



Burngreave Post Offices safe from closure

Story: Ben Kirby

The three main Post Offices in Burngreave and Fir Vale are to remain open, following the announcement of closures across South Yorkshire on 5th August.

Only Grimesthorpe Post Office, on Upwell Street, is listed among the sixteen Post Offices to close in Sheffield. This leaves Ellesmere, Pitsmoor and Fir Vale on the safe list as Post Offices to remain.

Ellesmere postmaster Kamalbir Singh Nandra expressed his relief at the news:

"I am glad we are staying open. Our customers find the facility of the Post Office really useful."

Grimesthorpe set to close

Grimesthorpe postmaster Michael Yeates spoke about what troubled him most about his Post Office closing:

"Grimesthorpe Post Office has been in the hands of my family for 30 years. I feel so sorry for the customers who have stood by us, I really do. They are the ones who will be affected. Customers without cars will be forced to go to Firth Park or Low Wincobank."

"Our Post Office can't appeal against it. A petition has been sent round, but I can't see all these protests making any difference - it's a national thing."

Grimesthorpe Post Office is one of 2500 Post Office branches forced to close nationwide, as a result of the Post Office Ltd's "Network Change Programme", which started in October 2007.

Serving the community

Concerned, Pitsmoor postmaster Prem Athi emphasized the importance of local Post Offices:

"The Post Office is like a community place. People don't just get a stamp and go. Some people who don't see each other meet here and have a chat. All sorts of people will benefit from us staying open; old people especially,



Pitsmoor Post Office



Fir Vale Post Office



Kamalbir and Bobby Nandra of Ellesmere Post Office

because they don't have to travel far."

Fir Vale postmaster Mr. Mahmood agreed:

"We serve people from all over the world. Several languages are spoken in this Post Office. This is really important for the community, especially when we are dealing with insurance; people trust us over the bank, because we can communicate with them."

"It's a shame Grimesthorpe is shutting because people will have to walk further. We would welcome customers from Grimesthorpe if they need any help."

The Network Change Programme was introduced in response to Government research showing that fewer people are using the Post Office branches.

Mr Yeates spoke of how his branch has been affected by the changing business:

"Two or three years ago we used to sell pension books, but now the money is moved straight into the customer's bank account. I'd say I lost about 30% of the business through that. We've lost a terrific amount of business."

More than just stamps

Mr. Athi listed some popular services currently available at Pitsmoor Post

Office which many might not usually expect to find at a local branch:

"The Post Office Home Phone is quite popular at the moment, which is in competition with BT. Also popular is our foreign currency exchange, motor insurance, saving accounts, E-top ups, gift vouchers, and MoneyGrams."

"People need to use local Post Offices; it's just that people go out to other areas. The young generation is on the move, so they're not our base; we don't know what to do to keep them."

Feeling positive for the future

Pleased that the three main branches in Burngreave and Fir Vale will remain open, Mr. Nandra added:

"The whole community will benefit from us staying open. We should think about giving more facilities than taking them away; the government should know the public need and demand, rather than making new needs and demands. Hopefully now we will be able to relax and increase the range of services."

Mr Mahmood agreed:

"When I started at this Post Office three years ago, it was a big investment and I was worried. Now I'm feeling positive about the future. I'm happy that we can continue serving the community. All the customers are really pleased too."

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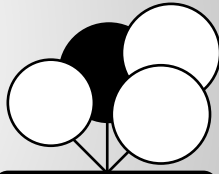
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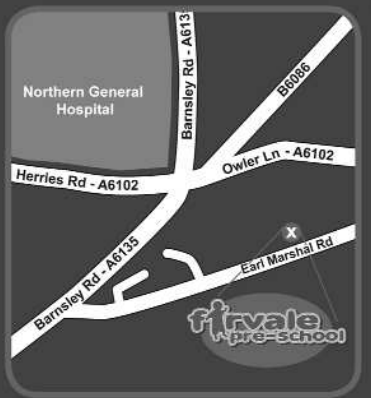
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The Editorial



Messenger AGM

The Burngreave Messenger is holding its Annual General Meeting:

- 11am, Saturday 25th October 2008.
- Upstairs at the Vestry Hall
- Refreshments will be available on the day.

The Messenger needs your help

We need volunteers to help run the Messenger. It's a crucial time for the newspaper, and if you'd like to help us keep it going we'd love to hear from you. Come along to the AGM or contact the office on 242 0564.

We're running two courses starting in October to help you get more involved.

Website training course

Friday mornings: 17th, 24th October and 7th, 14th November.

- Learn to add content to the Messenger website.
- Add text, images and links.
- Gain experience of content management software.

No previous experience necessary.

Writing for the Messenger

Monday evenings: 13th, 20th October and 3rd, 10th November.

The course is designed to give you the skills and confidence to be able to:

- Attend an event and write about what happened
- Cover a news story
- Interview someone for the Messenger

Contact the Messenger to book a place on 242 0564.

Messenger Info

Editorial meetings: 6.30pm at Abbeyfield Park House
Next meeting: **Wed, 8th October. All welcome.**

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This month's team: Nasira Amin, Molly Butler, Ian Clifford, Rohan Francis, Lisa Harrison, Douglas Johnson, Taibah Khan, Ben Kirby, Jamie Marriott, Lisa Swift.

The end of Area Panels

Everything is changing in local democracy! Under new proposals from the Lib-Dem Council, Area Panels are set to go and Burngreave will merge with Southey Green, Firth Park and Shiregreen to make a much larger Community Assembly.

Across Sheffield, the 12 existing Area Panels will be replaced by 7 Community Assemblies of an equal size. However, Burngreave, Southey and Shiregreen is a huge area and critics say it will be very

difficult to address the massive problems of poverty across an area of that size, where residents have little common sense of identity.

In addition, our present Area Panel team, Andy Shallice and Marilyn King, are set to lose their jobs. Staff cuts are planned for smaller area panels, while areas on the West of the city can expect to see an increase in staff resources. Many Burngreave residents feel Andy and Marilyn have been the most hard-working and effective team Burngreave has had for years.

Burngreave Councillor Jackie Drayton expresses serious concerns about the proposal, and told the Messenger,

"The new assemblies will mean less support for residents. There will be fewer workers like Andy and Marilyn to make sure residents are involved and listened to. The Lib-Dems say they will consult residents – but who will do that work?"

"I think the extra money the Area Panel has had in the past is at risk. I hope that all those who have benefited from grants from the Area Panel will come to the next meeting to ask the Lib-Dems how their group will be supported in the future."

The next Area Panel meeting is at 6pm on 9th October at St Catherine's School.

Council focuses on Page Hall

Story: Brent Moya

The Area Panel called a meeting on Thursday 18th September with the aim of resolving residents' concerns in Page Hall.

The area has often felt neglected, and has recently struggled with issues linked with the arrival of economic migrants and their families. A residents' meeting in July resulted in an angry story in the Star. Councillors and Council officers have since taken action on long-term problems in the area.

High on the agenda was rubbish and dumping in Page Hall and problems with noisy neighbours. Cllr. Jackie Drayton chaired proceedings as service providers reported back.

Karl Tupling addressed concerns regarding cleaning up the area, saying: "We are providing larger bins for bigger families and Streetforce have increased street cleaning to twice a week." He also pledged to provide skips for people to clear their back yards and to start a deep clean up of gulleys and pavements.

Matt Wooding from the police, said they had increased their presence in the area. "We can encourage changes in behaviour with Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and will work closely with the Council," he said.

Concerns about children not attending school were addressed by Julie Tasker, from the Council's Service District. Shakil Zaman, from the Missing Children team added: "We will visit families to help children attend school."



Veolia Environmental Services representative provided optimism: "Our crews have reported recent improvements with the introduction of bigger bins," she said.

There have been communication problems between residents from Slovakia and the Czech Republic and the rest of the community, as new arrivals don't speak much English. Fiona Gervis from Mediation Sheffield said:

"Our role is to mediate in neighbour disputes. We recently recruited two interpreters for Page Hall and visited 14 households on 25 occasions. We also supported 'Bring out your rubbish' days, explaining to residents how they can deal with their rubbish."

Questions followed. One resident, Shaun, said there were still problems with noise, speeding cars and dumping.

"The rubbish dumped near the school is rancid, it needs cleaning up now. It's a danger to the children."

Community worker, Chris Scott, suggested the Council pay Veolia extra to clean up this mess. Ivor Wallace of Page Hall Community Association said:

"This particular site at the end of Lloyd Street has been an ongoing issue for four years. It's been addressed by the

Council over several years but not to anyone's satisfaction."

Cllr. Drayton explained that they were in contact with the land-owner who has been issued a 21 day notice to clean up.

The vicar of St Cuthbert's Church, which has members from all over the world, was keen to welcome new residents and told how a Slovakian baby named Peter, born to a migrant family, was baptized using an interpreter.

