

# Burngreave Messenger

Voice of the Burngreave Community

Season's Greetings to all our readers

## Spital Hill Upheaval

Spital Hill has been closed since September 2005, as the inner relief road is built. A year on, businesses still suffer from the effects of reduced access and in the last month it has got worse as parking bays are put in place as part of the Better Buses scheme.



The *Messenger* spoke to Keith Hobson from the butchers on Spital Hill who was angry and frustrated with the road-works, which have caused a substantial constraint on his business, and can see no future for himself in Burngreave.

Mr Hobson is unsure when the works will be completed and feels that the final results don't look promising. At the moment it seems the one-way system coming from town is regularly congested.

**"My customers who came by bus just don't come in no more, because the bus into town is on a diverted route and no longer through Spital Hill. There is no parking in the vicinity and I myself have to drive around for a parking space."**

Customer Lorna Walker had to park on Andover Street and walk down. "The money used on roadwork is waste of space and money," she said.

Jane Thompson from Amy's Café states business has definitely suffered because of parking problems. She said: "I can't see business getting any better. We have heard rumours of the Council installing parking meters, and works not being completed until July 2007".

Raja Saddiq of SR Raja and Leroy of Lee's Appliances have similar problems

in that their businesses involve large deliveries but no parking. "Delivery lorries have to park up Spital Lane, I am having to call in extra workers to load and unload," said Mr Saddiq.

The Council said all Better Buses work will be completed by the end of January next year. Although the work on Spital Hill will be substantially complete by the middle of December, it is unlikely to be opened fully to two-way traffic until July 2007 when the relief road is finished. The placing of parking meters has still not been finalised.

Councillor Terry Fox, the Council's Cabinet member for Transport commented: "We hope that people using the area, such as traders and pedestrians, and those travelling through the area, will bear with us until these important works are completed. We apologise for any inconvenience that may be caused during the works, but this will be kept to a minimum. This is an important project to provide a much-improved corridor for the North Sheffield Better Buses initiative."

For queries or problems with the scheme, please contact the Council's Street Force Helpline on 273 4567.

by Kamida Khan

## BCAT folds

On Friday 10th November, the doors of Burngreave Community Action Trust (BCAT) were closed for ever. Staff were given their P45s and told not to come in on Monday. The Trustees told members that they had decided to put the company into voluntary liquidation because it "cannot by reason of its liabilities continue its business".

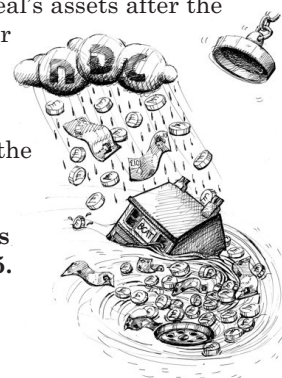
It is understood that BCAT owed New Deal a sum of around £80,000, which it was unable to pay back. A meeting of members and creditors will be held on 6th December.

### Pulling the trigger

The decision to close was triggered by a letter from New Deal, dated 25th October 2006, giving BCAT two weeks to repay the £80,000, paid in 2005 when BCAT was managing the BNDfC Small Grants Fund. John Clark, Chief Executive of New Deal, said the letter was sent when, as funders, they became convinced that BCAT's inability to repay the money was because they had spent it on other things, rather than because of cashflow problems, as understood by BCAT trustees.

BCAT has received £800,000 from New Deal over the last four years to develop the capacity of other organisations and develop the BCAT organisation itself. There had originally been talk of BCAT managing New Deal's assets after the end of the ten-year programme in 2011, leaving questions as to who will manage the assets now.

For more on this story, see page 5.



## Do you want to try new skills? Do you want to meet new people?

We have the following courses running:

**Computers for Beginners & ECDL**  
Every Thursday 6–8pm • New courses start 11 January

**Child Care Level 2**  
Every Tuesday: 3–5pm

**7302 – 3 Delivery Adult Learning**  
Every Wednesday: 1–3pm

**Keep Fit for Women**  
Every Tuesday: 2–3pm

**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.*

**Interested? Contact:**

**A Janjua**  
**Fir Vale School**  
Owler Lane, Sheffield S4 8GB  
**Tel no: 243 9391**



## Burngreave Community Learning Campaign (BCLC) Basic Skills Champion

BCLC is looking to recruit an experienced professional to:

- Engage with, and promote the needs of, Basic Skills learners in the area
- Help to develop a range of Basic Skills courses
- Engage with employers and others to raise awareness of Basic Skills needs in the area

The successful applicant should have a working knowledge of the barriers to learning experienced by many adults, good communication skills and an ability to engage with and motivate adult learners.

Qualifications and/or experience in teaching adults would be an advantage, as would some local knowledge.

**This is a 6-month post, 18.5 hours a week, at a salary of £29,010 (pro-rata).**

**Please ring Christine Huseni-Said on 279 4960 for an application pack.**

**Closing date: 12 noon, Monday 18th December 2006.**



## Would you like to be a Sheffield Homes LOCAL BOARD MEMBER?

Sheffield Homes manages and maintains Sheffield's Council homes.

Our Local Boards have played a crucial role in the improvement of services for Council tenants over the last two years. All current members are due to retire in April and we are now looking for new members.

**Come and find out what it's all about  
at one of these special drop-in events...**

**Monday 11 December**

**Quaker Meeting House**

St James' Street, Sheffield S1 (next to the Cathedral)

**Wednesday 13 December**

**Hillsborough First Point**

The Mall, Hillsborough Barracks Shopping Centre,  
Langsett Road

**Thursday 14 December**

**Committee Room**

Newfield Green Community Centre, Gleadless Road

**All events run from 2pm to 7pm**  
**Refreshments provided**



Turn up at anytime or book an appointment.

For an **appointment**, more **information**  
or an **interpreter** please phone

**Barbara Ward** or **John Loveless** on  
**(0114) 273 5455** or **(0114) 273 4417**

or email  
**john.loveless@sheffieldhomes.org.uk**

## LANDLORDS

Come to the next information session on  
**Tuesday 12th December 2006**

at the

**Living Waters Centre**

81 Main Road, Darnall, Sheffield S9 5HL

**6.30–8.30pm**

**Guest speaker:**

**Simon Higginbottom - CORGI**  
**(Council for Registered Gas Installers)**

*Overview of this service and common  
problems with gas appliances.*

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Telephone  
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or email **prp@sheffield.gov.uk**

or visit **www.sheffield.gov.uk/private rented project/**  
**www.sheffield.gov.uk/rls**





# Youth Council elected

**The results of the first Burngreave Youth Council elections have been announced, and the *Messenger* was at Verdon Recreation Centre on Friday 24th November to hear the outcome.**

During the election campaign, the *Messenger* heard young people raise a number of issues: the need for more leisure services for young people like sports activities, a fitness club and a social club. The need to prevent crime by providing diversionary activity for young people through extending the hours of youth centre opening. Other issues raised included lack of career support, training opportunities, youth clubs and separate youth provision for boys and girls to mention a few.



Mohamed Ahmed, 18, was among those elected: "I nominated myself because I want to make a stab at improving Burngreave for the youth. I think it's a great idea, Rob, that will allow us and other youths to voice our concerns."

Zahara Hussain and Naurin Fatima were nominated by the Young Adults' Action Forum based inside Earl Marshal Connexions Centre.

"I'm here to represent the views of all local young people within our community," said Zahara. "One of my main objectives is to remove territorial boundaries and implement CCTV in no-go areas."

Fagr Alafif, 16, explained the idea to help the youths was positive: "Especially to keep us off the streets and into environments where we can get together, work and look to our futures." Fagir nominated himself on 4th November at the Burngreave Bonfire celebration on Petre Street.

Zanumb Bibi informed us that it all began for her because of a fight in school. After a visit from BNDfC Engagement Officer, Leroy Betts, they formed a group called Burngreave Youth For Peace. "When Zain Abdulla attended one of our meetings and explained this idea, as the Chair of BYFP I'm now standing for a position on this Youth Council." Zanumb believes this will help many young people keep out of trouble and crime as well as helping to improve society itself.

