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Action hits home as burglaries fall

Figures for 2008 have revealed that the number of reported burglaries in Rotherham has continued to fall.

The chances of being burgled are about 50 per cent lower than five years ago. Since April 2008, the borough has seen 2,750 fewer victims of all crime, compared to the same period last year, including 240 less victims of house and other burglaries.

For the period April 2007 to the end of March 2008 there were 1,313 recorded house burglaries across Rotherham, compared to 2,680 in 2002/03.

A campaign to improve home security and introduce a rapid-response repair and maintenance service for tenants has led to a fall in council house burglaries from around 26.6 homes per thousand between 2003 and 2004, to 10.64 homes per thousand between March 2006 and August 2008.

Burglaries in private homes have also reduced, from 17.7 homes per thousand to 11.46 homes per thousand, over the same period.

"This is a dramatic turn-round, given that in 2003/2004, burglaries in council homes were nearly 50 per cent higher than in the private sector," said Andrew Leigh, Safer Estate Manager, with 2010 Rotherham Limited, the arms-length management organisation which has day-to-day responsibility for managing, repairing and improving Rotherham's council housing. "With more than a third of properties still to receive high security

doors and window through the Decent Homes programme, we expect this figure to fall even further in the coming years."

The campaign to improve council house security has included the installation of Secured by Design high security doors and windows; the specific Safer Homes Project, which carries out minor security work to doors and windows in council properties, and a commitment to providing a rapid response where services are needed urgently.

The project is administered by Victim Support Rotherham and 2010, along with the council's Neighbourhood and Adult Services, South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, Rotherham Stay Put and Age Concern.

Safer Neighbourhood Teams across the whole of Rotherham are continuing to establish No Cold Call Zones to deter bogus officials who contribute to the number of house burglary offences.

Each SNT also has its own dedicated crime reduction officers who can offer advice and basic crime prevention measures for all residents, whether home owners or tenants.

Crime reduction advice available on the South Yorkshire Police website (www.southyorks.police.uk/crimereduction/secureproperty.php) includes the installation of low energy external lighting, seeking the help of neighbours to ensure properties appear occupied at holiday times, and the use of high walls and fences to restrict rear access to properties.



Recycling's new future

Getting to grips with the improved arrangements for recycling household waste at the Carr Hill site in Greasbrough are Georgia (6) and Joe (3) Bumford, of Swinton, with Councillor Richard Russell (right), Cabinet Member for Streetpride, and Colin Fletcher of Waste Recycling Group (WRG), the new contractor appointed to manage the borough's four recycling sites. See page 3 for more details about the new arrangements.



WE ASKED YOU SAID ...WE DID

In our latest round of surveys you told us that burglary, drugs, damage, litter and graffiti should be priorities for the Rotherham district. We listened to these views, took action and the latest figures are in.

In April 2008 crime fell to its lowest level for three years and so far this year there have been 2,750 less victims of crime compared to the same period last year.

To find your local Safer Neighbourhood Team and what's happening in your area visit <http://neighbourhood.southyorks.police.uk> and enter your postcode.

HELP US HELP YOU

To report an emergency dial 999 but for general enquiries or to report non-emergency incidents call **01142 202020**

REDUCTIONS FOR THE ISSUES YOU IDENTIFIED ARE EQUALLY AS POSITIVE

- 240 fewer victims of burglary
- 300 less victims of damage
- 100 fewer drug related offences
- 37% reduction in graffiti incidents
- 782 fewer reports of street litter



South Yorkshire
POLICE

Seek out Hot Spots to stay warm

A scheme making sure vulnerable people across South Yorkshire stay warm and healthy has been hailed as a great success in Rotherham.

The aim of Hot Spots is to make sure that all Rotherham residents have access to affordable warmth, improve their health and receive all the benefits to which they are entitled.

Those working in the front line for South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, NHS Rotherham, Rotherham Borough Council and the

Pensions Service are being trained to refer residents to the appropriate service should they identify a need for advice or support.

A firefighter visiting a house to carry out a fire safety check might refer a resident to a stop smoking service, for example, or a district nurse might advise on benefits a patient is missing out on.

"Hot Spots is a front line referral service for everyone in Rotherham and since it began in 2007 it's been a great success," said Terri Roche, a Public Health Specialist with NHS Rotherham.

"The services provided by trusted sources like firefighters or nurses can offer practical solutions to a range of problems such as affordable warmth, health, safety and finance."

Between August 2007 and August 2008 Hot Spots received 3,810 referrals across South Yorkshire and 959 in Rotherham alone.

Those referrals generated £82,315 in unclaimed benefits to which residents were entitled and 274 home fire safety checks in Rotherham.

Hot Spots focuses on winter warmth and fuel poverty as fuel bills rise and excess winter deaths continue in the region.

"Over 6,700 people in Rotherham are in fuel poverty," said Terri.

"This winter more people of all ages will fall into fuel poverty which can affect mental and physical health and in the worst cases lead to an earlier death. The Hot Spots scheme can do a lot to ensure this doesn't happen.

"The response to Hot Spots has been brilliant – more and more staff are joining as the profile of the scheme rises so hopefully increasing numbers of Rotherham residents will benefit.

"There has been a big increase in referrals in the last few months and we expect the number of referrals to keep rising."



Delegates from the partner organisations met at Fitzwilliam Road Fire Station to review the success of the Hot Spots initiative

How Hot Spots can help

Do you live in a house without a working smoke alarm?
Would you have difficulty getting out of your house in the event of a fire?
Would you like to stop smoking?
Do you need extra help to give up?
Would you like to reduce your home energy bills?
Are you over 60 and confused about what benefits you're entitled to?

If you answered yes to any of these questions Hot Spots could help you.

2010 inspection report

After Rotherham News published an article in November about an Audit Commission inspection which gave 2010 Rotherham Ltd a two-star 'good' rating a reader wrote to complain that our article lacked balance and failed to tell the full story contained in the report.

We invited 2010 Rotherham's Chief Executive to address the issues raised in the letter and report on what improvements are being made at 2010 Rotherham since the report was published.

Here is what Interim Chief Executive David Hucker had to say:

"As an open and transparent organisation, 2010 Rotherham Ltd takes great care to be balanced when publishing any information relating to its performance.

The Audit Commission's own press release, published via our website and headed '2010 Rotherham provides a "good" service to tenants', stated that the service was awarded two stars out of a possible three, citing customer-focused services and improved tenants' homes amongst the reasons for the award.

2010 Rotherham, it went on to say, demonstrated strong performance in responsive repairs, gas servicing and providing adaptations to tenants' homes, but the approach to value for money could not be demonstrated across all services.

We feel this to be a fair summing up of our service.

In its more detailed 62-page report the Audit Commission reported that much had been achieved in the last few years but that there were some areas of weaker performance.

In particular, the report said that previous recommendations had not been sufficiently progressed and that there had been a lack of focus on sustained improvements in some areas.

We have taken great care to summarise the above weaknesses via the local and regional media, our own website and reports to Rotherham Borough Council.

Your correspondent does list a number of areas of weaker performance, and these were published within the report alongside an equal list of acknowledged strengths.

Work to respond to these has already begun, including market testing of the In-House Service Provider to ensure it is delivering value for money for customers, improving customer access by telephone and producing an action plan to embed value for money across the organisation.

All recommendations made by the Audit Commission will be completed by May 2009.

With the focus now firmly on the future, we feel that 2010 Rotherham is in the right position to start working towards becoming a three-star 'excellent' organisation."

David Hucker
Interim Chief Executive
2010 Rotherham Ltd

RotherhamNews

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Our reporting aims to be fair and accurate. If you want to contribute or if you have any comments, complaints or compliments, please contact the Editor at the address below.

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Recycling improvements in sight

Rotherham's recycling fans will see some changes at the borough's household waste recycling centres in the future.

In the next few months visitors to the four sites at Greasbrough, Bramley, Rawmarsh and North Anston are likely to find a more efficient service and, most importantly, changes to the recycling options available.

The segregation of rubbish will also be improved thanks to better site signage and an increase in the range of materials that can be accepted.

The changes are the result of the appointment of a new contractor to manage the four sites. Working with both Barnsley and Doncaster Councils, Rotherham Borough Council has awarded

a seven-year contract to Waste Recycling Group (WRG) to manage the household waste recycling centres across the three boroughs.

Together the three metropolitan authorities provide 14 household waste sites and receive around 86,000 tonnes of household waste per year.

WRG, a leading UK waste management and energy recovery company, replaced Greencycle Plc, the previous contractor, with a new contract worth around £40 million.

Cllr Richard Russell, Cabinet Member for Streetpride for Rotherham Borough Council, said he hoped that members of the public would be patient during the changeover period.

He added: "This will be an exciting new

phase for our household waste sites but it will obviously need time before any changes in the process run smoothly.

"We hope that the public will continue to use the sites in an effort to boost our recycling rates, which are currently 35 per cent - a staggering 30 per cent increase in recycling in six years and a great achievement by Rotherham residents."

Jim Meredith, Chief Executive of WRG, said: "We are delighted to have won this contract and are looking forward to providing an improved service to the

people of Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham, and to adding value to the excellent efforts they are currently making to recover more value and resource from their waste.

