

Burngreave Messenger



Voice of the Burngreave Community

Eid Mubarek and Happy Diwali to our readers • Stay safe on Bonfire Night!

Extraordinary Generosity

The 7.6-magnitude earthquake, that centred near Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-administered Kashmir on 8th October, caused more than 50,000 deaths and devastation that may take a decade to repair.

Burngreave residents have responded with extraordinary generosity, Mohammed Younis from the Pakistan Muslim Centre (PMC) told us:

“People have donated clothing, blankets, and tents – approximately 30 to 40 tons. One lorry full has already been flown to Pakistan and we are sorting out the rest. We’re now working with Sheffield City Council to raise £100,000 for the appeal.”

Firshill Community Primary School worked with the PMC, acting as a collection point for donated clothes and blankets for the earthquake victims.

“It’s wonderful how much we collected in just three days,” said Amanda Revill, admin assistant at the school, while Irshad Akbar of the PMC said:

“The response from the public has been tremendous. It showed once again how multicultural Burngreave is when helping other communities in need.”

Burngreave’s mosques have also seen outstanding charity. Imam Hafiz

Saleem Akhtar from Fir Vale Mosque lost friends, former teachers and colleagues in the earthquake, he said:

“So far, approximately £45,000 has been raised. Half was donated to the President’s Relief Fund, the rest directly to charities based in Muzaffarabad.”

Mr Siddique of the Burngreave Mosque told the *Messenger* they’ve raised £38,840.

“Children have donated their pocket money. Some people have cancelled plans to go to Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca) and donated their money to the appeal.”

The Kashmir Education Trust is planning active ways to relieve people’s suffering, with collections in the city centre, and a sponsored walk is planned for 27th November in Derbyshire. They are also looking for volunteers to go to the region in December to assess and plan a long-term project. Contact KET on 272 8811 to get involved.

Staff at Pakistan Multicultural Advice



Mathew Webb, Juwariah Waseem, Briana Davis and Maqaddas Zahoor from Firshill reception class, with just a few of the bags of donated clothes and blankets.

Centre have seen the community come together following the tragedy. “We’ve had donations from all sections of the community, it’s heart warming to see. Please keep the donations coming, the victims of the earthquake are destitute and will now face a harsh winter.”

Donations can be made to the following:

South Asian Fund for Earthquake Relief (SAFER) through Sheffield City Council 272 6444 or Pakistan Muslim Centre 243 6091
President’s Relief Fund through Fir Vale Mosque or Pakistan Multicultural Advice Centre 261 9130
Money being taken directly to the region through Burngreave Mosque 270 1034

The Carnival Of Lights

Friday 9th December

4.00pm til 8.00pm

Ellesmere Green Burngreave

An Evening Of Spectacular Visual Entertainment

Music & Dance Performance, Workshops, Parade, Traders, Rides & Attractions Plus Much More..



Support and participation comes from the local after school clubs and artists and performers from the burngreave area.

Festival Information LINE : 0114 2440353



**Does your business
deserve recognition?**
Announcing the Burngreave
Business Awards 2006
See insert for
more information



The Great Tree Give Away and Bazaar



Radio Sheffield and partners are pleased to launch the 'Plant it... Save it!' Campaign 2005 at **Abbeyfield Park** on the first weekend of 'National Tree Week'.

26th Nov 2005 • 10am–2pm

The 'Plant it... Save it' drop-in event is a tree give away of small native bare root trees. The event will include:

- The launch of the *Abbeyfield Tree Tales and Trails* publication – the tree trail will be set out in the park with the new books available
- The re-launch of the 'Burngreave Trees for Free Scheme' – orders will be taken from residents of Burngreave for fruit trees available in the New Year
- The replanting of two trees to replace casualties in the park from previous plantings – volunteers welcome
- BTCV will be building bird boxes on the day
- BBC Radio Sheffield is broadcasting live from the event.

Everybody is welcome

**For more information contact
Tim Shortland on 0114 273 4190**



Are recruiting new Management Committee Members

The Sheffield Black Drugs Service is an outreach service that aims to respond to the needs of drug users, their partners, families and carers from Black and ethnic minority communities.

The service offers one2one support, structured counselling, practical assistance, information and advice to drug users. We specialise in training concerning drugs and ethnicity, cultural competency and drug awareness to professionals and black and ethnic minority communities.

The service is recruiting management committee members who are able to volunteer their time. The committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month between 5.30–8.00pm.

We particularly need people with the following skills/expertise: publicity/marketing; community development; training; health; finance and voluntary sector management.

If you are interested and want some more information about the service please do not hesitate to contact:

Hardeep Pabla, Service Manager
on 0114 249 3700
or by e-mail: hardeep@sbds.org.uk

15 Jobs available as Classroom Assistants / School Support Workers

- Are you aged between 18-64?
- Are you currently out of work and living in Burngreave?
- Would you like on the job training?



(Places are available in Primary & Secondary Schools)

We can offer you:

- Employment for 1 year
- A salary of £166 per week
- 33 hours per week – including a package of training
- Ongoing support and guidance

To find out if you are suitable to apply for these exciting opportunities ring Suzanne at Jobnet City Centre on:

0114 201 2840 / 0114 201 2803

Closing Date Wednesday 30th November

Details also available at Jobnet@Burngreave, Spital Hill



Supported by



This programme acknowledges the contribution of the European Social Fund and Yorkshire Forward

Were you a resident in Woodside pre-1960s?

Did you live on Birley Street, Fowler Place, Fowler Street, Grove Street, Haywood Road, Macro Street, Marshall Street, Reginald Street or Woodside Lane? If so the East Sheffield Regeneration Team would love to talk to you and learn a little more about what once stood on Stanley Fields.

If you would like to share your memories with us, please contact **Hannah York on (0114) 244 0222.**



Pitsmoor Credit Union

Your Local Savings and Loans Co-operative – Join Now!

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

**Mondays 8.00–9.00pm
at the Hallcar Tavern, Carwood Estate**

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

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

**Office open for enquiries
Monday–Friday 10.00am–3.00pm**

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

Woodside for sale

“Why are we only being told this here?” was the question repeatedly asked at the Burngreave New Housing Project Group on 27th October, as residents met to discuss proposed new developments around Woodside and Catherine Street.

Wavy-roof houses saved

The meeting opened with good news for the remaining residents of the wavy-roofed houses on Gray Street – confirmation they were not to be demolished after all. Unfortunately no-one had seen fit to inform the owners of these houses. Had they not attended what was supposed to be an invite-only meeting they would still be in the dark about the future of their homes.

Unclear future for Catherine Street

A number of Catherine Street residents attended, trying to find out exactly what was happening with their homes (see below for details), as they had not been informed either. Questions over levels of compensation and whether new homes would be available on a like-for-like basis were raised, but couldn't be answered. Promises were made of follow up visits, but the attendees didn't look at all happy with the process.

Woodside shocker

The biggest surprise came when the Council officer read out proposals for Woodside. After saying that the Council are currently completing the purchase of the land formerly occupied by the Fox and Duck pub, on Pye Bank Road, and of the shell of The Highway pub on Fox Street – gutted by fire on 11th September this year – the officer read out plans for the land to be sold off to a developer. At which point New Deal Partnership Board Chair Rose Ardron's jaw virtually hit the floor. New Deal invested a million pounds to speed up demolition of Woodside on the basis that they would have an influence over the redevelopment, yet this was the first time anyone from New Deal had heard of this proposal. Even more surprising, meeting chair, Councillor Steve Jones, also expressed his surprise that this decision had seemingly taken place without his being aware of it, despite being a member of Cabinet! Quite where the plan had come from, no-one could explain.

The project group is part of the Council's continuing 'consultation' over the Masterplan, and was supposed to engage local residents in decisions about the new housing. The discussions were to include housing type, the proportions of houses for sale, 'affordable' sale, rent through Housing Association, possible inclusion of eco-housing and 'lifetime' housing, amongst other factors.

Both those attending the project group and New Deal seem to have had their role in the decision-making process undermined by the Council's unilateral announcement of the plan to sell Woodside.