**Congratulations to those elected:** Haseena Hussain, Jihad Hanash, Billal Ahmed, Fagr Alafif, Mohamed Ahmed, Mohammed Qasem, Naurin Fatima, Sameera Hanash, Zahra Ryana Hussain, Mahd Al-Salafi, Bassan Yosif, Zanumb Bibi, Khuram Hussain, Rochelle Bennette, Afrah Al-Kaleili and Mohammed Wilson. 719 votes were cast.

by Derrick Okrah & Rob Smith

## Walk for Kashmir

**Cllr Ibrar Hussain is raising funds for a 'Burngreave Room' at Sheffield Girls' College in Bagh, Pakistan - the devastated area in the recent earthquake. Each room costs about £1,600.**

Ibrar's walk starts at 1pm on 16th December at Firs Hill School on Orphanage Road, and finishes at the junction of Abbeydale and Glen Roads in Nether Edge - around five miles in all. If you would like to sponsor Cllr Hussain or donate directly, you can contact him: Cllr Ibrar Hussain, Kashmir Education Trust, Town Hall, Sheffield S1 2HH or [ibrar.hussain@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:ibrar.hussain@sheffield.gov.uk) or 0786 657 1750. Cheques should be made payable to 'KET'.



## The Editorial

The collapse of BCAT is a lesson to all community and voluntary sector organisations to ensure that all their expenditure is covered by budgets. It may also be worth voluntary sector organisations checking their accounts for money left behind by funders.

Perhaps more importantly, the collapse of BCAT raises that question of who will manage New Deal's considerable assets, which have been acquired in the name of Burngreave residents, after the end of the programme. And if, as seems likely, these assets will be managed by the Directors of the New Deal Board, then how will local residents have a say in how these assets are used?

Big questions remain regarding whether Burngreave Community Action Forum can have a role in expressing the will of residents or whether it will be doomed by the 'crisis of leadership' which clearly afflicted the Trust. With this in mind - is there a future for Burngreave's Forum or should we look to the Area Panel to express the will of local residents?

### Messenger Info

**Meetings: 6.30pm at Abbeyfield Park House**  
**Editorial: Wed, 10th January**  
**Management: Thu, 31st January**  
**All welcome.**

**Copy deadline: 17th January**

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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: Kate Atkinson, Annie Blindell, Ian Clifford, Camille Daughma, Rohan Francis, Naheem Hanif, Saleema Imam, Jamie Marriott, Brent Moya, Derrick Okrah, Rob Smith, Lisa Swift, Paul Taylor, Ange Whichelow and Nikky Wilson.

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# Galloways seek return

**Following the victory of local resident Nellie Ramsey, saving the last wavy-roofed houses, the *Messenger* has been following the plight of the Galloway family.**

The Galloways had resided at 6 Gray Street, next door to Nellie Ramsey, for over 30 years. "All our misery began with the demolition plans for Woodside followed by daily harassment and demands from a senior housing manager to vacate our house. We were finally paid £3,100 to move, amidst claims we were holding up the demolition of wavy-roofed houses."



Since that time, 6 Gray Street has been squatted until recently, along with other wavy-roofed houses relieved from demolition. In fact number 6 has now been refurbished and is ready to be reoccupied. Since news of Gray Street's reprieve, Basil and Sandra Galloway have appealed to the housing department for the first offer of returning to their home. On 17th March the Galloways received a letter offering an appointment with a housing officer.

*Dear Mr & Mrs Galloway*

*We have received your request for a rehousing interview. If you can attend the office on Monday 20th March 2006 at 10am we will deal with your rehousing need at this time. We are looking into making a discretionary decision for your return to your previous tenancy of 6 Gray Street, Sheffield.*

*Yours sincerely,  
Lemuel Banton, Housing Officer*

Given hope by the letter, Basil and Sandra attended that appointment. "Mr Banton told us to fill out a rehousing form and return it," said Basil. "Again building up our hopes and still we heard nothing positive," adds Sandra. "Until three weeks ago, when we went to complain about rodents in this property and was told we won't get offered a return to Gray Street."

Since the Galloway family were initially demanded out of 6 Gray Street under a decision made to demolish, they have been given real hope that they would be given an opportunity to return.

**"After 30 years of living on Gray Street, using our City Council's name, some people are behaving like this. Why have they treated us this way? We were the last to leave and never wanted to move. All I want is what I see as my rightful home back."**

On behalf of the local housing office Lemuel Banton said: "My part of the job is collating information and passing it on to section managers. It's them who make the decision and as far as I'm aware no decision has been made concerning the Galloways yet."

Glyn Hitchen, Assistant Area Manager at Sheffield Homes said: "There is very high demand for four-bedroom properties across Sheffield, therefore Sheffield Homes has to ensure that vacant properties such as 6 Gray Street are used to their full potential. The Galloways currently have a three-bedroom house close by that meets the needs of their family, however we understand their emotional attachment to Gray Street. We are currently investigating the family's application for a discretionary decision to allow them to move back into 6 Gray Street and will contact them as soon as possible regarding this."

**by Rob Smith**

# Carwood Mini Market

The Mini Market is open again to serve the Carwood Community. "It's brilliant to have a local shop that is selling everything again," explains local resident Pete inside the Mini Market shopping. Osamam Ahmec, serving customers, is a family member of the new proprietor and he informed us that they have been open for only two weeks. "We sell everything, including fresh bread, milk, groceries and cigarettes. We hope to stay and be of service to all the people who live directly around us here," he added.

**by Rob Smith**

## Excellent opportunity to work in the community

**Burngreave Advocacy Now!** is looking for

**Volunteer Community Advocates**

You will get:

- Free comprehensive training programme
- Expenses for travel, childcare and lunch
- Support and supervision
- Valuable work experience

## What is Advocacy?

Advocates help vulnerable members of the community who are not fully accessing their rights due to barriers such as language, disability or lack of confidence. Advocates can help by making phone calls, reading and writing letters, attending appointments and giving information about other services.

You can get involved if:

- You are aged 18 or over
- You enjoy helping others
- You can speak, read and write in English
- You can spare one day a week for volunteering

**Interested?** Please contact Project Co-ordinator, Fouzia Ali, for more information and an application form.



**Burngreave Advocacy Now!**

Floor 3, SADACCA,  
48 Wicker, Sheffield S3 8JB

Tel: (0114) 275 0262

Email: [admin@advocacynow.org.uk](mailto:admin@advocacynow.org.uk)

**BURNGREAVE MESSENGER**



# Collapse of BCAT

**News of BCAT's collapse will come as no surprise to some; BCAT's difficulties go back some years. At the end of 2003, BCAT's Director resigned after only eight months in post. In 2005 her successor was suspended on full pay for over twelve months. BCAT's accounts show that, almost all of their reserves had been spent by March 2005.**

During this period, BCAT's funders, New Deal, raised serious concerns regarding a number of projects managed by the organisation and, in the Spring of 2005, New Deal terminated BCAT's contract to deliver the Grant Fund due to what John Clark referred to as "concerns about the effectiveness of the management and delivery of the project". Earlier this year, New Deal insisted on scaling down funding for BCAT after an evaluation commissioned by BCAT and produced in July 2005, revealed a "crisis of leadership" and stated that: "the drastic staff turnover, and, in our view, quite inadequate management has meant that these workers have not had the systems in place to direct their work appropriately in relation to the contract, or the administrative systems in place to monitor and record their activity against target." Despite these concerns New Deal continued to fund BCAT. Although the staff team was scaled-down and BCAT was no longer the managing agent for other New Deal funded projects.

## 'Robust system'

John Clark told the *Messenger* that New Deal was aware that they had left £80,000 in BCAT's bank account after the Grant Fund was taken back in the

Spring of 2005. He insisted that New Deal had "a robust system in place to identify irregularities like this", and that it is normal practice for New Deal not to claw back grants until the project's audit certificate is produced. However, New Deal waited eighteen months before requesting the money back due to a delayed audit certificate.

