

Burngreave Messenger



Voice of the Burngreave Community

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

'Remaster the Plan'

The Masterplan is still provoking anger and fear this month. The Plan, which includes demolition and rebuilding of retail and residential areas, is due at Council Cabinet in May for a final decision. But some residents are determined to get their views heard and the plans changed.

Spital Hill speaks up

On 2nd February the Spital Hill Local Voice presented a petition of over 800 names to a full Council Meeting. The group, based at the Burngreave Ashram on Spital Hill, have been campaigning for the Masterplan to be replaced by a plan developed with 'proper consultation'. Dave Havard, spokesperson of the group, said:

"We're not against regeneration, just the wholesale demolition of Spital Hill. We would like to be listened to and to take an active role in rewriting the Masterplan. We think most buildings should be saved to keep the character and history of the place. And we fear local traders won't be able to afford to come back after the renovations. There is a lot of concern and fear about what's happening."

The group met with David Shepherd, the Programme Director who manages the Masterplan consultation. He said:

"The petition brought to the Council about Spital Hill will be fed into the consultation process, but we must focus on working through the groups already set to represent residents, such as New Deal and Burngreave Community Action Forum. We are working very closely with the Burngreave Business Forum around the concerns of traders on Spital Hill and the Forum will decide whether they support the Masterplan at their meeting on the 22nd March. We are taking on board what is being said and we will make amendments where appropriate."

Spital Hill Local Voice's request for further consultation has been turned down. "The Council believe their consultation with residents has been good, but they will not let us see the

results," explained Dave. "We would like to do a survey, similar to that done in Fir Vale, so residents get their say as well as traders. We don't mind who does this as long as it is done."

To get involved in Spital Hill Local Voice call 0783 812 3071.

Fir Vale get their say

Fir Vale residents are showing strong opposition to plans to demolish over 500 homes which are to be replaced with half the number of new homes. Following the release of the final draft of the Masterplan in November 2004, residents voiced their concerns in an angry public meeting with the Council, complaining that it had not been made clear that the plans were to demolish their homes.

Responding to this, the Council asked Fir Vale Vision to include questions about the Masterplan in their household survey. The survey has had responses from over 400 residents, about 60% of those affected by the plans. The survey directly asked if residents would like to see less demolition, which streets should be demolished, alongside questions about renovating their properties. The results will soon be available.

Councillor Ibrar Hussain told us:

"People from the Skinnerthorpe Road area have made requests to demolish



"They plan to destroy about 550 properties, and replace them with just 250 – the maths just doesn't add up!" said John Keane of Lloyd Street, Page Hall. For more see page 4.

their properties and to build them better, affordable, houses. While people from Fir Vale East are totally against the proposal and it was very clear at the meeting held at Firvale School. I do feel honestly these are hard choices we as elected members have to make, but I can assure you that no decision will be made until all the consultation is done and complete."

Plans can change

The Council have repeatedly told the Messenger that residents' opinions will have an effect on the Masterplan. They intend to hold meetings in March to show amendments to residents. But at the end of the day a decision will be made by the Council.

Residents have always said they want to see the area they live in improved but what message is being sent when the main tool of regeneration is demolition? Do existing residents stand in the way of improvements? As we have seen on Woodside, demolition can mean we lose the residents who deserve to benefit from regeneration most.

Turn to pages 4-5 to hear from more residents affected by the Masterplan.



**Welcome
all
women!**



**International Women's Day
Celebration
Women Being Creative**

**Free Event - 10am-2.30pm
Monday, 7th March 2005**

The Spectrum Centre, Brunswick Road

Free lunch and childcare included.

Activities include: Information stalls, pampering tasters (massage, henna and manicure), art and craft, creative writing, women's health workshops and much more!

Call **BCLC** on **279 4960** for more information.

Call Lynne Austin at **SureStart** on **278 6414** to book a place in the crèche (limited places).

Please call **279 4960** for information in community languages including Arabic, Urdu, Somali and French.



**Burngreave Green Environment
Programme Events**

Saturday 12th March – Sewage

10am–5pm. Exploring the theme of sewage, using eco-social materials.



**Saturday 12th March –
Beaded amulets**

10am–4pm. Designing and making beaded amulets.

Saturday 12th–Sunday 13th March – Map reading

9.30am–4.00pm. Suitable for beginners. Learn how to read a map, plan your route and apply your knowledge on a walk in the Peaks. Transport from Abbeyfield Park House provided.

Friday 18th March – Birdwatching for Beginners

10.30am–4.30pm. Come along and learn about the many species of birds in Burngreave and Pitsmoor.

Saturday 19th March – Bead Jewellery

10.00 am to 4.00 pm Learn to make your own beaded jewellery.

**Saturday 19th–Sunday 20th March –
Stables exhibition**

Exhibition of work from the air, food, water and sewage workshops. All welcome.

All workshops are based at Abbeyfield Park Stables and are free. For more information call: Green City Action on 244 0353.



Feeling stressed? Tense? Using drugs or alcohol?

Come to
**Burngreave
Relax Together Group**

6.00–7.30pm each Monday night for 5 weeks
Starting Monday, 4 April 2005
at North Day Services, 259 Pitsmoor Road.

The sessions will include:
Practical ways to cope with tension
Thinking positively
Complementary therapies
Mutual support

Coping with difficult situations without drink or drugs

My name is Karen, I am a Community Drug and Alcohol worker supporting people in the Burngreave area with problems around drugs or alcohol.

I will be running the group –
if you are interested in attending

you can ring me on

0797 185 5145 or 0114 270 0443.



Free and Confidential Service
Burngreave Drugs Project



Green Gym



If you would like to be a bit more active but don't fancy going to the gym, or if you want to help improve Burngreave's parks and green spaces, why not try coming along to the Green Gym? Sessions last between 2–4 hours and are free. We can provide you with everything you need and can even pay for childcare while you attend!

Here's what we'll be doing in March:

Monday 7th March

Restoring some steps in Little Roe Wood.

Monday 14th March

Planting up beds at Nottingham Street Recreation Ground.

Monday 21st March

A Walk in the Peak District – enjoy the fresh air of beautiful Padley Gorge.

Wednesday 23rd March

Women-only Taster Session – planting a traditional hedge at the Grimesthorpe Allotments.

If you would like to give it a go,
please call Clare on **0114 272 3591**
or email c.mulhall@btcv.org.uk.



Cactus Club opening

On Saturday 12th February, many local people joined staff and management of the Cactus Club for the reopening of the new fully-licensed venue.

The club's management have been involved in months of preparation, building and renovating. "Many local people have worked hard on this to help make this happen," explains licensee Anwar Suliman. "The club also now employs a wide range of local people."

The opening event showed a good turn out of people who came to enjoy themselves under some tight door supervision and interior security.

The evening was marred when six uniformed policemen arrived who, according to Cactus management, came heavy handedly on the pretext of checking licensing provision. And without any announcement, at 12.30am Sunday morning, parking tickets were issued to all clientele parked on double-yellow lines directly outside the Club.

Anwar expressed concern that the police's attitude has not been conducive towards a harmonious working relationship between the club's management, staff or clientele and the police.



© Anwar Suliman

by Rob Smith

More noxious waste?

Despite existing complaints from local residents, planning permission is being sought by Viridor Waste Management to dump more noxious waste at Parkwood.

They hope to dump 'active' waste in the area near to the ski slope. Active waste, such as household refuse, rots and releases gases. These gases have to be burnt and cause the smells local residents complain about. Currently the area is used only for 'inert' waste (construction and demolition material).

The plan would reduce the time that the site is open by nine years, the company claims. Because there is more active waste available, the site would be filled more rapidly. With inert waste, it will be 20 years before it is filled up.

The company plan to transfer inert waste to form a buffer zone between the site and the Kingsmead private housing estate just above it. An exhibition to explain the proposal will be staged by the company on 5th-6th April at Shirecliffe Community Centre, from 4-8pm. Viridor staff will be present to explain the plans.

Viridor has also submitted a planning application to install an electricity generating plant which would be powered by the methane gas produced at the Parkwood Landfill. Currently this gas is burnt off in a flare, but Viridor hope to use it to generate electricity to feed into the National Grid.

