

Burngreave Messenger

Voice of the Burngreave Community

A safe and enjoyable Bonfire Night to all our readers

Youth Council elections

Very soon the Burngreave Youth Council will be able to speak out and give local young people the chance to get their voices heard and take action. On 20th-22nd November Burngreave young people will go to the polls to elect their new Youth Council leaders and you could be a part of this council.

As a young person living in Burngreave, I have seen lots of great changes in the community, but has this been all what we wanted? What about giving young people the opportunity to put forward their views and ideas about what's happening locally? Now we can do this through the Youth Council.

This could be history in the making for our community, taking young people's needs into consideration before setting plans and making decisions about resources.

If you are a resident from the Burngreave area, aged 14-25 years and have the potential, strength and dedication to be the new 'Prime Minister of Burngreave Youth Council' or if you have got that encouragement or leadership skills, now is the time to stand as a nominee for this council and make sure the youth of Burngreave and their opinion is taken into consideration.

The *Messenger* spoke to Ryan Higgins, of the shadow youth council:

"I've grown up in Burngreave and I've always helped out at events and community activities. I never thought my opinion could be heard at the higher level of authority and I see this as a chance to have my opinion heard."

by Derrick Okrah



Stand for the Youth Council

10th November, 5.00pm: Deadline for nominations

A nomination form can be found inside the *Messenger*, or contact Zain Abdulla on the numbers below.

11th November, 6.30-9.00pm: Manifesto preparation

Young people nominated or standing, must attend this session to prepare their manifesto.

15th-19th November: Campaigning

Voting for your representative

20th-22nd November: Elections

Vote for your representatives at the following venues:

All Saints Connexions Centre, 7 Lyons Close S4 7EP

Earl Marshal Connexions Centre, Heathcoat Street S4 7UR

Burngreave StreetworX Project, 204 Verdon Street S3 9QS

New Deal Information Shop, 131 Spital Hill S4 7LF

Fir Vale School (Polling Van location)

Parkwood High School (Polling Van location)

24th November: Election results

For further details, contact Zain Abdulla on 272 3628 or 0792 149 1540 or email zain.abdulla@sheffieldfutures.org.uk.

The Carnival Of Lights

Saturday 2nd December - 6.00pm til 7.30pm

Ellesmere Green

Burngreave - FREE EVENT

An Evening Of Spectacular
Visual Entertainment

Jamboree

Festival Information LINE : 0114 2440353



LANDLORDS

Come to the next information session on
Wednesday 8th November 2006

at the

Yemeni Economic and Training Centre
Vestry Hall, 43 Attercliffe Common,
Attercliffe, Sheffield S9 2AE

6.30-8.30pm

Guest speaker:

Tony Grushot - Taylor and Emmet Solicitors

*Overview and comment on common legal issues
facing landlords in the private rented sector*

A list of traders and insurance brokers
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Free access to dump sites throughout the city!

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(0114) 273 5134



or email prp@sheffield.gov.uk

or visit www.sheffield.gov.uk/privaterentedproject/
www.sheffield.gov.uk/rls

ECZEMA – What does it look like and how do you treat it?

Come and find out more at our informal and friendly workshops! Interpreters in different community languages will be available but **all** are welcome at each session!

On **Tuesdays** at **1-3pm** at **Firshill Community Primary School**, Orphanage Road, Sheffield S3 9AN, in the Parents Room (mobile).

7th November – Urdu/Punjabi interpreter available

14th November – Somali interpreter available

21st November – Arabic interpreter available

Timetable of session

- 1.00-1.45pm – Presentation: What is eczema?
(with translators)
- 1.45-2.00pm – Questions
- 2.00-2.15pm – Refreshments & Questionnaire
- 2.15-3.00pm – Practical session: How to treat eczema?
(with translators)

Specialist nurses and doctors will be available to give you general guidance, but no-one will be able to answer questions about your child in particular. **Please note that this is not a clinic.**

For more info please contact Rashida Hassanali at Firshill School on **0777 358 3699**.

For a crèche place for children over six months, contact Burngreave Children's Centre on **(0114) 252 5220**.



Reach High 2 Celebration Event

Enrol, celebrate success and speak to the teachers

Sun 12th Nov 2006

11am-2pm

Firs Hill Primary School

- We take young people from the Burngreave New Deal area
- Primary Y5 & 6
- Secondary Y8-11
- Henna, face painting, sports and food on the day

For further information contact

Nasira Amin or Nadia Qureshi

(0114) 272 6366

Reach High 2 have organised a celebration event, success of KS2 SATS and GCSE Results. The students have worked really hard and put extra time and effort to come to study support and the final results have been remarkable. This is an opportunity to celebrate their hard work and the hard work of staff.

Nasira Amin said:

"Congratulations to all the young people – they deserve the fantastic results, parents have played a key part as well as staff. This shows that the after school study support is a vital part of the community's success."

Travel and Try It

*Would you like to make your life more
interesting and improve your social circle?*

*Do you feel isolated and unable to visit
local places on your own?*

*Would you like to try new activities
but feel too worried to go alone?*

Do you live in the Burngreave New Deal Area?

JOIN THE NEW 'TRAVEL AND TRY IT' GROUP

Meeting in a group will give us more confidence and an opportunity to taste a range of the good things Sheffield has to offer.

Also we hope to experience different indoor activities eg arts and crafts.

We have some ideas but maybe you have your own suggestions...

We meet on:

Fridays, 1-3pm

at 30 Minna Road (off Burngreave Road)

For more information call

Patsy at Pitsmoor Surgery

on (0114) 276 2644

Funded by BNDfC. Help will be available for the cost of the outings.



Gower under pressure

South Yorkshire Police contacted the Messenger claiming they have reliable intelligence of Class A drug dealing and firearms in and around the Gower Arms, Earsham Street.

Inspector Jon Ekwubiri of South Yorkshire Police explained:

“This has led to guns being discharged, violence and the intimidation of everyday people who frequent this establishment and live in the vicinity. This behaviour, by a small minority, has resulted in a cordial meeting with the management team of the Gower and conditions were mutually agreed, with a view to addressing the problem.”

Inspector Ekwubiri went on to say: “We are not malicious and are giving the Gower management an opportunity to address this issue by demanding they install more security and surveillance systems.”



CCTV

The Gower management have been told their CCTV system must include two cameras outside and those inside must be upgraded. The Inspector said:

“The equipment is inadequate and does not reach South Yorkshire Police specifications and the management have been given a leaflet concerning this.”

Door staff at the Gower

“The Gower Arms must have two Security Industry Authority registered door staff in place every weekend by Friday 3rd November. That means searching all patrons before they enter the building,” added Inspector Ekwubiri.

The Gower management have been told that failing to comply with the proposals may result in the police objecting to any further licensing, which is due for review shortly. The police would also consider immediate closure of the premises under ‘crack house closure legislation’.

The management of the Gower say this is not helping their business because they cannot afford to employ doormen to search people or replace what they see as a visible and working surveillance system. Staff members at the Gower vehemently dispute ever having seen or heard any gunshots or displays of guns inside or outside their premises.

by Rob Smith

Spectrum Centre sold

Questions remain about the future of a building that has served as a Burngreave community asset for many years. The Spectrum Centre, previously the Irish Centre, on Brunswick Road, has been sold by Sheffield City Council into private ownership.

For the last few years the building has been run as the Spectrum Centre by the Yemeni Refugee Organisation (YRO), a Burngreave-based charity. A 125-year lease for the building originated in 1964 with the Irish Centre. YRO took on the lease for the building four years ago, but never owned the building.

Sheffield City Council recently sold the freehold to the building at auction for £21,000, this price includes the building itself. The YRO will continue to hold the lease unless the lease agreement is broken or the lease is assigned to someone else with the freeholder’s permission.

It is understood that YRO are no longer running projects from the building, but they are seeking funding, and continued to run a drop-in centre from their other premises at 17 Burngreave Road.