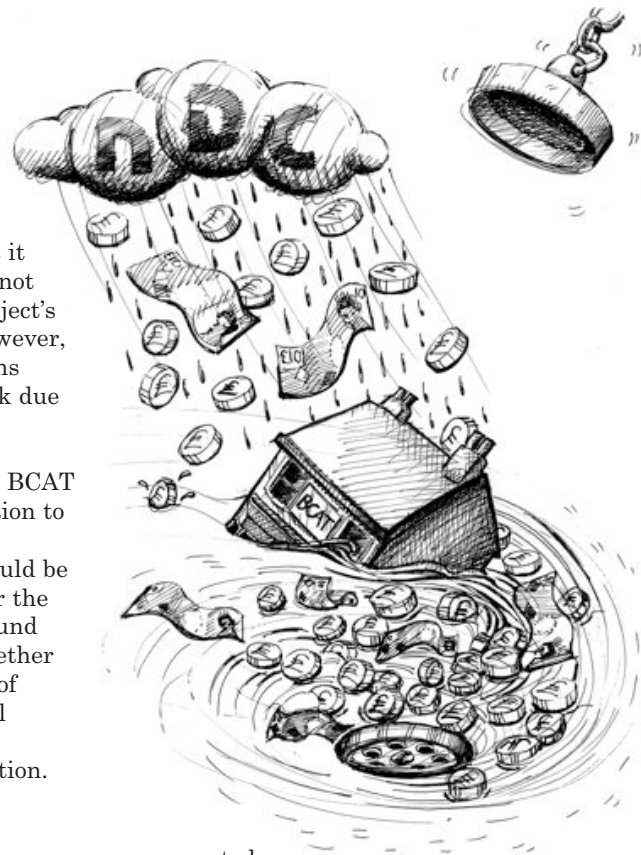
At the meeting on 6th December BCAT members will vote on the resolution to wind up BCAT and, if passed, to appoint the administrators. It could be months before it is clear whether the £80,000 from the Small Grant Fund was spent on other things or whether the problems were simply those of cashflow. Questions to individual Trustees reveal differing views regarding the true financial position.

## Forum goes on

Meanwhile discussions are underway between New Deal and Burngreave Community Action Forum (BCAF). The collapse of BCAT also raises issues for Fir Vale Forum, which had previously planned to merge with Burngreave Community Action Forum and be

supported by the Trust. It is understood that New Deal will fund two members of staff who will be employed by Tinsley Forum to continue the work of the Burngreave Forum.

by Annie Blindell



## What did BCAT do?

Burngreave Community Action Forum (BCAF) was formed in 1997 to give a voice to all local people and to build communications and community spirit. The Forum held well-attended meetings every three months with lively discussion about the area.

In 1998 BCAF set up BCAT to act as its 'delivery arm', in the belief that the Forum would then be more free to campaign on issues affecting the area. BCAT was a separate charity with its own board of voluntary Trustees. It employed staff and received funding. It managed funds for a number of smaller projects, helping them to develop, as well as supporting the Forum's meetings and working groups. BCAT also managed £800,000 of Objective One funding for Firvale.

BCAF was widely credited as being the reason that New Deal funding came to the area. BCAT was originally seen as the natural successor to New Deal, owning and managing New Deal's assets after the end of the programme, assets which now include Sorby House; Forum House and the Vestry Hall.

## S.O.L.I.D

If you have a member of your family in prison, we are here to help support you.

S.O.L.I.D. (parents and families Supporting Outside Links Inside Detention) is the new name for *Parents of Prisoners Support Group*.

We are still based at SYAC, 120 Wicker, Sheffield S3 8JD

Telephone: (0114) 275 6301

Email: [parents1@btconnect.com](mailto:parents1@btconnect.com)

We are holding our AGM on Monday, 4th December 2006, 7-9pm at the SYAC Centre. Everybody welcome, refreshments provided.

## 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](mailto:s.hughes@btcv.org.uk)



# Residents call for action on Firshill Road

**Firshill Road residents expressed their anger at the drug dealing on Firshill Road, and their frustration that police action had had little effect in stopping it, at a meeting with police and Councillors in November. Residents want to work with the police to tackle the problem because dealing seriously affects the quality of life of all the residents and people in the surrounding area.**

© Rohan Francis



Twenty residents attended, along with local Councillors Ibrar Hussain and Steve Jones, and asked the police why nothing had been done.

Residents complained that they repeatedly called the police about the problems of blatant drug dealing, speeding and wheel spinning on their street.

PC Adam Butcher of the New Deal police team said that Firshill was one of the quieter roads in Burngreave and that crowds of young people have moved on since their intervention. But in order to catch drug dealers they need more evidence such as names, descriptions or licence plate numbers, as they were unable to prioritise it for surveillance or more policing.

Cllr Hussain explained that this had been an issue for over two years, he said:

***"I don't agree this is not a priority, the councillors have spoken to high-ranking police officers about it but still nothing is done. This problem has to be moved from this street, the residents have put up with it long enough."***

One resident said:

***"If this is one of the quieter streets, I'd hate to see what other streets in the area are like."***

Another said:

***"I have been threatened, and called a police informer. Residents are frightened to answer their doors. Something has to be done."***

PC Butcher said that Firshill Road would be included in Operation Gulliver, designed to reduce drug dealing, knife and gun crime by stopping vehicles in the area and carrying out searches. This will continue until

the middle of December. Cllr Jones and Cllr Hussain said they would be talking to senior police officers to find some long-term solutions to the dealing which had been going on for years. Since the meeting the police have had a much more proactive and visible approach to dealing with the dealers on the street and the amount of visible dealing has reduced. Residents were advised to call PC Butcher on 296 4489 with information about dealing and information given will be treated in confidence. (Always call 999 in an emergency.) Councillors will continue to work with the police to get more action on the problem.

Firshill Community Association will also be putting together a petition for traffic calming on the street. Residents have been told that the street was not a priority because of the amount of traffic on the road. Council officers have declined to meet residents and have advised residents not to raise their hopes. For more information about Firshill Community Association contact the *Messenger* on 242 0564.

by Lisa Swift

## Sensitive Community Policing?

**Burngreave residents have shown their support for police operation Gulliver, a forty-day operation, using Section 60 powers to stop and search anyone police suspected of carrying drugs, knives and guns. The operation has made 51 arrests, recovering stolen vehicles, drugs, large amounts of cash and a firearm. However, some questions have been raised about how the operation has, on occasion, been pursued.**

On 21st November local shop proprietor Nellie Ramsey was left very angry at the action and words used towards her and the premises by a mountain bike patrol officer.

"A local man was passing by the shop when we saw these three officers riding bikes move in and stop him right outside my shop door," explains Nellie.

Her shop assistant Nadia adds: "We heard that man saying to those officers that he had nothing untoward on him – anyway both our windows were open."

Nellie continued, adding how they began searching the man who had his back directly against her door preventing any access or exit from her fast-food business premises. "They were doing it right outside my front door, I opened the door and explained I did not appreciate this search going on directly outside preventing customers gaining access." Nellie explains she was then told to shut up and close her door as the officer pushed the open windows closed from the outside.

"We could still overhear them telling the man they'd searched, that Nellie's wasn't a reputable establishment and they could even search us if they wanted," added Nadia. "We then heard the man they searched defending our establishment's reputation."

"I've never been spoken to like that – unlike a similar incident here last week when local officers searching moved away from the shop and were very polite, explaining they wouldn't be long in what they were doing. I agree that they have to do what they do, but they don't have to do it directly on my doorway or become disrespectful towards me or my business," added Nellie firmly.

by Rob Smith



# Woodside proposals won't meet needs

**Around 200 homes planned for Woodside are under discussion by the Masterplan New Housing Group, but with only 15-20% affordable homes included the development is unlikely to meet the housing needs of Burngreave.**

A recent meeting of the New Housing Group heard there would be "only about seventeen" homes at affordable rents on the Woodside site, around half of the affordable properties available, where there were once over 500 council homes.

When asked why the provision for affordable housing would be so low on Woodside the Council said:

*"The guidance is 15-20% of the development, as it is felt this level will provide a good selection of affordable homes but will not stop development. If a developer can pass the cost of the affordable homes on through buying the land at a reduced cost they will do so. Otherwise affordable homes cost more to build than to buy, so developers lose*

*money on them. To offer too many could jeopardise all new development. We will be reviewing the figures in Autumn 2007 and will be aiming to bump it up for some sites by a further 5%. Offering a whole development of affordable housing would not be viable. The Council is aiming to create developments which have a mixed tenure to create 'mixed communities'."*

Kevin Hartney, chair of the Burngreave Community Action Forum and former chair of Woodside TARA (Tenants' and Residents' Association), says: "This is social engineering in the name of regeneration. Our community will not be served by another swathe of private developments like those down the hill on the Don Riverside."

