

Burngreave Messenger



Voice of the Burngreave Community

Including: Pitsmoor, Ellesmere, Carwood, Firhill, Fir Vale, Pye Bank, Shirecliffe and Woodside

Are you getting stuffed this Christmas?

In October, many households in Burngreave received the BrightHouse catalogue through their door with the slogan "making Christmas affordable" on the front. BrightHouse, formerly known as Crazy George's, sell electrical goods, household appliances and furniture on credit.

A lot of people in Burngreave don't have access to credit through bank accounts. If you can't pay cash up front or get credit elsewhere, making small weekly payments can look attractive. BrightHouse, Provident (the Provy), Shopcheck and others like them know this, which is why they target areas like ours.

As I need a new washing machine I checked out how BrightHouse could make a new washer an affordable Christmas present from me to me and was not impressed to find it could cost me £1,000 (see box).



There is another way!

Credit unions are not allowed to charge more than 12% annual interest. This means that with a credit union loan you could buy the same Whirlpool washer from Comet (list price £340) and repay it over 3 years at £2.60 per week – total cost £403. If you pay it off sooner it will cost you less.

We have a great Credit Union in Pitsmoor which has been running for almost 10 years. Its members have a total of £60,000 saved, of which £40,000 is out on loan. This keeps local residents' money circulating within the community, and allows them to plan for big purchases, holidays and Christmas, knowing that they won't get hit with hidden charges and pulled into spiralling debt.

So why aren't more of us in the credit union? A spokesperson said: "Up to a year ago the credit union was run entirely by volunteers, but now we have two part-time workers and an office, paid from a BNDfC grant, and this has

made a real difference. New members are joining all the time and are delighted with the service they get. But we won't be putting predatory lenders out of business until we are as convenient and accessible as they are. The more members and volunteers who join us, the sooner that time will come."

There are no credit checks, you just need to save regularly over a period of time before taking out a loan, so that the credit union can see what level of loan repayments you can afford.

Join Pitsmoor Credit Union now (see ad on page 19) and help make next Christmas more affordable for more people in Burngreave.

Credit Unions will not usually make loans to pay off expensive lenders like BrightHouse, but if you are struggling to meet loan or debt repayments, you can get help by calling in to Pitsmoor Citizens' Advice Bureau on Spital Hill and seeing their debt advisor.

| | |
|---|----------------|
| BrightHouse cash price of a Whirlpool washer | £421.54 |
|---|----------------|

| | |
|---|----------------|
| If payments are spread over 3 years, with interest | £606.84 |
|---|----------------|

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Add "optional" service cover (extra £2.10 per week) | £327.60 |
|--|----------------|

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Add insurance at 15% | £65.00 |
|-----------------------------|---------------|

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Total | £999.44 |
|--------------|----------------|

And if you miss a payment or want to settle the debt early, there are penalty charges whacked on top.

There is currently no legal limit on the amount that 'predatory lenders' can charge in interest. The National Consumer Council found that on average they charge 177% interest, with some charging as much as 900%!

by Helen Warburton

Want to know more about running a successful business in Burngreave?

Whether you are a local business owner, entrepreneur, student or resident with a business idea then the **Burngreave Business Enterprise Show** is for you.

For the very first time Business Support agencies are coming together under one roof in our community at the **Spectrum Centre**, Brunswick Road, Burngreave on **18th January 2005**.

Events will include:

*Business support agency exhibitions,
advice and guidance*

Starting in Business Advice and Question Time

Key business issue presentations:

Sources of finance • Marketing • Bookkeeping/taxation

The day concludes with the presentations of the first ever Burngreave Business Awards sponsored by HSBC, Sheffield Chamber of Commerce, Business in the Community and Parker Communications.

*Exhibitions open at 4.30pm
with the Awards at 7.00pm*

For further information please contact the **Business Support Team** on 292 0462 or email businesssupport@bndfc.co.uk.

Event Supported by:



**Listen to
Us Project**

Burngreave Green Environment Programme Events

Sunday 12th December – Winter Warming Walk

10.30am–1.00pm in Roe Woods. Meet at main vehicle entrance gate on Norwood Road. A relaxing winter ramble of about 2.5 miles through the woods and along to Crabtree Pond looking at winter tree identification. A fun and easy walk finishing with a cup of warming soup in the woods.



Tuesday 14th December – Burngreave Health Walks

Abbeyfield & Osgathorpe Parks from 1.30 pm. Meet at Pitsmoor Surgery, Burngreave Road. Tree stories: learn about the folklore and cultural significance of the fascinating trees in Burngreave with Community Forester Richard Gill.

Tuesday 11th January – Burngreave Health Walks

Burngreave Recreation Ground. Meet at Pitsmoor Surgery, Burngreave Road. New Year stress relief with the Burngreave Rangers.

Sunday 23rd January – Tree Craft Day

11am–3pm in Catherine Street Open Space. A fun day of crafts and games with willow weaving and lots more tree capers. Bring the family and join in all the fun.

Contact the Burngreave Rangers on 278 9651 for more information.



celebrate
Dr Martin Luther King Jr Day
6.30pm 17th Jan 05
Christ Church, Pitsmoor Rd

*"We will not resort to violence,
we will not degrade ourselves
with hatred."*

Bring & share meal,
quotes, films, discussions -
challenging racism, non-violent
resistance.
Contact Jeff on 07751412664



Churches in Burngreave

*Christ for Burngreave –
bringing the nativity home*

*A service of readings,
reflections and carols*

7.00pm, Saturday 18th December

*Seventh Day Adventist Church
Andover Street*

*A collection will be taken for ASSIST –
A Sheffield charity that cares for homeless
and destitute asylum seekers.*

Everybody welcome. Refreshments afterwards.

Verdon Recreation Centre

Has undergone major refurbishment, including improvements to access and sports facilities.

*Come along and help us
celebrate the*

Grand Reopening
11am–3pm
22nd January 2005

There will be a full programme of
activities for all the family
*Face painting • Arts and crafts
Music and dancing • Prizes
Football and basketball events
Local celebrities • Food*

We are hoping that the re-opening will be the first step towards a better and brighter future for the centre. We would like to thank all users that have co-operated with us throughout the refurbishment and we apologise for any inconvenience caused.

**For further information contact
Shazia or Michalis on 249 1626.**

Sheffield
City Council



Dispersing young people

Following reports concerning youth behaviour problems, I returned to the Osgathorpe Park area of Burngreave with photographer Carl Rose.

Anti-social behaviour notices

Notices stuck to lampposts around Scott Road and Ellesmere confirmed a dispersal order was in force until 30th April next year. A set of youths on the corner of Ellesmere Road North said the idea was a positive move in controlling what I guess, even for them, was a growing problem. Another group congregating outside the church on Scott Road claimed it was a load of rubbish.

"That anti-social behaviour order is all hype Rob!" said a teenage lad. "Yeah" agreed the young girl swinging on his arm. "I was out till one. The Police saw me and did nothing."

Another young lady with them said she was arrested for being on the Wicker after twelve and was driven back home to face her parents.

"Anyway," said another close by, "It ain't going to stop anything, we still got to go out and even then there's not much for us to do."

Something better to do

Returning to Abbeyfield Park the following morning I interviewed another group, young volunteer members of the local Princes Trust. Working in the Park they had just returned from a weeks excursion and adventure in Wales.

18 year old Amy Cherrell and Charlie Worrell, 19, under the supervision of Park Rangers Daren and Anna, were planting bulbs and seeds for growth. "Yeah we enjoyed Wales," they explained. Mala Mckoewn and Mohamed Hassan, both aged 16, along with Holly Taylor were trimming the grass verges. "Yeah I enjoyed the rock climbing," said Mala. "I'd do it all over again." The Princes Trust offers activities for young people that benefit the community as well as themselves.

