



## Burngreave thinks Global

In January, Burngreave residents were thinking about global events, celebrating the inauguration of President Obama in America and demonstrating about the war in Gaza.

All photos by Lesley Boulton



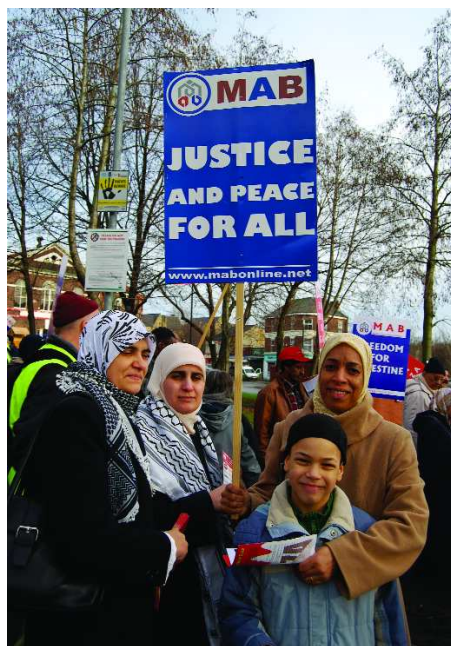
On Saturday 24th January, residents marched in support of the people of Gaza.

Around 350 people set off from Ellesmere Green towards Devonshire Green, carrying placards with messages condemning the deaths of Palestinians, the siege on Gaza and the blockade of humanitarian aid.

A real cross section of Sheffield citizens took part in this show of solidarity, called by the Sheffield Muslim Association of Britain, Sheffield Stop the War Coalition, the UK Islamic Mission, the United Council of Mosques and others, with the support of the Sheffield Palestine Solidarity Campaign along side Burngreave Young Advisors.

Speakers called for on-going support of the Palestinian people, for governments to engage properly with Palestinian elected representatives to negotiate a lasting peace, and for a boycott of Israeli goods as long as Israel continues its attacks on Gaza and the West Bank. All speakers condemned the BBC's recent decision not to broadcast an appeal for humanitarian aid.

Burngreave's Young Advisors, called for young people to "think global and act



local", to call for peace in Gaza and for young people in Burngreave.

Young people from Burngreave on the march said:

*"I came to join the demonstration, it's sad and awful what has happened."* Wala

*"People are being killed in Gaza, and I feel mad about it."* Wafa

*"We came here to support Gaza and to say we are with you and on your side against what Israel has done. And that we should help them, by giving money - I'd donate blood too if they need it."* Khalid

*"I came on the demonstration because I am outraged with what has happened in Palestine."* Meriam

*"It's not a matter of religion, it's not because I am a Muslim that I'm here. It's a humanitarian issue. It's because innocent people are dying."* Roumaissa

On Sunday 25th January, members of Burngreave and Sheffield's black community gathered at SADACCA - with a sense of happiness and pride, the crowd celebrated the historic achievement of President Barack Obama.



Glasses were raised and speeches were given. Ishaq Haywood spoke of the history of American and British Black experience, the difficulties and racism people had faced when they came to this country and the segregation they had faced in America. He emphasised that it was amazing for all black people to witness a black president in their lifetimes, but it was not just for black people: Obama's success brings people together and is something we can all celebrate.



SADACCA Chair, Des Smith, received a portrait of Barack Obama from Mr Allen, who had visited America in December. The event also celebrated the achievement of Dorrett Buckley-Greaves, honoured with an MBE.

The celebration concluded with an uplifting poem from the children of SADACCA study support, who told those gathered that "Children will be the leaders of tomorrow."

## Unity is Strength Watoto Pre-School

BWRC Watoto Pre-school, established for 11 years, are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and dynamic Early Years Practitioner to take up this exciting post in our busy nursery.



### **1 Full-time Qualified Early Years Practitioner** **37.5 hours per week** **Salary: £11,174**

We are particularly looking to appoint someone who has the skills, experience and knowledge to be able to provide high quality childcare to children under the age of two.

We are an inner city nursery providing quality childcare to a diverse group of children and families.

The appointed person is required to work within a multi-disciplinary staff team working in partnership with parents and other professionals and have knowledge of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

This post offers an excellent opportunity for someone with relevant knowledge, experience and qualifications to provide a key role in the provision of services for our children and their families.

Candidates must have NNEB, NVQ Level 3 in Childcare with Endorsements, Btec'97 onwards, NVQ3 in Early Years Care and Education with successful post qualifying experience.

**For application pack/informal enquiries call**

**Sharon /Lillian on Telephone: 0114 2751817**

**Closing date Thursday 12th February 2009, 5pm.**

## Teaching Assistant for Bilingual Learners (Somali)

**King Edward VII School and Language College**  
**2 hours per week initially, term time only (£20 per hour)**  
**Closing Date: 11th February 2009**



King Edward VII School is a successful Secondary School and Language College with an excellent reputation. We seek to appoint a Teaching Assistant to work with our students of Somali origin. The successful applicant will teach the Somali language to accreditation level.

Starting in March 2009, the post will be temporary until the end of the current school year. You will be required to work 2 hours per week, term time only, one day a week, (preferred day Wednesday), 3.45pm – 5.45pm; it is possible that the post will be extended and increased in the next academic year.

### **You will have:**

- Experience of working in a school either paid or as a volunteer, or other experience of working with young people
- Some understanding of language teaching
- An understanding of the Somali community and the needs of its young people
- An enthusiastic, committed approach and the flexibility to work independently as well as part of a team

*Must be fluent in Somali.*

A teaching qualification is not necessary. Training and support is provided.

This post involves working with children so if successful you will be required to apply for a disclosure of criminal records check at an enhanced level.

**Application forms are available from Lorna Barton at the school.**  
**Tel: 0114 266 2518. E-mail: lbarton@kes.sheffield.sch.uk**

For informal enquiries about the nature of the post, ring the Language College Director, Eva Lamb: 0114 229 6573 and leave your name and number.

## Abbeyfield Festival 2009

With the end of funding for festivals in Burngreave, the area's main festival at Abbeyfield needs the support of residents and people working locally to make it happen this year.

Following concern raised at the last Forum meeting, Burngreave Community Action Forum are planning a meeting in February for anyone who is interested in making a festival happen in 2009.

If you are interested or you can help, contact Steve Gayle at BCAF on 272 8008, or email enquiries@bcaf.org.uk

## Fishing club for Burngreave

**Anyone interested in starting or joining a fishing club?**

Activities could include:

- Meeting once a week to fish on the River Don, share ideas, repair equipment
- Making your own fishing tackle
- Entering or organising matches

*Grants for equipment may be available*

Interest from all residents welcome

**Contact John Lawson on 07932 927 153**

## JAZnet

### Call Centre & Internet Access

6 Grimesthorpe Road South,  
Sheffield S4 7HQ (Opposite Vestry Hall)  
Tel: (0114) 272 1171 • Fax: (0114) 249 8318  
Email: Jaznet@hotmail.co.uk

### Our services

- Fax: Send/Receive
- Low Cost International Calls
- Internet Access
- Phone cards and top ups
- Print, Photocopy, Scanning and Laminating service available
- Transfer of VHS and Camcorder tapes to DVD
- Computer repairs

### Entertainment

DJ Sound Systems & Lighting hire,  
For Stages, Parties and Wedding Functions

# Trials and arrests

Burngreave has been the focus of several murder trials recently. Faria Khan, now 29, of Scott Rd, was convicted of the murder of her husband, Nawajid Ali Khan, after she ran him down outside the takeaway where he worked on Chesterfield Rd. Nawajid had previously worked in the Mangla for 6 years.

In her trial, Ms Khan complained of domestic abuse. The court heard she recruited rap group Dem Boyz to carry out an attack on her husband. They became involved because Faria's friend, Neelam Kauser, was the girlfriend of one of the group, Brian Yorachi – also known as DbSque. Dem Boyz argued they had just tried to scare Nawajid for Faria – a claim which was rejected by the jury.

Neelam Kauser and Brian Yorachi were amongst those convicted. They were due to be sentenced on 30th January.

Despite recent concern over gangs, the police view was that this was not a gang-related killing.

The trial of Curtis Goring and Danny Hockenhull, charged with the murder of Brett Blake in Uniq nightclub in June, is underway at Sheffield Crown Court. The court has heard how the three were friends who fell out and it led to a fatal stabbing in a crowded club.

The police have made 21 arrests in the murder case of Tarek Chaiboub, with Michael Chattoo, Javan Galloway, Denzil Ramsey, Nigel Ramsay and Daud Ahmed all having been in court. Altogether 6 people (including two under-18s) have been charged with murder and others have been charged with various offences relating to the stabbing of Tarek the week before his killing.

## Parents and gangs

The Targeted Youth Support Team have the task of preventing young people being drawn into violent crime. On Thursday 11th December, a meeting was held at the Vestry Hall to advise parents about gang culture.

The meeting, which was organised by the Yemeni Community Association (YCA) and funded by Burngreave New Deal and the police, looked at the danger signs of gang involvement and what parents can do if they are concerned.

The meeting was addressed by Inspector Paul McCurry of the Targeted Youth Support Team or Gang Team. Paul stressed that, as a young person, like everyone, he had hung around with friends on the streets. Being in a gang, in itself, is not a crime but being in a gang can increase the risks of getting into trouble.