"WRG already has a strong presence in Yorkshire and can therefore provide a tailored service based on local knowledge, as well as our wide experience and expertise from managing a large number of successful recycling centres across the UK," added Mr Meredith.

Help with the Credit Crunch

Need some help during the current credit crunch - then why not take a look at a new booklet being issued by Rotherham Borough Council?

'Rotherham's Recovery Plan' provides information for both individuals and businesses about what the authority and its partners are doing in response to the economic downturn. It also gives useful tips for saving money as well as contact details of where to get local help from agencies such as Citizen's Advice, Jobcentre Plus, Money Advice and Business Link.

The booklet has been produced following two special credit crunch 'round table' exercises organised by Rotherham Borough Council with Wentworth MP John Healey, who hosted the events late last year at the Magna Science Adventure Park.

The aim of the exercises was to not only find out the impact of the current economic downturn but more importantly, discuss what can be done to assist the many households and businesses in the borough with the financial pressures that they are now facing as a result of the downturn.

Following the events, which were attended by delegates from local authorities, businesses and the voluntary sector from across Yorkshire, Rotherham Borough Council and its partners are already taking action by producing the booklet and stepping up services.

For example both the Citizens Advice Bureau and the council's Money Advice Service provide advice and help on financial management to individuals. Rotherham's Credit Unions are busy providing savings opportunities and access to loans to assist with immediate financial needs. And Rotherham Borough Council is providing help in housing to a number of tenants through a 'rent-in-advance' scheme, which provides an initial loan to cover the first advance payments to private landlords - allowing tenants to move into new homes.

John Healey and Cllr. Roger Stone, the

Leader of Rotherham Borough Council, have also announced the establishment of a core group of partner organisations to both monitor the ongoing impact of the credit crunch and further develop Rotherham's response to it. A dedicated website has been launched which provides details about the support and services available.

Roadshow events will also be held across the whole of the Borough in the next few months to provide the public and businesses with an opportunity to drop-in and discuss any financial issues with representatives from the council and a wide range of partner organisations.

Cllr. Stone stressed that it is the duty of the council and its partners to lead the local response to the economic downturn. He said: "We have a range of actions and services already in place and this booklet outlines the help and advice that is on offer. We will do more work to understand the impact on our communities and we will tailor our efforts to maximise the benefits for all people affected by this current economic climate."

John Healey MP, who is also Minister for Local Government, added: "The Government has introduced a range of policies and initiatives to stimulate economic activity and reverse the downturn and protect people from it. We are working closely with councils and other agencies to make sure these policies and initiatives help local people and businesses. It is good to see Rotherham Borough Council leading steps to support people through the current downturn."

To see a copy of 'Rotherham's Recovery Plan' please go to www.rotherham.gov.uk/creditcrunch or for more information please contact Rotherham 822003/822004.

Top Tips for Saving Money

1. Manage your finances. Work out how much you have to spend and try not to exceed it. Keep a record of every penny you spend for one month - you'll learn a lot.

Continued on page 11



The Ahmed family celebrate the first day of Eid at their home in Clifton, Rotherham. Pictured, from left to right, are Zulfiqar; Isfah (7); Aliyah (9); Alisha (11) Salimah (red Sari) and Veda.

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Rotherham's Better Public Places



Well maintained and managed public spaces make a valuable contribution to people's quality of life and to community well-being. Rotherham Council wants to ensure local public places are areas where people want to live.

The government has recognised the importance of public places and has made this a theme in this year's Beacon Scheme.

What is the Beacon Scheme?

The Beacon Scheme is a prestigious award scheme that recognises excellence in local government.

Rotherham's Beacon Award

The Council has received a Beacon Award for its work in creating "Better Public Places" for the people of the borough. Rotherham was **one of only 5 councils in the country** to receive this award.

Events in Public Spaces

The inspectors said "Rotherham understands the links between public realm and events".

- The Council showed examples of the many successful events it has hosted in public spaces during the year:
- Rotherham Show in Clifton Park - the largest free show in the North attracted over 45,000 visitors this year - despite the inclement weather!
 - Bollywood festival, China Now and more recently the Speigletent - these and other cultural events draw crowds from across the region;
 - Rotherham by the Sea week - tons of



Performance in All Saints' Square

sand were imported into All Saints' Square with deckchairs, Punch and Judy and other entertainments.

Campaigns

The inspectors said "Streetpride uses innovative campaigns such as:

- "Don't be a Tosser" - targets motorists who throw litter from vehicles;
- "Name that Tag" - targets graffiti vandals by offering a £1,000 reward;
- "Too Toxic" - a hard hitting educational package delivered to schools;
- "Graffiti Wipe Out" - free graffiti wipes issued to partners and the public to help remove graffiti in their areas.

Community Engagement

Rotherham's unique and innovative Streetpride initiative has transformed the quality of public places and improved perceptions of the borough:

- Devolved budgeting lets local



Rotherham by the Sea in All Saints' Square

communities choose improvements for their area;

- Community clean-ups involving local people;
- Engagement of volunteer members of the public who act as a focal point for local street issues.

The inspectors said: "Streetpride has achieved impressive results both in service delivery ... and response times". Streetpride achieved an average success rate of 97% in meeting targets on a suite of 30 target response times, for example:

- 2 hour response time for clearing drug litter;
- 4 hour response time for dealing with a dangerous highway defect, spillage on the carriage way, overflowing litter or dog waste bin;
- 1 working day response time for dealing with fly tipping, abandoned car, offensive graffiti or dog fouling.

How to get in touch

Rotherham



Streetpride

For a booklet with details of our service standards, or to report any other Streetpride issue, please ring the Streetpride hotline:

01709 336003 from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday to Friday.

If you would like this information in alternative formats or other languages, please contact us.

Email: streetpride@rotherham.gov.uk
Website: www.rotherham.gov.uk/streetpride

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Where Everyone Matters



Rotherham Town Centre



Rotherham Walking Festival

Stub out those cigarettes to boost health and wealth

Could you start afresh this year and be one of the thousands of people who will stop smoking, improving not only their health but also their bank balance?

One in five deaths in Rotherham is caused by smoking and it costs the average smoker around £2,000 a year to maintain the habit.

New Year is an ideal time for people to take action, beating the credit crunch and nicotine addiction at a stroke by contacting the Rotherham NHS Stop Smoking Service.

Many smokers try to kick the habit on their own through sheer willpower, but the evidence shows that those who use a local stop smoking service are ten times more likely to succeed in the long term.

Simon Lister,



Rotherham NHS Stop Smoking Service Manager, said: "Most people try to quit on their own but unfortunately only one or two per cent are successful."

"If they come to us their chances are much higher and around 20 per cent of those who have had help from us were still off cigarettes a year later."

Rotherham NHS Stop Smoking Service helped around 2,000 people stop smoking last year and provides free, confidential support and advice to anyone wishing to kick the habit through group, one-to-one and drop-in sessions or by telephone.

Treatments such as gums and patches are also available

through the service to reduce

cravings and increase the chances of success.

"We supply gums and patches on a voucher scheme so people can get two weeks' worth of treatment and pay only one prescription charge or get it free if they are exempt from such charges," Simon added.

"It would normally cost around £20 for one week's worth if bought directly over the counter so there's a big saving to be made."

During January the stop smoking service is also offering free nicotine replacement for two weeks to anyone who attends a drop-in, one-to-one or group session.

For more information or advice on stopping smoking call 01709 302444.

Alternatively visit the Stop Smoking Centres at:

- 16 Bridgegate (Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm, Saturday 10am - 1pm)
- Rotherham Hospital (Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm)
- Sandygate Hotel (Thursdays 6pm - 8pm)
- Wickersley Health Centre (Tuesdays 6pm - 8pm).

Morrisons at Parkgate will also be holding Shop 'n' Stop drop-in sessions on Friday afternoons from January 9 onwards.

■ HOW CAN FIRES BE PREVENTED?

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue want to hear your thoughts on how they can make Rotherham safer and reduce the risk of fires.

Rotherham people are being invited to put forward their opinions on how the fire service can:

- reduce fire-related death and injury
- help vulnerable and elderly people be safe from fire in their homes
- reduce road traffic accidents
- reduce hoax calls
- reduce anti-social behaviour fires, such as wheelie bin fires, which account for 80 per cent % of all fire service calls.

The results of the consultation, which runs until January 31 2009, will help form an Integrated Risk Management Plan to set out South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue's priorities from April 2009 to March 2011.

Have your say at www.syfire.gov.uk, email slayhe@syfire.gov.uk or call 0114 272 7202.

■ DORMER RETURNS TO AMP

One of South Yorkshire's best known manufacturers has returned to Rotherham.

Dormer Tools – part of the Swedish-based Sandvik Group – has relocated from Nottinghamshire to a multi-million-pound facility at the Advanced Manufacturing Park (AMP).

Doors open at new health centre

The new Rotherham Community Health Centre was due to open this week (12 January) to provide an excellent new healthcare facility in the town.

The centre brings together a number of community health services under one roof, providing easier access for patients.