The Editorial

The *Messenger's* funding from New Deal comes to an end on 30th November.

We have spent a lot of time in the last year looking at how to free ourselves from grant funding – but we would have to cover other areas and be an advertising-focused newspaper. We have decided to remain focused on Burngreave, and to support more people to be involved as volunteers.

Our plan is to reduce to six issues per year from February 2007. The New Deal Partnership Board would like us to continue producing ten issues. But this isn't possible as we have to fund half the costs from elsewhere.

Last month the Partnership Board rejected our project, saying it wasn't value for money. We are now asking for less money and they will make a decision on 29th November. If they choose not to fund us further, the *Messenger* project will end, but we are, however, optimistic.

Keeping the *Messenger* going in the next five years is going to need the input of Burngreave residents – we would welcome your support and any time you have give. To get involved contact us on 242 0564.

There will be more information about our future plans in the December issue.

Messenger Info

Meetings: 6.30pm at Abbeyfield Park House
Editorial: Wed, 8th November
Management: Thu, 7th December

All welcome.

Copy deadline: 15th November

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The Burngreave Messenger is a community newspaper, funded by New Deal, with editorial independence. We aim to increase and encourage communication in Burngreave. Each edition is put together by an editorial team who write articles not otherwise credited.

This month's team: Ian Clifford, Camille Daughma, Rohan Francis, Naheem Hanif, Saleema Imam, Mark Lankshear, Derrick Okrah, Tom Sadler, Rob Smith, Lisa Swift, Paul Taylor, Reuben Vincent and Nikky Wilson.

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Mobile misery

Adult and community learning at Firs Hill Community Primary School is under threat after its mobile classroom was condemned as unsafe and structurally unsound.

The mobile classroom has enabled a large programme of adult learning to take place over the last three years with over 100 adults using the facilities every week.

Rashida Hassanali, Community Education Co-ordinator at Firs Hill said: "We provide essential skills for life including English language; maths; creative writing; ICT and GCSEs. Advocacy, advice and surgeries with the Children's Information Service and Libraries also take place. All this is in danger of being lost if the space is no longer available for adult learning and the crèche."



"The cost of patching the roof temporarily is around £10,000, that's compared with the cost of a new double mobile which would be in excess of £100,000," said Rashida. The building has been patched up several times, and the school feel money is being wasted maintaining something that is at the end of its life and inadequate.

Jon Cowley, of Burngreave New Deal, said: "We funded Rashida's post for three years and the work at Firs Hill School to engage parents and get them to support their children has been fantastic. This is reflected in the outstanding attainment levels of their children this summer – exceeding results from more affluent areas of the city. It is important that this work isn't lost."

Yet New Deal could not offer any more financial support. We asked the Council's Children and Young People's Directorate if they could help. Steve Farnsworth, Deputy Director of Children & Young People's Services, said:

"We're doing a lot of planning to make sure that we can continue to serve these children and their families into the future, and to provide activities in buildings that are fit for purpose."

Rashida added: "Immeasurable gains have been made through the process that has taken place here. All of this will be undermined if we lose this space. We need help!"

As we go to press, funding of £10,000 has been found to patch the roof, so activities will take place in alternative provision for 3–4 weeks after the half-term break. For more information contact Rashida Hassanali on 0777 358 3699.

by Claire Berry

Parkwood Landfill Claim

There's still time to register a claim against Parkwood Landfill for residents who feel the site has affected them.

It's important that anyone who wants to join the action against Viridor, the company that manage the site, should put in a claim with Hugh James Solicitors before 30th November, since it's very unlikely that after then any claims will be admitted by the courts. The High Court has appointed Hugh James as the solicitors to deal with all claims.

In the action residents are seeking an injunction to stop the site creating a nuisance with smells, litter, dust, noise and flies. Some are also seeking compensation for the interference with their lives and reduction in property values.

Hugh James are taking on claims on a 'no win, no fee' basis – call (01 685) 371 122.

A house for a

"No-one will be worse off as a result of the Masterplan", that was the promise the Council made to the residents of Burngreave. Now eighteen months on, the promise is shown to be an empty one, as homeowners battle with Council valuers and face increasing debt, while families face being split up.

Forced into debt

The Aziz family live in all four houses on Brotherton Street. Their close proximity to each other means they can look after each other's children and their elderly mother who lives on the street. Fahid owns her house outright and what she has been offered will not buy her a new house anywhere, and she will be forced into debt.

"I want to work to live, not to pay off debt."

Her sister, who lives next door said:

"We've been promised all sorts. That we could move back here when it's rebuilt, but that's not true. My mum was promised a bungalow on Catherine Road, but it was allocated to someone else before we could even apply."

"We've been to meetings, but it's pointless, they don't listen. And not once have they provided an interpreter. If they want to regenerate the area, why don't they sort out that park on Catherine Street?"

Fahid told us, "We're not moving, why should we? We feel safe here together, we've lived in Burngreave all our lives and in these houses for ten years, why should we go? We can't look at cheap houses in Parson Cross, that's for sure, because we're black, they won't accept us."

Need to stay local

Mr Nafiz Abdul Ghafoor is a tenant on Catherine Road and he explained that he was aware of the demolition plans, but he was waiting for his landlord to come to an agreement with the Council, before he would be rehoused.

"I do not object to moving as long as I'm rehoused close to the mosque." Mr Ghafoor is the holy Imam of the Saddiq Mosque on Burngreave Road. He has to be there five times a day, so living in close proximity is a major priority for him and many others.

'It's not Sharia'

On Skinnerthorpe Road it's been months of wrangling and disagreement. Residents' own independent surveyors argue that the three-bedroomed houses are worth more than the Council offers.

Shafeeq Ulhaq and Maryam Bibi were offered £57,500 in April, £68,000 in August and now £70,000 for their home on Skinnerthorpe. The Council claim to assess the value of a property to reflect market forces, but £70,000 won't buy a house anywhere in Burngreave or Fir Vale.

"I don't want the money, let them find me a house instead because I can't find one at that price."

The Council know residents will not be able to buy a new house, so they are offering Relocation Loans, but Mr Ulhaq told the *Messenger* they are not *Sharia* compliant. This means they don't meet Islamic laws. The Islamic Bank of Britain have told the Council they must amend three aspects for the loan to be *Sharia* compliant, but they are only willing to amend one.

"It's partially okay, but it's like asking a vegetarian to eat a meal with a little bit of meat. If the loan is not *Sharia* compliant there is no way we can afford another property."

Mr Ulhaq's wife, Maryam, said: "We want the Council to fulfil their promise that they will provide a *Sharia*-compliant loan. If not we want a house for a house of a similar size.

"Sometimes we drive past houses in Upwell, and they are in much worse condition than ours. I don't know why they chose our road for demolition. People have paid off their mortgages and now they want us to go into debt again. I'm not going to sit here and take it, I'm going to make a noise. We will get a house for a house."

Worse off

Mr Mohamed Younis told us he thought it was sad that the whole street was being demolished.

"If they offer me a house for a house, that is okay. I have a disabled child and find things very difficult. Yes, we do want to stay in this area to be honest. I own my house here and they have offered me Council property where I would have to pay rent. I don't want this, what I want is a house. I have paid for mine already and what they are doing means I lose out."

Syed Yousef Shah explained they were waiting for a private valuation and he is not happy with the City Council valuers or their offer.

"I bought this three-bedroom house two years ago and they have valued it at £53,000," said Mr Shah. "Now at that price how am I going to buy anywhere else?"

Insecure tenants

Mr Mohamed Azzam lives with his wife and two young children. Like many of the others we spoke to, English was his second language, only this man was a tenant rather than an owner-occupier. He'd been to the homeless section of the City Council, they had refused to consider Mr Azzam as an emergency. "You know, I will go anywhere to live, even a one-bedroom flat, as long we have somewhere," he added.