Mat Edgerton is the youth participation officer for Osgathorpe and Abbeyfield. He first explained his concern about the time it's taking to develop a Youth Shelter in the park. "As for anti-social behaviour notices, I believe they are quite basic and informal. It describes a code of behaviour that can be understood by young people. It suggests, for instance, kids of school age should be in at 9pm. I think they need proper structure, especially those around school age."

David Smith, a Friend of Osgathorpe Park said, "Since the dispersal order there seems to be less drug dealing, but that might be due to recent arrests." Jon Ekwubiri of South Yorkshire Police confirmed there have been a number of arrests for drugs and this, combined with the dispersal order, has led to things quietening down in the area, "Feedback from residents has been good," he said. "The dispersal order has improved people's quality of life."



A dispersal order on Ellesmere Road North.

© Carl Rose



The survey says...

More than 70% of people living in Burngreave say they have a good quality of life and are satisfied with the area, 58% think it's getting better. MORI interviewed 500 people as part of the New Deal 'Household survey' and found 86% of people have heard of New Deal and most think it's improving the area, far better results than the 2002 survey.

Overall people think Burngreave is a friendly place where people look out for each other and there's growing faith in local services, including New Deal. Some things haven't changed though – only 38% were in paid work, 38% have no qualifications and 34% have still never had a job. 48% of households' annual income is less than £10,400, although there is a real change in households with income less than £5,200 – down 8% since 2002.

We were pleased to hear nearly half of those interviewed said the *Messenger* improved their quality of life and 69% preferred to get information about New Deal from us. Next issue we'll bring you news of the New Deal Year 5 plan. How do you think New Deal's going? Get in touch and get your voice heard.

Messenger Info

Meetings: 6.30pm, Wednesday
at Abbeyfield Park House
Editorial: 5th January
Management: 26th January
All welcome.
Copy deadline: 12th January
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The Burngreave Messenger is a community newspaper, funded by New Deal, with editorial independence. We aim to increase and encourage communication in Burngreave. Each edition is put together by an editorial team who write articles not otherwise credited. This month's team: Farzana Ahmed, Richard Belbin, Annie Blindell, Clare Burnell, Martin Currie, Yasmin Dhoomun, Andrew Green, Mark Lankshear, Jamie Marriott, Carl Rose, Rob Smith, Gaby Spinks, Lisa Swift and Paul Taylor.

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by Rob Smith

Community News

Yemeni leader cleared

In March this year the *Messenger* reported residents' concerns about the arrest of the chair of the Yemeni Community Association, Abdul Shaif. The arrest occurred at Meadowhall in February 2004 after Mr Shaif tried to calm a confrontation between Security Guards and some young people. This month Mr Shaif was found not guilty of 'verbal abuse against a police officer'. Mr Shaif told the *Messenger*:

"I have been vindicated by the court where I was found not guilty. I am very pleased with this outcome and so is my family. Thank you to Rob and everyone at the Messenger for your support."

Lottery success for adult learners

Pye Bank CE Primary School celebrated the continuation of its Sewing and Garment Making course after a successful bid to the Lottery's "Awards for All".

At the end of the original course the group had to be temporarily suspended awaiting the outcome of the bid. Many of the local women came together to support the application drafting a supporting letter. Their efforts were rewarded and now the school has been able to purchase its own sewing machines, provide tutor support for one year and money towards crèche support.

Bushra Sultana, the tutor of the group, commented, "This is great news for the ladies who enjoy making and designing their own clothes, not only this but it means we can develop more than one group, it's just fantastic news for the school".

Anyone interested in joining the class can contact the school on 276 0472.

by Derek Moxam

Low impact housing on Woodside?

The Burngreave Community Action Forum Buildings Group is looking at what is possible when Woodside is developed. They are planning a visit to Hockerton Housing Project to enable local people interested in creating a low-maintenance, low-energy housing initiative in our area, to see what it's really like in the flesh.

The guided tour and workshop, funded by New Deal, will be from 10am to 4pm on a Saturday in the New Year. If you are interested please contact either Saleema on 275 5055 or BCAF on 272 8008. The places are limited and it's first come first served, so get your name down.

What is the Hockerton Housing Project?

"...the UK's first earth sheltered, self-sufficient ecological housing development. The residents of the five houses generate their own clean energy, harvest their own water and recycle waste materials causing no pollution or carbon dioxide emissions."

by Saleema Imam

Shut out

I knew something was amiss - the sandwich bar that's normally thriving with business wasn't open and it was the shutters not letting anyone enter.



"It's happened again Rob!" explains an angry Nelly. "This is the third time and I'm losing me patience never mind me business." The shutters were broken and fitters weren't due to arrive until later that afternoon. For Nelly this was a waste of another full day's work. "Since New Deal paid for these shutters, they've been breaking down on us. I'll let them know they've wasted the money again. I'd rather have me old shutters back right now I tell ya!"

On arrival of the shutter fitters, I decided to ask other premises along Spital Hill what their experiences were. Gower Domestic informed me they were fine and they'd had no problems so far. Malli.Com Café said theirs got stuck and they called the company out, but by the time they arrived the problem had resolved itself.

John Dugennan, proprietor of Andrea's Barbershop, told me they'd had problems on two occasions. "They've only been in six months and although under guarantee I was quoted a call out charge of £150 by the installers, or a wait of up to five working days." John told me he had to leave his business premises unsecured for five days. "The company who put the shutters in have had a load of business through New Deal," he continued. "And to be honest, I prefer the old shutters. Believe me, this is shoddy workmanship."

Sadiq, owner of the grocers store on Spital Hill, admitted to being not very happy with the new shutters' performance and to always having problems opening and closing them.

Staff at Young's Solicitors said the only problem they've had is with the remote controls for the security device. "There are not enough remote controls and with no keys this creates problems."

I spoke to Defence Security Services (DSS) who fitted the shutters and have recently moved into premises on Petre Street to be closer to Spital Hill. Company spokesman Sufian Abdullah informed me that the company was in the process of conducting a survey on Spital Hill to establish how their services have been received.

"We have reviewed the businesses concerns with Saghir Ahmed of NDC and will report back to the Burngreave Business Forum the results of our survey."

If you have any problems relating to this matter then contact DSS on 244 1148.

by Rob Smith

Masterplan delayed

In response to the many concerns raised by residents the Council have extended consultation about the Burngreave and Firvale Masterplan until April next year. The most vocal complaints came from traders on Spital Hill. They fear they will have no place in the proposed redevelopment, rentals in new buildings may be too high, customers will be lost while the area is blighted by demolition and rebuilding and a new supermarket may deprive them of key business.

At a recent meeting of the Burngreave Business Forum, attended by the Council, Paul of the Kashmir Restaurant said "Everyone wants progress, but the Masterplan is making us feel vulnerable."

John Vincent of the Burngreave Ashram and a New Deal board member, said radical change is needed, but not the demolition proposed. "The Plan ignores what is already happening and has been rejected by Business Forum meetings."

The planners insist they want to preserve the cultural diversity and richness which attracts people to Spital Hill. Councillor Jackie Drayton said improvements should benefit existing businesses.

Planners and New Deal's John Clark said consultation shows a high demand for a supermarket, and operators are willing to set up in Burngreave. They claimed a supermarket is 'vital' for the



© Anwar Suliman

success of any regeneration and promised no demolition will take place until they have absolute guarantees a supermarket will be built.

Owners of shops and other businesses say they have put in many years of hard work and investment to produce improvements that are already visible. Without a guarantee they will survive, talk of preserving cultural diversity and richness is meaningless.

by Andrew Green

A gathering storm

The Burngreave Ashram on Spital Hill held a meeting in November where I heard passionate discussions about the Masterplan that is creating a storm.

