

SHEFFIELD MATTERS

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE HOPE NOT HATE CAMPAIGN

HOPE
HATE

COME AND HAVE A GO...

BOXING LEGENDS IN CONCORD PARK!

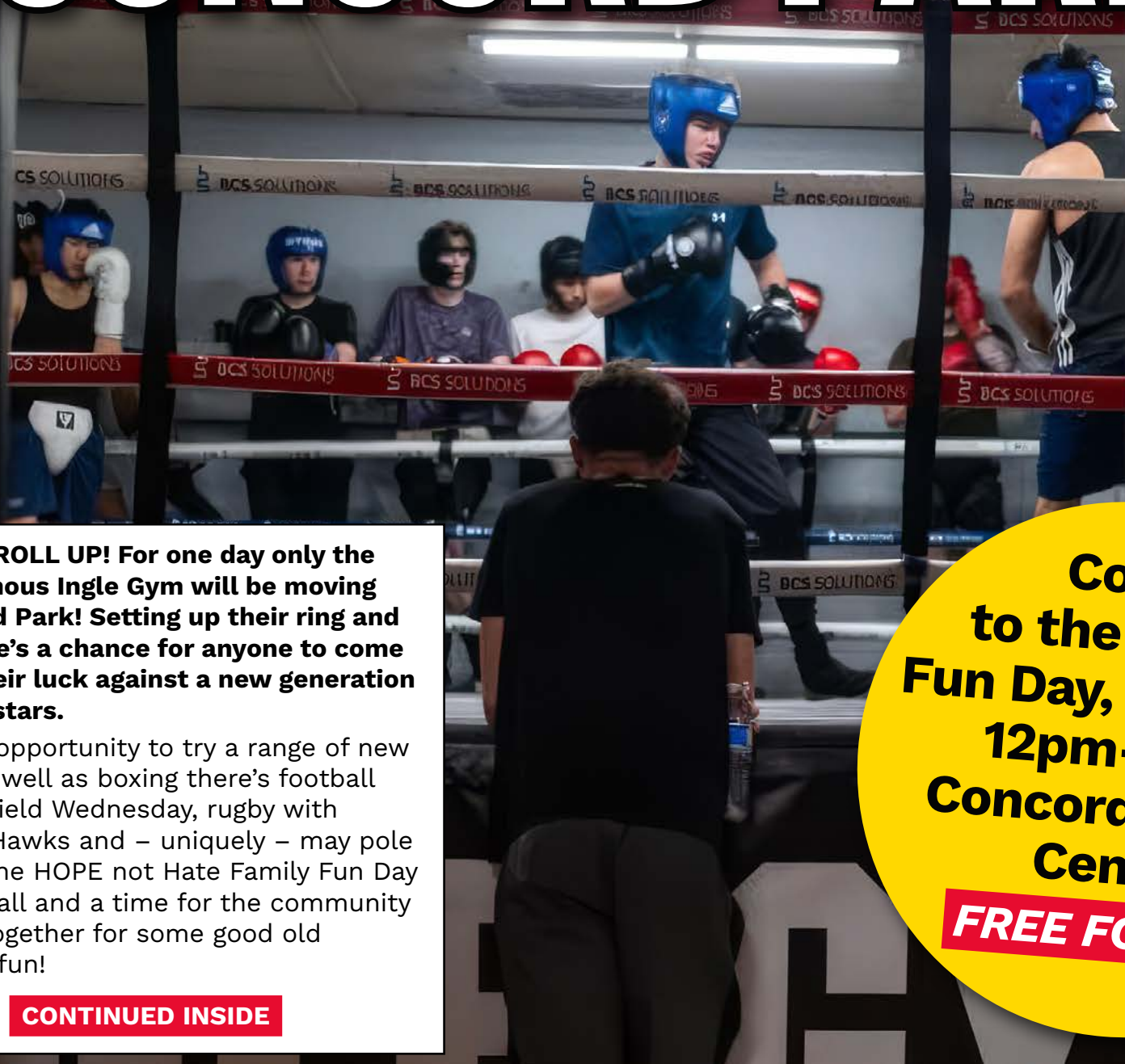
ROLL UP! ROLL UP! For one day only the world-famous Ingle Gym will be moving to Concord Park! Setting up their ring and ropes, here's a chance for anyone to come and try their luck against a new generation of boxing stars.

This is an opportunity to try a range of new skills – as well as boxing there's football with Sheffield Wednesday, rugby with Sheffield Hawks and – uniquely – may pole dancing! The HOPE not Hate Family Fun Day is free for all and a time for the community to come together for some good old fashioned fun!