Another planning application is for the installation of a reed bed for treating leachate. Leachate is the noxious liquid that collects at the base of the landfill site and which currently goes into the sewers. The reed bed would filter the leachate naturally, and reduce the need for subsequent treatment of sewage.

Viridor operate an 'open door' policy, and are willing to show people round the landfill operation. Contact Viridor on 275 9523.

by Andrew Green

The Editorial

The Messenger has followed the Cactus Club management's steady progress and preparations to legalise their establishment. The club has now been granted full legal status and should be allowed a fair run at making this a success. The management informs the Messenger that they have made all efforts to develop a positive relationship with the police, but the police's response on the opening night seems to be a clear message that no such relationship can be developed. The Messenger's concern is that local police are in danger of being seen to act unfairly towards the club. We hope to return to this in more depth in our April edition.

Be part of the Messenger

Volunteers are at the heart of what the Messenger is about, they decide what goes in each issue and there are lots of practical tasks to be done. If you'd like to be involve contact us on 242 0564, or come along to the first editorial meeting for the April issue on 9th March, 6.30pm, Abbeyfield Park House.

Messenger Info

Meetings: 6.30pm, Wednesday at Abbeyfield Park House
Editorial: 9th March
Management: 30th March
All welcome.
Copy deadline: 16th March
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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, Kate Atkinson, Annie Blindell, Clare Burnell, Martin Currie, Yasmin Dhoomun, Andrew Green, Mark Lankshear, Jamie Marriott, Carl Rose, Rob Smith, Gaby Spinks, Kim Streets, Lisa Swift and Paul Taylor.

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“I don’t want to lie in front of bulldozers.”

The Council’s Masterplan has left home owners and businesses uncertain what to do next. They wait for the Council to decide if their properties are to be demolished. And because no decision has been made, reassurance cannot be given about how much owners might receive for their properties or if they can be rehoused in the area. The Messenger’s Rob Smith and Carl Rose went out to talk to those affected.

Steamrolled



All © Carl Rose

John Keane and his partner Liz Crowther proudly showed me around their beautiful home on Lloyd Street, Fir Vale. It was easy to see the time and effort invested in the property. It looked like they planned to stay in the area for some time but if the Masterplan goes ahead they may be forced to change their plan.

The house was bought by the couple two years ago and has recently been valued at over

£53,000. They have invested time and money in the property, making improvements such as wooden flooring throughout and a complete backyard renovation.

The couple first found out about the Masterplan on 15th November 2004, when a carefully worded letter landed on their mat. John and Liz then attended a public meeting at Firvale School where the final draft of the Plan was discussed. John said:

“We were shocked by what we saw on the proposed plans. They plan to destroy about 550 properties, and replace them with just 250 – the maths just doesn’t add up!”

The couple are already campaigning alongside a growing number of residents for a change in the plans. Over 300 petition signatures have been collected so far, and Liz and John have written to David Blunkett to try and get some clear answers to many of the residents’ concerns. Mr Blunkett told them he’d heard lots of negative things about the Masterplan from residents, and although he did not want to pre-empt the result of the consultation, he admitted that perhaps more positive solutions should be considered instead of demolition.

John feels that, faced with forced relocation, the area is collectively stressed by the plans:

“The options the Council are offering are useless to the majority of residents. Regeneration should be for residents not for a new wave of people to move into some planners dream after residents have been forced out. There needs to be some lateral thinking about the development of existing properties and improvement of the green spaces around the area.”

The Council told John and Liz that, if demolition went ahead, existing residents could be relocated while the demolition and rebuilding takes place. Residents could then move back into better homes, but John doesn’t see how this could work:

“Where will we go for the two or three years it will take to get new homes built in Fir Vale. And the new houses will probably be worth double the value of our house, I don’t have the resources to fill that gap.”

The Council have also asked if they would like to move to a new development at Woodside or Parson Cross, but John and Liz say they will not be going anywhere and they will fight through the courts if necessary, citing the Human Rights Act, along with many others who feel the same way.

Liz added, “The only good thing to come out of this whole mess so far is a growing community spirit.”

Left in limbo

Sophie Woodrow and partner Kevin Eckersley live in a nice two-bedroomed terraced house in Wade Street, Fir Vale.



“We bought the property in July last year,” explained Sophie. “We were unaware of any plans for demolition and neither were the people who sold us the property.”

Kevin explained that as first-time buyers they’d planned to remodel and work on the house but are left in a position of not knowing what to do next.

“While we wait for the outcome of this plan we can’t develop the property how we wish. We’re left in limbo with concerns about losing our whole investment. They haven’t given a minimum price or confirmed rehousing in the same area. Any compulsory purchase offer is at market value plus ten percent, that all depends on what that value is at the time.”

I asked if that meant the purchaser could wait till market prices fall lower before compulsory purchase bids were made.

“I didn’t say that Rob, but I am aware some local buyers had planned to move into the area before the regeneration news was public, but have been prevented by mortgage lenders. Of course they don’t want to risk lending on properties they hear may be demolished. Estate agents are not selling any homes in this area, leaving local people waiting on a decision from the Council.”

by Carl Rose

Sophie reminded us about the stress caused by moving house or feeling unsettled in our homes. “We’ve received no counselling and although we’ve been to all the meetings, even now none of our questions have been answered. I don’t want to lie in front of bulldozers, all I want is somewhere nice to live.”

Although planned new houses will be bigger, there won’t be as many.

“We haven’t been offered any conditions of purchase on the proposed new properties,” Kevin adds.

Businesses blighted

I also went along to see the Bennett brothers of Bennett’s Tyres, situated on Kilton Hill. They had a lot to say on the whole Masterplan and how, as a local business, they’ve been treated within the consultation process.



“We’ve been here over 19 years and I can understand why they want to redevelop,” said Steve. “But why disrupt people’s lives who’ve been here so long and, like us, just want to make a living?”

Aware that the value of the property as a tyre business is not the same as residential premises, the Bennetts are sure they will lose out financially. They believe that the rumour of demolition alone will have a negative affect on their business and the area, that it will cause a domino effect leading to devaluation of properties.

“It’s a sad episode Rob,” added Richie. “People feel the effects of policies and

decisions being made by those who aren’t on the ground. I believe the land is worth a lot more than what they’ll ever offer us.”

The brothers mentioned recent one-to-one meetings held with council officials. “At that meeting I brought up the issue of compensation payment, for the disruption and the affect the revelation of the Masterplan is having on businesses,” continued Richard. “Because they’ve put a blight on the area then people could claim ‘blight’ compensation which they didn’t disagree with. Although it won’t be a lot we’ll be applying for it I guess.”

Compulsory purchase

I spoke to Bradley and Foulds, mechanics situated above Bennetts Tyres for 15 years. John Foulds explained that having received the letters about the regeneration they’d both gone to see the Masterplan.

“When they told us what was going to happen our main concern was the business. We had meetings with the Council and their valuation officers. If plans do go ahead then we will all receive compulsory purchase orders for the buildings. I guess we would go along with any regeneration plans providing they treat us fairly in the evaluation of the property. We’d want the moving cost as well as loss of business payments.”



Next to Bradley & Foulds is Low Kost Taxi Spares & Repairs. The owner, Mr Mzafeer has been trading for eleven years, and explained he was only made aware of these plans a few months ago.

“It’s really going to affect my business. I employ four local people here. If the plans do go ahead I want the relocation of our business, whose yearly turnover is half a million, to a viable area in Burngreave. I would also like to be paid compensation for any loss of business and removal cost. Rob, this will cost somebody a lot of money.”

by Rob Smith

Council reassurance

The Messenger raised some of residents concerns with the Council who told us:

The amount of compensation people receive if their properties have to be demolished is covered by the Land and Compensations Act. Home owners are entitled to the market value of their house plus ten percent. The valuation is done by Council officers following the final decision by the Council. The valuation does not take into account the fact the property is being demolished, so this will not affect the price. Properties are valued on an individual basis, taking into account their condition, size, presence of central heating for example. The Council will pay for individuals to appoint their own surveyor and can pay for any legal fees. Tenants receive £3,000 home loss payment plus a disturbance allowance – to cover reinstatement of the new property’s amenities, eg cable TV.

