

Burngreave Messenger



Voice of the Burngreave Community

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

Parkwood tip explodes

Following a series of dramatic explosions at Parkwood landfill during the night of 30th April, the Environment Agency is investigating the incident, and might prosecute the owners Viridor. The cause of the explosions is thought to have been old lithium batteries.

Following the explosions, a dense black cloud of smoke drifted across the city centre. Environment Agency staff were unable to tell the *Messenger* whether gases or particles released by the explosion could be a danger to health, and later added this was a matter for the Primary Care Trust. The Agency, responsible for monitoring the site, is not equipped to detect or analyse emissions in this type of incident. The site is self-regulating.

From 16th July Viridor will no longer be able to accept hazardous waste on to the site. But the bad smell coming from the site, which residents said had been very strong this year, would not be affected. The site operators are unable to prevent the site from smelling.

The Environment Agency are also conducting an investigation into an earlier incident, which might lead to a prosecution. During March, strong winds blew large quantities of plastic and other rubbish across the public



open space above the site, and into the gardens of nearby residents. A Kingsmead Estate homeowner showed the *Messenger* a photo of a green plastic hospital waste bag, clearly marked as dangerous. The bag was empty, but what had happened to the contents?

Viridor sent staff to gather up rubbish that had blown off their site. But they refused to attend a meeting of Shirecliffe Forum on 19th May, called to discuss these latest problems. Local councillors expressed strong disappointment at their failure to attend. Labour's cabinet member for waste management, Harry Harpham, said, "Local people have the right to know what went on

and if it will happen again."

"We want some action now, not words, not platitudes, but deeds," said Jean Armstrong, of Parkwood Landfill Action Group (PLAG).

Cllr Harpham told local residents household waste contributed to landfill, and urged them to waste less and recycle more. But at the Sheffield University Recycling Forum on 19th May, David Bird, Head of Waste at the Council said, "Sheffield City Council does not believe recycling is the answer." It has no plans to expand the successful blue bin scheme and collect other recyclable materials at kerbside, but favoured "a mixed economy for waste for the city," which includes landfill.

PLAG, c/o Green City Action [address below], www.shefinfo.org.uk/parkwood/, email parkwoodaction@fsmail.net.

by Andrew Green

crafts music stalls dance food
Abbeyfield Park
Multicultural Festival 2004
 1-8pm, Sunday, 11th July

For more information contact Green City Action
 Abbeyfield Park House, Abbeyfield Road, S4 7AT or tel: 244 0353



Burngreave Green Environment Programme Events

Saturday 26th June – Grass Sledging

11.00am–1.00pm in Osgathorpe Park.

Come and join the Burngreave Rangers for a fun day grass sledging in Osgathorpe Park.

Tuesday 27th July– Kite Making

11.00am–1.00pm in Ellesmere Park.

Try making kites with the Burngreave Rangers. All materials supplied.

31st July – Flowery Fun Day

Meeting at 11.00am at Abbeyfield Park House.

Come and join the Burngreave Community Forestry Project collecting seeds in Woolly Woods to be replanted later in Roe Woods.

Transport provided, all you have to bring is waterproofs, stout footwear and a packed lunch. Everyone welcome, but an adult **must** accompany children under 8.



Language Matters in Burngreave

Burngreave Language Support Agency (BLSA) is holding a half day conference on Language Matters in Burngreave on Thursday 1st July 2004, 12:00 to 16:30 at the Spectrum Centre.

There will be local and national speakers. All individuals, organisations and groups are welcome to participate in four exciting workshops on:

- Community language teaching
- Community and Economic Development
- Health issues & interpreting
- Translation & interpretation good practice guidelines

Places are reserved on first come first served basis. For further information and to book a place, please contact or visit us:

BLSA Team, 12 Burngreave Road, Sheffield S3 9DD
Tel: (0114) 272 2833 • Fax: (0114) 272 8800
Email: info@blsa.org.uk

Sheffield Landlord Event 2004

Tuesday 22nd June
6.00-8.30pm

The Platinum Suite
SUFC, Bramall Lane, Cherry Street
(parking is available)

Registration, tea and coffee from 6.00pm
Buffet provided

The programme will include

Anti-Social Behaviour
Guest Speaker Louise Casey

The Housing Bill
Guest Speaker Richard Footitt

For those landlords unable to attend who wish to have more information on any item or wish to join the Responsible Landlord Scheme please contact the Supporting Landlord Team by telephoning 0114 273 5134 or visiting Private Sector Housing, Howden House, Union Street or emailing jacqui.morgan@sheffield.gov.uk.



SHEFFIELD RAPE AND SEXUAL ABUSE COUNSELLING SERVICE

WOMEN

Helpline VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you have a few hours a week to spare?

Would you like to learn new skills, meet new people and help make a difference to women's lives in Sheffield?

We are looking for women to train as helpline support workers

Support and supervision provided

Course starts: 9 September 2004

Send A4 sae (42p) to
SRASACS, P.O. Box 34, Sheffield S1 1UD
for an application pack

Applications close on **2 July 2004**

These posts are exempt under Section 7(1)(a) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975

Attempted murder

An 18-year old man was shot three times with a shotgun on Earl Marshall Drive at about 11.45pm on 27th April. He received injuries to his lower abdomen and back, and the police are treating the crime as attempted murder.

A second shooting followed, assumed to be in response to the first. Police have made some arrests, but not charged anyone so far. They believe the crimes to be part of a turf war between rival drug dealers. Anyone with information about the shooting should contact Attercliffe CID on 296 4364.

Another shooting on Earsham Street on 27th March is thought to be unrelated to the Earl Marshall Drive incident. The victim is in danger of losing his arm.

by Andrew Green

These shootings, the first for some months, and complaints the Messenger has received of young people's anti-social behaviour [see letters on page 18], have led us to investigate further.

On the Wensley Estate in Firvale, police are using controversial new powers granted under David Blunkett's Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003. In Burngreave the new Anti-social Behaviour Team have been kept busy, but plans for increased provision for young people have been delayed. This month the Messenger brings you updates on all these issues and a report from our streets on pages 4 and 5.

Article damages goodwill

On 15th May, The Star reported that children at Grimesthorpe Goodwill Centre held a ceremony dedicating their success to a teacher blown up in the troubled land of Iraq, a claim the Goodwill Centre organisers deny. On Thursday 20th May The Star printed letters condemning the centre and The Star for supporting it, alongside pictures of children belonging to the Goodwill Centre Tae Kwon-do Club.

The *Messenger* was concerned this misrepresented the Goodwill Centre, twisting the positive activities of young people into a political story and provoking a negative response towards the centre. I paid them a visit and spoke to Omer Abdulqader.

"Actually we really have no comment to make on *The Star* or what they have written," began Omer, "Other than to say we are pursuing legal action against them."

I enquired what event *The Star* had pictured. Omer explained it was a grading event for the Tae Kwon-do classes. "Tae Kwon-do is held at this centre every week and the people invited down to report this event were about selling papers and not telling the truth."

Omer was very angry and had little more to add other than reflecting the lack of truth in any of the articles published by *The Star* newspaper.

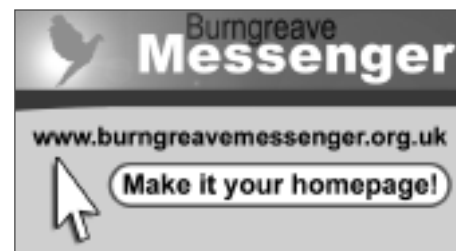
by Rob Smith



We are pleased to say our reporting of the Abbeyfield Multicultural Festival will be bigger and better than ever. We will share a stall with Sheffield Indymedia, and with their technical help, we hope you will help us provide the most comprehensive coverage we've ever had.

How can you help? If you feel inspired to write what you think about the great day, or share photos with us, come to the stall and we'll help you put it online. We will also be around the park with laptops, digital cameras and minidisk recorders collecting material. Those not lucky enough to be there will be able to keep track via <http://sheffield.indymedia.org.uk/> and listen to the main stage via a live audio webcast.