## A Housing Crisis

The numbers on the active housing waiting list for Sheffield Council have mushroomed in the last five years to over 54,000, while the Council's *Housing Needs Survey* in 2004 confirms that around 34,000 people in Sheffield were living in inadequate housing and

unable to afford anything on the private market.

The Survey concluded that Sheffield needs to build 413 new units of affordable housing every year. Since then this number has risen as house prices have continued to soar. But the Council continues to demolish its housing and sell off land. This can only worsen the crisis which their own report acknowledged.

## Local opposition

A petition is being circulated by campaigners who want more affordable housing. Residents of local estates have been approached. Michelle Cooke, from Carwood Tenants and Residents Association, said: "I just want there to be somewhere for when the kids leave home." Local councillors have also been asked to sign. Copies of the petition can be obtained by contacting Ben on 263 4779.

by Ben Morris

# Skinnerthorpe want affordable homes

**Residents of Skinnerthorpe have written to Councillor Weldon, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, to ask for more information about how they will be rehoused.**

The Council have promised that residents displaced by demolition under the Masterplan can stay in Burngreave if they wish and that residents affected will not be worse off. In their letter, residents state:

*"We understand in the Housing Strategy document that the Council were planning to build 413 'affordable homes' in the regeneration areas. We want to know what the definition of 'affordable housing' is. We've been told that, in the Arches Housing development for Burngreave, the values of properties would be from £90,000 (two bedrooms) to £120,000 (four bedrooms). Is this a similar figure to what the affordable houses will be on Earl Marshal/Skinnerthorpe site? We want to point out that we on Skinnerthorpe Road refuse to be put in debt. We want affordable homes to buy outright with 100% ownership."*

The Council's own definition of affordable housing is £70,000, as stated in Planning Guidance, but it is unlikely



that any property will be on offer at this price. At a recent Masterplan New Housing meeting, Arches said new homes costs at least £100,000 to build.

Questions were asked in July about properties at Page Hall, which were bought by South Yorkshire Housing Association with Neighbourhood Renewal Funding, when Page Hall homes were under threat of demolition. It was suggested these properties be offered to residents at market value, but it's unclear whether this happened.

The Council have invited expressions of interest for sixteen new homes in Wensley provided by South Yorkshire

Housing Association, while the list for Earl Marshal has been closed with the Council claiming:

*"We were starting to get requests from people who had moved back to the area purely for a new home at Earl Marshal."*

It's still unclear how residents will stay out of debt. The Council continue to offer shared ownership and loans, which some residents are unable to accept. The Council have conceded that they cannot offer Sharia-compliant loans:

*"The Council has always been under the impression that the loans met the necessary Sharia principles under Islamic Law. We have taken advice from the Islamic Bank of Britain, who said that to be truly Sharia compliant, three changes need to be made including replacing words such as 'loan, mortgage, debt and borrowing' with the word 'finance'. The Council feel this would be misleading."*

The Council have been unable to explain how they can prevent residents from becoming worse off, and residents seem unaware of the Council's efforts to help them stay in the area.

by Lisa Swift

# Training Award

**South Yorkshire Women's Development Trust has been 'Highly Commended' in the recent National Training Awards. The voluntary organisation set up the Burngreave-based 'Women's Construction Centre' in a derelict space above the Hindu Cultural Centre on Buckenham Street and has been helping to give new skills to women.**



The project has delivered courses for women in construction and computer aided design and has included the renovation of their own building. The *Messenger* went to visit and talk to some of the people involved.

Sandra, who is retired and enrolled on the DIY course, said: "I don't like strangers coming into my house to do the odd DIY job, not knowing if the work has been carried out properly, and feeling insecure. What I want from this course is to be independent and to be able to maintain my own home."

Nora, who's never had the opportunity to do courses before, said: "DIY is the most useful course, from which I have gained a lot of experience and confidence of using power tools. It's all hands-on without having to worry about making mistakes and making a mess."



Teresa, also retired, told us, "I have enjoyed the tiling, drilling, sawing, plastering, sanding, and welding. Before coming on this course I wouldn't know where to start."

Siobhan is self-employed and has done joinery, carpentry, furniture making and is a painter and decorator. She praised the networking and said: "It gives us the opportunity to meet other traders to exchange ideas and provide support and encouragement."

Project Co-ordinator Roz Wollen said:

**"The construction industry in South Yorkshire reflects the national picture, with nine per cent of those employed in professional roles being women and one per cent of trades people being female. Women who have worked here came initially to enhance their learning and access further training and employment. They also meet other women and gain mutual support."**

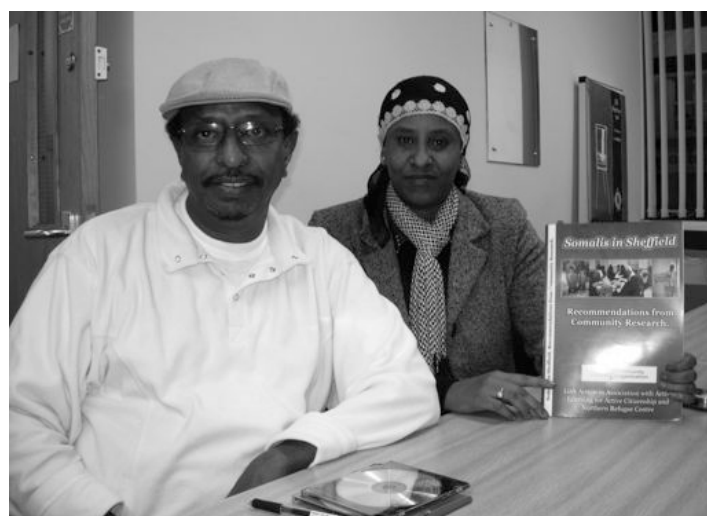
For further information, please contact Roz Wollen at the Women's Construction Centre on 273 7046.

by Kamida Khan

# With one voice

**A new approach is being taken to create a Somali forum for the many different Somali organisations in Sheffield. Burngreave-based resident, Ahmed Hassan, has been actively campaigning for the Somali community and described why he felt the need for this type of organisation.**

*"Many Somalis arrived as refugees in the early 1990s. Since then we have been trying to adapt to our new home... but it hasn't been an easy process. Many separate community organisations have been formed to deal with particular problems. However we still don't have an overarching body that represents Somali residents to the Council, the police or other such bodies. Last year I was involved in a community research project which has led me to believe that we really need to come together to tackle problems and make our voices heard within the city!"*



*Ahmed and Yasmin with a copy of the report that recommends the setting up of a forum. Anyone interested in reading this report can ask for it in Burngreave Library.*

Yasmin Mohamud, worker on the Link Action Community Organisation (LACO), explained: "We need to move on from the conflict in our past which has held us back from working together. We have a job to do: we have to raise our kids as British citizens as best we can and to take up our rights and responsibilities as members of this community. One of the reasons we want to create the forum is so that we can raise money to tackle some of the problems that are specific to our community. Somali parents are very concerned by the high rate of school exclusions and crime amongst young Somali boys – we never had that problem in Somalia!"

LACO are waiting to hear if the Council will fund the new organisation. In the meantime they are asking any interested Somalis to come forward. "We know that there have been other failed attempts to set up an overarching group for Somalis in Sheffield," said Ahmed, "but we feel that this time it's different: many people want to forget the past and realise how we are missing out on our share of resources because we don't speak with one voice – and we really have the support of council officers."

If you would like to get involved, contact Ahmed Hassan on 0788 697 2437 or Yasmin Mohamud at the Northern Refugee Centre on 241 2781.

by Nikky Wilson



# Football review

## Burngreave/Canklow Crusaders

**Burngreave Sports Project encourages people of all ages to participate in physical activity. Their Under 18s football team, the Burngreave Canklow Crusaders, is currently attracting attention. In only their second season, the team has once again sustained a lofty league position and looks well placed for promotion even this early in the season.**



Steve Richardson manages the team. He is part funded by BNDfC as Burngreave Community Football Development Officer to work in Burngreave primary schools and Fir Vale secondary and set up accredited training. One successful trainee, James Cook, now coaches the Under 18s.

Steve explained the recent interest was encouraging: "We've only been going a short while and are doing fantastically well. There have been scouts from clubs such as Dinnington Town who want them to play midweek under 19 games at semi-pro." This could open the door to professional football in the future.

