

# Burngreave Messenger



Issue 72 • October 2007 • Free to everyone in Burngreave

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

*Voice of the Burngreave Community*

## Jesse Jackson in Burngreave



Story & photos: Camille Daughma

**The Reverend Jesse Jackson – America’s foremost black Civil Rights leader - stopped in Burngreave on 26th August 2007. The modest gathering at Ellesmere Green gave him a warm welcome as Rev. Jackson called all the children to stand with him on the platform. He affirmed that the children were the future and that self-belief was the key to a brighter tomorrow.**

The Rev. Jesse Jackson earlier spoke to a standing-room only audience at the Cathedral - part of the “Equanomics” tour to promote economic justice in the 200th year since the trade in slaves was abolished in Britain. Commencing the presentation were slides of slaves who had visions bigger than their situation. They did not let their oppressors spoil their optimism; this optimism brought about the beginning of change.

His address centred around economic equality amongst the black and ethnic minority communities. He reminded us how it all started...

*“The movement to abolition started when the first black man said, ‘I’m not going on that boat.’”*

And the ultimate goal...

*“We are here, and free, today because of those who struggled and died for us. Today we are all free but not equal. The goal of the struggle was never freedom but equality. Freedom was a prerequisite to gaining equality.”*

He went on to say:

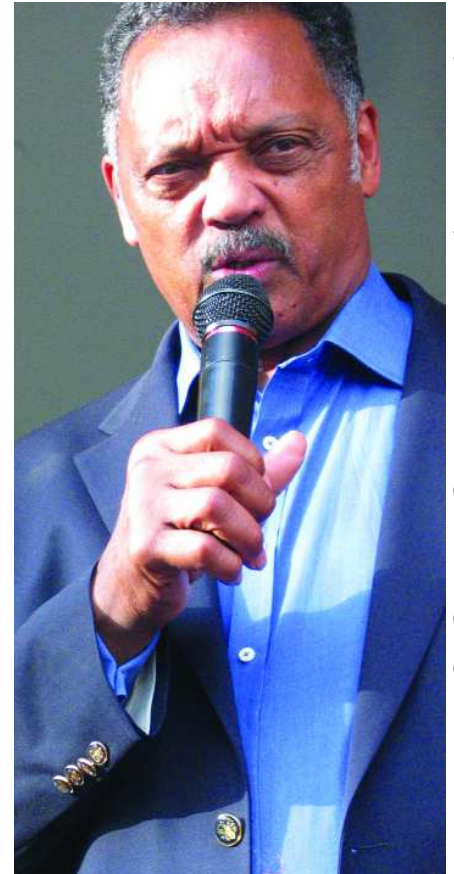
*“The legacy of our slave ancestors continues in oppressive practices within the system today.*

*“We must learn to live together as brothers and sisters. We are all part of the same fabric and should use our linkage to each community to turn pain to power.*

*“Until we realise that shared power plus racial justice equals democracy and believe we can change our situation, nothing will happen. We must have the capacity to be honest with ourselves, and learn from our errors.*

*“Why do black people do so well at football, basketball, golf, tennis, etc? Because the rules are public and the goals are clear.*

*“Purchasing power makes us economically viable, which contributes to building the economy. With our purchasing power, we can bring about effective change. We need to realise the*



*power to bring about change lies with us.*

*“A tokenistic approach to appease legislative requirements about equal opportunity is not the answer. It is not natural to have one side of town where they achieve less, there are less healthcare services, less life expectancy, less jobs, access to less capital, less hope for the future. It’s normal - not natural.*

*“We owe it to the next generation, as our children are losing the will to fight- we’ve come too far to give up now. We need to invest in our children, take our children to school, meet with the teachers, exchange numbers, turn off the TV 3 or 4 hours a week, take them to church. Be delighted, not surprised, when our children do well. Don’t limit your dreams to the ghetto, but run all the way to the White House.”*

He left us with encouraging words...

**“KEEP HOPE ALIVE.”**

More photos from the day on our website: [www.burngreavemessenger.org](http://www.burngreavemessenger.org)

# SOVA

SUPPORTING OTHERS THROUGH VOLUNTEER ACTION

## Sheffield Youth Justice Projects

Working in partnership with Sheffield Youth Offending Team (YOT), We are recruiting volunteer Appropriate Adults and Mentors.

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Full, accredited, training is given and expenses reimbursed.

We particularly seek to recruit male volunteers and people of Black and Minority Ethnic groups who are under-represented in our current 'pool' of volunteers.

**For more information and/or  
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Darren Smith on: (0114) 228 8545**

*All volunteers are required to undergo an enhanced criminal record check.  
A criminal record does not necessarily preclude involvement.*

**SOVA 7 St Peter's Close, Sheffield S1 2EJ**

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# SWAMP

CIRCUS TRUST



Swamp Circus and The Open Performance Centre are offering **FREE** evening classes in **Community Leadership and Circus Skills** for the people of Burngreave.

This is your chance to learn some fun new skills (juggling, unicycling, tight-rope walking...), while engaging with issues in your community.

With your help, we'll be devising a fun, exciting performance about regeneration in Burngreave, giving you the opportunity to speak out about your community and to have your say about decisions affecting where you live.

By the end of the course, you'll have achieved a nationally recognised Certificate in Community Leadership from the NOCN. You'll also be equipped with the skills to become a community leader yourself.

*The course will be running on Thursday evenings, beginning October 18th at the SADACCA Community Centre on the Wicker. We're being funded by the Academy for Community Leadership, so it's COMPLETELY FREE!*

We're open to everybody aged 18+, and absolutely no prior experience is necessary - just an interest in your community and a desire to have fun.

For more information, call 01709 828 477.