He talked of "risk factors" around gang involvement - which may include temporary exclusions from school, siblings involved in crime, low educational attainment - and warning signs, such as absence from school, loss of interest in positive activities like sports clubs, unexplained money or possessions, distinctive clothing, badges or tags, unexplained physical injuries or being vague about staying out late or new friends.

Parents can help prevent their children from getting into trouble by talking with their children and being interested in their school activities. He advised parents to know their child's friends and their families. Make sure you are a positive role model, as children will learn from their experience and teach them how to resist peer pressure and deal with conflicts without using violence. Set clear boundaries, but keep to your own rules and avoid double standards.

**To speak with or refer a young person to the gang team, ring: 283 5927.**



## The Editorial

The Messenger has recently been accepted for official registration by the Charity Commission, recognising that our work is for public benefit. We now invite you to our general meeting to amend our constitution with the necessary changes.

**The meeting will be at 6.30pm on Wednesday 25th February 2009 at Abbeyfield House.** We propose to change our object to:

*"To develop the capacity and skills of the members of the socially and economically disadvantaged community of the Burngreave Ward in the City of Sheffield (the area of benefit) in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society, in particular but not exclusively by the production and publication of a community newspaper."*

Everyone is welcome – please let us know if you would like to come so we can organise the refreshments.

**Visit our website for extra news, jobs and features:**

[www.burngreavemessenger.org](http://www.burngreavemessenger.org)

### Messenger Info

Editorial meetings: 6.30 pm at Abbeyfield Park House  
Next meeting: Wed, 18th Feb  
All welcome.

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This month's team: Ian Clifford, Michelle Cook, Kirstin Daly, Rohan Francis, Caroline Harris, Carrie Hedderwick, Douglas Johnson, Jamie Marriott, John Mellor, Lisa Swift.



# Wicker traders join forces

Story: Douglas Johnson  
Photo: Lesley Boulton

**After two years of road works and floods, the Wicker improvements are now mostly finished. For Burngreave residents it's definitely worth stopping on the way in to town. This issue we feature the Wicker Café.**

Wicker traders are coming together in a new forum to promote the area. The second meeting of the new Wicker Community Forum, on 20th January 2009, was hosted at the SYAC business centre and chaired by its operations director, Raymond Walton.

Traders had been generally disappointed by the pre-Christmas event to "re-launch" the Wicker – an event featuring singer Richard Hawley. Traders had been told of a festive lighting-up of the Wicker Arches, but this didn't happen. Council planners at the meeting said there is a new plan to install permanent lighting on the main arch and one trader confirmed that drilling of holes had already started.

Network Rail is reported to have a full-scale clean and refurbishment of twenty-two of the arches in the viaduct over the next 18 months.



Traders also talked about the likely impact of the Tesco development at Spital Hill. The next meeting is on Tuesday 24th February at 4.30pm at SYAC.

## Wicker Café

**Rob and Sarah Armytage run the Wicker Café, and over the last 12 years have seen a lot of changes in the clientele and fashions of the area.**

Their café is compact but friendly and combines an attractive display with a

welcoming environment. Customers can eat in or take out. Rob also does a delivery service and buffets.

Rob tells me he has seen lots of the old industry move away from the back streets and hopes that the new offices and flats will fill up and regenerate the Wicker area. The change is reflected in what customers are asking for; Rob says:

*"We're changing our menu from being a greasy spoon to selling a selection of coffees, paninis and home-made cakes every day."*

Before coming to the Wicker Café, Rob and Sarah (trained at catering college), used to run the Pinegrove Country Club at Stannington – in its heyday, well before it ran into administration and got burnt down. At the time it was massively popular; Rob and Sarah were glad to get away from an 80-hour week and run their own place. They also took on the Banner's Café at Attercliffe but had to give this up when Sarah had a stroke and brain haemorrhage at the age of 39.

Rob admits to being one of the businesses that did well from the long-running improvements on the Wicker, with the café being very popular with site workers. It's a quiet January now but Rob and Sarah's skill in adapting to what customers ask for will stand them in good stead.

**Café open:  
Monday to Friday, 7am - 2pm**

# Rainbow's End opens

Story: John Mellor | Photos: Richard Hanson

**After a year of planning "Rainbow's End" community charity shop, based on the ground floor of Sorby House on Spital Hill, opened its doors to the public on 6th December 2008. The official opening ceremony (conducted by a "Mickey Mouse" look-alike) was a very happy occasion which attracted a large crowd from all sections of the community.**

Since its opening the shop has experienced steady trading. Yvonne Hayes, volunteer co-ordinator, said "We've been overwhelmed by the generosity of everyone who has donated a wide variety of excellent quality goods, including clothing of all types and sizes, crockery, toys, bicycles, books, videos, instruments and bric-a-brac. There is a good turnover of stock so if we don't have what you want on a particular day it's always worth coming back later."



A unique feature of the new shop is the soft seating area where customers and volunteers can sit down in comfort to enjoy a chat. The only problem is that several customers have asked if the sofa and easy chairs are for sale! However, other items of furniture can be sold and collection can be arranged where necessary.

Customers have commented that Burngreave has long needed a shop of this kind and that it is already proving its value for the local community. It is open six days a week and staffing is provided by a team of nearly 20 volunteers who

each give a few hours of their time on a regular basis. All the volunteers I spoke to are really enjoying the experience and value the new skills they are learning. Training and induction sessions are provided for volunteers so that previous experience is not needed – just a willingness to learn.

If you are interested in volunteering (even for just an hour or so per week) contact Yvonne Hayes on 07954 149 297.

**To donate goods, contact Janet or Morag on 243 3137.**

# Angry residents on Skinnerthorpe

Story: Lisa Swift

**Over 25 residents and ex-residents of Skinnerthorpe Road attended a meeting at Pakistan Advice Centre in January, angry about broken promises made by the Council.**

Only 20 homes remain occupied on the street, where demolition has already begun. The last few families have been waiting for new houses on Earl Marshal for 4 years. The new homes were promised by the Council as part of the Masterplan and Housing Market Renewal programme, which has funded the demolition of their homes.

The residents came with a list of questions for the Cabinet member for housing, Lib Dem Councillor Bob

McCann, but one question was top:

*"When will our new homes be ready?"*

But the Council found it difficult to answer this question. One resident said:

*"You gave us a promise - that you would not touch Skinnerthorpe Road before building on Earl Marshal. You said 'trust us' but look at us now - we're living in terrible conditions"*

The Council denied they had made this explicit promise, only that they had 'hoped' it would be that way.

*"We've been coming to these meetings for years, we just want dates. When will the new houses be ready? I have lived here 30 years and it's been fantastic; we've never had any bother. Now there's graffiti, fires and tyres slashed on cars. You said new houses for our old ones, we just want an answer."*

The Council could not give the answer. They have to get a private developer to

build, which is a lengthy process, but in the current climate there is very little interest in large building programmes. A discussion about the process revealed that the minimum time it could take would be two years, but this was optimistic.

A resident asked, "Why can't the Council build them?"

The Council said they had no money to build new homes. Residents were left in an impossible position with the valuation of their homes plummeting. Another resident said, "My offer has gone down to £55k, what can I buy with that?"

The Council did not seem to have a plan for this situation. The Pakistan Advice Centre, who are now supporting the residents, advised the East Regeneration Team and the Councillor to take into account what residents had said, and to come up with a way forward. Cllr McCann said he would come back to the residents within a month.



Volunteers for the walking bus receiving their Area Panel Award January 2009, along side the Community Warden,s recognised for their contribution to the community.

## Be part of the walking bus

Story: John Mellor & Gaby Spinks

Photo: Anwar Suliman

**The Walking Bus was started in October 2006 by Community Wardens and local volunteers to help parents, children and the environment.**

Getting on board the Walking Bus is an exciting and healthy way to start the school day. The 'drivers' and 'conductors' ensure that the children are kept safe at all times when crossing roads and travelling along pavements. Research has proved that children who walk to school arrive fresh and ready for learning and their brains are wide awake. Walking buses also try to help keep traffic off the

road and away from school gates.

The Walking Bus operates on two routes. The first starts at the junction of Scott Road and Ellesmere Road North at 8.20am. It goes along Scott Road past Kirton, Blayton and Sturton Roads, picking up waiting 'passengers' en route. It then turns left into Abbeyfield Road and along Firshill Road to the pedestrian crossing on Barnsley Road. Children attending Firs Hill School alight at the gates and the rest continue up to St Catherine's, overtaking the traffic jam!

The second route is a "Park and Stride" service which starts at the Sheffield United Football Academy where parents can drop off their children who are then

taken down to St Catherine's School by a team of staff and parents.

There is plenty of room for more children to come on board, but volunteer 'drivers' and 'conductors' are needed, especially when New Deal funding for the Community Wardens comes to an end at the end of March.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer for the Walking Bus should contact Gaby Spinks (extended school worker at St Catherine's) on 242 1177.

## Wardens under threat

Burngreave has had a 12-strong Wardens Team for five years, but their New Deal funding ends in March and Sheffield Homes, who employ the team, cannot confirm how many jobs will be lost.

Sheffield Homes announced plans up to 200 job cuts late last year and negotiations with the Unions are ongoing. News on the outcome is due in February but our Wardens team is unlikely to escape the cuts. Their work to support schemes like the walking bus, local youth clubs and helping residents feel safe is likely to be affected and, with it, the positive relationships they've developed with the community.

See the Messenger website for updates.