This was a glimpse of the anxiety and confusion on the street. More than two-thirds of residents on Skinnerthorpe are of Pakistani origin, the *Messenger* spoke to the Pakistan Advice Centre who have been helping some of the residents affected. They explained that letters are not translated and rumours about what residents are entitled to and what will happen, had left many confused.

Council responds

The Council told the *Messenger*:

"The process of negotiation does take a long time but this is not because Sheffield City Council wants to get the lowest valuation possible. Our valuers value to reflect market forces, not to try to save the Council money."

"The Council offers owner-occupiers access to a Relocation Appreciation Loan, to help bridge the gap between the value of the current home and the cost of the new home. This only has to be paid if the new house is sold."

"Sheffield City Council encourages families to stay together. Arches new-build properties, which are for rent on the Earldom Close site, have been 'ring-fenced' for residents affected by demolition."

Comment

The maximum Council offer the *Messenger* is aware of is £70,000 for a three-bedroom house on Skinnerthorpe. In the *Sheffield Telegraph Property Guide* (27th October), the *Messenger* found only six homes in Sheffield of £70,000 or under, all of them were two-bedroom and none of them were in Burngreave. We searched further, on several reliable websites, looking at the S3, S4 and S5 properties, we found twelve houses. All of them were two-bedroom, eight of these were in Parson Cross, none were in Burngreave.

We couldn't find many houses for sale in Burngreave at all, the cheapest we found was £85,000, the next £95,000. Owner occupiers are going to find it difficult to stay in Burngreave, and at the prices on offer impossible to stay out of debt.

But residents do not have to accept what is happening. Nellie Ramsey would not leave the home she owned in the 'wavy roof' houses on Woodside. The Council offered her £30,000 four years ago, this could not buy another house anywhere. The Council changed their decision to knock it down and Nellie still lives in that house.

The Council has made a promise, no-one will be worse off, they need to stick to it or the demolition must stop.

Advice & Information

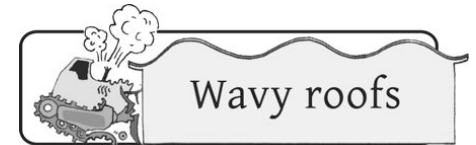
You can get housing advice from **Pitsmoor CAB** on **275 5376**.

Pakistan Advice Centre can give advice on housing, debt and help with translation on **261 9130**.

If you want to talk to your councillor, contact the **Area Co-ordinator** on **276 9134**.

The **East Regen Team** are holding a meeting for the residents of Catherine Street triangle on 14th November – for information contact **261 7216**.

Information about properties on the Earldom site contact **Arches** on **228 8133**.



Community language service takes off

Expanding multicultural cities like Sheffield have seen an increase in demand for translators and interpreters skilled in a wider range of languages.

In response to this, BLSA (Burngreave Language Support Agency) was set up in September 2003 to train local people and provide translation and interpretation services to organisations in Burngreave and beyond.

“The Agency covers over 40 different languages from Albanian to Vietnamese and serves clients such as NOMAD, Sheffield Homes, Burngreave Advocacy Now, Arches Housing and BCAT,” Mahmoud Brasab of BLSA told us.

Project Manager Muhammad Malik (pictured bottom right) explained that after successfully achieving its targets during August 2006, the project had become independent, adopting a new name, Community Language Services,



from September 2006. “By changing our name we can reach out to other areas as well as Burngreave” he said.

The project is unique in South Yorkshire in offering training to bilingual people. Once the training is complete they are employed on a freelance basis. Mr Malik recognises the importance of giving people a way in, as well as employment, “Burngreave is very rich in bilingual people”, he said, “which gives us lots of scope for training and recruitment.” There are

now over 350 interpreters and translators on their database, many of whom have completed BLSA/CLS’s training.

The project’s three-year funding programme from New Deal came to an end in September this year. However, they are now working closely with Regional Language Network Yorkshire and Humber, which they had links with previously. “We hope to continue our good work with them for the foreseeable future,” commented Abdullah Muharib, Development

Worker.

BLSA/CLS is running the Diploma course in Public Service Interpreting from 9th November. There are still places, so if you are bilingual, get in touch.

For more information contact Muhammad Malik, Community Language Services, 12 Burngreave Road S3 9DD. Tel: 272 2833

by Brent Moya

Community Aid for Kashmir

At 8.53am on 8th October 2005, the earth quaked in South Asia and took away the lives, homes, cities and a whole way of life for Kashmir and its people. Over 80,000 people died, including 35,000 children. 3.5 million people were left homeless and displaced and many are still hospitalised.

In October, members of Sheffield Pakistan Muslim Centre and guests from Rotherham and Doncaster gathered to recognise fundraising done on behalf of the READ Foundation, a charitable organisation that builds schools in Kashmir.

Children representing Parkwood High; Tinsley Juniors and Fir Vale schools received awards for their fundraising. Paul Howard, Deputy Head at Parkwood School explained that students had raised around £800. “Although the initiative was led by our Asian students the whole school took part and it’s been a great vibe for all those involved.”

Councillor David Baker relayed councillors’ support and Mohamed Ali, Chair of the PMC, also thanked all those who’ve helped, particularly Burngreave resident Mohammed



Zanumb Bibi, Nadia Kosar, Ruksana Khan and Maria Arshad receive an award on behalf of Parkwood school.

Younis. Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed, who visited Kashmir, said: “Our aim to raise enough money to build a school has been very successful.”

Assistant Chief Constable Bob Dyson explained South Yorkshire Police’s role: “We’ve helped raise funds through selling unclaimed stolen property to help the READ Foundation.”

Mr Mahmood Ahmad, Chair of the READ Foundation, thanked the PMC, Sheffield City Council, South Yorkshire Police and local people. “The money raised throughout this city has helped build a school to be

called Sheffield High,” he said, to applause. “We now have a place for orphaned children to shelter. However, we have a ravaged country that still has many poor, homeless and broken families struggling to survive.”

The Pakistan Muslim Centre are asking people to sponsor an orphan at Sheffield High School. £5 a month will purchase everything a child needs for school. For more information contact PMC on 243 0691 or Shaffaq Mohammed on 0771 465 4421, email shaffaq@talk21.com.

by Rob Smith

Action on exclusions

Exclusions from school are still higher for children in Burngreave than across Sheffield. It's recognised that parents' involvement is needed to help improve the situation, but many remain isolated and unsupported.

New Deal and Burngreave Community Action Forum (BCAF) are organising a meeting for local parents and residents to create a group to support families struggling with exclusions and work with the schools to reduce exclusions in the area.

Jon Cowley of New Deal told the *Messenger*: "Many parents faced with their children's behavioural issues at school find the system intimidating and don't know what their entitlements are."

Patrick Edwards, development worker for BCAF and local parent, told the *Messenger*:

"When there's an issue at school you don't know where to turn. Excluded kids go through the system and just meet other bad kids, and it gets worse. Alternative provision didn't help my son. We need positive role models for our children in schools and a curriculum that is relevant to children of different backgrounds."

Exclusions of secondary pupils in Burngreave have reduced over the last three years, but figures remain high for Yemeni, Caribbean and dual-heritage young people, with boys three times as likely as girls to be excluded.

Local resident, S Powell, said: "The escalating, ongoing numbers of black boys excluded from mainstream schools and the lack of alternative educational provision to address the problem, remain a great concern. This problem will not go away until schools and other service providers recognise that provision such as Second Chance, Catch The Drift and the wide-ranging experience of black workers are invaluable resources needed to tackle this problematic area of work."

Although permanent exclusions are rare, one to three-day exclusions are relatively frequent. Some children receive a string of fixed-term exclusions and then there is a struggle to keep those children in school.

Chris Mallaband, Headteacher at Parkwood School, said: "More often than not, children get a fixed-term exclusion for swearing aggressively at someone or for violent behaviour. Parkwood now has an internal inclusion unit for up to five children at a time, where we have a learning

mentor and a teaching assistant. Part of what children learn here is how to manage their anger.

"It's important that parents attend their child's 'return to school meeting' following an exclusion, and some schools will not let a child return if parents do not attend. Parents are important if problems are to get resolved."