Councillor Chris Weldon, Burngreave resident and Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods, reassured us that the Plan aims to benefit existing residents.

“We want a Masterplan that the community supports. If there is massive resistance we will certainly reconsider our position. We are very keen for residents to be involved in the process and people’s opinions will feed into the final decision. The plans at this stage are something to work around; we need the Plan to get the funding to make positive changes to the area – we only have this one chance. I sympathise with those residents who feel uncertain about their futures because of this process, but if we want people’s opinions, it takes time. As soon as a decision is made I will be able to reassure people about what will happen next. If we do end up with a decision to demolish houses, no-one will lose out financially. We want existing residents to benefit from the developments and get a better deal.”

If you have any concerns or questions about the Masterplan contact Maria Duffy on 273 4992, or the East Sheffield Regeneration Team on 256 2182.

Job Vacancies

Burngreave New Deal for Communities (BNDFC) have vacancies for:

2 Full-time Community Wardens

SUG 1/2 - £13,071-14,931

Job number: SH0151

Closing Date: 17th March 2005

The New Deal Community Wardens are making a real difference to the residents of the area. If you enjoy walking and like to be out in the open air every day meeting people, then this could be the job for you.

You will need to be motivated and have the ability to work on your own initiative and to tight deadlines.

Whilst the main part of this job is being out and about on patrol there is some paperwork and you also need to be a good team player.

If you think this sounds like you then the Burngreave Community Wardens would like to hear from you

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

For an application form please contact Jobcentre Plus on 259 0002 quoting above job number.

If you would like to know more about the job and for any informal enquiries please contact:
Sue Lodge on 203 5776 or 272 5057.



SCRAP

(Sheffield Community Recycling Action Programme Ltd)

Is seeking to appoint the following full-time staff:

Project Manager - £19,000-20,000pa

Accounts/Admin worker - £14,000-15,000pa

Salaries depending on experience.

Both posts based at 40 Earsham Street and will initially be for six months with the possibility of becoming longer term if funding allows.

Phone 0114 275 5055 before 19th March for further information, or email scrapcycles@yahoo.co.uk.

South Yorkshire African Caribbean Business Centre (SYAC Limited)



Business Development Manager

Salary £26-28k per annum (37 hours)

You will be responsible for the day to day management of SYAC. Three years' experience in project management is required for this post. For further details, please contact Bernadette Grocock on 223 2100.

For an application pack (no CVs accepted), call 223 2100 or write to: SYAC Ltd

120 The Wicker, Sheffield S3 8JD

Closing date: 5pm, 18 March 2005

Interviews: week commencing 11th April

Activity Sheffield

Welcomes applications for the following two full-time posts (37 hours per week).

Fir Vale & Firshill Youth Activities Officer

SUG 4/SCP 22 fixed (£17,409 – pay award pending)

Temporary post to 31 March 2006

Post Ref: DEL 307 LPT

Responsible for organising and delivering a wide range of activities to children and young people (8-19 years) from the area. We are looking for a highly-motivated individual with experience of partnership working in local community settings, monitoring and evaluation skills, knowledge of suitable accredited training opportunities and budget management.

Informal Enquires: Michala Spacey (Burngreave Sports Development) on 273 5719

Closing Date: 17th March

Interviews: 30th March

Burngreave Community Football Worker

SUG 4/SCP 22 fixed (£17,409 – pay award pending)

Temporary post to December 2007

Post Ref: DEL 309 LPT

Burngreave Sports Development Project

The post will involve organising and delivering football coaching sessions in Burngreave to people of all abilities and ages, and training local people to deliver their own sessions. We are looking for an experienced and highly-motivated FA-qualified coach (Level 2 or working towards) with experience of delivering in a multicultural community setting.

Informal Enquires: Craig Homer, Active Brightside Co-ordinator on 273 5719

Closing Date: 24th March

Interviews: 4th-5th April

Application forms for both posts available from:

Leisure Personnel on 273 5975

Please quote Post Ref. number.

Please note that all successful applicant's criminal conviction record with the police will be checked.



Home improvements lottery

The Messenger has often received complaints about the poor workmanship of Council contractors. We have investigated residents' complaints about the facelift scheme and its contractors on Barnsley Road, but we've also received praise for builders employed by a local resident. It seems the home improvement game can be a bit of a lottery.

Facelift or face rift

Mr Mohamed Quassim contacted the Messenger complaining about the facelift work on Barnsley Road.

The facelift scheme is managed by the Council who contract the work to firms selected from an approved list. Work is done to the front of properties and includes brick cleaning, painting windows, wall building, paths, railings and front gardens. The Council told the Messenger, "Owners can be part of a project group that make decisions on the options available. They can choose paint colours and railing types for example – so the street has a more harmonious feel."

Mr Quassim, began to explain his complaints but was not alone as Mr Hanif from next door came to join us. 71-year-old Mr Hanif told us he signed plans to have the top soil replaced in the front garden.

"They didn't even dig out a foot of the old soil before placing topsoil. This was no good, so I bought it to the attention of the site foreman, who agreed and noted the problem. But, up to now nothing has been done to fix this."

Mr Hanif's garden wall is cracked and he asked if the contractors would rebuild it – he was told they wouldn't. "They said they'd point and clean it, but not even that has been done." The contractors also removed the handrail from the steps to the house claiming they would replace it. "They have not put it back," said Mr Hanif. "I am 71 and use that handrail to assist me getting to my front door."

Mr Quassim explained his problems: "I'm not signing a completion certificate to say I'm happy, because I'm not." He informed us that the plans he'd signed for did not include the extra concrete steps that have now replaced a once continuous slope to the front door. "This is an inconvenience to my children and me, and not in the plan. I stopped the workers, who told me to take it up with the Council and although I showed them the plans I'd agreed and signed, they ignored them and continued with what they were doing."

Mr Quassim made his complaint official and received a letter from a senior housing officer who explained:

"I have decided that the steps will remain because the slope of the land is too great to meet the regulations without the steps. This is a facelift scheme and not a scheme to make provisions to enable access to the property by a disabled person. The consent form, which you signed, makes provision for the Council to make changes from the original agreed works, at its own discretion."

We thought the facelift was about giving people and the area a facelift creating a more harmonious feel, but there is no harmonious feeling on Barnsley. The Council are the only ones who can keep their contractors in line, because they hold the purse strings. Should residents be grateful for what they are given, simply because it's free?

by Rob Smith

Builders get it right

Despite some difficulties with the grant application process, Sylvia Pennington of Torbay Road, was really pleased with her work and the builders who carried it out. She contacted the Messenger to show just what can be done to improve Burngreave houses.



Sylvia's main concern was her leaking roof, but the house also needed rewiring and the pebbledashing re-done. She applied for a private sector grant, but the process wasn't easy.

"Ibrar Hussain was a great help though," Sylvia told me, "He gave me advice over the phone and got someone from the private sector to talk to me about what I could have for the grant."

Sylvia had nothing but praise for the builders who carried out the work. DD Roofing, run by Derek and David Thistlethwaite from Woodhouse, repaired the roof. Sylvia said: "They were brilliant!" adding that it was probably because they were a father and son business.

"They take more pride in their work, you see Kate. Derek was a lovely fella, a caring gentle man. That's what you need when you're an older person; it gives you peace of mind. I'd recommend them to anyone!"

DD Roofing subcontracted Crabtree Construction to fix the pebbledashing and got her an electrician to rewire the house. "They were brilliant too!" Sylvia said.

Sylvia also got a Parkland Community grant to tarmac her drive, paint her window ledges and resurface her wall. What's more, Sylvia wanted to tell the Messenger's readers what having pride in your community can do. She is an active member in the community, attending meetings and contacting authorities to get problems fixed. She told me about the community spirit in her road and the surrounding area, how everybody contributes to litter picking, keeping gardens tidy and looking after each other.