Gulnaz Hussain from the Pakistan Community Association announced their move to the Firth Park Hotel, where they'll have a room for community use. She stressed they have been supporting the Slovakian community with advice for some time, and the centre needed to be recognized as a resource.

Cllr. Steve Jones said the work by the Council needed to continue: "We will keep working hard in Page Hall. We need to keep the pressure up."

Useful numbers

Street cleaning, graffiti, street lighting:
Streetforce 273 4567

Dumping, fly-tipping, public health issues: Environmental Enforcement
203 7410

Neighbour disputes: Mediation Sheffield
241 2771

Anti-Social Behaviour: 101

Children not in School: 273 6462

Concern about private rented accommodation: 273 4680

If you're not sure who to call, or you feel you no one has responded to your reported concern, contact the Area Panel on 276 9134.

PARKWOOD ACADEMY?

Story: Douglas Johnson

Parents of children at Parkwood and its feeder schools (including Pye Bank) are being asked to vote on whether it should become an Academy. The poll closes on 22nd October. But what does it all mean?

Changing failing state schools into Academies is a high-profile Government policy, launched in 2000 by David Blunkett. They are independent schools, funded by the state but run by sponsors from the voluntary and business sector or faith groups. The sponsor owns and runs the school, which will have its own approach to

management, governance, teaching and the curriculum.

The sponsor selected by Parkwood School is Edutrust, a group of businessmen and other leaders. The most well-known are James Caan, famous for being on "Dragon's Den," and Lord Carey, former Archbishop of Canterbury.

However, academies have been controversial, with opponents

complaining of the privatisation of schools and a high level of exclusions. They also question poor exam results in many academies.

The right for parents to vote is the first in the country. Sheffield's Cabinet member for education, Andrew Sangar, said, "as far as I know, no other Council is taking such measures to involve local people in the future of their schools."



The Academy proposal is being strongly promoted by the school and council but is opposed by the North Sheffield Anti-Academy Alliance. We invited the school and the Anti-Academy Alliance to put their arguments for and against:

Vote YES

The headteacher could not respond "due to time constraints", but the brochure sent out with ballot papers shows Governors putting forward the following arguments as to why Parkwood should become an Academy:

To raise pupil achievement...

Becoming an academy will help Parkwood build on its current strengths and success. In setting up a new school, all current ways of working at Parkwood will be re-examined with the questions "What more can Parkwood do and how can it be done better?"

To secure a long-term future for Parkwood...

By becoming Parkwood's sponsor, Edutrust will make a long-term commitment to Parkwood and the community it serves.

To benefit from partnership...

Edutrust is a not-for-profit charity established to promote educational excellence in schools. With its own professional network, Edutrust will also be able to draw on a wide range of expertise and bring a number of additional partnerships into the Academy.

To access more funding...

Edutrust will provide an endowment fund of £1.5 million to Parkwood. This fund will be managed by the Governing Body to benefit teaching and learning

To secure funding for a new building...

There is no significant funding available in the foreseeable future to provide new buildings other than by becoming an academy. A new building at Parkwood would mean that local pupils will be able to benefit from a top-class modern environment.

To gain the freedom to do things differently...

As independent state schools academies have greater flexibility and freedom.

Vote NO

Mick Ibbotson, local parent, writes for the Anti-Academy viewpoint:

This proposal is fundamentally flawed and that's why I am asking voters to vote 'No' in the ballot. Bribing people with the promise of a new school sometime in the future, if they agree, seems crass and the council officers are compounding it by suggesting that people would be confused if they allowed alternative arguments to be put to them. But the simple facts are:

1. Academies do not work. They do not improve standards and they do not bring the 'step' change they profess to. One third of the existing Academies in England are still failing, according to the Government's own benchmark - including both in Sheffield.
2. Academies exclude at more than twice the national average, according to Labour MP Ken Purchase. Where do these kids end up? On your streets causing mischief rather than being educated.
3. Academy schools are outside local control and responsibility; they show little regard to local people's concerns or desires.
4. If Academies are the answer, how come across the country they are being rejected by the people they are meant to serve?
5. Once the school becomes an academy, it will never come back into local authority control.
6. In the case of Parkwood, the glossy plans do not show how they will improve anything.

The message is clear. Please use your vote and vote 'NO' for your children's sake before it's too late.

In Memory of Tarek

On 25th August, an event was held in memory of Tarek Chaiboub who was shot to death in Burngreave in July. Organised by the Cube Foundation, an independent Islamic Organisation, the meeting heard guest speakers Khadijah Ilyas, Sheik Zahir Mahmood from Birmingham and a statement from the father of Tarek Chaiboub.

No Soldiers, No Martyrs

Khadijah Ilyas, the mother of Ibrahim Ilyas who was shot dead 2 years ago, said:

"On Saturday 3rd June 2006 I had a phone call saying that my son had been shot and was in the Northern General Hospital. By the time I got there, Ibrahim was dead. This is something no family should have to deal with and I'd like to speak to the young people present."



"I've seen these tributes saying 'you are a martyr', 'you are a soldier'. These words are easy to say. They ease young people's consciences and make it easier to accept what has happened. You say 'soldier', 'martyr', but what cause were these young people really fighting for and killed over? Over words or over drugs. Your friend dies and you walk away, but what about the family?"

"These young people talk about friendship and loyalty, but what does this mean? - 'If you're my friend you'll pick up a knife and stab someone?' 'If you're loyal you'll pick up a gun and shoot someone?'"

"There are no winners in this. The week before my son was killed he said to me: 'you don't need to worry about me, I'm with my friends. I'm always safe'. Ibrahim was shot dead in a car with 4 of his friends, but where are his friends now? Your loyalty is back to front, your loyalty should be to your parents."

Khadijah then held up a piece of paper, explaining that it was Ibrahim's death certificate and stated the cause of death as 'multiple gunshot wounds'. She added:



"This is the reality. There are no martyrs, no soldiers. After someone dies you have to identify the body and prepare for the funeral. Which parent wants to wash the body of their dead son? This isn't a joke or a game. If you are a real man and you have dispute, you'll walk away. I ask all of you to look at this very clearly."

Living in another world

A statement by Tarek's father was then read to the meeting:

"I would like to remind parents of this: We were living in one world and Tarek was living in another world with his friends. This way of life destroyed him, first spiritually and morally and then physically."

"Tarek escaped death once, but after 5 days recovering from the stabbing, we received news that Tarek's blood had been spilt again. They had finished the job they had started. There was a large security vacuum from the police - there was no initiative to protect him or his family."

"We are constantly mixing with other cultures and we need to respect each other, Muslims shouldn't have hatred for anyone not even the killer. We must not take revenge - it will only bring more pain. Parents need to direct and guide their children and observe who they are with. We must bring up our children with good role models."

Love for material goods

Sheik Zahir Mahmood spoke next. Drawing on the words of the Prophet Mohammed, the Sheik spoke out against murder. Only Allah had the right to give and take life. A Muslim who kills a non-Muslim would never enter paradise. The Prophet defined a strong man as one who had control over himself when he was angry.

The Sheik regretted that many parents instil in our children the love for materialistic goods.

"We don't encourage our children to respect people on the basis of good character. Parents don't have time to instil good character in their children."

The Sheik despaired of the fact that most of the drug dealers in his home town of Birmingham were Muslims, and stressed that Islam was not just about prayer and fasting but also wider conduct and activity in the community. He encouraged those assembled to take time out for their communities, to get young people off the street by organising football; martial arts and education classes.

Hope for the future

Khadijah gave the Messenger this tribute to her children:

"Over the last two years people have told me how strong I am. The truth is that my strength has come from the courage of my two children, Hanfia and Ta-heer."

"There was a great deal of anger, frustration and pain, and many tried to entice my younger son into giving the go ahead for retaliation. Not once in the last two years have either of them talked of revenge, felt self-pity or tried to blame the world. The pain of losing a dearly loved brother is evident every day, but they honour Ibrahim's memory by working hard at their education and staying on the path of their faith. They make me proud each and every day to have the honour of being their mother!"

One of the event organisers, Raheel Baig said:

"From the young people who attended we had an excellent response. Since the event we've been working with youth workers, teachers and the University of Sheffield Islamic Circle (USIC) to see how we can take things forward. We are trying to set up a mentoring scheme with the USIC to provide positive role models."

For more information contact Raheel on 07930 980 903.



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Faiza said: "Fresh Solution UK is a cleaning business offering residential and commercial cleaning for the Sheffield area, as well as offering training and development opportunities to ethnic minority women.

"I have always wanted to start my own business and whilst employed as a community worker in Burngreave it became clear that women in the area were not taking up opportunities to receive the support that they wanted and needed."

Working with Burngreave Opportunities and The Source, 10 BME ladies have successfully completed accredited training courses and seven now work for this forward thinking business.