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# Black community stirred into action

Story: Douglas Johnson

**I heard about this meeting late in the day as the word got round and, with some uncertainty, I headed up towards the Cactus Club on Spital Hill. Approaching the club, I was called upon to sign a petition about its recent closure.**

Rob Smith opened the meeting by addressing the 40-odd people attending. He reminded us why we were here - in response to the recent closure of the club and removal of the drinks licence. Castell Fanty told us how he had asked people to meet but neither the invited police nor the councillors attended. People expressed anger at how the authorities - the police, the council and New Deal - had closed down first the Gower, then the Avit Bar, and now this. The obvious question surfaced - why use such heavy powers against the clubs for black people? As Castell asked,

“Why do they see four black youths together and call them a ‘gang’; they see four white youths and call them ‘lads’?”

There was reminiscence of the 1980s when people had marched on the Town Hall and when SADACCA had fought a long, long battle to get their licence.

But the real call was for organisation, unity and leadership amongst the black community.

“I believe that any structure coming from a struggle that has risen from the bottom up, and not from the top to the bottom, is the making of a legitimate structure,” said Rob Smith.

Another man said, “look at the Somali and Kurdish groups - they’ve built up

their communities themselves,” to cheers. “We need leaders from the Afro-Caribbean community.”

“We’ve got to get our own house in order before we can attempt to tackle any of the real issues.”

Rob made clear, “If black-run businesses cannot thrive, then the area and everything around it dies and that is not advantageous for the black businesses or any other of its communities. If black businesses cannot flourish because its own people have become its worst enemy, then we have a real issue.”

Continuing the theme, another spoke of the need for black people to use their money and their votes and use their influence over the authorities - a clear reflection of the message Jesse Jackson had preached recently.

The meeting only ended after a day of action was demanded. Rob summarised by saying, “We have been dormant as a nation for too long. In order to address any of those issues and finally tackle what is wrong, we must found a black African-Caribbean organisation with honest representation and leadership here in Sheffield.”

Since then, organisers are now planning a bigger meeting and a day of unity in November. They are in talks with New Deal managers and church leaders, as well as those responsible for bringing Jesse Jackson and the Equanomics tour to Sheffield.

For updates on the meeting date, check out the Messenger’s website at [www.burngreavemessenger.org](http://www.burngreavemessenger.org) or contact Rob Smith via [www.butterwouldntmelt.org.uk](http://www.butterwouldntmelt.org.uk)

now be willing to sell the land at a reduced price of less than £1.16 million in order to achieve the necessary building standards. Reminding councillors of the original plan to let the land lie fallow for a number of years, residents asked if Woodside could be kept in public ownership until the new plans for Council house-building kicked in. In reply, Councillor Ibrar Hussain stated that people wanted houses to rent now - possibly not realising that houses to rent will be in short supply under their current plans.

The council will now reduce the asking price and will bring details of the new bids to the next meeting of the group.



## Vestry Hall opens at last

From the moment the Vestry Hall was shut, local residents have worked and campaigned for it to be refurbished and reopened. It’s great to see that this has finally happened. With the building looking great, and high hopes for what will be on offer inside, let’s hope the management of this community asset can be community led, and that it remains affordable for community use.

## Special thanks to Camille Daughma

Camille first contributed to the Messenger in August 2005 as a photographer, she went on to be one of our top writers, and has contributed dozens of articles, sat through countless meetings and produced outstanding photos.

Now Camille is moving out of Burngreave, although she will still be working in the area. We’d like to wish her all the best in her new home, and say a special thanks for all her work. We hope she’ll come back now and again to help us out.

## Messenger Info

Editorial meetings: 6.30pm at Abbeyfield Park House  
Next meeting: Wed, 17th October

All welcome.

Copy deadline: 14th November  
Next issue published: 1st Dec.

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This month’s team: Ian Clifford, Camille Daughma, Rohan Francis, Naheem Hanif, Lisa Harrison, Matloub Husayn Ali Khan, Saleema Imam, Douglas Johnson, Jamie Marriott, Wajdi Raweh, Lisa Swift.

## Woodside land offered cheap

**The council’s plan to sell off housing land at Woodside for redevelopment was dealt a set back recently. The council has put out its offer to a panel of five different developers, but council workers told members of the Burngreave New Housing Group in September that only one developer had decided to bid. Even this was less than the minimum the council demanded.**

The Council told the meeting it would

# Goodbye Mrs Keen

Story & photos: Camille Daughma

**"Leaving is like having my hand chopped off", Mrs Janet Keen started off, trying to hold back the tears with a smile. Janet has worked at Firs Hill school as a dinner lady for 27 years and is now taking her well-earned retirement.**



*"I started working as a dinner lady at Herries School where my cousin worked at the time. I stayed there for four years then was transferred to Firs Hill School in 1984 as it was nearer my home." Janet said she had enjoyed it so much she didn't want to leave.*

*"I had informed the staff at Firs Hill that if at any time they are desperate, give me a call."*

Now a grandma, Janet will be retiring to be a full time nanny to look after her granddaughter, with her husband also retiring in April 2008.

*"My most memorable day here was the 100th Birthday of the school which involved students dressing up in 'Olden-days' type dress."*

She remembers fondly the sports days which were held at the now Sheffield United Academy field. She really enjoyed it.

Her two sons Darren and Shaun, who she describes as smashing boys, attended Firs Hill School as well. They are now grown up and working - Darren 30, as a motor mechanic at Pentagon Vauxhall, and



Shaun 29, at Clarks and Partners. "They gave no problems," she recalls, "been good lads, touch wood."

She is now looking forward to bringing up her granddaughter, though she will surely miss it at Firs Hill School.

Mrs Keene would like to say to both staff and children, "I will miss you loads, but will still keep in touch. If in difficulty give me a ring."

