected, but the Friends of Parkwood Springs are trying to get the decision re-opened.

Motorcycling

There seems to have been an outbreak of motorbiking on the site recently, particularly on Sunday afternoons and near the playing fields at Cooks Wood Road. Members have reported it to the police, but we are not aware of any action having been taken.

Not only do the motorbikes spoil it for other people, but it can and has been dangerous. It is illegal, and the police have confiscated bikes and crushed them elsewhere in the city

If you see motorbikes on the site, you can report it to the 101 police line. The Police say they respond according to the number of complaints. The Friends Group is trying to address this problem.



Listening to the dawn chorus on Parkwood Springs.

Wardsend Cemetery 'dig'

A team from Sheffield University and Sheffield College has been carrying out a dig at Wardsend Cemetery, working with the Friends of Wardsend Cemetery. They have been digging near the walls of the old chapel.

Dawn chorus walk

On 10th May over twenty people braved the 5am start to a fascinating walk round Parkwood Springs to hear, see and identify birds. John Robinson of the RSPB helped pick out birdsong with graphic descriptions: "the machine gun delivery of this bird", "Like a bowler on the the cricket pitch.", while Neill Schofield of the Friends of Parkwood Springs pointed out things of more general interest, like the amazing views across the city and beyond.

At last fifteen species were spotted including four types of warbler that had considerably come all the way from Africa.

Thalassaemia support

Thalassaemia is a blood disorder affecting all social groups, but highly prevalent in the Mediterranean, Middle East and Asia.

Those affected locally were previously supported by Sheffield Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Foundation, but since SSCATF closed, community development worker Nighat Khan has established a small support group.

Nighat said,

"The clients still needed support as there was no service. All the work I do is currently on a voluntary basis, as I couldn't just let these people down especially where vulnerable people are involved who already have a lot on their plate through the illness they have."

The new service is called Thalassaemia South Yorkshire (TSY) and was launched in March. To contact TSY call 07988033534 or email tsysheffield@gmail.com.



Open Bethlehem film showing

Christchurch hosted Leila Sansour's film Open Bethlehem on 12th March, supported by the Sheffield Palestine Solidarity Campaign.

The film intends to generate international support for the 'Tourism Project' which aims to revitalise Bethlehem as a modern city.

Organisers have sent delegations all over the world to involve people of all faiths and none with the project - Jewish communities, Anglican bishops, social justice campaigners, progressive politicians and ordinary folk.

The film won lots of support at Christchurch. Further information on the project is at www.openbethlehem.org, or contact the Palestine Solidarity Campaign at enquiries@sheffieldpspc.org.uk.

Volunteer in the sunshine!

Green City Action are looking for volunteers for their community allotment. Current sessions are Thursday 10am-1pm and Wednesday 9.30am-12.00pm (women only).

Come along and be part of an exciting project! Learn to grow fruit and veg or come and pass on your knowledge to others. You will get a chance to work outdoors, be part of a friendly group of people and share in the produce.

For more information: email volunteering@greencityaction.org.uk; telephone 0114 244 0353

Or drop into Plots 3 & 4 Grimesthorpe Allotments, Grimesthorpe Road, S4 8LE.

TEDxPitsmoor

x = independently organised TED event



Pitmoor has delivered! We have a terrific variety of thought provoking talks, from a terrific variety of locals. Come along to Christ Church, Pitsmoor Road on Saturday 27th June for a prompt 7.30pm start. Talks are ten minutes long, and we've fitted plenty in.

No tickets, just turn up... and it's free, so no excuses. See you there.

In memory of Reverend Don Sparkes

Story: David Smith

Tuesday 18th May was a sad day for many as it saw the funeral of Don Sparkes at Christ Church. It was also a day of thanksgiving as we remembered all that Don had done during his 33 years here.

Canon Keith Farrow who took the service rightly described Don as a 'Pitsmoor legend'. And yet it was a miracle that Don ever entered the ministry. He had relatively little formal education, and when the call to become a priest came he had to finish 'O' and 'A' Levels before he could be accepted for ordination training.

He came to Pitsmoor in 1964 having served as a curate in Southall, London. Initially he was priest-in-charge but seeing the quality of his work his parishioners soon demanded that he become the fully fledged vicar of the parish. Don was a man of deep convictions: the Cross and Resurrection of Christ were his chief inspiration, both



Don will be remembered by many for walking his goat around the area.

for preaching the gospel of God's grace and as stimulus for service to others.

His influence on church and parish was far-reaching. Services were transformed: Holy communion at 9.30am was well attended and was followed by a family-friendly 11am outreach service, which attracted many on the fringes of church life. Youth work was a priority, with a boys' choir bursting at the seams and a

thriving youth group soon to follow. The old church hall was plainly inadequate for these developments and Don oversaw the building of the present 'Welcome Centre' in 1985. Evensong on Sunday became a healing service which often turned out to be the best attended service of the day. A monthly 'renewal' meeting on Saturdays drew a huge crowd of worshippers from far afield as well as the parish.

Don saw himself as a servant of the parish as a whole, and was always keen to work with the community. For some 6 years he was a city councillor; he established a well-attended lunch club that met twice weekly in the church hall, and fought successfully for the building of Pye Bank Trinity Junior School in the southern part of the parish.

He edited and produced *Contact* magazine as a link between parish church and people, and established a readership of some 5000. In all this activity Don was blessed with the help of his wife Sheila, and with an exceptionally happy and lively family of four children. After Sheila's tragic death in 1990 Don married Iris, and in retirement moved to the parish of King's Sterndale in Buxton where, as Canon Farrow put it, "He kept going full pelt to the end."

A tribute to Mr Adel Ahmed Alawi

A tribute to Mr Adel Ahmed Alawi who died 25th November 2014, former district manager with Yemen Airlines in London. A best friend, a husband, and wonderful father of Naeen, Manar, and Nawar.

*You've shared our joys and sorrows too,
We have always known that we could count on you
Memories that we had shared, so deep and so rare.
You're dearly missed and always in our hearts.
May your soul rest in peace.*

Surtag Hack

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