"Straight away I had a huge amount of interest from women who were looking for work. It quickly became apparent that many of them

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Faiza's success has now been recognised by a recent visit to Firvale Enterprise Centre by the Rt. Hon. John Hutton MP, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

would not only need practical and health and safety training for the job, but also training in the English language.

"I contacted Neighbourhood Enterprise Champion Lisa, who was able to help me source the funding for the business, as well as putting me in contact with sales and marketing teams to establish potential business leads and support me along the way."

Through the support from the local 'BiG, Make it your Business Team' based at Sorby House, Faiza has progressed well along the journey of setting up her business, accessing expert sales and contract support and grown in confidence with the help of her mentor. Faiza's confidence has grown and success is now growing, with Faiza securing her fourth contract, setting up her office in Sorby House and now gaining the credibility as a successful business woman within the local community. She is an excellent example of a new local business hero inspiring others!

Please contact Fresh Solution on 07984 360 149 or email: enquiries@freshsolutionsuk.co.uk

If you are interested in setting up a business or would like further information on any aspect of the BiG project, contact the team on (0114) 213 6310, or visit us at Sorby House, 42 Spital Hill, Sheffield, S4 7LG.

Further information is available at: www.thebigwebsite.org.uk

PLANNING 4 SUCCESS: HOW TO PLAN YOUR NEW BUSINESS

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21st, 23rd, 28th and 30th October

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10am - 4pm
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Tel: (0114) 275 0262 • Fax: (0114) 275 0249

Email: bronwen@advocacynow.org.uk or
fouzia.ali@advocacynow.org.uk



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Tuesday 14th October

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Refreshments and a chance to see our displays.

1.00pm

- Why talking matters
- Age specific workshops on how to improve the way we talk to our children
- Feeding back: the rewards and challenges of talking

The event is for parents, family members and professionals who work with children and young people in Burngreave.

Burngreave Education Forum
12.45-2.45 pm
Tuesday 14th October 2008
At Vestry Hall



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Liri Kodhelaj on 0114 233 1189
Or Jon Cowley on 0114 292 2908



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Great GCSEs

Story: Ian Clifford, Nasira Amin & Douglas Johnson

Burngreave students showed some brilliant results again this year. At Fir Vale Secondary, the percentage getting five good GCSEs was up 10% to a fantastic 56%, with 22% getting at least three A or A* grades. Every full-time student left with a qualification.

Headteacher Lesley Bowes said, "We were over the moon with the results; they are phenomenal! It's the tenth anniversary of Fir Vale School opening and we have improved year on year. We're really grateful to parents and families who support young people at home. Congratulations to the students."

Help from Study Support

Study Support helped some students to achieve. Ayesha Akram, now studying A levels in Biology, Chemistry and Sociology at Sixth-Form, said: "I attended Parkwood High School and was predicted eight GCSEs. Reach High 2 helped me a lot and I achieved ten at grades A* to C. I thoroughly enjoyed the company of fellow students and staff who always motivated me to aim higher and achieve the grades. The trip to Spain gave me valuable social skills and I will always be grateful for that opportunity."



Nakash Sadiq said: "I achieved four GCSEs which means I can go and study a BTEC National in Sports at College. Study staff helped me a lot, especially with subjects I found difficult."

Ayesha Saleem said: "I would have got no A-Cs without Study Support. I have gone on to college where I am studying BTEC National in IT. I achieved six GCSEs and felt the close positive relationship with teachers and Nasira was important. I particularly remember the Scotland trip - it was a great experience."

Fagr Alafif and Mohammed Abdulla, who attended YCA Study Support, both got nine GCSEs. Mohammed said: "If I had not come to Study Support I would not have got these GCSEs. Last year I was at risk of being excluded and now I am in Longley College doing four A levels." Arzak Abdul Qader, who got twelve GCSEs, added: "The holiday and weekend sessions were particularly valuable."

Big improvements for primary schools

There was success too in primary schools. Pye Bank's Y6 SATs results have seen a dramatic improvement - this year most children are attaining at least the national average. Some are doing significantly better, with some first-time-ever "Level 5" scores.

After his first complete year as head, Paul Hopkinson and his team are seeing the benefits of a stable, happy staff and good systems of support for children. Paul is keen for results to improve even further and "aspirational targets" have been set for this year's Y6 group.

Year 6 teacher Ray Twining, paid tribute to teaching assistant Lynn Marsden and said: "Both Mrs Marsden and I have high expectations for all of the children, enabling them to reach their full potential. The children of Pye Bank want to learn, which makes our jobs much easier!"

At Byron Wood, headteacher Tony Carter said, "We've seen improvements in Key Stage 1 and 2. At Year 11, 56% reached level 4 or above in Maths, and 59% in science. We've also seen numbers reaching "Level 5" increase. We're really pleased with the students' achievements. The school has recruited extra teachers for Y5 and Y6 next year to give children even more individual attention."

Adeel Zaman

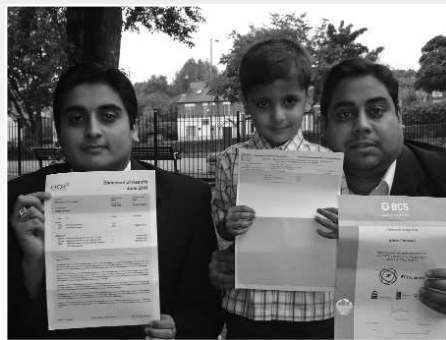
Story: Ben Kirby

16 year-old Adeel Zaman of Page Hall is a very happy young man, having passed all ten of his GCSEs. When he moved from Fir Vale School to Firth Park School in the November of his final year, he found that he only had a short time to prepare for his GCSE exams.

"When I started my new school, I found out that I had to begin a different curriculum. It was really difficult. I had to change all my courses, except history."

Because he had already achieved an A* in his history coursework at Fir Vale, it was decided that Adeel would continue with his original curriculum. However, Adeel had to work by himself.

"My teacher supported me, but the school only had limited resources to offer, because I was learning an entirely different course."



Adeel (left) with brother and Dad, Malik.

With other subjects Adeel was starting from scratch.

"On the first day of school I was fighting deadlines straight away; I had loads of coursework for each course because everyone else's was done in Y10."

Adeel puts his exam success down to his hard work, and the support of his family and school.

"My dedication and hard work paid off, but my family's support was really important too. My dad made a schedule programme for every 7-8 weeks. The headteacher at school really motivated

me; she wanted people to achieve - she was firm and fair."

Adeel was so committed, he even missed the final of the Champions League because he was revising for his French exam the next day! Even so, the results still came as a great surprise to Adeel and his family, as his dad Malik explained;

"We feel he did exceptionally well. We were hoping for at least four GCSEs, and never thought he was heading for ten. To get what he got was incredible. The school was fantastic - we are really grateful. All credit to him - he balanced his studying with friends."

Adeel is now working for Sheffield City Council in a permanent post, doing a Business Administration NVQ Level 3. He plans to go on to do a degree, and also progress his career in the Council.

Malik, who has worked for the Council for 18 years, is proud Adeel is following in his footsteps.

"As parents we have done all we can to support him. As his dad I'm extremely proud of him."

Big move for Pakistan Advice Centre

Story: Richard Belbin

The Pakistan Advice and Community Association in Fir Vale was overjoyed to announce their plans to move into new premises on the ground floor of the old Firth Park Hotel on Page Hall Road which had lain empty and neglected for almost a year.

The Centre had been told eighteen months ago that the lease for the PAC's existing premises on Owler Lane would not be renewed on completion.

"We have paid a very low rent on the property since we moved in, in 1999, and it has never increased at all. The landlord, a local resident, has been very good to us, and that allowed us to survive," volunteer Management Committee member Gulnaz Hussain told the Messenger.

Long struggle

"Initially the centre was based in a front room on Fir Vale Road," said founding Management Committee member Wahid Nazir. "We helped people with letters, benefits and passport applications. Very soon we thought: 'Let's get a base where people can come, where the work could be organised better.' We got a little money from Family and Community Services for rent and office equipment and had to fight to maintain our independence."

Gaining the money to refurbish the new building hasn't been easy either. Gulnaz told me how many groups have come together to support the new building.

"We finally got a decent amount of money from the Council to move offices



but still had to spend months getting grants from New Deal and others for plastering, painting and the partitions etc. The Jeevan Project got money from the Youth Opportunities Fund, where the decision was made by young people themselves. Now we can meet all disability and proper health and safety standards."

Help from the community

"Various local traders have helped us too: a local tile company are doing the whole of the front for free. Another local company donated £3,000 for the phone system, Burngreave Drugs Project gave us a lot of furniture, the South Yorkshire Women's Development Trust will be doing the finishing touches to the work and the landlord is fitting a kitchen and new windows throughout," Gulnaz explained.

Page Hall resident, Shamila Hussain, put the building design together with the architects to ensure there will be plenty of room available for clients and the community, with full disabled access.