See you there on **Sunday, 11th July**. Don't forget your sunscreen, sun hat and bottle of water!



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. We hold meetings on Wednesdays at 6.30pm at Abbeyfield Park House. The next editorial meeting is 30th June and the next management meeting is 21st July. All are welcome. **The copy deadline for the next issue is 7th July.**

This month's issue was produced by the Editorial team: Farzana Ahmed, Kate Atkinson, Annie Blindell, Clare Burnell, Patrick Edwards, Andrew Green, Mark Lankshear, Jamie Marriott, Carl Rose, Rob Smith, Lisa Swift and Paul Taylor.

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Contact the Messenger

Abbeyfield Park House,
Abbeyfield Road, S4 7AT

Tel: 242 0564

messenger@burngreave.net

Streets of Burngreave – safe and quiet?

Having heard many complaints concerning youth gangs and nuisance behaviour, I went in search of these youths along with photographer Carl. Our first visit was to Earl Marshal View (off Earl Marshal Road).

It's in this area a recent shooting took place, and everyone we met had heard about this incident. Getting directions to Earl Marshal View we made contact with Mrs Gribben who informed me we were too late.

"Oh yes, there was gangs of youths here everyday before. But now the police have clamped down and moved them on, you're too late," she repeated. "As these houses were originally made for older people, we have all been terrified by what had been going on every night." Thanking Mrs Gribben, before she could again tell me we were too late, we returned to the car. We were still searching and headed in the direction of the Wensley Estate. It's here reports of youth anti-social behaviour have led to curfews and the estate becoming a low-tolerance zone.

"They can arrest us for being in a group of more than two," scowled a small girl who was playing hopscotch on the pavement with her friends.



Having informed them I was from the *Burngreave Messenger* and showing my identification, smaller children playing close by began to gather.

Looking around we saw very little sign of teenagers, as a large police Transit made an appearance somewhere close by.

Before leaving Wensley, we paid a visit to the local shop and enquired whether the proprietor was aware of the new police action taking place and how it all affected his business.

He admitted there had been a lot of anti-social behaviour problems before,

and also noted the drop in custom since the new police curfews were in place.

Travelling onto Scott Road, most of the youths that tend to gather in the surrounding area of Abbeyfield Road were stood outside the park gates. Football and cricket were taking place inside but those hanging about are those referred to as the hard to reach age group. I recognised those who left school in 2003, and now in this group I saw faces of this year's school leavers. Like their predecessors, they have few places to go and not much else to do, other than hang off street corners.

"What crew are you?" I enquired of a large enough group stood by the entrance to the park.

"Tek, 9!" muttered a voice.

"So why you hanging about! Nothing to do?" I asked, expecting an answer that could range from the insightful, to the funny, or even the downright ridiculous, rude or even crude. A reminder that these were teenagers of 2004 meant the answer that followed, just about summed up the times.

"Maybe we just like hanging on the streets! Isn't it?"

by Rob Smith

Ghost Town

The Wensley estate in Fir Vale is like a "ghost town", according to a local resident, due to a 9pm to 6am curfew on young people aged 16 and under, and a power invoked under section 30 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003, which allows the police to move on any groups of two or more people loitering on the estate. Police can take young people home, or if home is not safe, to another safe place such as a local authority home or police station.

The measures are the result of extensive consultation with local residents, including young people, according to Superintendent John Brennan. He told the *Messenger* they follow on from Operation Detox 5, into drug dealing and violent crime, which has been "a major success". Over 60 arrests were made in a period of three weeks, and large quantities of drugs and weapons were seized, including guns, knives, and a crossbow.

The curfew and section 30 order are "a last resort", Supt Brennan said, and the police were using these drastic powers sparingly. They have made only one arrest, of a youth refusing to comply with the curfew.

Supt Brennan agreed that much of the crime would be displaced to other areas, and said the police were under no illusion that they would eradicate drug dealing in this way. Drug abuse is a social problem, rather than a crime problem.

Alex Gask, a solicitor at human rights organisation Liberty, told us that they believe "the imposition of a 9pm to 6am curfew on all under 16s in a particular area is unlawful," because it is an interference with Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (now part of English law under the Human Rights Act), which guarantees everyone a right to respect for her or his private life. The police can interfere with this right to prevent disorder or crime, but to deprive a whole section of the community of this right, when the majority of them are not committing any crime, is unlawful, Liberty argues. Liberty would like to challenge the legality of the curfew in the High Court by taking a test case, and invite anyone who believes their rights under Article 8 to have been infringed, to contact them on 020 7403 3888.

For more information see www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk/issues/curfews-more-info.shtml.

by Andrew Green

Behaviour team kept busy

What has Burngreave Anti-social Behaviour team been doing to tackle these issues? I went along to speak to team leader Wendy Barlow.

Since the project, funded by New Deal, began early this year the team have taken on 120 cases. They respond to a wide range of problems including noise nuisance, problems between tenants and even fly tipping. Wendy explained:

“About 40 cases have involved young people. There have been particular problems on Carwood and Bressingham, where dispersal orders were considered but in the end were not needed.”

When a problem is reported the team works on the ground to try to resolve it, talking to those involved. They can use Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) where people agree to change their behaviour. Breaking this contract could lead to a legally binding Anti-social Behaviour Order. If someone breaks the order it can lead to a prison sentence.

“We’ve had to serve two ABCs, in conjunction with the New Deal Police, on young people. This is part of a process to divert people away from anti-social behaviour. People often don’t understand the effect of their behaviour on others, or what the consequences might be.”

I asked if the team felt young people could be encouraged into positive activities.

“We are working with other agencies to get a better understanding of what’s on offer for young people, including mediation and drug support, but our responsibility is to the wider community who are victims of anti-social behaviour.”

The Anti-social Behaviour Team can be reached on 203 9486.

by Rob Smith

What future for young people?

Following our coverage of difficulties at Sheffield Futures last month, the New Deal RIF Approval Group refused to approve their detached youth work project because of concerns about the management arrangements. John Clark, Chief Executive of New Deal, explained there were other concerns.

“We don’t want New Deal money replacing services because Futures are making cutbacks. We don’t want the same old provision by the same people. But we must face facts – mainstream youth services will always be with Sheffield Futures. If New Deal wants to make lasting changes, we must work with them.”

New Deal have asked them to guarantee existing service levels, and to recruit new people to the posts, not just reallocate existing staff. Futures are prepared to commit to that, but it could be September before agreement is reached and workers recruited.

BCAF’s Children and Young People’s Working Group hoped the project would not just target certain groups of young people, giving the impression bad behaviour is rewarded. John Clark emphasised all activities will be open to all, with some work to encourage disaffected young people to be involved.

New Deal funding will also go to local organisations. Listen to Us will be providing activities and developing a youth council. Ellesmere Youth Project will continue work in Ellesmere and Carwood, and a Somali youth project is being developed. John Clark said, “It’s important activities happen all year round, not just in summer. We need a co-ordinated approach to keep young people informed – we hope Sheffield Futures can help with this. They will be supporting voluntary organisations by providing training for adults who are working with young people without proper qualifications.”

Futures respond

Dear Messenger

I would like to respond to the article in your last issue about Sheffield Futures and the youth services in the Burngreave area.

Sheffield Futures delivers a high standard of youth services in Burngreave and we are delighted to say that we may soon be able to increase the number of workers we employ in the area. We are currently negotiating with New Deal for an additional £200,000 of funding, which will be a welcome addition to the £150,000 from our own resources which we already invest in the area.

The proposed project would create quality youth provision via an additional four part-time detached youth workers as well as management support and training for the project and the voluntary sector. The new posts would also create jobs for local people. We are actively working with New Deal to progress this proposal, and have been doing so for the last year or so.