# Celebrating Fir Vale's Success



Story: Kalsoom Ilyas | Photos: Ersalan Hussain & Sherin T Rajan, Fir Vale School photography club

## Fir Vale School's Presentation Evening held on 26th November celebrated the 10th Anniversary of its re-launch from the old Earl Marshal School in 1998.

A special appearance was made by Levi Roots, the 2006 winner of 'Dragons Den', to show support and give inspiration to school leavers and current students alike.

Levi asked his mother for advice before taking part in the BBC programme. She told him, "Read Psalm 23 and then you will come back as a dragon slayer." This gave him the courage to put his faith in his Reggae Reggae Sauce to slay those fiery dragons.

Two of the dragons were blown away with Levi's presentation; they committed £25,000 investment for 20% share in return. In early 2007, his sauce hit the shelves of many leading supermarkets and became an instant success.

The atmosphere at Fir Vale School was ecstatic; people were inspired by his motivation and dedication to his dream. It was also a privilege for the school to have their current Headteacher, Lesley Bowes, and two former heads, Hugh

Howe and Ken Cook, present. School Governors from the past 10 years were also there and acknowledged for their work towards school development.

The main event was celebrating the success of last years Y11s, many achieving five A\*-C grades, and more than 1 in 5 students achieving three or more A\*-A grades.

The Presentation Evening highlighted the students' success and achievements, showing they can achieve their potential.

*"Having Mr. Howe back, the person who made Fir Vale what it is today, built up an amazing atmosphere within the audience. With Fir Vale being a business and enterprise school, they made the right choice by inviting a role model like Levi Roots."* Aysha Begum (Y11 Pupil)

*"The evening was fantastic, it was great to meet Levi Roots and shake his hand on stage while receiving my award."* Aishah Baroo (Y11 Pupil)

The evening was spectacular, everyone enjoyed themselves and there are even higher expectations for the current Y11s, who are aiming for 60% A\*-C grades.

# Cultural challenge at the Vestry Hall

Story: Philip Weiss

**Southern E Media Education Arts (SEMEA) is based in the Vestry Offices. It supports intercultural exchange and team building between Southern artists and the community.**

In December, as part of its Burngreave Cultural Industries Challenge, the project brought together the band Son Para Todos led by Armando Murillo, the Somali Female Messengers led by Amina Suleiman and SOSA-XA! Sounds of Southern Africa led by Mandla Sibanda, who appeared recently for the BBC 'Last Choir Standing' festival. They explored the 'Lost African Chord' to the enthusiastic crowd of adults and young people in the Vestry Hall.



## Coming up this year

SEMEA's Kutamba Kids! will run a February half term project to engage young people in dance, theatre, and digital arts. The project is also launching the premiere of a new play- Dambudzo Revisited. Directed by Ethel Dlamini, it will explore the life of this extraordinary African author.

On April 25/26 the Challenge launches Zambuko/Izibuko Cultural Crossings with workshops in African harmonies, mbira, theatre and African film. The project will be joined by local mbira artists, SOSA-XA, Zango and Channel 4 film director Simon Bright who will conduct master classes.

**Contact the SEMEA team at the Vestry Offices. Email: [arts@semea.org.uk](mailto:arts@semea.org.uk) or telephone 213 3803. Check out some of what they have been up to in their newsletters at <http://www.semea.org.uk>**



# The NHS recruits more than Doctors and Nurses

Do you want to know more about the types of jobs available?

Jobs are available in Reception, Administration, Medical Personnel, Clinical Support, Building Services, Nursing, Domestic Services and many others

**What do you need to do to be successful?**

Come to one of our open days for advice and information

**Pakistani Advice Centre**  
**Wednesday 18th February 2009**  
 10am–2pm

**Whiteways Junior School**  
 Whiteways Road  
**Thursday 12th March 2009**  
 8:30am–11:30am

**Owler Brook NI School**  
 Wensley Street  
**Thursday 2nd April 2009**  
 1pm–6pm



For more information contact Ana-Maria, Burngreave Opportunities, Forum House, 35 Spital Hill, Sheffield, S4 7LD. Telephone: 0114 272 6096



# Emergency and Support

Ever thought of working for South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Services, South Yorkshire Ambulance Services, Sheffield City Centre Ambassadors or Community Wardens?

Do you know what opportunities are available?

Not just Front Line Services.

Do you know what skills and qualities you need?

Come to our 5 week pre-recruitment information sessions at the Fir Vale Enterprise Centre, based in Fir Vale School.

Starts Wednesday 4th February, 9.30–11.30am

An evening course starts Thursday 26th February, 6–8pm

Childcare is available.



For further information and to reserve a place, please contact Ana-Maria at Burngreave Opportunities on 0114 272 6096 or email ana-maria@bopps.org.uk



## BURNGREAVE BCIC



## CULTURAL INDUSTRIES



## CHALLENGE

<http://sheffieldchallenge.org.uk>  
[www.semea.org.uk](http://www.semea.org.uk)



**Kutamba Kids!**  
 Half Term School 16-20 Feb

11.00am to 2.00pm  
 Digital Design, theatre,  
 video, dance, drums  
 ages 11 to 16

**Indaba! My children stories and arts**  
 Ages 5 to 11

**Adult courses:**  
 Mac OSX basic skills  
 Fridays 6 March to 3 April  
 10.00am to 1.00pm

**Arts Marketing and Management Challenge**  
 Thursdays 5 March to 2 April 5.00pm to 7.00pm

Venue: SEMEA  
 @the'V'Space,  
 Vestry Offices,  
 2 Burngreave Rd,  
 Sheffield S3 9DD  
[arts@semea.org.uk](mailto:arts@semea.org.uk)  
 Tel:0114 2133803



## Free advice and support to help you stop smoking!



The Sheffield Stop Smoking Service has trained stop smoking advisers ready to give you information on nicotine replacement products and other aids to stopping smoking and provide support to you after you have stopped smoking.

You can get support to quit in the following places:

### Community Clinics

Burngreave Health Shop, 131 Spital Hill S3  
 Firth Park Clinic, North Quadrant S5

### GP Surgeries

Burngreave Surgery, 5 Burngreave Rd S3  
 Melrose Surgery, 120a Burngreave Rd S3  
 Sheffield MC, 21 Spital Hill S3  
 Upwell St Surgery, 93 Upwell St S4  
 Pagehall MC, 101 Owler Lane S4  
 Norwood MC, 360 Herries Rd S5  
 Herries Rd Surgery, 450 Herries Rd S5  
 You must be a registered patient with the surgery to access support

### Pharmacies

Wicker Pharmacy, 55–59 The Wicker  
 Rowlands Pharmacy, 149 Burngreave Rd S3  
 Lloyds Pharmacy, 17–19 Pagehall Rd S4  
 Peak Pharmacy, 427 Herries Rd S5

We have 152 pharmacies & GP's providing the service across Sheffield.

**0800 068 4490**

Join over a million people in quitting on  
**No Smoking Day 11th March 2009**

*"We know it's hard to quit. It's easier with our help."*



## Fir Vale Youth Club

Story: Brent Moya

**Burngreave's efforts to keep kids off the streets have received a boost with the opening of a new Youth Club just down the road.**

Situated at the Old Firth Park Library, the club is aimed at kids from age 8 to 18 and offers a variety of activities on a Monday evening.

The club's reception area, complete with tuck shop, leads to a spacious main hall. There was a real buzz about the place with youngsters crowded around the selection of PC and TV screens, playing their favourite music tracks and generally having fun. The main hall saw a game of snooker reach its climax while there was also a game of Chess well under way.

Martin Williamson of Sheffield Futures says the younger generation have proved the focal point. "The kids have been instrumental in the development of this project, we need to provide constructive activities for young people in the area so this is a good start."

Martin runs the club alongside Ian Wardle. "Ian has overseen the general development of the project but we tend to share responsibility of running the club. Its my turn tonight!" he said.

The project is being joint funded by Area North, Sheffield Futures and Chilypep. Martin says they plan to expand in the near future, "We have put in a bid with Sheffield Homes for more equipment and hope to increase our profile within Burngreave."

There are plans to develop activities in the park during the summer months as well as providing a varied amount of fun and educational trips. "We want to give young people a say in what they actually want to do" he went on.

The project has been approved by South Yorkshire Police who have pledged to provide two community support officers for every opening. "The police have been great with us allowing their staff to oversee our sessions."

The club is open on Mondays and offers the use of a cyber cafe, video games, snooker, table tennis and even a DJ table for the musically inspired.

Sessions take place between 5 and 8pm.

## Youth work residential

Due to the success of the last youth work training residential, Streetworx and Football Unites Racism Divides (FURD) are running another training residential in March.



If you know any young people age 16 - 25 that are interested in youth and community work, then let them know about: Accredited Youth Work Training (delivered in a residential weekend format), partnership work with FURD.

By participating in this training, young people will get an insight into the youth and community work practice and gain or improve skills in communication, planning, delivery, supervision and report writing.

Six young people from the Burngreave area and six young people citywide will take part in the training and residential, which are free of charge.

**If you know any young people age 16+ that are interested, Contact Uzma Bibi at Streetworx on 07894 395 815 or 272 3628.**

## Minilympics

**A spectacular athletic event, to highlight the potential and achievement of young people aged 12-16, will be taking place on the 28th of February.**

Organised by passionate and committed young individuals who believe sport truly unites people, we are incredibly keen to see recognition of those that accomplish sporting success.

The event will run from the EIS (English Institute of Sport) Sheffield, with the aim of overcoming cultural, religious, and class barriers, giving young people an opportunity to demonstrate their talents.