Projects will include the Advice and Advocacy Service, covering welfare law and immigration advice, the Citizenship Project, women-only sessions, as well as the drop-in for the Slovak community which is very busy. Other projects moving into the new space include the Jeevan Project, the older people's project and

the Nextstep programme which offers support for the unemployed to get them back into work.

An asset for Fir Vale

A range of other organisations have also shown an interest in delivering services from the centre including Activity Sheffield and South Yorkshire Police, creating a community hub the area previously lacked.

It's all go to make sure the new centre is finished in time, but work is moving very rapidly. The electricians were being fitted as the Messenger visited and the rest of the work should be finished within a month.

The Centre will be formally opened in October, followed by an open day for the public to see the completed building and services up and running (see the Messenger website for updated details). Until then the Advice Centre will continue as normal, at Owler Lane, as well as projects at other locations. To help out at the Centre as a Management Committee member or volunteer, call Gulnaz Hussain on 261 9130.

The Management Committee would like to thank everyone who has supported them during the transition to the new building, and look forward to their continued support in the future.

Pakistan Independence Day

Story & photo: Zia Khan

On Thursday August 14th an event took place to Celebrate Pakistan Independence Day at Eastern Eye Takeaway and Restaurant in Fir Vale.

Raja Mohammed Akram owner of Eastern Eye said, "We have been celebrating Pakistan Independence Day for the last 20 years." Over 100 people

attended the celebration including the local councillor Ibrar Hussain and also other residents from different ethnic backgrounds who enjoyed the free food supplied by Eastern Eye.

Raja Mohammed Akram said, "I don't want people to forget this day. We wanted people from other ethnic backgrounds to know about this event and also bring unity amongst the community."



Parents help children Aim Higher

Evidence shows that parents and carers are a major influence on their children's attitude to education; it can be positive or negative often depending on the parent's personal experience of education. Parents who have no experience of university or Higher Education may find it difficult to give their children guidance and encouragement to continue in education.

The Parent Mentor project aims to engage parents in helping to raise their children's aspirations and attainment towards Higher Education.

Parent Mentors lead the way

The project recruited ten volunteers who were parents or suitable adults who had successfully completed Higher Education or had helped their children to reach university. They were trained as Parent Mentors so that they could work with parents and deliver information to groups across Sheffield.

During the pilot of the project mentors worked with Somali parents whose children attend the Broomhall Homework Club. Parents explained that they needed more information about student finance, UCAS applications, University Open days and routes into Higher Education.

The mentors ran six sessions for the parents culminating in a visit to The University of Sheffield, where potential students could talk to staff from departments they were interested in.



Sharing knowledge and experience

The mentors that were recruited reflected a whole range of different experiences and all worked extremely hard to help other parents help their children.

Elizabeth has been living in Britain for eight years. She works for the NHS as a staff nurse and has four children. Three of her children are currently in Higher Education studying Medical Science, Pharmacy and Chemical Engineering respectively. She decided to become a parent mentor because she wanted to share the information and experience she has gone through in helping her own children to reach Higher Education.

Her top tip for other parents and carers would be to tell their children to "Aim high, get the best qualifications you are capable of and think positive - YOU CAN DO IT!"

If you are interested in the project or you would like parent mentors to work with your group please contact 222 7003.

The Parent Mentor Project is managed by Margaret Mitchell at the University of Sheffield and Maggie Bamford at Sheffield Futures.



Routes 16 Careers Fair 2008

Monday 3rd November
4:00pm - 8:00pm
(parents/carers and families)

Tuesday 4th November
9:00am - 3:30pm
(group bookings only)
5:00pm - 8:00pm
(parents/carers and families)

Held at Indoor Straight at Sheffield's prestigious Don Valley Stadium.

One of the groups running activities at the evening sessions will be Aimhigher. Aimhigher aims to increase participation in Higher Education from under represented groups.

During the evening sessions there will be short talks including:

- Information for parents and carers.
- The cost of Higher Education.
- Parents sharing their experiences of supporting young people through Higher Education.
- Students currently at university.

For further information

About Routes 16 generally, contact Vaughan Skirrey on 201 2815
vaughan.skirrey@sheffieldfutures.org.uk

About Aimhigher evening talks, contact Maggie Bamford on 201 2800
maggie.bamford@sheffieldfutures.org.uk

jazz@ SADACCA

Friday
3rd October
9pm till late
Entry £3

Featuring:
Mongoose, Tenor & Soprano Saxophone
Kent Beach, Tenor & Baritone Saxophone
Errol Francis, Piano
Soyll, Drums
Paul Aghakoba, Bass

S.A.D.A.C.C.A.
43 The Wicker
S3 8JB
Info:
0114 275 3479

MEDITATION
Meditation for Human Integration

You are invited to an open house informal talk on
Sahaj Marg:
A Raja yoga system of meditation on the heart

Saturday 4th October 2-3.30pm
at Abbeyfield House, Abbeyfield Park
All are welcome

Tel 07799 286 882 or email
kaza_dec@hotmail.com for more information



Enterprising centre

Story: Lisa Harrison

Fir Vale School officially opened its new £700,000 Enterprise Centre in December 2007 to support the school's specialist role in business and develop a spirit of enterprise amongst its students.

Roger Maleham, the Schools Enterprise Champion, said: "The centre's role is to try to develop our students, who form part of the community, but also to develop the community beyond the school gates. Fir Vale needed a building to kick-start local enterprise and this centre provides the state-of-the-art facilities necessary to achieve that goal."

Various events have been held at the centre. Year 10 student Barbara Okerenta attended one where local business people

came to swap ideas and information with students. The event was based on face to face with the entrepreneur, conversing for a few minutes with one person before moving rapidly on to the next. Barbara said:

"Loads of companies came in. The format of the event kept our brains active for the entire day. We learned how to present ourselves in job interviews, which will be useful when I'm older. The event was focussed on marketing - very useful in later life."

Henna Rashid, also a student, agreed:

"We got a lot of information about how to start businesses - it was really helpful. It was also really good fun."

In another event, students from local primary schools teamed up with year 8 pupils to find ways to encourage local recycling.

Maryam Hussain attended this event. She said: "The younger students had lots of questions - we tried to help them

ourselves but there was assistance on hand for when we couldn't."

Sinthujan Arulsevam says, "Different kids had different jobs - we created a poster together. I helped teach the younger children new things about recycling."

The Enterprise Centre now hopes to find a young local entrepreneur to base their business at the centre. Any interested party should contact Roger Maleham on 243 9391.

Courses for the community

The Centre hosts courses for the wider community aimed at giving people the skills and confidence to participate in the community, whether through starting up a business, volunteering, or responding to local needs. Courses this term include:

Women's voice - a six-week course to explore how women can gain confidence to speak out and tackle local issues in their community.

Politics and Public Life - will give you an insight into the world of politics, meetings, and the media.

Skills for employment - will help you write a CV, look for a job and gain confidence.

Preparation for GCSE English and Maths - work towards gaining these important qualifications.

For further information on courses contact Janet Lawson on 284 2030 or email centre@firvale.com.

Family cycling day

Story & photo: Rashida Hassanali

On the first Sunday of the summer holidays, two coaches (funded by BNDfC) took over 100 adults and children to Clumber Park in Nottinghamshire to enjoy the freedom and exercise that cycling can offer.

The event was organised by the Fir Vale family of schools in partnership with the city-wide group Pedal Ready who work locally to offer free cycle training. During June and July 2008, Pedal Ready ran 'Dr Bike' workshops in schools - mending punctures, putting air in tyres, tightening brakes and re-fitting chains. Simple bicycle maintenance helps to keep bicycles roadworthy and children safe.

Ruth Chiat from Dr Bike said of the Burngreave workshops: "The response was amazing. By July 20th, we calculate we had serviced or mended over 100 bikes, mostly belonging to the children, but with adult ones thrown in."

Sheffield Cycling Champion, Steve Marsden, provided twelve adult cycles and Pedal Ready hired 25 more children's and adults' bikes of different sizes (including several with baby carriers, two tricycles and a wheelchair bike) for the family day



out at Clumber Park. The staff ran supervised cycle rides round Clumber Lake (a distance of some five miles that even little children were able to manage). The sense of achievement at the end of each ride was fantastic and everyone could feel muscles they didn't realise they had! Twelve adults and children who couldn't ride a bicycle at the start of the day could ride unaided by the end of it, thanks to support from Pedal Ready trainers.

Everyone joined in games and activities provided by school staff supporting the event, in the picturesque surroundings of Clumber Park. Fir Vale family of schools hope to organise more countryside events in 2009. For more information contact Janet Lawson or Rashida Hassanali at the Enterprise Centre, Fir Vale School on 284 2030 or email jlawson@firvale.com.

Tonnes of Summer fun



There was loads of stuff to do this summer for children and young people. Here's just a few photos of things they got up to.