**This will be wiping out the small trader!
All sense of community will be destroyed!
The rent rise will kill off today's traders!
A repetition of Woodside that will drive out those on low income!
Properties and shops all along Spital Hill will be knocked down!**

Ian Lee of the One World Healing Centre raised concerns about the consultation. "There has been a lot of scantily placed information and meetings, gathering and disseminating fragmented information that, in reality, amounts to disinformation," he said.

Following these meetings petitions against the Masterplan have been circulating and the organisers, naming

themselves Spital Hill Local Voice have released a joint statement.

They say they support regeneration that is already happening organically. They want to retain Spital Hill's historic character and enhance, not threaten, the multi-cultural and multi-racial character which brings visitors from all over the city to worship, shop and eat here. They say the Masterplan has blighted the area and should be withdrawn, replaced by a participative, co-operative, planning process led by the New Deal.

I asked New Deal director John Clark if he realised that people feared current businesses would not survive the change, "Yes Rob," agreed John "I guess that is a genuine concern. These are questions that mean the consultation is far from finished."

by Rob Smith

What's the plan now?

As it stands at the moment the Masterplan for Spital Hill will be in two phases. The first, in the next 2-3 years, would see the demolition of shops between Lion Works and Spital Street, and an area on Hallcar Street where the supermarket is planned. Phase 2 - involving the redevelopment of both sides of Spital Hill between Spital Street and Ellesmere Road - might start after five years, but only if phase 1 proves a success.

Janet Rooney, the Council's Neighbourhoods Executive Director, told the *Messenger* that 1,445 people have attended consultation events over the last few weeks, with 230 written comments and around 100 phone calls.

"There are many different views, a lot of people are supportive of seeing significant change and improvements. However, as you would expect, many people are concerned about higher costs. The point of the consultation is to get as many views as possible and see where we can get agreement on the vision for the area into the future. The purpose of the masterplanning is to identify what funding we need to bid for. If don't have agreed proposals, we cannot bid and we won't have any resources to improve the area."

What happens next?

A newsletter is being prepared for all households who could be affected by demolition. Drop-in sessions for local residents and traders will also be held to answer queries and survey opinions.

"I never underestimate how difficult this can be for people affected, which is why we take a lot of time to consider their views. I will only be recommending to councillors something which is deliverable and that has the ongoing support from the majority of the people affected."

If you have any concerns or if you want to add your comments to the plans contact the Housing Market Renewal Team on 273 4992.

Hall of Fame

On 27th October, many gathered at SADACCA to celebrate the achievements of others from our diverse community.

The Burngreave Hall of Fame was organised by the BCAT's Listen To Us Project, whose workers, Owen Wright and Nolian Rankine, presented the awards ceremony in a really professional manner. "This is all about showing young people that there are positive role models in the community," added Mai Mustaphanin, BCAT's Development Worker. BCAT Director Donovan Modest said, "It is important to see recognition being given to individuals who have made positive contributions towards the development of Burngreave. In future we would like to see an annual event to mark out and recognise individual achievements that represent all of Burngreave's diversity. Congratulations to all those who receive awards here this evening."

by Rob Smith



Mr Charles Noel was awarded for his 40 years work for Sheffield's trains and buses. Charles is also an active member of the community, regularly attending meetings and making a valuable contribution to our community.



The first presentation was made to Mr Martell Forrester (right), in recognition of all the charity and aid work he has created for countries overseas, and over many years working in and around this city and community.



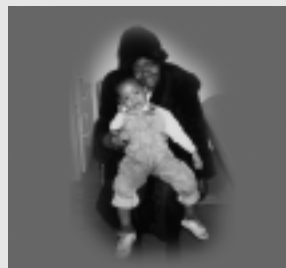
Also awarded were the hat shop proprietors who began a business that many people said wouldn't work in Burngreave. Janet and Philip Beki thanked the people of this community for their support and plan to develop their shop ventures further in the future.



Mr Joslyn Allen followed as a founder member of the West Indian Association and founder member of SADACCA. Mr Allen arrived here in 1956 and has worked to establish the roots of the foundation now used today.



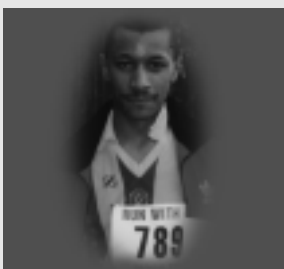
Bishop Melville of Shiloh Church was awarded for her work across the city and long-standing dedication that has positively affected many within and outside our community during her 35 year ministry.



Gloria Campbell is a lady they referred to as 'The Rock' who while active in the senior citizens' community also looked after a sick relative for many years. Gloria received her award and was accepted into the Hall of Fame.



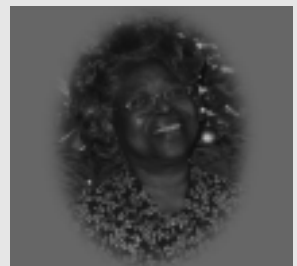
Mr and Mrs Nandra of Ellesmere Post Office were both awarded for the excellent service they provide, caring for the needs of the people of Burngreave. Mr Nandra is a classical violinist and has supported many Asian musicians. They are involved in many charitable activities.



Owen announced Chris Obodo's award for many years of voluntary community representation on boards, trusts and committees. "These positions Chris has filled have helped effect many decisions made for positive change to our community," added Owen.



Fatima Musa was awarded for her contribution to improving the health of Burngreave residents. Fatima was instrumental in setting up the Muslim women's keep fit class in Burngreave and she also founded and coaches the Somali Women's Basketball Team.



Dorrett Buckley Greaves accepted her award with good grace and humour. She not only represents the elderly citizens on the present NDC Partnership Board, but is a pioneer and founder member of SADACCA and the Over Fifties' Congress.

Lessons learnt

The Burngreave Community Learning Campaign (BCLC) began in April 2003. It aims to employ local people to encourage other local people into education. The pilot phase is nearly complete, but it's had its problems. Some learning assistants have moved on to bigger and better things while the Learning Campaign continues with 20 new learning assistants.



BlackCARD and the new learning assistants are motivated and committed to the long-term vision of education for all. They hope people feel inspired and will contact them, on 279 4960, if they require help with their education, or to join the steering group, they would welcome more input from the community.

Freda Cotterell, Head of the BlackCARD is the accountable manager for the New Deal funded learning campaign.

“As a pilot this was a large-scale project employing a core team of five, and eighteen Burngreave residents, previously unemployed and with limited education qualifications, as Learning Assistants. Their work entailed both increasing their own education, personal development and employment prospects and, most importantly, promoting adult education within Burngreave with targets for the numbers taking up courses.”

“The majority made excellent contributions, with commitment to the community and real determination to succeed in their studies. They promoted learning initiatives by door knocking and talking to people in community venues. We exceeded the targets and created a good foundation for achieving the vision of a future with a well educated community, committed to lifelong learning for all. We also produce the Burngreave Learner magazine, distributed by the staff to all households. It provides information on courses for all, whatever your education or learning needs, cultural and language difference and general interests.”

Immanuel Heywood, who now works for At Work employment agency, was one of the first round of learning assistants and I was eager to hear about his experience. “I joined from the start,” began Immanuel. “I believe it's a great idea and concept for local people to engage with other residents to help them understand the need to educate themselves. Overall, the job helped us gain a lot of experience in community work and essential qualifications but there were problems that they did not foresee. 18 of us with different needs,

forcing us all onto the same education programme left some playing catch up.”

Zahara Jamal, also working in the employment agency, agreed saying; “Only one tutor for 18 of us resulted in a lack of cohesion. It continued in a mess for two years. I believe none of us qualified in this department, although some gained other qualifications.”

Freda told us the management and steering group had recognised some of the Learning Assistants had difficulties fitting into the structure of an everyday work pattern and managing work and study. There were problems with the education strand, which attempted to deliver a single ‘Access to Higher Education programme’, in Community Skills.