Local parent and former teacher Dee Ramsey told the *Messenger*:

"Previous initiatives over many years have not worked. Schools should have funding withheld for excluded students. An independent school should be developed to cater for the educational needs of these children. The LEA needs to build back the trust of parents and demonstrate that something positive will be done."

Burngreave Children and Young People's Resident Forum will be meeting on 7th November, at 12-14 Burngreave Road. If you are a parent or local resident with experience of exclusion or concerns about the issue, this meeting will give you the opportunity to discuss concerns and seek solutions.

Contact Patrick Edwards on 272 8008, or Jon Cowley on 279 6932.

by Lisa Swift

Tell It Like It Is

"Why has nothing changed in 30 years?", was the cry of one angry parent as a recent meeting at SADACCA called for a campaign against black under-achievement in schools. The meeting was called by Sheffield National Union of Teachers (NUT), to raise the issues highlighted in a recent book - 'Tell It Like It Is - How Our Schools Fail Black Children'.

Christine Blower, Deputy General Secretary of the NUT, said many teachers wanted to do more to confront these issues which were sidelined in training and the curriculum. Weyman Bennett, contributor to the book, spoke angrily of how he had had to attend Saturday classes on Black history to learn of figures such as Toussaint L'Ouverture, who had led the greatest slave revolt in history, in Haiti in the 1790s. Greater competition between schools fuelled inequality and exclusion, to the cost of black children and their white working-class counterparts.

Raphael Richards, from the Sheffield Ethnic Minority Achievement Services, said there were things to celebrate, such as closing of the gap between different ethnic groups over the last five years, but acknowledged that much needed to be done, particularly around exclusion, with children of dual

heritage (African-Caribbean/English) well over twice as likely to be excluded from school as others.

Parents at the meeting spoke with emotion about how this reflected their own experiences. Dee Ramsey said she was attempting to get these parents to organise together in order to give themselves a stronger voice.

One teacher argued that an increase in exclusions was due to competition to attract 'the right sort' of pupil, while a student said that some staff had low expectations of black pupils. Others stressed the role of parents in keeping children on the straight and narrow. A teacher from Parkwood school said more needed to be done to break down the 'them and us' barrier between communities and schools.

Well-attended and angry meetings have been organised by the Tell It Like It Is collective around the country and a national campaign is emerging, with calls for a national demonstration in the New Year.

If you would like to get in touch with the campaign, ring 0789 008 8456.

by Ben Morris

Support for parents of prisoners

In August 2005, the black volunteer-led 'Parents Of Prisoners Support Group' was started in the kitchen of one concerned woman in response to widespread concern that parents and relatives of those in prison had nowhere to go and nobody to talk to about their traumatic situation.

The first meeting saw an attendance of ten, a mixture of people with relatives in prison; families of ex-prisoners and those who just wanted to help out. Founder, Vivian Osborne (pictured) spoke about that first meeting:

"People who attended said they felt alone, the only ones in this situation and wanted emotional and practical support; relief from loneliness and to share their experiences."

There was a general acknowledgement that the group's priority was to work in the Burngreave area as that was where it was most needed. Many attendees also thought that one-to-one support was needed to help offenders cope with being in prison.

One parent spoke in detail about the depth and range of suffering faced by the relatives of prisoners:

"The relative is serving the sentence just as much as they are – you're going through it in your own way and you go through an immense grieving process."

"At times like Christmas or their birthday the pain of it all intensifies, leaving you feeling even more alone and sad and it's these times when support is even more needed. Even though they've committed a crime, you still want to help them – it's still your child at the end of it all."

Emotional Strain

Vivian also spoke of the emotional strain placed on the relatives making prison visits:

"There is a long and tiresome process checking for weapons etc. When you do get to see them, you don't have any



privacy – you're being watched all the time. Then it's all over and you have to go home without them. You want to take them with you but you can't. It's all very emotionally wearing."

With its ongoing expansion, the group, now based in SYAC (South Yorkshire African-Caribbean Business and Enterprise Training Centre) on The Wicker, is looking for additional help and support. They currently have eight members on the management committee, including secretary Levi and treasurer Val, and have applied for lottery funding to pay for two part-time workers to further expand the service.

Joined-up services

Vivian said: "We want to offer an integrated approach to dealing with the problems faced: joined-up services with easy access to the right information and agencies. For example, we can direct people to the Burngreave Mentoring Project for further help. We also want to work more with the prisoners themselves, to try and help them reintegrate into normal society once they have served their sentence by helping them with training, skills, work and re-entry to school."

They are always looking for more volunteers:

"We are looking for people with past experience who can help, by giving

motivational talks to prisoners and offering knowledgeable support. But anyone can help, with simple things like transport for relatives to and from prison or by being on the management committee."

Positive outreach

Vivian made it clear that making a difference to parents of prisoners really gave a good feeling:

"It is not the most popular area to work in, but it's work that has to be done, and it's a worthwhile feeling I get from doing it. So many people come up to me and say 'I've got a relative in prison' and this makes me realise that I am a part of a positive outreach to the community."

Vivian added: "I think we all need to be reminded that these young people in our prisons, for all the wrong they may have done, are still human beings like you and me. They still deserve the opportunity to fulfil their potential and the right to a second chance. There is a stereotypical, negative attitude around this issue that they have done wrong; have lost their right to ever be decent citizens again and a tendency to accept these offenders as 'lost' to the criminal justice system. We have to recognise the motives for their crimes and why they have ended up where they are. As well as helping them while they are in prison we need to try to deal with the problem earlier and eliminate the need for anyone to be imprisoned."

The group is black-led but welcomes people from all backgrounds. If you would like to find out more about the group or help in any way, contact: Room 7, SYAC, 120 The Wicker, S3 8JD; tel: 275 6301; email: parents1@btconnect.com.

Meetings are on the first Monday of every month with the next on Monday 6th November, 7–9pm in the conference room at SYAC. All are welcome. The group is looking for a new name, so watch out for the relaunch soon.

by Reuben Vincent

Office Space for immediate rental

Burngreave Community Action Trust,
12 Burngreave Road

For further information
please contact
Paul Haine (0114) 250 2715
or Kate Thompson (0114) 250 2710

Burngreave Ramblers

Saturdays, 18th November
2nd & 15th December

All walks start from Abbeyfield
Park gates (Abbeyfield Road
entrance) at 10.45am

For more info contact Sue on
249 1661 or Jill on 243 8867.

Carwood Residents

Tenants and residents on the
Carwood Estate are urged to attend
a meeting to relaunch a Tenants' and
Residents' Association for the area.

Wednesday 8th November, 6pm, All
Saints Connexions Centre, Lyons
Close. For more information contact
Dave on 0790 066 0981.

The Corner Shop – A Celebration

There used to be one on almost every street corner: a small, busy shop selling many basic necessities. They were part of the social fabric of the neighbourhood. In the past twenty years, however, these independent shops have been vanishing, facing stiff competition from supermarkets and changing consumer habits. Despite this nationwide trend, there is still a thriving selection of local shops in Burngreave. To find out why this might be, I spoke to some local shop keepers.

Burngreave Wine Shop

Mr and Mrs Patel have run the Burngreave Wine Shop on Burngreave Road since 1985. "It was a real slog when we first came," said Ramesh Patel. "Burngreave was different then. There was a hostile atmosphere and we were living above the shop for the first few years so it was hard to get away from this. But the area has improved now and we know all our customers."

"We set out to treat people with respect and to try to meet their needs. This means that if we haven't got something someone wants, we'll try to get it for them... and at a decent price. But it's hard work! People think we just stand behind the counter all day. Well, first of all we're open seven days a week, from 9am to 10pm. Even after we close up, we still have to prepare for the next day. There's a lot of physical work too, collecting stock and displaying it. We are two families, so at least we can share that workload. Even so, I had to stand behind the counter with a broken leg once – we'd have lost customers if we had simply closed the shop."