The majority of services have transferred from the old Doncaster Gate Hospital, including physiotherapy, podiatry, phlebotomy, ear care, speech and language therapy, contraception and sexual health services and the Walk In Centre (from the end of January).

Community dentistry will move from Ferham Clinic and the Health Advice Centre and Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) will relocate from the RAIN Building.

New services will include diagnostics – X-ray, ultrasound and echocardiography – which will open in February. Patients can be referred from their GP or other healthcare professional, avoiding the need to make separate trips to various locations and speeding up the time it takes to diagnose illnesses or injuries.

This summer a new GP practice will open and the Walk In Centre will extend its opening hours from weekends and Bank Holidays to 8am until 9pm seven days a week.

The Rotherham Community Health Centre is next door to Bailey House on Greasbrough Road and is easily accessed from the Rotherham Interchange and by car. Contact the centre on 01709 423000.

A decade of caring for carers

A project supporting Rotherham's unsung heroes celebrates its tenth birthday this year.

The Carers Forum provides support and information to the borough's 32,000 unpaid carers who look after people with mental health problems, learning disabilities and physical and sensory disabilities and older people.

Based in the RAIN Building (Rotherham Advice and Information Network), the forum is co-ordinated by Jeanette Mallinder who also runs the Carers Information Centre at the same location.

"Unpaid carers save the Government £87 billion every year, and here in Rotherham the hard work and commitment of our carers saves the local economy £10,300 per carer per year," says Jeanette.

She says carers typically put the person they care for before themselves, going without holidays and missing out on

hospital appointments because of their commitments.

They often struggle with financial problems and isolation and are unaware of the benefits and respite support that is available to carers.

"We offer information about legislation, benefits and carers' rights and try to help when carers feel isolated," says Jeanette.

"We can also signpost carers to a wide range of other support organisations in Rotherham and nationally relevant to their identified needs."

The Carers Forum meets six times per year and sends out a newsletter with the latest news and developments of interest to carers.

A coffee morning for carers and the people they care for is held at the RAIN Building every Wednesday between 10.30am and 12.30pm.

For more information call Jeanette at the Carers Forum on 01709 514289.

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Committed to making a real difference

The Sustainable Development Commission describes a sustainable development approach as the means by which progress can be made "towards a world where we seek to simultaneously progress economic and social and environmental goals and policies, in ways that develop and maintain a good quality of life for us all, and enable future generations to do the same".

Rotherham Borough Council is continuously looking for ways to improve its environmental performance, and how it can improve the sustainability of local communities, in the context of its Corporate Environmental Policy 2006 – 2010.

This report, paid for by RMBC, provides information about just some of the community projects in which the council is involved across the borough to support its targets to protect and improve the environment, and to promote sustainable development.

Spot the Certificate!

Energy certificates are on display in public buildings over 1000 square metres in size, including community halls, schools, offices and leisure centres. These explain the energy efficiency of each building, and give an operational carbon dioxide emission rating from A (excellent) to G (poor). Each building also has an appropriate plan to secure any necessary efficiency improvements.

Spreading the Word

RMBC is setting up a website so individuals and organisations can learn how to reduce their own environmental impact through simple actions, and monitor individual reductions in carbon dioxide emissions across the borough. Look out for more detail in a future Rotherham News.

Tackling Pollution

The most significant pollutant in South Yorkshire is nitrogen dioxide, coming primarily from road traffic. Targeted actions include a vehicle emission testing survey with automatic number plate recognition, an internet-based automatic air quality monitoring system, and an RMBC/Highways air quality monitoring project for the M1.

Supporting Schools

Environmental groups from three schools – Wath Church of England Primary; Abbey School and Herringthorpe St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary – have each successfully

achieved the European EMAS Standard (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme). Pupils and teachers carried out an environmental review, produced an environment programme and communicated the issues to school assemblies, Governors and parents.



Mayor of Rotherham, Cllr Ann Russell (centre); Deputy Mayor Cllr Pat Russell and Cllr Ken Wyatt, Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Innovation, with pupils involved in achieving EMAS standard

Firm Foundations

RMBC has earned a number of construction awards for the use of innovative environmental technologies and design features, such as biomass heating; geothermal heating and cooling, green roofing and breathing walls. Projects include Moorgate Crofts, Breathing Space, Aston Customer Service Centre and Mason Avenue/Vine Close district heating systems.



Moorgate Crofts by night

Further information is available in the RMBC 2008 Environmental Statement, copies of which are available on the council website (www.rotherham.gov.uk), in local libraries and Civic receptions.

Comments and feedback on RMBC's environmental performance, the way in which we report the information, and how we could improve can be made by calling 01709 822166, or by emailing environmentalmanagement@rotherham.gov.uk

Centre stage for Muhbeen as WalkTalk leads to Westminster

A 14-year-old boy from Rotherham has been helping to improve the lives of hundreds of young Muslims across the UK by raising awareness of what it's like growing up in Britain.

Muhbeen Hussain, who lives in Eastwood Village, was invited to take part in a specially-commissioned film as part of Islam Awareness Week following his involvement in the nationwide WALKTALK initiative, organised by Gill Hicks, a survivor of the 7/7 London terror attacks.

Gill, who lost her legs in the bombings, walked from Leeds to London as part of her WALKTALK project which was aimed at starting a conversation between different communities.

She was particularly touched by Muhbeen, who delivered a speech in a mosque during WALKTALK's visit to Rotherham, and put him forward as a case study for the film which also stars two other British Muslims.

Muhbeen and his father Sabir attended the launch of the film at Westminster Hall in the Houses of Parliament in November where they met Zahoor Qurashi, President of the Islamic Society of Britain, and Shahid Malik, Minister for Justice.

Sabir said it was a very proud moment: "I'm delighted Muhbeen was put forward by Gill as a case study for the film as he is a great role model for Muslim youth in Britain and has made a big difference to our local community, so much so that

he was recently nominated for a Voluntary Action Rotherham Community Award!"

Muhbeen and Sabir recently attended a joint Christmas and Eid celebration at the Eastwood Village Community Centre organised by local residents. Neighbourhood Participation Worker Diane Owens said the event was proof that efforts to promote community cohesion in Rotherham are working.

"WALKTALK and in particular Gill Hicks had a massive impact on life in Rotherham and we are grateful to all those who took part in the initiative, including Muhbeen. I hope that he continues the good work in the future."



Sabir Hussain and his son Muhbeen(14)

Scouts reach new heights at Hesley Wood Camp

Ten Explorer Scouts from Rotherham have been giving up their time to help build a brand new activity at Hesley Wood camp site.

The group aged 14 to 18 were approached by Andy Moore, the County Commissioner and former District Scout Commissioner of Rotherham, to build a crate-stacking activity within the popular 132-acre scout camp site.

The youngsters spent a weekend clearing woodland, digging through heavy clay soil, preparing foundations for a special safety frame and laying concrete.

They now plan to go back on site to erect the safety frame to ensure the activity will be ready for the spring.

The large A-framed structure is made out of recycled telegraph poles, enabling a safety harness to be fitted and crates built to impressive new heights.

Teams using the activity will compete to build the tallest tower using milk crates and the frame will help the scouts beat the current record at Hesley Wood which stands at 25 crates.

"It's a good team-building exercise which is popular with adults and scouts alike," said Ricky Parker, Warden at Hesley Wood.

"We wanted to set aside a specific area of the site to cater for the activity and so we called upon the help of Rotherham's Explorers."



Youngsters get to work at Hesley Wood

Council Tax Are you paying too much?

Does your property or anyone living in your property meet any of the following criteria? If yes, you may be entitled to a reduction in you Council Tax.

1. Disability Reductions

If your property contains ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FEATURES in order to meet the needs of a resident disabled person (adult or child) you may qualify for a reduction:

- a) A room which is not a bathroom, kitchen or lavatory and which is predominantly used by and required for meeting the needs of the disabled person.
- b) A second bathroom or kitchen which is required for meeting the needs of the disabled person.
- c) Sufficient floor space to permit the use of a wheelchair indoors.

When a reduction is allowed the property is charged at one band lower than that which appears in the Valuation List (e.g. a property in Band D will be charged as Band C).

Disability Reductions can be claimed by people living in Band A dwellings.

2. Discounts

- a) If you are the only person over 18 living in the property you may be entitled to a 25% DISCOUNT.
- b) Even if there is more than 1 adult in the property you may still be entitled to a DISCOUNT. Certain people, because of their personal circumstances may be disregarded when deciding how many people are living in the property. A list of the types of disregarded people are shown below.
- c) If there are no adults (i.e. over 18 years of age) living in a property, or they can all be disregarded (see below) and a 50% discount may be allowed.

If you would like further information on any of these reductions tick the appropriate box below then cut out and return it to the address shown at the bottom of this notice. Alternatively you can telephone (01709) 336006 for further information.

Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council
Where Everyone Matters

www.rotherham.gov.uk

Council Tax Reductions

Further information is requested in respect of the reduction marked:

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Disability Reduction | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. Apprentice | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Single Adult Occupier Discount | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. Adults being cared for in Nursing/residential Homes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other Discounts | | | |
| 3. Persons in Detention | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10. Youth Training Trainees | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Full-Time Students
(including Foreign Language Assistants) | <input type="checkbox"/> | 11. Voluntary Care Workers in a Residential Homes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Adults who are severely mentally impaired | <input type="checkbox"/> | 12. 18-19 Years still at school, or who have recently finished school or are in Further Education | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Student Nurses | <input type="checkbox"/> | 13. Care Workers caring for a disabled person in their homes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Adults who are long stay hospitals patients | <input type="checkbox"/> | 14. Unoccupied property | <input type="checkbox"/> |

NAME	ADDRESS	DATE
_____	_____	_____

When completed, this form should be returned to Revenues Services, Civic Building, Walker Place, Rotherham, S65 1UF or Telephone (01709) 336006 for further information.

Please Note: Persons already receiving one of these reductions need not return this form.

Centenary year underway for Chamber of Commerce

This year the Chamber of Commerce celebrates 100 years of promoting business in Rotherham and providing a wide range of services to its members.

With nearly 2,300 members the Chamber is the largest in the Yorkshire region and the seventh biggest in the UK.

The original town chamber in Rotherham was formed in 1909, but this is the second year in which the Chamber has represented members in both Barnsley and Rotherham and it has progressively strengthened as an organisation since the 2007 merger.

The Chamber now has a strong strategic position, both in the national British Chambers of Commerce network and in terms of representation with local and regional government.

Business people in Rotherham can be assured that their interests and those of all members will be paramount in all decision-making processes.

"It is to the credit of the Chamber Board, the Area Councils in Barnsley and Rotherham and the Chamber's members that the Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber of Commerce begins 2009 in this position, having faced up to a number of challenges over the past 18 months," said Chamber President Rob Hannon.

"Everyone involved with the Chamber has displayed a keen desire to help drive the organisation forward and the issues which the merger presented have been approached and dealt with in a sensible manner.

"The continuation of this commitment can only bolster the Chamber further in the months and years to come."

Rob says Chamber membership is something which any business can benefit from, regardless of size, sector or ownership.

The member benefits package will continue to improve as part of the Chamber's policy of listening to members to discover exactly what they want from their involvement with the Chamber, he says.

"In order for members to have an influence it is vital they are active in joining the working groups and attending events in order to engage with the Chamber effectively," says Rob.

The Chamber itself will continue to work closely with a number of outside agencies and partners, taking a particular interest in the education enterprise agenda.

Its work in Rotherham through the Young Chamber programme now extends into every secondary school and college in the borough, and the Chamber will seek to develop best practice through much closer relationships with all the secondary schools in Barnsley.

The Chamber also strives to support members and new businesses in the local community through its own commercial operations at Chamber Skills Solutions and Barnsley and Rotherham Enterprise Agencies.

Member Benefits

The Chamber aims to put members first and its aspiration is that when businesses join they will want to be a member for life.

The Chamber provides a wide portfolio of benefits and services designed to meet the needs of its diverse membership and it welcomes all businesses, from the micro organisation to the multinational.

Businesses can choose the membership level that best meets their needs, the level of benefits, the length of membership term and the method of payment.

Among the services offered by the Chamber are HR support, health and safety advice, legal expenses insurance, advice on current legislation, money-saving ideas and schemes designed to keep you and your employees healthy.

There is also an award-winning events programme which provides the perfect platform to help you to network effectively.

More information is available from the Membership Team on 01709 386200.



The new Rotherham Chamber HQ at Templeborough, Rotherham

“It’s very difficult to predict what will happen to the economy over the next 12 months, and anyone who can use a crystal ball to accurately foretell the future would be a very valuable asset to businesses at this moment in time! Our personal view is that firms will need to continue to invest, remain forward-thinking and work even harder to achieve the level of business that we all need to survive, grow and prosper. That’s the advice we’ll give to our members. When the economy takes a turn for the worse it’s very easy to take the safe option and batten down the hatches, but business is all about growth, and if you don’t try to develop and grow your business things can very quickly start going backwards. Many of our members across Rotherham and Barnsley are quoting record sales figures and many continue to grow and develop; however, we are aware that some sectors such as construction are suffering more than others. It will be interesting to look at the retail outputs after the Christmas period – if retailers have a bad Christmas one or two might find trading difficult in 2009. Business success is all about confidence and we as a Chamber are always confident that we can help our members in many different ways. If any member requires help, advice or assistance then they should get in touch straight away. May we wish everyone in the business community a prosperous 2009! ”

Rob Hannon, Chamber President (Rotherham)
Tracey Lally, Chamber President (Barnsley)



Rob Hannon, Chamber President (Rotherham)



Tracey Lally, Chamber President (Barnsley)

Newburgh apprentice Ben celebrates college award win

Rotherham's very own Ben Smith has been celebrating after winning the prestigious title of Apprentice of the Year from Sheffield College.

Ben (20) from Brinsworth impressed the judges with his "outstanding performance, diligence and dedication" during his apprenticeship at Newburgh Engineering.

He was said to be "an inspiration to other young people in engineering roles" and was presented with a glass trophy by the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Cllr Mrs Jane Bird, during an event held at the Sheffield Park Hotel.

Along with his award, Ben received a certificate for achieving his NVQ Level 3 in Advanced Engineering from his course tutor Steve Levi.

"I was so surprised to win, I never even knew I

had been shortlisted," said a delighted Ben.

"When they read out my name, I just couldn't believe it. I am delighted though and it has given me a real boost to try and do even better and make my family and everyone at Newburgh proud of me."

Ben has attended Sheffield College one day a week for the past 12 months, studying a course that initially covered turning and milling before specialising in gear cutting while working as a trainee manufacturing engineer at Newburgh Engineering.

This is the second accolade for Ben in recent months: he also became the first young person to achieve the prestigious Newburgh Certificate of Apprenticeship since the company opened its premises on Bessemer Way in Rotherham three years ago.



The Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Cllr Mrs Jane Bird (left), presenting the plaque to Ben Smith. Also pictured is Julie Byrne, Director of Sheffield College

Growing a business community

Starting a new business in Rotherham is now easier thanks to a unique project which offers local people real opportunities to consider their business ideas and grow their own venture.

The GROW Your Own Business project, led by local charity GROW and Business Link Yorkshire in conjunction with four Rotherham Children's Centres, opens doors and provides support to people thinking about starting a business.

Following the launch of the project a series of events is now being held, with the next at Stepping Stones Children's Centre in Maltby on January 29 and Aughton Children's Centre on February 6.

The aim of the event is to give people from all backgrounds and situations the chance to ask their burning questions about what it's like to run your own business.

Self-employment is an option that ticks many boxes for people, providing home working, flexible working hours and job satisfaction as well as the idea of being your own boss and following a dream.

Sue Barratt, who manages GROW, said: "We are delighted to be working with

Business Link Yorkshire and the Children's Centres to deliver this initiative on behalf of Yorkshire Forward and the Department for Business Enterprise Regulatory Reform (BERR).

"The partnership brings an innovative approach to giving Rotherham people the support, information and training to realistically see self-employment as an option."

Lone parent Anna Brown (not her real name) was interested in developing a cake decorating and hand-made cards business.

Having attended a GROW Your Own Business event she arranged to meet a Business Link adviser for free impartial advice and support.

"Through the event I was able to speak to different people about my idea – I didn't have to make appointments and they were ready to listen," said Anna.

"If I hadn't attended the roadshow I don't think I would have made the necessary phone calls to get the ball rolling."

For more information about the project or the roadshows contact Sue Barratt or Joanna Jones on 01709 511171 or email info@growproject.org.uk

Rotherham North Area Assembly

Rotherham North Area Assembly held its annual Community Achievement Awards on 16 December at Rotherham Town Hall. The winners were:

Outstanding Young Person (Female) Kennedy Windle

- Volunteers at the Winterhill Young People's Centre
- Undertaking Duke of Edinburgh award
- Commitment to other young people, members of staff and wider community
- Positive role model

Outstanding Young Person (Male) Nadeem Shah

- Supports young people in the Masbrough area to engage in positive activities (youth service residentials and outdoor activities)
- Applied for funding for young people's activities
- Calming influence on a number of young people who have lost their direction
- Voice for the young people in Masbrough, involved in a number of local issues, presented the Area Assembly with a petition about developing young people's facilities in Masbrough
- Unselfishly gives his time to support other young people
- Residents of Masbrough proud to have a young man like Nadeem in their community

Overcoming Adversity Shelby Wales

- Volunteers at Winterhill Young People's Centre
- Has undergone surgery many times which left her lacking in confidence, but through her volunteer work she now builds positive relationships and

friendships and feels valued for her contribution

Community Achievement Blackburn Community Volunteers

- Came together and helped with the renovation of Blackburn Club for Young People, providing the community with a much-needed resource
- Gave up many hours of their own time

Service to the Community (Female) Veronica Seaman

- Active in the community of Kimberworth Park for over 15 years
- Undertakes community work for the local church, TARA and Community Partnership
- Always there despite difficulties
- Respected by all ages and well-known in her community
- Endless hours of volunteer work given

Service to the Community (Male) Brian Beeley

- Years of devoted help for young people
- Helping young people to realise their goals in sport
- Always there to help others

Best Neighbour - Trevor Lilley

- Typifies the role of a good neighbour in the true sense of community
- Always on hand to help in any way
- People know they can always rely on him

Area Chair's Award: Ian Jones

Ian was chosen by the Area Chair, Cllr Lindsay Johnston, for all the work he has done for his local community at Richmond Park and for his contributions as a community representative for the Area Assembly.