Many members of the group left the meeting as in the dark about what was expected of them, and what meaningful input they would actually have, as they were when they arrived.

by Richard Belbin

Catherine Street Masterplan proposals include:

Demolishing properties on Brotherton Street, Catherine Street, Cranworth Road and three businesses on Kilton Hill.

Part of Brotherton Street to become pedestrian access to the park.

Around 50 new houses to be built on Catherine Street, part of Catherine Street/Somerset Street open space, and the bottom of Richmond Street.

Housing is to be a mixture of private,

rented and housing association, with 2, 3 or 4 bedrooms and high-energy efficiency standards.

Woodside Masterplan proposals include:

Around 200 terraced houses along Pitsmoor Road and Pye Bank Road.

Hill-top square and refurbishment of Pye Bank School.

Housing is to be a mixture of private, rented and housing association, with 2, 3 or 4 bedrooms and high-energy efficiency standards.

Burngreave Messenger

The Burngreave Messenger is looking for an enthusiastic person to cover the position of



Office Administrator

Salary: £15,372 pro rata

18.5 hours per week
to be worked over 4 days
Six months maternity cover

As the first point of contact for all enquiries, the successful applicant will have excellent communication skills and a good understanding of, and commitment to, Burngreave and its people.

They will provide administrative and secretarial support to the staff team, and organise distribution.

Applicants must be computer literate.

For application pack, please phone **242 0564** or email **messenger@burngreave.net**

Closing date for applications: 21st November
Interviews: 24th November

Messenger Info

Meetings: 6.30pm, Wednesday at Abbeyfield Park House
Editorial: 9th November
Management: 7th December

All welcome.

Copy deadline: 23rd November

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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, Camille Daughma, Naheem Hanif, Saleema Imam, Mark Lankshear, Jamie Marriott, Jennifer McKiernan, Carl Rose, Gaby Spinks, Lisa Swift, Paul Taylor and Reubun Vincent.

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Parkwood gets up people's noses

North Sheffield Primary Care Trust's (PCT) report, released on 19th October, states that for nasal irritation, 'there may well be a causal link between the landfill site and this symptom.'

It comes as no surprise to people living nearby who find the smell unbearable at times. Fifty percent of them suffer from asthma, nasal irritation, sinus problems and runny noses.

After careful investigation of the other possible cause of this problem, motor vehicle emissions, the report concludes this isn't the source of pollutants causing the increased reporting of nasal irritation. The landfill is the only likely source.

While the report agrees that nasal irritation is 'undoubtedly unpleasant', it is not a serious disease. The PCT could find no evidence of any increased incidence of cancer or birth defects amongst people living near the landfill, a finding that it describes as 'good news' for local residents. But many of them are describing it as a 'whitewash'.

Jean Armstrong of Parkwood Landfill Action Group was disappointed the PCT did not recommend the site be

closed, "Residents knew it would be a whitewash and it is. Every good opportunity to shut the landfill, and stop it ruining our lives, has been wasted. Kingsmead residents have to put up with dreadful smells and the terrible noise of bulldozers working close to the estate on Cell 2."

The survey is a follow up to an earlier report published in November 2003. The *Messenger* reported anger amongst the population surveyed, because results were being dismissed as due to 'reporting bias'. The original survey showed higher levels of chronic obstructed airway disease (COPD) amongst people living near the site. The report suggested this could be due to reporting bias, because respondents were said to be aware of controversy around the landfill site and therefore more likely to report symptoms.

The second survey aimed to discover whether reporting bias would account for the earlier results, by examining medical records to see whether they matched up to the questionnaires. It 'does not provide any evidence of reporting bias in the results of the original health survey'.

Further research involved physically

testing respondents to discover whether they were actually suffering from COPD. The results showed 'evidence for a small amount of under-reporting of COPD in the health survey', and that under-reporting was greater amongst people living closer to the site. This suggests that respondents were not more, but less likely to report symptoms.

Green Party councillor Jillian Creasy told the *Messenger*:

"The PCT study wasn't designed to look for very local effects or to check what toxins were escaping from the site. Dr Jeremy Wight, Director of Public Health, freely admitted this."

The Green Party links the problems from the site with the wider problem of waste disposal. Few people realise the incinerator only reduces waste to about 30% of the original volume. 60,000 tonnes of bottom ash still have to be dumped at Parkwood. It's classed as 'non hazardous' but very little is known about what it contains. She added:

"We really need a policy that aims at reducing waste to zero, gradually reducing the amount of waste we produce and reusing and recycling the remains."

by Andrew Green

Rock Street revisited

After claims from a builder that residents of Rock Street are happy with work done on their homes, I spoke to more residents. Some reiterated the complaints about work and the attitudes of the workers, contracted by Frank Haslam Milan, which we reported last issue. However, others were much more positive.

Some residents were waiting for the end of the work to raise complaints. The concern not to seem 'ungrateful' for the free work was another recurring issue. Elsewhere, complaints were apparently met with sarcastic comments from builders such as: "Why don't we just build you a new house?" Their intimidating attitudes were also mentioned again, as were comments that much of the promised (and agreed) work has been cancelled. The word on the street is that the money has run out. However, the Council told us that promised work was only cancelled in one case and this was for health and safety reasons. They admitted they had gone over budget but added more funding has been found. As one resident acknowledged:

"I know there have been bad experiences, but there are some good experiences too – and mine is one! One Council officer met up with me and discussed everything. She even asked if she could help with anything else! It's difficult organising something on a large scale like this. I think she's done a very good job."

Another resident whose experience was 'very positive' said: "The builders were really respectful of my property. I even gave them my keys because they gained my trust."

Acknowledging the less satisfactory experiences of some of her neighbours she raised a pertinent question: "Why can't everyone's experience be like mine?" She suggested it is poor planning and management of the scheme more than poor workmanship that have caused dissatisfaction.

Yet the question of the workmen's attitudes towards some residents still remains. "We have taken up the issue of intimidation by workmen," David Shepherd, Programme Director at the Council said. "This is very rare. The particular incident brought to our attention by the *Messenger* has been dealt with, and the contractors have taken strong, appropriate action with the workman in question."

The Council note the scheme was due to finish at the end of October. As we went to press the Clerk of Works was inspecting the work and a representative from Frank Haslam Milan said: "We will be revisiting every property to ensure that all residents are satisfied before we leave the site."

There are certainly lessons to be learnt from Rock Street residents' experiences. Perhaps if consistency in the quality of workmanship and execution of plans was maintained throughout the whole street and from the start, if managers communicated more effectively with the workmen, listened more and appreciated the residents' views, then I would be able to write a more wholly positive report.

by Kate Atkinson

Wardens at the sharp end

After receiving complaints about a suspected rise in the number of used needles being discarded in public places, I went with Community Wardens Gaynor Topham and recent award winner, Diane Street, on one of their clean up attempts. In the process, I found out a little more about what they do.

Picking up needles is one of the more unpleasant aspects of the job. Nevertheless, Gaynor and Diane agreed: "We don't mind picking them up, because that way, we know that kids aren't gonna be."

According to the wardens, amongst the worst areas for needle dumping are the cemetery, Denholm Park, Catherine Street Park, at the back of Byron Wood School near the adventure playground and the bottom of Brunswick Road near the railway arch. Strikingly, these areas are all close to where children play, or might go exploring.

I joined them on a visit to the railway arch on Brunswick Road. In a secluded corner sheltered from sight by bushes and nettles, we found a grim scene – dozens of discarded needles, swabs, empty packets and cans. Boxes for storing used needles had also been left, rather than taken to a needle exchange centre. Diane and Gaynor agree grimly, "One day, we're going to find someone dead here. It's inevitable."

"After doing their drugs, they tend to... do a poo, and then we come along to clean up the needles... That's the worst part, stepping in that mess!"

"They don't seem to care about being near children when they do it," Gaynor said. "Kids do come down here. I came down here on adventures when I was a kid." They note that children are good at reporting found needles to the wardens, and add, "But it's sad when kids know what needles are – their innocence is lost."



Although unsure why, Gaynor suggested the number of used needles the wardens find seems to have increased. "There's definitely been an increase since I started in 2003 and over the summer too," said Gaynor. "We had 1,000 in one month once, and another time, we had 600 in one go!"

"We definitely need a drugs project to come in and offer needle exchange and health advice," said Gaynor.