"There are good parts to the job too!" said Mrs Patel. "We enjoy talking to our customers. They're like friends and it's really important that we can offer a more personal touch, knowing their names and some of their background. We've seen some of them grow from toddlers to mothers themselves so they know us pretty well too! Quite a few of our regular customers have moved to other parts of Sheffield but they still shop here – that makes us feel really appreciated. And we love the multicultural community in Burngreave: our customers come from all over the world."

So it seems the secret of success in a small business like the Patel's is the friendship and customer service they give. But what of the future? "We don't feel pressured by supermarkets: there aren't any nearby... yet. What does concern us is the proposed changes on Burngreave Road. Most of our customers rely on cars. If we can't provide parking within reasonable reach of the shop, then we may as well close up." On this gloomy note, Mr Patel sees all his efforts to create a successful business threatened. Let's hope the future holds something different for them and for all the small shops in Burngreave. They add colour and character to the area.



Dur Dur

Dur Dur, on Ellesmere Road, truly is a 'corner' shop with interesting brick work, giving it a rounded exterior. The owner, Saeed Saleh said:

"In 2001 I took over the old TSB Bank building. There were hardly any grocery shops on Spital Hill then, and none, even across Sheffield, selling Somali food. So I opened a shop selling halal meat and other specialist foods. But it was quite difficult! Some people thought I was mad setting up a business in Burngreave and there was no-one to advise me. Even finding the wholesale markets for certain products wasn't easy! But now I've been in business five years and I really enjoy it! I'm involved in the community and I feel at home here. I know lots of people and many of my customers are like family to me. I think what's important is that they can feel confident in the quality of the meat and my other products: it's all proper halal food."

"Burngreave has improved a lot," Mr Saleh added. "Now there are plenty of other shops on Spital Hill and around Ellesmere. My only concern is that there have been a lot of break-ins recently. I hope we're not going back to how things were before. We need better security."

Like many other Burngreave buildings, the shop itself has a history. Part of a line of shops built in the late 1800s to supply an expanding neighbourhood; an early proprietor was John Standall, who ran a painting and decorating business. By 1932 it was a branch of the Sheffield Savings Bank, and later became the TSB. Now as Dur Dur, it sells a great selection of groceries, fresh fruit and vegetables along with fresh meat to a local population – a truly local shop!



The building Dur Dur now occupies, as it was in 1910.

Celebrating the role corner shops play within the local community, the newly re-opened Weston Park Museum has made a short video focusing on Burngreave shopkeepers, as part of its new exhibitions. Go along and see some familiar faces!

by Nikky Wilson

Thanks to Mr and Mrs Patel and Saeed Saleh for giving their time to be interviewed.

Burngreave Voices: Our Stories Celebrated is a Sheffield Galleries and Museums Trust project in partnership with Sheffield Libraries, WEA and Sheffield College, and is supported by Sheffield City Council and BNDfC.

New Wanderers

The England football team may not have come far in the past five years but youth football in Burngreave has come a long way.

Five years ago there were no youth football teams in Burngreave, now there are five, including the Multicultural Wanderers, two new teams for under-11s and under-13s.

Danny Joof is manager for the under-11s team (*pictured*), he's played some football in his time and won a few trophies too, now he's passing on his skills to his young team.



"We've got thirteen players registered and they've played a few matches together. We had a couple of heavy losses at first, 11-2, 10-1, but in the last match they lost 2-1. It was like they had won, they play much better as a team and I was really pleased. We've got some good players, and they all really buzz off it."

The under-13s team has about 20 players and though they are not winning at the moment, team manager Mark Armitage said:

"They are getting better and there is a great team spirit within the team. It's a learning curve at the moment because it's the first time a lot of them have played 11-a-side football."

Patrick Edwards, who helped to set up the Burngreave Sports Network, which supports a number of the youth and adult teams in Burngreave, said:

"Considering where football was in Burngreave five years ago, quite a lot of progress has been made. But, more still needs to be done in order to reach the ideal situation of having ten teams between the ages of seven and seventeen and developing a girls' football programme."

Both teams are still looking for new local players. They train on Wednesdays at Firvale School 5-6pm.

For more information on how to get involved, phone Patrick Edwards at Burngreave Community Action Trust on 272 8008 or Burngreave Sports Network on 292 2907.

by Will Jones

All Saints Soccer School

Mondays Y1, 2, 3 & 4 and Wednesdays Y5, 6, 7 & 8; Firvale School 4.45-6.00pm. Thursday evenings in partnership with Sheffield Futures 13-19 years.

Contact Burngreave Sports Network on 292 2907.

Staying Power

Thursday 26th October 7pm and Black History Month Celebrations rounded off with an entertaining musical, drum, dance and poetry evening inside the SADACCA building.

"The Caribbean Journeys event is a celebration of the African-Caribbean experience in Sheffield," explained event organiser, Mr Jenson Grant "The main aim of this initiative has been to collect and share the stories and memories of the African-Caribbean Community in Sheffield."

Members of SADACCA Study Support After-school Club displayed the staying power of Sheffield's Black community with their stage performances. Children of the group performed a short introductory piece called *'The Snake'*, followed by staff members who sang *'By the rivers of Babylon'*.

African drum and dance band, Khula, from Southern Africa, were followed by Jazz vs Disco, an entertaining show of dance moves from Ladies with Attitude. Then an array of performances – beginning with Mrs Duncan and Mrs Roomes, poetry and dramatic acts, African chants and drumming. Before food and drinks at the interval, while elders of our African-Caribbean community shared their life experiences.

The entertainment continued with African traditional dance, then Ladies with Attitude acted in a drama written by Desiree Reynolds. The world famous African Gumboot Dance which followed the singing of *'We shall overcome'*. The evening continued with a modern dance sequence, followed by a history of Black achievers around the world presented by the children of the support group.

To end the show, Ladies with Attitude choreographer Simone Thompson, performed an original song to the delight and applause of all.

by Rob Smith



All © Clinton McKoy

High-quality library

The staff at the Burngreave Library were recently nominated for a DEL Quality Award from the City Council.

I went to speak to Community Development Librarian, Laura Bell, about the award and the new range of clubs and activities the library has to offer.

“We were nominated for the award and went to the town hall for the ceremony. Unfortunately we didn’t win but we had a nice lunch. It’s nice to be recognised for the hard work we do here.”

I asked Laura about the new things happening at the library.

“We have free internet access, which you don’t

have to be a member to use. We have a range of new Somali and Arabic books. It’s the first time the library has stocked Somali books, as they are hard to get hold of in this country. There are books on faith, health and marriage. We also have many fiction and poetry books, some of which are spoken word.”

The library has also started a new range of clubs and activities, including the Homework Zone, which is held on a Monday after school from 4–5pm.

“It is run by two members of staff, who can help you with your homework and show you how to get information from the books in the library or from the internet.”

The library also runs an adult reading group called the Burngreave Feel Good Reading Group, which meets on a Monday, once a month from 1.30–3.00pm.

“We all read the same book and then meet a month later and discuss it. The group is a good chance to get together, have a chat, a coffee and to relax.”

You can find out more about the new range of activities and clubs by visiting the library on Spital Hill, or by giving them a ring on 203 9002.

by Tom Sadler

Connect celebrates

Connect Befriending Scheme seeks to match those who are lonely and isolated with volunteers who give time to visit them and develop a friendship.

Tuesday 19th September saw Connect celebrate the past and look to the future as Jeff and Vanessa Kirby handed over responsibility to Karen Skidmore (pictured), Christ Church’s new Curate. The event brought together volunteers, friends and agencies to celebrate all that has been achieved to date and dreams for the future. Jeff and Vanessa have built up the scheme from nothing. Over two and a half years, they have worked with local agencies, recruited volunteers and trained them. Now over twenty trained volunteers regularly visit people in the community. In a touching tribute, Jeff and Vanessa were thanked for all they have achieved in this successful project.

For mor information contact Karen on 272 2662.