Certificates were also presented to everyone who was nominated.

Wentworth North Area Assembly

The Neighbourhood Investment Team launched its Housing Market Renewal programme for Wath town centre on Thursday December 4. Designs were on view in the library for residents to come and have their say and more than 2,000 people did just that.

The proposals on view include new seating, litter bins and lighting in Montgomery Square. Trees will be pruned or replaced in order to open up the street scene and allow for an attractive environment where CCTV cameras and streetlights are not obscured, while an

accessible path between Tesco and the town centre will be laid.

Further details of the programme of works were available at the public Area Assembly meeting on Monday January 12 at Wath St James Hall.

Residents in the Swinton area may have noticed problems with the Christmas tree that the Area Assembly provided on Woodman Roundabout. The original tree proved not to be up to the task when high winds broke the trunk and damaged the lights. It was subsequently replaced and local opinion is that it was the prettiest tree to date on that site.

Contact Area Assemblies

- Wentworth North Tel 01709 334604
- Wentworth South Tel 01709 336770
- Wentworth Valley Tel 01709 818944
- Rotherham North Tel 01709 336951
- Rotherham South Tel 01709 336961
- Rother Valley West Tel 01709 782897
- Rother Valley South Tel 01909 568515
- www.rotherhamareaassemblies.co.uk

Rotherham Community Health Centre - Now Open!



Rotherham's new health centre for the future will be fully open from Monday 26th January 2009, providing community health services in a state-of-the-art building.

Services previously based at Doncaster Gate Hospital and Ferham Clinic have transferred to the new premises:

- Podiatry
- Minor Surgery
- Primary Ear Care
- Speech & Language Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Contraception & Sexual Health
- Audiology
- Phlebotomy
- Community Dental Services
- Patient Advice & Liaison Service (PALs)
- Walk-in Centre (9am-5pm weekends and Bank Holidays)

New community services are also be opening:

- Diagnostics – x-ray, ultrasound & echo-cardiography (Febraury 2009)
- Extended Walk in Centre – 8am-9pm, 7 days (summer 2009)
- New GP practice – 8am-8pm, Monday - Saturday (summer 2009)

Rotherham Community Health Centre, Greasbrough Road, Rotherham, S60 1RY

NHS Rotherham Community Health Centre is located close to the Rotherham Interchange and directly behind Rotherham Council's Bailey House. **Parking for patients is available.**

Help with the Credit Crunch

Continued from page 3

2. Seek advice. If you run into difficulty, or think you might as a result of any change in circumstances, don't panic, but seek immediate help. Locally, both Money Advice and Citizen's Advice (see contact details below) are experts at helping people get support and/or manage their affairs effectively. There may be a lot more options than you think.
3. Pause for thought. When thinking about making a non-essential purchase, pause for thought – ask yourself do you really need the item.
4. Look out for money-off offers. Keep an eye out for money-off offers either direct from the retailer or via online moneysaving forums. See our Town Centre website at www.rotherhamtowncentre.co.uk for the latest offers in Rotherham
5. Negotiate. Be brave and try to negotiate a discount - especially when paying cash or if you are buying more than one of the same item.
6. Use the internet. Online stores often give a discount as they don't have the same overheads involved when selling online.
7. Shop around for credit card deals. Take advantage of cash-back or 0% interest on balance transfers offers on credit cards.
8. Shop around for the best interest rates

9. Use loyalty points to save money.
10. Pay less for gas and electricity Contact a comparison company such as Energywatch or U-switch, who will advise of the most appropriate providers to switch to.
11. Pay less for your mortgage. If you are paying a standard rate mortgage that you are not tied into, you could save by switching to a discounted rate.
12. Pay less for petrol by using a petrol prices comparison site such as www.petrolprices.com. By typing your postcode into a database, the service will provide you with details of the cheapest petrol stations close to your home.
13. Save on water bills. Check with your water company whether you could make savings by switching to a water meter.
14. Cut costs on your daily and weekly shopping. Count the cost of everyday items and apply discipline to your weekly shopping visit.
15. Look around for cheaper mobile phone tariffs. Consider if a 'pay as you go' option would help you to budget better. Cut down on texts.
16. Insulate your house There may be help available through www.warmfront.co.uk
17. Cut the cost of insurance. When getting

- a renewal quote for any type of insurance, shop around and compare what other providers are offering.
18. Stop smoking. If you smoke 20 per day, you could save £1,980 per year, or save £29,378 interest over the life of a £100,000 mortgage.
19. Use money saving websites. Keep up to

date with the latest offers on money saving websites such as: www.moneysavingexpert.com

20. Beware of schemes that promise debt consolidation, pay day loans, cash advances, or vouchers at discount prices. They may be much more costly than they seem. Seek advice first.

The Junction story so far

A specialised recruitment service has already placed over 100 people in positions in Rotherham over the first year of its operation.

Over the past 12 months, The Junction has helped and supported 50 local businesses with over 250 vacancies, filling 109 positions which have been sourced through local partner agencies. All this has been done at no cost to the companies in question, as The Junction is a completely free service.

The Junction have worked with businesses such as Aston Hotel Group, Best Western Hotel, Direct Dialogue, Henry Boot PLC, Stelrad and Toyoda Gosei to place local people with employers and has received glowing tributes for the free service it provides.

Ant Marketing have worked closely with The Junction and Ant Recruitment Manager Debbie Troops says: "I would strongly advise businesses to use The Junction when they are looking to recruit. It is a tool that is there for us to use when companies are looking for a high standard of potential employees.

"They listen to what you have to say in

terms of job specification information, recognise our needs and then identify the type of people we require. I am very proud to work with The Junction. By using The Junction, we are tapping into local talent and backing employees in the area."

The Junction has also struck up an effective relationship with Greencore Prepared Meals. Julia Matthews, HR Controller at Greencore, comments: "I cannot commend the staff at the Junction strongly enough to businesses. The Junction gives a superb, personal service. The Junction take a lot of the work off us at the beginning of the recruitment process, which alleviates a lot of the pressure on us as a business.

"They are at a standard where you know you are going to get an extremely competent recruit on-board and one of the most outstanding attributes of The Junction is that they follow through their initial work and keep themselves updated with their candidates."

The way in which The Junction's service works is simple, it works with the businesses identifying job vacancies that the employer would like to fill. These are then promoted through its partner organisations and networks.

There are three levels of support available:

- High vacancy businesses or businesses with ongoing recruitment needs
- Block recruitment or ongoing recruitment needs (Less volume than that above)
- Direct Applications (One Offs)

Once an individual has been placed in a role, The Junction will continue to offer its support by assisting the employer with workforce development, training and helping address any future recruitment issues that the business has.

The Junction is supported by the local, private sector-led Rotherham Work and Skills Board.

For more information on The Junction, call 01709 786 416 or visit www.thejunctionrotherham.co.uk.



The Junction General Manager Brian Coleman and Greencore HR Controller Julia Matthews

Save money with Rothercard

Is the credit crunch beginning to bite into your household budget? Are you finding that cash is tight, especially once all the Christmas bills have been paid?

If so why not sign up for a Rothercard and enjoy some savings on a whole range of goods and services?

Rothercard was launched in 1993 to give financial help to people on a low income by offering discounts on a range of council services.

The scheme also encourages local businesses to provide similar discounts on goods and leisure activities available in the borough.

Rothercard was originally targeted at people on means-tested benefits and their families and people on youth training schemes.

Now the scheme also includes those in receipt of a range of disability benefits, 16 to 19-year-olds in full-time education, the over-60s, looked after children and refugees and asylum seekers.

Rothercard has been a real success story for the council, as the rising numbers of card holders demonstrates.

In April 2002 there were 4,342 card holders – today that figure has almost trebled to 12,249.

"Rothercard is an excellent tool for supporting vulnerable people in Rotherham and for taking positive action to reduce social exclusion," said Cllr Ken Wyatt, Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Innovation.

"Rothercard helps us to improve the general health and quality of life of all Rotherham people through improved access to affordable leisure and retail opportunities."

Rothercard is included in the More Leisure 4 Less in South Yorkshire scheme which means Rotherham residents can get discounts in Sheffield, Doncaster and Barnsley too.

Rothercards are issued at 40 different locations across Rotherham. To find out where your nearest location is call the Rothercard Helpline on 01709 823644.



Recruitment Support for Local Businesses

The Junction is a free, specialised recruitment service for businesses located in Rotherham.

To find out how your business can take advantage of this service, contact: **The Junction**, All Saints Church Yard, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S65 1AA

TEL: 01709 786 416

The Junction has been developed by the local, private sector led Work and Skills Board.

www.thejunctionrotherham.co.uk



Robots revolutionise hospital pharmacy

The pharmacy at Rotherham General Hospital is using robots to cut waiting times and improve the efficiency of the service provided to patients and staff.