It is important to stress the Burngreave area has not suffered any major ‘cut backs’. Sheffield Futures did sadly make six people redundant this year – a much reduced figure

from first estimates, thanks to hard work by Sheffield Futures staff to attract additional funding into the organisation – but none of these redundancies affected staff in the Burngreave area.

We have three centres in Burngreave which cater for young people. These are: the Earl Marshal Connexions Centre, Verdon Street Recreation Centre and The All Saints Centre (Burngreave New Deal help to financially support this project. Here we also run the Catch the Drift project for young people excluded from school).

We also have detached youth workers in the area and during school holidays we run the Positive Activities for Young People project in parts of the city, including Burngreave. This project helps to keep young people busy, involved in positive activities rather than congregating on the streets.

Sheffield Futures works hard for the young people of Burngreave, and will continue to do so.

Yours faithfully
Helen Bale, Sheffield Futures’ Area Director for the Burngreave area

Osgathorpe Park – Cleaner, Greener and Safer

Many local residents see Osgathorpe Park, off Earl Marshal and Barnsley Road, as a much-loved green space that has sadly been neglected in recent years, suffering from litter, vandalism and nuisance behaviours aggravated by poor lighting.

The 'Friends of Osgathorpe Park' Group was established two years ago to help improve the park. Members are local residents and park users who want to see the park tidied up, with more people of all ages actively and positively using it.

The group have started to make a difference by:

- Planting hundreds of new trees, helping to promote wildlife.
- Installing squeeze barriers to prevent quad bikes and motorcycles entering the park and causing a nuisance.
- Improving mowing and litter picking by the Council and organising community litter picking days.

Police surveillance of the park has been increased and arrests have been made to **stop** drug dealing.

The group are spending funding on more improvements. We aim to get the pavilion back into use and improve the facilities to encourage more people to use the park, and to make it safer. The group also aim to transform the children's play area by installing new equipment and making it safer by erecting a fence around it to keep out dogs. The appearance of the park and buildings will be improved too, with paintings by young people and more flowers and plants. We are also working for more bins and improved lighting.

We are asking everyone to help make the park cleaner, greener and safer. We need more people to tell us what our priorities should be – without you, the improvements we all

want will not happen. We particularly welcome members of the black and ethnic minority communities as they are currently underrepresented in the group.

The next meeting will be on 21st June, 6.30pm at the Osgathorpe Park Pavilion.

A variety of events are planned for this summer, including: weekly one hour health walks for all the family, the 'One Love' festival, Osgathorpe Park Jam on 25th July and the Osgathorpe Park Fun Day on 5th August.

For more information about events, meeting dates, or to share your ideas and opinions, please contact Jenny or Moira of the Burngreave Green Environment Programme on 278 9651.

by John Gamble
Local resident and Friend of Osgathorpe Park



Osgathorpe Jam
One Love Festival
2004

Bigger and Better than ever!

Sunday 25th July 1–9pm

Osgathorpe Park –
Earl Marshal Recreation Ground

Live entertainment for all the family
Local artists and celebrity DJs
A wide range of stalls

Contact Aisha Special K
on 273 1040 or 285 9935
aishaspecialk@bndfc.co.uk
for information on stalls, workshops,
performances or volunteering.

One Project – Four Festivals!



The exciting new Festivals Project, managed by Green City Action, will deliver four seasonal main events each year throughout Burngreave.

The first and largest event will be our wonderful Abbeyfield Multicultural Festival on Sunday, 11th July 1–8pm. Now in its sixth year, the festival promises to be just as good as previous years with some new and innovative performances. Local people will have an opportunity to showcase their talents and to really enjoy the rich diversity of beautiful Burngreave.

The next planned event is on the Wensley Estate on 8th September on the green across from Owler Brook School, and meetings with local people are already underway. The winter event planned for early December is the 'Burngreave Festival of Lights!' which will brighten up

our dark winter months. Next year we hope to hold a theatre performance on another green space in our area.

If you want to put your creative talents into action please get in touch as we will need people to get involved in making costumes, lanterns and performing, as well as help with First Aid, fundraising and general volunteering.

The project has three years funding from New Deal and two years funding from the Area Panel. For more information contact Panni Poh Yoke Loh, Events Co-ordinator, Green City Action on 244 0353.

by Panni Poh Yoke Loh

The eleven members of Abbeyfield Park Multicultural Festival Planning Committee are from a wide range of organisations working in Burngreave. For a list of the individuals involved go to www.burngreavemessenger.org.uk.

Time for some green action

The Burngreave Green Environment Programme began two years ago with a £1.3 million budget, £1 million of which came from New Deal. Now concerns have been raised that our green spaces are still in a shabby state and nothing is being done. The Messenger investigates...

The programme, managed by Sheffield Wildlife Trust and steered by local people, is due to end in March 2005. It is, at present, £155,000 underspent, however this money will be used on capital projects in the coming year. So what has been achieved, why is money unspent and what will happen now?

Members of the steering group told the *Messenger* a great deal has been achieved since the beginning of the programme. New fencing and facilities have been installed at Grimesthorpe Allotments, the children's playground in Abbeyfield Park has been refurbished (see page 11), improvements have been made at Osgathorpe Park and a friends group set up (see page 6), and the forestry project have not only planted lots of trees but also carried out tree surgery across Burngreave. The programme has also completed a very detailed audit of the green spaces, measuring their environmental, historical and social value.



The main aim of the programme was to develop an Action Plan for all the green spaces. This is complete but some feel it has taken too long and more visible, practical work should have been done.

John Clark, Chief Executive of BNDfC, told the *Messenger*, "We need to see visible changes soon. There was a delay in completing the Action Plan which is why more has not been done. The partnership board have raised their concerns with Sheffield Wildlife Trust and a plan has been developed for the next twelve months. Before March 2005 we want to see developments at Abbeyfield Park, Osgathorpe Park and Catherine Street playground."

Although the Action Plan is complete, work has yet to be costed, but Sheffield Wildlife Trust are confident they already have enough funds to achieve their goals for the next year. New Deal has also expressed its commitment to making the whole Action Plan a reality, which includes plans for the Cemetery, Ellesmere Park, Burngreave Rec and other green space in Burngreave. But New Deal is adamant any further funding must be matched by money from other funders.

John said, "Other New Deal programmes have been able to double the New Deal input, and we want this one to do the same – organisations such as Groundworks could bring money to the area. Green City Action, a Burngreave-based organisation, will also be involved in planning and implementing some of the work."

Jane Haigh, programme manager for the project at Sheffield Wildlife Trust, told the *Messenger*, "We have to admit that only small-scale work has been done, but the main aim of phase one was to complete an Action Plan which has now been done. Major work could not be started until this had happened, and we are going to get a lot done before the end of March 2005."

Jane explained the underspend was due to many things, including plans to use St Catherine's Hall and renovate it as a base in the area. The plans fell through when the Church decided to sell it to someone else. The programme was without some of its key workers for three months, which added to the problem and also delayed production of the Action Plan.

"Since I was appointed three months ago we have been working really hard to move things on. Myself and other workers are really committed to the area and are going to make sure things happen this year. We have been able to carry forward the underspend from last year and we are now in a position to get the work done on Abbeyfield, Osgathorpe and Catherine Street. We are also looking forward to working with Green City Action and building their capacity for future work."

The Burngreave Green Audit is being made available at www.burngreavemessenger.org.uk/greenaudit/. You can download information about a green space near you and find out its history, what wildlife lives there and how the community uses it. It is also available to read in the Burngreave Library and the BNDfC Info Shop on Spital Hill.

by Lisa Swift



Next issue

In the next issue of the *Messenger* the Green Environment Programme will be asking for your views on the this year's plans for Abbeyfield Park, Osgathorpe Park and Catherine Street open space. The Programme will also be attending the festivals at Abbeyfield Park and Osgathorpe Park in July with their plans.

Health group focus on asthma

Asthma is a common condition affecting more than 5 million people in the UK. In 2000, a survey reported Burngreave had the highest levels of asthma-like symptoms in Sheffield. The BCAF Health Group recently held an 'Asthma Awareness Day' to highlight the issue.