CONTINUED INSIDE

**Come
to the Family
Fun Day, April 9th,
12pm-2pm,
Concord Sports
Centre**

FREE FOR ALL



SHEFFIELD MATTERS

A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

NOT EVERYTHING'S PERFECT. We know that and so do you. The spiralling cost of living, exacerbated by foreign wars and a host of other issues, is causing families to struggle, making this a difficult and challenging time for many of us. But it's how we deal with such times that becomes the hallmark of who we are. There are those, most prominently Reform UK, who want to use these difficult times to make divisions worse – and to create new divisions between us for the sake of narrow political advantage.

Farage has been playing this game for decades. Put simply, he is a grifter who stokes division for his own benefit. A snake-oil salesman who cares not one jot for the chaos he leaves behind.

There is, however, another way. A better way. And that is for communities to come together, working to make life easier, being determined to leave no one behind, and being clear that scapegoating and racism are not the answer.

We are certain that the overwhelming majority of people in Sheffield reject the racism and hatred of Reform and want to live in harmony, peacefully with their neighbours. We hope this paper will give you a little insight into just how much good work is going on in Sheffield by local people determined to build a better future based on friendship and respect.

Let us together reject the politics of hate in May's elections and redouble our efforts to make our city a beacon of hope.

Scan here for a digital copy of your local HOPE not Hate paper



Email us:
campaigns@hopenothate.org.uk



CONCORD PARK A COMMUNITY GEM

“I GREW up in the area. I’ve raised my children in the area, and use the park most days. It holds lots of happy memories.” So says Margaret, Chair of Friends of Concord Park and Woolley Woods (FOCPWW). “But it was in need of TLC.”

Under her leadership, the FOCPWW was formed in 2022. Despite their small size, the dedicated committee has consistently worked to meet the needs of the community, ensuring the park remains a welcoming and beloved space for everyone.

Beyond their regular litter picking and improvement work, FOCPWW brings the park to life with a variety of events. Over the past year, they’ve delivered 50 sessions of their weekly Knit & Natter social club, a registered Welcoming Place offering a friendly and consistent space for people to connect and feel part of something.

They’ve also hosted 19 free community events, including seaside trips, summer sports days, Easter celebrations, nature walks, bulb planting, farm visits and their much-loved annual Lantern Parade, complete with lantern-making workshops. Wherever possible, their sessions include free food and drinks, ensuring everyone feels included during ongoing cost-of-living challenges.

FOCPWW is a true community asset,

caring for green spaces and creating opportunities for people of all ages to connect, feel welcome and take pride in their neighbourhood.

“If we don’t give our time, nobody else will,” says Margaret.

Check out their Facebook page for details of events and how to help.

ALL-WHEELS AT CONCORD PARK!

Local councillors have been working with Access Sport and the Friends of Concord Park and Woolley Wood to develop a proposal for an all-wheels cycle facility at Concord Park, on the former bowling green.

This will be similar to the track in Hillsborough Park. Children and adults without their own wheels will be able to borrow bikes, so it will be open to all.

Get involved by reviewing the design and completing our short survey to share your feedback on the final proposed plans. The facility is being designed for scooter, bike, and skate users of all ages and abilities.

■ **Take the survey and have your say here: haveyoursay.sheffield.gov.uk/concord-park**

BACK FROM THE DEAD! RIVER DON INSPIRES

NOT MANY things come back from the dead... but Sheffield and the Wincobank area has its very own miracle: the River Don.

So polluted and damaged, it was officially classed as dead in the 1970s. But after sustained, ongoing hard work, the river life has come back: a baby salmon was even seen last summer.

"We believe it's the first time an Atlantic salmon has spawned here in 200 years!" Simon Ogden, river activist and former Secretary of the Five Weirs Walk Trust, is visibly thrilled. "It's a keystone species," he explains.

"Once the salmon comes, so do many other animals, birds and insects. Otters and herons are back too."

It's been a labour of love: the activists have campaigned to stop pollution, open up the weirs, and make the river more accessible.

Volunteers have physically cleaned up sections of the river in rain or shine for twenty years. Kate Reece is a member of the Blue Loop group that works on the Lower Don from Blonk Street to Meadowhall. She joined upon retirement to stay fit and make new friends. "We are so far from the sea here and have to make the most of our rivers," she explains. "It's hard work but we are very proud."