“An evaluation highlighted some aspects needing review,” said Freda. “These included changing to offer Learning Assistants a tailored education programme to meet their individual needs and career aspirations, whilst also providing the skills to back up their community work.”

BCLC steering group member and New Deal Community Rep. Aisha Special K said, “As a pilot BCLC was bound to encounter teething problems with lessons to be learnt. I was aware of problems in the whole programme and some in the strand that was designed to educate and assist learners into employment. Anyone, at any level, contributing to this program should have a positive and productive input or none at all! On a more positive tip there have been 20 new BCLC assistants

recruited. The Campaign has a new enthusiastic and strong staff team raring to go.”

I later spoke to first round course tutor Lynda Kenyon and asked her what she felt about the BCLC programme. “There are Rob, and have been, issues of concern about that first round.”

“The problems were inherent to the beginning of the campaign,” said Lynda. “I was asked to deliver the Access programme, but learners weren't recruited specifically to that program and were apparently unaware what level, content or form it would take. From my interview I expressed my concerns about the suitability of an

undifferentiated programme. I was not involved in recruiting learning assistants. When I learnt they hadn't been specifically recruited for the access program I argued with all management that what was on offer would not meet their needs. This made my job very difficult from the outset.”

Freda Cotterell is confident that the necessary lessons have been learnt, “The success of the pilot year provided us with the chance to re-structure the programme and ensure that it would meet the adult education needs of the community, supporting and encouraging learners. We now have 20 new learning assistants including two workers for Firshill and Firvale.

The Learning Campaign is a major part of New Deal's strategy to help Burngreave residents improve their qualifications and employability. Using local people to do it is a principle everyone supported, but it's proved a hard thing to do. The learner assistants were all at very different levels – some already had degrees, while others didn't have Maths or English GCSEs.

BlackCARD say they've learnt the lessons from the pilot. As the new campaigners take to the streets they'll be hoping to match the success of the first round in getting local people onto courses and to get a better deal for their own education than the first round did.

by Rob Smith

Ellesmere Children's Centre

Sharon Curtis and her team at the Ellesmere Children's Centre on Maxwell Street have achieved an excellent Ofsted report.

Yasmin Dhoomun the *Messenger's* newest volunteer and I were given a guided tour around the building. There are three rooms for different aged children and an outside play area where the older children were running around playing, as well as all the usual changing rooms, kitchens and offices. The atmosphere was very warm and cosy with children curled up asleep on cushions and others happily playing.

Sharon explained that they plan to landscape a large garden on adjoining land and build a soft play area. "We are currently



the Ofsted report you can visit Ellesmere Children's Centre or visit the Ofsted website listed below.

For more information on the Centre, contact 281 2143.

by Gaby Spinks

BWRC – Celebrate Achievements

Established in 1994, the Black Women's Resource Centre Children's Project has developed from a voluntary organisation to a substantial project employing staff and managing an important childcare resource. In 2002 the centre became registered by OFSTED as eligible providers giving them the legal status to deliver nursery education grant places.

"This year over 55 children are registered here and over 20 on our waiting list. A lot of that has come via positive feedback from our children to their parents and the grapevine, that has attracted other parents and children," volunteer Lizabeth Mais told me. Future plans of the BWRC management are to expand the nursery to the upper floors of the building, in order to create additional childcare places and employment opportunities.

In November the Centre held an open day to celebrate the achievements of those attending and to look to the future. I went along to see what this longstanding Burngreave community initiated project had to offer.

The centre's staff were there on hand to greet warmly the arrival of proud parents and their children. Councillor Ibrar Hussain was there, not only as a parent, but also to hand out awards and presentations.



Before the performance of a short play by the children, I spoke to some of the parents. Fahid and Nahid Aziz told me how proud they were. Fahid's four year old daughter was acting as Goldilocks in the story of the three bears. "I haven't looked back since my daughter came here. I feel confident and secure that she's looked after till I collect her."

Hodan Mohamed told me she was here to watch her daughter perform. She has attended the centre for over two years and really enjoys being here, "It's very good and it's so nice to feel confident leaving my children here." Ibrar Hussain explained how all four of his children have attended this centre. "And it's a very valuable service to the community."

Chair Dorothy Wilson and centre

manger Sharon Brown opened the presentation by welcoming everyone. "Today is about recognising achievements." Sharon also made an appeal for people to consider becoming members of the BWRC management committee, in order to help the centre in its future progress. Then youngsters no older than four lined the walls to watch the performance by others of Goldilocks. Nursery infants performing to an audience for the first time in their lives drew a huge round of applause from those attending.

To find out more about BWRC, contact Sharon Brown on 275 1817 or email bwrc72a@btconnect.com.

by Rob Smith

What is Ofsted?

OFSTED is the Office for Standards in Education, and is the department which inspects schools and early years childcare, including childminders.

When you start looking at childcare or schools for your children it's useful to look at any Ofsted reports, and a good childminder will also be Ofsted registered.

Their website contains reports on our local nurseries and schools. There is also advice about finding childminders and day care facilities. Visit www.ofsted.gov.uk or contact the Children's Information Service on 275 6699.

Basketball success



© Carl Rose

Our under 12s basketball team, from the Fir Vale basketball development centre, competed their first tournament at the English Institute of Sport on 14th November. They performed fantastically – winning 3 of 5 games.

Ben Hamilton and local coach Adil Anwar accompanied the team. Ben said, “We have been so impressed with the number of young players we have attracted to our Saturday morning basketball sessions. We are thrilled that they performed so well on the day.” The next tournament will be held in January and the Burngreave Sports project is hoping to enter teams at both under 12 and under 14 level and are looking for new players. Sessions run on Saturdays, 9.30–11.00am at Fir Vale sports centre. They are open to all aged 9–14 and we have both male and female coaches. Contact Ben on 0781 068 5523.

Christmas trips

Skiing at Sheffield Ski village – Tuesday 21st December

Open to all 8–14 year olds, leaving from Verdon Recreation Centre at 4.00pm, returning at 5.30pm. Only 15 places .

Ice Skating at Ice Sheffield – Thursday 23rd December

Open to all 8–16 year olds, includes half an hour with a qualified coach! Leaving from Verdon Recreation Centre at 4.00pm and Pitsmoor Adventure Playground at 4.10pm, returning at 6pm. Only 25 places .

Both cost 50p. Contact Katy to book 0790 993 6381. All participants must have a consent form!

Burngreave Sports Project sessions will finish for Christmas on 24th December 2004 and will re-start on 10th January 2005.

Pitsmoor Girls

Girl's football is great but there is nothing worse than turning up for a match and not having enough people to play. So if you are nine or over and want to practise on Tuesdays at the Adventure Playground with Steve, and train with Donna on a Friday at the Sheffield Wednesday club, then ring Katy on 0790 993 6381. We play league matches most Saturdays. You will have to be ten or eleven and to give us a chance you will have to try and come to practice. Please come – it's fun!

by Holly Pool – Team member

Burngreave Ladies Soccer

Burngreave Ladies still need more players. If you like football get out and get fit this winter. Training is 6–7pm every Tuesday indoors at Sheffield United Academy, Firhill. Open to all Burngreave Ladies over the age of 14. All abilities welcome. For more information call 0773 033 3598.

Bye bye Katy

After two years hard work developing sports activities in the Burngreave area Katy Burnett is leaving the Burngreave Sports Project to take up a job with Activity Sheffield in the Manor and Castle Area. Thank you Katy for your dedication, good humour, help and support and good luck in your new post. Burngreave's loss is Manor's gain.

BSN Steering Group

The Burngreave Sports Network are still looking for new committee members, with the Asian community being particularly under-represented. So if you love sport please give up a couple of hours a month to help us plan new activities.

The next meeting will be at 5.30pm at BCAT, 12 Burngreave Road on 27th January. Contact Cathy on 278 7008.