Of course, the wardens do much more than just pick up needles. They patrol the streets, visiting Post Offices and schools, making people feel less vulnerable. They report anti-social behaviour, fly tipping, graffiti and visit elderly people in their homes.

Indeed, Diane (pictured right) recently won an award from Sheffield Homes for her work with



All © Kate Atkinson

an elderly gentleman. "Older people tend to get forgotten and it's our job to make sure they get the respect and dignity they deserve," she told me. "This gentleman was lonely and isolated and I was a friend to him. My visits gave him a new lease of life." She continued, "Money can't buy that feeling I get when I visit elderly people and they give me a smile. Often we're the first human contact they've had for a while. It's lovely for them."

Despite the grim scenes we had witnessed that day, the wardens were keen to tell me of their love for their job and Burngreave. "The best part of this job is knowing you're making a difference," Gaynor said. "I've lived here all my life. If I won the lottery tonight, I wouldn't move away."

Turning Point are currently working with Burngreave Drug Project and other local services to respond to the current problem of needle littering in Burngreave.

Meanwhile, there is a syringe/needle exchange facility for drug users at Associated Chemists on the Wicker open 8.30am–10pm, Mon–Sat and 10am–8pm on Sun. Use the door featuring the needle exchange logo.

If you find a needle – don't touch it! Call the wardens on freephone 0800 169 2118 and leave a message, being precise

about the location and leaving a contact number if possible. They aim to remove it within four hours.

Or contact the council. If the needle is in a public place contact Street Force on 273 4567. If it is on your property contact Environmental Services on 203 7411 or 203 7410. They aim to remove it within one working day.

by Kate Atkinson



House fire... it can happen to anyone

Councillor Jackie Drayton had a narrow escape with a house fire that could have killed her. Jackie recalls:

"It was 2am and I was asleep in bed when my husband Ian, shouted 'Jackie wake up!' I sat up in bed, opened up my eyes and through a black mist, saw flames coming from a bedside cabinet and a cloud of black smoke hanging from the ceiling.

"Ian managed to put the flames out and luckily we both got out of the room coughing and spluttering, eyes streaming and in shock.

"The fire was started by a candle which had been left to burn on a bedside table and although it was in a candle holder, this melted as did a nearby alarm clock and lighter. The fire was inches away from the bed and bedclothes.

"As it was a warm night, the window had been left open, which let a lot of the smoke escape. Had the window been closed, I may not have been here to tell my story.

"The following morning, I returned to the bedroom and couldn't believe my eyes. The walls of the room, all the furniture and our belongings were covered in thick black soot. The smell of smoke was still overpowering and made you choke.

"In the days after the fire, we had time to realise just how lucky we were. It could have been so different. It was upsetting to lose some irreplaceable items such as cards my children made me and a special photo of me with my parents. But the distress of losing treasured things is nothing when we could have lost our lives!

"I thought I was aware of safety issues and as my husband was a Health & Safety Officer for Yorkshire Water, who is used to carrying out risk assessments, we seemed unlikely to be victims of a fire. We had a smoke alarm on the landing outside the bedroom but it didn't go off because the batteries were flat!"

Jackie now urges everyone to get in touch with South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service for a free home fire risk assessment and smoke alarm. For Jackie, this could have so easily been a tragic event. She said:

"If it can happen to us, it can happen to anyone... advice doesn't cost anything and one day it could just save your life!"



Precautions you can take

Around 450 people die in needless house fires every year, around 13,000 are injured and countless homes and their contents are destroyed. But there are steps you can take to minimise the risk of a fire occurring.

Sheffield Central Fire Station manager, Dave Kiddy recommends fitting a smoke alarm as this gives you an early indication that a fire is starting. He said: "This allows you time to escape and call the Fire Service."

The biggest causes of house fires are: chip pans, cigarettes, electrical faults and children playing with matches.

To reduce the risk of fire in your home:

- Regularly check your smoke alarm's battery
- Never smoke in your bed
- Ensure cigarettes are fully extinguished
- Have an escape plan just in case a fire does break out
- Never leave candles burning unattended
- Replace your chip pan with a deep fat fryer
- Do not dry clothes on or near open/gas fires
- Do not overload electrical sockets
- Keep matches and lighters away from children
- Follow electrical appliance maker's guidance for the safe use of their products
- Have a 'bed-time routine' and check everything is extinguished before you go to bed

by Naheem Hanif

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service

**FREE HOME FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT!
ARE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SAFE FROM FIRE?**

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service as part of a national initiative to reduce injuries and deaths from domestic fires is currently offering to complete a **FREE** Home Fire Safety Risk Assessment to all properties in Burngreave and Fir Vale.

As part of this campaign South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service will be offering to fit **FREE SMOKE ALARMS** if applicable.

We are especially keen to offer this service to the people in Burngreave and Fir Vale as statistically this area has an above average chance of domestic fires occurring.

Please help us to help you!

Call our hotline number for more information:

0114 253 2314

And remember... THIS SERVICE IS FREE



PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING

Firework Safety

Keep fireworks in a closed box.

Follow the instructions on each firework.

Never go near a firework that has been lit. Even if it hasn't gone off, it could still explode.

Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them.

Always supervise children around fireworks.

Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves.

Never give sparklers to a child under five.

Cleanup at Crabtree

Crabtree Ponds is one of nine urban wildlife reserves in Sheffield and is currently undergoing a facelift. Site improvements will be completed by February.

Annabelle Kennedy, Reserves Manager, said a large percentage of the residents surveyed around Crabtree Ponds thought it was messy and unattractive. Crabtree Ponds were also getting silted up, which is a problem for the wildlife living in them. She says:

“Because this is an urban site and it’s important to local people, we’ve decided to invest in improving it. Crabtree Ponds were last dredged in 1970, so we’re going to dredge out the silt and build some beds for planting.”

Onyx Environmental Trust and Living Spaces have both invested £25,000 in the project, and further funding has been raised by the Reserve Advisory Group, Heritage Lottery Fund, the Marjorie Coote Animal Charities Trust, Sheffield Town Trust and the JG Graves Trust.

The money will be spent on building and planting that



Crabtree Ponds were once part of the landscaped gardens of Crabtree Lodge (now demolished), built in the 19th century.

encourage wildlife to thrive. “We’ll be increasing the area of wetland plants, where newts, dragonflies and damselflies lay their eggs.” Plants will include yellow flag irises, bullrushes, reed sweetgrass, Norfolk reed and some floating aquatics.

“We’re doing the project in winter as most of the animals will be out of the water. The newts and frogs will be in log-piles around the pond, for example.” The builders will only be working from one area, so they won’t disturb this undergrowth.

Work has already begun on ‘The Sink’, the smallest of Crabtree’s ponds, which is being dredged. This will be where the ducks and other wildlife can live during the project. The fish, which are mostly sticklebacks, will be temporarily removed and then re-introduced at the end of the project.

To get involved at Crabtree Ponds contact Annabelle on 263 4335. She is also looking for people who have stories about the pond and how it has changed or old photos of it.

by Jennifer McKiernan

Fishing with SHEBEEN

The first fishing day aimed at creating awareness of the water-based sport among black and ethnic minorities took place at the Abbeyfield Industrial Hamlet on 21st August. The event, a joint initiative between the Environment Agency’s Leeds office and SHEBEEN (Sheffield Black & Ethnic Minority Environmental Network), was one of a series marking National Fishing Week.

Five girls and three boys from the Young Adults Action Forum attended, along with co-ordinators Elaine Virgo and Mahmood Hussein of the Earl Marshal Youth Centre.

So, were these young people hooked? It seems so: “We obviously found this a new and exciting experience, the only disappointment is that we cannot take the fish home to eat.” They enjoyed their visit and said they are looking forward to a follow-up event.

Pete Turner, the Environment Agency official who co-ordinated the event, noted their enthusiasm and promised a fly fishing event at the Thrybergh reservoir in Rotherham, where fish caught can be barbecued.

Any black and minority ethnic youth group interested in a fishing expedition should contact Maxwell Ayamba and Diana Tottle at SHEBEEN on 281 2320 or email shebeen_1@hotmail.com.



A different kind of honeymoon

Two local residents, Ray and Emily, are planning a 12,000 mile journey for their honeymoon.