One local resident and volunteer, Bridget Ingle, remembers when you couldn't even get to the river. "It's wonderful to see kingfishers now, but it's a bigger story too." Litter and debris increased the impact of the flooding here by blocking the bridges and causing overspill into businesses, with devastating effect, especially in 2007. Cleaning up helps local businesses,



Photo: Don catchment rivertrust

as well as the natural world. It's part of a national story too: anyone who has seen the Channel 4 TV drama *Dirty Business* knows that water pollution has been a scandal in the making since the privatisation of water in the 1980s. Paul Winks, an angler, has been volunteering on the Don

since 2016. "The good news is that the water companies are being forced to listen." He used to write to Yorkshire Water about sewage overflow, and was routinely ignored. Recently, however, he has started to see some improvements. "Our persistence is paying off."

Volunteers are supported by Sheffield's unique social enterprise, the River Stewardship Company (RSC), both directly and through their charitable arm "Riverlution".

CAN YOU HELP?

■ Try theblueloop@gmail.com or www.the-rsc.co.uk

LITTER-PICKING PRIDE!

47 BAGS of litter in four hours... it must be a record! But to Cheryl Lloyd of the Wincobank Litter Pickers, it's just another day volunteering in the area she loves. "It is so satisfying to look back at what you have done." For Cheryl, there are multiple benefits: it gets you out, takes your mind off stress, and gives you a real sense of pride. "Every time, people stop and thank you for what you're doing."

Cheryl has seen litter get worse as takeaway culture has risen. Fast-food packaging accounts for roughly one-third of all litter, with an estimated 500,000 coffee cups littered daily

in the UK. "It's shocking when you see rubbish just thrown out of car windows."

But all over Sheffield, there are groups of litter-pickers doing this heroic work. It wasn't always easy, but now the council are on board too: volunteers can get gloves, bags and a litter-pick stick from local libraries, and refuse trucks will collect the bags if they are left by a public bin.

Cheryl invites anyone to come and join. "Bring the kids too! It's the best way to learn you shouldn't drop litter!" Go to Facebook and find your area's litter-picking page.



WINCOBANK HILL

A UNIQUE BIT OF ENGLAND



25 YEARS AGO, Wincobank Hill was a no-go-area. “You didn’t notice it if you grew up here,” says Danny Allsebrook, “but visitors would take one look and refuse to go.” Littered with burnt-out cars, fly-tips and drug detritus, it was a centre for anti-social behaviour. In 2003, the Friends of Wincobank Hill (FoWH) community group set out to clean up a very special place.

Sitting 525 feet above sea level, Wincobank Hill is known for fantastic views, but you may not have been aware that the 2.5-acre site is also an Iron Age hill fort. Despite being on Historic England’s National Heritage list, the hill had been horribly neglected. Now, it is rid

of rusty vehicles, and its brambles have been cut back. Young trees have been planted, and bluebells bloom. “Because of its position,” Danny explains, “it touches Wincobank, Fir Vale, Grimesthorpe and Firth Park, and is used by all those communities.” The FoWH organise events that actively welcome people from all over north-east Sheffield.

Fiona Trigg described last winter’s “Light up the Hill” festival as a beautiful event. “Everyone was learning about the history of the Hill, its beauty and why we all have to protect it.” An artist, Hayley Alessi, worked with more than 200 children to create lanterns that were paraded at dusk, alongside

musicians and pipers. Danny believes the history is as important as the wildlife. He is very proud of the work the group does at the Hill Fort Primary Schools. “We have a spectacular Iron Age site on our doorstep. The Brigantes tribes, with their own Queen Cartimandua, settled here, farmed here, and loved it enough to build a fort. We are all ancestors of that. Wherever we herald from, this is a special place to be now.” “But the ongoing hard work has to be kept up,” rues Danny. “Join our Facebook page: Wincobank Hill Friends and see when we are out next. It’s a great day spent in nature, getting fit and helping preserve a unique bit of England!”

DID YOU KNOW WINCOBANK HILL...

- Is one in a series along a line from sea to sea marking the start of the Brigantian territory.
- The only hill fort in England within a major city boundary.
- Overlooks Templeborough where a Roman fort (now Magna Centre) was situated to establish control over the River Don crossing.
- Has been a silent guardian of Northern people for over 2000 years. The hill has seen battles with the Romans, Saxons and Vikings, and later during the English civil war. More recently, the gun stands established during WWI were used in both wars to protect the industry in the valley.

NB: the Hill is a protected monument; metal-detecting is prohibited and is enforceable by law.



HARD GRAFT OPENS DOORS!