Over 80 children enjoyed the Yemeni Community Association Summer Scheme; Ellesmere Youth Project's activities included go karting and dance workshops; Reach High 2 Study Support took young people to Crucial Crew, went cycling and did creative arts; Family Advocacy Team trips included visits to Graves Park, Norfolk Park and Bowling.



Fashion show

Story & photo: Taibah Khan

A colourful fashion show with a variety of dance performances brought the Vestry Hall to life on the 30th of August. The clothes were all designed and made by girls who have attended the Burngreave After School Support Project (BASSP).

The event, a vibrant celebration of different cultures and diversity, was organised by Diane Haimeed, the co-ordinator of BASSP, who described it as, "A fun event celebrating the success of the young people."

The young girls spent time during the summer designing and making their own outfits.

Emily Yafai, Buthina Al-Shaibi, Iyah Hameed and Natasha Al-Guilaidi were just a few of the girls who were a part; they all agreed that designing and making the clothes was "the best".



The clothes modelled included traditional Arab and Somali wear, formal evening dresses, and street wear. The T-shirts designs were creative and eye-catching, so watch out for them in the future!

Iyah told me how they went to Manchester to choose the fabric for their dresses, "we designed everything ourselves," she said. The dresses had some really complicated and imaginative designs.

There were dance performances of Arabic and Bollywood styles, and were received with great responses from the audience, who were all local women and children. Speaking to dancers Hasseena Hussain and Moushmi Day I was surprised to find that the dance had been put together only two days prior to the event, as it all looked amazing.

Young Advisors event sensations!

Story: Farhan Ahmed



Young people organised an event on the 29th August, around 90 people attended at the Nottingham Cliff Rec. Young Advisors Afrah Al-kheili, Farhan Ahmed and Zanumb Bibi supervised the entire event with help from Streetworx staff and volunteers.

There was something for everyone, from face painting and a bouncy castle for the children, a drug information stall and Activity Sheffield for the young people.

Free food and drink was provided throughout the event, art work was done



on the youth shelter that the Young Advisors had previously placed in the park; on it will be positive messages and memorials for those who have previously passed away.

The week leading up to the event the Young Advisors and local young people together with Green City Action worked closely to do up the park. This included polishing benches, cutting tree branches, painting, trimming grass and cleaning.

Playground party & plans

A warm sun shone over Pitsmoor Adventure Playground for their 'End of Summer Party' on the 31st August. Face painting, team games, a bouncy castle and a DJ were some of the special activities.

The latest plans for the new playground building were on display and a specially made model helped people to visualise the layout of the new space. Residents and children could vote on their favourite building features. The winning design included a glass pod, roof-top seating, disabled access and plenty of extra space in the building for activities and play.

The day proved a great success with 200 children and parents taking part. Results from the consultation will help with fundraising for the new building. It is hoped the chosen design will be able to progress to planning shortly.

For more information contact the Playground on 203 9394.



The winning design - children and residents voted for this one.



FIR VALE DAY OF CELEBRATION

SAT 18TH OCT 2PM - 6PM
FIR VALE SCHOOL, OWLER LANE S4
FREE ENTRY



UMDUMO WESIZWE JAMBOREE ARTS & MORE TBC

FIR VALE'S GOT TALENT FINALS

Auditions
 Thurs 2nd Oct - 3.30pm
 Thurs 9th Oct - 3.30pm

green city

Fir Vale's Got Talent

If you sing, dance, tell jokes or have any other talents or skills, then come along to the audition sessions in the build up to Fir Vale Day of Celebration. Have a go at being a star for the day!



Talent show auditions

If you are interested in auditioning for the talent show, then why not come along to one of the audition sessions at

Fir Vale School
 Thursday 2nd October at 3.30pm
 Thursday 9th October at 3.30pm

For more information call Bob Worm on 244 0353 or email bob.worm@greencityaction.org.uk



Check website for details
www.greencityaction.org.uk
 information line: 0114 2440353

Burngreave Small Grants Fund



Get involved with your community...

Do you or your organisation have a new idea that would benefit local residents – would a small grant help to make it happen?

Organisations can apply for a grant of up to £5000 and individuals and groups can also benefit with grants of up to £500. Social and sporting activities are eligible for up to £500.

Examples of what we fund are...

- Activities for children or young people
- Trips for local residents
- Education and courses
- Healthy eating or exercise initiatives
- Environmental improvements
- Equipment for local groups and much more!

Your applications will be considered as long as the people who benefit are residents of the Burngreave New Deal Area.

The Grants Panel meets in the last week of every month; application deadlines are two weeks before. Contact the grants team for more information.

For an application pack:
 Phone the Grants Team (Charlotte and Chris) on: 292 2905

Or download a pack from our website:
www.bndfc.co.uk/projects/smallgrants



Yorkshire & Humber CRIMESTOPPERS

Working in partnership with the police

Do you have information about criminal activity in your neighbourhood?
 Do you want to report it but don't want to get involved or give your name?

Then call Crimestoppers anonymously on:
0800 555 111

Crimestoppers is the only charity directly supporting the police to help detect crimes and bring offenders to justice.

Information about crime is taken, including:

- Drug dealing
- Burglaries
- Receiving stolen goods

You will not be asked your name or where you live.

Crimestoppers do not have caller line identifier, the 1471 facility and never trace calls.

Crimestoppers do not tell the police your gender, apparent ethnicity or age.

You can claim a cash reward of up to £1,000 if your information leads to somebody being arrested and charged. Ask for more information.

Language-line/interpreter also available.

Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Barrows, bards and a barbecue

Story & photo: Sarah Cooper

Visitors to the Greenfingers open day on 10th September were treated to a tour of the allotments, songs, recitals of creative writing by Write Horizons, sunshine and a barbecue.



Allotment staff explained how the project enables people who are isolated or feeling low to enjoy the benefits of gardening, as well as the chance to make new friends. Despite an arson attack earlier this year, the group have bounced back and are now enjoying the fruit (and vegetables) of their labour.

One allotment user said:

"I couldn't describe how much it's done for me. I was stuck in my own house. Coming down here's just fantastic. You can come down here and find people to talk to who are in a similar position to you. It's changed my situation."

Another said:

"I was interested in gardening but absolutely useless. It's not about being a good gardener - it's about getting to know people."

Patsy Seddon, group leader of Write Horizons, explained they use creative writing in a therapeutic way: "Even negative feelings can be turned into something beautiful. Arts and leisure: it all helps you to relax, and relaxing and having fun helps improve mental health."

Contact: Diana Tottle, Director of SAGE Greenfingers: 274 3651, sagegreenfingers@yahoo.co.uk

Patsy Seddon, Write Horizons: 276 2644 (Pitsmoor Surgery)



Earl Marshall U7s Success

Story: Taibah Khan | Photo: Damian-De-Souza

The Earl Marshall U7s (now the U8s) entered two Football tournaments this summer – at Brinsworth and Throstles. They emerged as victors at Throstles, where they beat the Handsworth team in rain and mud, and won the trophy. Tyler Bent scored the winning goal.

This road to victory was not an easy one after the disappointment of losing at Brinsworth on penalties – but this only made them stronger on the field at Throstles, the first time that Earl Marshall had won a tournament.

Speaking to the young team at training, I found that they were very enthusiastic and excited about the next tournament.

Liam Desouza said, "the tournament was hard but winning was great".

Other than playing in tournaments in the future, players in the team aspired to be like Premiership footballers Ronaldo, Rooney and local legend Billy Sharp.

I spoke to Manager Damian Desouza and Assistant Manager Tony Herrington, who said "We are proud of the amount of time and commitment the boys have put into training. Over a very short period they have become a really tight-knit team."

Earl Marshall are looking for new boys or girls in Y2 for the Sheffield and District Juniors Sunday League. They also need volunteer Managers Contact Mick Ashman on 07843 731 430 or Garfield Walters on 07760 240 366 for more information.

Al Nisa Sports and Grimesthorpe Institute

Story: Naeema Khan | Photo: Taibah Khan.

Al Nisa Sports and Grimesthorpe Institute organised a fund-raising Barbecue for women and children on Sunday 17th August 2008. Many people turned out on this sunny afternoon to support these community enterprises.

Cheryl Mahmoud heads Al Nisa Sports and Leisure, a community and social enterprise. She has a Second Degree Black belt in Kick-boxing and has held Commonwealth and world champion trophies in the past. The organisation has over 100 youngsters at their kick-boxing lessons. They also run women's self-defence courses. "We've got to the stage where we're really big now and we need to find our own premises. We have been renting out halls which isn't ideal because we can't safely store our equipment. It's not practical taking the equipment from place to place," said Cheryl. "If anybody can help, please let us know."



With 150 on the roll and 50 on the waiting list, the Grimesthorpe Institute teaches English A-level, Food & Hygiene and Business start-up courses in partnership with Sheffield College. It aims to target girls from a sheltered background where getting an education and training through the normal route of colleges would not be an option due to various social reasons. They also run Quran lessons after school.