Steve started out at Rotherham United where he coached Canklow Crusaders. When he started coaching in Sheffield, he combined some of his old squad with new members from Burngreave, Rotherham and Brinsworth. The team plays at Canklow. Steve says that working in Burngreave has changed his opinion on the area: "It's been a real eye opener."

I talked with two Burngreave players, Yasar Mohammed and Wael Sheibi, both 17. Yasar was spotted playing for Sheffield United's Academy and signed last January and Wael joined for the start of this season. "If we all play together, we're one of the best teams in terms of exciting football," said Yasar.

I watched the Crusaders take on Penistone Church FC. Despite only eleven players and no substitutes, I was impressed with their performance and their level of fitness throughout. Steve nodded, "Our fitness tends to win us a lot of games in the latter stages". They won 2-0, with Yasar Mohammed named Man of the Match.

Despite limited resources, Steve has taken his team from strength to strength: "Last season we played as an under 17s side in the same league and only just missed out on the playoffs. This season I want us to go a step further and secure promotion." Their latest win puts them at the top of the league. Good luck to Steve and his squad – we're all rooting for you!

Anybody wishing to take a trial for the team with a view to

signing in January should contact Steve at [steve.richardson@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:steve.richardson@sheffield.gov.uk). Training sessions (costing 50p) are held on Fridays. 12-16 year olds at SUFC Academy, 4-6pm and under 18s sessions at Fir Vale, 6-8pm. Contact Steve Richardson on 0781 068 5519.

by Brent Moya

## Earl Marshall Under 11s

Earl Marshall Juniors have made a good start to their first season of eleven-a-side football. After a couple of setbacks early in the campaign, the players have hit a run of form with a recent 3-2 home win at Hinde House School against Rotherham Town and a move up to fifth place in Division D of the Sheffield & District Junior League.



Last season the team reached the Trophy final and the experience of hard-fought ties was clearly invaluable in their last match, a battling performance against Beighton Falcons. With a 3-1 lead at half time, Earl Marshall were in control and looked comfortable but they conceded two late goals in the second half. In extra time and with a penalty shootout looming, Kenan McKenzie Grey finished off a neat Earl Marshall move to secure their place in the Quarter Finals for the second successive season.

The return to league action on 3rd December sees Earl Marshall face their toughest test yet, an away trip to leaders Sheffield Wednesday Young Owls. For further information on the club, including sponsorship opportunities, please contact Mark Moran-Healy on 0777 645 7732.

by Mick Ashman

## Burngreave Under 10s

After last year's success as Sheffield District's Junior Sunday League champions, the Under 10s are once again holding their own.

"Everybody is pleased with the performance of the players this season," said Patrick Blake, Manager of Burngreave Under 10s. Currently joint 5th in Division A (played: 10 – won: 5, drawn: 3, lost: 2), standards are high, with the boys against the top players. It has been a lot harder than last year but the lads are dedicated and committed. "They know they're good, and they know everyone's talking about Burngreave," said Patrick. Seven of the players are training at the Sheffield United Academy Development Centre. The team have also been invited to a national tournament in Mablethorpe next year and there are hopes to take the boys abroad.

by Kate Atkinson

# Aaaahhh! Fireworks

**Saturday 4th November saw the now annual firework display on Petre Street.**

Hundreds attended the free event, organised by New Deal's Engagement Team, which boasted fairground rides, food stalls and a music tent where live music kept everyone entertained



between the two displays.

The younger and more sensitive audience was treated to a sustained display of quiet, but no less impressive, fireworks first. Following at 8pm, a spectacular display had the crowd oohing and aahing as they craned their necks skyward.

All throughout a huge bonfire was kept burning with all manner of bits

and pieces being thrown onto it by willing volunteers.

Altogether a great event and one which should only get more popular over the years.

by Ange Whichelow

# Ponies at Parkwood

**An event organised by Parkwood Springs Steering Group brought new visitors to Little Pear Tree Field all day on Sunday 29th October.**

The free activities for the 70 or so visitors to the event included pony rides and Sheffield Wildlife Trust helping visiting children to make boggarts from clay, sticks and natural materials as well as weaving hats from willow branches.



Millhouses Animal Sanctuary put on free pony rides, which were very popular with around 35 children being led round the woods on a pair of friendly little ponies.

by Ange Whichelow

# Tim's trees planted

**Three street trees were planted in Page Hall in November by local residents from the Page Hall Community Association, young people from Fir Vale School, Green City Action, Greenwatch and the SCC Community Forester.**

The turnout was magnificent and offered a lively continuation of last season's planting in tree pavement pockets to further the greening of the Victorian terraced estate. About twenty young people were involved despite very wet weather. The police made an appearance and joined in the tree-planting frivolity.

The tree species are selected carefully in order to minimise root damage and shade to properties whilst offering the benefits of spring blossom, autumn colour and small bright berries.

If you live in Page Hall or elsewhere in Burngreave and have an idea where a new tree could be sited, or for more information about tree planting in Burngreave, please call 273 4190 or email [tim.shortland@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:tim.shortland@sheffield.gov.uk).

by Tim Shortland





# December events

## SADACCA

- 9th Christmas Dinner Dance, 7pm
- 16th Children's Christmas Party, 4.30–6.30pm  
Hot Saturday, music and bands, 8pm–2am
- 18th Carols at Christmas, 7pm
- 23rd Members' free dance, 8pm
- 29th Revival Night, music and bands, 8pm–2am
- 30th Resident DJs, 8pm
- 31st Members' New Year's Eve party, 8pm–2am

For more information contact SADACCA on 275 3479.

## Christ Church

- 2nd 7.30pm: Christmas Concert with South Yorkshire Police Brass Band and Dore Male Voice Choir (tickets £4 on door with all proceeds to charity)
- 14th 12 noon: Lunch Club Christmas Meal with music from Pye Bank School
- 17th 11am: Traditional Children's Nativity – shepherds, angels and innkeepers all welcome (costumes supplied or make your own!)  
6.30pm: Carols from the around the world – traditional English carols combined with African, Asian and European.
- 25th 11am: Half-hour Christmas Celebration Service

If you have any events, we can add them to the website events listing: [www.burngreavemessenger.org](http://www.burngreavemessenger.org). Get in touch on 242 0564 or on [messenger@burngreave.net](mailto:messenger@burngreave.net).

# Graduations

**On Friday 17th November, four workers from Burngreave, who all manage at local Children's Centres and Community Associations, graduated from Sheffield Hallam University.**



*L-R: Anesar Shaibi: Cert Ed in Post Compulsory Education; Abtisam Mohamed: PGCE in post compulsory education (Both are managers at the Yemeni Community Association); Sharon Curtis: Postgraduate Certificate in Early Years (Manager of Ellesmere Children's Centre) and Amanda Boughton-Brown: Postgraduate Certificate in Early Years (Programme Manager, Burngreave Children's Centre).*

Next issue the Messenger will be including an article on local graduations. Please get in touch if you'd like to be included – 242 0564 or [messenger@burngreave.net](mailto:messenger@burngreave.net).

## Martin Luther King Jr.

**Come and celebrate  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
15th January 2007**

## Just a dream?

**All people are welcome to come and celebrate**

## Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**Monday 15th January 2007**

**6:30pm at The Welcome Centre  
Nottingham Street, Pitsmoor**

**This year's theme  
Equality**

**Did King's dream of  
equality remained just  
that, a dream?**



**Challenging Racism Through  
Quotes, Films,  
Discussions, Open mic  
Artistic displays.  
Bring and share supper**

**Would you like to contribute?  
Contact Jeff on 0793 1355071**

**Entrance : Free**

**Thu 14 Dec 06 - Sat 13 Jan 07**



**Sheffield  
Lyceum**

**Tickets: 0114 249 6000**

**Buy Online: [www.sheffieldtheatres.co.uk](http://www.sheffieldtheatres.co.uk)  
Sheffield Theatres Trust - a registered charity**





# Past, present & future

This month marks a milestone for the **Burngreave Messenger** - the end of the present New Deal funded project and hopefully, the start of a new project. If the new project gets approved by the New Deal Board on 29th November, the **Messenger** will produce fewer editions per year but have a new focus on supporting volunteers, developing the new **Messenger** website and getting independent funding.

The **Messenger** started in 1999, funded on a shoestring with a couple of black and white editions per year. The **Messenger** as we know it started in 2000 with the beginning of the New Deal for Communities project.