Corner Pin

The CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) ‘Pub of the Month’ for October was The Corner Pin. It’s located in the heart of the former Sheffield Steelworks and Engineering area, on the corner of Carlisle Street East and Lyons Street.



Brought back from dereliction two years ago, it is a pub that has refused to give up – in the Great War a lone Zeppelin destroyed houses and property in Lyons Street and Cossey Street just 50 yards away, missing the pub and its target of the steel works around it.

Similarly in the Second World War it survived the heavy bombing of the East End in December 1940, then redevelopment of the area only took away the customers.

Built in the 1860s it was a Greaves Norfolk Brewery house with a terracotta tiled facia, passing through Duncan Gilmour’s, Tetley’s and a pub exchange to Wards. It was bought in 2004 and tastefully restored into the pub we have today with a no-smoking lounge and the former ‘Dram Shop’ now a cosy lounge.

The new landlady, Rebecca Stacey and landlord David Capon, share the day-to-day running of the pub and the serving of a fine range of real ales from the ranges of Abbeydale Moonshine, Acorn, Bradfield Farmers and Ossett Breweries complimented with hot and cold food served daily.

The pub was presented with its CAMRA award on 6th October – a good night was had by all, with everyone enjoying a supper of pie and peas.

The pub is normally open Monday to Thursday from 12 noon till about 8.30pm and 11pm on Friday. Saturday from 12 noon until 6pm and closed all day Sunday. Rebecca and David are considering a change in the opening times, to find out more contact them on 275 2334.

by Albert Jackson



Burngreave Drug Project

Burngreave Drug Project is offering

FREE TRAINING

(for all Burngreave residents and Organisations)

On the following:

DRUG AWARENESS – full & half day available
Effects, appearances, how taken and methods of use

HEALTH PROMOTION – full & half day

KHAT, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO TRAINING
– full & half day

Awareness and harm reduction

DRUGS AND DIVERSITY TRAINING – full day

The training can be run at any time, and can be delivered at your premises.

Alternatively, you can receive the training at our training suite based at:

Unit 2d, Waverley House, 10 Joiner Street,
Sheffield S3 8GW

For more information:
(0114) 226 2970



School for Environment is a new project that wants to open up environmental training and employment opportunities to Sheffield's BME communities.

Do you belong to a group that would like to know more about environmental training and employment? If so, we can come and meet your group.

Would you like to visit one of Sheffield's environmental training providers? We will be trying to find out what barriers there are for BME communities to get involved in Environmental work and how to overcome them. All expenses covered.

Are you interested in achieving an environmental training accreditation? If so we may be able to help with the costs of NVQs delivered by local training providers.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities please contact:

Maxwell Ayamba at SHEBEEN
on **(0114) 272 2030**
or email **maxwell@shebeen.org.uk**

Sheffield's Environment Needs You!

Could you be a Governor?

The Governors are responsible for the character, strategic direction and financial well being of the College, working on a part-time and unpaid basis. To prepare for possible future vacancies, we welcome applications from local residents and business or professional people who have:

- An interest in the education and training of young people and adults
- Experience and abilities relevant to the strategic management of the College
- The commitment, energy, enthusiasm and integrity necessary for a responsible and challenging role

We currently have two vacancies, one for a person with a business background and one involved in the local community, and are particularly keen to hear from people with legal experience who might be interested in becoming a Governor or a co-opted member of one of the Governing Body's committees.

To apply or obtain more information, please contact the **Clerk to the Corporation** on **(0114) 262 5723** or email **sharon.langridge@longleypark.ac.uk**.

Closing date for applications: **Friday 24th November 2006**



Longley Park Sixth Form College

Horninglow Road, Sheffield S5 6SG

Improve your health and your environment!

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

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

For more information call BTCV on
0114 272 3591 or email **s.hughes@btcv.org.uk**



Community Learning Academy

If you live in Burngreave, have had a full UK driving licence for three years and are looking for full-/part-time employment as a taxi or cab driver...

We can offer you:

Free training to a standard set by Sheffield City Council for licensed taxi/cab drivers.
Guaranteed work (subject to hire charge and radio rent) after completion of the training, with Ambassador Cabs.



For further information,
contact us on **(0114) 275 1270**

Community Learning Academy

30 Burngreave Road,

Sheffield S3 9DD

(0114) 275 1270

admin@clacademy.co.uk

Don't miss out...

'Time for trees' says Tim

The level of tree cover in Burngreave is 13.5% which is significantly lower than many areas of the city.

Trees are often taken for granted but provide a wealth of benefits for people living in the city. Trees have an effect on property values and attract inward investment. They can be seen as a measure of prosperity and are often synonymous with wealthy districts. Air pollution can be reduced by absorption through leaves and a belt of trees can help prevent noise pollution or obscure unsightly industry and major roads. Trees are not only aesthetically pleasing but are known to promote health and well-being whilst providing shade from harmful UV rays. The range of wildlife that each mature tree can support is immense and even a newly planted young tree will immediately start to attract its own unique ecosystem. By renewing the diseased trees and planting new ones, we can continue to experience the wonders of nature on our doorsteps.

Following the long summer, the bright colours of the autumn leaves herald the approaching tree-planting season. Trees are more dormant during the winter so it is the best time to plant or move them. Climate change is now considered to be inevitable and the simple act of planting a tree is a way we can all make a difference to the environment we live in. To celebrate **National Tree Week** I have planned the following events in Burngreave.

National Tree Week events

Friday 24th November: Street tree planting with residents, local schools, Greenwatch and Green City Action (GCA). This is a continuation of last season's planting in Page Hall and offers a wonderful opportunity to bring greenery and wildlife into this Victorian terraced estate. The tree species are carefully selected in order to minimise root damage and maximise light to properties whilst offering the benefits of spring blossom, autumn colour and small bright berries.



Saturday 25th: Planting of two ginkgo trees in circular pavement pockets at Verdon Street shops, with BTCV Green Gym and possibly a youth group.

Monday 27th: Planting of three birch trees, with BTCV Green Gym and residents on Verdon Street.

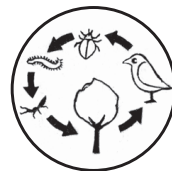


Tuesday 28th: Planting of six mountain ash trees, in conjunction with GCA on Burngreave Bank.

Friday 30th: Woodland creation at Woodside Rec (Stanley Fields on Pitsmoor Road) Planting of over 1,000 small trees to add to existing and recently managed woodland. Native species will be used including; oak, birch, rowan, ash, cherry, hawthorn, hazel and field maple. A local school, Greenwatch and community groups will be involved and volunteers are welcome.

Monday 4th December: Free the Rauli! Plantation Management at Burngreave Recreation Ground with BTCV Green Gym.

The Rauli is an unusual Chilean tree. This large, fast-growing southern beech tree has leaves that are deeply veined, turn yellow in autumn and look like a shortened sweet chestnut leaf.



This event represents the final stages of the project and involves a large woodchipping machine, BTCV volunteers, Greenwatch and local contractors. Volunteers are welcome as a range of tasks will be available.

More tree planting

Other activities throughout the winter season include: planting of a lime tree avenue at Burngreave Cemetery, woodland creation with GCA at SUFC Academy and also at Parkwood Springs.

For more information or to confirm events – they are subject to favourable weather – I can be contacted on 273 4190 or email tim.shortland@sheffield.gov.uk.

by Tim Shortland, Community Forester



Green City Action

Ellesmere Park

The Green City Stewards have been busy in September sorting out the overgrown shrubbery on Ellesmere Park. A residents and New Deal partnership board visit saw how much the site had been improved and made safer to use and walk through. The whole park has benefitted from the dramatic facelift applied by the stewards and volunteers. We would like to hear what improvements residents would like. We feel that there's a great deal of scope to improve this site for residents' recreational use. If you do too, then get in touch and get involved.