"We're looking to buy much-needed equipment for our Centre from any funds we raise," said Mrs Sabia, of the Institute.

SADACCA Daycare open again

Story: Camille Daughma
Photos: Cora Gordon



After the storm comes the calm, new beginnings and new hope of better things to come.

In June 2007, when Sheffield was besieged with a monstrous flow of gallons and gallons of water after the River Don overflowed its banks, the SADACCA Day Care Centre was one of the services affected the most.

A year on, the centre was refurbished and the opening held on the 23rd June. The Lord Mayor, Mrs Jane Bird, was the guest of honour. In her address to the management, workers and service users, she stated how impressed she was with the centre and its relaunch after the flood. It was a positive move and she thought highly of the centre.



She commented on the sense of community and how it was good to see the senior citizens being active and commended SADACCA for their hard work. She was happy to see that the facilities incorporated both inside and outside activities and endeavoured to keep the service users independent.

After the formalities, the Lord Mayor took the opportunity to go from table to table to interact with everyone, leaving laughter as she went along. After sampling some of the food she confessed, "I've eaten too much. I really enjoyed the saltfish fritters – they were excellent, but I had salad to balance it." Bursts of laughter echoed throughout the room.

The users of the centre commented how good it was to be back.

Walk Good

Story: Jenson Grant, Photos: Camille Daughma



As a filmmaker and digital artist, I had always been interested in looking into the past, especially when I see a gap.

A few years ago, I was in the local studies part of Sheffield Libraries with a group of school children. We were surprised there was very little information about the arrival of African-Caribbean migrants to Sheffield after the War.

So in 2006, with some fellow artists, we conceived Burngreave Oral History Project. With support from Arts Council England, Sheffield City Council and the "Off the Shelf" Festival, we started to record Caribbean migrants' stories and create a performance that celebrated their history.

Myself, writer Dee Reynolds, Nycha Creations and Khula Arts worked with a bunch of enthusiastic children at SADACCA Study Support scheme to create a night of live performance. The event was a great success!

2008 is the 60th anniversary of the Windrush's arrival and the ship itself has an interesting story. Built in Germany as the 'Monte Rosa', she was captured from the Nazis in 1945. Renamed 'Empire Windrush', she brought the first Caribbean migrants to British shores in June 1948.

Although Caribbean migrants didn't all come over on the Windrush, her arrival was symbolic. It marked the start of a truly 'multicultural' Britain. When my parents arrived, they faced many obstacles. However, today's generation has come a long way. We have diversified into teachers, politicians, business owners and even filmmakers! We have become an integral part of this city's culture.

Stories about our past connect us to experiences that describe who we are. That's why, on **26th October 2008, at 6.30pm at SADACCA**, we are at it again. Walk Good is a live arts event to celebrate the mark that people from the Caribbean have made on Sheffield. It will be a night of dance, drama, poetry and food - because we all need the gaps in our stories filled! Everyone is welcome.



Lamar's poem

*Black I may be
but now I can see
that there should be
a simple decree
that I should be free*

*The crime I see
should never be
And I should be free
just like a bumble bee*

*But now I hear a cry
of that of a fly
it's the racial abuse
that there's no excuse.*

Cemetery Chapel open days

Story: Christine Steers
Photos: Rohan Francis

As part of English Heritage Open Days, the Friends of Burngreave Chapel and Cemetery put on an exhibition and a "Help find your Relative" event for three days - Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 12th-14th September.

Over thirty-five people came to view the Chapel and seek assistance in finding the



burial place of their ancestors. We were able to find some headstones for them but for others, although there was an inscription for the family, the memorials were lost.



Green City Action

www.greencityaction.org.uk
Telephone: (0114) 244 0353

Young people provide helping hands

Towards the end of August the DIG Team worked with a large number of youth volunteers from Streetworx to help them to improve Nottingham Street recreation ground.



The main focus of attention was preparing the new youth shelter and the brick built electric shed ready for the commemorative artwork to be applied. We are not sure where most of the paint went, onto the shelter or onto the volunteers themselves.

Joking aside, the youths worked really hard to improve the facilities and deserve great thanks for their efforts. In addition to the painting, the park was given a general clean up with the seating being re-oiled, grass and shrubs trimmed and several large self-set trees removed.

Before this we had a fantastic response from an even younger group of helpers around Malton Street, where a site we have improved over the last two years had some GCA designed and built play structures installed.

Tool Bank open

The GCA Tool Bank is open as usual on Saturday mornings from 10am to 12 noon and Wednesday afternoon from 1pm to 4pm. We have a wide stock of hand and power tools for hire at modest rates.

So whether your garden needs a sorting out or you need to fix those shelves, whatever the job, give us a ring on 244 0353, and join the many others who use this great service.

Deliver it green...

It's the tree planting season again!

At this time of year trees are ready to take a rest, so now's the time to get out your spades and wellies, and get ready to get planting. Last year's tree planting season was a great success, and we hope to see plenty of new faces at this year's events:

Burngreave Cemetery

Burngreave Community Forestry has worked with the 'Friends of Burngreave Cemetery' for five years. Together we have established an avenue of oak trees, an avenue of 29 small leaved limes and planted a cedar of Lebanon and a walnut.

Last season we planted a flowering wild cherry avenue, to the south west side of the site. This November we will be continuing the line of the cherry tree avenue towards the chapel by planting a further 16 heavy standards. This will form a striking feature in years to come and complement the work the Friends are doing to plant up the two beds in front of the chapel with colourful spring bulbs.

We would like to invite you to join us for this year's planting on Sunday November 30th between 12pm and 2pm. All are welcome!

Burngreave Recreation Ground

Following the great work done by Green City Action and Hope 08 to clear the pathways and steps at Burngreave Recreation Ground and as the first stage of the Burngreave Rec Masterplan we will be planting eight trees surrounding the football pitch on November 11th at 10.45am with pupils from Byron Wood School.

These include a paper birch (*betula papyrifera*) also known as the canoe birch (the waterproof bark was used to make canoes by the Native Americans); a

river birch (*betula nigra*), which has a great flaky, cinnamon coloured bark and three cherry species which will flower right through from November to April - providing a welcome sight on a bleak winter's day.

Grimesthorpe Forest Garden

Last winter we planted 22 white mulberry trees by the allotments on Grimesthorpe Road. Before the road improvements, this sunny bank produced lots of soft fruit and people helped themselves.

In conjunction with Green City Action and local residents we hope to establish the bank as a Forest Garden - a self-maintaining area where fruit, nuts, berries, herbs and self-seeding plants provide an edible garden for seven months of the year.

We will be having further events over the next few months to develop this project.

Trees for Free...

Burngreave Trees for Free is offering fruit trees again this season for residents interested in growing food at home. A fruit tree could provide you with delicious and nutritious fruit, fulfilling some of your required 5-a-day portions for much of the year, making for a healthier lifestyle for you and your family, and all for free!

Please note Burngreave Trees for Free is only available to residents of Burngreave.

These activities are open to all. Please contact the Community Foresters for Burngreave to get involved:

Leonie Kapadia on 0114 2736199 or Leonie.Kapadia@Sheffield.gov.uk or

Tim Shortland on 0114 2734190 or Tim.Shortland@Sheffield.gov.uk.

Cleethorpes here we come



Saturday 23rd August was the annual Burngreave New Deal for Communities Seaside Trip to Cleethorpes. There were five coaches with 218 Burngreave residents (115 adults and 103 children) made up of grandparents, parents, children, aunts, uncles and cousins, together with all the kit and caboodle that goes with a day trip to the seaside - prams, bags, car seats and cooler bags.

It's 9.30am and we are all excited and waiting eagerly to set off, but we can't because Janet hasn't arrived. Janet's

friend is on her mobile and says Janet will be five minutes (we'll not embarrass Janet by saying her surname).

Hurray! We all give Janet a nice welcoming cheer, to which she gives a big smile.

We're finally off, and a big 'WELL DONE' has to go to the kids who'd nearly all fastened their seatbelts, without having to be reminded, unlike most of the adults!

No sooner have all the crisps, bottles of water, crayons and colouring books been

given out by the stewards, then we are there, at the seaside. It's off the coach and scatter in all directions as fast as you can. Some quickly head to the sea for a paddle, as they know if you want a paddle later in the day, the tide goes out so far you have a very long trek to get to the sea to dip your toes.

Plenty of fish and chips, candyfloss, ice-cream, rock, sweets, doughnuts, hot dogs, burgers, slot machines, amusements, donkey rides, sand, wind, white-knuckle rides and crazy golf later we're all back on the coach, together with buckets and spades and lots of new furry friends for the kids.

Saj Nabi (one of the Neighbourhood Wardens and a steward on one of the coaches) feels sick. He blames his mates, who told him he shouldn't go on the rides on an empty stomach, and proceeded to feed him lots of food. (By the way, Janet was on time for the return journey).