## Negative publicity

The early consultations for New Deal showed that the poor image of Burngreave and negative publicity around the area were a major concern for residents. The **Messenger** aimed to address this: building our self-confidence as a community, telling it how it is, but celebrating all that's good about Burngreave/Pitsmoor.

We aimed to aid communication in our diverse community and to do away with fear and ignorance as we share what we have to offer with each other.

## Rollercoaster

The **Messenger** has followed the rollercoaster of the New Deal programme, from the initial high expectations and massive community involvement through to charting the later successes and disappointments. We've also done our best to support local businesses; to inform people about jobs and what's going on in the area. We've tried to help people challenge poor services and get a better deal for Burngreave.

## Quality of life

Feedback has always showed that, while we don't always get it right, residents really value having a community magazine. A survey by the pollsters MORI a couple of years ago showed a high percentage of residents were aware of the **Messenger**, with many saying that it improved quality of life in Burngreave a fair amount or a great deal.

In addition, the **Messenger** has a following far beyond the boundaries of Burngreave, with readers in Ireland, South Africa, Hungary and Australia. The website gets hits from all over the world, from Alaska to Palestine. Gordon Lawton, a regular reader from Renmark, South Australia, said: "Although I have spent most of my life in Australia, I still have affection for

my place of birth. I enjoy reading the **Messenger** online as it keeps me updated on what is happening in Burngreave."

## Reduced staffing

The **Messenger** faces reduced funding as New Deal's financial support starts winding up and projects are encouraged to seek other funding. Sadly this means staff reductions and, after this edition, we say goodbye to our star reporter, Rob Smith and stalwart designer and IT worker, Paul. We hope Rob and Paul will stay with us as volunteers.

The new project will see six rather than ten editions per year, as we devote time to fundraising and supporting volunteers in helping with more of the important **Messenger** tasks.

## Website - get involved!

A key part of the new project will be development of the website, which has dedicated funding from the Community Media Association and Awards for All. Any of our volunteers and staff will be able to update it without the need for web design skills, and we are planning to make it a centre for breaking local news, events, stories, photos, creative writing and opinions, with material we can't squeeze into the print edition. If you'd like to get involved with the website, please ring 242 0564 or go to [www.burngreavemessenger.org](http://www.burngreavemessenger.org).

The **Messenger** has always believed that the regeneration of Burngreave is about more than just buildings and public services, but about how our community feels about itself. We hope you feel that the hard work involved in producing a community magazine has been worthwhile and that, if the New Deal Board support the new project, you'll also continue to support the **Messenger**, either by volunteering or simply reading about what our rich community has to offer.



## Rob has his last word

**Like many other community organisations the **Messenger** faces financial issues, this means the end of my position as an employed community street reporter and part-time Development Worker.**

Watching this community newspaper develop from its outset has been my pleasure. To have been able to serve this community using some of the skills I've learnt in this life has also helped in the development of my own personality. I have had the opportunity to meet, speak to and help many, by highlighting those less fortunate and in more difficult positions than others, while also gaining the ability to challenge the system that, through its design, leaves so many downtrodden, forgotten and on so many occasions mistreated.

**by Robert Emmanuel  
Paul Smith**



# David gets medal at last!

**Local resident, David Mowat, was recently presented with a medal by the Lord Mayor for serving as a soldier in the Suez Canal Zone, in the 1950s. He told me his story.**

"I was signed up in the army in 1951," David (pictured left below) said. "I was too young to go to Korea so, in November 1952 I was sent to Suez, as a linesman in the third GHQ regiment. I was demobbed in 1954, two years before the Suez Crisis but even then there were rumours that the Egyptians wanted to take over the canal. For me, however, it was a good time. I maintained the communication cables at the military base at Fayed, just below the Great Bitter Lake.

***"It was an interesting place: we saw all the ships on the canal and there was a breeze off the water even in the hot months. We did all the usual soldiering duties: drills, inspections, guard's duties, and we developed a great sense of camaraderie: we were all mates, like brothers, really. In the two years that I was there, I never saw anything untoward.***

***"A few Egyptians worked with us on the base and they were all friendly. I remember one big strapping lad, Mohammed, who had terrible toothache one day. He asked if he could borrow my pliers and before I realised what he was doing, he had yanked out the tooth, washed the pliers and returned them to me with a 'thank you'! He smiled and told me that felt better. He was quite a character!***

***"By the time the Suez Crisis erupted in 1956, I was back in Sheffield, married and although I thought about going back, my wife wasn't keen on it."***

So why the fifty-year wait for his medal? I wondered.

"Initially the government refused to give medals for those serving in Suez, saying we hadn't really been part of a campaign. But then they changed their mind," he told me. "It was only a while

ago that I heard that anyone who had served in Suez could apply for a general service award. The Lord Mayor offered to make an occasion of it and present the medals to us at the Town Hall... which was fantastic! I was there with my brother, who also served in Egypt, at a civic reception. What we did in the campaign has finally been accepted as service worthy of a medal."



David is now in his 70s and an enthusiastic learner on a word processing course at Firshill Primary School. He says: "My son is a computer whiz so he's my inspiration. And my niece in Canada sends me emails... and I want to be able to reply. I'm really enjoying getting back into learning! I go with another retired friend – we stick out a bit from the other students who are younger women - but our tutor, Robert, is a real cracker and keeps us motivated. It's great to be learning new things!"

Thanks to David Mowat for telling me the story of his service in the Suez Canal Basin.

**by Nikky Wilson**

The fiftieth anniversary of the Suez Crisis was in July this year. It was caused by Britain and France's decision to recapture the Suez Canal after Egypt's president Nasser nationalised the company controlling the canal and took over the vital sea route in the declining days of the British Empire.

**Burngreave Voices: Our Stories Celebrated is a Sheffield Galleries and Museums Trust project in partnership with Sheffield Libraries. It is generously supported by Burngreave New Deal for Communities.**



## Green City Action

### Nottingham Cliff delivered green

Green City Stewards have been gradually transforming this overgrown space which suffered from the dumping of rubbish ranging from food waste to mattresses. Residents now enjoy the view over Parkwood Springs to Rivelin Valley from a sturdy bench surrounded by newly planted daffodils and the prospect of wildflowers being sown in spring.



Both © GCA

### Christmas Toy Sale

A nearly new toy sale will be held at Abbeyfield Park House between 10am and 12 noon on Saturday, 16th December. Come along and buy your bargain stocking fillers.

The toy library is still open most Mondays between 11am and 1pm for free loans of toys, games and puzzles. To join for free, just bring some identification along that contains your address.

A big **thank you** is given to all those who have helped GCA as volunteers this year – in the office, out on the green spaces, with our events and to that dedicated bunch of people our trustees. Many thanks for giving your time selflessly for the benefit of the whole community.

If you want to join in then call Garry on 244 0353.

Deliver it **green...**

## Grants! *times* Three!

**Do you have a good idea for a community activity in Burngreave? Do you need money to help start your new business?**

There are three ways in which you may be able to access money to help turn your idea into a reality.

### UnLtd

*In 2002 UnLtd were awarded the Millennium Commission's £100 million Legacy Endowment Fund to set up and run the UnLtd Millennium Awards Scheme to operate nationally.*

The Burngreave UnLtd Millennium Awards, Social Enterprise, are designed to help people make positive changes and bring their ideas to fruition. UnLtd provides advice, training, mentoring and other support services for all their award winners, to ensure their projects the best chance of success.

The awards are to support individuals who want to make a positive change in their communities. The scheme has two levels. Level 1 awards, from £500 to £5,000, help make new ideas become real projects.

Level 2 awards, from £5,000 to £15,000, support projects that are already developed and can show that the award is needed for a real expansion and development of an original idea or, to pay for the living expenses of award winners to give them more time for their project.

UnLtd Social Enterprise Awards are for individuals:

- over the age of 16
- living in the Burngreave New Deal area
- who are applying as an individual or informal group

Underpinning the scheme is the drive to support and promote growth in local economies and businesses. If you have an idea to help your community and need extra funding talk with Suzy Cornwell-Ball on 292 0462 or email [suzycornwellball@unltd.org.uk](mailto:suzycornwellball@unltd.org.uk).

