

SAGE Greenfingers



Open Day brings blue skies

On August 10th, we welcomed members and friends of SAGE to our site for a day of activities. Local Councillor Jackie Drayton welcomed everyone with a speech about the importance of mental health and SAGE's impact on the local community. The day also included a treasure hunt (where people were required to dig deep into the ground to find hidden treasure), wax painting and willow weaving which was enjoyed by over 80 visitors. The event aimed to raise awareness but also offered members the opportunity to show their work to the public and friends. Many gathered across the three sites to enjoy sunshine and a singing session with the Monday Women's group. Funds were also raised through generous donations and the sale of flower cards. Amongst the attendees, one former NHS worker described the day as 'inspirational' and suggested projects like SAGE should be rolled out across the country.

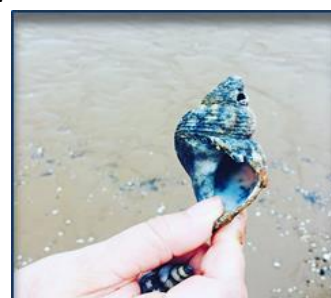
Singing Group Forge Dam Visit

The Monday Singing Group enjoyed a day out to Sheffield's Forge Dam where they walked, met for lunch and spent time by the riverside. The trip gave members and staff the chance to take a break from singing, enjoy the beautiful surroundings of the woods and take time to talk to each other. At lunchtime the singers gathered for a picnic and had the opportunity to talk about their progress and achievements. The singers couldn't stay quiet for long and to the delight of other passengers, the women sang on the bus on the way home!

Annual trip to Cleethorpes



All of the groups got off site and took a coach to Cleethorpes for the day. Daring members braced the sea while others enjoyed a walk to the Visitor's Centre, fish and chips and a train ride along the seafront. This gave members the opportunity to spend time with different group members and staff as well the time to see a different place. After a day on the beach, the team finished with a quiz on the coach home.





Apple Pressing Event

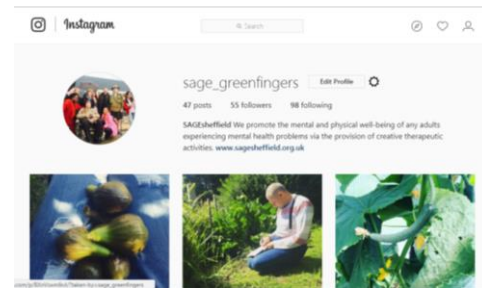
On 13th Sept SAGE will be partnering Wild at Heart to run an apple pressing group. Meeting at the allotment, the group will tour the site and then meet to wash, core and press apples to create fresh juice. We are currently looking for apple donations so please contact Ruby if you have any spare apples: ruby@sagesheffield.org.uk

SAGE appoints a Community Fundraiser



Working closely with SAGE's Director, Ruby will work on a range of projects that aim to generate new income streams as well as establishing connections within the community. Her role will also include press, communications and PR. Social Media will be an essential part of the new thread of learning. Ruby joins SAGE with a background of corporate advertising, publishing and editorial writing. Ruby will be responsible for launching a new website and corporate partnerships across the city. She will also arrange fundraising events. Her role was made possible by core funding from Comic Relief.

SAGE joins Instagram and relaunches Facebook



We have been busy updating our digital content and making sure we have a presence on all social media platforms. To make this effective, we have launched a new Instagram account, which can be found by searching @SAGE_Greenfingers – there you will find a range of photos that follow our progress and document our events. We have also relaunches the Facebook group and you can find it by searching SAGE Greenfingers Sheffield. Here there are lots of behind the scenes photos and updates about events, vacancies and ongoing projects.

Burngreave Messenger Community Awards



Our volunteers have been rewarded for all of their hard work by receiving a Burngreave Community Award which celebrates their commitment and dedication. Presented by local councillors, the event took place in Sheffield Hall. SAGE's Director, Dianna Tottle also won an award for her contributions to the team and her ongoing work within the community of Burngreave.

It never rains but it pours

In recent years a performance by Mikron travelling theatre company has become a regular fixture in SAGE's calendar and up to now we've been lucky with the weather. This year our luck changed and the heavens opened! But nevertheless the show went on – simply transferred to St James church a fantastic local community space. The play's theme of RNLI felt quite appropriate with the cast regularly donning heavy duty waterproofs as rain thundered on the roof outside! But our audience of over 120 were nice and cosy – fortified by teas, cakes and hot dogs. Not only did all enjoy a fantastic evening but we made over £400 matched by a Lloyds Bank Foundation volunteer to bring in a whopping £800. We're very glad we didn't cancel!



Mikron cast dressed for the weather!!!

Comic Relief pay SAGE a visit

In early summer the newly appointed Grants Director of Comic Relief Ruth Rutherford and UK Grants Director Gilly Green visited SAGE to see where the funding had been spent. They are currently funding our Community Fundraiser. The women spent the morning on site with members before tucking into lunch with the group. They ate produce picked from the plots and enjoyed the views over the city.

Transforming houses into homes!



Over the last 6 months SAGE has continued its roll out of horticultural therapy to other organisations by supporting City Hearts, a charity supporting trafficked adults. Over 14 weeks we helped the men's safe house set up new growing beds, a mini greenhouse and cold frames. Though numbers were quite small there was huge enthusiasm amongst highly stressed residents with very poor English. Staff commented on the calming influence of productive physical labour and the fact the house had become more like a home now that people could cook food they'd grown and flowers beautified the front and back gardens. At City Hearts' request SAGE is now transferring its input to the women's safe house where women are already attacking weeds with a vengeance!

Dates for your diary

October 10th - World Mental Health Day
– visit our *website for our plans*

www.sagesheffield.org.uk

December 7th – Volunteers' Christmas Social

December 18th – Members' Christmas trip