Sheffield and District Junior Sunday League

Results and fixtures

| Date | Under 7s | Under 8s | Under 9s |
|------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 7 November | 0–8 Wickersley Youth [home] | 16–0 Throstles [home] | 0–7 Rawmarsh St Joseph [away] |
| 14 | 1–4 Hoyland Common [home] | 9–2 Bramley [away] | 3–4 Dinnington Town [away] |
| 21 | 1–6 Hillsborough Pumas [away] | — | 1–14 Middlewood Rovers CUP |
| 28 | 0–14 Sheffield WO [away] | 8–4 Wasps [home] | 1–8 Handsworth Boys [home] |
| 5 December | 4–3 Bramley [home] | 4–2 Norton Lees [home] | 5–4 Hackenthorpe [home] |
| 12 | Hillsborough [home] | Brunsmear [home] | Millmoor Juniors [home] |
| 19 | — | — | Thornccliffe [away] |
| 2 January | Eckington Boys [home] | Wisewood [home] | Sheffield Rangers [away] |
| 9 | Bighton Magpies [away] | Greenhill [away] | Dodworth Miners [home] |
| 16 | — | Charnock [home] | Abbey Lane Juniors [home] |
| 23 | Laughton Boys [away] | — | Brinwood United [away] |

Farewell Mrs Saleem

Dina Martin, the Head Teacher of Firshill school, held an assembly on Friday, 19th November to celebrate the retirement of Support Teacher, Mrs Sabihah Saleem, after 18 years of service. All the classes presented her with hand-made cards and gifts.



I asked her what would be her best memory that she'd take away with her?

“Love from the children, support from colleagues and respect from the community. I especially remember, with fond memories, those days which I spent with Sheffield Unified Multicultural Education Service.”

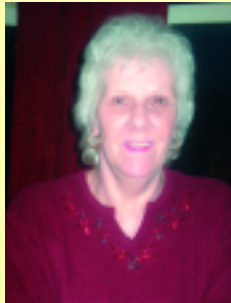
Her colleagues will miss her, Mrs Martin said, “Mrs Saleem was there acting as a bridge for the community on what is happening in school.” Ms Diane Davis said “She’s very nice person to work with in every sense.” Mrs Bundhun Moon said “She’s a best friend and like a sister” and she presented a moving poem in Urdu and then translated it into English.

Mrs Saleem bid an emotional farewell to everybody at Firshill, and will spend her retirement looking after her grandchildren.

by Yasmin Dhoomun

Happy New Year's Resolutions!

Shirley Grundy of Grimesthorpe started smoking when she was 19. Forty-six years later she has successfully given up. Her two sons, who have never smoked, are very proud. She was offered patches by her GP, and couldn't believe how well they worked – with no cravings either. Her next battle is to get her husband to stop. She said “I can taste things again, I feel a lot healthier and think of the money I'm saving”. Congratulations Shirley!



If you would like help giving up smoking, you can contact your GP, call the Helpline on 0800 169 1900 or visit the website www.bhf.org.uk/smoking.

by Gaby Spinks



Both © Carl Rose

Wicker kicker

For this feature, I set off to meet Trix March and Mick Mullaney, who run the Wicker Camp Thai Boxing Gymnasium. I climbed the stairs to the gym, and entered a sweet-smelling chill out lounge where I was warmly met by Mick and Trix, who offered to show me around.

Thai Boxing expert Trix March (pictured below), has held World, Commonwealth, European, and British female titles, and has fought all over the world. Trix, who originates from Carwood, explained that the gym offers an elevated boxing ring, 1,800 square feet of matted training space, a weight training room, showers, changing rooms and a chill out area.



The atmosphere of the gym felt exciting and positive, with Mick and Trix dividing their time well between the beginners and the more experienced fighters. The children all trained together regardless of their ability. Looking around the gym, it felt good to see many children from a diverse range of ethnic and social backgrounds. “We get kids from all over the city training at our club,” explained Trix. Both Mick and Trix state they are “dedicated to a non-sexist, non-racist environment”. This was evident in how the all children related to each other.

Talking of some of the positive work that happens through the club, Trix revealed they raise money for not so well off kids to travel to Thailand to compete with the originators of the sport.

With a series of competitions starting in January, Mick and Trix are keen to see beginners join in time to see what Thai Boxing at a competitive level is like. If you fancy giving it a go, contact the gym on 279 5470 or visit www.wickercamp.com.

by Carl Rose

Carnival of Light

On Saturday 20th November, Spital Hill was illuminated as Ellesmere Green played host to Burngreave's first Carnival of Lights. Organised by Panni Poh Yoke Loh of Green City Action, the carnival reflects the seasonal celebrations of many cultures at this time of year.

The Lord Mayor switched on the lights as a procession of brightly-dressed carnival goers marched down Petre Street and headed for the green. Soca music provided by DJ Mink kept the procession dancing as a growing crowd looked on. Neon dancers and fire breathers from Green Top Circus lit up the streets. Making a brief appearance, a giant silver robot stomped onto the green and was quickly mobbed by a wave of young children, all eager to shake the robot's hand.



Shortly after, an Indian dancer mesmerised the crowd with her hypnotic movements. This was followed by breakdancing and Arabic candle dances. Inside the carnival tent many busy stalls could be seen, while creative workshops kept the children busy making festive candles and decorations.

The event was played out to the end by a backdrop of reggae and R'n'B. The festive locals eventually headed for home after enjoying a chilly but entertaining evening.

by Carl Rose

Petre Street Bonfire

As we approached the community bonfire display on Petre Street playing fields my heart sank. Loud indistinct music thudded out of a marquee, no-one knew when the fireworks would be set off and the fire was a distant speck behind two barriers. I steeled myself for another well intentioned but incompetent community event. And I was completely wrong.

The whole community seemed to have turned out to a location that looked out over Sheffield, where we could see very impressive fireworks going off all over the city. Then *our* display started and it was better than any other we could see. If we're going to burn New Deal money then I can't think of a better way. Then the fire was lit and the well-organised stewards in their yellow jackets opened the barrier so we could move closer to the flames.

Cathy Everard from the event organisers, Burngreave Sports Network, said:

"The event went really well. About 1,000 people turned out, and next year it will be bigger and better. Thanks to the Adventure Playground who built the bonfire, the Ashram for the food, Green Top Circus for the fire jugglers, the Community Engagement Team for events in the marquee and all the stewards and volunteers who were involved on the night."



Sports Development Project Co-ordinator

Grade/Salary: SUG 5 (SCP 26 Fixed) – £19,713pa

Post ref: DEL266LTP

Directorate: Development, Environment & Leisure

Location: Burngreave and Carbrook

Hours: 37 hours

Temporary contract until 30th June 2007

The Burngreave Sports Development project has been successfully operating since January 2003, with the key aim of improving sport and physical activity opportunities for all the residents of the area. A regular weekly activity programme of over 50 sessions already operates, along with comprehensive holiday activities, accredited training courses and providing support to many local groups.

Following the success of the initial pilot project, BNDfC have now funded a second phase, currently until June 2007.

We are looking to appoint a highly motivated project co-ordinator to continue to build on the project's achievements and develop a sustainable infrastructure for all the residents of Burngreave to participate in sports and physical activities.

The successful candidate will need to hold a minimum of 1 National Governing Body Instructor/coaching qualification, combined with experience of instructing a wide range of client groups. You will also require experience of working in a sports/recreation environment and working in a multi-cultural community. Good organisational and communication skills alongside project management and financial management experience will be essential. The post is also responsible for the line management of an Area Worker, Community Coach and two local trainee Area Workers.

This project is largely funded through Burngreave New Deal for Communities, is line managed by Activity Sheffield and reports to a local steering group.