"It's all about pride and commitment in the area where you live," she said.

by Kate Atkinson

To find out more about grants available for home owners contact the Council on 273 4646. Or to find out about DIY classes for home owners contact Private Sector Housing on 273 4623.

The Howitt sisters

and groomed it herself," explained Dorothy. "People began making inquiries and that led us to open 'The Poodle Parlour.'" In 1977 Dorothy retired and Mary worked at the Petre Street Cash & Carry where she stayed until it closed, seventeen years later.

Burnbank TARA

Since 1983 both sisters have been involved in Burnbank Tenants' and Residents' Association (TARA). "We had our 21st birthday on 14th December last year," adds Dorothy. I was astonished to hear the group had been meeting for over 20 years.

I visited the group's bingo night and met other members. "I've been coming here for donkey's years," explains Margaret Emson, "I love it to bits." Betty Bramall from Lopham Street believes the TARA helps her get out of the house.

"Oh yeah," agreed Seymour Stewart, sitting in the corner, ready to play his weekly game. "I've been coming a good while now. I always enjoy the company of these mature ladies." Harry Walton, an ex-Burngreave resident, travels across town to be amidst his old friends. "We owe a lot to Mary and Dorothy," he told me. "We've been everywhere together," explains Grace Brown. "It's very sociable and Mary and Dorothy try their best in here," adds

Margaret Morland from Bressingham.

The Centre is a large space, but doesn't contain much in the way of modern furnishings or decor. I could see that Mary and Dorothy are lynchpins in our community, sustaining this weekly activity for the almost forgotten older members of our community.



I enquired what sort of funding they receive. "The Council collect a weekly levy of 10p from everyone's rent in our area. That works out at around £5 per person per year," explained Mary, "But recently the Council stopped it. They said we don't meet the criteria from the new Sheffield Homes department."

"We'll be holding our AGM on 29th March at Verdon Recreation Centre," says Dorothy, "We should be able to resolve this issue and be paid back."

by Rob Smith



Dorothy Howitt was born in Fitzwilliam Street in 1923, and her sister Mary in Lopham Street in 1930. Both were educated at Pitsmoor Church of England School. After leaving school, the sisters learned hairdressing and worked together.

In 1955 they took on two shops, 64 and 66 Earsham Street. "To begin with we had a grocery store at number 64 that sold almost everything," explains Mary. "Unknown to us, our Grandfather had the same shop before us."

"Mary bought a poodle and trimmed

I can fling a rainbow!

No one celebrates the return of blue skies, golden sunshine, green leaves and flowers of all colours better than Burngreave's Hindu community. If you call at the Hindu Samaj on 25th March, the Spring festival of Holi, be sure to wear clothes that wash easily - whatever colour they are when you go in, you'll look like a walking rainbow when you leave.

An ancient Indian story tells how the handsome and playful god Vishnu teased a group of village milkmaids who had caught his eye by flinging coloured dyes over them.

This is exactly what you can expect to happen when you join in this celebration of the death of winter, the coming of spring, and the triumph of good over evil. It's a time when families get together to exchange cards and presents, and smear or throw coloured paint over each other's faces and clothes. In some households, children mix the celebration with a show of respect to their seniors by gently smearing colour on their feet. Similar scenes form the climax to the ceremonies in the temple, then everyone gathers for a feast.

by Robert Beard



Debjani Chatterjee is a local Hindu and poet. Burngreave Library, which she opened over ten years ago, stocks some of her forty books for children and adults. Her latest book is *Masala: New and Selected Poems*. Debjani explains in the poem below why the festival is called Holi:

Horrible Holika held Hiranyakashipu's heir
On her fearsome lap as the awful flames crackled around.
Loving Lord Vishnu listened to Prahlad's innocent prayer.
Instantly the blaze consumed her; the child stayed safe and sound.

Sporting volunteer



© Carl Rose

Layen Wisdom is a local volunteer for the Burngreave Sports Network.

My name is Layen Wisdom, I am seventeen years old and I have a keen interest in sports. I am studying for a BTEC National Diploma in Sport at Sheffield College.

I never really thought about doing voluntary work until last summer. I knew I needed some sort of experience in coaching to help with my college application so I volunteered to help out at the All Saints Soccer School. Children from the age of five attend these coaching sessions and their enthusiasm is extremely stimulating. When children take part in an activity they enjoy, they try very hard and always look to be told how good they are at what they're doing. The look on the children's faces when their team scores is a look of sheer enjoyment and I could just tell these children weren't there because

they had to be. They love football and that's always a nice sight to see.

Coaching youngsters is something I would encourage everybody to try out. When you see children do something they learnt the week before, like a certain skill they've seen on TV, it's a great experience that can put a smile on your face.

Some people will think that volunteering is not for them and that's exactly how I felt when I considered doing it. However, when I was in my college interview, I was asked if I'd done any kind of coaching because one of the course modules had a lot to do with it. The volunteering I had done the summer before definitely helped me gain a place on the course I wanted. Voluntary coaching adds another category to your CV and is another experience that you can say you have had.

Coaching is not just about gaining experience for yourself though or putting something new on your CV. Helping children improve at sport and seeing them learn properly, knowing that you played a major part in their improvement is brilliant.

by Layen Wisdom

The Burngreave Sports Network is always looking for volunteers to help develop our network. By volunteering you are not only helping your local community but also gaining valuable work experience that can help you get into college and get a job. Call 241 9100 for more information.

Kickboxing Classes

Kickboxing is a cross between Thai Boxing and Boxing. You can't use your knees and elbows in kickboxing just your hands and feet. This dynamic sport is great for improving your fitness levels and letting go of any stress.

BSN are running kickboxing classes at Verdon Recreation Centre every Friday from 6–7pm. Mixed class, male instructor, age 11+. Call 241 9100 for more information.

Running Club

Fed up with being stuck inside all winter? Get your trainers out and enjoy the Spring sunshine! With the Race for Life in May and the Burngreave Mile Run in mind, BSN are starting a local running club. All abilities welcome. If you are interested in joining in, call for training and meeting times – 241 9100.

Ladies Soccer

Why should the boys have all the fun? BSN Ladies-only soccer training at Firs Hill Sports and Arts Facility (Firs Hill School), Wednesdays 5–6pm. Crèche available on request.

Call 241 9100 for more information. This session is open to all women regardless of age or ability.

Tai Chi

Burngreave Sports Project are starting a new session of Tai Chi. It's every Wednesday at Osgathorpe Park Pavilion 4–5pm. To find out more about this and the other sporting activities held everyday of the week, contact Rebecca on 0790 993 6244.

Sheffield and District Junior Sunday League

Results and fixtures

Date	Under 7s	Under 8s	Under 9s
30 January	3–6 Laughton Boys <i>[home]</i>	—	10–3 Nether Green <i>[away]</i>
6 February	0–2 Wickersley Youth <i>[away]</i>	5–0 Throstles <i>[away]</i>	1–13 Rawmarsh St Joseph's <i>[home]</i>
13	2–6 Millmoor Juniors <i>[away]</i>	12–1 Bramley <i>[home]</i>	13–6 Dinnington Town <i>[home]</i>
20	—	5–3 Wasps <i>[away]</i>	1–4 Dodworth Miners <i>[away]</i>
27	—	Chapelton – postponed	—
6 March	—	Chapelton <i>[away]</i>	Brimwood Utd <i>[home]</i>
13	Ecclesfield Red Rose <i>[away]</i>	Hoyland <i>[away]</i>	—
20	Crosspool Juniors <i>[home]</i>	—	—
26	—	Greenhill <i>[away]</i>	Sheffield Rangers <i>[away]</i>
3 April	Sheffield Wed Young Owls <i>[home]</i>	—	—

Creative Burngreave

Creative Burngreave's 2004-05 grant scheme funded sixteen arts projects: ranging from theatre and film to photography and dance. The list below displays the wealth of exceptionally gifted and skilful artists living and working in the Burngreave area.

Natasha McFarlane

Project about artist development and music production: culminating in a CD for distribution.