The BCAF health group brought together complementary and conventional practitioners.

What is asthma?

Asthma is an allergic illness, affecting the small tubes that carry air to the lungs. If you have asthma your airways become sensitive and inflamed. When you come into contact with something that irritates your airways (a trigger) the muscles around them tighten, the lining becomes inflamed and sticky phlegm is produced. All this makes your airways narrower, making it harder to breathe and leads to the symptoms of asthma.

Asthma symptoms can vary. Coughing is the most common, and you can also wheeze, get short of breath, or have a tight feeling in your chest.

How is it treated?

Nurses or doctors at your GP surgery will usually prescribe inhalers to open up the airways and control the symptoms. Inhalers fall into two groups, 'relievers' (like Salbutamol) work straight away, but only last for an hour or two, and 'preventers' which stop symptoms coming back if used regularly. They work best if you take them through a 'spacer'.

The aim is to stop you having regular symptoms, so you don't need the blue relievers very often. Nurses and doctors use a step-wise approach, gradually increasing or decreasing the dose of preventers every month or two. You shouldn't change your doses too quickly, or without discussing it.

What triggers asthma?

A trigger is anything that irritates your airways. Everyone's asthma is different and you will probably find you have several triggers.

Common triggers include:

- viral infections (colds or 'flu)
- allergies (eg to pollen, animals, house-dust mites)
- irritants (eg cold air, tobacco smoke, fumes)

What causes asthma?

Asthma, like other allergic conditions, eczema and hay fever, often runs in the family. The causes aren't fully understood but we know smoking in pregnancy increases the chance of a child having asthma. There is currently no evidence traffic pollution causes asthma, but poor air quality can make your asthma worse.

For more information about asthma, visit the Asthma UK website at www.asthma.org.uk or ring their helpline on 0845 701 0203.

by Mark Lankshear

Work-Life Balance

The government have launched a campaign to encourage employers to retain staff and give their workers/volunteers a healthy balance between work and the rest of their lives.



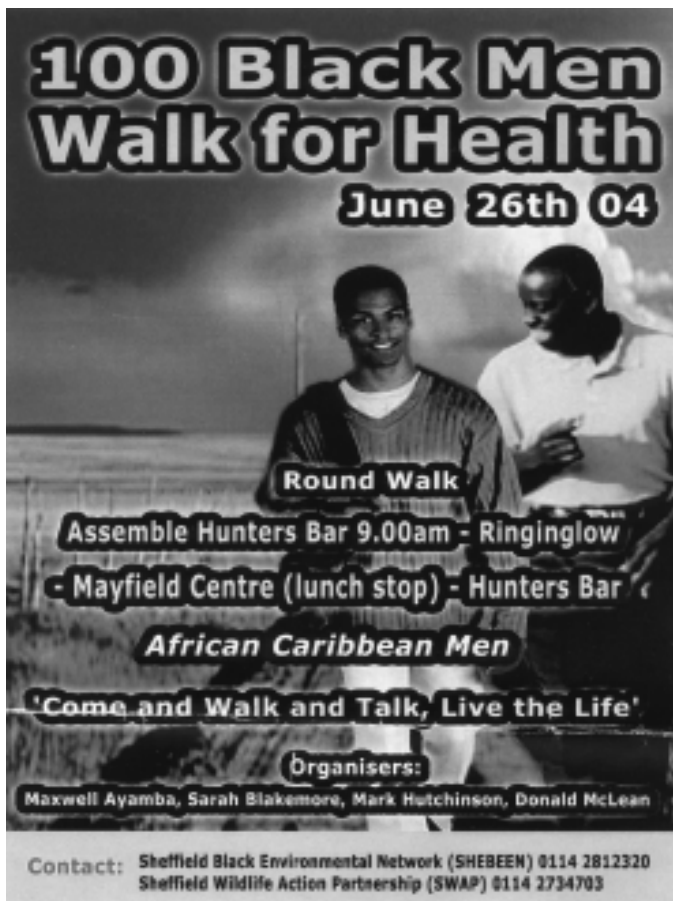
Over the past few months ADCE (Attercliffe and Darnall Community Enterprises Ltd) has looked at its own practices and what staff need, and put some good 'Work-Life Balance' into practice. It is also producing a work-life balance toolkit taking into account the diversity of ethnic backgrounds, faiths and cultures in its workforce and the local area.

Getting work-life balance correct in your workforce can have very positive and worthwhile effects. It can lower stress levels and sickness of staff, raise employees' self esteem and lower absenteeism, raise motivation and commitment to work and secure loyalty to the employer.

ADCE now hopes to share what they have learned and will be able to train managers from local organisations, community groups and businesses. The training looks at how to retain staff who have other arrangements outside of work to manage. The toolkit will be available for organisations to help them understand and work towards better working practises.

If you would like information about free training and the toolkit please contact ADCE at 546 Attercliffe Road, S9 3QP, tel: 249 4111, email: jean@adce-joblink.org.uk.

by Jean Sowley, Work-Life Balance Co-ordinator



Burngreave Sports Project

Netball

Every Saturday, 12.30–1.30pm. Firshill Sports and Arts Facility, for girls aged 9–14. 50p per session.

Girls Football

Every Sunday 11am–12.30pm. Sheffield United Football Academy, for girls aged 9–16. Free.

Community Sports Leader Award

Every Thursday 19th July–23rd September, 6.00–8.30pm. Firshill Sports and Arts Facility. An excellent introduction to sports leadership that can lead to employment in the sports industry.

For more information or to book a place contact Katy on 0790 993 6381.



Burngreave Ramblers

The Ramblers will be walking on:

Saturday 10th July
Saturday 31st July
Saturday 21st August

Burngreave Ramblers is a small walking group of local people. Walks leave the park gates on Abbeyfield Road at 11am. Walks are moderately easy; usually between five and seven miles long. Please bring a packed lunch and drink. New walkers welcome. For more information contact David on 242 3870 or Jill on 243 8867.

Burngreave Community Action Trust

2 Part-time Community-Based Sports Development Officers

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

To work on behalf of the Burngreave Sports Network.

Developing sports initiatives, co-ordinating sports events and a community consultation event and to capacity build the Burngreave Sports Network.

The successful applicants will:

- Have knowledge of Sports Development
- Be able to facilitate meetings
- Have good organisational skills
- Have the ability to work with a range of people from a variety of backgrounds and be sensitive to multicultural issues.

One of the posts is subject to Section 7(2)(e) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975. This is specifically to develop Sports and Recreation initiatives for Women.

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, S3 9DD.

Closing date
Monday 5 July - 5.00pm
Interviews will be held
19th and 20th July



Neita Sisters complete London Marathon

Recognition and fame has been beckoning for local sisters Pauline and Annette Neita, who represented Burngreave in the grueling London Flora Marathon.

“We had been inspired by Annette’s twin sister Cathleen who’s been running for charity for some years now,” explains Pauline. Both her and Annette have been training in and around our community since late last year for this year’s Marathon. Having successfully achieved this goal and returned safely to Burngreave, an interview with the *Messenger* was on the cards.

“Oh, our muscles locked and seized up when we’d finished, but this felt as good as the day and the whole euphoria of the event. We enjoyed every moment,” said Annette.



along with their sister Cathleen, they made up the three Neita sisters who completed the arduous twenty-six miles.

“We wish to thank all the people who sponsored and supported us in raising money for our chosen charity, London Sports Forum – raising money for disabled people,” said Pauline.

“We reached our target and have raised well over three thousand pounds between us,” added Annette.

The marathon was completed by the girls in under 6 hours 41 minutes, and on 20th April were awarded sports achievement certificates for completing this year’s full marathon.

Pauline and Annette will be out and about collecting funds and that will complete their task.

by Rob Smith

The cheers, applause and the atmosphere of the London Marathon on 18th April was all the more overwhelming as

Burngreave mile run
a day of sports, fun and activities open to all...