We welcome applications from people living in the Burngreave area

**For an application form contact: Leisure Personnel
on 273 5975**

**Informal enquires contact: Sarah Nickson
Activity Sheffield Area Manager
on 273 6314**

**Closing Date:
31st December 2004**

The successful candidate will be required to complete a criminal records disclosure in line with section 113 of the Police Act 1997.



School Community Workers 15 Jobs

*Are you aged between 18–64?
Are you unemployed and living in Burngreave?
Would you like a job working in a school?*

We can offer you:

**Employment for 1 year
In schools in Burngreave Area
£162 weekly gross wage**

33 hours per week – which will include a package of training, on-going support and guidance

To find out if you are suitable to apply for these exciting opportunities ring:

**ILM Team at Sheffield Futures on
201 2840 or 201 2803**

Details also available at JobNet @ Burngreave.
Call in and have a chat.

centre for full employment



These jobs are supported by the European Social Fund

Burngreave Sports Network Project 1 part-time Community-based Sports Development Worker

**18.5 hours per week
up to £16,000 per annum (pro rata)
(Fixed term until May 2007)**

To Capacity Build the Burngreave Sports Network and assist them with delivering sporting events and a consultation event.

The successful applicant will have:

- Knowledge of funding regimes, partnership working and development planning
- The ability to facilitate meetings
- Good organisational skills
- The ability to work with a range of people from a variety of backgrounds and sensitivity to multicultural issues

Knowledge of community sports development is desirable but more important is the ability of the successful applicant to grow the Sports Network into a strong community group representative of Burngreave.

For an informal discussion, please contact:
Patrick Edwards on 250 2717

For an application pack and job description, please contact:

Kate Thompson on 272 8008

Burngreave Community Action Trust Ltd
12 Burngreave Road, Sheffield S3 9DD

**Closing date:
12 noon, 21 January 2005**

Previous applicants need not apply.



JOB VACANCY

Refugee New Arrivals Project, Sheffield

(working to enable asylum seekers and refugees to access education, training and volunteer opportunities in Sheffield)

Administrator to support all aspects of the work of the Refugee New Arrivals Project, encompassing a variety of administrative, financial and reception duties

Requires experience of budget monitoring and office management, good oral and written communication skills and a high level of computer literacy.

Salary range: £13,953-16,968

Contract until 31st January 2006

35 hours per week

Closing date: Thu, 23rd December 12pm

Secondments considered

(prior agreement required from employer)

Applicants from refugee, black or ethnic minority backgrounds encouraged to apply

For application form and details by post, contact:

Refugee New Arrivals Project

Scotia Works, Leadmill Road, Sheffield S1 4SE

or email: admin@new-arrivals.org.uk

or telephone 241 2785 (10am-12 noon if possible).

NB This is a readvertisement. Previous applicants need not apply.

Green City Action



Has a vacancy for the post of
Events Development Worker

**Salary: £23,000 per annum pro rata
with a 5% pension contribution**

This post is full time, but is open to job share, for 37 hours per week.

Initial contract for 12 months with extension March 2007 subject to funding.

Applicants must have experience of managing large scale events, fundraising and income generation, excellent communication skills and high quality management skills.

For an application pack please contact
Green City Action on 244 0353

The closing date for applications is
Wednesday 5th January at 12 noon.

Job Vacancy

Burngreave New Deal for Communities (BNDfC)

Full-time Senior Community Warden

SUG 3 - £15,225-16,968

Job number: SH 0109

Required to work within the Burngreave New Deal area. The post holder will be part of a very high profile team, which will work closely with the local community. You will need to lead, motivate and monitor the performance of a team of wardens. Whilst you need to be able to work on your own initiative, you will also be a key player in a team.

You will be required to work 37 hours per week over 7 days on a two-shift basis. This will involve some evening and weekend working.

Shift one: 8.00am-4.00pm

Shift two: 12.00 noon-8.00pm

Sat/Sun: 9.00am-5.00pm

Closing Date: 31/12/04

For an application form please contact
Job Centre Plus on 259 0002/259 0004
quoting the above job number

For informal enquiries please contact:
Sue Lodge on 203 7556



Sheffield Community Recycling Action Programme (SCRAP)
40 Earsham Street

The Welcome Home Furniture Service

is now open to anyone on a low income (*bring proof*).

Every Wednesday

10.00am-12 noon & 12.30-3.00pm

We stock: Electrical goods, Beds, Three piece suites.

25% off marked price of all non-electrical items

*We are looking for volunteer drivers
and volunteers to help in the warehouse*

For more information, phone John or Saleema
275 5599 between 9am and 3.30pm

Burngreave Language Support Agency Invitation To Tender

Burngreave Language Support Agency is
seeking to appoint consultant for detailed
feasibility study and Business Plan in the
development of a Social Enterprise Model
for the BLSA.



A copy of the brief can be obtained from:

**Dr Malik, Manager,
BLSA, 12 Burngreave Road Sheffield S3 9DD**

Tel: 272 2833 or 272 8008

Email: info@blsa.org.uk or malik@blsa.org.uk

**Deadline for submission will be
27th December, 2004 at 5.00pm**

Making safety a priority – the fun way!

A special event designed to encourage Burngreave residents to think more about their own community's safety has been hailed a success.

The Burngreave community safety road show was organised by BNDfC following suggestions from residents involved in the Community Safety Advisory Group. The event promoted community and personal safety in the widest sense, provided information on safety issues and showed people what they can do to help keep themselves safe whether they are in their own home, on the road, or just out and about.

On offer on the day were free car disk locks and personal attack alarms. There were information stalls and displays from the Burngreave anti-social behaviour team, community wardens and South Yorkshire Police who were all available to give practical advice and support.

But fun was also the name of the game. Self-defence 'taster' sessions were available and Greentop circus unicyclists performed in their cycle helmets. People who brought their bikes got a free cycle safety kit which included a light, lock, helmet and reflective strips.

A 45-minute group cycle ride around Burngreave and refreshments and music completed the party atmosphere. Arabic, Somali and Punjabi/Urdu interpreters were available throughout the day.

Magda Boo, crime theme manager for BNDfC, said: "We want to make people think more about their own safety and what measures they can take to protect themselves. By providing personal attack alarms and other safety devices we are not just handing out information but also giving people the means to take action themselves," she added.

The event was organised by BNDfC in partnership with South Yorkshire Police, Sheffield City Council Community Safety Team, Activity Sheffield and ADCE Recycle, BNDfC community wardens, the anti-social behaviour team, Activity Sheffield and Sheffield Homes.

Following on from its success, another similar event is now being



Members of the Burngreave community get their free cycle safety kit.

© Carl Rose

organised for early next year – look out for more details in the coming weeks.

Public meeting questions answered

At the recent BNDfC public meeting held at Verdon Street Recreation Centre on Friday 17 September 2004, a number of issues were raised and are detailed below:

- More support should be provided for the elderly including care in the home and the maintenance of gardens.
- Concern that new housing on Woodside wouldn't be affordable to local residents.
- Drug and gun crime in Burngreave is committed by outsiders not by local residents.
- Improvement to properties through facelifting makes properties look attractive from the front but they are falling



down at the back.

- The African-Caribbean community need a centre as the building previously used in Ellesmere is now a facility for the Hindu community.
- More support should be provided for residents who have lived in the area for a long time and want to set up a business.

Responses to these questions are available in the Burngreave New Deal for Communities

Information Shop at 131 Spital Hill, Sheffield, S4 7LJ. The shop is open Monday–Friday, 11am–6pm (closed 1–2pm for lunch) and Saturdays, 10.30am–2pm.

A New Deal for Burngreave



Employment boost

It's an encouraging fact that not everyone may be aware of but almost 50 per cent of the jobs created by the Burngreave New Deal for Communities programme have been filled by local residents.

This is an important element of the BNDfC programme which aims to give people from Burngreave access to appropriate training and employment opportunities. We want to ensure that local people are getting the right skills and experience so they can access jobs in Burngreave, at BNDfC or elsewhere in the city.