From 29th December along with 199 other vehicles, they will take part in the fifth Plymouth-Banjul Challenge. On arrival in Banjul, capital of Gambia, in north-west Africa, they will auction their car. This will be a welcome gesture in a country where cars cost too much for many local residents. In addition to this they will also donate boxes of school equipment to the area.

I went to visit the couple on Pitsmoor Road to find out more about their intriguing trip. They found out about the challenge on the internet and decided it was a good way of killing two birds with one stone – a charity challenge and a desire to honeymoon in North Africa.

Although the route is already 5,000 miles, Ray and Emily will return home via a detour through Algeria and part of the Sahara Desert on motorbikes that they will tow to Banjul.

There are potential dangers as they told me in detail: “Where we are not able to travel on roads, we will have to use dirt tracks marked out only by sparsely-positioned metal cans. These roads are prone to attacks by local bandits and you can be threatened at gunpoint for all your belongings.”

Ray told me they must also be wary at border crossings: “Sometimes we will have to bribe the army to let us past.



To enter Algeria, we will have to produce a visa; also my boss will have to write a letter to show them that I have a job to return to in order to prove we won't be there to stay!”

Emily was also aware of local traditions: “In some areas we will travel through, it is disrespectful to show off too much of your flesh. They have many different traditions that it would be foolish of us to ignore.”

Despite all these dangers as Ray and Emily say: “It will be the ultimate test for us and we will thoroughly enjoy it.”

However, they need help. They are still renovating their donated Landrover in readiness for the 5,000 mile trek. “We have had to convert the vehicle from right- to left-hand drive,

in line with the legal requirements in Gambia.”

They are still missing some parts for the Landrover and they will need some spare motorbike parts for the return leg of their journey.

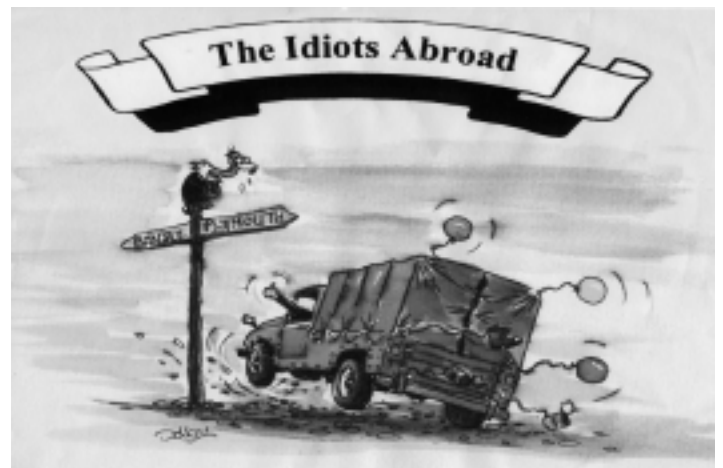


Emily and Ray have chosen to support the Weston Park Cancer Appeal and all sponsorships received for their trip will be donated to this cause. You can sponsor them for fuel and such like for the return trip as well. Your help in any way will be much appreciated.

In the meantime I am sure you will join me in wishing them the best of luck on their fascinating journey and all the best for their big day.

For more information about the trip call 273 8880, email ray@theidiotsabroad.org or visit www.theidiotsabroad.org.

by Reuben Vincent



© Dennis Dalby

Community news

Iraqi Kurds say: 'Iraq is Not Safe'

Ever since the Home Office declared northern Iraq a 'safe' place to return to, Iraqi Kurds in Burngreave have lived in fear. Last month the Home Office sent out the letter they have dreaded receiving. This letter presents the Iraqi Kurdish community with two 'choices': agree to return to northern Iraq or 'you will be required to leave your accommodation and will not be entitled to any other form of support'.

Kurdish asylum seeker Nawzad spoke for many when he explained: "If I return to Iraq I would face a death sentence. I would be targeted by insurgents and the remnants of Saddam's security forces". Some reports from the handful of Iraqi Kurds who – in desperation – have returned voluntarily to northern Iraq confirm Nawzad's fears. The Home Office's view that northern Iraq is 'safe' is not shared by any other organisation. Even the UK Foreign Office advises against all travel to Kurdish areas of Iraq (except one where it recommends only 'essential' travel). Many Kurds feel that they are being used: that the Government is trying to justify its war on Iraq by claiming that they have made Kurdish northern Iraq a safe place.

Burngreave's Iraqi Kurdish community have been quick to respond to what they regard as blackmail from the Home Office. After a speech by local Kurdish activist Ari, Sheffield City Council's full meeting agreed to question the Home Office's actions and raise the matter with local MPs. More importantly, local Iraqi Kurds are getting organised: a community meeting at Verdon Street attracted 35 people and the Campaign Against the Detention and Deportation of Iraqis (CADDI) continues to organise protests.

by Stuart Crossthwaite

Restoring the Cemetery Chapel

Friends of Burngreave Cemetery and Chapel have been working hard for several years to get the chapels back into use. Now it looks as though the dream could become a reality as the friends group team up with the City Council, Groundwork Sheffield, Burngreave Community Action Trust, Sheffield Galleries and Museums Trust and Sheffield Community Enterprise Development Unit.



The Burngreave Chapels Restoration Partnership is seeking proposals from firms or community organisations interested in moving into the Grade II-listed building. The chosen scheme will be used in a bid for funding to restore the striking 1860s building.

Businesses are being invited to submit plans for one or both of the chapels. Organisations interested in the project can contact Helen on 263 6421 or for further information. Initial proposals must be submitted by 25th November.

Toy library

Green City Action is looking for some willing volunteers to us run their toy library. It has loads of toys, games and puzzles suitable for all ages of children but particularly the under 5s. If you have some time you could offer they would be really pleased to hear from you, just ring 244 0353 and ask for Garry for further details.

Friends of Abbeyfield Park AGM

The Friends AGM will take place on Tuesday, 13th December at 7pm, in Abbeyfield Park House. Everyone welcome. Refreshments available.

We'll be discussing the future plans of Abbeyfield Park and how the Friends can get involved and make it happen for our community.

Sports news...

Burngreave Sports Project

Trampolining Session

Open to everyone 8 and over. Every Wednesday at Fir Vale Sports Centre, 6–7pm, 7–8pm and 8–9pm.

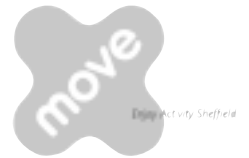
Come and join in you can come for one, two or three hours for £1 per hour. Parents are welcome to stay and watch. Don't forget your socks!

Activity Support

FREE Support For NEW Local Physical Activity Groups

The Active Burngreave Taskforce has £4,500 to distribute to new local community groups that are involved in sport or physical activity or want to put on an event involving sport or physical activity. Each group can apply for up to £500 to support their activity or event.

For more details on the above contact the Burngreave Sports Project on 273 5719 or the project co-ordinator Michala Spacey on 0790 993 6381.



Burngreave Sports Network

Assault course

We are looking for young strong fit determined young people to take on an army assault course. Are you fit enough?

Put your team work to the test under the watchful eye of military physical training instructor.

Come and have a go if you think your tough enough!

Football

Training for young footballers at BSN All Saints Soccer School, Mondays and Wednesdays, 4.15–5.30pm.

Sessions are held at Sheffield United Academy. For more information contact BSN on 241 9100 or 0791 740 299.



Verdon Recreation Centre

Activities on offer

Tuesday

After School Club:
4.00–5.30pm
(Play & sport for boys & girls 8–14)

Wednesday

Aerobics & free crèche:
10–11am (Women only)

Senior Citizens Group: 1.30–3.30pm

Thursday

Agewell Group: 2.00–3.30pm
After School Club: 4.00–5.30pm
(Play & sport for boys & girls 8–14)

Friday

Tea Dance: 12.30–3.30pm (A variety of organised dance sessions including Old Time Dancing, Modern Sequence and Latin American) Refreshments provided.