**If anyone is interested in being involved, taking part, or if you would like to sponsor the event, contact:  
Afraah Alkheili: 07852 420 024,  
Farhan Ahmed: 07926 960 181.**



## Jeevan project



### Supporting young people with disabilities

Story: Farhan Ahmed

**After almost six years in the Fir Vale community, the Jeevan project has just moved to the Pakistan Advice Centre building. Jeevan aims to provide young people with disabilities the means to build their confidence through group work.**

One of the project's main aims is to show that disabled women are not hidden. Social Services says there are a 'high number of Pakistani families with disabilities' but young Pakistani women

are not accessing support. So far the project has focused on supporting these young women but, with a new Youth Opportunities Fund grant, they can now cater for young men too.

Supported by a Sheffield Futures youth worker, the group organises a forum on the last Saturday of every month, in partnership with young people's empowerment project Chilypep.

Members of this group have had training from Sheffield Futures and work closely with special schools. They found an alarming number of Asian young men and women who are isolated from community provision and services outside school. Shehla Hussain, 23, a support worker, said:

*"I am currently doing outreach and contacting families to talk about the project. Doing home visits has been part of the Jeevan project since the start - helping support young women to live independently."*

Sonam Nawaz, 19, completed training in July:

*"I try to do outreach work with schools, publicising and recruiting potential volunteers."*

Azeem Najib, 18, employed since November, said:

*"I want to develop youth work for young men and I have good communication skills."*

**Come and volunteer. Just put aside two hours at most per week to help support the project. If you are 16+, then contact us at the Pakistan Advice Centre, Page Hall Road, Tel. 261 9130**

## Youth Entertainment Club

Story & photo: Derrick Okrah

**A study by the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) shows that the lack of 'somewhere to go in the evening' is a regular grievance amongst teenagers.**

The Youth Entertainment Club opened on the 6th January and promises to give young people in Burngreave a base to meet and socialise, with low cost access to facilities such as Xbox games, table tennis, air hockey, pool and table football.

Omar Mohammed, the leader in charge, was very pleased to give the Messenger a tour of this exciting new club in the Vestry Hall:

*"I have a lot of interest in young people. Teaching in Parkwood High School and the Arabic Language School challenges me every day to do my best for these young people; they are the cornerstone of our community."*



Omar started this initiative with support from New Deal, friends and other volunteers. "I intend the club to be running for a long time," he added.

Everyone aged 12-20 years, regardless of gender and background, is welcome to become a member. The club not only provides entertainment facilities, but can help with homework problems and give advice on a range of issues. One member of the club commented:



*"All I can say to everyone is: come and take part - the people are friendly, the staff are supportive and the atmosphere is fantastic." "It is a place where you can do something with other people and get support while doing it."*

The club is open Monday to Friday from 5pm to 10pm and 2pm to 9pm at weekends. Omar urges parents to encourage their children be part of the club: "together we can help keep our streets safe, children protected and equipped for a better future."

# Area Panel Awards

Story: Caroline Harris  
Photos: Anwar Suliman

The Burngreave Area Panel Awards on Friday 23rd January was an uplifting occasion, with many local dignitaries attending, including our own Jackie Drayton and Steve Jones.



Also in attendance were the Lord Mayor Jane Bird, Richard Caborn and David Blunkett who gave us a wonderful rendition of 'the Wheels on the Bus go round and round' in appreciation of the Walking Bus, who claimed the first award. These volunteers have kept this service going and deservedly received their awards. They were joined on stage by the Wardens, who have supported the project, and were awarded for all their work in the community.



which provides a safe area for all youngsters to safely play and gather together. Naveed Hussain also received an individual award for his commitment and ability as a playworker at the Adventure Playground.

credit for their outstanding work with Young People all received full recognition for their hard work. A full list of winners can be found on the Messenger website.

Firshill Tenants and Residents Association had a special mention, with many local people freely giving their time and energy to this excellent project which benefits the community. Julia Pidd, Sheila Habershaw, Pauline West received individual awards for their long standing contribution to the TARA.

Richard Caborn gave his 'Farewell to Burngreave' speech as he hands over to David Blunkett. Following the award of Isilda Lang, recognised for her work with children and the Chilean community over many years, Caborn gave special mention to the Chilean refugees who have received support from Sheffield when they were displaced by the Pinochet Regime.

Perhaps special mention should be made to John Turner who inadvertently trod on the paw of David Blunkett's dog eliciting this response from David... "Don't worry, Tony Blair did that once!"

Friends of Pitsmoor Adventure Playground received awards for their voluntary work supporting the playground. This is an essential service

Individuals from the Messenger, Sage Greenfingers, Pitsmoor Credit Union, the Health Service and those who deserve

Thanks were given to all the staff, caterers and florists who worked behind the scenes to make this a memorable event for Burngreave. This was the last Area Panel Awards as later this year it will become part of a new Area Assembly. Area Coordinator Andy Shallice, received a cheer for his award, job changes mean an uncertain future but Andy said "I will remember the last four years for the rest of my life."

## Help needed at Firs Hill TARA

Firshill Tenants and Residents Association needs new members to take on committee roles. A number of long standing members have recently retired, but the committee is still 6 members strong. Current Vacancies are Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

The TARA covers Firshill estate, Firshill Close Pitsmoor Road and Roe Lane. The TARA supports tenants, giving advice, reporting problems and ensuring repairs are carried out. The Decent Homes scheme comes to the estate in April - the TARA will have a vital role helping residents during the improvements.

Contact Pauline West on 261 6980

## Tom Gould 1918 - 2009

We are very sorry to announce that Tom Gould, 90, who featured last issue, died in early January. He collapsed from a heart attack at his home and died peacefully in hospital. Although he had no living family, he will be remembered by many friends in Burngreave as always smiling and cheerful.

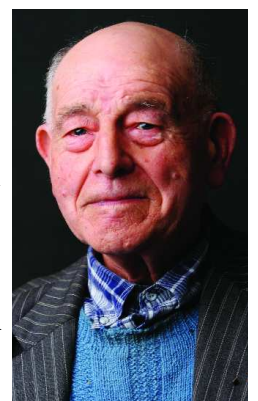


Photo: Carl Rose



# Diane Haimeed receives Night of Honour Award

Diane Haimeed has been a youth worker in Burngreave and Fir Vale for over 6 years, working with Sheffield Futures and the Yemeni Community Association's Study Support Project. In November she received the City's recognition for her hard work, in the Sheffield Night of Honours Awards. From a long list of Sheffield's workers and volunteers, Diane was chosen for the Investors in Children Award.

*Study Support students Rafaidah Al-Duais, Nama Hussan, Aneela Arshad, interviewed Diane for the Messenger.*

## Who influenced you to become an Investor in Children?

Firstly it was my old boss Abdul Shaif, who was the chair of the Yemeni Community Association. I started out as a volunteer at the Milan Centre. I could see there was a lack of services for young people and I wanted to fill the gap.

## How did you feel when you were chosen for the award out of loads of people?

I was really shocked, I didn't think I was going to win the award. There were lots of people who deserved the award and had worked really hard. I do the work because I love it, and I never expected to get an award for it.

## Who has helped you achieve what you have?

My family, friends and the community have helped me.



## What GCSEs did you get to do your job?

I passed my GCSEs - I used to go to Earl Marshal, before it was Fir Vale school, and it was failing, but I still got 8 GCSEs A-C, which shows you can do anything when you set your mind to it. But with this job is about having a passion more than anything. I started doing the job voluntarily and then was offered paid work

## What did you want to be when you were young?

An air hostess. I really wanted to travel. But I like working with young people, I get great satisfaction helping them progress to higher education or to become positive role models for others.

## What advice would you give to young people?

Study and work hard. And take advantage of the support available to them.

## How would you feel if you saw one of your students getting an award on TV?

I'd be delighted, and really proud. I think I'd cry!

## What do you think that you still haven't achieved?

A lot more can be done for young people – it doesn't happen and that disappoints me. I wish there was more funding to do more with young people.

## Are you happy with the amount of money you get from funding?

No! Funding for Study Support ends in July and it's a real worry. What will happen to the young people? What will happen to those who need help to get to college or those that are excluded from school? We have to keep looking for funding to keep it going.

## Do you do any other jobs?

This is all I do, it takes up all my time. We're always trying new things so it's never boring. It's about job satisfaction, and I get a lot out of seeing the benefits for young people. I'd do it even if I didn't get paid.

## Right Futures fundraise for Palestine

**Nine young people from the Yemeni Community, aged between 17 and 19, have come together to form a group called Right Futures. The aim of this group is to organise activities and events for the community.**

Following the devastating war in Gaza during January, the group have decided to hold a one day fundraiser on the **7th February, 3-8pm at the Vestry Hall.**

The event will be for women only. There will be a sale of secondhand clothes, shoes and books, there will be food, a raffle and hopefully some pampering to make it a real night out.

### They need your support!

The young people need residents to donate any household goods, clothes, shoes, books and anything else which can be sold on the day.

Collection of any donations can be arranged if you can't bring them.

They also need volunteers with skills such as hairdressing, nail art or Henna design, as well as help setting up stalls and looking after them during the event. They are also looking for people to provide food such as cakes and drinks.