UP TO YOU! This is an official call out from the Wincobank Chapel Organisers: what do you want to see happen in the building? What would you use? And how could you get involved in helping?

There will be an official open day on 4th April – drop in for coffee and see for yourself.

wincobankchapel.org

AT LAST! After years of hard work, the Chapel House of Wincobank is opening its doors for the community, complete with a watertight roof, safe flooring, and fresh paint. Generous donations – in funds and physical graft – have been crucial: “So many people came to help. They rolled up their sleeves, literally grabbed a paint brush and have turned this building into a lovely space,” says trustee Penny Rea.

Inside are rooms for community meetings, classes, support groups and coffee mornings. “A way,” as Penny explains, “to extend the services we already offer as a community hub.” But what those are is up to you!

“We would love more people to get involved, tell us what they want, and help us make this a really useful, vibrant centre for everyone.”

Described by some as a “lifeline”, the independent Undenominational Chapel building itself provides a home for every age range: from the three month-old baby at the nursery group to the 90-year-olds dropping in for coffee mornings and mindfulness. They hold singing groups, craft workshops and courses for teens and young adults: Penny was especially proud of the work produced at the Start Stop Motion Animation course last year, and is keen to do more.



CHALLENGING HATE, BUILDING COMMUNITIES

HATE HOPE

HOPE not hate is Britain's leading anti-fascist and anti-racist organisation. We believe in the good in people, and that given the option, people will always choose HOPE over hate.

We want to build a Sheffield that is free from hate.

A Sheffield where young people can grow up with a decent future.

A Sheffield where people can be proud of who they are and communities that are strong and proud.

If you want to help us build that future, then please join us and together we can make HOPE not hate grow in Sheffield.

For more information, contact chrish@hopenohate.org.uk



COME AND HAVE A GO... BOXING LEGENDS IN CONCORD PARK!



FROM THEIR small gym on Newman Road, the Ingles have achieved the extraordinary. They have trained 16 British, nine European and seven world boxing champions including Johnny Nelson, Kid Galahad and two-time Olympic gold-medallist Nicola Adams.

Legendary trainer Brendan Ingle – founder of the family gym in 1964 – famously trained Prince Naseem to become the featherweight champion of the world. Indeed Ingle’s family are only just back

from the the red-carpet showings of the film *Giant*, which immortalises Naz’s story for the big screen. With Pierce Brosnan playing Brendan, Amir El-Masry playing Naseem and with Sylvester Stallone

The Family Fun Day will be in Concord Sports Centre, April 9th, 12pm-2pm
It is free and open to all!

as executive producer, the film has played across the country. The film tells the story of Naseem Hamed’s journey to success, but, as reviewer Mark Kermode said: “the

but there’s more to it than just fighting. In an exciting development, the Ingle Gym Foundation was created last year. “Boxing teaches controlled aggression, resilience, and respect,” says Luca. “But even beyond sport, it’s about building men who can handle setbacks without losing themselves.”

“As an example, every year we support the White Ribbon Campaign (to end violence against women and girls) as well as Dark Nights sessions with education.”

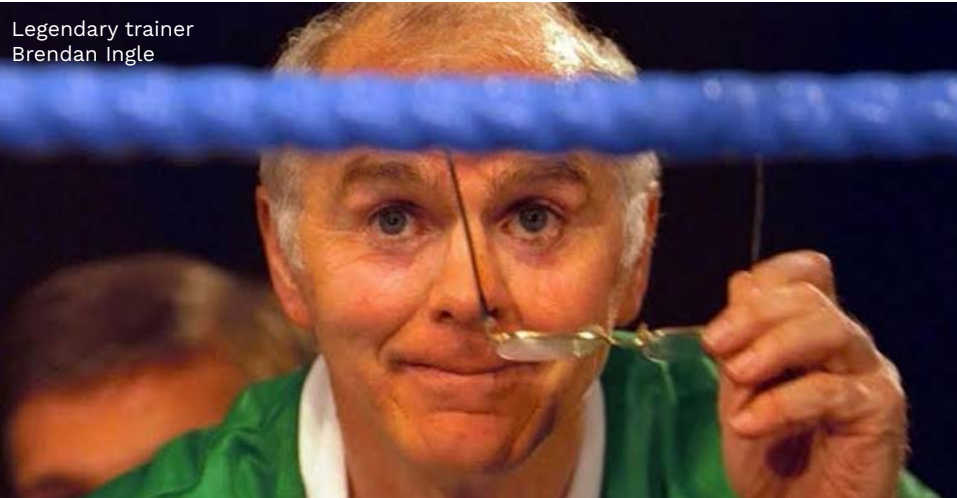
Giant of the title could actually be Brendan Ingle and the power of his belief in boxing to turn people’s lives around.” It’s this belief that is still the heart and soul of the Ingle Gym, despite Brendan’s passing in 2018.