Vernon Williams/ Over The Edge Productions

A theatre project co-funded by Arts Council Yorkshire. The project brought a theatre company from Zimbabwe to perform Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* to a sell-out audience at the Crucible, Studio Theatre, in Sheffield.

Matthew Tompkins

Short digital video film about a gardener who grows vegetable people at night. Eerie drama using dance and music.

Burngreave Photographic Project

This project brought photographers from across Burngreave together to share knowledge, experience and resources leading to a photography exhibition in the Burngreave Chapel.

Chill Foo Front

Running dance workshops and teaching basic radio presentation skills, in preparation for the Burngreave Radio Project.

Alawi Taha

To develop and print a newsletter aimed at local people, with a focus on hip hop as an educational tool.

Carl Baker/Positive Negative

Positive Negatives Film and Technology Festival held at the Spectrum Centre.

Tracey Schawsmidth

A digital video documentary to gain an insight into the multicultural community in Burngreave.

Jenson Grant/Destination Arts

A performing arts and digital technology project exploring spoken histories of Afro-Caribbean people.

Hectic Music Crew

A young singing/rapping group, who secured funding to improve the quality of their music CD through voice coaching and singing lessons.

Taonga

Group performances based on traditional Zambian songs and dances to entertain and educate audiences about African culture.

Creative Burngreave provides Burngreave artists, training, mentoring, and funding opportunities, developing their skills and enhancing their professional development.



The Burngreave Problem Busters

The Osgathorpe Jam One Love Festival. A one-day family event, celebrating local artists, arts and craft activities, plus international food and other cultural activities.

Friends of Osgathorpe Park

An aerosol artist held a one-day workshop with local people to create a mural on the outside of the Osgathorpe Pavilion.

Baby K Productions

Invited an internationally-established artist from Uganda to work with local children to produce art work using traditional African materials.

Farhad Ahrarnia

To create a colouring book depicting images of cultural diversity produced in collaboration with students in local primary schools.

Cathy Everard/ Aura, Health and Fitness

An educational film of broadcast quality on the theme of the leisure opportunities available to young people in Burngreave.

Final Year of Project Funding Celebration Event

With guests

The amazing Reggae Philharmonic Orchestra

Wednesday 20 April 2005

4.30-7.30pm

Spectrum Centre

(formerly the Irish Club)

105 Brunswick Road, Sheffield S1 2NS

Displays of artists work - funded through the Creative Burngreave project grant 2004-05

buffet • information stalls

This is a free event • All welcome

For more information, contact:

Alka Prabhakar • 0114 221 1891



**This page is produced by Creative Burngreave.
A New Deal funded project,
managed by Sheffield Arts Education.**



Mural Celebration

On Tuesday 15th February Osgathorpe Park unveiled its multicultural mural displayed on the brickwork of Firvale Youth Centre - Osgathorpe Park Pavilion.

“We could not have wished a better day for this activity,” said Mat Eggerton organiser of Osgathorpe Park’s mural drawing initiative. “This was made possible with the help of the friends of Osgathorpe Park Group and funded through Creative Burngreave. Months of consultation involving local children has been taking place, through local events and workshops, in order to gather ideas for this,” added Mat.

Artist Patrick Amber, the Rangers service, local children and Fir Vale Youth Project, put final touches to the mural painting.

The event was honoured by the attendance of Leon Taylor, Athens 2004 Olympic silver medallist in synchronised diving, while Burngreave Sports Project were on hand with sporting activities.

by Rob Smith



Girl Guides and Boy Scouts

At the Scout and Guide hut on Holtwood Road, Brownies have been holding meetings for many years and our Rainbow unit reopened in December 2003. Now a new Guide unit is starting on 13th April.

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides have fun playing games, doing arts and crafts, learning about the environment and lots more. Rainbows may gain badges for participating in a group activities and Brownies can work towards individual badges like ‘Artist’, ‘Friend to animals’ or ‘Stargazer’. Guides take more responsibility for choosing what they want to do. All groups have outings, joint fun days, and special challenges.



race, faith or personal circumstances. Special requirements of various faiths and cultures are respected and taken into account in the meetings.

by Doreen Rushforth, Rainbow Guider

And for the boys, there are Beavers and Cubs and we plan to reopen Scouts in the near future. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts enjoy fun activities such as making things, making new friends, playing games, singing songs, looking at nature, learning how to be safe and working towards group and individual challenge badges. They also have optional sleepovers, camps, fun days, trips and joint parties with other groups.

Guiding and Scouting is open to all girls or boys irrespective of

For more information or to book a place telephone the relevant number below:

Wednesday Groups for Girls

Rainbows • age 5–7 • 4.45–5.45pm • 243 6902

Brownies • age 7–10 • 6.00–7.30pm • 266 0472

Guides • age 10+ • 7.30–9.00pm • 0797 100 7858

Monday Groups for Boys

Beavers • age 6–8 • 6.00–7.00pm • 275 1750

Cubs • age 8–10 • 7.00–8.30pm • 246 3728

Scouts • age 10–14 • 246 3728

Growing healthy

A very special allotment is taking shape in Grimsthorpe - a place where people with mental health problems can come to slowly unwind. John Lawson, who admits he knows 'next to nowt' about gardening, told us how seeing something grow can really help people recover from some of the terrible things they've experienced.

"There's no pressure to dig over a piece of land," said John, "It's about getting out of your house, off your backside and into the fresh air. If some days you want to just want to have a cup of tea and a chat and enjoy the outdoors when you get here, then you can." The GreenFingers project, sponsored by New Deal, is managed by Pitsmoor Surgery as part of their long-running efforts to improve quality of life for people with mental health problems.

The raised beds for wheelchair users, fabulous views across the city and welcoming atmosphere mean it's proving popular. GreenFingers caters for people with a whole range of mental health problems, from anxiety and depression to severe and enduring mental health problems. Some members have a chronic physical illness or learning disability in addition



to their mental health problem. The sessions are attracting referrals from all over the city but priority is given to Burngreave residents.

Gary Stanton, a regular user, gave the project a glowing report:

"It changed my whole outlook on life and gave me the will to live again. You feel you're wanted, there are chances to try new tasks and regain your self-respect."

To join GreenFingers you need a referral from your GP, nurse, CPN or keyworker. If you need help with this just contact John or Helen on 0793 292 7153. There's good evidence that 'horticultural therapy' can be very effective in improving the quality of life for people with mental health problems, but gardening is also a proven way for anyone to stay healthy.

by Mark Lankshear

There are more and more opportunities to enjoy the benefits of getting out in the fresh air, getting your hands dirty and helping something grow in Burngreave.

If you're interested in volunteering, here's a list of names and contact numbers of local groups who would love to hear from you:

GreenFingers (referral needed)	0793 292 7153
Green Gym	272 3591
Burngreave Rangers & Green Environment Project	278 9651
Green City Action & Friends of Abbeyfield Park	244 0353
Friends of Burngreave Cemetery	276 0630
Friends of Osgathorpe Park	272 9651

Reflect-Action

Join us in using Reflect-Action to improve life in Pitsmoor - you put your whole self in.

Reflect-Action uses creative tools, such as drawings, stories, diagrams and songs, to help people share experiences, spot patterns and take action in their lives. A group of Black community workers in Cardiff use R-A to understand and appreciate their differences, share skills and support. Another group in Oxford use it to take action on drugs problems. This adaptable process was developed in Bangladesh and has spread to over 60 countries.

We are a small group of friends living in Pitsmoor who have used R-A in our jobs supporting other communities. We want to share this creative, action-focused process with you. You can be part of what happens next. The first get together will be in March, for more information contact Alison on 243 5732 or Susi on 279 5083, phunkydudi@yahoo.co.uk or <http://www.reflect-action.org/>. There is no charge, but please bring some food to share.

by Alison Norris



Health Day

Second Steps Caribbean Women's Group
At SADACCA, 48 Wicker

Saturday 12th March 2005
10.00am-4.00pm

Head, Hands and Feet Massage
Aromatherapy by Professionals

Talks, including:

Palliative Care
Depression
Stress
Check your Hearing
Exercise and other health concerns

Ask those questions that bother you... and RELAX...