**If you can help in any way contact Diane Haimeed on 261 1439, or come along and support the event.**





# Martin Luther King Day

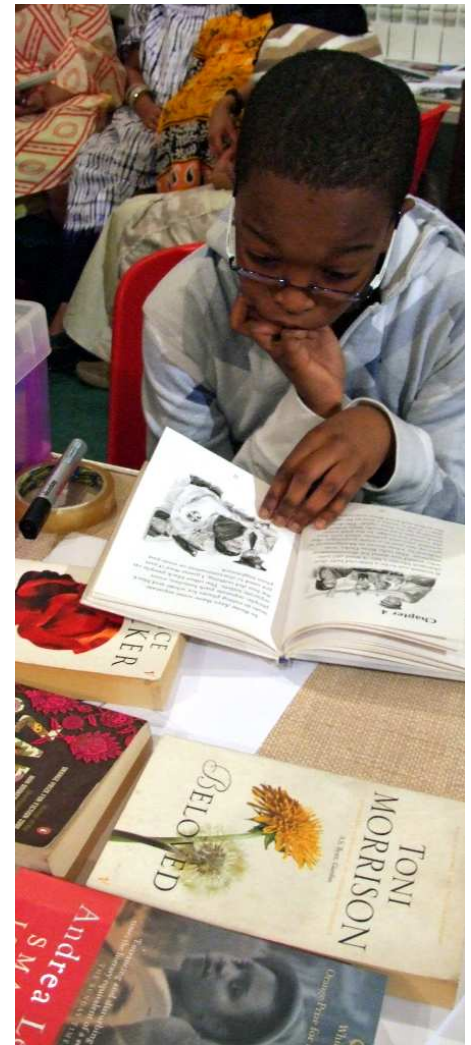
Story: Michelle Cook

**On the 19th January, young and old people from all over Burngreave gathered at the Welcome Centre, Nottingham St. for the 5th annual celebration in remembrance of Dr Martin Luther King Jr. This year, as it was on the eve of the inauguration of Barack Obama as the first black President of the USA, it was a very special celebration.**

The evening began with children from the Ellesmere Youth Project entertaining us with an energetic contemporary dance performance. SADACCA Ladies' Group read poetry. We all shared a delicious hot and cold buffet whilst perusing the bookstall and the mural which the children had designed.

People then stood up to relate their thoughts and feelings on this special night. Rev. Jonathan Gichaam said "We are on the threshold of history," and "Obama's election brings hope to the oppressed people of the world." Another resident Artemus Robinson said, "I can't express...I feel so good. The dream has come true." Others spoke of their delight that what had seemed impossible had happened in their lifetime.

SADACCA Ladies' Group then led us in a sing-along, culminating in a powerful and emotional rendition of the gospel-based civil rights song, "We Shall Overcome", a reflection that we had all come together to celebrate the lives of those who had fought and died in the struggle for black civil rights in America and whose vision has finally come true.



# Teaching Henna

Story: Najam Hussain and Lisa Swift

**Whiteway's school started an on going Henna course in November for local parents and children.**



The course includes the basic history of Henna. Henna is small shrub from Asia, whose leaves are crushed and used as a paste. It was first used 4000 years ago by the Pharaohs, and also used for medicinal purposes as well as decorating the body, hands, feet and hair. It's mostly used in the Eastern culture for weddings and various celebrations.



As part of the course parents and children learnt how to mix henna and make cones, as well as designing patterns using the internet and drawing on paper.

Course tutor Najam Hussain, who is a local Henna artist, who told the Messenger "I've always enjoyed doing Henna, I've always been creative and enjoyed art. I've been doing it professionally for seven years now. It's the first time I've taught a course, and it was good to try something new, I was a bit nervous but I have enjoyed it."

Students have really enjoyed the course, especially creating designs and practicing

with Henna cones. Farzana Khan said:

*"My niece really enjoyed it. It was fun for them working with other children, and for parents to work with their children."*

Najam is now planning a course in Islamic art and calligraphy in February, if you're interested in joining the Henna or Islamic art course contact Usha Blackham 242 3169 at Whiteways Junior School.





# University project inspires local youngsters

A packed event at the Vestry Hall on 21st January celebrated the achievement of Burngreave young people in a media project organised by the University of Sheffield, Burngreave Study Support Consortium and Burngreave New Deal.

Over 150 parents, young people and residents turned up to see photos and videos produced by the young people and see participants awarded with a certificate from the University of Sheffield, and an ASDAN (Awards Scheme Development and Accreditation Network) certificate.

The Vestry Hall Media Project involved 20 teenagers producing posters and a DVD with images that they felt significant to them from the area. Pictures included the Burngreave surgery, recreation areas and a digger working on a new development in the area. In addition to developing team-building and analytical skills, the project aimed to inspire interest in Further and Higher Education opportunities.

Iyah, who is 14 and took part in the Media Project, said: *"I really enjoyed thinking about my local area and the things that motivate me. When I grow up I would like to be a fashion designer or a nurse and the project has made me more interested in going to university to help me do these jobs."*

Emily Haimeed, 14, said: *"I loved the food and enjoyed getting a CD of the photos that we did. I have realised that I do want to go to university when I am older and get a degree in Law."*

Yehya Mohammed, said: *"I really enjoyed it, especially getting my ASDAN certificate. I am going to work harder at school to get the results I need to go into further education."*

Naseem Audhali said: *"My parents were so proud of me and have high hopes for me. I enjoyed doing the media work and learned lots of new skills."*

Julie Askew, Outreach Manager at the University of Sheffield, said: *"We are delighted the University could support this fantastic local project. The Study Support groups have nurtured the skills and attitudes needed to help the children*



Photos by Aneela Arshad, Shaista Shukar and Lisa Swift

achieve academically. Aspirations have been lifted and they are beginning to make informed decisions about their future."

Ronnie Lewin, New Deal Chair, who spoke at the event, said:

*"The Media Project aimed to inspire young people by giving them a feeling of ownership over their work. The impact of study support and these projects is*

*reflected in the improvement of GCSE grades and it is clear from their enthusiasm at the celebration event that these young people have been inspired by the work they've produced and the process it took to get the finished product."*

Last year, students attending the study support project gained around two GCSEs more than predicted.



# Mosaics brighten Carwood Green



Story: Leonie Kapadia of the Forestry Team

**Over the last few months, Green City Action's 'Deliver it Green' project has been working to improve the green environment around the Carwood estate.**

The team have helped supply hanging baskets, replaced the rotten benches in Carwood Green and the 'Bull Ring' and,

with local children and volunteers, have prepared ground and planted 1000 crocus and 500 daffodil bulbs. Green City Action and Ellesmere Youth Project have also been helping the children to create mosaics to set into the paving on the green.

On 13th December, Carwood Estate TARA, Sheffield Homes and Burngreave Community Forestry and Ellesmere Youth Project gathered to lay mosaics into the paving, and to plant a Christmas tree on Carwood Green. Heavy rain prevented it but it didn't dampen spirits, and the young people enjoyed making decorations for the tree indoors.

Now the mosaics are in place along with the Christmas tree, which will become a



permanent fixture for the estate. The mosaics add a totally individual feel to the estate and reflect the skills of local young people, who will see their artistic talents set in stone for years to come!



## Festive Party

Story: Michelle Cook  
Photos: Farzana Khan

**Festive cheer abounded at the Vestry Hall on December 20th where the annual Festive Party was held. Children from all over the Burngreave community enjoyed an afternoon of winter fun.**

Fueled by a delicious buffet, the young folk took part in a most entertaining karaoke session; others emerged with brightly painted faces, Spider Man being popular amongst the boys and butterflies for the girls. In another corner, children and adults alike were delightfully decorated by a talented local Mendhi artist. Those feeling even more creative headed for tables strewn with glitter, paper and glue to make Christmas cards and decorations.

For all the children though, the highlight of the day had to be the 'Snow Zone', where a snow machine blew out artificial snow at regular intervals, creating a winter wonderland which the children couldn't resist rolling in.





# Yoga for Byron Wood

In December children at Byron Wood learned the calming effects of yoga. With the Yoga4Schools Programme students, including those from the celebrated Fresh Start and Nurture units, practised calming exercises and breathing techniques.

Giddy children were soon calmed with yogic exercises. They stretched like animals, made bridges with their bodies and rubbed their tummies to bring about calm feelings.

The impact on the group was very positive. Normally hyperactive children



unable to express themselves were very calm and relaxed. On several occasions the children used the phrase "rub your tummy." When asked about this they said:

*"It helps you to calm down when you feel excited."*

*"My favourite yoga action was when she told us to lay on the floor and told us a story about a starfish in the sea"*

*"I think the yoga lesson was fantastic because it makes you feel relaxed and it takes away your worries and it helps you when you're stressed."*

*"When I was doing yoga I was dreaming I was a starfish. I was feeling calm, flexible, sleepy and also strong. It was amazing, my best dream ever."*

*"This is good for children who are 5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12, also for big people."*

*"I think we should have yoga every morning before assembly. It's really good to calm people down when they're angry or have lots of things in mind."*



# Playground party

Story: Sam Galbraith

**On 24th December 100 children filled the Adventure Playground for their annual Christmas party. But if it wasn't for the help of the community it never would have happened.**

In the lead up to Christmas a lack of money meant there may not have had a party at all, but with the help of BCAF the Playground Users Group asked members of the community for contributions. The response was fantastic. The Area Panel donated £100, a DJ and cooked chicken were supplied by Streetworx, some toys and a Playstation were donated by a resident, a £20 donation from Granny's Gang and a £20 gift voucher was also given.



The children enjoyed plenty of food, as well as karaoke. The Community Wardens volunteered to be Santa and his Elves and we had plenty of prizes for pass the parcel, musical chairs and a treasure hunt. Thanks to everyone who helped.