It's hoped the robots, which have been installed as part of a £1 million refurbishment, will revolutionise the dispensary process.

The previous pharmacy system had been virtually unchanged for the last 30 years with medications picked by hand from alphabetical shelved storage systems.

According to the Chief Pharmacist Ian Cawthorne this meant dispensing prescriptions could be time-consuming and lead to patients or wards waiting longer for their medication.

"The new robotic dispensary machines, which are about three metres high and seven metres long, will improve the turn-around-

time for prescriptions and reduce potential for human error," he explained.

"Although previously very few mistakes were made as we always double-check the medication, as long as the right information is entered into the computer in the first place the robots will virtually eliminate room for error in the future.

"The new technology also means that the department can better utilise employees and resources to meet the needs of service users."

With the pharmacy re-opening the temporary dispensary on 'A' level is being relocated back to the main facility on 'C' level.

"We are really pleased with the quality of the refit," said Ian. "It will make a considerable difference both to the way we work and to the service we can deliver to patients, the wards and the departments we serve."



The Listings

Rotherham Arts Centre, Walker Place. Box Office 01709 823621

- A Pleasing Terror Two Ghost Stories
Thursday 5 February, 7.30pm
- Poor Jack – Children's Theatre
Saturday 7 February, 2.30pm

Rotherham Civic Theatre, Caroline Street. Box Office 01709 823621

- Coppelia, McMahon School of Ballet
and Theatre Dance, Friday 6 to Saturday
7 February, 7.15pm & 2pm (Sat matinee)
- Count Arthur Strong
'The Man Behind The Smile'
Monday 9 February, 8pm
- Paul Daniels 'Musical Magic'
Tuesday 10 February, 7.30pm

Clifton Park Museum, Clifton Lane. Tel 01709 336633

- Smugglers at Whitby Abbey, Octagonal
Room, from 10 January to 25 June.
Step into the picture with a 3D
representation of the painting 'Smugglers
at Whitby Abbey', created as part of the
Renaissance Partnerships Project.
- Conservation in the Courtyard,
Thursday 15 January & 12 February.
Come and watch the Museum's
Conservator while she restores some
of the Museums objects.
- The Smugglers at Clifton Park
Museum, Saturday 24 January, 11am
–3pm. Join museum staff for a day of
smugglers and treasure hunting, with a
drama performance, family activity and
museum trail.
- The Walker Children Painting, Saturday
14 February. The painting of Jonathan
and Mary Walker of Ferham returns to
Clifton Museum after being conserved.

Outdoor (for more information call 01709 822453)

- Love Nests – Bird box workshop,
Herringthorpe Valley Park, Saturday 14
February, drop in between 10am & 2pm. £3

Sport (for more information call 01709 822453)

- Monday Multi-sport Club, 5-14yrs,
Mondays, 4.15pm-5.45pm, Rotherham
Leisure Complex. £2.50
- Rotherham Rockets Athletics, 5-12yrs,
Tuesdays, 4.30pm-5.30pm, Saturdays,

10am-11.30am, Rotherham Leisure
Complex. Cost tbc

- Eastwood Multi-sport Club, 8+,
Tuesdays, time & venue tbc. Free
- Ferham Rockets Athletics, 5-12yrs,
Wednesdays until December 10,
3.30pm-4.30pm, The Ferham Centre. £1.
- Thrybergh Rockets Athletics, 5-12yrs.
Wednesdays, 5pm-6pm, Thrybergh
Sports Centre. £1.50
- Cheerleading, 5-14yrs. Thursdays, 5pm-
6pm, Rotherham Leisure Complex. £3
- Dinnington Rockets Athletics, 5-12yrs.
Thursdays, 4.30pm-5.30pm, Dinnington
Comprehensive School. £1.50
- Rawmarsh Rosehill Multi-sport Club, 5-
7yrs and 8-12yrs. Thursdays, 5.30pm-
6.30pm. Rawmarsh Rosehill Junior
School (in the sports hall). £1.50
- Clifton Multi-sport Club, 5-7yrs and 8-
16yrs. Saturdays, 10am-11am. Cranworth
Rd Campus, Cranworth Rd. 50p
- Wath Multi-sport Club, 5-7yrs and 8-
12yrs. Saturdays, 10am-12noon. St Pius
Community Sport Hall. £2
- Dinnington Multi-sport Club, 5-7yrs and
8-12yrs. Saturdays, 10am-12noon.
Dinnington Comprehensive School. £1.50

Active Ability (physical activity for people with a disability, for more information call 01709 822479)

- Multi-sport Academy, 11-16yrs,
Wednesdays & Thursdays, 4pm-5pm,
Rotherham Leisure Complex. £1
- Adult Multi-sport Club, 16+,
Wednesdays, times vary, please call for
information. Rotherham Leisure
Complex. £2.

Health & Fitness (for more information call 01709 822453)

- Tai Chi Class, 16+, Mondays, 10.30am-
11.30am. Kimberworth Park
Community Centre. £3.50
- Active Always Keep Moving, 50+,
Mondays, 10.30am-11.30am, Highfield
Court, Fitzwilliam Street. £1.50/£2
- Steps to Health Walking Club for All,
Mondays, 10am-11am, Wednesdays,
6pm-7pm, Saturdays, 10am-11am,
Herringthorpe Stadium. £1
- Active Always, 50+, Mondays, 1pm-2pm,
Anston Parish Hall. £1.50
- Active Always Keep Moving, 50+,

Mondays, 1.45pm-2.45pm, Heighten
View Scheme Centre, Aston. £1.50/£2

- Shape & Tone, 16+, Mondays, 6pm-7pm,
St John's Church Kimberworth Park.
£1.50
- Yoga Class, 16+, Tuesdays, 10am-
11.30am, Kimberworth Park
Community Centre. £3.50
- Active Always, 50+, Tuesdays, 10am-
11am, Todwick Village Hall. £2
- Active Always, 50+, Tuesdays, 10.15am-
11.15am, Thurcroft Junior School. £1.50
- Active Always Keep Moving, 50+,
Tuesdays, 12 noon-1pm, Rawmarsh. £1/£2
- Active Always Keep Moving, 50+,
Tuesdays, 1pm-2pm, Victoria Court
Kiveton Park. £1.50
- Active Always, 50+, Tuesdays, 2.30pm-
3.30pm, Methodist Church, Lister
Street, Clifton. £2
- Active Always Keep Moving, 50+,
Wednesdays, 10am-11am, Vulcan House
Clifton. £1/£2
- Active Always Steps to Health Walking
Club, 16+, Wednesdays, 10am-11.30am,
St John's Church Kimberworth Park. £1
- Active Always Keep Moving, 50+,
Wednesdays, 2pm-3pm, The Grange,
Rotherham Road. £1.50/£2
- Pilates Class, 50+, Wednesdays, 6.30pm-
7.30pm, Forty Martyrs Church Hall
Kimberworth Park. £1.50
- Active Always Keep Moving, 50+,
Thursdays, 10am-11am, Viking Way
Kiveton Park. £1.50
- Active Always, 50+, Thursdays, 10am-
11am, Forty Martyrs Church Hall,
Kimberworth Park. £1.50
- Active Always Keep Moving, 50+,
Thursdays, 10.30am-11.30am, Brundish
House, Braithwell Road. £1.50/£2
- Active Always Keep Moving, 50+,
Thursdays, 12 noon-1pm, Apollo Street,
Rawmarsh. £1/£2
- Active Always, 50+, Thursdays, 1.15pm-
2.15pm, Reach Building Ferham. £2
- Herringthorpe Sport Village Jogging
Club for All, Thursdays, 6pm-7pm,
Herringthorpe Stadium. £1
- Wath Body Blitz, 14+, Thursdays,
7.30pm-8.30pm, St Pius Community
Sports Hall. £2.50
- Active Always Keep Moving, 50+, Friday,
1.30pm-2.30pm, Francis Howlett Scheme
Centre, Howlett Close, Whiston. £1.50/£2

Library

All libraries run a programme of computer taster sessions and reader groups as well as occasional special events. Please contact the library for further information by phone or website: www.rotherham.gov.uk/libraries.