Everyone's exhausted and it's not long into the return journey that eyelids start to get very heavy. Thankfully all except the driver's!

We all arrive safely home at around 7.00pm - it was another great day.

Diary of Events

Burngreave Educational Forum
Tuesday 14th October
2008 Vestry Hall 6.00pm.

For further information please contact Jon Cowley on 0114 292 2908.

Burngreave Bonfire Night
Wednesday 5th November.

Calling volunteers and performers who would like to be involved in this year's event.

Contact Leroy Betts 0114 292 0393 or 07917 014 312 for more information.

BNDfC Partnership Board Meeting
Wednesday 26th November Vestry Hall 5.30pm.

Children's Festive Party
Thursday 18th December at Vestry Hall.

Tickets are free and available between 1-4pm from the Health Shop, 131 Spital Hill on Monday 17th November.

5-8 yrs 12-2pm
9-12 yrs 3-5pm
13-16yrs 7-9pm

Further details are available on www.bndfc.co.uk or contact Pauline on 0114 279 6920.

Programme review

The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (the government department who fund BNDfC) have made a £881,000 reduction to the programme's budget for the remaining years of the programme. DCLG have done this to all NDCs in the country, not just Burngreave. This means, as it stands at the time of writing this article, the programme has plans to spend more money than it will now receive. Therefore, it falls upon the BNDfC Partnership Board to discuss and decide what they want to do to balance the programme's outgoings against its incomings. Members have a number of options available to them but they need to weigh these up against the strategic objectives they have planned for the end of the programme in 2011. This is not an easy or enviable task for Partnership Board members to undertake.

By the time this edition of the Burngreave Messenger has been released the BNDfC Partnership Board will have had lengthy discussions at their Away Sessions on 12th and 13th September and will have made some hard decisions on what they plan to do as a result of DCLG's reduction in BNDfC's budget.

We will ensure that all decisions made will be published in the next edition of the Messenger. We will write to all projects as soon as we can following the Board meeting on 24th September when decisions will be ratified.

Grant given to SVP Furniture Store Sheffield

The SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society) is an international charity with 'conferences' all over the world. Burngreave is lucky enough to have such a conference based at St Catherine's Church, Melrose Road.

The SVP boasts a number of furniture stores including one that serves Sheffield.

The store collects donated items of furniture and redistributes them as and when/where they are needed. They also provide 'starter packs'. These are aimed at individuals and families who have had to relocate but find themselves in an empty house or flat with no means to furnish it. This could be because of separation/divorce, release from prison or, more commonly, immigration/asylum seeking. The starter packs comprise of various items of furniture (bed, table, settee, cooker etc) and essential items such as crockery and cooking utensils.

All these items are purchased new from suppliers and stores with whom the SVP have brokered a discount/donation deal.

There is an unusually high demand for the starter packs in the Burngreave area, largely due to the higher than average influx of immigrants. For this reason the



Small Grants Co-ordinator Chris Dignam (right) presents a cheque to Ralph Dickens, Manager of the SVP Furniture Store Sheffield in the presence of the Lord Mayor Cllr Jane Bird and volunteers from the store.

furniture store has been awarded a grant of £5,000 to purchase 40 of these packs for distribution within the BNDfC area. The furniture store will work in partnership with the St Catherine's conference to ensure that all funding is used within the BNDfC area.

Physical Environment and Safety Priority Area Evaluation

BNDfC recently commissioned ERS, an independent research and consultancy agency, to conduct an evaluation of the Physical Environment and Safety Priority Area. The evaluation's objectives were to:

- Review the priority area objectives
- Assess project performance
- Identify good practice and innovation
- Review approach to targeting/diversity
- Provide guidance on measuring impact.

ERS undertook a range of methods to evaluate the priority area, ranging from reviewing documents, interviews and consultations with beneficiaries.

On completion of their evaluation and in order for ERS to feedback their findings and recommendations to the community, a workshop was arranged. The workshop was held at Sorby House on Thursday 28th August 2008 and was very well attended and received by residents and also officers who have been involved in the projects.

The Physical Environment and Safety Priority area has made some significant progress and impact into improving community safety, environment and housing of the people who live in the Burngreave NDC area. E.g.

- The reduction in burglary has outperformed the city trend.
- There has been an average 44% reduction in robbery since 2006.

- The frequency of enviro-crime (things such as graffiti, dumping) has fallen by 50% since 2006 against a minor reduction across the city.
- There has been a 20% increase in average house prices against a 13% increase across the city.

Whilst this positive progress is to be warmly welcomed and celebrated, there is still much more progress that can be made, and to this end BNDfC has agreed it will look into the re-launching of the Physical Environment and Safety Strategy Group for the area before the end of the year. BNDfC are sure this will be welcomed by Burngreave residents as an opportunity to raise issues directly with service providers.

Local concerns at the Area Panel

The Burngreave Area Panel is going to be very active in this coming period. We have just held a special public meeting in Fir Vale to report back to residents in Page Hall on what the Council and other Agencies are doing to respond to local concerns, highlighted unfortunately by rather negative publicity in the Star.

Parkwood Academy Ballot

On Thursday 2nd October at Shirecliffe Community Centre from 6pm, with the Southey/Owlerton Area Panel, there is to be a joint public meeting about the future of Parkwood High School – whether or not the school should be put forward for ‘academy status’ and so run independently from the Council with support from ‘Edustrust’. There is a ballot of all parents and carers with children either at Parkwood High or at the local feeder schools (like Pye Bank) to find out what they think. This special Area Panel meeting will be an opportunity for everybody to hear the views for and against Academies, to ask questions and to consider what’s best for Parkwood High School and the children of our area, now and in the future.

Area Panel meeting

Community space at St Catherine’s School

The following Thursday, at the regular Area Panel meeting (9th October at 6pm), the Panel will meet at St Catherine’s School at Firshill to listen and decide on three issues. First, the latest report on local community provision. The old Roe Lane community centre (now demolished) provided a well-used room and kitchen. However, the newly enlarged St Catherine’s Catholic Primary (to be opened next year) will not only

take another class of children every year, but it will also have a much larger and better equipped ‘community space’ for local people’s use. St Catherine’s and BCAF will report on where we’re up to on this project.

£50,000 for Libraries, Parks or Streets

Secondly, every Area Panel has been asked to look at whether or not up to £50,000 of the budgets for the library service, the street cleaning service and parks maintenance can be moved around – say from parks to have longer library opening hours. In helping to decide, the councillors have been provided with a lot of detailed information. At the meeting the decision will be made to either change some of the local spending for a four month period (December to next March), or suggest an alteration within each service, or not to make any changes.

Community Assemblies

Lastly, the meeting will hear from a senior politician on the Council’s plans to create Community Assemblies as a way of strengthening local people’s involvement in running Council services and these services, in turn, being more responsive to local needs. This means great changes for us and all the people and communities in Burngreave. In our area it would mean losing the Burngreave Area Panel, the Brightside/Shiregreen Area Panel and the Owlerton/Southey Area Panel and replacing them with one large Community Assembly. It also means losing each of the three Area Coordinators and Area Support Officers. This is a major change and I would encourage everyone to come along to the meeting, to listen and make their voice heard about the proposed changes.



Northern General Scrutiny

And lastly on Tuesday 4th November, the Council’s Scrutiny Board will be considering the latest position about travel, traffic and parking generated by the Northern General Hospital, and its impact on local communities in Fir Vale. Two years ago, Norwood Road was blocked by buses for over two hours. The Area Panel decided to ask the Scrutiny Board to get to the bottom of why this was happening, and what could be done to improve matters. Since then, the hospital has made some progress and are shortly to have their planning application considered for a multi-storey car park. The Area Panel has canvassed local residents in the streets most affected as to what they would support. All of this will be discussed in public at the Scrutiny meeting – from 2pm on 4th November in a Town Hall committee room.

We look forward to seeing you at the meetings and hearing your views and questions on these and any aspect of Council services in the Burngreave area.



Cllr Jackie Drayton

Councillors’ 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 the second and fourth Saturday mornings of each month.

11th October: Steve Jones, 11am–12 noon Burngreave Library and 12.15–1.00pm Firshill TARA

21st October: Ibrar Hussain, 11am–12 noon Shirecliffe Centre Steve Jones, 12.15–1.00pm Norwood/Bishopholme TARA

25th October: Ibrar Hussain, 11am–12 noon Burngreave Library

8th November: Ibrar Hussain, 11am–12 noon Burngreave Library and 12.15–1.00pm Firshill TARA

18th November: Jackie Drayton, 11am–12 noon Shirecliffe Centre and 12.15–1.00pm Norwood/Bishopholme TARA

22nd November: Steve Jones, 11am–12 noon Burngreave Library

Drug Project success

Tackling substance misuse in Burngreave is a complicated task. In 2004 the Burngreave Drug Project (BDP) took on the problem, approaching it from all sides. Working in partnership with other organisations, they provided treatments for those struggling with addiction, supported their families and trained the community to be more aware of the issues around substance misuse.