Sun 27th June, 10.00am onwards
starting line: Abbeyfield Park S4
ends: Petre St playing fields S3

childrens fun run:
10.00am 1 mile:
age 14 and under

teens fun run:
10.30am 1 mile:
age 19 and under

1 mile pram push:
11:00am

Open to all Race:
1 mile: 11:30am

all races end at Petre St playing fields where there will be:

**bouncy castles
face painting
green top circus
raffles-prizes
music-Food**

registration begins from 8.30 am please register 1 hour before your race

SureStart, Police, NHS, Sheffield, North Sheffield, Wombwell, Burngreave

Also on the day, Street Kick, the Sports Van, football with Burngreave U7s debut, Burngreave U8s and Earl Marshal U9s. Music by Jam Down.

Cricket update

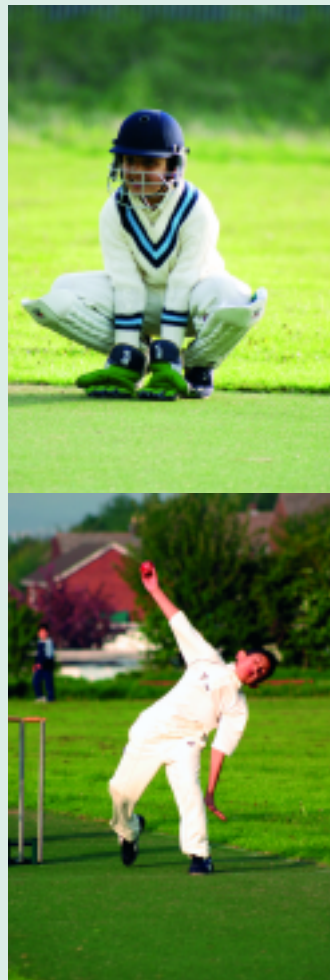
Burnwood U11s Cricket team is supported by Burngreave Sports Project and are playing their first season in the Barnsley and District league. Their home ground is Whiteways cricket facility. For more information contact Katy on 0790 993 6381.

May results

- Lost to Barnsley (Home)
- Won against Penistone (Home)
- Lost to Penistone (Away)
- Lost to Darton (Away)
- Won against Haughton Main (Home & Away)

June/July fixtures

- 28th June**
vs Wombwell (Home)
- 6th July**
vs Barnsley (Away)
- 14th July**
vs Wombwell (Away)
- 26th July**
vs Elsecar (Away)



Both © Carl Rose

Adventurous volunteers

Burngreave-initiated Community Recreation Volunteers scheme is running from Pitsmoor Adventure Playground, and this year it's been more successful than ever before. Richard Fowler, initiator of the project and one of the senior workers, explained more.

"This is for older kids who use the playground, to give them an experience of working in the community recreation environment, and this time Rob, things have gone very well. This is a project I began a year ago with one volunteer."

Now developed to involve eight young community volunteers, they have all been placed through a proper interview procedure with Katy Burnett of the Sports Development Project.

"After inductions to the project they have been placed on an art and craft training course and are due to do a sports development and coaching course," added Richard.

I went to speak to some of these volunteers running about the playground. Leila Lindsay (13) said she's has been working for 21 days, "I enjoy it very much, especially when younger kids



look up to me and I can help them to have fun. We do games and have dancing sessions."

Jade Johnson (11) also enjoys this kind of work and says she gets a lot out of helping other people.

"I enjoy being a volunteer because it's fun," added Mathew O'Callaghan (15), "We do things like football, drumming and help other kids play."

Sarah O'Callaghan (13) said, "I enjoy being a community volunteer because it gives me some responsibility and I can help other kids here."

Bethany Homar (10) smiled and told me it's lots of fun, "And people, they get to respect you."

Sharaz Noor also agreed that being a community volunteer was a new experience of learning how to be around younger children. Anton McPherson (15) said, "It's really okay ya' know, being a community recreation volunteer, we get lots of fun."

For more information about the Playground call 203 9394.

by Rob Smith

We declare this playground open



As Lena Ali and Rose Almond cut ribbons on the two gates to the refurbished Abbeyfield Park playground, the entire Firs Hill Out of School club descended on the new play equipment. Gaby Spinks, one of the organisers of the refit, handed out balloons donated by SureStart and Little Red Light Ltd.

"It's amazing what you can achieve with a bit of persistent nagging," she said. As a member of Friends of Abbeyfield Park, along with regeneration officer Rachael Peacock and a

group of local parents, she nagged the Council and Burngreave Green Environment Project into spending nearly £50,000 on new equipment and safe surfaces. Despite poor weather and having all their tools stolen, Pennine Playgrounds finally finished the job in time for the half-term holidays. We now have a fantastic amenity – many thanks to all concerned. Come and play.

If you want to become a Friend of Abbeyfield Park please call Green City Action on 244 0353.

by Martin Currie



Women's Crime Prevention

On April 27th inside Verdon Recreation Centre, the focus was on a recent spree of cowardly crimes in Burngreave - a number of attacks by a gang of young misfits upon Muslim and Yemeni women.

Diane Hameed of the Yemeni Community Association, one of the organisers of the event, explained the concern was the number of attacks against women from the Yemen. "As a community organisation we approached the police to put an end to this. Older women have found themselves unsure of what to do about this situation. So the idea of this event is to make women aware of what they can do after being attacked and robbed, and put a stop to it."

The meeting was attended by over a hundred Yemeni women as well as community organisations and police officers. It was opened by Superintendent John Brennan, who spoke about how seriously the police were taking these crimes and how important it was for them to be reported when they happen. Abdul Shaif assured the women present that telling the police is the only way forward in putting an end to these attacks.



Nicki Warburton of the new Anti-social Behaviour Team spoke about the service they have established.

WPCs Leigh-Ann Brown and Paulette Cook explained they were hosting this event having been made aware Yemeni women had become victims of these robberies, and had not reported them to the police for cultural reasons.

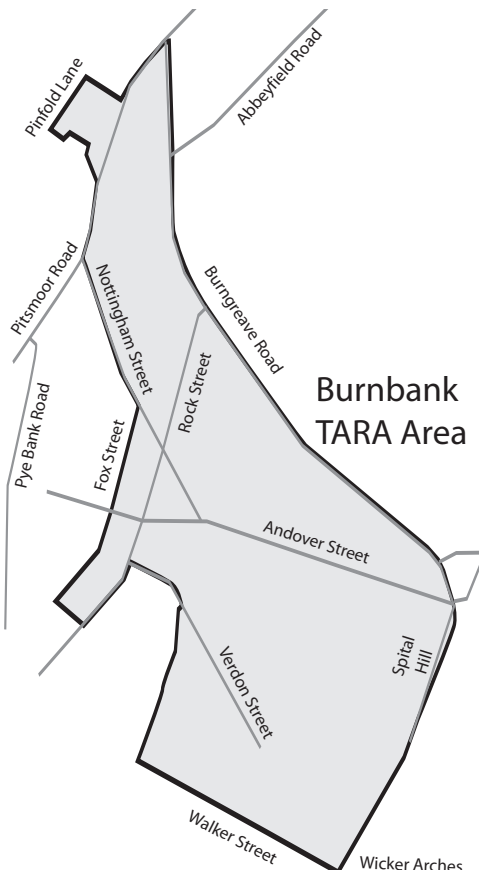
"This became a focus for us as the New Deal Police Team," said WPC Brown. "We are working with the Yemeni Association, Anti-social Behaviour Team and others to

focus attention on a multi-agency approach, towards open communication and access to crime prevention services."

Anyone with problems of this nature shouldn't hesitate to call the NDC Police Team on 296 4381. The women were also advised to have any benefits paid by cheque or directly into the bank if possible, so they wouldn't have large amounts of cash on their person. If you would like advice on how to get benefits paid into your bank, contact the Benefits information line on 273 6777.

by Rob Smith

Burnbank TARA



Burnbank Tenants and Residents Association (TARA) represents a large number of households in Burngreave around the Verdon Street, Andover, Rock Street and Kilton areas.