Catherine Street Park

The stewards have also done a great deal of tidying up, cutting down overgrown shrubs and trees and clearing footpaths of obstructing vegetation Catherine Street Park as well. We aim to reclaim this space for active community use.



© GCA

If you've an activity that can be held on this space then let us know. A few years ago there were Sunday morning basketball sessions – the court is still in good condition. Shall we get this going again? It's up to you. Ring us.

Green City Action is a community-based environmental group. To get involved, ring us on 244 0353. Think global, act local.

Deliver it **green...**

Partnership Board *Report Back*

27th September at Pitsmoor Methodist Church

The meeting commenced with the news that Seaton Gosling had tendered his resignation from the Board and the Chair, Rose Ardon, thanked Seaton for his valuable contribution over his time with BNDfC.

Chief Executive, John Clarke, introduced the review of the restructure of BNDfC's seven Theme Areas into the four Priority Areas and referred to the recommendation that elected Community Representatives and Vol/Com Representatives identify Priority Areas they wished to 'Champion'.

Approval for the Greenfingers project was sought and discussions were had around the identification of match-funding. The Board approved the project for £219,196 and asked to receive an update in January 2007 regarding the progress made for match-funding.

The Burngreave *Messenger* project report was presented by Mushall Khan, Programme Director. Mushall reported that BNDfC officers were recommending that the project should not be accepted in its present form as it did not meet the Board's earlier stated requirements of tapered funding over the next three years. The Board was asked to approve continuing discussions with the *Messenger* and to agree total funding from BNDfC of £127,514.

Much discussion was had between Board members who

reiterated their support for the *Messenger* and the important role it played in the area. However, it was stressed that the project should represent value-for-money and they stood by their earlier decision that the funding should be tapered. It was agreed that the project would be brought back to the next meeting for consideration.

John Clark updated the Board on the progress of the Transformational projects contained within the Advancing Together agreement between BNDfC and Sheffield City Council. The Board approved the:

- Ellesmere Road Traffic Calming Scheme for £150,000
- Walking and Cycling audit for £50,000
- Accessibility Audit for £50,000

Further update reports were presented to the meeting and included:

- Burngreave Community Learning Campaign
- LEA Advancing Together Evaluation Update
- Exclusions update

Full minutes will be available shortly on the BNDfC website.

Feedback from the New Priority Meeting held on 28th September is included as an insertion in this *Messenger*.

If you do not have a copy and would like one call me at the number on page 15 and I will send you a copy.



Burngreave is a vibrant multi-cultured community situated close to Sheffield city centre. Burngreave New Deal for Communities was established in 2001 to deliver a ten-year £52m regeneration programme tackling the issues of deprivation in the area. One of our current project objectives is to reduce worklessness and unemployment in the area by targeting people who are furthest away from the labour market via our One Stop Shop facility, Burngreave Opportunities.

Personal Advisor Salary £18,170–22,187

Post funded to December 2007 – may continue longer subject to funding

We are looking for an individual to work as a Personal Advisor in our One Stop Shop providing a range of services to local residents within the area. You will work with them to overcome their personal barriers to employment or training and once successful in securing employment or training you will provide continued support.

To be considered you will need to have:

- Experience of employment and employability support services
- Experience of working with a diverse client mix
- Experience of engaging and working with clients and employers
- Knowledge of key issues and barriers to employment
- An understanding of statutory agency working
- Excellent communication skills

Closing date: 12.00 noon Thursday 23 November

Interview/Assessments to be held: Monday 4 December 2006

If you are interested, have the relevant skills and want to know more, contact **Martin Smith on 279 6932** or alternatively request a recruitment pack via email: enquiries@bndfc.co.uk.

A New Deal for Burngreave



Information Shop



The staff at the BNDfC Information Shop are there to help you find out about projects, courses and events happening in the area in which you might be interested.

Projects that are currently using the shop as a drop in for residents are:

Sheffield Landlord Project – Wednesdays 2–4pm

Burngreave Literacy Campaign – Thursday & Friday 2–5pm

Burngreave Grant Fund – Wednesdays 2–4pm

Call in to the Information Shop if you need to talk with any of the above projects.

The shop is a valuable resource that we are very keen to fully utilise. If you are involved in a project and would like to use the shop facilities to hold regular drop-in sessions or maybe a one-off event, call in or phone the Information Officers for a discussion about your needs.

BNDfC Information Shop, 131 Spital Hill, tel: 292 0464.

Bonfire Night Celebrations

Saturday 4th November, 4–9pm at Petre Street



Fairground rides and a range of children's activities and of course a fireworks display. Main stage show will include local performers and the band Bison.

Diary Dates

Residents Forum events

Priority area	Dec	Info
Employment & Skills	5th	TBC
Physical Environment & Safety	7th	6.00pm
Information Shop, Spital Hill, Drop-in drugs theme		
Children & Young People	12th	TBC
John Cowley 292 2908		
Community Strength & Wellbeing	14th	5.30pm
St Peter's Church		

The Children and Young Peoples' Forum and BCAT will be holding a joint event on Tuesday 7th November at 6.00pm, at BCAT, 12–14 Burngreave Road. The subject of the event will be 'exclusions and school behaviour'. If you need any further information call Jon Cowley, Regeneration Manager on 292 2908 or Patrick Edwards on 272 8008.

Strategy Group

Priority area	Nov
Employment & Skills	7th
7pm BNDfC Office	
Physical Environment & Safety	9th
5pm Abbeyfield Park House	
Children & Young People	14th
TBC 292 2908	
Community Strength & Wellbeing	16th
5.30pm BNDfC Office	

Implementation Group meets quarterly, next meeting planned for January, date to be confirmed.

Partnership Board meetings are held bi-monthly, the next meeting being 29th November at St Peter's Church Hall.

If you have any comments please write to:

**Alison Reid
Communication Manager**

BNDfC
1st Floor
Speedicut Works
Harlestone Street
Sheffield
S4 7QB

alisonreid@bndfc.co.uk



contact: 276 9134

Burngreave Area Panel

Got a proper 'traffic plan', Northern General?

Every organisation that creates traffic – either staff, visitors, customers or suppliers – is nowadays encouraged to explore what is called a 'travel plan'.

The assumption is that with emissions of carbons into the atmosphere (produced by burning carbons mainly in the form of gas, oil or coal), so-called greenhouse gases are produced which both allow more harmful sun's rays to the earth and traps heat produced by the planet. This is now widely agreed to produce the climate change that we're living with – the hottest September on record, following the hottest July on record. And one thing that can be done about this is to reduce all of our contributions to global warming. And a major element of this warming comes from traffic emissions.

Half-made decisions

This column has talked about how vehicle usage can be altered – by walking to school, by walking to prayers, or by making bus services more reliable to encourage their use. So it is really encouraging that the major local employer in Burngreave has looked to adopt a travel plan. Unfortunately, the evidence in the streets of Norwood and Fir Vale at present shows what happens when decisions are 'half-made'.

Staff at the Northern General have had to apply for permits to park on the site; if they've not been successful, some have taken to parking on the surrounding residential roads. This has led to driveways becoming blocked; disabled children being unable to get to and from



A multitude of cars on Crabtree Road, near the Herries Road entrance to the Northern General Hospital.

school transports; bin wagons being unable to get onto some roads – so bins haven't been collected; and bus routes withdrawn from Norwood Road and being rerouted down tiny Fir Vale Road.

Mr Hussain on Fir Vale Road says that twelve double deckers and 26 single deckers came down his road two weeks ago between 12 noon and 4pm; and no-one had explained to any of the residents why this was happening and how long it will last.

This is a classic case of how local communities have to bear the brunt of ill thought out decisions of big organisations.

Options for the hospital

Why didn't the hospital consider what might happen after introducing permits? Did they explain widely to all staff what alternatives they could use to get to and from work – especially for those on early

and late shifts? Has a car-sharing scheme been properly developed? Cycling facilities available? Subsidised tickets? A campaign for local recruitment of staff (who would be more likely to walk to work...)?