So far, the BNDfC programme has resulted in 270 jobs – the BNDfC programme team consists of 25 members of staff and 245 people are employed on projects funded by BNDfC. In all, more than 12 ethnic backgrounds are represented.



Leroy leads the way

Leroy Betts has lived in Burngreave all his life. He has just been appointed as a Community Engagement Manager at BNDfC and, as he explains, is grateful to have the chance to put something back into his local community...

Says Leroy: "I have worked in regeneration before, in other parts of Sheffield and outside of the city and I always came back home to Burngreave and thought something needed to be done here. It was my goal to work in Burngreave and help drive the change. Over the past three years things have started to happen and now I am part of it which is great."

Leroy thinks the key to regenerating Burngreave is getting local people involved. In his new role he wants to try and engage as many people as possible, especially those in the groups that are hardest to reach such as young people, so they have a say in what happens in their area through the New Deal programme.

He believes the central element to all this work is the self-development of local people, getting them involved and

introducing them to training and job opportunities, for example.

"I want to empower local people so we can work together to make the changes we all want to see. Burngreave is a fantastic area to live and work – the diversity is brilliant and it is bubbling with vibrancy."

He also recognises the importance of raising the profile of BNDfC and making people aware of the opportunities that are now open to them.

Says Leroy: "I had to do it the hard way – New Deal was not around when I was younger, I knew what I wanted to do but it took me until I was 25 to get my first job. This would not be the case now – I can't stress to people enough what a difference they could make to their own life by taking advantage of what is on offer for them.

"I've lived in Burngreave for a long time now and seen people struggle year after year – through New Deal we now have the opportunity for people to develop themselves in areas that they are interested in and build a profession for themselves like I have done in regeneration.

Theme Meetings

Everyone is welcome at the following theme meetings:

Health: 7 February, St Peter's, 5.30–7.30pm

Employment & Enterprise: 5 January, Ellesmere Children's Centre, 1.30–3.30pm

Over-arching: 14 December & 11 January, The Furnival, Verdon Street, 6–8pm

Education: 12 January, St Peter's Church Hall, Lyons Street, 6–8pm

Housing: 13 January, BCAT meeting room, 6–8pm

Crime: 21 December & 18 January, Pitsmoor Methodist Church, 6–8pm

Environment: 16 December & 27 January, Pitsmoor Methodist Church, 6–8pm

Member wanted

BNDfC is looking for a local resident to be a member of the Education Theme Strategy Group which meets once a month to oversee the development of our education projects. This includes young people at schools but also adults into education, training and employment.

This is a voluntary role and you will need to be able to demonstrate an enthusiasm for improving education in the area. If you are interested in joining this group please contact Jon Cowley, on 292 2908 or email: joncowley@bndfc.co.uk.

On the move...

Please be aware that the Theme Managers, previously located on Burngreave Road, and the Supporting Business Team, previously located at Spartan House, are both moving to our Speedicut Works site.

From 13 December 2004 the whole BNDfC team can be found at Speedicut Works, Harlestone Street, Sheffield S4 7BQ.

All email addresses, telephone and fax numbers will stay the same. For general enquiries contact the Information Shop on Spital Hill, tel: 292 0464 or email: infoshop@bndfc.co.uk.



contact: 276 9134

Burngreave Area Panel

Lighting Up Burngreave

On Saturday 20th November the Lord Major officially turned on the festive lights on Elsmere Green to help brighten up Burngreave through the winter. The six and a half thousand lights, which have been funded and arranged by the



Both © Carl Rose

Burngreave Area Panel, will be on until the nights shorten again in March and then again next winter and for years to come. The turn on was marked by the Burngreave Carnival of Light arranged by Green City Action (GCA) as part of the Burngreave Events Project (also part funded by the Panel). It was a wonderful event for all of those who turned out on what was a very chilly evening. Our thanks go to GCA and all the entertainers and performers that helped make it such a wonderful occasion. Special thanks go to Panni Loh our departing events officer and we wish her the best of luck in her new job.



Celebrating Local Heroes

This year's Burngreave Area Panel New Year's Honours Awards ceremony will be on Thursday 27th January from 6.30-9.00pm in the Old Town Hall. The Area Panel would like to welcome all residents of Burngreave to come along and help us celebrate the fantastic contribution local people and groups make to this area. We will be presenting awards to individuals, workers and groups that you have told us have made a real difference. There will be a free buffet to allow you to sample foods from many of the different communities living in the area and displays from a wide range of groups and projects that are actively working to improve life for people in Burngreave.

Keep On Bringing Your Rubbish Out

Our latest round of Bring Out Your Rubbish Days are now underway. The 22 days that the Panel has funded to cover our entire area started in November and will carry on until June. These days are your chance to get rid of your large unwanted items of rubbish. The days are taking place one a week on Tuesdays starting up in Fir Vale and work down to Burngreave with a gap during December and January. Look out for the leaflet through your door letting you know when your day is and what to do. Our thanks to all those who have helped make the first few days such a success. For more information on these days contact the Burngreave Area Action Team on 276 9134.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

The Area Panel and Area Action Team would like to wish a very merry Christmas and a happy new year to everyone in Burngreave.

Councillor's Surgery Dates

Your local councillors, Jackie Drayton, Ibrar Hussain and Steve Jones (pictured left to right below), share surgeries on a rota basis.



- 9th December 10.30-11.30am, The Furnival, Verdon Street (Steve Jones)

- 11th December 11.00am-12.00 noon, Burngreave Library, Spital Hill (Ibrar Hussain)
- 11th December 12.15-1.00pm, Firshill TARA, 11A Firshill Glade (Ibrar Hussain)
- 14th December 5.30-6.00pm, Wensley TARA, 5 Wensley Croft (Jackie Drayton)

Next Area Panel Meeting Dates

- Thursday 27th January, 6.30pm at Sheffield Town Hall – Burngreave New Year's Honours Awards
- Thursday 24th February, 6.30pm at a venue to be confirmed.
- Thursday 31st March, 6.30pm at a venue to be confirmed.

Don't forget you can contact the Area Panel and Burngreave Area Action Team at: 12-14 Burngreave Road, S3 9DD. Tel/Fax: 276 9134 Email: kieron.williams@sheffield.gov.uk

Glory Days of the Vestry Hall

Hilda Dawson lived in Burngreave during the 1920s and 30s when her father was caretaker of the Vestry Hall. She came back recently to visit the hall and told me some of her favourite stories from her childhood days.

Born in 1918, she was the youngest of three children. The family lived in quarters attached to the Vestry Hall and her father, Bill Hawdin, was a well-known figure in the area. "He used to lay out everything for functions, keep the boiler stoked to heat the place and even clean the big windows in the hall – he was always busy."

"There was always so much happening in the Vestry Hall when I was a child. Inside the front door there was the registry office on the left and the Yorkshire Penny Bank on the right. The big hall was constantly in use for dances, wedding receptions, church services and even political meetings. There was Sunday School in one of the upstairs rooms. At that time there were a lot of rich people, doctors and such like, living in the big houses nearby but there were plenty of poor people too. Often, after a wedding reception, my father would ask the bride and groom if they wanted any leftover food to take with them. If they said "No", then a crowd of small children, many with no shoes or stockings, would be allowed in to polish off the remains."

As a child, Hilda used to play on Bressingham Street with all the other children – skipping, tops, hares and hounds. On Saturday afternoons they headed for the matinee at the Coliseum cinema (now the garage site on Spital Hill). In the winter when it snowed they went sledging. "The noise we made used to annoy some of the grown ups and so they would sprinkle ashes on the snow," Hilda said "but I was always the mischevious one who got the brush and swept the ash away so we could keep on playing!"