Tenants and Residents Associations play a vital part in the City representing the views of their members, and getting the Council to improve services to their area.

The Council supports TARAs with funding and advice. However, to receive funding a TARA must meet criteria set out in the Council's Recognition Policy. Burnbank TARA is making a big effort (with support from the Sheffield Homes and a facilitator in community consultation) to develop the TARA and meet this criteria.

During July, Burnbank TARA will hold four consultation sessions at Verdon Recreation Centre:

8th July

First session: 1-3pm.
Food served at 12.30pm.
Second session: 6.30-8.30pm.
Food available from 6pm

14th July

First session: 10am-12 noon.
Women only. Food available between 12 and 1pm.
Second session: 1-3pm.

Francesca Cullen, Tenant Participation Officer (Sheffield Homes) 273 6089 is the contact.

These sessions are being held to find out what you want from Burnbank TARA and who you would like to stand for positions on the committee at its AGM in August. Dates and meeting place will be announced in the next edition of the *Messenger*. Look out for more information.

by Malcolm Cumberbatch

Burngreave's Community Estate Officers

Burngreave has many council-owned estates and properties. I often wondered what happened to the people that used to be known as caretakers. "No, no, we're not called caretakers anymore Rob," declared Shaun Cowan, senior officer of what's now known as Area K team.

I met Shaun, Herman Clark and Andy Webb, a three-man team of Community Estate Officers, at the Area K cabin in Verdon Street.

This team have to cover the whole of Burngreave. "Although there's only three of us, I feel we've enough staff to cover this area. When needed, we call on the Darnall team's resources," explained Shaun.

I was aware Herman was coming up to retirement. As the elder black gentleman grinned he explained how he began this job when the title was caretaker back in 1996.

"I was caretaker for what we call the main front-line service for two years, and six years as a Community Estate Officer," declared Herman, also proud of being a resident of Burngreave since 1963.



Andy claims that changing from caretakers to estate officers has been a big improvement. In his view the whole of Burngreave receives a better service now. "A lot of enquiries from local tenants and the general public on the estate's problems come through this office," adds Shaun.

The Estate Officers deal with many issues from graffiti removal, litter picking and other maintenance, to liaising with tenants and clearing vacant properties.

I asked if they had any transport to enable them to travel around Burngreave. "No!" replied Shaun, "Although we could do with some sort of vehicle and the issue is being taken up by our department. At the moment, Rob, we rely heavily on other resources."

"Which basically means we borrow vehicles and drivers from Darnall and other teams!" grinned Herman. "So maybe the New Deal for Communities could help us out here," he added.

The team are based at 81-119 Verdon Street. For further enquiries about council housing services contact the Spital Hill office on 203 9343.

by Rob Smith

Adult Learning celebrate success



Saturday 15th May, and in the heat of a long over due summer sunshine, all roads led to Verdon Street Furnival and the surrounding area of Burngreave, for the start of the Adult Learning Week celebration.

By 11 o'clock stalls were set up representing statutory and community organisations, workers and activists. Nora Brown, steering group event member, said "This event is to kick start Adult Learning Week in Burngreave, which will hopefully

then establish itself across the city." Anne Grange, one of the event's organisers, explained support from other community organisations has helped this event take place, "Sheffield City Council funding has paid for the main act and the Lord Mayor will also be attending."

Learning Campaign director Ahmed Gurnah explained some of the success the campaign has had, "More than 700 people have talked to us about further education, and up to 500 have enrolled on some course or other." Special guest was Martin Yarnit, who initiated adult leaning week throughout the whole country.

By 1 o'clock the sound system was pumping music around Verdon Street. Local people began to arrive, as more stalls representing different groups and organisations were set up in time for the first act to begin.

A samba band made its way slowly from Rock Street towards the Furnival, where it performed inside the square outside SureStart shops. Aisha Special K, New Deal Community Rep, introduced performers, and Siya took to the stage performing their usual singing and traditional African dancing. The arrival of the Lord Mayor topped what was our first sun-filled weekend and mini festival celebration of adult learning, becoming a great success for people in and around this community.

by Rob Smith

News in Brief

Empowering people into work

BNDfC is funding a new scheme to give people in Burngreave who are out of work the opportunity to increase their skills and gain employment.

In conjunction with Sheffield City Council's Employment Unit and the Learning and Skills Council, the 'Burngreave Apprenticeship for all' programme is expected to be rolled out by July.

The scheme aims to give local people access to city-wide employment opportunities through apprenticeship roles which will lead to skills development and permanent employment. It will work by targeting specific job opportunities in industries or sectors that are considered to be economic high growth areas where there is a definite skills gap. This will create avenues for people to acquire skills so they can compete favourably in the labour market.

This flagship initiative will be open to everyone in the New Deal area of employable age, and is expected to assist over 200 people into employment. Watch out for the launch of this scheme over the coming months or ring Trywell Kalyata at BNDfC on 292 2907.

July Theme Group Meetings

To find out more about an issue that concerns you come along to one of the following theme group meetings:

Health: 5th July, St Peter's, 5.30-7.30pm

Employment & Enterprise: 7th July, Ellesmere Children's Centre, 1.30-3.30pm

Housing: 8th July, BCAT meeting room, 6-8pm

Over-arching: 13th July, The Furnival, Verdon Street, 6-8pm

Education: 14th July, Burngreave Library, 6-8pm

Crime: 20th July, Pitsmoor Methodist Church, 6-8pm

Environment: 29th July, Pitsmoor Methodist Church, 6-8pm

Burngreave gets smart



© ID•8 Photography

'Burngreave gets smart'. David Blunkett MP (second from left) joins representatives from BNDfC to launch the SmartWater initiative.

Burngreave has got smart after the launch of a £50,000 crime prevention scheme by Home Secretary David Blunkett.

The Brightside MP joined South Yorkshire Police, BNDfC and community representatives to mark the start of the BNDfC funded 'SmartWater' scheme.

Smart Water Instant is a liquid marker where each application contains a forensic fingerprint that is unique to a particular household.

Individual householders will be visited by the project team who will offer to mark property and help households register for the scheme. A leaflet will be distributed to every house by the end of June giving details.

Why we have a safer area

SmartWater is not the only innovative crime prevention scheme to have been implemented in Burngreave.

Working in partnership with South Yorkshire Police and Sheffield City Council, BNDfC has funded a number of other initiatives that have already reduced crime and the fear of crime in the area, making Burngreave a safer place to live, work and play.

New Deal Police Team – Provides a community policing service in response to local priorities.

Community Wardens – A team of Burngreave residents who act as the 'eyes and ears' of the community. They promote community engagement, pride in local facilities and the environment and enjoyment of local resources.

CCTV Spital Hill – Additional

monitored CCTV cameras have been installed along Spital Hill.

BNDfC Safer Homes Scheme – Free door locks, window locks, smoke alarms and other security measures for residents have been provided. This has also included subsidised burglar alarms.

Security Grants – Local businesses and voluntary, community and faith organisations can apply for grants to increase the security of their premises.

Anti-Social Behaviour Team – This team respond to all complaints of anti-social behaviour from any tenant or resident. They also provide neighbour mediation and legal action advice.

For further information on any of these initiatives please contact the BNDfC Crime Theme Manager on 292 3394.

Home Sweet Home

Burngreave owner-occupiers could receive grants of up to £500 to improve their properties thanks to an initiative by BNDfC and Sheffield City Council.

The Home Owners Maintenance and Advice Scheme aims to help people look after their homes by offering free external property surveys and maintenance advice.

Leaflets about the scheme are being delivered to homes on a street-by-street basis. Once an owner-occupier has received a leaflet they can make an appointment with our surveyor who will visit the property to assess all external maintenance issues.

Free advice will be given and a grant of up to £500 is available for any essential maintenance work identified.