Aston 0114 287 4225

- Friday, Free Rhymetime session for
under 5s, 10.30am-11am

Central 01709 823606

- Monday Free Rhymetime session for
under 5s, 3pm-3.20pm
- Saturday Free Storytelling session for
5yrs+, 11.30am-12 noon & 2pm-2.30pm

Dinnington 01909 562329

- Monday Free Rhymetime session for
under 5s with Storytime to follow,
2pm-2.45pm followed by craft activity
- Friday Free Rhymetime session for
under 5s, 2pm-2.30pm
- Thursdays Storyclub for 5-8 yrs,
4pm-5pm with craft /computer
activity

Greasbrough 01709 551477

- Friday Free Rhymetime session for
under 5s, 10am-10.30am

Kimberworth 01709 558581

- Friday Free Rhymetime session for
under 5s, 2pm-2.30pm

Kiveton Park 01909 771823

- Thursday Free Rhymetime session for
under 5s, 2pm-2.30pm

Maltby 01709 812150

- Friday Free Rhymetime session for
under 5s, 9.30am-10am

Rawmarsh 01709 522588

- Friday Free Rhymetime session for
under 5s, 11am-11.30am

Swinton 01709 583116

- Friday, Free Rhymetime session for
under 5s, 2.15pm-2.45pm

Thurcroft 01709 546150

- Monday Craft session & story for 6-
11yrs, 3.15pm
- Tuesday IT classes for all, 10.30am-
11.30am
- Thursday Free Rhymetime session for
under 5s 10am-10.30am

Wath 01709 873542

- Tuesday Free Rhymetime session for
under 5s, 11am-11.30am

Wickersley 01709 544134

- Friday Free Rhymetime session for
under 5s, 2pm-2.45pm

Turning back the clock for charity



Proving that all the girls love a man in uniform is Trevor Richard who was joined on the fabulous evening of mystery and intrigue by Anne Brownell (left) and SAFE@LAST committee member Christine Ayres

Fund-raisers turned the clock back more than half a century when they staged a Dad's Army themed murder mystery evening at Whiston Manorial Barn.

Almost 150 guests donned 1940s costumes at the fund-raiser which raised around £2,500 for SAFE@LAST, the Rotherham charity helping children who run away from home.

Professional murder mystery troupe Dial M for Murder staged a Dad's Army whodunnit and guests enjoyed a pie and pea supper followed by trifle courtesy of Mrs Eileen Kent from Maltby.

There was also a charity auction at which one of the lots was a bottle of House of Commons whisky signed by the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown.

"It was a terrific evening and everyone made a real effort to get into the Blitz spirit," said organiser Christine Ayres.

"Most people who came along had dressed up in the costume of the time – we had soldiers, Land Army girls, ladies of the manor and even a young army lad in camouflage and a little beret!"

Volunteers Jo Wright and Debbie Clayton

borrowed the Union Jack flag from Rotherham Town Hall and decorated the venue with red, white and blue bunting.

Dial M for Murder waived half their usual fee for the night and Whiston Parish Council are to make a donation to SAFE@LAST.

SAFE@LAST is a charity based in Dinnington which works with young people under 16 who are at risk because

they have run away from or been thrown out of their home.

It provides a free helpline and emergency response, awareness training in schools, liaison work with South Yorkshire Police missing persons team and the SAFE@LAST children's rescue centre in South Yorkshire which is one of only three in the country.

Call SAFE@LAST in confidence on 0800 335 SAFE or visit www.safeatlast.org.uk

Rock band raises the church roof

Christian rock band The Paul Poulton Project entertained an appreciative audience at the Herringthorpe United Reformed Church in Rotherham just before Christmas.

The band played the free concert as part of their national tour of UK churches and gave traditional carols and Christmas songs an R&B, rock, reggae and blues twist. The concert was the band's only appearance in South Yorkshire and was staged not only to celebrate Christmas in style but also to attract younger people into the congregation. The Herringthorpe United Reformed Church also hosts a free men's breakfast meeting on the first Saturday of each month.



Providing the entertainment at Herringthorpe United Reform Church was Paul Poulton of The Paul Poulton Project

College takes green issues to heart

Friends of the earth at Dearne Valley College are taking giant steps to encourage staff, students and academics to take green issues to heart and reduce their carbon footprint.

Every year to celebrate Earth Day the HEART (Health and Environment Awareness Raising) Team at Dearne Valley College, formerly known as the Green Team, organises a whole range of events from tree planting to treasure hunts in a bid to get more people to live greener, healthier lives.

The college's Head of Estates and Retail Services Paul Edwards explained: "In 2005 we formed a group called the Green Team which was made up of senior managers, staff, students and members of the public to organise the first ever Earth Week. It was such a success that it has become an annual event.

"Since then, however, the week-long event has evolved and is no longer just about protecting the environment. We have changed our name from the Green Team to the HEART Team as we also want to use the week to encourage healthy eating, exercise and charitable activities."

Last year some of the activities included planting trees and shrubs around the campus, collecting unwanted clothing to give to the Red Cross and giving away free bottles of mineral water in conjunction with Coca-Cola.

Mount Pleasant Kennels also got involved by staffing a stall on the campus and putting up photographs of dogs they are struggling to re-home. People were then encouraged to donate dog food and blankets and if possible, persuade their parents to adopt a dog!

This year Earth Week is being held from May 11 to 21 but the college is keen to promote being green all year round. College Principal Sue Ransom has signed up to the

Green College campaign organised by the Association of Colleges (AoC) in partnership with the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges.

The college's recycling bins have been relocated to a more prominent position at the front of the building to encourage people to recycle on a daily basis. The college has also donated paths which run through the 45-acre campus to the council so that they become public rights of way.

Paul explained: "We really want to continue to increase student involvement in green issues as it always seems to be someone else's problem. Often people aren't aware of the impact their actions have on other people's lives as well as on the environment.

"We have a saying here that we should keep a balance between green and grey; if we take away an area to build we reserve another area to keep green."



Recycling by the estates team at Dearne Valley College, from left: Andy Fotherby, Mick Oxley and Paul O'Neill

Rotherham Major Incident Response

Working together to protect our Communities

Would you like to know what to do if ...
You were evacuated from your home due to a Chemical Fire or Flood?

Want to find out more.....

The Councils Emergency and Safety Team along with the Area Assemblies wish to invite you to learn more about Emergency Planning in the Community.

We have 3 Workshops which include presentation by the Emergency Services and NHS these are taking place as follows:

28 January 2009 at the Gordon Bennett Memorial Hall, Greenharbour Road, Thurcroft, Rotherham from 10.00 am

17 February 2009 at Silverwood Miners Welfare, Doncaster Road, Rotherham from 1.00 pm

7 April 2009 at Rotherham Town Hall, The Crofts, Moorgate Street, Rotherham from 6.30 pm

Each Session will last approximately 2 hours

For Further information contact the Emergency and Safety Team on 01709 823878 or your Area Assembly Office.



Community Facilitators - helping to support others with independent living

This month's Rotherham Borough Council's recruitment spotlight falls on RMBC's team of Community Facilitators. Read on to find out if it could be just what you are looking for, as posts are currently being advertised.

What is a community facilitator & who will I work with?

A Community Facilitator works with adults who have a learning disability. Some service users may have other difficulties including autism, physical disabilities, sensory impairment, health and emotional needs, mobility problems, communication difficulties, behaviours which challenge and some may require high levels of support with their personal care. Other service users are more independent in terms of accessing community services and facilities, and in undertaking supported employment.

Who can apply to be a community facilitator and what qualifications/experience do I need?

We have staff from all walks of life, both qualified & unqualified. Whilst direct experience is not essential you will need to demonstrate an enthusiasm for the job and

that you have the necessary personal skills and qualities. The nature of the work means that you will need to have a satisfactory enhanced criminal records check.

What are those essential skills and qualities?

You will need to be able to communicate confidently with service users in a sensitive way, demonstrating respect & an understanding of their needs. You must be self-motivated and also be able to motivate and stimulate service users as they undertake a wide spectrum of activities. You will be self-confident and able to respond to the unexpected, using your own initiative when required. You will need to demonstrate a good level of written skills to enable you to complete paperwork to the required standard.

Most importantly you need to have a real desire to be involved with, and share the lives of, people with a learning disability.

What sort of activities could I be doing?

We are constantly developing our programme and introducing new activities, and we welcome staff with skills and ideas to offer. We currently provide a wide range of

activities, such as supporting people in the community with road safety, shopping, visiting local leisure facilities including ten pin bowling, swimming and hydrotherapy. Other activities may include arts & crafts, music, dance, drama, woodwork, baking, chocolate-making, communication, creative writing, physiotherapy, and positional exercises.. There are also some successful work/employment-based activities incorporating both horticulture and a print workshop.

What responsibilities will I have?

As a key worker, you will be responsible, after the appropriate training, to facilitate, record and implement and review service users' own person-centred plans, behavioural strategies and risk assessments. You will liaise with parents/carers and other professionals as required. Throughout the day you will maintain the health, safety and well-being of service users in your care in a positive, professional way adhering to policies and procedures. Your written English and record-keeping will need to be of a high standard.

What development & training opportunities are available?

All newly-appointed staff undertake a two-week induction course, and have an annual

personal development plan. We also undertake NVQ3 qualifications in Health and Social Care and our staff receive regular support & supervision from their line managers.



The roles of a Community Facilitator can be many and varied. Above: Enjoying a baking session
Clockwise, from left: Potting in the greenhouse; Enjoying a swim; Helping to put on a show; Helping with physiotherapy and exercises





Your Council Your Career Your Future

- Job satisfaction • Security • Unmatched benefits • A huge range of opportunities
- Equal opportunities employer • Excellent rates of pay • Generous holiday entitlement
- Flexible hours • Final salary pension • Healthcare support • Training and development

OUR CURRENT VACANCIES INCLUDE:

Social Worker - Mental Health*

£21,937 - £30,456 pa, 37 hpw • Ref: NAS250/RN
CLOSING DATE: Noon, 30th January 2009.