On visiting the school the warmth and love felt for Mrs Keene was apparent both among staff and the children. Her dedication over the years, did not go unnoticed.

# Great great Granddad Frederick Currie 1914-2007

Formerly of 41 Nottingham Street.

Arrived in Sheffield 1958, lived in Pitsmoor ever since, from Abbeyfield Road to Nottingham Street.

He worked as a building labourer, felled trees and helped lay the foundation for The Royal Hallamshire Hospital.

He worked as a machinist with British Hetchinson then with Laycocks Engineering.

Granddad Freddy breathed his last on this earthly plain at 10:15 pm at the Northern General Hospital with his grandson David and granddaughter in law, Merclyn by his side.

He is outlived by four sons: Stepford, Lionel, Randolph and Moses. Also three daughters Joyce, Lucille and Lorna.

He has 20 grandchildren, 50 great grandchildren, six great great grandchildren plus many nieces and nephews and cousins.



**Granddad Currie with three of his great great grandchildren latifah, Johnathon and Phatimah.**

*May the Lord grant him eternal peace...*

## Poems... By Sylvia Reaney Listening

We hear the sounds of every day,  
not listening to what they say,  
so listen for the church bells ringing,  
early morn when the birds are singing,  
the whistling wind, the swaying trees,  
bleating sheep, the buzzing bees,  
the sound of a horn as a ship passes by,  
cows in the meadow, a human sigh,  
a laughing child while he's at play,  
a rumbling train steaming on its way,  
some crowing cocks, a barking hound,  
all wonderful things we hear by sound.

### Our life

Sometimes we think our life's a bind,  
nothing goes right, we don't feel kind,  
think to ourselves this is the end,  
grumbling at neighbours, mate and friend,  
words we utter sometimes quite curt,  
never thinking how they might hurt,  
if only we could give some thought  
think to ourselves, that life is short,  
say we're sorry, then begin the day,  
looking at life in a different way,  
realising we are not perfection,  
you and I there is no exception,  
think of others in distress,  
of ourselves think less and less  
we all could be much more forgiving,  
then our life would be worthwhile living.



# Vestry Hall opens

Story: Saleema Imam  
Photos: Anwar Suliman

**Ten years on, the regeneration of the Burngreave Vestry Hall is nearing its conclusion. A small group of local invitees gathered on the 11th of September to view the transformation.**

A hanging art installation greets you in the entrance and a plasma screen on the wall links to music and art created by the IT space users.

In the main hall on the first floor, Rose Ardron from BNDfC reminisced about past happenings in the hall – fund-raising pram pushes and fuschia society displays amongst them - and hoped that the future would see similar imaginative uses. John Clark reminded us that the building needed the whole community to use it and own it.

We then split into two with half starting at the top and the others in the basement. Some of our group took great delight in inspecting the pipe works in the boiler room and the server for the new computer suites and voice internet connections. The two state of the art IT suites - one housing PCs, the other Apple Macs for music and media studies, open out onto the newly excavated light well.

A light airy feeling pervades the whole building. The polished wood dance floor

has been reinstated in the main hall which retains its original high windows and still looks big enough for badminton. The original stone and wrought iron staircase has been retained as have some of the Victorian mosaic floor tiles in the basement.

A new top floor has been created in the roof space with offices and a multi-purpose space which can be divided into two.

At the Community Open Day on Thursday 4th October (see below), people will be able to register their interest for courses which should begin in November after the half-term break. Three wedding receptions are already booked before the end of the year.

Park Wood High School head teacher was very impressed by the building and expressed his intentions of using the facilities for some school meetings.

On 20th September, 20 residents attended a first meeting towards setting



Main stairway before...



...and after refurbishment

up a new management group to oversee the use of the building and to plan for future funding and activities according to community desires. Many people had hoped to see a kitchen better equipped for cooking for events but everyone looked forward to the Vestry Hall being community-led.

## Community Open Day

Thursday 4th October 10.00am - 6.30pm

**On Thursday 4th October the newly-refurbished Vestry Hall will be opening its doors to everyone who lives in the Burngreave area.**

Before falling into disrepair in the 1990s, the Vestry Hall was one of the best-known, best-loved and most widely-used buildings in the area.

Now, thanks to a £3 million refurbishment programme, funded by Burngreave New Deal for Communities, the Vestry Hall is re-opening its doors as a community learning and activity centre.

The Community Open Day will be your chance to:

- Come and have a look round
- Find out what the Vestry Hall has to offer
- Tell us what types of courses you would be interested in doing

You can call in at the Vestry Hall any time between 10.00am and 6.30pm and receive a guided tour round this wonderful new building.

**Why not come on down?**

**Contact: Tony Tingle, Vestry Hall Manager on (0114) 213 3800.**



# ROCK

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for all  
nations**

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

## Sheffield Homes Decent Homes Event

Firshill, Pitsmoor, Burngreave and Darnall areas

**Wednesday 7th November 2007**  
3 - 7pm at Vestry Hall, Burngreave



- > want to meet the people who will be carrying out Decent Homes work?
- > want to know when work will start?
- > how long will the work take?
- > what choice of kitchen units, tiles, paint do I get?

**Then come  
along and  
Join us!**

- free creche available
- interpreters available
- free food + refreshments
- travel expenses paid\*

\* receipt required

To find out more contact  
Nicola Warburton on 0114 293 0000 or email  
[nicki.warburton@sheffieldhomes.org.uk](mailto:nicki.warburton@sheffieldhomes.org.uk)  
[www.sheffield.org.uk](http://www.sheffield.org.uk)



### Sheffield Credit Union Pitsmoor Branch



Your local collection points:

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*The Gallery, Castle Market  
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*Or telephone: 0114 276 0787.*

**Pitsmoor & Burngreave residents can call us on  
07982 732 542**

The Pitsmoor and Burngreave residents' information line is funded by Burngreave New Deal for Communities until 31st March 2008.