One of Hilda's favourite memories was peering down from her bedroom window at the side of the building into the hall when the dances were in full swing. Then, as she got older and braver, she would sneak into the hall (knowing that her father would give her a smack if he caught her!) just to watch. "There would always be a band playing and I loved to see the dancing." Finally, as a newly-wed bride, she had her own wedding reception in the hall – a happy moment.

During the war the Air Raid Patrol was based in the cellar –



l-r: Mary, Harry and Hilda Dawson in the 1920s alongside the Vestry Hall.

they used to organise the wardens if air raid sirens went off in the city. Hilda's father was trained to deal with gas attacks and Hilda remembers how she and her mother had once sat in the cellar of the Vestry Hall for hours with hot, heavy gas masks on because they thought their father had shouted down to them to be ready. In fact they had misheard him and he burst out laughing when he saw them.

Hilda no longer lives in the area but has lovely memories of growing up here. On a recent visit to Burngreave, Hilda was saddened to see the Vestry Hall in such a dilapidated state but hopeful that the building could have a new lease of life. Roll on a rejuvenated Vestry Hall!

Pablo in Pitsmoor?

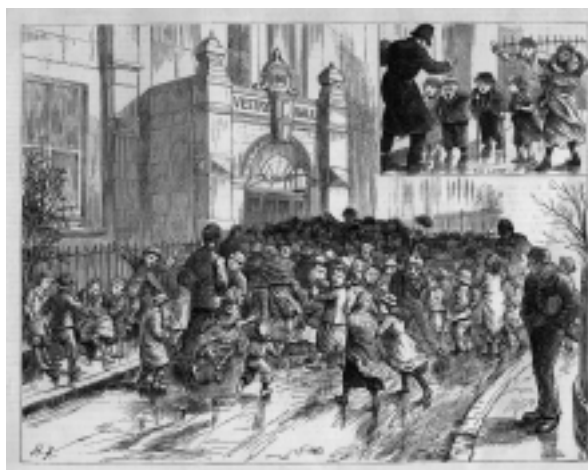
Recently I came across a rumour that Picasso may have visited the Vestry Hall in Burngreave, when he came to Sheffield for the World Peace Congress in November 1950. This event was due to take place at the City Hall. However it was transferred at very short notice to Warsaw because the government decided to exclude a lot of foreign delegates who were considered to be *persona non grata* – communists.

Unlike Pablo Neruda and Shostakovitch, Picasso did make it to Sheffield, where he apparently drew his famous dove of peace. It's clear that the Vestry Hall was used as a public relations office for the World Peace Congress and as a base for the Sheffield Area Peace Council who produced leaflets about the congress meetings. There was a complaint from the National Guild of Telephonists in the *Sheffield Telegraph* on 11th November 1950, about the installation of four extra telephone lines to the Vestry Hall specifically for the Peace Congress!

There doesn't appear to be any evidence that Picasso came to the Vestry Hall... unless, of course, you know otherwise?

Do you have any stories or photos of things that have happened over the years in the Vestry Hall that you would be willing to talk about or share? I would be delighted to hear from you. To get in touch with me contact 276 1900 or call into Burngreave Library.

by Nikky Wilson



The distress at Sheffield: Children waiting for soup at the Vestry Hall, Brightside.

– The Illustrated London News 11th January 1879

Burngreave Voices: Our Stories Celebrated is a Sheffield Galleries and Museums Trust project in partnership with Sheffield Libraries and Information Service, WEA and Sheffield College.



Dear Messenger

I work in very remote areas in the North of Scotland. Yesterday I found a balloon with Firvale Community Forum on it in Glenbeag, Ross-shire – a remote glen twelve miles from the nearest main road.



I would be delighted to hear from anyone regarding the balloon, and would also be glad to send it on if anyone wanted it, although it is the worse for wear after its long journey.

Regards Alexander Green

Dear Messenger

Onyx have applied for permission to place three recycling bins on the spare ground at the Osgathorpe Road end of Kirton Road. I am in favour of recycling but feel that the suggested site is too near homes and could lead to even more anti-social behaviour than at present. Who decides where these recycling bins will be placed? I feel sure in this case whoever it was lives nowhere near Osgathorpe or Kirton Road. Why can't the bins be sited outside the shops where the cans and bottles will be bought?

"Kirton Road resident"

Dear Messenger

"It's Burngreave Jim, but not as we know it!"

The Masterplan for Burngreave is very confusing. Many people I speak to don't realise the extent of demolition that is being proposed. An example of this is Spital Hill. The only building to be saved is Sorby House! I say reverse the plans, refurbish Spital Hill and demolish Sorby House.



I dream of a day when local government realise the best plans are made not by community consultation (involving a private firm of consultants from Leeds) but by community involvement.

Jeff Kirby

Dear Messenger Readers

A small group of us from Catcliffe and Treeton are looking at doing a feasibility into re-opening the Beighton railway line to passenger trains. There is a freight-only route at present running south from Masbrough in Rotherham to Chesterfield, sometimes known as the 'Old Road'. A steering group is needed with representatives from communities along the line: Beighton and Sothall, Woodhouse, Killamarsh, Eckington and Renishaw, Staveley, Masbrough and Burngreave as well as us from Treeton and Catcliffe.

If anyone from Burngreave or the Wicker area might be interested in joining our steering group, please email stephenruffle@treetonpartnership.org.uk or phone me on 288 9308.

Steve Ruffle, Waverley Community Connects

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Sally Travis at Garden Rooms

tel: 275 0338

email: garden.rooms@virgin.net



The BNDfC Grant Scheme

Grants from £500–25,000

Up to £500 for individuals, £500–5,000 for community groups,
£5,000–25,000 for constituted groups.

Many project ideas could be eligible, so just give Tania Ferreyra or Guy Weston from the BCAT grants team a call on 273 8578 and ask for an application pack.

Closing Dates for the next quarter

Friday, 7th January 2005 at 12 noon

Friday, 4th February 2005 at 12 noon

Friday, 4th March 2005 at 12 noon

Friday, 1st April 2005 at 12 noon



Burngreave annual

FESTIVE PARTY

18th December 2004
Spectrum Centre 105 Brunswick Rd

3 Parties - 1 Day

4-8yrs party
11:00-1:00

Play Bus, Bouncy castles,
Magicians/entertainers,
Face and Nail Painting,
Disco, Games and Prizes

9-12yrs party
2:00-4:30

Limousine, Disco,
Magicians/Entertainers,
Face and Nail Painting,
Games and Prizes

TEEN PARTY
13-19 YRS 7.30-10.00 PM

"Listen to Us"
Mobile phone party
Register your phone number
to win fantastic prizes.
Prizes given away every
10 mins, don't miss out!!

B.U.M.P presents
Rap contest: Heat 2.
Winner takes all hip hop jam!!
200 quid up for raps.
Listen to us showcase local talent,
Hot food, prizes and giveaways

All rappers must register 24 hours before event, open to 13-19 yr olds only! call DJ Mink on 07752 147 657
Tickets only, free entry with ticket. Tickets available at: BNDfC Information Shop @ Spital Hill-tel 2920464,
BCAT @ Burngreave Road tel-2728008, BNDfC@Speedycut Works, Harleston St-tel 2920393

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WHEN: 1st Mon and 3rd Tuesday of each month from Jan

TIME: 6.30-8.30

UPCOMING DATES:

| | | | |
|------|------------------|-----|-----|
| Tues | 21 st | Dec | '04 |
| Mon | 10 th | Jan | '05 |
| Tues | 18 th | Jan | '05 |
| Mon | 7 th | Feb | '05 |
| Tues | 15 th | Feb | '05 |

MORE DATES TO FOLLOW

SMOKE AND ALCOHOL FREE EVENT

For further information: Vincent Turner at Creative Burngreave
0114 221 1892 email: v.turner@sheffieldartsed.org.uk



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