After five years of New Deal and Sheffield DAAT funding, the PCT managed project is making a graceful exit, leaving other city wide services better placed to continue the work.

The staff team are suitably proud of what they have achieved, not just around illegal drugs but also around alcohol and khat use.

Project Manager Simon Youle said:

"The project is coming to a close at the end of this year, the fact that the work done has been recognised so the whole of Sheffield can benefit is a real reflection of how successful we have been. It means the good practice we have demonstrated is to be adopted by the city's existing drug and alcohol services."

The 'good practice' was developed by the hard work and dedication of the BDP team working along side residents and community groups, building strong, positive relationships based on common aims and trust.

Chris Scott, responsible for delivering much of the community training, said,

"We made it our business to know why a Somali young man might not want to come for drugs treatment. We understand why we can't call on him at home. We've developed a better understanding of the community in Burngreave and passed this understanding to other service providers who will carry on the work after we finish."

The police, wardens, housing officers, to name a few professionals, as well as community members have been trained by the project. BDP has received national recognition for the khat awareness and harm reduction training. It has been delivered to the communities using khat in the hope that residents themselves will continue to pass on their knowledge to those who need it most.

Knowing that the project was limited to five years, BDP worked with long standing city-wide agencies such as Breakthrough, formerly known as the Sheffield Black Drugs Service, to make sure support would continue in the area into the future. Hardeep Pabla, Breakthrough Service Manager, said:



Burngreave Drug Project Team: nominated in the team section for the PCT Chairman's award in 2008.



Burngreave Drug Project

Facts and Figures

225 referrals, 75% supported through the Burngreave Drug Project

1050 people trained in drug and alcohol awareness

43 individual family members supported by the family support worker

1500 complementary therapy sessions

"We are so proud of the difference Burngreave Drugs Project has made in the neighbourhood over the past five years. We hope to build on their legacy, and see Burngreave continue to deal with drugs head-on."

The impact on individual lives made by projects like BDP is often difficult to see. The following case studies provide a glimpse of the difference they have made.

Supporting a family

As the mother of a large family I face many challenges but none were as great as when I found out my son was involved with drug dealers.

I told my health visitor I believed he was running drugs for older men, and dealing cannabis himself, I also believed he was taking drugs too. He would disappear for days on end and I knew these older men were threatening him.

The health visitor told me that she knew a family support worker who could help me at the Burngreave Drug Project. She comes to visit me very regularly and she has got lots of services involved to help me. She helped to fill in the forms for a referral to the Youth Offending Services and my son now has his own worker, which I'm really pleased about as outside school there was no one to support my son.

I'm not sure what the future will be, but I know there are people who care about us and I don't feel so alone.

Taking on Heroin addiction

I was using drugs every day non-stop; I didn't have no money, no family, no friends. I was just down in the dumps, I was injecting crack and heroin together. I got a really good drug worker through the Burngreave Drug Project. She came every week for two years. Now I'm clean and I've had a job, had a baby, really it's just totally different. I feel life's happier and I just feel normal again. The project really helped me, so hopefully I can do something to help people like me working as a drug worker. I'm just grateful cause obviously if I'd have carried on I'd have ended up dead.

Managing alcohol misuse

John is 25. When he first engaged with Burngreave Drug Project, after being referred by his GP, he was drinking six cans of Tennants Super per day. He suffered from anxiety and a bad temper, but he had a young family to look after.

Treatment started by reducing alcohol use at the same time as looking at his anxiety levels which he suffered in crowded places, for example, the bus. The drug project worked on triggers and cravings with him while referring him to the Fitzwilliam Centre for the community detox programme. At the time there was a long waiting list, so the support was split between the Centre and the Drug Project so the work could continue.

So far John has successfully completed detox, his anxiety levels have dropped and he has managed to deal with his anger. He is currently undertaking a course which will qualify him to work on building sites.

If you need help or support with issues related to drugs contact:

Breakthrough-Sheffield Multi-Ethnic Drug Service: 249 3700

Turning Point: 275 5973

Sheffield Substance Misuse Service (SHSC): 0845 2450370

Or talk to your GP

Dear Messenger...



Write to: Abbeyfield Park House, Abbeyfield Road, Sheffield S4 7AT

Dear Messenger,

As a fellow person of the Pitsmoor community I know I have no say but as a ten year old I would like to live in a safer environment and I know other children and adults do too. In the last year there's been one stabbing and one shooting. If you don't stop this there will be more. I know that there are parents scared to let their children go out to play and go with friends. The streets are becoming really unsafe in Pitsmoor and there's less people on the roads.

Yours sincerely,

T. Johnson

PS. I know you'll do your best.

Dear Messenger,

I write to agree with the readers who wrote to you in the April and June issue of the Messenger (page 22).

Goddard Hall Road is just as bad. Often I return home to find banana skins, sweet wrappers and rubbish outside my home and in my front garden. I am not the only resident who has this problem.

Please can residents educate their children and visitors to be environmentally friendly and take pride in the area in which we live. I have lived on this road since 1961, and as a child, my siblings and I had to sweep our back gardens and fronts of our home on a weekly basis.

Please can we have a police officer or traffic warden to patrol Fir Vale shops for most of the day as the customers of some of these shops think they are above the law and park on the double yellow lines. It is very frustrating trying to get home and one lane is constantly blocked with one or more cars causing considerable delays.

Name and address supplied

The war to end all wars

Every war that has been fought, is down to feelings and religions,
We must look to the future, time now to make decisions,
Decide on things that we think is right,
Make the dark clouds disappear, so we can see the light.
The violence and the rage, will be washed away by rain, if we
fight our war for peace, then the sun will shine again,
Understanding is our aim, this is where we must begin,
It won't be a losing battle but one that we can win,
Language is a barrier, one that we can now knock down,
By giving out a handshake, a smile, but not a frown,
Each bullet that we shoot must have our victory in mind,
Knowing that this war of ours will bring peace to all mankind.

Sylvia Reaney

We welcome your letters but please include contact details as we cannot print anonymous letters. We also reserve the right to edit letters.



Burngreave Community Wardens

The aim of the Community Warden Service is to improve the quality of life in your area by:

- Reporting issues related to crime and disorder such as burglary, fly tipping, drug dealing, youth nuisance and anti-social behaviour.
- Providing a highly visible presence on the estates, on foot and in vehicles, with a view to deterring and preventing anti-social behaviour and crime.
- Engaging with and supporting tenants and residents on all local issues.

The warden service is currently run seven days a week, and all information obtained from tenants and residents is handled in the strictest confidence.

If you have any queries or want to request a patrol please telephone the Community Wardens on (0114) 293 0000.



Tackling anti-social behaviour

Sheffield Homes are committed to working with tenants and residents to prevent anti-social behaviour. We believe people should be able to enjoy peace and quiet in their own home and feel safe and secure in the areas where they live.

There are a number of steps against anti-social behaviour that Sheffield Homes, the Police and our partner agencies can take, including, verbal warnings, written warnings and cautions, eviction of tenants, fixed penalty notices and much more.

We aim to deal with your complaint as quickly as possible and all cases will be strictly confidential.

To find out more about reporting anti-social behaviour please contact Sheffield Homes Anti-Social Behaviour Team:

Tel: (0114) 293 0000

**Burngreave Housing Office,
177 Spital Hill, Pitsmoor, S4 7LF.**

www.sheffieldhomes.org.uk

Translation/interpretation service is available.



Pitsmoor Dental Health Centre

Wholistic Dental Care

Dr Alan Moffatt
Dr K M Ackom-Mensah

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Mobile: 07831 116 340



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Contact Phil Wood For More Details
Gym: (0114) 279 9052 Mobile: 07946 250 587

Burngreave Community Action Forum (BCAF)

BCAF is a local forum made up of people who live and/or work in Burngreave.

New premises for BCAF

On October 6th, BCAF will move into new premises at 82 Spital Hill (between Burngreave Ashram and Ozmens Supermarket). We hope this location will make us more accessible to the local community. BCAF is here to ensure that local people can take part in and influence decisions that affect them.

Check out our website

BCAF has a brand new website at www.bcaf.org.uk. There's still a lot of work to do, but have a look and let us know what you think – we want to hear your suggestions on how the site could be improved.

September quarterly Forum meeting

Those of you who were able to attend will receive a copy of the Forum Newsletter which will also feature on our new website. If you want a copy of the newsletter, please contact us:

Come into the office on Spital Hill

Contact us via email at:
enquiries@bcaf.org.uk

Call us on 0114 272 8008

BCAF works to help local people help themselves to change and transform the area.



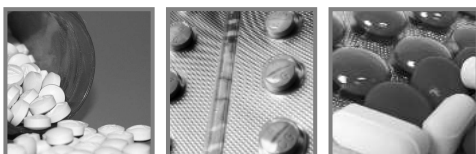
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