All are welcome and refreshments are free

For more information:
225 8124 or 242 3760

Crèche facilities and fun for kids

Funded by the Primary Care Trust
and Burngreave New Deal for Communities

Parkwood wildlife haven



Work has started on a sanctuary for wildlife at Parkwood Springs on a neglected area of land at the side of Shirecliffe Road. The hawthorn hedge is being laid in the traditional way by expert hedger Jasper Pratchek, using a technique which will allow the hedge to regrow and thrive.

Such hedgerows provide a rich source of food for birds and small

mammals. But when hedges become very overgrown they suppress most other plant life. Laying such hedges permits dormant seeds to germinate.

The site is being developed following an initiative by Jean Armstrong, Chair of Parkwood Landfill Action Group. Jean told the *Messenger*, "The land has been derelict for so long. We just want to make it into a place people can enjoy and be proud of."

Landfill tax money has been secured to pay for the work, which is being managed by Sheffield Wildlife Trust. The works include footpaths, seating and landscaping.

For more information contact Jon Dallow, Woodland Officer on 250 0500.

by Andrew Green

The unknown sculpture



Rangers from the Burngreave Green Environment Programme (BGEPP) have uncovered a stone sculpture that was immersed in an overgrown bush in Catherine Street/Somerset Street Park, Burngreave.

The Burngreave Rangers team and local volunteers have been carrying out major site clearance as

part of efforts to improve safety in the park. Working at the top end of the park, they have unearthed a large stone sculpture with the inscription 'Somerset Street Open Space 1982' and a picture of a person tree-planting.

This park has been a major problem for local residents, with problems of drug use and dealing, fly-tipping and vandalism.

It is obvious that a great deal of local community effort was spent on this park twenty years ago, the sculpture is fairly large and looks like part of a community initiative to plant up the park. We would love to hear from local people who played a part in the improvement of this park in 1982, and work with them in improving it now in 2005.

If you know any more about the sculpture or would like to learn more information about the Burngreave Green Environment Programme, please ring the office on 278 9651.

by Moira Walker, BGEPP

Green news

At the end of March the Burngreave Green Environment Programme comes to an end. There has been a flurry of activity in Abbeyfield Park as part of efforts to spend up the remaining grant money. The Programme, including the green audit, the Forestry Project, the Rangers and an Action Plan, has been managed by Sheffield Wildlife Trust. They are in discussion with New Deal about more money to implement their plans, which have been two years in the making. The *Messenger* hopes to bring more news next issue.

Seed exchange

Green City Action (GCA) will be running the seed exchange again this year. The scheme provides free vegetable and flower seeds, as well as onion sets and seed potatoes. We also encourage gardeners to share resources by donating surplus seeds to the exchange so we can redistribute them.

This year we are offering free pots and compost to anyone who is able to contribute seedlings, cuttings and plants, for fund-raising plant sales at the Environment Month event in May, Abbeyfield Park Multicultural Festival on 10th July and other events over the year. We can also support groups hoping to use plant sales in fund raising for their own organizations.

To find out more contact GCA on 244 0353 or call into the Tool Bank in Abbeyfield Park House – Tuesday and Wednesday, 11am–4pm and Saturday, 10am–12 noon.

by Rob Bullock, GCA

Fancy fishing?

A few people in the area are interested in starting a fishing club. Are there others who would like to join us? We fish on the River Don or local ponds and lakes with occasional sea-fishing trips.

We particularly want to hear from former anglers who can't get out anymore because it's too expensive, have got no tackle or have a disability, physical or mental, and need help. We can help first-time anglers too!

If anyone has unused fishing tackle you can donate it to GCA's Tool Bank so it can be loaned to others.

For more information contact me on 296 7652 or johnmlawson@yahoo.com, or GCA on 244 0353.

by John Lawson

Novel initiatives hit the right notes

School children in Burngreave are becoming budding bookworms.

Four primary schools and the local library each held a book fair where every child could pick up two free books of their choice.

Funded by BNDfC in association with Waterstones bookstore in Orchard Square, Sheffield City Centre, Firshill, Pye Bank, Byron Wood and St Catherine's primary schools, as well as Burngreave Library, all took part.

A wide-range of books were available but best sellers such as Harry Potter proved to be particular favourites.

Karen Allott, deputy-head and English team-leader at Byron Wood School said: "This has been a wonderful opportunity for our children. We spend a lot of time within school encouraging reading, writing and good literacy – so this compliments our school improvement plan nicely."

"When the books are taken home, parents are also encouraged to read to their children – having dual-language books on offer is also great because it can help parents whose first language isn't English to do this too."

In addition, a separate initiative in the area has seen BNDfC provide money to local schools so they can buy musical instruments.



'Burngreave's budding bookworms.' Children from Byron Wood School pick up their favourite books at the BNDfC-funded book fair held at their school.

Jon Cowley, education theme manager at BNDfC, said: "The book fairs and musical instruments are just a couple of initiatives that BNDfC provides to our local schools.

"We are really pleased to give this support because they help our efforts to encourage learning."

Thank you

Many thanks for all your responses to the BNDfC year 5 delivery plan – responses to your comments will be soon be up on display in the Information Shop so please feel free to come and take a look.

In addition, thank you for your feedback regarding the election process. The details are being finalised and a report that will consider your comments and suggestions is being taken to the next BNDfC board meeting.

Thanks again.



Poverty Conference

A new BNDfC initiative around tackling poverty is to be kick-started by a major conference.

The Poverty Conference, taking place on Friday 8 April, 12 noon to 5pm at the Spectrum Centre, Brunswick Street, will look at a number of issues surrounding poverty.

Keynote national speakers have been invited from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Oxfam Regender project, which looks at how poverty affects women. Local speakers have been invited by Social Services Family Support, Burngreave Support Network, Advocacy Now Project, Pitsmoor Credit Union, Scoop Aid and Adult Learning providers.

Workshops are set to include:

- Poverty and the Adult Learning and Training Agenda
- Poverty, Debt, Savings and Credit Unions
- Poverty and benefit take up
- Poverty and vulnerable families and children
- Healthy eating on a budget

The wider initiative around poverty was raised and discussed at the over arching theme group by Pitsmoor Credit Union, Burngreave Problembusters and the Advocacy Now Project.

If you want to find out more about the BNDfC poverty initiative or the conference please contact Eloise Clarke at BNDfC on 279 6936.

A New Deal for Burngreave



Life is on the up!

It's official... people in Burngreave are feeling happier and safer and are enjoying an improving quality life

In 2004, a total of 500 Burngreave residents from 4,200 households took part in the New Deal for Communities household survey.

The research, which is undertaken every two years by MORI, involves interviews with people who live in the 39 NDC areas across the country to look at the impact of NDC programmes on the communities they work in.

Results showed that the number of Burngreave residents who feel their quality of life is fairly or very good has increased from 52% in 2002 to 79% now. In addition, those who are fairly or very satisfied with Burngreave as a place to live is up from 64% to 71%.



© Carl Rose

Other notable findings include:

- 86% of people have heard of Burngreave New Deal for Communities (BNDfC) – a rise of 15% from 2002.
- The impact of BNDfC on the area where 58% of residents surveyed think that New Deal activities have improved the area by a fair amount or a great deal – an increase of 19% since 2002.
- The percentage of residents who think their area has got slightly or much better in the previous two years is up from 29% to 58%.
- People being fairly or very satisfied with local secondary schools up from 52% to 83%.

With regard to crime:

- 20% of those surveyed felt very safe compared to 11% in 2002.
- The percentage of residents surveyed very worried about being mugged and robbed down from 30% to 22%.
- People very worried about having their car stolen down from 31% to 20%.
- Residents very worried about having something stolen from their car, down from 30% to 19%.

- The percentage of residents surveyed very worried about being sexually assaulted down from 20% to 10%.
- Those very worried about being physically attacked by strangers down from 26% to 17%.