## Family Learning Day

**a fun day for all the family**

mums, dads, aunties, grandads -  
everyone welcome.  
A community event.



Free  
Lunch

**Fundraising  
for  
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**SATURDAY 13TH OCTOBER**

10.00am - 3.30pm

**Firth park Community Arts College,  
Fircroft Avenue, Sheffield S5 0SD**

Lots of fun learning activities & stalls.  
If **your group** would like to run a  
fundraising activity on this day please  
telephone Gordon, Debbie or Sheena on  
**2574027 or 2574026**

# Testing citizenship

Story: Lisa Harrison

From April 2nd 2007 immigration rules changed, but there are fears that some local residents may not be aware of how difficult it now is to apply for settlement, in many cases requiring months of tuition and planning.

The changes mean that all foreign citizens who wish to live permanently in the UK must either pass the 'Life in the UK' test, or take combined ESOL and citizenship classes. Many people may not realise that they can get free support and advice to cope with the changes.

Abdillahi Hassan, who has passed the 'Life in the UK' test, told the Messenger, "The test is not easy. I failed it once before, but then I saw an advert in the Messenger for the Pakistan Advice Centre (PAC), so I called and got help. I know there are lots of people in the Somali community who are finding the test difficult. It's good that we can get the support here."

Masarat Bibi, who passed the 'Life in the UK' test after attending classes at the PAC Multicultural Advice Centre for just six weeks, said, "I've been learning English at college for a year and a half. Learning for the test helped me with my English, because Shahnaz, our teacher, explained the meaning of the questions."

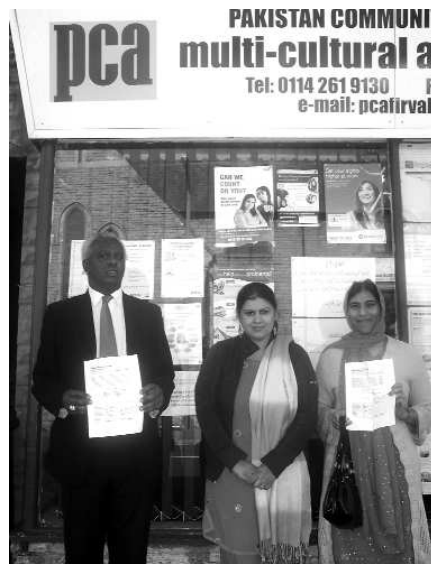
## Immigration fees

**Those applying for Indefinite Leave to Remain have found they must pay twice as much to apply, following changes in April this year.**

The cost of making an application before April was £335; however it has now more than doubled to £750. There is also a fee of £34 for taking the Life in the UK test and a handbook costing £9.99 which is required to enable applicants to pass.

Pitsmoor CAB has seen a number of clients who haven't been aware of the changes and increased fees, and have not started to prepare for the tests. If someone's existing leave expires before they have completed the new requirements, it is possible to apply for Further Leave to Remain. However, the bad news is that the application fee has increased from £335 to £395, after which applicants have to pay the £750 ILR fee.

Pitsmoor CAB can assist people if they have queries regarding immigration.



In order to pass the test at least 18 out of 24 questions must be answered correctly. Topics include politics, religion and housing services.

Mr Hassan stated, "It is necessary to get help. You cannot learn for the test by yourself. It is thanks to our teacher that we both passed the test."

It is incredibly important to seek help early if you are applying for settlement, as most people will need time to prepare for the Life in the UK test. The PAC Multicultural Advice Centre can help with this. Contact them on tel: 261 9130 to find out more.

## Changes affect residents

Story: Wajdi Raweh

**I spoke to Yemeni residents who had been affected by immigration changes. They did not wish to be named.**

One woman has two small children, which makes it difficult to study for the tests at this time. She said "I'm worried that if I wait too long, and take the test later, they will make it even harder to get leave to stay."

A 64 year old man and his wife, travelled to Liverpool and paid £170 each for a four-day intensive course and test for 'Life in the UK', with hundreds spent on food and accommodation. His wife was devastated when she did not pass.

It is a tragedy that this is happening to people, and others whose stories we couldn't include. The Home Office should speak to the people and explain why they are doing this.

## Cuts in ESOL

**Despite a hard fought campaign to save English teaching for speakers of other languages, two of Burngreave's main providers face massive cuts this term.**

Funded through Sheffield College, the Yemeni Community Association (YCA) and the Yemeni Economic Relief Organisation (YERO), provided classes for over 370 students last year, but this year it will be just over 150.

The courses that are being cut will be at Entry Level One and Two. While level Three is required for those needing 'Indefinite Leave to Remain', the cuts mean less people will be able to work towards the higher level. A tutor at YCA, Anesar Shaibi, told the Messenger:

*"This affects the most vulnerable, like the older generation, some of them need to learn English so they can cope on their own. They are learning skills for life here, so they can do basic things like call for an ambulance."*

YCA explained that when the term starts they will have to turn people away, Diane Haimeed said, "It will be heart-breaking, and it will be us as providers who will be blamed. So many of the people who will lose out we have worked with for years, and we will feel like we have let them down."

The YCA have had to make five tutors redundant because of the cuts. The campaign against the cuts is set to continue, and people are working to find funding to make things better next year.