### Burngreave Business Support

*The Burngreave Business Support team, based at Forum House on Spital Hill, are a dedicated resource that is committed to helping individuals and businesses in Burngreave achieve their enterprise goals whether that is starting up in business, helping an existing business become more successful or by encouraging more businesses to relocate into Burngreave.*

Creating Enterprise Supporting Business (CESB) are able to offer discretionary grants to new businesses through their Ready to Go fund. Grants of up to £5,000 are intended to help support new businesses on the threshold of starting up but need that little extra financial boost to get them up and running. Your new business may need help with marketing, essential equipment, business planning or any other critical aspect of starting a business. If you can't get help or support from any other source, CESB may be able to help you take the first steps toward running your own successful business so long as you live in the Burngreave New Deal area.

For business advice and to discuss whether you would qualify for a grant call Saghir Ahmed at the Business Support team on 292 0463 or by email on [businesssupport@bndfc.co.uk](mailto:businesssupport@bndfc.co.uk).

### Burngreave Small Grants Fund

*If you can show that your idea or activity will benefit the Burngreave community you can apply for a grant from BNDfC's Small Grants Fund.*

There are two types of funding available:

- 1 The first is for individuals or groups who wish to organise an activity such as a trip to a place of interest or just an event in which local people get to socialise with one another in an informal way. Grants of up to £500 are available for these events.
- 2 The second type of funding is aimed at groups or organisations who wish to organise activities and/or events on a larger scale. This could be a series of events, such as a sporting activity. Perhaps you belong to a group needing funds, new equipment or for making improvements to a venue. Grants for these type of events are available up to the value of £5,000.

Groups which are not fully constituted can apply, as long as it is clear who will be responsible for the money.

Any application will be considered as long as:

It encourages people to get involved in their local community

The people who will benefit are from the Burngreave New Deal Area

Grants of up to £5,000 are available, although larger projects will be considered.

Contact Chris Dignam, Small Grants Co-ordinator for an informal discussion on 292 0460 or call in to the Information Shop on Spital Hill between 2.00pm and 4.00pm on Wednesdays, no appointment needed.



*Rainbows and Brownies that have benefited from a grant from BNDfC's Small Grant Fund.*

**UnLtd and CESB are based at Forum House on Spital Hill. The Small Grants team are based at BNDfC's offices at Harleston Street. Look out for dates in future BNDfC *Messenger* pages in the New Year where all three Grant providers will be running drop-in sessions around Burngreave and at the Information Shop on Spital Hill.**



# A New Deal for Burngreave



## Vestry Hall

### Community Engagement Workshops

At the meeting in May this year you said you wanted to be kept involved in the shaping of the activities within Vestry Hall. Refurbishment is now well underway, with Vestry Hall due to open in September 2007. We now need to start to plan the types of activities that will take place in the Centre. One workshop took place at the end of November and another is due to take place on Wednesday 13th December.

The workshop will be held at Forum House, Spital Hill between 11.00am and 2.30pm and will include a halal buffet lunch.

The workshop will cover:

How to get involved in the management of Vestry Hall

How should the management of the building take place?

What are the roles and responsibilities of a Management Committee?

To reserve your place on the workshop call Sally Seymour, Vestry Hall Community Learning Centre Manager on 292 0457.



*Vestry Hall Community Learning Centre Manager, Sally Seymour, outside the current renovations.*

## Children's Festive Fun!

Date for this year's festive activities has been set for Saturday 23rd December. The planning meeting is due to take place after this edition went to print, look out for the details locally or call the Community Engagement team on 279 6932.

## How to promote your business

Do you want to know how to get more and keep existing customers? Would you like to know how to communicate effectively with customers so you make more profit? Would you like to learn how to use proven marketing techniques to make your business stand out from all of your competitors?

This interactive marketing workshop will use case studies to show you how to increase sales and boost profits. Find out which promotional techniques are best suited to your business. Have your promotional strategy analysed by an award winning professional and get free tips on how to make it more effective.

This workshop is for existing businesses in Burngreave but could also be useful for people looking at self-employment.

Date: 8th February 2007, 6-8pm Venue: Forum House, Spital Hill. Contact Tom Coldron of the Business Support team on 292 0462 to book your place or email at [businesssupport@bndfc.co.uk](mailto:businesssupport@bndfc.co.uk).

### Diary Dates

#### Strategy Group

Priority area	Jan 2007
Children & Young People	9th
Community Strength & Wellbeing	11th
Employment & Skills	2nd (may be postponed)
Physical Environment & Safety	4th (may be postponed)

#### Residents Forum events

Priority area	Feb 2007
Children & Young People	13th
Community Strength & Wellbeing	8th
Employment & Skills	6th
Physical Environment & Safety	1st

Venues and times to be confirmed.

Partnership Board meetings are held bi-monthly on the last Wednesday of the month and in 2007 will be:

31st January  
28th March  
30th May  
25th July  
26th September  
28th November

Partnership Board meetings are business meetings held in public so that business items are discussed in an open forum.

If you wish to attend a Residents Forum event or Partnership Board meeting check the BNDfC website to confirm venue and time. Alternatively, give us a call on 279 6932.

### If you have any comments please write or telephone:

**Alison Reid**  
Communication Manager

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

[alisonreid@bndfc.co.uk](mailto:alisonreid@bndfc.co.uk)  
(0114) 279 6932



contact: 276 9134

# Burngreave Area Panel

## Street Champions

How many times when you've been walking the kids to school have you thought "I've got to do something about that rubbish..."? Or when you've had to take the dog out, have you looked at the grass that's now 16 inches high and thought "Why isn't that getting cut?" The centre of this city is winning awards for its appearance; Page Hall won awards last summer for its hanging baskets; and Burngreave has had praise for its clean and tidy streets. But has all this been at the expense of those little corners that you don't see from the bus routes, or aren't visible to those going up to the hospital?

Burngreave's got to square that circle. With the help of additional money from New Deal, the Council's Street Force service has been able to employ more street cleaners, and crews to deal with fly-tipping. But New Deal, as we know, won't be here forever – and people will be living in Burngreave and expecting a clean and tidy environment after New Deal's gone. So how can we maintain the recent improvements in cleanliness when we've not got the extra staff?

With colleagues from Street Force, Green City Action and Sheffield Homes, the Area Panel has been looking at three options. First, we've got to make sure that when there is a problem, residents are able to alert the council to that problem. They should know who to contact, what to say, what to expect and when to expect a response. We want to try and ensure that there's a willingness and a confidence to use the system as it is. Secondly, we want to make sure that the organisations who provide services for environmental improvements do so in line with local needs and priorities. But this can't happen unless they know what



residents want. And that comes down to communication again. Thirdly, we want to make sure that self-help is possible. Not to replace what the Council or others should be doing anyway in Burngreave – but to add to it. Not just to do one high profile event – like in the past with sweeping the front of your house on Scott Road one Sunday... But regularly doing a tiny little bit extra, with others of a like mind.

We've come up with the idea of Street Champions – that is one resident on each street who will be able to liaise with the Council and have the problem dealt with in the most effective way.

We talked about these ideas with two groups of residents last month, from six small areas around Burngreave, Firshill and Fir Vale. We asked people whether they would consider becoming a 'street champion' for one year to see whether this collaboration between residents and

workers in the area can be beneficial. People were invited if they were regularly in contact with the Area Panel, or their local tenants' or residents' associations, or had talked about similar things to the neighbourhood wardens, or indeed whether they were 'frequent callers' to Council services. When the scheme is launched in the new year, every street champion will have a little handbook with the right phone numbers for the right people; their own reference number for contacting services; and a guide about who can arrange any 'self-help' events.

## Northern General

What's the latest about the Northern General? The Council held a "scrutiny hearing" with the hospital managers in November and it was agreed that there would be a check on the impact of the yellow lines on Norwood Road and the changes on Herries Road in the new year; that the hospital travel plan would be discussed with the Panel, council officers and local community reps before going to the hospital board; and that there'd be a liaison group set up between the hospital, the Area Panel, the SYPTe and local community representatives to meet over the winter to try and make some real progress.

## New Year Awards

Finally, the next 'meeting' of the Area Panel will be the annual New Year Awards. This will as usual be held on Monday 22 January from 6pm in the Town Hall reception rooms – with the awards from our own Lord Mayor this year! Any final nominations to Marilyn King (276 9134 or 0773 636 2179) as soon as possible.