Football: 3.45–4.45pm (8–11 years)

Girls Basketball: 5.30–6.30pm (14+)



Burngreave Problem Busters warmly invite you to the



**Community Social
Enterprise Launch**

**On Saturday 26th November
2pm onwards**

Rainbow House, 3 Gower Street (old Bobby G's),
Ellesmere Green, Burngreave, Sheffield

**Information line
273 1418**

*Plenty of refreshments, Food,
Entertainment and Fun
All welcome*



Putting it all together

Families showed their creative side by helping to make mosaics at two local schools last month as part of Family Learning Week 2005.

Families at St Catherine's created a range of pictures and it was difficult to choose one to base the mosaic on. So parent and local artist, Anna Mercedes Wear, used lots of the images and words to start off three mosaics packed with colours and symbols that show to great effect what makes St Catherine's such a wonderfully vibrant school community. All the children in the school and many of their parents were able to join in the activity. The finished mosaics will be placed in a quiet garden within the school, to be dedicated to the memory of Joe Butler, a much loved and respected former governor.



Kier Hodson and his winning design for Firs Hill School.

Firs Hill School has recently been awarded a Gold Arts Mark, held by only 14 schools citywide. Here, children entered into a competition to design a mosaic pattern based on Islamic design. The winner was justifiably proud of himself, since the completed mosaic will hang near the main entrance to the school for many years to come. Many parents and children helped to complete Kier Hodson's design, and parents suggested we should celebrate the school's diversity by making mosaic flags for all the nationalities represented in the school.



If you are interested in learning more about mosaic making, contact Rashida Hassanali, Community Education Co-ordinator for both schools, on 0777 358 3699.

**by Rashida
Hassanali**

Burngreave Multicultural Fashion & Dance Show

organised by Sister 2 Sister

Women Only

Sunday 4th December 2005
12:00pm - 6:00pm

Verdon Street Recreation Centre
Verdon Street, Burngreave

Ticket entrance only £1.00

Includes: Free entry / no prize draw
Age restriction: Lower age limit 14 years

Food & Refreshments

Tickets will be available from the Burngreave New Deal for Communities Information shop from the 1st of November 2005

BNDI Information Shop, 101 Siskin Hill, Sheffield, S4 7LF Telephone 0773 947 8683

Mr Equiano comes to Burngreave!

In Burngreave it was 1790, the 27th August to be precise and Olaudah Equiano, the freed slave and abolition campaigner, came to Sheffield to talk to pupils in some of the Year 4, 5 and 6 classes in each primary school.

Wearing a greatcoat, silk waistcoat and a frilly ruff he caused great excitement amongst the children as he strode into each class. "Warmest greetings, worthy friends!" Olaudah declaimed and sat down to tell the children how he was stolen from his village in Nigeria as a boy of ten by slavers and then worked to earn his freedom, educate himself and campaign to abolish slavery. It was mesmerising and after he gracefully answered questions from the children.

'Brave', 'selfless' and 'determined' were some of the words the children used to describe him afterwards in drama workshops looking at role models and the qualities they show. Miss Shah, Year 4 teacher at Pye Bank School, described how the children were really moved by Olaudah's story. "They were so involved and interested in what they learnt about him! It provided an opportunity to think about their own experiences." Performed by Dead Earnest Theatre, the workshops were part of Burngreave Voices' contribution to Black History Month celebrations.



Olaudah Equiano did actually come to Sheffield in 1790 to promote the cause of abolishing slavery. He might even have come to Burngreave: he regularly appealed to the working classes, sympathising with their treatment in the factories and equating it to slavery. He wrote a book called *The interesting narrative of the life of Olaudah Equiano or, Gustavus Vassa, The African* which he published himself. It's still in print and is available to borrow from Burngreave Library.



Role playing during a story: the kidnapped child is about to be taken away by the captain of the ship. The children were asked to imagine what both the child and the captain must be feeling. "Do you think you can get away with this!" was the comment one pupil made to the captain.

by Nikky Wilson

Burngreave Voices is a Sheffield Galleries and Museums Trust project. It is supported by the Sheffield City Council and Burngreave New Deal for Communities.

Shining talent

On Sunday 23rd October Pitsmoor young people's talent shone as they performed at the 'Recital Night' for Black History Month, held at Bramhall Lane.

The group, all aged between 9 and 21 are part of Ellesmere Youth Project. They performed a selection of dance, singing and freestyle rap. Some of the group were performing tracks which they themselves had written, including *Friends*, by Laura and Shaniece and *Angel* by Khali.

The group had tirelessly rehearsed under the vision, dedication and supervision of Lorraine Blake, Senior Youth Worker; Tanashe and Tasha who worked on the dance routines and Khali, working on singing and stage presence.

After the event all of the young people agreed on what a great night it had been. 'It was great to know about our History', commented Raymond, 'The night was wicked. I really enjoyed the singing and dancing, I would do it again,' added Laura.

Thanks to Sheffield Futures, Sal's Cut and Weave in Firth Park and Best Cut Barber on Spital Hill for all their support and assistance.

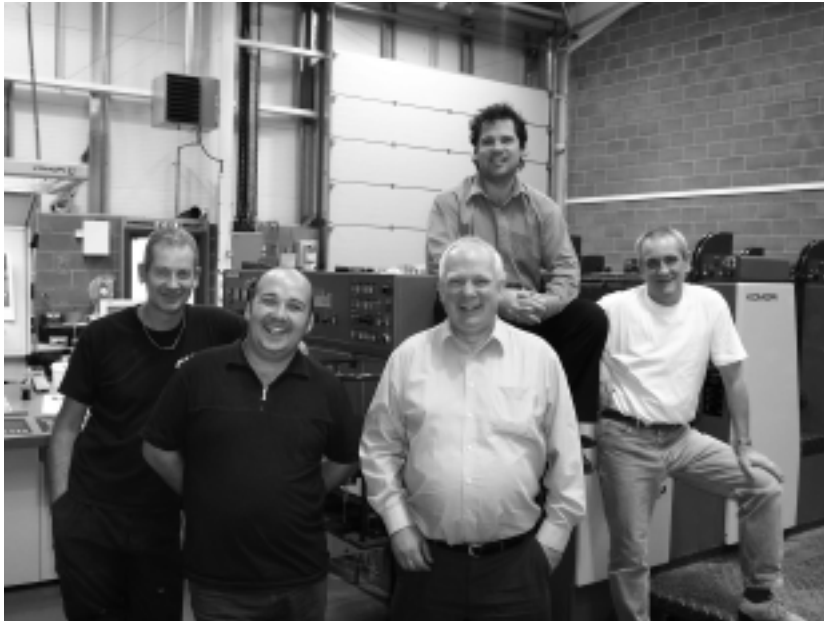
by Jenny Tibbles



Supporting local businesses

Printworks

Units 7 & 8, Carlisle Street Business Park,
Chambers Lane S4 8DA
249 0645



Printworks is a printing company which specialises in medium to large print runs. The company started in 2001 and operated from the City Centre, but has now moved to new premises on the Carlisle Street Business Park in Fir Vale.

“We moved to Fir Vale as we needed a modern unit with good links to the City Centre,” explained owner Paul Robinson.

A new printing press has now been bought to cater for the growth in business and increase in demand for high-quality full colour literature.

Many people in the local area will have seen the quality of work produced by Printworks. Paul said:

“We print the Burngreave Messenger and the Fir Vale Community Forum Newsletter as well as other leaflets, posters and booklets designed by the Messenger. We also produce literature for Sheffield City Council and various graphic design agencies.”

Paul believes Printworks’ biggest strength is to understand the requirements of each individual customer and guide them through the processes involved in producing high-quality printed products. He is keen to offer his services to local businesses and organisations that may require medium to large print runs.

Before Printworks, Paul worked for Shell for twenty years in a variety of roles in sales, operations and general management. His introduction to the print industry came when he worked on a project at Loxley’s, a greeting card print specialist in Nether Edge. Paul believes his venture in to the print industry was somewhat of a coincidence. He said:

“I always wanted to open my own business and although I had little experience of printing, I had the sales and management experience which I brought to the table.

“When Printworks was for sale, I saw the potential to expand an already successful business.”

Paul believes Fir Vale is a thriving area for commercial operations. He said, “It’s great as it is close to local amenities, has good transport links, and is not too far from the City Centre.”

Curtis Motors

8–10 Burngreave Road S3 9DD
272 6933

Open: Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm
Sat 10am–4pm



George Curtis, 69 has run family business Curtis Motors, on Burngreave Road for the last 29 years.