**For advice on immigration and other issues, contact:**

**Northern Refugee Advice Service**  
- Drop-in Tues. & Thurs. 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. at Sheffield Advice Link, North Gallery, Castle Market, Exchange Street S1, or by appointment tel: 241 2730

**Yemeni Welfare and Advice Centre** Drop-in Mon, Tues, Thurs 9.30am-2.00pm at Fir Vale Centre, Earl Marshal Road, tel: 2561223

**Pitsmoor Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB):** Drop-in Mon, Weds, Fri - 9.30am-1.00pm, 30, Spital Hill. tel: 275 5376

**PAC Multicultural Advice Centre:** Drop in: Mon, Tues, Thurs: 9.30am-3.30pm, Fri: 9.30am-3.00pm, Weds (women only) 9.30am-3.00pm, 58 Owlter Lane, tel: 2619130.

*Immigration advice by OISC registered advisors only.*

# Music taking over Burngreave

Story: Fagr Al-Afif and Zanumb Bibi

## Sa,rinity

**Singer and lyricist Sa,rinity Powell has become a familiar face at Burngreave music events this summer, from the Burngreave Talent Competition to the Abbeyfield and Fir Vale festivals and even Jesse Jackson's exclusive visit to Ellesmere Green. Is she destined to become the new face of the Sheffield Rap Scene? I went and asked her myself accompanied by my colleague, Zanumb Bibi.**

Sa,rinity told us how much she loves performing in Burngreave although she still feels nervous before going on stage:

*"I get nervous and scared at times but I feel more confident as the show goes on and the feeling I get from performing makes it worth it."*

Her passion for music started at a young age alongside an interest in writing poetry. An English teacher told her that her poems had the potential to be lyrics and so Sa,rinity started experimenting with the flow and delivery of spoken words and writing lyrics inspired by the experiences and events in her life.

*"When I'm listening to music, it becomes a gateway to my trapped emotions and enables me to express my feelings through my lyrics."*

She listens to many different styles of music although finds her own music difficult to define, "I can't call it Hip-Hop, and it's not exactly rap – a guess it's hard to put it into any kind of category, I'll leave that to ya'll to decide"- she adds with a smile.

Sa,rinity's fortunate to have had the support of the Burngreave rappers, DB (Dem Boyz). Ralph Sque, a member of DB, heard her rap and asked if she would join them. He also encouraged her to enter the Burngreave Talent Competition with high hopes that she would win.

*"Winning the competition gave my career a big boost and helped me to get out there, performing at other local events."*

After a summer of live shows and with a catalogue of many songs I guess Sa,rinity is on a roll. Her first single, 'Tears on my notebook', will be available to download this November.

[www.myspace.com/sarinitypowell](http://www.myspace.com/sarinitypowell)



## Dem Boyz

Dem Boyz is a collective of local musicians and song writers Ralph Sque, Flash, Chaps, Conkera, Mercy and Sa,rinity. Their music has achieved great results so far with performances at the Fir Vale festival and The Burngreave Talent Competition and they have big hopes and dreams of making it to the top.

Solo offerings from DB members are in the pipeline, including 'The Relentless' from 'Chaps', available soon, and are currently looking forward to releasing their next group album.



When asked what he would say to other young people, Flash said:

*"Follow your heart, but education is important. We love doing music and it's the most important thing now, but you need a plan B. You need education, and it helps with lyrics, without knowledge you can't write them."*

DB love performing live and are looking for people to sponsor them and book them for gigs. Contact Ralph Sque 07877 873 144 or Flash 07799 246 821

[www.myspace.com/demboyz](http://www.myspace.com/demboyz)

# Get-ready for Metz 'N' Trix

Story: Kadie-Ann



Kadie meets Metz 'N' Trix.

**Metz 'N' Trix, the famous Bhangra group, performed at the Fir Vale and Abbeyfield Park Festivals, where they drew great crowds and big expectations.**

After going wild to Metz 'N' Trix at the Fir Vale Festival I got a chance to interview them. They loved the festivals and the crowds, saying:

*"Well the two festivals was sick, but this one had to be the best, because the crowd was better and very rowdy, which was great."*

They look up to many people who inspire them and have made something of their lives. They said:

*"We look up to Eminem, 50 Cent and then there's classics like James Brown and Michael Jackson. Our message is all about going forward and achieving something in life."*

I asked them what made them decide to create Metz 'N' Trix:

*"Well it just happened naturally, one day we were just messing around and the next day we were in a music studio making music."*

Talking about the future, they told me they want to continue making music and touring the world.

*"We'd like to collaborate with people from different genres, like Amy Winehouse. If we added a little Bhangra, that track would be buzzin'."*

Finally, they told me to look out for their new singer AJ, "He's fresh on the scene and appearing on our new album 'Get Ready Get Set 2' so watch out for it."

Their new album will be out late 2007, early 2008.

[www.myspace.com/metzntrix](http://www.myspace.com/metzntrix)



# Pathfinders Hit Burngreave

Story: Maureen Griffiths  
Photo: Nicholas Hall

On the afternoon of Saturday 1st September Burngreave streets came to a standstill as 80 uniformed Pathfinder youngsters, 6-16 years of age, led by drummers, marched down to Ellesmere Green to display drilling and marching skills and present gospel music to the community.

Pathfinding is a worldwide youth society movement spearheaded by the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in the early 1900s. It's similar to the Scouts - the young people not only enjoy physical, social and educational activities but there is a strong spiritual emphasis which encourages them to become good citizens.

The Community response was great as people not only looked out of their windows and took pictures but some actually joined the procession and interacted with the group.

One lady said, "It's so good to see young black people in such a positive way."



An Asian gentleman said, "Religion is a good thing, no matter what the religion."

Another gentleman said, "It reminded me of when I was a lad in the scouts."

A big thank you goes to the Community Police organised by P.C. Ray Oakley, also the volunteer marshals for their hard work.