It really bought home to me how much interest there is in the Adventure Playground. We are still looking for people to join the Users Group to help take through plans for the new building. There's a BCAF quarterly meeting on March 7th where you can find out more about volunteering for the group.

# EID party



Story: Abtisam Mohamed

**On Saturday 13th December, over 300 women and children attended an Eid party organised by the Yemeni Community Association Sheffield.**

The event, which took place in Vestry Hall Attercliffe, was attended by the Lord Mayor of Sheffield. Traditional music was played, prizes were won through a raffle and beautiful traditional food was prepared.

*"We don't get many parties organised for us that are for women only. Today was really good as I could take my children with me and we all had a brilliant time!"*

*"I won a prize in the prize draw. I was so happy and I've had such a wonderful time. This should be organised every year as it gives us something to look forward to."*

We would like to thank the many volunteers who helped to organise and make this day a huge success!

# New Deal money

Last issue we reported on New Deal's plans to make cuts to future and existing projects. January was full of rumours about plans for more cuts from April.

With the possibility of being overcommitted by around £3.4 million New Deal needed to make big savings.

Speaking to the New Deal's Executive Manager Ann Allen, she reassured the Messenger that significant savings had already been made and that, although the problem was serious, there was no call for panic, especially among community projects. Ann said

*"We are not blind to the fact that there is a problem - and there's going to be need for change. In the next few weeks it will become clear what will happen next and what solution we can reach following our meetings with Government office. We will take every step to limit the impact on projects."*

Watch the Messenger website for updates in February.

## Cemetery petition

**Following the petition to the Council in November about the state of Burngreave Cemetery, local resident John Duignan is disappointed with the response**

After sending a further letter restated the request for a meeting with the Council and grave owners. John Duignan has now received a letter from Councillor Mohammed which says:

*"...it would be appropriate to contact the individual petitioners in order to seek their views on the future of Burngreave Cemetery."*

Martin Green of Bereavement Services said to the Messenger:

*"The response from petitioners will be used to shape our plans. We want to see what ideas they have got. We have no plans for a meeting at the moment."*

### Carwood General Meeting

**Thursday 5th February**

6pm at St Peter's Church Hall,  
Lyons Street

Key speech and discussion:

*"Decent Homes Scheme on Carwood"*

Local councillors and  
Sheffield Homes attending.

All welcome. Refreshments available.

# Neighbourhood Action Group

## Improving community safety

The Neighbourhood Action Group, or NAG for short, is a monthly meeting that aims to tackle local community safety issues in Burngreave and Fir Vale. The Group includes representatives from services providers and local organisations who can work together to take action to tackle the issues raised by the local community.

### Who is involved?

Services that attend the NAG include South Yorkshire Police, Sheffield City Council, from departments including Safer Neighbourhoods, Area Action, Streetforce; Sheffield Youth Offending Services; Children and Young Peoples Services; East Regeneration Team; and Local Councillors. There's also South Yorkshire Fire Service; Sheffield Primary Care Trust; Sheffield Futures; Local Housing providers, including Sheffield Homes and Arches. Some of the local organisation representation includes Burngreave New Deal for Communities (BNDFC), Burngreave Community Action Forum (BCAF), Pakistan Advice Centre (PAC), The Burngreave Messenger, and Local Tenant and Resident Associations (TARA) representatives.

### What issues are tackled?

The Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) focuses on anti social behaviour and low level crime. Issues can include **poor street lighting**, which may contribute to an increase in crime at night on a specific street. With this type of problem Streetforce may visit to find out why the lighting in the area is so poor, perhaps because of over hanging trees obscuring the lights or just lights needing to be replaced. **Flytipping** is another issue that is often raised. Any new hotspot area would be brought to the attention of Environmental Services, who would then monitor and clear the area so that it does not have time to become a potential focus for arson attacks.

### Main priorities for the next year

Over the next 12 months there will be three priorities for the Burngreave and Fir Vale NAG. This does **not** mean that the police and other services will not deal with other issues that are of concern, but these three priorities will be focused on in 2009 because they need different organisations to work together and require a particular focus.

### The current Burngreave and Fir Vale NAG priorities are:

- 1 To divert young people away from the gang culture
- 2 To reduce levels of anti social behaviour and street level drug dealing in the locality of the Wensley Estate, Page Hall and Owler Lane
- 3 To review and improve the approach to tackling drug dealing in Burngreave

## So why these priorities?

### Young People and gang culture

The NAG chose and agreed the first priority because of the impact of gun and knife crime on the community and a lack of referrals for young people on the periphery of entering a gang to support services. This priority will help services work towards diverting young people away from activities that put them at risk.

### Focus on Fir Vale

The NAG chose and agreed the second priority because of concerns over the high levels of anti-social behaviour in the area. The South Yorkshire Police (SYP) and Police Authority survey 'Your Voice Counts' regarding the local area revealed that this was high on people's agenda. The NAG is working hard to make sure that the relevant services and organisations are represented at the NAG to achieve the improvements, especially on the environment and enforcement issues. The NAG and others like Fir Vale Friday, are also working on improving letting and tenancy management in Fir Vale.

### Tackle drug dealing

The NAG chose and agreed the third priority because low level drug dealing is a concern for residents throughout the area. This priority will involve identifying any gaps in tackling this issue. The NAG has already had a commitment from Sheffield NHS (via Health Matters) to undertake drug awareness training in all the local schools, and elsewhere in Burngreave.

### What can you do?

The NAG is in place to work for local residents, which is why residents are encouraged to feed in to it so that the right priorities are set for the future.

If you have any new ideas or issues that need action, there are several ways to get it raised:-

- Leave a message for the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team on 252 3994
- Talk to Burngreave Community Action Forum (BCAF) on 272 8008
- Report crimes to 220 2020 or confidentially to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111
- Report issues to your local TARA
- Report problems on your estate or street to Sheffield Homes on 293 0000
- Report problems on your estate or street to Streetforce on 273 4567



# Improving the Air

Stories: Leonie Kapadia, Community Forester



Burngreave Community Forestry and Fir Vale School are designing a plan to plant six trees on Rushby Street near the roundabout sponsored by building firm Wates. The community forester is consulting with residents and community groups to assess opinions on the proposal.

Air quality measurements in Fir Vale regularly exceed the national average and sometimes reach double the minimum level set to protect public health. Tree cover in Burngreave is low compared to other areas of the city so it is especially important that we plant new oxygen-producing trees. At present there are only three trees on the Rushby Street, with a relatively short (30-40 years) lifespan.



A large tree species, the London plane (*platanus hispanica*), has been chosen for its capacity to filter airborne dust and pollution and its long lifespan (up to 200 years). As a large-growing tree, they convert more carbon dioxide into oxygen, improving the air we breathe. The London plane is tolerant of pollution, difficult soil conditions and also of pruning. It has large and prominent leaves, a dappled bark, as well as an attractive winter crown and pendant fruit.

The proposed site of the tree-planting will maintain lines of sight so no issues of visibility should arise, allowing for the continued safe use of the grassed area.

If these six trees do well and residents agree, we would like to proceed with further plantings next season. Pupils from Fir Vale School will be fully involved in both the planting and the monitoring. The trees will make the area healthier and more attractive, as well as absorbing noise and encouraging birds and wildlife. The people involved can be sure they will leave a positive legacy for future generations to enjoy and benefit from.



*We hope to plant the trees on 19th March 2009 so if you have any thoughts, comments or queries on this project, please contact me by the end of February on 07976 988 627 or [Leonie.Kapadia@Sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:Leonie.Kapadia@Sheffield.gov.uk).*

## Planting Margate

On the frosty December morning, pupils from the Riverside Centre planted seven trees on the Margate Estate with staff from Sheffield Homes and Burngreave Community Forestry.

Heritage varieties of trees were selected including two traditional medlars (*mespilus germanica*) with large white flowers in May and June, two ornamental pears (*pyrus chanticleer*) which have a profusion of spring blossom but do not fruit, two ornamental crab apples with their beautiful red leaves, and one black walnut with its characteristic rough bark.



The whole of the Grimesthorpe Road area has a 'Grow Your Own Food' theme developing which is really fabulous for local residents. The allotment holders are very active and include the SAGE Greenfingers project. Twenty-two mulberry trees were planted last year by Burngreave Community Forestry on the bank next to the allotments, which are part of a developing Forest Garden. Now the Margate Estate will also provide 'Food for Free' when eventually medlars, crab apples and walnuts will be produced! The Riverside pupils have worked really hard to plant seven trees - and we hope they reap the benefits at harvest time.



## Green City Action

[www.greencityaction.org.uk](http://www.greencityaction.org.uk)  
Telephone: (0114) 244 0353

### Allotments improved

Over the last few years we have supported Grimesthorpe Community Gardens Group in their aim to have all the plots on the site tenanted and producing local food. The DIG Team has been busy all January cutting down giant hedges, knocking back brambles and combating weed growth on sixteen uncultivated plots that are now ready for working.



We are keen to hear from local food producers, those who grow a tomato plant or two to experienced gardeners who work their home gardens or allotments. We can offer help and advice, hire of garden tools and machines from our Tool Bank and the opportunity to share ideas and tips with other gardeners. Beginners and experts alike are invited to join our Burngreave Gardeners group and benefit from mutual support.

### Abbeyfield Park

The DIG project will finish at the end of May. One of our last major projects will be the renovation of the kick pitch, formerly the old bowling green in front of Abbeyfield Park House.