Selling a wide range of general products for vehicles, the shop also has a garage and MoT preparation service which is located at the rear of the shop.

“We sell batteries, engine oils and number plates amongst many other items” explained George.

Curtis Motors is proud to serve the Burngreave community but it also has a good mixture of customers from all parts of the city, with some as far a field as Doncaster.

George believes the types of customers have changed in the Burngreave area as the community has evolved over the years. He said:

“Different cultures are now coming in to the area, enriching the community even further. There is definitely good community spirit around here.”

George previously worked as a taxi driver and then a bus driver before turning his attention to the business.

After serving from the same location on Burngreave Road for the past twenty-nine years, Curtis Motors has now firmly established itself within the motor trade.

“Our good service is the reason why we are still here after all these years, we do our best for the customer and our service sells itself,” said George.

by Naheem Hanif

From trucks to training

Hakim Wais, 41, is the Managing Director of the new Burngreave Community Learning Academy.

He moved from Burngreave to Netherthorpe a couple of years ago, where he lives with his wife and three children: Zara, who is 14, Mohammed, 11, and Yasmin aged 10. His wife, Ubah works as a part-time teaching assistant at Netherthorpe Primary School.



© Carl Rose

He came to Europe in the 1980s after a decade working as a Senior Process Operator in the Arabian Gulf oil industry. He wanted to go into business buying and selling second-hand cars in Africa. "I always loved big cars and wagons, especially American," he says, "But I asked myself: if you don't know anything about them, how are you going to buy and sell them?!"

So he started training as a HGV driver, finding work in north-east Holland with Van der Graaf Transport as a European driver, transporting everything from tractors to tulips. He moved quickly up the career ladder, and finally bought the company.

Wais Transport lasted five years, but a shortage of trained drivers meant a seven-day working week for Hakim: "I ended up managing the company from the cabin of a wagon. My wife was telling me 'Hakim, get your act together: the kids need a father.'" The friction in his family got worse and worse, until one day Hakim returned from Denmark to find no-one home and a note on the kitchen table from his wife: "It's me or the trucks." That's when he decided to sell up and move to Sheffield permanently.

He quickly realised that quite a lot of the community had difficulty finding work. The large-scale closure of industry in Sheffield meant there was a shortage of jobs everywhere. Speaking to Somali and Yemeni refugees, Hakim became aware that their papers were being delayed for years; and then there were the problems of the language barrier and skills shortages.

"This is where the idea of NETT (National Ethnic Transport Training) came from. I knew what it was like trying to find good drivers, and I knew there was a shortage of drivers in the country, so I set up a not-for-profit training scheme."

Having successfully trained many new drivers over two years in NETT, Hakim was eager for a new challenge: "Being me, I had to do something else." So he opened Burngreave

Community Learning Academy in March 2005.

The six staff at the centre assist their students in Skills For Life training, the ECDL computer course and in learning to drive. Two hundred learners have passed through the centre so far, and 600 more are enrolled. "Some of them are going into employment; some are going into education," says Hakim. "We give them a platform to fly away from, into whatever they want to do with their life."

"It's here for you. It's for all the community and everybody can use it. It's free for people on benefits. There is a minimal contribution from those who are working; it's almost free. Word processing will cost you only £10 for the whole course. Come and take advantage of what's available for you."

Plans for the future are hectic. Before the end of next month the centre will have their driving school up and running, with a new driving instructor. Over the next six months, Hakim is working on broadening the courses available, delivering Skills For Life, IT, Business Management, and on top of that the driving school. That should keep him busy for a while...

Burngreave Community Learning Academy

30 Burngreave Road S3 9DD
tel: 275 1270
email: admin@clacademy.co.uk

by Jennifer McKiernan

New head

Lesley Kay, is the new head at Fir Vale School. She has replaced Hugh Howe, who left in the summer to take up a post in Peterborough.



Lesley (pictured above, on the left) started her career as a science teacher, later becoming assistant and then deputy head. In 2002, she came to Sheffield as a secondary school advisor for the LEA and worked closely with Hugh Howe, and knows the school well.

Lesley is very optimistic about the continued success of Fir Vale. The school has had its best ever GCSE results this summer with 38% of pupils achieving five or more A*-C grades.

The target for next year is 45% and Lesley is confident the school can achieve this target. "There are also exciting times ahead for the school with its role as a Business & Enterprise Specialist School," she said. A new building will house a Business and Enterprise Centre with a cybercafé, conference room and state of the art learning facilities.

The rich cultural diversity of the school was one of the reasons that attracted Lesley to the school. She said, "The school's diversity is wonderful and something to celebrate, it is a strength of the school and is valued by our parents."

Lesley believes the school is now ready for new leadership. "Past successes have given a launch pad to take the school through the next stage of its development and it is a privilege to be given the professional opportunity to lead a school with such potential."

by Naheem Hanif

New faces bring new ideas

News in brief

Your questions answered

If you have any questions, suggestions or any comments that you would like to send to BNDfC to be answered at the public meeting we would love to hear from you.

Just post them to us at FREEPOST BNDfC by 23 November 2005 and we will endeavour to answer them at the public meeting.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Festive Fun

The venue for the Festive Fun parties is still to be confirmed so watch this space!

Employment Month

November has been designated as employment month by BNDfC and JobNet. A number of activities and events to support residents into employment are taking place on Tuesdays throughout the month. For more information please see the BNDfC website or contact Ophelia at BNDfC on 292 0459 or Emma at Burngreave JobNet.

Theme meetings

To find out more about an issue that concerns you then why not come along to one of the following theme meetings? Everyone is welcome.

Health: 7 November & 5 December, St Peter's Church Hall, 5.30–7.30pm

Over-arching: 8 November & 13 December, The Furnival, Verdon Street, 6–8pm

Education: 9 November & 14 December, St Peter's Church Hall, Lyons Street, 6–8pm

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

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

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



Vicky Brennan



Jackie Toyne



Cecilia Shields

It's a time of change at BNDfC with the introduction of a number of new staff who are all looking forward to making their mark on Burngreave

Vicky Brennan is the new employment centre or one-stop shop manager. She comes from a regeneration project up in Leeds where she has spent the last four years helping to bring the hardest to reach people into the labour market. Says Vicky:

"These are still early days for us as it is a new role but we have a really strong vision that we want to fulfil. The one-stop shop hopes to pull together all the resources that are already in Burngreave to provide more support for people to help get them into employment. This is all set to happen under one roof, rather than people having to access a number of different organisations for support, so it will be much easier for everyone involved."

"I'm really looking forward to this new challenge. Fantastic stuff is happening in the area and we now have the chance to pull it all together. For now, I am based at BNDfC's Harlestone Street offices. My colleague Louise Hill, also a new appointment, is currently working out in the community spreading the word!"

Also taking up a brand new role is Jackie Toyne who is the monitoring and evaluation manager. Jackie comes from the University of Lincoln where she was a Sure Start evaluator.

"My job involves seeing how effective the New Deal projects we fund have been in the area and what differences they are making to local people."

"Getting feedback from local people is absolutely pivotal to the New Deal programme. We have to be accountable to make sure that the money is being spent so local people see the benefit. To do this we will be using a number of methods including focus groups, citizens panels, telephone interviews, perhaps using local people as a 'mystery shopper' and having a place on our website for people to respond to. We would love to hear from anyone in the community if they have any ideas of how we can work with them to get their comments and suggestions."

"I'm really looking forward to getting to know the community here in Burngreave."

Last but certainly not least, we welcome Cecilia Shields who is the new employment and enterprise theme manager.

"For the past twenty years I have worked for Job Centre Plus of which the last five years I have managed the innovative community-based project called the Sheffield Action Team. I have been one of BNDfC's Employment & Enterprise theme group members for the last year. I was also on the Sheffield First for Inclusion Board and the Sheffield First Employment Advisory Board."

"I have gained a good insight to the needs of the community and what employment opportunities there are for local people both within Burngreave and in the city. I am passionate about Burngreave and am looking forward to working for BNDfC and the community to help make a difference especially through the development of the One-Stop Shop."

A New Deal for Burngreave



It's over to you...