The young pathfinders said, "It was great to be able to make a noise in the middle

of the road with police support!"

On Saturday 13th October 2007 on Ellesmere Green at 3pm A "Health & Fitness" event will be held by the Pathfinders Followed by a "Community Cultural Evening" at 7pm in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church Hall, Andover Street - All Welcome.

To find out more about Pathfinders, Contact Maureen Griffiths 07748 914 696

## Study Support

Burngreave Study Support Projects are enrolling students for the Autumn term. GCSE results from last year's study support students show some excellent results:

*"Study support has allowed me to study the course I want at Longley Sixth Form College. None of this would have been possible without all the extra help and support I received. I want to go on to study law to help members of my community with their rights." - Leila Shaibi (9 GCSEs)*



Hasseena and Hilaal enjoy a recent study support visit (see page 11)

*"I feel study support made a positive contribution to helping me gain the grades I wanted. You gain motivation when you see peers and group organisers from the BME community." - Hilaal Hassan, (10 GCSEs)*

*"Coming in during the holidays, evenings and weekends was hard but worth it. I want to do a law degree and these grades have started me on my path to success." - Leila Rahman (10 GCSEs)*

*"Study Support helped build up my knowledge in my weak subjects and boosted my self-esteem. This enabled me to achieve 8 GCSEs. The teachers were extremely supportive and took out time to help me when required." - Hasseena Hussain, (8 GCSEs)*

*"The Homework club provides a stage between school and home which is badly needed and it is very important that this support should continue to be given. I believe we could benefit further by more resources" - Najma Ali, Y5*

*"Besides improving my academic achievement, the study support club also provides us with outdoor activities such as football, basketball and trips to Alton towers." - Abdimajid Said, Y5.*



Abdimajid Said enjoys football at study support

SADACCA Study Support, Mon, Tues, Weds, 4.30-7.00pm. Ring Carmelita: 2731975 or Ricky: 2753479

Burngreave After-School Study Support (YCA) - Mon, Tues, Weds, 3.30-7.00pm Ring Diane on 2611439

Somali Breakthrough - Mon-Thurs 4.30-7.30, Sat 10.30am-1.30pm Ring Mohamud or Nisar on 2759040

IT-CSSS (some classes in Somali) Mon-Fri 4.30-7.00pm Ring Mohamed: 07931375764

Reach High 2 - 5.00-8.00pm Friday; 11.00-3.00pm Saturday and Sunday Ring Nasira on 244 9099.

# Burngreave Bowls Tournament

## Sunday 29th July



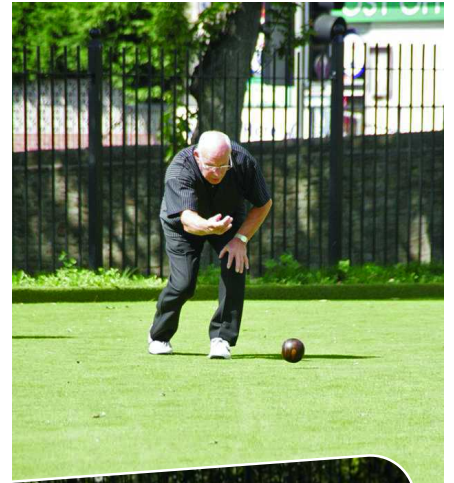
Story: Rebecca Norton  
Photos: Chris Gregory

**I opened the curtains with my fingers crossed, the sight of the sunshine made me smile. It looked like we'd chosen a good day for the Burngreave Bowls Tournament.**

We had four teams of 4 people turn up to Abbeyfield Park: Firs Hill Tenants and Residents Association (TARA), The Wardens (Street Wardens), Ryan's Team (mix of local residents including a very skilled young lad called Ryan) and Activity Sheffield. As Activity Sheffield were one team member short we were lucky enough to have Winnie join us (who is the Abbeyfield ladies bowls captain).

After some practice and coaching from Winnie the competition began. Each team played each other and the points counted up. After some closely contested matches the positions were: joint 3rd place: Activity Sheffield and Firs Hill TARA, 2nd place: The Wardens and 1st place: Ryans Team. The competition stepped up a level for the semi – finals. Ryan's Team showed great skill and beat Firs Hill TARA and the pressure got to The Wardens to allow Activity Sheffield to sneak through to the finals.

Everyone had chance to relax and enjoy the BBQ before the final match between Ryan's Team and Activity Sheffield. After the first end it was neck and neck but



Activity Sheffield's nerves couldn't hold out and Ryan's Team cruised to victory and won the trophy. We all concluded that it had been a thoroughly enjoyable day and everyone went home smiling with a determination to win next year!

If anybody is interested in playing next year of finding out more about the bowls club please contact Rebecca Norton on 07909 936244 or email [rrnorton.asmove@virgin.net](mailto:rrnorton.asmove@virgin.net)

## Art on Ella Road

Story: Jenny Tibbles

**During a rare hot week in the summer holidays, Ellesmere Youth Project and Green City Action joined forces with young people of Ella Road and spray can artists Shaun and Casper to transform the new kick-about area.**

Young people were invited to workshops and the design was discussed. It was agreed that it should have a 'landscape' theme, with some funky cartoon characters and lots of colour. Shaun and Casper then worked with the young people to develop a design and everyone had chance to show off their spray art skills by contributing to the finished wall.

There were many positive comments by passers by and all those involved thoroughly enjoyed themselves.