The Burngreave New Deal for Communities Police Team is reliant on valuable information from the members of the public and as a result some crimes have decreased year on year such as drug crime. The latest BNDfC Police Team crime statistics from 1 July 2004 – 1 Jan 2005 include:

- 40% decrease in drug possession with intent to supply.
- 100% decrease in certain offences that are racially aggravated relating to persons and property.
- 70% decrease in drug possession (excluding cannabis).
- 62% decrease burglaries of dwelling.

For more information on Burngreave New Deal crime initiatives in the area please contact Muna Deria, BNDfC crime theme manager, on 0791 721 5371 or email munaderia@bndfc.co.uk.

Help needed

The BNDfC Employment and Enterprise Theme Strategy Group has a vacancy for one local resident. The role of the group is to, among other things, endorse project proposals for funding.

It meets every first Monday of the month from 4.00–5.30pm. For more information please contact Trywell Kalyata 292 2907 or trywellkalyata@bndfc.co.uk. Deadline is 14 March.

Youth Project

The Somali Youth Project offers a wide range of activities for young people. These take place on Tuesdays 5.30–9.00pm, Wednesdays 5–9pm and Saturdays 11am–3pm.

Women's Day

To celebrate Women's International Day, BNDfC are concentrating on all services available to women in the BNDfC area.

In the Information Shop throughout March there will be a variety of information available for women, culminating in a coffee morning chit-chat on Saturday 26 March. This will be an opportunity for the women of the area to speak out about what they want. For further information please contact Carol Anderson at BNDfC on 292 0460 or 0773 987 8600.

Theme Meetings

Everyone is welcome at the following theme meetings:

Employment & Enterprise:

2 March & 6 April, Ellesmere Children's Centre, 1.30–3.30pm

Health: 7 March & 4 April, St Peter's Church Hall, Lyons Street, 5.30–7.30pm

Over-arching: 8 March, The Furnival, Verdon Street, 6–8pm

Education: 9 March, St Peter's Church Hall, Lyons Street, 6–8pm

Crime: 15 March, Pitsmoor Methodist Church, 6–8pm

Environment: 24 March, Pitsmoor Methodist Church, 6–8pm

Housing: 10 March, BCAT meeting room, 6–8pm

First Impressions

Some of you will know Kieron Williams who previously wrote this column. Last November, he was successful in becoming the Healthy Cities Co-ordinator for the City Council. Kieron left Burngreave in mid-January and wanted to convey his thanks to everyone who he worked with whilst at Burngreave. My name is Andy Shallice (pictured right), and I'm the new Area Co-ordinator for Burngreave and Fir Vale. I have previously worked as Area Co-ordinator for Darnall and Tinsley, before that in the Race Equality Unit in the Town Hall.

So after two weeks, what are my first impressions as the new area co-ordinator? (Well it's not really two weeks as I've spent most of the second week becoming a qualified first aider, via St John's Ambulance). **First**, a real sense of welcome from all sorts of people – people that I've known for some time, and people who I've only just met. **Secondly**, the area's changing - the shops on Spital Hill, the Green and at Owler Lane; the children in the primary schools, and some of their new buildings; Friday prayers at the mosques that are certainly expanding (still with most of the attenders travelling by car). For someone who was familiar with these localities, you realise the need to get to re-know the neighbourhoods. **Thirdly**, the sense of more change to come. How will the inner ring road affect the area? What will be the outcome of the 'housing renewal' plans? What impact will a Tesco's have on Fir Vale shops? Can the range of opinions about the future of Spital Hill and Page Hall be captured and brought together...? Will the positive impact of New Deal have a wider effect?

The Council in Sheffield has recently been rated as 'excellent' by the inspectors, and the transformations in the town centre have also been praised.

It seems to me that the benchmark for the next five years is whether these same successes can be reproduced in Fir Vale, Pitsmoor, Firhill and Burngreave.

The Area Panel has got three main purposes. To **hold regular public meetings** which allow anyone and everyone to ask questions, listen to debate and discussion, and suggest improvements in the whole range of Council services. To **make sure that Council services in this area are what the people and the local communities need** and want. And to investigate ways of **making sure more resources are available** to improve the way the local communities function.

But perhaps the value of the Area Panel is not so obvious. It is how it can use its influence 'behind the scenes'.

Last week I was at the New Deal education theme discussion. Five 'study support' projects (working with students after school and at weekends) were reporting on their work, and the impact they were beginning to have. How will the Education Directorate be able to support and sustain this kind of initiative? How will the local schools (on



© Carl Rose

top of all the other 'extras' they have to consider) work alongside such community-led programmes? Are there suitable buildings and facilities for study support projects? Area Panels have a good record in providing opportunities for 'the Town Hall' to give the answers. We need to make sure the answers are to the questions that are relevant in Burngreave, Pitsmoor, Firhill and Fir Vale.

So what can you do? The next Panel meeting is Thursday 31st March at 6.30pm. We've not agreed a venue yet but if you want to attend, ring me on 276 9134 or Marilyn King 0773 636 2179. The agenda isn't finalised, but it is likely to be Parkwood Landfill or environmental programmes and improvements.

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.



- 8 March, 5.30–6.00pm, Wensley TARA (Jackie Drayton)
- 12 March, 11.00am–12.00 noon, Burngreave Library (Ibrar Hussain)
- 12 March, 12.15–1.00pm, Firhill TARA (Ibrar Hussain)
- 17 March, 12.30–1.30pm, Firvale Forum (Steve Jones)
- 26 March, 11.00am–12.00 noon, Burngreave Library (Ibrar Hussain)

Next Area Panel Meeting Date

- 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: burngreave@btconnect.com.

The First Curry House on Spital Hill

The Kashmir Curry House is a bit of a landmark on Spital Hill, known for decades for good, tasty curries and an atmosphere of informality. B'sharath Hussain, who owns the restaurant, told me how it all started.

Back in the early 70s his parents had come to Sheffield and bought what had been "The Cherry Pie" café on Spital Hill to set up a Kashmiri restaurant. It was just one room with a pinball machine, basic tables and chairs and a kitchen at the back. There were only a couple of other Asian restaurants in Sheffield and The Kashmir was the first in Spital Hill.

Both parents worked hard to get the business going but it wasn't terribly successful in the early days. "They used to offer daytime meals but it wasn't until they switched to the evening trade that things started to take off," said B'sharath. "Then, as they established a clientele, the situation began to improve. At that time I was helping my parents after school and we had the restaurant open until 5am – most of the customers arrived after the pubs and night clubs closed! Some didn't have a great appreciation for the food and they weren't always well behaved but we managed. I remember how we used to think that if we made £50 for a night's takings, that was doing well!"



In the 80s, however, the decline of the steel industry started to bite on local businesses and customers changed from purely locals to include students and professionals from other parts of the city. From just one room the Kashmir expanded to fill two, finally taking over the corner building about 10 years ago. "It was a bit of a revolution when we got inside toilets and heating!" said B'sharath, "But we have still kept to our principles of good food in basic but comfortable surroundings. We don't offer fancy table cloths or piped music but people seem to like that and they keep coming back. Some of my customers first came as small children with their parents... and now they bring their own children. It feels like we've won a place in people's hearts." From those days when B'sharath's Mum and Dad did all the cooking, the place now employs six people and attracts customers from all over Sheffield.

So what does the future hold for The Kashmir? "I don't have any problems with the Council's plans to redevelop this block: the building is too old and dilapidated to repair," said B'sharath. "But I am optimistic that future proposals will still include The Kashmir in this area." Let's hope that we can look forward to at least another 30 years of good food and that the tradition of The Kashmir continues to add to the culinary character of Spital Hill!

by Nikky Wilson

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.



If anyone has any other old photos of The Kashmir, please contact Nikky Wilson from Burngreave Voices on 276 1900 or call into Burngreave Library.

Food, Glorious Food...

At the International Women's Day Celebration (see advert on page 2).

Still on the subject of food, there will be a small exhibition for Burngreave's International Women's Day Celebration on "Cooking up A Memory", to illustrate the creative talent in Burngreave's kitchens. All women are welcome to visit the Spectrum Centre on Brunswick Road on Monday 7th March to see this and share food from around the world at lunchtime. For more information contact Nikky Wilson on 276 1900.