A display is currently up in the BNDfC Information Shop which gives you all the details including which streets the scheme is currently working on and which are due to be leafleted.

An information pack about the project is also available from the Information Shop.



© iD8 Photography

(From left to right) Annemarie Johnston, Project Officer for the Burngreave Home Owners Maintenance and Advice Scheme, Glen Lannaman, Project Leader of the scheme, Ali Abdi, Community Development Worker for BNDfC, and Carol Anderson, Acting Community Engagement Officer for BNDfC, promote the Sheffield Homeowners and Maintenance Scheme Advice and Information pack.

Giving you the chance to play your part

The launch of a unique scheme is set to provide Burngreave residents with funding so they can play a part in enhancing the area we live in.

The £1.1m BNDfC Grant Fund, being delivered by BCAT, is a chance for local people to apply for funding from £500 to £25,000 so they can make a positive impact on our community.

So now's the time to get creative and start thinking of ideas that you think your community will benefit from. This could be setting up community groups, organising local events or getting mother and toddler groups going.

The Grant Fund could contribute to organising a range of summer activities such as last years successful trip to Skegness. Organised by BNDfC, the trip took local people for a day-out at the seaside. Plans by BNDfC for a similar trip in July this year are well under way. Look out for more details in the Information Shop over the next few weeks.

For more information on the Grants Fund please call the Small Grant's Co-ordinator on 273 8578 or email smallgrants@bcatsheffield.org.uk. Alternatively, you can drop into BCAT, 12 Burngreave Road or the BNDfC Information Shop on Spital Hill.

News in Brief

Information vehicle due to be launched

Look out for the BNDfC Information Vehicle when it makes its first appearance at the Abbeyfield Festival on 11th July.

The multi-purpose vehicle will be used as a display vehicle for BNDfC community events and for use by the local community and voluntary groups at little or no cost.

It comes fully equipped with a stage area so shows and performances can be put on, it will attend events such as festivals, crime days and health information days so New Deal information can be given out. The vehicle will also be used for out-reach work with young people so youth workers can go out into the community and engage with youngsters on a one-to-one basis.

Have your say...

BNDfC are asking for your help in deciding the future of some of Burngreave's most important landmarks.

Consultants have been appointed to start work on the designs for the refurbishments of Sorby House, Vestry Hall and the public realm around Spital Hill.

They are now working with the transformational steering group, which consists of BNDfC Board members, local residents and representatives from local groups, to develop design briefs based on earlier consultation exercises.

The initial design options are expected to be on display in the BNDfC marquee at the Abbeyfield Festival on 11 July and as many people as possible are invited to come and have a look to contribute ideas and influence the final scheme.

Work is due to start on the redevelopments in early 2005 and all three projects are expected to be completed by 2006.



contact: 276 9134

Burngreave Area Panel

Have Your Say on the Future of Your Area Masterplanning Burngreave and Fir Vale

How would you like to see Burngreave and Fir Vale change over the next ten years?

Sheffield City Council and Transform South Yorkshire have commissioned consultants LDA Urban Design to look at just that and they want to hear your views. Over the coming months LDA will be preparing a master plan for this area. This will set out plans to regenerate the area by promoting modern standards of housing, vibrant shopping centres and high-quality community facilities.

Exhibitions were held in Burngreave and Fir Vale in early May to ask local people how they would like to see these areas improved. A lot of useful suggestions were made. The consultants are now working on plans to address the key problems.

The aim is to transform Burngreave and Fir Vale into attractive neighbourhoods where people want to live and work.



LDA are now asking for your views again, this time on the options they have come up with for the future of the area. Please come along to one of the events below and find out what they are suggesting and let us know what you think. There will be further opportunities for you to comment later in the summer before the plans are finalised.

Please come along to one of these events and have your say:

Saturday 26th June, 12.00–3.00pm
Fir Vale School, Owlter Lane
(after the Fir Vale Forum Annual General Meeting)

Friday 2nd July, 10.30–1.00pm
Burngreave New Deal for Communities Information Shop, Spital Hill

Saturday 3rd July, 1.00–4.00pm
Christchurch, Pitsmoor Road
(after the Burngreave Community Action Forum Quarterly Public Meeting)

Sunday 11th July, 1.00–5.00pm
Abbeyfield Multicultural Festival, Abbeyfield Park, Burngreave Road

There will also be events for parents and children at each of the local primary schools in the area over the week 28th June–2nd July. If you would like more information on any of these events please call the Burngreave Area Action Team.



© Carl Rose

Local school children say "Keep Burngreave Clean"

This summer the Area Panel is running a "Keep Burngreave Clean" campaign using posters designed by local children. A competition was organised through local schools and the two winning posters were by Nasra Abdillahi-Ahi and Sherish Nawaz, both of Firhill School. For copies of the posters, contact the Area Panel.

Local Elections – 10 June 2004 – Results

Candidate	Party	Votes
Alison Jane Brown	Democratic Socialist Alliance People Before Profit	610
David Dawson	Liberal Democrat	904
Jacqueline Drayton [4]	The Labour Party Candidate	2,891
Neil Robert Everest	The Conservative Party Candidate	577
Roger Hughes	Liberal Democrat	815
Ibrar Hussain [3]	The Labour Party Candidate	2,887
Stephen Christopher Sutton Jones [2]	The Labour Party Candidate	2,565
Philip Craig Kirby	The Conservative Party Candidate	499
Barbara Wieslawa Masters	Liberal Democrat	828
Christopher John Sissons	Green Party	893
Marie Jane Weston	The Conservative Party Candidate	451
Sheffield turnout: 43.9%	total votes cast	13,920

elected [number of years]

Labour retain overall Council control

The date for your next Area Panel meeting is: Thursday 22nd July, 6.30–8.30pm at a venue to be confirmed.

Area Panel and Burngreave Area Action Team: 12–14 Burngreave Road, S3 9DD.

Tel/Fax: 276 9134. Email: kieron.williams@sheffield.gov.uk.

Local entrepreneurs

Burngreave Business Success

When I first met Helima Rageh four years ago, she talked of a cleaning business initiative her and associate Kaleem Kaid were taking on. Now HK Cleaning Service is a highly-respected and expanding business with an affiliated company in Leicester. Halima explains: "We started as a sole trader with five people from our house in Catherine Road. In 2001 we became a limited company."

"Of course to begin with it was a struggle. Kaleem got a personal business loan to help. But since 2002 business has boomed and allowed us to expand our workforce to thirty." Halima also expressed her joy at being self-employed and able to create work for others, after spending many years prior on social security.

HK Cleaning Service is now picking up major cleaning contracts across Yorkshire and the south of England and is currently negotiating a major contract with a Sheffield firm. "If this goes well, we will be expanding again and employing more Burngreave people," Kaleem, who previously worked in a cardboard box factory, added smiling proudly.



Their success has led them to start a new venture – Moon and Stars Wedding Planners. Halima said: "The company will employ local people with artistic, catering, photography and design skills." They are applying for funding from BNDfC's Business in the Community.

The two services are based at Faith Works, Club Mill Road, S6. Halima asks anyone looking for cleaning work with hours to suit to contact her on 275 8581.

by Rob Smith

Kennings Cars



"Shady deals and fast con artists are a plague to all working class people who are seeking to pay honest money to buy honest motors Rob," explains Kenny who is the proprietor of Kennings Cars, neatly situated at the top of Barnsley Road.

"As a member of my community I see a need to cater for people's need for cars, and the sale of vehicles presenting honesty as a first policy," said Kenny. "This comes with being known in the community you were born and raised and therefore I work hard to present a honest service."

One of the partners, Tony, who can boast of once acting in a TV car advertisement,

is the car lot sales manager.

"I tend to deal with a lot of agents and dealers across South Yorkshire and we like to buy cars we know have had one previous owner," explained Tony. "We go for low mileage and HPI cleared. We also do part exchange and will even do callouts so people don't have to feel ashamed of what state the car is in. Most of our vehicles are at affordable rates from around two grand and under," Tony added.