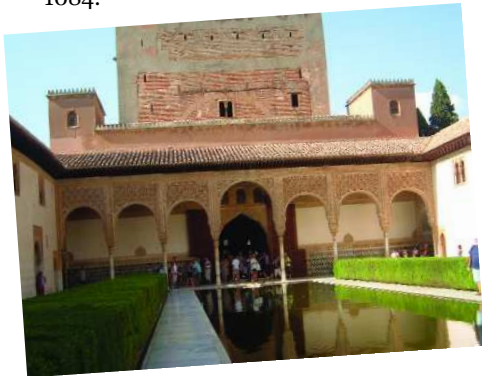
# Visit to Spain

Reach High 2 study support helped young people to get funding and lead an educational visit to Spain to discover the rich Muslim and Christian heritage of the region. On the 28th July, eight young people and four adults left Burngreave for 6 days stay in Granada, Spain. Here the young people talk about their experience...

We wanted to achieve a greater understanding of different cultures and expand our knowledge about different religions and people. *Hasseena - Age 16*

## Day 1 – Alhambra and Palace Gardens

Overlooking the city of Granada stands the Alhambra palace: the best example of Moorish (Muslim) architecture, built by various Muslim rulers between 711 and 1084.



The slender asymmetrical columns, light reflecting water basins and exquisite calligraphy are romantic, spiritual and a sheer indulgence for the human eye. Alongside the Palaces were gardens fitting the Quranic description of paradise. *Volunteer T*



The trip to the Alhambra Palace and Gardens made me realise the significance of an Islamic heritage I didn't know existed and helped me visualise the living styles of the 'khalifs' (religious leaders) many years ago. In all rooms of 'The Alhambra' there was amazing Islamic calligraphy engraved in the walls; one thing that really caught my eye was the breath-taking wall with the ninety-nine names of Allah (the glorified and exalted). *Hilal - Age 15*



## Day 2 – Mosque Tour and Munira Art Demo

After the mosque tour, we went to Munira's studio for an art demonstration. I was amazed how she put beautiful calligraphy designs onto a piece of leather, it was extraordinary. I enjoyed watching and learning. Overall, the day was fantastic and thoroughly enjoyable. *Sabrina – Age 14.*

One of my best experiences in Granada was visiting the mosque to pray 'Maghrib' (sunset) prayer. The mosque was indescribable, the beauty and feeling that I acknowledged whilst there was unbelievable. I didn't realize how much Islamic heritage there was in Spain with a Muslim Community. Visiting the mosque at 'Maghrib' was incredible as you could see the sun-set from the cliff top and directly opposite from the courtyard stood 'The Alhambra', looking stunning in the night with a beautiful red glow. *Hilal*

## Day 3 – Córdoba (Mesquita)



I thought the cathedral, originally a mosque, was extremely beautiful. I was really shocked that crusaders converted the mosque into a cathedral and changed everything inside. There are some remaining features, in particular the minbar (step on which imam stands to deliver prayer) but everything else from the calligraphy to religious symbols had been erased. *Sabrina.*

## Day 4 – Bookshop and Spanish Meal

The bookshop had really good books on Spain, to improve my knowledge of the area and help me put together a reading list for our report. I also liked the meal because it gave an insight into Spanish culture. The pasta was gorgeous and the fresh orange juice was refreshing and well worth the wait. *Nazmeen – Age 13*

## Conclusion

It was an extraordinary experience and opportunity to see a different culture. The group leader Nasira handled it professionally, from group dynamics to itinerary changes. Hats off to her! I would like say thank you to Nasira for enabling me to be a part of this. *Volunteer Habiba*

On reflection, every aspect of this visit to Spain was an amazing experience; in terms of how communities co-exist today, it has encouraged me to learn more about multi-cultural community cohesion. In Muslim Spain, Arab scholars preserved and built upon earlier knowledge; their encyclopedias, translated throughout Europe, enabled a flourishing multi-cultural society to take root. I feel it is not only a glimpse of a great past but also a view into a future where people and religions can co-exist and learn from one another, surely inspiration for all societies. *Volunteer T*

I was honoured to lead this educational visit, which showed Asian young women can achieve outside their normal surroundings, and after school study support prepares them to take on new challenges, skills and independency.

Thank you to the volunteers for their support, and congratulations to the girls for their achievement. Well done! For many women these visits are rare. Thank you to Youth Opportunity Fund for giving us the opportunity. *Nasira (Visit Leader/Reach High 2 Co-ordinator)*

If you want to be involved in Reach High 2 study support contact Nasira on 244 9099, more details see page 9.



# Abbeyfield Festival 2007

Deferred to autumn this year instead of high summer, high winds caused initial concern but the weather held for our annual multicultural festival which filled the park with punters from near and far.

Whilst youngsters headed for the skating rink and the rodeo bull, exotic aromas and music attracted others to the many stalls and stage performances.



## Comments

The Messenger received several comments about the festival. Here are a couple from local residents. Let us know what you think by adding comments to our website.

This was my third visit to the festival and I'm afraid me and my family were very disappointed. I don't think there was much for anyone of any age to do. Lots of people who attended the festival shared the same feelings as myself. The festival was full of stalls selling food or handing out leaflets that most of us have already picked up or had posted through our doors. If this is the future of the festival, it is the start of the end. *Peter Nelson*



All photos by Nicholaus Hall, except: Left column top and very bottom, boxing picture and EYP photos by Anwar Suliman.



I go along to the festival every year and usually end up quite bored, stuffing my face with all sorts of different foods, wandering around aimlessly, and looking at stall after stall, never quite sure of what I was meant to be doing there.

This year I was pleasantly surprised that there was just so much more to do. It seemed as though the organisers had put a lot more thought into the activities for the younger children - such as the rodeo bull and the ice skating rink which was up in the tennis courts.

I would have loved to pluck up the courage to have a go, but the fear of looking like a plonker, falling all over the place, made me see sense and leave well alone.