The gym is still very much a family affair, with Dom and John Ingle training both amateurs and professionals, with support from John’s sons Luca and Gabriel. They are currently setting their hopes on contenders Kell Brook and the Karia brothers.

Kids from all over north-east Sheffield come to learn to box,

Throughout the year there are different events and activities for all the community. This Easter there is a series of Healthy Activity sessions on 30th March to 2nd April 10am-2pm for kids. Bookings are now open. There are also Amateur Boxing Nights on 3 April, and 29 May.

Legendary trainer Brendan Ingle



For details check out the socials:
@ingle_gym_sheffield
@ingle_gym_foundation

LIVING THE LEGACY

AN INTERVIEW WITH LUCA INGLE



Q: Why is it important to give back to the community?

A: Giving back isn't optional when you come from somewhere like Wincobank – it's a responsibility. If you've been shaped by a community, you owe it your effort to strengthen it. Giving back keeps the cycle positive. It shows young people that success doesn't mean leaving your roots behind – it means lifting others as you climb. For me, continuing that work through our Ingle Gym foundation is about protecting a space that changed lives and making sure it's still there for the next generation.

Q: How did your grandfather shape the ethos of the gym even today?

My Granddad's ethos wasn't built on titles – it was built on people. He treated everyone the same, whether they were future world champions or kids just trying to stay out of trouble. Discipline, humility, respect and creativity were at the heart of it.

He believed boxing was an art form. He encouraged individuality. He made young fighters think for themselves. And most importantly, he created a family atmosphere – a place where you were safe, challenged, and believed in.

That culture still lives in the gym today. It's in the way people speak to each other, the expectation of respect, and the idea that character matters more than trophies.

Q: These are challenging times for young men: what is it important for them to focus on?

Right now, young men are navigating pressure from social media, economic uncertainty, and mixed messages about what masculinity means. It's easy to get pulled toward ego, quick validation, or anger.

What's important is focus on:

- Discipline – small daily habits that build confidence.
- Purpose – having something that challenges you physically and mentally.

■ Community – finding positive male role models and peers.

■ Emotional strength – understanding that vulnerability isn't weakness.

Q: North East Sheffield has incredible pride and community spirit. Why is the area special?

Places like Wincobank have a strong working-class heritage. Generations have grown up side by side. There's history, grit, and shared struggle – and that builds identity.

When opportunities feel limited, community becomes your wealth. People look out for each other because they understand each other. There's pride in resilience. There's pride in producing champions from ordinary streets.

The Ingle Gym became a symbol of that – proof that something world-class can grow from a council estate if it's rooted in belief and hard work. That's why the area feels special. It's not flashy – it's authentic. And authenticity creates pride.

SHEFFIELD WORKERS CELEBRATE NEW RIGHTS AT WORK

WORKERS ACROSS Sheffield are celebrating a new law that gives them increased protection at work. The Employment Rights Bill, which passed last year, will give all workers greater rights and protections at work. This comes after new polling that shows the majority of people in Sheffield believe that workers are not treated fairly and they should be entitled to greater protection and rights.

The Employment Rights Bill gives us the biggest shake-up in workers' rights for a decade and it signals a decisive break from the Tories' race to the bottom on employment standards that has done so much damage to our living standards and productivity.

By tackling the scourge of zero-hours contracts and fire and rehire, delivering day-one rights to statutory sick pay, and boosting family-friendly and flexible working, the Bill offers the biggest upgrade to workers' rights for a generation. Everyone needs jobs they can build a life on.

As well as clamping down on bad bosses, the Bill will also give workers a stronger voice at work. And crucially, it will make it easier for workers to benefit from union representation.

REFORM OPPOSE NEW RULES

The five Reform MPs did not support these new rules. In fact, Reform want to reduce workers' rights even further.

When they say that they are on the side of ordinary working people, remember, they failed to back better conditions and rights at work.