It's that time again for you to come and let us know what you think about the changes happening in Burngreave.

The next public meeting, where Burngreave residents are given the opportunity to shape the future of their area, is taking place on Saturday, 3 December.

The event at Verdon Recreation Centre will give you the chance to meet some of the projects, keep informed about BNDfC activities and enable you to have a say about how New Deal is changing the area you live in.

Visitors will be treated to refreshments served from 1pm – the meeting starts at 2pm.

John Clark, BNDfC Chief Executive said:

“The public meeting is a great opportunity for people in Burngreave to make their voices heard and have an impact on the way the area is developing.

“Everyone is welcome and I would encourage all residents to come along and hear about some of the activities that are already taking place in Burngreave, and have a say on what they would like to see happen in the future.”



Fun was the name of the game at the last public meeting held in May.

Partnership Board Meeting – Wednesday, 28 September 2005

What was discussed

Company Business

The board were asked to accept the recently elected Community Representatives and Volcom Representative as Directors of the Company.

Community Engagement Strategy & Action Plan

The Community Engagement Strategy sets out the aims, objectives, vision, messages, audiences, methods, resources and linkages, timescales and evaluation, and the Action Plan details the action, links, timescales, who is responsible for progressing the work and progress made to date.

Police Update Report

Members discussed the BNDfC Police Team: Next Steps report from the Chief Executive and speakers gave information on the outcome of the 'Police Talk' survey and the CCTV pilot.

Childcare Update

The Chief Executive presented a report which updates on the current situation regarding childcare for learning which was raised at the July Board meeting.

What we decided

The Directors unanimously appointed Mohammed Younis, Carol Jones, Ronnie Lewin, John Errington, Beryl Peck and John Vincent as Directors of the Burngreave New Deal for Communities Partnership.

Approved the Strategy and Plan subject to inclusion of the comments by members and amendments identified in the minutes.

Agreed that the Plan should be updated and circulated bi-annually.

Agreed that a report containing practical examples of progress should be brought to the Board in six months time.

Instructed the Chief Executive to develop a proposal for the continuation of the BNDfC Police Team.

Agreed that the proposal should incorporate a phased reduction of NDC resources over the next three years.

To continue to press the Sheffield College and LSC to ensure that there is sufficient childcare for learning funding in the area to enable parents of young children to participate in adult learning and training opportunities.

Raise the issues in other City forums such as Sheffield First partnerships.



Grimesthorpe Road plans withdrawn

In last month's issue the Messenger reported residents' concerns about a developer's plans to build two blocks of five-storey flats on Grimesthorpe Road. The planning application for the site on Grimesthorpe Road was due to be dealt with by the Planning Board at the end of October.



Thirty-three separate letters had been sent opposing the flats together with a petition. The planning officers had recommended that the councillors reject the development as the design was poor, there was a loss of open space, there was insufficient landscaping works and there was a danger of 'precedence'.

However, a week before the Planning Board the developer withdrew the proposal so the Board didn't consider it. This means the developer could apply to build another housing scheme in the future. The same developer has put in two planning applications (for 'residential development') for the rest of the Grimesthorpe Road frontage and for land adjoining Carwood estate.

Last issue the Messenger also reported that, "Residents have found it difficult to get their Councillors to support their campaign [against the Grimesthorpe development]. Two Burngreave Councillors are on the planning board and as yet have chosen not to get involved."

Normally, all Councillors will do their best to help residents. The position for Councillors who are on the Planning Boards is slightly different. Even with

planning applications within their own Ward, national Codes of Conduct require members of the Planning Board to be impartial and not make their minds up about an application before they have all the information. This will normally be at the Board meeting itself, where the report of the Head of Development Services is available to them, and they have heard any arguments made at the Board meeting by residents and by the developer.

If councillors on the Board do express an opinion before the meeting, legally, they would have to declare an interest in that planning application and would not be allowed to speak or vote on that application, usually leaving the room for the duration of the consideration of the item.

Councillors on a Planning Board can advise residents how to make their views heard on any planning application, but being careful not to

imply any opinion about the development. But they cannot become involved in any campaigns, either for or against any proposal. Far from choosing not to get involved, the Councillors on a Planning Board are legally required not to offer any opinion about the planning applications. Decisions about planning applications are taken on 'planning grounds' – such as the design, layout, landscaping, or materials used; about the potential effects of development on privacy; the harmful effects on the quality of the environment (like noise or air quality); and the impact on any nearby roads. Comment on planning applications should be focused on these matters.

Next meeting

The Area Panel will be meeting on Thursday 24th November at 6pm at Firshill School (Junior section). There are three main items for discussion:

- 1 How future 'Facelift' investment for private housing is decided on
- 2 Options for a new 'food store' on Spital Hill
- 3 What are the concerns of young people – and how do they get heard? Everyone welcome.

Last call for nominations for the New Year's honours – all those people, groups and organisations that do that bit extra and deserve recognition. Get a nomination form from us and return it by 30th November.

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.



Councillors' surgeries are on Saturday mornings in Burngreave Library from 11.00am to 12.00 noon unless otherwise stated:

- 5th November: Steve Jones
- 12th November: Ibrar Hussain
12.15–1.00pm, Firshill TARA: Ibrar Hussain
- 19th November: Ibrar Hussain
- 26th November: Jackie Drayton
- 3rd December: Ibrar Hussain
- 10th December: Steve Jones
12.15–1.00pm, Firshill TARA: Steve Jones

Next Area Panel Meeting

- Thursday 24th November, 6.00pm in the Dining Room, Firs Hill School, Orphanage Lane.
On the agenda: see above

Roamin' the Rig

The building of the new Inner Ring Road is beginning to have an effect on our everyday lives and the environmental structure of our area. Another change is the controversial plans for apartments along Grimesthorpe Road at Wood Hill.

Both these projects fall within the shadow of the Roman Ridge or Rig which links Sheffield at Bridgehouses, with Denaby/Mexborough – 14 miles away.

At Spital Hill, the sites demolished making way for redevelopment are all being studied by the Sheffield 'Time Team' – the University Archaeological Department (ARCUS) who are plotting the past ages of Sheffield and its people. When the railway was being built in the first half of the nineteenth century, Roman remains were found at points behind Sorby House and along Carlisle Street East.

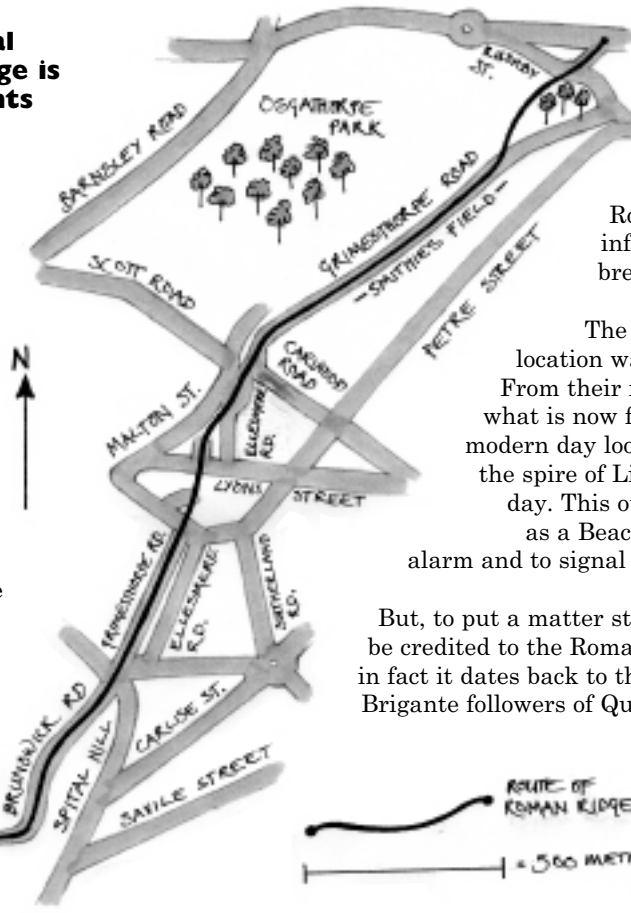
Much information will be uncovered in the next two years and will give us a much clearer picture of our heritage. This then is an appropriate time to examine our Roman Ridge and travel its length in our boundary.