Children's Centre Lead Teacher (3 Posts)*

Flanderwell Primary School
Redscope Primary School
Swinton Brookfield Primary School
£35,256 - £38,579 pa, Permanent •
Ref: CYP990/RN

CLOSING DATE: Noon, 30th January 2009.
INTERVIEW DATE: 12th February 2009.

Health and Safety Officers (2 Posts)

£25,146 - £27,492 pa pro rata
Post 1: Buildings, Plant and Equipment,
37 hpw • Ref: ED0450/RN
Post 2: Asbestos Management, 18.5 hpw,
Temporary for 12 months • Ref: ED0454/RN
CLOSING DATE: Noon, 30th January 2009.

General Kitchen Assistant*

Based at St Thomas C.E (Kilnhurst) School
Kitchen
£6.18- £6.35 ph, Part-Time, Permanent,
8.75 hpw, Term Time only • Ref: CYP998/RN
CLOSING DATE: Noon, 30th January 2009.

Business Change Analyst

£25,146 - £34,107 pa • Ref: RB0211/RN
CLOSING DATE: Noon, 30th January 2009.
INTERVIEW DATE: w/c 2nd February 2009.

Driver/Trainer*

£24,545 - £26,835 pa, 37 hpw • Ref: ED0451/RN
CLOSING DATE: Noon, 30th January 2009.

Community Facilitators - Learning Disability Service*

Unqualified £16,941 - £18,882 pa pro rata,
Qualified £19,370 - £21,244 pa pro rata,
Full Time and Part-Time • Ref: NAS246/RN

We require staff to work with people with complex needs plus other specialist staff in areas including: musical drama/theatre, audio visual technology, general music skills, creative skills, sewing and theatre costume design, sporting activities, community work and on a horticultural employment project. We are also interested if you have other skills to offer. For further information, telephone Jeanette Green on (01709) 872225.

CLOSING DATE: Noon, 26th January 2009.

Seasonal Games Attendant Summer (14 Posts) • Ref: ED0452/RN

Peripatetic Seasonal Games Attendant Summer • Ref: ED0453/RN

Wage: £6.52 ph
CLOSING DATE: Noon, 30th January 2009,
ANTICIPATED INTERVIEW DATES:
24th February 2009 and 25th February 2009.

Neighbourhood Transformation Manager*

£41,083 - £43,964 pa, 37 hpw • Ref: NAS251/RN
CLOSING DATE: Noon, 26th January 2009,
INTERVIEW DATE: w/c 2nd February 2009.

Transitions Officer*

£24,545 - £26,835 pa pro rata, 35 hpw, Term
Time Only, Permanent • Ref: CYP999/RN
CLOSING DATE: Noon, 27th January 2009,
INTERVIEW DATE: 2nd February 2009.

0-7 Partnership Project Lead Officer*

£28,270 - £30,456 pa, 37 hpw, Full Time •
Ref: CYP1000/RN
CLOSING DATE: Noon, 30th January 2009.

0-7 Project Data Analysis Officer*

£25,146 - £27,492 pa, 37 hpw, Full Time •
Ref: CYP1001/RN
CLOSING DATE: Noon, 30th January 2009.

0-7 Project Support Officer

£15,524 - £16,614 pa, 37 hpw, Permanent •
Ref: CYP1002/RN
CLOSING DATE: Noon, 30th January 2009.

Cleaner in Charge

£12,592 - £13,382 pa, 10 hpw • Ref: ED0455/RN
CLOSING DATE: Noon, 30th January 2009.

Unit Catering Manager*

Wales High School.
£16,941 - £18,882 pa, 37 hpw • Ref: CYP1003/RN
No specific closing date applies.

Cleaning Operatives

Wage: £6.19 - £6.37 ph • Ref: CL001/123/RN
No specific closing date applies.

School Crossing Patrols

Wage: £6.52 - £6.93 ph • Ref: ED0123/RN
No specific closing date applies.

*These posts involve working with children/vulnerable adults and therefore if successful you will be required to apply for a disclosure of criminal records at an enhanced level. Further information about the Disclosure Scheme can be found at www.crb.gov.uk

For more information about the above posts, to see our full range of job opportunities and apply online, take a look at our website

www.rotherham.gov.uk/jobs

For an application pack please contact Rotherham Connect, quoting your name, address and the reference number via telephone (01709) 336001 between 8am & 8pm Monday to Friday, e-mail: jobline@rotherham.gov.uk or text 07781 485111.

We are committed to meeting the needs of our diverse community and aim to have a workforce reflecting this diversity. We are also committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.



Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council

Wickersley kids get a kick out of football

More girls and boys in Wickersley are being given the chance to play for their local junior football club thanks to a grant from South Yorkshire Police Authority.

Wickersley Youth Junior Football Club has launched two new girls' teams and a new boys' team using £1,500 of funding from the authority's ABC (A Better Community) Awards scheme.

Funding is given every year to community groups which support the police authority's objectives.

Bob Sanderson, Chairman of Wickersley Youth Junior Football Club, says the money

will help the club to provide a healthy activity for youngsters and teach them valuable life skills.

"It's been an absolute godsend to us - without the grant it would have been difficult for us to get the financial backing for three new teams," he said.

"This money is fantastic because it helps us to develop the infrastructure of the club."

The club's objectives go beyond simply putting teams out on the pitch, says Bob.

"We're trying to give kids a structured sporting activity to keep them off street corners and teach them the value of discipline and teamwork," he explained.

"Hopefully as they get older they will carry on playing football or other sports and won't get into trouble when they're teenagers."

The money provided by the police authority has been spent on new kits and basic equipment for the new girls' under 10 team, the new girls' under 9 team and the new boys' under 7 team.

It will also help to pay for equipment for a new football academy aimed at those aged five and over.



Above: Wickersley YJFC under ten girls team
Left: Action from the 3-0 win against Edlington Royals

Rugged round runners battle the elements

Chilly weather and torrential rain failed to dampen the spirits of the hardy athletes who took part in the annual Round Rotherham Run in December.

This year's 50-mile race through the South Yorkshire Forest attracted a record entry of 310 runners before the inclement weather prompted a number of athletes to withdraw on the day.

For the third year running Dearne Valley

College was the starting point for the race, which got off to an early start at 6am when the walkers set off along the gruelling course.

The 26th Round Rotherham Run was organised as usual by the Rotherham Harriers Athletics Club and attracted runners from all over the country.

The race counts as a qualifier for the Ultra-Trail du Mont Blanc and is therefore an important event for serious endurance runners.

"The race went very smoothly despite the weather," said organiser Sharon Burton.

"We had 245 starters but 75 dropped out before the end because of the weather - it poured with rain all day and some of the runners were getting very cold."

The men's winner was Paul Ward of Dewsbury Road Runners who finished in a time of 7:23:19.

The fastest woman was Alayne Malkin of the Trail Runners Association who finished in a time of 9:24:38.



Above: Paul Ward of Dewsbury Road Runners won the Round Rotherham Run
Top: Turnout was good despite the inclement weather

Youngsters are given a decent sporting chance

Youngsters in Maltby and Thrybergh are getting sportier thanks to the input of council housing management agency 2010 Rotherham Ltd and its partners.

The companies working together on the Decent Homes scheme (a Government initiative to bring all council homes up to standard) have teamed up with Active Regen, a company specialising in sports activity programmes targeting areas in greatest need.

The Active Regen sports activity programme is being held weekly at schools in Maltby and Thrybergh, providing lunchtime and after-school sports clubs.

Altogether 1,156 children have been taking part in activities including basketball, hockey, kwik cricket, orienteering, tag rugby and tennis.

Ramona Youhill, 2010 Rotherham's Assistant Director of Investment, said: "By promoting good health and wellbeing for our young residents in Maltby and Thrybergh we are laying the foundations for a more healthy and sustainable community for the future."

"The sports activities will develop children's self-confidence, team-working and communication skills and give them an

understanding of fairness and discipline through their engagement in sport and physical activity - all important skills for later life."

Based in Rotherham, Active Regen Ltd is a social enterprise which uses sport as a means to help thousands of youngsters in some of South Yorkshire's most deprived areas.

Encouraging people to take part in sport and physical activity has been recognised as an important way of engaging participants to overcome the social issues faced by these communities.

The companies involved in the Active Regen scheme are Bramall Construction, Rok, Henry Boot, Connaught, Anglian Windows, Yorkshire Windows and EC Harris.

Participating schools are High Greave Infants, High Greave Junior, St Gerrard's Catholic Primary, Thrybergh Primary, Dalton Foljambe Primary, Thrybergh Fullerton Primary, Trinity Croft Church of England, Redwood Junior & Infants, Craggs Infants, Craggs Junior, Lilly Hall Junior, Maltby Manor Junior and Thrybergh Comprehensive.



Taking part: promoting good health and wellbeing

NewsinBrief

PIRATES AHOY!

Rotherham Titans' next home rugby union fixture is a National One clash with fellow mid-table side Cornish Pirates.

The Pirates visit Clifton Lane on Saturday January 31. Kick-off is at 2pm.