## 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.

9th December: Steve Jones, 11am–12 noon Burngreave Library and 12.15–1.00pm: Firshill TARA

23rd December: No surgery

13th January 2007: Ibrar Hussain, 11am–12 noon Burngreave Library and 12.15–1.00pm: Firshill TARA

27th January: Steve Jones, 11am–12 noon Burngreave Library

## Next Area Panel Meeting

Thursday 22nd January 2007, 6–8pm, Town Hall Reception Rooms.  
New Year's Honours 2007.



# Arabic Language School

**The Arabic Language School at Firvale Centre, founded and supported by the Yemeni Community, is threatened with closure as funding dwindles.**

Started in 1990 at the Yemeni Centre on Burngreave Road, the School moved into the Firvale Centre three and a half years ago, when three-year New Deal Funding was granted.

The upper floor of the centre reverberates to the sound of over 160 children (more girls than boys) on Fridays 5–8pm and Saturdays 11am–3pm. Eleven tutors, some being university students and all but one volunteers, teach eight classes ranging from 6-year-old beginners to 17-year-olds studying GCSE/A-Level Arabic and the history and geography of their families' countries of origin. Though most students are from the Yemeni community, there are also children from other middle-eastern countries and Malaysia. The combined effort of this community language school and the teaching of Arabic, a major world language, at local secondary schools



and colleges means that many of the pupils go on to achieve excellent grades in Arabic at GCSE and A level. For example, of 17 young people who took GCSE Arabic at Fir Vale Secondary School, 12 achieved grade A or A\*.

I was welcomed by the headmaster, Mr Musaid Al-Hakim who, after accompanying me around the various classes and showing me the resources available, stated: "To provide the current curriculum, without paid tutors, the school needs around £22k per annum to cover rent, services and resources. To provide the service I would prefer, would at least double that figure."

The one paid worker, Omar, was employed three months ago under the local apprenticeship scheme. He told me: "The school also sports an under-16 football team which trains once a week and organises well attended end of term trips to places of interest for pupils and their families."

Though there are other Arabic language schools in Sheffield they charge fees up to £250 per term. The Firvale Centre asks only £20 per pupil per year and even less if siblings

attend from the same family. Most local families would not be able to afford any more than this.

Applications for future funding have been made to various trusts, so far with little success.

For more information contact Musaid Al-Hakim at The Arabic School, Fir Vale Centre, Earl Marshal Road, Sheffield S4 8LA, tel: 256 0933 or email [arabic\\_school@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:arabic_school@hotmail.co.uk).

**by Saleema Imam**

## A walking bus?

**Residents of Scott Road might well have seen a strange sight in recent weeks walking up the road. Every morning now, starting from Grimesthorpe Road North and boldly striding its way up is a new way for children to get to school. What is it you may ask, this pied piper enticing our children?**



It's the Walking Bus, run by parents from Firs Hill Community Primary School and 'driven and conducted' by our Community Wardens. The scheme has been introduced by SCC Road Safety Team and goes to Firs Hill School and St Catherine's.

The 'bus' works by having different meeting points or bus stops along the route where children have arranged to meet the bus. The driver and conductor then carry along the route collecting other children at their designated points until they reach school.

As bus co-ordinator I think it has huge benefits for everybody. The children arrive at school in time, more alert and ready to learn, the car congestion and school gate parking is eased, it reduces pollution, exercises your children and teaches them road safety skills, plus for parents who work it gives them the reassurance that their children are getting to school safely.

"We really like it," said the children who travel on the bus at the moment.

Currently the 'bus' only runs along Scott Road, but if more parents and children want to be involved there is no reason why more routes can't be set up. If parents and children want to know more about this bus or setting up another, please contact Gaby on 0787 627 1857 or Karen Vickers, Road Safety officer on 273 6162.

**by Gaby Spinks**



## Heart more important than what is on the outside

Dear Messenger

Thank you for printing the well written and informative letter from Umm A'tika on the wearing of the *niqaab*. However, there are cultural matters which this raises for me. As ever, it is difficult to separate some of these.

I would ask my Muslim sisters to consider that in western European culture, the main reason for anyone to cover their faces is to allow them to engage in criminal activity. I am a shopkeeper and if anybody enters my premises with their face covered it makes me feel extremely uneasy or even threatened.

While your writer dismisses the matter of communication, it is a fact that much information is communicated by facial expression. It is almost impossible to tell over the telephone whether someone is being sarcastic or facetious and many people depend on seeing a person's lips in order to fully understand what is being said.

Christianity teaches that whilst something may be permitted, it is not necessarily helpful and that even if we are entirely happy with something, if it causes a problem for someone else, then we should not do it in their presence. I would not eat in the presence of fasting Muslims, nor would I eat pork, if I knew that Muslims were going to be present.

The issue of wanting to express their relationship with God is an important one. Nuns wear habits; Salvation Army members uniforms and clergy 'dog collars'. For some years I have worn a wristband with the initials 'WWJD' (What Would Jesus Do?) on it. However, many recognise that there are circumstances where it is inappropriate, and wear alternatives at different times.

Jesus taught us that the relationship with God is more important than what we look like, that the body is more important than clothes. Deeds are more important than our expressions of piety, and the apostle Paul several times reminds us that what happens in our hearts is more important than what is seen on the outside.

The amount of light we get does not depend upon the quality of the lantern on the outside, but on the quality of the candle on the inside.

Yours sincerely Jonathan Youdan

## Out from Under the Veil

Dear Messenger

In this society, in this country, there is a very long history of struggle – Parliamentary and extra-Parliamentary – to achieve real social, economic and political gains, in all aspects of life, at work and in the home. Struggles to attain rights specifically for women are part of this long history. The movement to gain emancipation; parity and the vote; to be accepted as fully-fledged members of society; to show their face – metaphorically and literally – in society and in the political arena, is a major part of the social and political history of England.

Over many years the suffragettes struggled and suffered and went to jail to achieve these objectives, specifically to achieve the right to vote. They did not fight to achieve anonymity, but on the contrary, to have a public face and a public voice.

Many of the advances made are neither irreversible, nor permanent; they have to be constantly fought for. The campaign

for improved society and working conditions in the building industry is a good example of a permanently live issue, currently being fought for – again.

To argue for the reasonableness of appearing in public, on the street, body enclosed as in a sack, face masked, is to argue directly against everything the suffragettes fought for. They would have been taken aback, there is no doubt, by the preparedness of a minority of a minority of women to flout the advances which took years of commitment to gain. They would surely have regarded it as an intolerable affront.

Yours D Harrop

## Opposition to the veil – the fear within us

Dear Messenger

What do we find so offensive about the face veil? Why do people need to show their face to have an identity? Isn't wearing the veil enough of an identity? And whose identity are we conforming to? Is it to be white? Is it to be Christian? If you are offended by the veil, ask yourselves why? Many women who wear the veil do so because they choose to rather than because of oppression.

The face veil issue is an issue of fear. Because we don't know the woman behind the scarf a certain amount of power is taken away from us. It is this fear, within us, we need to question.

How many non-Muslims believe that when a Muslim woman wears a face covering in a Western society it means: "I completely reject you and your society, but I plan to live and raise a family here anyway". Doesn't this presume that Muslims are all Middle Eastern or Pakistani and not White British?

If we start saying "do as we do or get back to your own countries", then it is our bigoted minds which need to be questioned. Not all Muslims are foreigners. The veil is seen as a major barrier to integration. In reality communities are segregated and living parallel lives anyway, and telling someone to take off their veil will not make things any better.

Some say this leads to separation from the majority, but this society is a pluralistic one, with many small groups living different lives. If the woman took her face veil off, would she then be accepted by the majority? Or would she still be targeted as a Muslim wearing the headscarf?

It seems Muslims cannot get it right whatever they do and the media has done a very good job of demonising and victimising Muslims. Today the face veil tomorrow the hijab? You may say that the argument is about facial expressions and communication, but maybe next year another politician will demand all religious clothing be kept in the private sphere, as they have in France.

We are continuously told that by allowing the face veil we are helping a culture to continue to objectify and control their women as well as further isolating and alienating one culture from another. But who is more liberated, the woman who feels she has to wear the latest fashions or the woman who chooses to wear the veil to cover herself? I know I fall into the former group and spend all my money trying to look like the models in the glossy magazines, a victim of oppression by the fashion and film industry. Yet you don't frown, because by western standards this is 'normal'.

AM



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