The work includes taking down and rebuilding the dry stone retaining wall, removing the old paved area and backfilling with topsoil, installing three park benches, some safety fencing and reseeding the worn out or disturbed areas of grass. We hope that the work will be completed and the new grass established by May. The work area will be fenced off until the grass is ready to be played on.

If you have any views, ideas or queries or you are interested in gardening call Rob on 244 0353.

**Deliver it green...**



## Deliver It Green

Managed by Green City Action, Deliver It Green (DIG) has been operational since June 2006. The emphasis of the project has always been on delivery out in the community and the principle purposes of the project are:

- To involve the residents of Burngreave in the 'active' transformation of their green spaces, gardens and parks
- To raise awareness of the benefits of high quality green spaces to all aspects of community life
- To design and improve the environment in ways that reduce the opportunity for anti social behaviour and criminal activity
- To provide good quality facilities that promote active play, sport and other healthy activities on Burngreave's green spaces and parks
- To improve the experience of living in Burngreave
- To encourage greater biodiversity in Burngreave

In the last year DIG have installed 100 metres of new footpath and a flight of steps, up a previous muddy bank, on Denholme Close open space to improve passage through the area. The new steps linked Verdon St flats with the town end of Rock Street. DIG completely restored the children's playground which was repaired and repainted and the surrounding landscape altered to design out crime and encourage children back onto the space.

The playground equipment on Denholme, Nottingham Cliffe and All Saints has been



stripped down and completely repainted and timbers renewed, new play areas have been created on Ella Rd and Malton Street (see picture) and a new roof built onto the youth shelter in Abbeyfield Park.

Working with residents of Firhill Close DIG created a community vegetable plot that has been very well used, producing lots of veg but also acting as a catalyst in bringing tenants together. DIG worked with the Carwood estate's TARA to rebuild the public space on Carwood Green installing new benches, replanting the flower beds and assisting in their entry for Britain In Bloom 2008.

Burngreave Recreation Ground, Ellesmere Park, Devon Gardens, Harlestone Street and Pitsmoor Road Open Space have all benefitted from extensive regeneration work by the DIG team and are amongst the 26 sites where facilities were improved.

- 84 OAP's benefitted from the gardening service.
- 17 community groups were involved with DIG.
- 86 volunteers helped us in our delivery.
- 2000 bulbs planted.
- 40+ trees planted.
- 430 hanging baskets distributed.

This project is due to finish in May 2009 but in its remaining months DIG will be doing landscaping work on Carwood, planting 2000 new bulbs there and new flower beds, creating a community forest garden in partnership with Grimethorpe Community Gardens and the Burngreave Forest Project, renewing the worn out football pitch in Abbeyfield Park and redesigning its surroundings, continuing to support the areas OAPs and developing the In Bloom work as well as numerous smaller projects.

### Diary Of Events

#### **BNDfC Partnership Board Meeting**

25th February at Burngreave Vestry Hall starting 5.30pm

#### **BNDfC Partnership Board Meeting**

25th March at Burngreave Vestry Hall starting 5.30pm

Details of these and other events can be found on [www.bndfc.co.uk](http://www.bndfc.co.uk) or contact BNDfC on 0114 279 6932.

## Cainan Blake

Cainan Blake is 21 years of age and is coming to the end of his 6 months apprenticeship with BNDfC as a receptionist. Cainan was 20 years old when he started at BNDfC on 20th September 2008.

Cainan says, "I chose the apprenticeship programme because I wanted to gain some work experience and obtain some certificates to reflect back on. This apprenticeship has helped me in many ways - it has given me positive evidence that I have the ability to work well in different environments and with a diverse range of people from different cultures and backgrounds.

*"Completing the apprenticeship will enhance my future job opportunities.*

*"As a Burngreave resident it was a bonus for me that my apprenticeship was working for an organisation that is helping the area and the community.*

*"Working at BNDfC has been challenging at times but staff have been supportive to me throughout my placement. It has been a good experience that I have enjoyed and one that I would recommend anyone to try."*

Cainan is a pleasure to have around in the office and after "settling in" Cainan has turned out to be a valued member of staff.

## Burngreave Health Matters



The Burngreave Health Matters project is an initiative between Burngreave New Deal and the Primary Care Trust based on the following:

- Burngreave has worse health than other parts of Sheffield. There are high rates of emergency hospital admissions for heart disease, chest disease and mental ill health.
- People with long term health problems can be helped to cope with their symptoms and improve their quality of life. People at risk of developing illness can also be supported to change lifestyles and so protect their own and their families health and prevent illness.
- Access to health promotion, health education and appropriate and timely treatment can make real differences to individuals and the community making Burngreave a healthier place to live.
- Good health means prevention as well as cure and the Health Matters programme will work with other agencies to improve access to health services, increase healthy eating, physical activity, reduce smoking and social isolation.
- The Health Matters programme will make best use of Burngreave's greatest assets, its people, services and local resources to tackle inequalities in health.

The Burngreave "Health Matters" shop, located in Spital Hill, has been opened now for 3 months and in this time there have been a number of health drives set up for people in the Burngreave community to both increase and simplify access to healthy lifestyle initiatives.

The shop is now fully staffed with three

health trainers, office manager, community development and health workers, smoking cessation specialist and a Food in Sheffield worker so that there are a number of citywide services represented in the shop.

So far the Health Matters shop have had over 75 people come through the door either wanting advice and information on their personal health, or to take away information for someone else. In fact, the uptake has been so quick that we are toying with the idea of searching for larger premises within the Burngreave area to cope with the demand that has been shown by community members and professionals.

There has been lots of consultation work done with the community which has resulted in the creation of a smoking cessation group and a drop in session. The group is in the afternoon 5.30pm till 6.30 pm to allow access to people who have full time jobs, the drop in session is run every Tuesday, 12.30pm till 2.30pm at the health shop.

The health shop is working with Sheffield City Council to support existing health walks in the area and encourage access to the walks.

The "Health Matters" staff are continuing to work with the local community to provide healthy lifestyle choices that are needed.

The Burngreave Health Matters shop can be contacted on 0114 2920464, e-mail [health.matters@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:health.matters@hotmail.co.uk), the shop is open Mon - Fri from 9.00am to 5.00pm.

### Dorrett Buckley-Greaves M.B.E.

A Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) is awarded for achievement or service in and to the community of a responsible kind which is outstanding in its field.

The award highlights areas of dedicated service which merit public recognition.

Burngreave New Deal for Communities are pleased to announce that one of our Partnership Board members, Dorrett Buckley-Greaves, received an MBE in the New Year Honours List.



Partnership Board member, Dorrett Buckley-Greaves received an MBE in the New Year Honours List.

Dorrett has given many years to campaigning and volunteering for and on behalf of a variety of worthwhile organisations and causes.

Dorrett will receive her MBE from The Queen or The Prince of Wales at an investiture ceremony in the near future and we will update you on her special day in the Messenger pages.

Apparently, Dorrett's next ambition is to write a book of her own life experiences and I'm sure we'll all look forward to reading it.

Congratulations Dorrett from everyone at BNDfC, you deserve this honour.





## 1999-2009 Ten years of the Area Panel

The Burngreave Area Panel is about to hold its last ever meeting paving the way for the arrival of Sheffield City Council's new Community Assemblies.

With 73 public meetings since 1999, what changes has the Panel influenced and witnessed?

### Regeneration for Burngreave

In January 2000, The Panel said "yes" to hosting a new government regeneration programme; and the pitch was successful which meant Burngreave hosted New Deal for Communities for the city.

What's improved since then? The gap between Burngreave students' performance and the rest of the city has closed. Unemployment is lower in Burngreave than in other parts of the city. And reported crime rates are lower than they have been for a long time.

But we still know there are problems. Some young white students, and some dual heritage students, are still not benefiting fully from education. Unemployment and dependence on benefits is still very high. And health inequalities, including incidents of asthma, are still an issue.

### Work on roads and traffic

If you'd attended the Panel meeting on March 30th, 2000 it would seem like now; at Whiteways School questions were asked about traffic congestion at Fir Vale caused by the hospital; more outside St Catherine's school on Firhill Crescent and about joy-riding and rat running on Skinnerthorpe Road.

And in September 2000 at meeting at Fir Vale sports centre, you would have heard discussion about the traffic light phasing at the Fir Vale junction; the need for parking bays outside Owler Lane shops; and a feasibility study into blocking off Bagley Road and Skinnerthorpe Road to prevent rat running.

### Houses demolished

In these ten years, flats on Woodside, Neville Drive, Earldom, Earl Marshal and Catherine Street and Road have all come down. And at present, with the agreed Masterplan, we can see the first phase of regeneration in Fir Vale on Skinnerthorpe



and Bagley. The challenge we face now is how places can be improved, and how the residents who are committed to the area can stay, when the housing market is struggling and house building is virtually dormant.

### A changing population

And this signals one of the major changes for Burngreave. Ten years ago, it was an area that people moved through - it was normal for a quarter of a school class to change year by year. This was in part due to having too much poor quality housing. This in turn led to empty schools. The head at Pye Bank Infants told the Panel in November 1999 that she had places for 240 children, but had only 88 on roll. Burngreave needed a more stable population.

And one way or another, that has now happened - Burngreave has taken in and settled new population groups and communities and we face the opposite problem, with some families reporting overcrowding issues. But now we we have better and bigger primary schools, with the prospect of both our secondary schools expanding in the next few years.