Burngreave Voices

A Request to Ex-Steel Workers

Did you work in a steelworks? Would you be willing to be interviewed and talk about your experiences to young people? If so, please get in contact with Nikky Wilson from Burngreave Voices on 276 1900 or Lungani Sibanda from Creative Burngreave on 221 1890. We hope to develop a short play, based on the stories of steel workers, for young people to perform at a summer event this year.

"Church Spires and Wedding Bells"

An exhibition of photos by Firshill and Pitsmoor Local History Group.

**Burngreave Library
From 14th March to 8th April**

**For more information contact:
Nikky Wilson on 276 1900 or at
nicola.wilson@sheffieldgalleries.org.uk**

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

Congratulations to all that work at the Yemeni Economic and Training Centre! No Yemeni Centre or Community has been awarded Beacon Status before. For those who have invested years in voluntary work helping the community and provided a platform for Yemenis to gain skills and employment, it was about time!

Abdul Shaif and those that work within the Centre and provide a service outside it should also be proud of such an amazing achievement. I've seen them work hard through the night, helping someone with a passport, sorting someone's life out or helping people get basic skills.

It has taken years of work, sacrifice, and most of all dedication from the Centre's leaders and many many volunteers to deliver a high-quality service and much love to so many in our community – so congratulations again!

Congratulations to the winners at Business Forum Award too! You deserved it and may this year also be a prosperous one!

Best wishes, Adam Taha

Dear Messenger

How appalling that the government is considering making the swearing of allegiance to Queen and Country a compulsory event for all teenagers. Considering the current political climate I am sure it is not only the more cynical amongst us that see this as meaning it should be made compulsory for all Muslims. This news came shortly after Muslim schools were criticised for not producing children that would 'fit' into British society. When did someone decide that British society was no longer going to be a multicultural one?

David Ainscough

Dear Messenger

I write in response to the letter in February's issue from Sally Stracey which raised some interesting questions and issues. Of Chinese and English heritage myself, living in Burngreave for the past 21 years has been nourishing and enlightening. I have found that we have engaged with one another positively, gradually achieving greater understanding and respect for our diverse cultures.

Having initiated and founded the Abbeyfield Park Multicultural Festival, I would like to say that the Planning Committee has always attempted to embrace as many cultures as possible – including 'English' culture. The festival is set in the Victorian Heritage Park; it features Sandwich Stalls, Anglo-Saxon woodturning, English games and sports such as bowls, performances by Rock bands while Morris Dancers and Brass Bands were also invited to take part.

Responses to adverts in the Messenger for stalls, workshops and performers were presented to the Festival Planning Committee. This was made up of representatives from community organisations including individuals of White British heritage. They collectively agreed on proposals in accordance with their budget and seek to achieve a balance which reflected activities in the area.

I urge any group to put forward proposals. Tell the Festival organisers what you consider to be of cultural significance so that we can all continue to enjoy the colourful and fascinating dimensions of our amazing and diverse Burngreave Society. There is space for all of us to take our place.

Yours sincerely, Panni Poh Yoke Loh

Sir/Madam,

I have a fault with my cable TV. I called Telewest who told me they would be here between 4 and 7pm today to look at it. I left work early especially to meet them. When they didn't appear, I contacted them and they stated that they wouldn't come to Burngreave after 4pm. They claimed that their staff have been the victims of a couple of 'incidents' in the last few weeks. Can the police verify this? If not, Telewest are totally unjustified in their, what appears to be, discrimination against this area. I pay the same amount as any citizen elsewhere in the city and am entitled to the same service. If they have no intention of providing me with such, they shouldn't charge me the same amount of money!

I am fed up with being stigmatised for living in this area. My colleagues and acquaintances, who live in more affluent areas, consider it perfectly reasonable that Telewest should behave in this way. This acceptance that it is ok to discriminate against poor people appals me. I am therefore changing my TV and 'phone supplier. If every Telewest customer in Burngreave did the same, they may change their policy. At least they wouldn't be making any money out of us.

The people of Burngreave are as entitled to decent service as anyone else and we should demand it, whether it be from Telewest, the police or the council.

If the louts supposedly responsible actually exist, they should please stop and think about the effect their behaviour has on the other members of our community. It is pointless spending huge amounts of money, time and improving the area, if individuals behave in a way that causes companies to act like this.

Yours faithfully, Sally A Stracey

Dear Messenger

I enjoy reading the letters page but was upset to read February's letter from Gordon Lawton. He returned to visit the Pitsmoor area from Australia and was told by relatives not to get out of his car to walk around. Why? Do his relatives live in this area? Please will people stop assuming it is unsafe? It is as safe as any other area.

Concerning another of February's contributions, I know many 'White British' people who agree with the comments in Sally Stracey's letter, they do not feel represented.

Finally, thank you to Christine, of the Friends of Burngreave Chapel, for helping me to find a grave. In the book 'Weerz me dad?' by Fred Pass (highly recommended – all the money goes to charity), one of his friends died and I wanted to find the grave, which I did. Thank you.

Christine Hanstock

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The Private Rented Project has been set up to improve standards in all types of private rented accommodation. We offer free professional support and advice to both tenants and landlords.

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The Landlord Information and Advice Session held in Darnall in February proved successful resulting in demand for a second session.

Don't miss the initial Burngreave session!

- Share knowledge, expertise and experience with other landlords.
- Access the free 'Landlords for Excellence' course at Sheffield Hallam University.
- Join a supportive partnership with the Private Rented Project Team, Anti-social Behaviour Officers, the Police and other Council services.

Friday 11th March 2005, 2.40-4.00pm
All Saints Connexions Centre,
7 Lyons Close, Burngreave.

Refreshments Available!

For more information tel: 0114 273 4642

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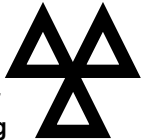
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Calling all actors, stage managers and theatre production people



Green City Action is once again to stage its successful theatre in the park event in May 2005.

Planning is currently underway on the show for the following dates:
Thursday 19th May through to Saturday 21st May

If you have any experience or you wish to gain some, of treading the boards, costume design, script writing, stage management or prop building.

We are looking for people from the Burngreave area to get involved in bringing this production to life

Contact **Bob Worm**
 at **Green City Action** on **244 0353**
 or **enquires@greencityaction.co.uk**



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cinema/screening forum



Moving Image Space Burngreave, at the Old Chapel and Cemetery, Melrose Road, Sheffield, is a venue to watch, recommend and organise your own film screenings.

Watch everything from your own family videos, locally-made films, promotion/information, foreign TV programmes and documentaries, to phone video messaging, music, sport, front-end graphics and animations.

If it is an image and it moves
 submit it > recommend it > view it.

We are open to all submissions, and accept moving images via the internet, DVD, VHS and cine films.

> **Deadline: 11th March 2005**

For further information or to forward your ideas, films or recommendations, please contact: jennifer.booth@blueyonder.co.uk
 0797 469 5477

Supported by:
 Sheffield City Council, Friends of Burngreave Cemetery and Chapel, BCAT & BNDfC.

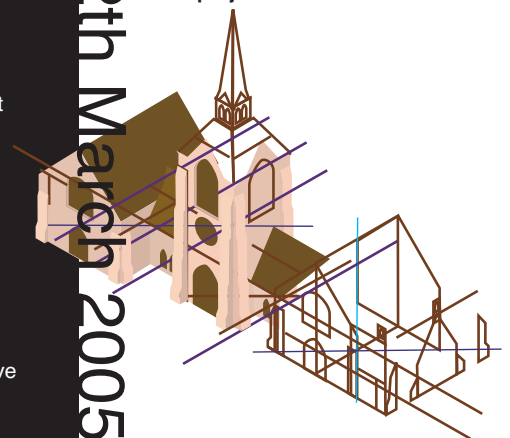
11th & 12th March 2005

FREE

Showcase and film screening forum, including wine and video DJs

Friday 11th March 6.45-9.00pm
 Video DJs Sundaze featuring Anna Garner, The Only Michael, 66 Degrees and Tange.

Saturday 12th March 11.00am-5.00pm
 Video projection and TV-size films.



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