For any further enquiries on purchasing your first or replacement motor vehicle just drop by Kennings Cars, 174B Barnsley Road, Burngreave, S4, tel 243 0333, mobile 0774 507 5656 or www.kenningscars.co.uk online.

by Rob Smith

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Dear *Messenger*,

I am writing with regard to the anti-social behaviour of a group of children from the De La Salle Estate. It started last October when I had fireworks thrown at myself and my dog when crossing Scott Road on the way to check on my elderly parent. I shouted at them to stop throwing bangers at the dog and this is when the abuse started. With winter coming and dark nights approaching, things went fortunately quiet. As soon as spring arrived and the nights were getting lighter things got decidedly worse. These children seem to wait for me returning from my after work walk with my dog, and pelt us with pebbles gathered from the graves. Recently they put a large plank of wood from a skip and put it across the exit gate, stopping me from getting out. While removing the plank my dog and I were pelted with pebbles, and received racial abuse about my white origin. This was from young children. I have phoned the police several times, but get put on hold for over 15 minutes. On the rare occasions I got through to them, nothing happened about the situation, leaving me very annoyed and scared to go walking with my dog. I am getting to the stage where a good clip round the ear would not go amiss, but then I would be in the wrong, the law being in their favour. I am at the end of my patience and would be grateful for any help in this matter. Something needs to be done asap, as I have heard similar stories.

Kind Regards

Name and address supplied

Dear *Messenger*,

Burngreave is a wonderful place, a diverse multicultural society, with lovely people from all walks of life, all colours, all creeds and religions. But Burngreave could be better, if people just took the time to say a simple "Hello!" to each other. So let's all help to make it better. I find the *Messenger* useful, informative and sometimes amusing. It's good to have a local newspaper. So a big thank you and keep up the good work.

Yours Respectfully,
G Stanton

Dear *Messenger*

I would like to make some points about Ella Road, where I have lived since 1990. There has been no road sign for a few years now. It's a no-through road, but that information isn't shown, so cars often turn round because they can't get through. A street name and sign would be useful for delivery people!

There is a piece of waste ground behind my wall. This leads to fencing around a large house being renovated, but basically goes nowhere, is overgrown and a dumping area. Part way along is a tree, and I don't know who on

earth is responsible for it. It grows near a high back wall, and I'm concerned about possible damage caused by its roots. Also, small children climb it and sit on the wall, which is high so quite dangerous. This piece of ground ought to be cleaned up and the tree cut down, but who do I contact?

Next to this is a 'hump'. Neighbouring children play on it, but it's boring and certainly doesn't meet safety standards. When my daughter was younger she wrote to the Council, and to their credit a group of people arranged for a big tidy-up and painted hopscotch squares and some pictures on the ground. The aim was to make it better for children and provide swings or the like. My daughter is now 18 and nothing has been done to improve it. It seems a waste of an area that could be better used – even levelling it would give a safe area for playing ball rather than kicking it onto people's walls.

The Council envelope scheme greatly improved the look of the houses, but pieces of ground get ignored and consequently look more of a mess. If people from your paper looked for themselves, maybe they would have more success in taking up the issues with whoever is responsible.

Audrey Mann

Dear *Messenger*

I'm fed up with seeing all these St George flags all over the place. It stinks of narrow-minded nationalism. I don't know how many nation states there are on this planet, but each has a flag, each has people from many countries and cultures living it. Look at us in Sheffield, not just Burngreave. We have people from all over the planet and yet there is all this retrogressive petty triumphalism around one national flag. No matter how much I try to shrug it off and live and let live, I can't help feeling that the people who fly these flags would not do the same for me.

Of course I could blame the manufacturers and sellers of these flags – they could manufacture a design incorporating loads of different flags to give a message of acceptance, celebration, openness and freedom. But they don't.

So what is it with the cross of St George mob mentality? Fear of others? A loss of identity? Insecurity? Put these aside. We are all better off for it. If you want to go elsewhere on this planet and be treated with respect and left alone, then you start with yourself, the people around you, your family, your home area, town and yes, even nation state. Then you can go anywhere. This is about wider values over and above all our different cultures and creeds.

With respect,
Phil Hutchinson

Would you like to work with Children?

Have you thought about becoming a crèche, play or family worker? A nursery nurse, teaching assistant or childminder?

Then come along to:
The Welcome Centre
Christ Church
Nottingham Street
Pitsmoor

**Tuesday 20th July
11.00am–2.00pm**

Entrance is free and you can take part in a free prize draw.

There will be careers advice, learning opportunities, job opportunities, help with application forms and interviews and much more. A supervised activities table is available for the children along with free light refreshments.

This event is part of the Burngreave Childcare Strategy and has been arranged in partnership with Sheffield Community Childcare Network, Learning Pays Campaign, New Futures, Job Centre Plus, Burngreave & Firvale SureStart, and other local projects.



**St Peter's Church
Lyons Street**



Invite you to look around our recently completed
'Access For All' Improvements

Tuesday, 13th July from 10am–12noon

Free Refreshments

The generous support of the following organisations is gratefully acknowledged:

Sheffield Methodist Church N.E. Circuit, Landfill Tax Credit Scheme by Viridor Credits – Sheffield, Sheffield Church Burgesses & St Agatha's Trust.

Pitsmoor Credit Union

Your Local Savings and Loans Co-operative
Join Now!

For more information, phone 273 8555
or come to a Collection Point

Tuesdays & Thursdays 10.00am–4.00pm
Recycling Matters, Spital Hill

Tuesdays 8.00–9.00pm
at The Rock Public House, Rock Street

Thursdays 11.00–12.00am
at the Welcome Centre
(Christchurch Community Hall)

Pitsmoor Credit Union is regulated by
the Financial Services Authority. Reg No: 213562

Ray of Hope

Friendly, informal group
for parents and carers of
children with challenging
behaviour.

Eskdale Road Community
Centre (on 97 bus route)

9.15–11.15am, 2nd
Tuesday of each month

Tel: 232 3839 or 234 6155
for more information

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Sheffield Property Shop

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Are you looking to rent a property in Sheffield?

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or by calling into Burngreave Housing
Office, Spital Hill. tel: (0114) 203 9349



HELP

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We want to live in Burngreave and are looking
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A Star is Born

This is Jake Smithies and some of the pictures that were created by his hand. For me a remarkable story that had me in awe when actually seeing the artistic paintings and pictures that have been created by one so young. I'd been invited to visit the Smithies family, who reside right here in Burngreave.

Entering the house, it was Jake's mother Anne who was keen to explain as the young man stood proudly waiting for his cue to reveal his works. "Since he was three Jake has shown a keen interest in drawing, and we as a family Rob, have been fortunate enough to be able to encourage him. As a ferocious drawer, Jake progressed over the years, into working with paints and crafts, and since August has been attending a weekly art class with Tony Byrne."

A major result had been achieved when, at eight years old, Jake was entered into the Great Sheffield Art Show.

"This exhibition is an adult thing held at the Octagon Centre every year," explains Anne, herself a semi-professional artist,



who entered the exhibition's competition as she has on other occasions.

"Over hundreds of adult artists enter pictures to be judged, and those judging had no idea how old Jake was at the time, although the entry official did and we were allowed to apply on Jake's behalf and that is why they accepted his work," added a mother with a true reason to be proud.

Jake's use of water colours and keen eye for detail saw him draw a picture of his previous pet dog followed by a Boots landscape and a piece called *Abstract Networks*.

These pieces were entered into a competition of adult standard and were chosen as winners of the Great Sheffield Art Exhibition. Jake Smithies' pictures can be seen in the exhibition from the 9th-11th July at the Octagon Centre, Sheffield.



by Rob Smith

GRAND RE-OPENING OF CHRIST CHURCH

**SATURDAY 3RD JULY
6PM**



*A warm invitation extended
to the whole community.*

*Come and see your
renewed church.*

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