Our portion of the Rig is the raised embankment between Wincobank and the Iron Bridge at Bridgehouses running alongside Tyler Street, Grimesthorpe Road and Brunswick Road. The path, originally built by the advancing Roman soldiers, led from their camp at Templeborough (on the site of the Magna Centre), and on into Derbyshire and the Melandra Camp at Glossop and beyond.



View of Templeborough from Wincobank.

From any number of vantage points along the Ridge the modern views are splendid, but take yourself back through time, after the Romans, the building of Sheffield's castles, the Civil War battles, the Zeppelin raid in the First World War then the Sheffield Blitz.



It was from the fortress on Wincobank Hill that Brigante warriors held back the Romans invaders across the River Don at Templeborough for several years. The Romans required a sizeable influx of reinforcements to break forward.

The Brigante's choice of location was strategically perfect. From their fortress they could oversee what is now four counties and from the modern day lookout you can make out the spire of Lincoln Cathedral on a good day. This outlook has made it ideal as a Beacon site, both as a warning alarm and to signal success and celebrations.

But, to put a matter straight, the Ridge cannot be credited to the Romans, its origin is far earlier; in fact it dates back to the early Britons, when the Brigante followers of Queen Cartimandua roamed the countryside and made their settlement at the apex of Wincobank Hill, they created the workings as part of their defences.

by Albert Jackson

The crest of the ridge at Osgathorpe Park.



If you have any questions you can write or email the *Messenger*, or meet Albert Jackson at the 'Remembrance Renewed' exhibition on Sunday, 13th November at the Exhibition Chapel in Burngreave Cemetery, (Melrose Road entrance) 11am–4pm (admission free). A walk around the Cemetery will take place at 2.00pm.

A recently published book; *Journey along the Roman Ridge* by KA Cronk, which gives a detailed in-depth survey of the entire length and is available at the Central Library at Surrey Street or from local bookshops.

You can find out more about the Romans in Burngreave on our website in the back issues. Or use the category selector and choose 'local history' – www.burngreavemessenger.org.uk/.



Dear Messenger

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Alpa Ghelani, the pharmacist from Lloyds Chemists on Ellesmere Road, for all her help, advice and patience that she has given to me and other local people over the last six years. I've had a lot of health problems over the last six months and Alpa has given me peace of mind. Instead of me having to make and wait for a doctor's appointment, she takes time to explain about my medical condition and its medication, and she's a good listener too.

I want her to know how valued she is in the community and not just by me. Her experience and knowledge is priceless. She's even been known to deliver people's prescriptions when she knows they have problems getting out. So I'll be nominating her for a Burngreave New Year's Honour. Thank you, Alpa.

Yours truly, Sylvia Pennington

Dear Messenger

'What's happening to Burngreave Children.' – *Messenger* September 2005 failed to include the issue of school exclusion, an unfortunately common experience of too many young people, particularly those of African Caribbean heritage.

Most black/mixed race families are all too aware of problems their children, mainly boys, are having in school, which seems to escalate as they grow in age, perceived by too many in the education system as 'threatening'. School becomes a negative experience for these young people, often culminating in permanent exclusion. Traumatized youth are then stuck at home with stressed parents, encouraging family breakdown.

Alternative provision for education that these young people can face is scanty, and centres such as 'Catch the Drift' are often underfunded and underrecognised. Few are integrated into the mainstream school successfully, and social exclusion in later life is strongly linked. Statistically boys of African-Caribbean heritage are up to fifteen times more likely to be excluded than white boys, girls up to four times more likely. I've not been able to obtain figures despite repeated requests to education authority.

This is a scandal covered up by society. Bright intelligent young people are being excluded not just from school but from society. Get real *Messenger* and start addressing the real issues.

Yours sincerely JT

Dear Messenger

I read with interest your article in October's issue about the problems that residents of Rock Street were having with their improvement scheme as we were due to have our houses 'facelifted' at the other end of Rock Street.

Our scheme is funded differently, but only a few weeks into the work, problems are arising. From being 'misinformed' at meetings about works to be carried out to, on a personal note, downright refusal to discuss with me the work to be carried out on my home as we are private tenants and not the owners of the house. The owner actually lives in London, and agents manage the property who have tried to keep us updated, mainly by photocopying the proposed plan for the work scheduled, as this can change from day to day we are no wiser! Apart from that, they have many other properties to manage and can't be contacting us everytime they have another form to sign for the Council.

Other occupiers have had workmen and the contract manager speak to them explaining what exactly will be done to their property. I, on the other hand, have asked until I am blue in the face what part, and how much, of our front garden we will need to clear of plants before the builders start work on the walls and railings. I don't think this is too much to ask, especially as the house agents have told the Council that the garden is to be left as it is and not cleared. When I have asked to be kept informed I have been curtly told, "We are under no obligation to speak to you, only the owner". And they refuse to tell me anything, only saying: "Ask your landlord." The house agents have now been told by the Council that my husband and I are welcome at the neighbourhood meetings but we are not allowed to vote. Although the last meeting was held in the street by car headlights as no-one had bothered to check the church hall would be unlocked!

The people connected with this scheme make me feel like I am a second-class citizen, all I ask for is a little consideration and co-operation, but I get none. My husband and I have lived in this house 17 years and I have lived on Rock Street for 42 years, I was born in my grandmother's house on Rock Street.

We moved out of council property eighteen years ago for many reasons, we did not like the Council's attitude to tenants and the way tenants have to wait far too long for repairs to be carried out etc. We have a good relationship with our house agents, but right now I wish to God I didn't live here on Rock Street.

Yours sincerely, Rock Street resident

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Burngreave New Deal for Communities is a 10-year £52m regeneration programme established to tackle the issues of deprivation in Burngreave. We are now halfway through our 10-year vision to regenerate the area, and are now strongly focussing on sustainability and exit strategy, to help us to do this we are looking for a key individual:



Regeneration Manager Salary £26,530–34,746

As a Regeneration Manager responsible for the delivery of sustainable regeneration projects in this diverse area, you will need to have lots of enthusiasm and energy along with the necessary skills to deliver the outcomes in our 10-year Delivery Plan. Working with local people and partners from all sectors you will need to demonstrate:

- knowledge and understanding of community development in a diverse multicultural area
- the ability to develop effective relationships with local residents, public, private and voluntary sector organisations
- project development and delivery skills in a regeneration context
- the ability to deliver outcomes within agreed timescales and on budget
- a comprehensive understanding of social inclusion, neighbourhood renewal, national and local regeneration initiatives and funding streams
- the ability to work across traditional boundaries to encourage service providers to be more sensitive to local needs and work with all parties to tackle complex issues and bring about lasting improvements to the area

It would also be desirable for the successful applicant to have knowledge or experience in one or more of the following areas:

- Health, crime, education, employment or the environment

Closing date:
4.00pm, Thursday, November 24

Interview/Assessments to be held:
Thursday, December 8

If you want to know more or to request a recruitment pack contact Lizzy Clark on 0114 292 0391 or enquiries@bndfc.co.uk

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Part-time Detached Youth Worker

6 hours per week • £7 per hour

Closing Date: November 30th 2005

Registered Charity No. 1085548

We are looking for a Detached Youth Worker to join our team, working with young people in the Carwood/Ellesmere area of Burngreave. Previous Youth Work experience would be an advantage.

For more information and an application pack, please phone:

Jenny Tibbles on 0788 677 7068

Lorraine Blake on 0788 871 2604



Improve your health and your environment!

Get out into the fresh air and get active by taking part in gardening and nature conservation activities in Burngreave's parks and green spaces. Sessions last between two and four hours and are free. Women Only sessions are available.

By taking part in the BTCV Green Gym you can improve your health and fitness, reduce the risk of coronary heart disease, make new friends and feel more positive about life. You can also make a real difference to your local environment.

For more information call BTCV on
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Are you strong enough? Specialist carers needed



Community Placements Sheffield, run by the children's charity NCH, is working in partnership with the Sheffield Council to provide specialist foster placements for young people, aged 8-17 years, with complex and difficult life histories.

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Burngreave New Deal for Communities www.bndfc.co.uk

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Map of Burngreave
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Latest Business Support
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