SHEFFIELD BRIGHTSIDE AND HILLSBOROUGH VOTERS:

- Making sure the minimum wage is a real living wage that people can live on: **81%** agree, **19%** disagree
- Ensure all workers have the right to sick pay, paid from the first day of sickness: **71%** agree, **29%** disagree
- After 12 weeks on a zero-hours contract, workers will have to be offered a guaranteed-hours contract based on the hours they have been working: **70%** agree, **30%** disagree

THE NEW RULES

- Ban zero-hours contracts by offering all workers a contract that reflects their normal hours of work and compensation for cancelled shifts
- Ensure all workers have the right to sick pay, paid from the first day of sickness
- Extend statutory sick pay to all workers including the lowest paid
- Ensure all workers are protected from being unfairly sacked after six months in a job (at the moment workers have to wait two years for this protection)
- Make it easier for people to have flexibility in their patterns and hours of work
- A right to parental leave from day one of employment
- Establishing the Fair Work Agency to ensure people get their rights

SHIREGREEN CRICKET CLUB

A CLUB'S HEART AND SOUL



WHILE SHEFFIELD is famed for having the oldest football club in the world, Shiregreen should also be proud of its cricket club. Dating back to 1869, the cricket club was established in the days of farmland and horse-driven traffic.

Much has changed around it, but the heart and soul of the place remain intact: volunteers have tended, coached and run the club since the beginning. They have also

baked the famous teas, too! As Chairman Ernest Lowe explains: "We are a tiny club but we punch above our weight. We compete in the Yorkshire Southern Premier League – only just below county level." This is extremely impressive as the club is entirely amateur-run: no-one gets paid. "Everything we have achieved is based on the hard work of all the volunteers." He estimates over

40 people keep the club alive – groundsmen, coaches, tea ladies, drivers and committee members. The demographics of the area have changed dramatically over the years, but with each new generation, the passion for cricket has increased. "We have always been open to everyone and that has been a huge positive for the teams and the standards we play at." Lowe is proud they have just

set up two new youth teams, making a total of five junior teams playing every week. "We needed a new U18 team to ensure players don't drop out as they get older. And in a really exciting new development, we now have our first ever girls team". We'll never know what the founders would think of girls on the green, but there's no stopping Shiregreen Cricket Club!

UNSUNG HEROES

IT GOES without saying that volunteers do it without expecting rewards. You can imagine the shock, surprise and delight then when Mary Lowe and Anne Burdett – tea ladies and volunteers at the club – found themselves the centre of attention. When they arrived at the club in November last year, there were cameras, lights and two beautiful glass statues. The sisters were recognised as "UNSUNG Heroes of Yorkshire Cricket Foundation".



"Anne and Mary have been at Shiregreen CC for over 60 years, preparing traditional cricket teas every week..." said the Foundation. "From hand-baked cakes and fresh scones to ensuring all food is suitable for everyone, their dedication helps create a welcoming and inclusive environment... They truly embody the spirit of the game." Between them the sisters have volunteered for over 130 years. "I love getting to know everyone as they grow up here," says Mary. "Cricket brings out the best in people."

It's clear from the Yorkshire Cricket Foundation's Facebook page that Anne and Mary's cakes work the same magic too: "The best cricket tea in South Yorkshire," declares Lynne Naseby. "We are all proud of you," says Hammad Usman. "Without generous people like Anne and Mary the game wouldn't be where it is now..." chimes in Johnny Younis. And even the elderflower cake gets a special mention... "It's amazing!" says Claire Jackson.

A NEW ERA FOR GIRLS CRICKET

JANE GLOSSOP first started helping at SCC when her sons played the game two decades ago as kids. "I started helping with the teas, and before I knew it I was coaching... and now I'm blooming secretary!" But what an exciting change she has over seen this year: the new girls team! "I saw all these girls coming with their brothers but just sitting on the sidelines watching. It was a bit of an experiment and no one one knew what to expect: There are different skill abilities, ages (8-11), and they come from every walk of life."



But incredibly, the girls have improved so much in one year that this April, the team will be playing in the South Yorkshire league for the first time. "It's brilliant to see. They just keep getting better and better," beams Jane proudly. "You see some of the boys' teams saying 'Easy! It's just a bunch of girls...' and then they beat them!" She couldn't do it without the parents' help though: sharing lifts, supporting from the sidelines, helping with the kits... "the parents are just really into it!" Proud dad of twin girls, Siraad and Widaad, in the team, Mohammed Osman, agrees: "The vibe is so friendly for us and the girls! They really support each other. You can see the confidence growing." He was nervous for his daughters at the start. "I had a stereotypical view of cricket and thought it was a closed shop. But Shiregreen has been amazing. There are other clubs close to us, but we wouldn't move now. We love it here."

■ **Go to allstarscricket.co.uk for information.**