The Area Panel discussed these matters at their last meeting and decided to call the Northern General Chief Executive and colleagues to discuss how and why this situation has occurred – and what can be done to improve matters.

This meeting is called for Thursday 9th November at 10am in the Town Hall as a 'scrutiny board' – and it is open for members of the public to attend.

Next Area Panel meeting

The next Area Panel meeting will be held at the Cornerstone building (on the corner of Grimesthorpe and Carwood Roads) on Thursday 30th November starting at 6pm. As well as discussing the proposals for 'mixed communities', and hearing the work by museums to document the history of the area, local managers from Sheffield Homes, Street Force and the Police will be present for questions and answers about local concerns.

New Year's Honours

Lastly, any nominations for the Panel's New Year's Honours awards – for those who've volunteered and/or worked 'above and beyond' – should be sent to Marilyn King (0773 636 2179) before the end of this month.

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

18th November: Steve Jones, 11am–12 noon Burngreave Library

Next Area Panel Meeting

Thursday 30th November, 6–8pm, Cornerstone building, (Grimesthorpe Road/Carwood Road).

Agenda: 'Mixed communities' and museums project to document local history; managers from Sheffield Homes, Street Force and the Police will also attend.

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SAGE Greenfingers Manager,

Minna House, 30 Minna Road, Sheffield S3 9AZ

Or email sagegreenfingers@yahoo.co.uk

Closing date for applications

5pm, Friday 24th November 2006

Interviews will take place on

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Driving Theory

Every Monday: 2.00-3.30pm

Sewing

Every Monday: 9.00-10.30am

Pottery

Every Thursday: 7-9pm

Making Musical Instruments

Every Thursday: 7-9pm

Some courses may be subject to a fee but are free if you are on benefits.

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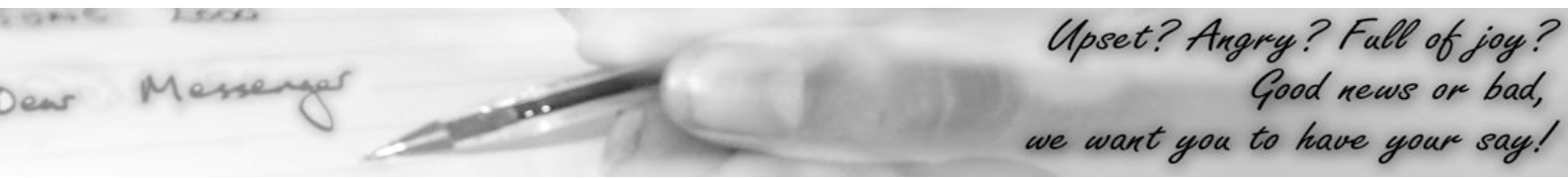
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Under the veil

Dear *Messenger*

After the comments made by the Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, I thought, as a veteran-wearer of the veil (or *niqaab*), it would be beneficial for our multi-cultural community, to shed some light on the Muslim veil.

Contrary to popular belief, the veil is encouraged in Islam. Muslim scholars differ on the necessity of its adoption. However, it is unanimously agreed that it was the attire of the wives and daughters of our Holy Prophet Mohammed (*peace be upon him*). The Prophet Mohammed (*peace be upon him*) was sent from Allah (God) as a living example to mankind. In order to perfect one's faith and practises, we look to the lifestyle of our beloved Prophet as a guide and want to imitate his life. As the women in his family wore the veil, then, devout Muslim women want to resemble their 'role models' with the hope of attaining their companionship in Paradise.

In today's society when someone feels great admiration and love for a celebrity, they feel the need to emulate and adopt their dress, hair-styles, even eating habits. If we can accept youngsters adopting celebrity fashions, spending lavishly to buy the latest trainers etc, then can't we accept the young women who want to show their love for their religion?

Islam encourages modesty and chastity. A covered Muslim woman no longer feels subjugated and controlled by the fashion industry. She feels liberated from the peer-pressure of society to appear attractive, she feels her body is her business and she does not need to appease her on-lookers.

If we can understand the sentiments of a young girl, wanting to dress like a catwalk model, why can't we understand a woman wanting to cover herself to appear modest?

You may argue that she is not pleasing to the eye, especially for someone who has never encountered a woman in *niqaab* before (although I'm forever getting compliments for my sense of dress from non-Muslims!) The argument is valid, but can we dictate to others how they should dress? People with multiple piercings, multi-coloured hair, or even wearing little clothing can appear distasteful, but we don't hear anyone complaining there.

Many see the veil as oppressive. I think this view has grown from negative portrayal by a biased media. The idea that women have been enshrouded in this attire by their dominant male counterparts is a myth; I began wearing the *niqaab* before I married my husband and many of my friends who wear it are single.

The central arguments in Jack Straw's remarks are firstly, that the *niqaab* 'hinders communication'. This is a weak argument – one does not have to see a person's facial expressions in order to have a healthy conversation with them, otherwise how would we be able to talk over the phone? If he feels uncomfortable talking to women in *niqaab*, does it mean we should remove it? Many people find men dressed in suits intimidating, but does that mean we can ask Mr Straw 'kindly' to remove his tie before the consultation?

Secondly, he claims the veil obstructs integration. This is another invalid point. People who refuse to integrate into mainstream society will refuse to do so regardless of what they wear. Many non-practising Muslims, who I know, feel it is irrelevant to mix with people of different races. They feel superior to both non-

Muslims and to fellow Muslims of different colours and backgrounds. Practising Muslims however have the knowledge of Islam which requires us to keep good relationships with fellow citizens.

Straw's comments however, have jeopardized these relationships to some extent. Muslim women feel ostracized and alienated as the spotlight is on them.

I would like to make a heartfelt request to all readers to respect women who are simply expressing their close relationship with God. Constant verbal abuse and revolt from passers-by can be frightening.

As legendary boxer Muhammed Ali, once said to his daughter: "The most precious gems are hidden deep under the earth. Islam regards the woman as that precious gem which is too valuable to put on show openly!"

Umm A'tika

'Humiliated under arrest' response

Dear *Messenger*

In the article 'Humiliated under arrest' (*Messenger* September 2006), Inspector Ekwubiri says that he too is a sickle cell carrier and that all his colleagues are aware of this.

Fortunately for Inspector Ekwubiri he is only a carrier, and so does not and will not suffer as those who carry the full disorder as Jason does, along with so many other people in Sheffield, some of whom have died from a severe crisis.

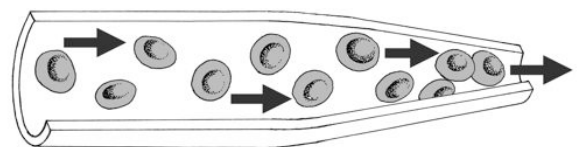
The only time it can become a danger for Inspector Ekwubiri is if he has children with someone else who is also a carrier – the possibilities of them having a child with the full sickle cell disorder is then very high. But otherwise it will not affect him in his daily life or his children if he has any.

The Inspector's blood cells will be able to move around his body with no obstructions as he is only a carrier, but for those with the full disorder their blood cells are a very different shape, causing cells to get stuck together and cause an obstruction (*see diagram*).

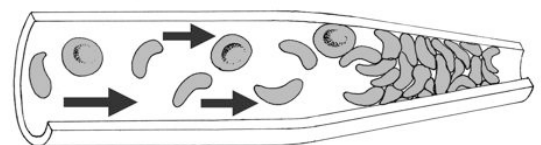
Before he makes such statements, I suggest Inspector Ekwubiri contacts the professionals who know more about it. Here is the address if you are interested – they will be happy to advise:

Sickle Cell Society, 54 Station Road, London NW10 4UA.
Tel: (020) 8961 7795, fax: (020) 8961 8346, email:
info@sicklecellsociety.org

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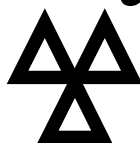
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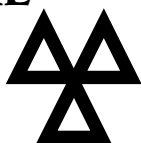
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