### Active Citizens

Improving the links between the Council and the Community is where the Area Panel comes up trumps time after time. Council officers turn up to explain their latest thinking, about how problems can be tackled and things improved. And the people of Burngreave turn out and listen and think and then ask, and discuss, and offer agreement, or constructive criticism, or alternatives. That has been perhaps the greatest tribute to the work of the Area Panel - the commitment of those of you who turn up in all weathers to be "active citizens".

Late last year, we asked those who live around Crabtree, Norwood and off Barnsley Road about about permit parking zones. 89 households replied (16% of those asked). Of these, 51% said 'yes' to permit parking and 42% said 'no'; 8% didn't offer a view either way. The outcome was reported to the Scrutiny Board in November and they recommended an experimental traffic regulation order. Following petitioning, this is now being discussed at the North & West Planning Board on 10th or 24th February at the Town Hall.



### Councillors' Surgery Dates

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

**14th February:** Steve Jones, 11am-12pm Burngreave Library and 12.15-1.00pm Firhill TARA

**17th February:** Steve Jones, 11am-12pm Shirecliffe Centre and 12.15-12.45pm Norwood/Bishopholme TARA

**19th February:** Steve Jones, 2pm-3pm Pakistan Advice Centre

**28th February:** Ibrar Hussain, 11am-12pm Burngreave Library

**14th March:** Jackie Drayton, 11am-12pm Burngreave Library and 12.15-1.00pm Firhill TARA

**17th March:** Steve Jones, 5pm-6pm Carwood Tara

Ibrar Hussain, 11am-12pm Shirecliffe Centre and 12.15-12.45pm Norwood/Bishopholme TARA

**19th March:** Jackie Drayton, 2pm-3pm Pakistan Advice Centre

**28th March:** Steve Jones, 11am-12pm Burngreave Library

### Next Area Panel meeting

**February 18 at St James church hall, Scott Rd at 6pm.**

**The last meeting will be on March 18 at Vestry Hall at 6pm.**

# More at the Library

Story: Liz Searle

**Burngreave Library is busy on the Wednesday afternoon when I visit to speak to Janet Ring, the librarian. People are using the computers, children are reading and there are lots of enquiries at the desk.**

There's more to the library than books, as I find out. Burngreave Advocacy offers advice and support, and Somali translation, from the Community Room next door on Monday mornings. Baby Time involves singing, stories and crafts for under threes from 10-11.30am on Mondays (see dates). The Feelgood Reading Group, where you can discuss a book over coffee, meets monthly on Monday afternoons. Wednesdays see a coffee morning, and English Conversation Clubs held at 10-11am for women, 11am-12pm for men.

Burngreave Library has a lively, friendly atmosphere and I suggest to Janet that it is different from the traditional idea of a library as there are so many more activities on offer. She agrees:

*"If people want to work in silence they can use the Reference Library in Central, where you can hear a pin drop. We have everything in one room, so it's much more vibrant."*

"We get enquiries about anything and everything," Janet explains. "For example, today we've been asked about where to find courses, exercise classes, the Citizenship Test" The librarians can signpost people on to different services in the area and notice boards in the entrance offer even more information.

"If there's anything people want to know, they just need to ask! No need to be scared - we're all friendly!" smile Janet and her colleague, Rashid Ahmad.

Looking around, I spot a children's area with books for all ages, non-fiction (to help with homework!) and magazines such as The Simpsons, The Source, Black Hair and Mizz. There are books for parents, and enormous books to share. A recent addition is dual language books in many languages.

The adults' section is similarly impressive, with displays of new and themed books: Quick Reads, daily newspapers in English, Arabic and Urdu, several types of fiction and categories of non-fiction including entertainment,



**Burngreave Library's Mary Reid and Janet Ring.**

health, biographies, the Black collection and Large Print collection. You can take home up to fifteen books and five CDs or DVDs, or sit reading at the table or in a comfortable chair.

And with new opening hours on Saturdays, the library looks set to become even more popular. Look out for Saturday events coming soon!

*"I wouldn't want to work anywhere else - there's a real community feel here." Janet*

*"It's good, the staff are friendly and they can get the books you want. I'm starting the Six Book Challenge today!" Aman*

*"I come after school to read books and magazines. My favourite kind of book is fantasy." Maryam*

*"I have just moved to the area and came in to ask for information because libraries are the best place to find out." Mustafa*

**Baby Time –  
Monday's 10.00– 11.30am**

**The next dates are:  
9th and 23rd February,  
9th and 23rd March,  
27th April.**

## Conversation Groups at Burngreave Library

**Would you like to improve your  
English?**

**Would you like help to find  
training or other courses?**

**Would you like to practise  
English conversation?**



**Telephone: 0114 203 9002**

## Library extends Opening hours

Story: Kate Atkinson

**Burngreave Library has extended its Saturday opening hours, initially until the end of March.**

The Area Panel agreed to use £4,000 from the Working Neighbourhoods Fund to allow the library to open 9am to 3pm on Saturdays, instead of 9.30am-12.30pm.

Jackie Drayton, Area Panel Chair, said:

*"Burngreave Library is well used, especially on Saturdays, but we want even more people to use it. These new opening hours will give people an even better chance to pop into their local library and use the range of resources available."*

## The Library is open:

**Monday:** 9.30–12.30; 1.30–6.30

**Tuesday:** Closed

**Wednesday:** 9.30–12.30; 1.30–5.30

**Thursday:** Closed

**Friday:** 9.30–12.30; 1.30–5.30

**Saturday: 9.00–3.00**

## Wednesday mornings

10am – women's group  
11am – men's group

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# Washing Days at Sutherland Road Baths

Story: Nikky Wilson

For many of us, a washing machine and a bath are essential pieces of household equipment, used routinely throughout the week and taken for granted. However, a conversation with Joyce Rason and Joyce Wilson from Firshill Local History Group reminded me that washing our clothes and bodies was a completely different experience 60 or 70 years ago and one that often took place outside the home.

At that time, the place to go for a wash in Pitsmoor was the Brightside Baths and Wash House at the junction of Sutherland Road and Earsham Street. Opened in 1937, it was a very large imposing building with a clock tower and a very 'official' feel to the place, but one that held happy memories for both Joyces.

## Tuesday afternoons

Joyce Wilson recalled visiting the wash house every Tuesday afternoon; "I started going there when I was 16, in place of my mother who was ill in hospital. It was very organised and efficient with an attendant (Fred, with the kiss curl!) to keep us in order. Once a week I booked a slot in advance and then piled the family's washing into a pram and headed off for two hours at the Baths – it all had to be done in a single session."

Joyce Rason described how everything was in one big room, the washroom:

*"Once you found an empty boiler and filled it with the week's washing, the attendant would load the soap powder and set it to work. We would then take a stall (each with two sinks and a scrubbing board and costing sixpence for half an hour) and spend the time scrubbing all the dirty clothes that couldn't go in the boiler but those detachable collars from our husbands' shirts had to be sent to the Chinese laundry - it was much harder to get them clean in the days before fancy washing powders. Once the wash was finished, we unloaded the clothes into wooden barrows and took them to the spinners and then to the dryers which were big rails set into the wall (two of these per person).*

*"There was also a big heavy iron that you could use in the washroom and rollers to press sheets through and finally tables for folding clothes. The place was always bustling and fully booked. It was great for socialising and chat - the same people usually came on the same*



Photos: Copyright Local Studies Library

*day and time and you got to know them. In fact the two of us - Joyce and I - first met in the wash house."*

## 6d Slipper baths

Another important part of the building was the bath house. "For six pence you could have a slipper bath," Joyce Rason told me.

*"That was a real treat; we didn't have a bathroom at home until 1972 and the usual routine for most people was a Friday night dip in the tin bath in the kitchen. So a slipper bath was a notch up from this! You took your own soap and towel and you could have fifteen minutes in a proper bath with hot water - luxury! I used to go once a week. Each bath was in its own cubicle and an attendant cleaned them after anyone used them."*

The bath house also contained a swimming pool where children from all the local schools would go for swimming lessons, with galas and competitions regularly held there. "I loved it," Joyce Rason told me. "I used to go there on a Saturday morning at 8am and stay in for three hours!"

## Decline

During the 1960s and 70s, the wash house began to decline. New houses were built with hot water and indoor bathrooms became an essential part of

their design, whilst rising standards of living meant that more people had washing machines at home. Washing became an activity that took place in private rather than in a public building. The wash house finally closed its doors in the 1970's.

No longer a part of the fabric of Pitsmoor, it lives on in the minds of many Pitsmoor residents as THE place to go for a swim, a bath and a wash cycle.

**A big thank you to Joyce Rason and Joyce Wilson for telling me their stories about the wash house!**



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## Burngreave Community Action Forum (BCAF) Annual General Meeting 2009

Saturday 7th March  
12 - 3pm at Vestry Hall



After the success of the BCAF Quarterly Forum Meetings held over the past year, we want to celebrate the strength and variety of community groups in Burngreave at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) by inviting representatives from community organisations across the area to attend and publicise their work.

In addition, BCAF intends to use the AGM to help launch efforts to increase volunteering in the area.

More information on the event and how you can get involved will be available closer to the date.

Check BCAF's website for the latest information:  
[www.bcaf.org.uk](http://www.bcaf.org.uk)

All welcome -  
Lunch and crèche provided  
FREE raffle and prize draw

For more information contact:  
BCAF, 82 Spital Hill, Sheffield S4 7LG  
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