I feel it is a must to also mention the singing and dancing performed by the adults and children - a massive well done to them too. *Diane Johnson*



## EYP perform

Ellesmere Youth Project performed their original song and dance routines at the Abbeyfield festival and other venues over the summer.

New sessions for 10 – 18 year olds working with local songwriters and dancers will be starting again in October.

Details from Jenny Tibbles or Yassin Usuf on 243 5854 or 0788 677 7068.





# Fir Vale Festival

Story: Wajdi Raweh

**Fir Vale Festival took place on 9th of September at Fir Vale School. This event seemed well organised and the presence of people was good. I noticed lots of happy faces. A lot of those present were young people, and they created a wonderful atmosphere, especially the young people from Slovakia who were dancing spontaneously, and running and laughing as they enjoyed the event.**

I went to speak to some of the stall holders about what they thought of the festival. Sadia Nazir and Najam Hussain, were doing Henna painting, and selling Islamic names in calligraphy.

*"This is the second time we had been to the Festival. We think the event is important because it gathers different cultures and people from different ethnic backgrounds. It increases the knowledge of how other people and cultures produce things, like art."*

Nabeel Nazir of the Hussain Brothers, had not been to the festival before but thought it was a good way to show people his new shop based at 4 Owler Lane, selling hair care products, as well as groceries and hardware:

*"We want to let people know how cheaply they can buy products from us. It's helping us get our business known."*

Imran Ali brought Islamic books and references including the Quran, he was giving them away for free for people who want to learn about Islamic culture. He gave about ten Qurans away. Imran said, "I want to explain to people what Islamic culture is about."

The presence of the young people and the role they've played in the festival showed the positive response they have to good things available for them to take part in.

The festival also offers a great



Photos (top): Dave Woodall  
Photos (below): Anwar Suliman



opportunity for those who would like to promote their businesses. It certainly is a great place for all those people who have only recently started their own businesses and are looking to recruit customers.

The presence of the police officers was not necessary in my opinion, it would've been better if they were not in uniform and just joined in the fun with everyone else. We don't want to make the presence of the police a habit, it would better to have security people, than the police.







## Learn Healthy Eating

Middle Eastern Cuisine Using Fresh, Affordable Ingredients  
With Laila Wragg

Fun, Easy To Make Tasty Recipes

**Including:**  
Arabic kebabs in tomato sauce, ajeh (pakoras), chicken dishes, suffiha (Arabic pizza), salads, falafel and chappati, humous, warak-de-wehli (stuffed vine leaves), babaganoush (aubergine in tahini), fetoush (salad with toasted flat bread), and filo pastry sweets like baklawa, harissa, plus cakes made with honey, nuts, and semolina.

**Drop-in Saturday taster workshops:**  
11am - 4pm on  
6th, 13th, & 20th October  
*Classes start 8th October, 5.30 - 8.30pm.*  
The Furnival,  
199 Verdon Street,  
Burngreave, S3 9QQ  
For more info or to sign up,  
Telephone: (0114) 272 7497



**FREE** fun programme for kids  
to become fitter, healthier and happier!

Do you have children 7 – 13 years old?  
Are you worried they might be unhealthy or even overweight?

Then call us on (0114) 249 1626 and join the MEND Programme!

The MEND Programme gets kids healthy and fit in only 10 weeks and helps them stay that way!

Featuring:  
Exercise Classes, Circuit Training, Basketball, Football,  
Nutrition Classes and more...

Find out about other children having fun on the MEND Programme

More information: [www.mendprogramme.org](http://www.mendprogramme.org)

### Programme Details

Where: Verdon Recreation Centre  
Dates / Times: Mondays: 5 – 7pm  
Saturday: 11am – 1pm  
Starting Monday October 15th 2007



## If you experience anti-social behaviour in Sheffield, call 101 and report it

- Vandalism & graffiti
- Noisy neighbours & loud parties
- Threatening & abusive behaviour
- Abandoned vehicles
- Fly-tipping, rubbish and litter
- Drunk & rowdy groups
- Drug related anti-social behaviour
- Broken street lighting

## If you don't want it, 101 it

The Police and the Council can take action against people who commit anti-social behaviour

Calls to 101 cost 10p from landlines and mobiles, regardless of the length of your call. Deaf and hard of hearing people can call 18001 101 from a textphone.

We can take calls from people who speak other languages

101 is a service provided by South Yorkshire Police and Sheffield City Council. Calls will be recorded for training, quality monitoring and public safety purposes.



Do you need help making your business more successful?



Are you looking for help and advice to start your own business?

Have you got ideas about making a difference in your community?

## Then come and talk to us!

The **Burngreave Business Support team** is here to help you, your business or your enterprise idea grow and prosper. We are a dedicated resource that is committed to helping individuals and businesses in Burngreave.

We can offer you a variety of help and advice that includes dedicated advice and information on:

**Marketing • Finance • Legal Issues  
Skills Analysis • Funding • Business Planning**

We even have grants to help get you going!

To find out how the **Burngreave Business Support team** can help you or your business, please contact:

**Business Support Team,  
Forum House, 35 Spital Hill, Sheffield, S4 7LD.**

Telephone: (0114) 292 0462

E-mail: [businesssupport@bndfc.co.uk](mailto:businesssupport@bndfc.co.uk)



# Celebration of the Abolition of Slavery

Story: Myrtle Walker

**Second Step Caribbean Women's Group Agewell has been in existence since 1983. We are well known for the many activities and events we have held over the years.**

This year we are celebrating 200 years since the abolition of slavery from 1807-2007. The group will be performing a play depicting 'Bondage to Freedom'. We will be dramatising slavery and what it means to be free. It will be an informative, historical, yet entertaining event which will relate to where we as African and Caribbean people are coming from.

Many of the group members are local women. We have all worked hard to make this event thought-provoking,



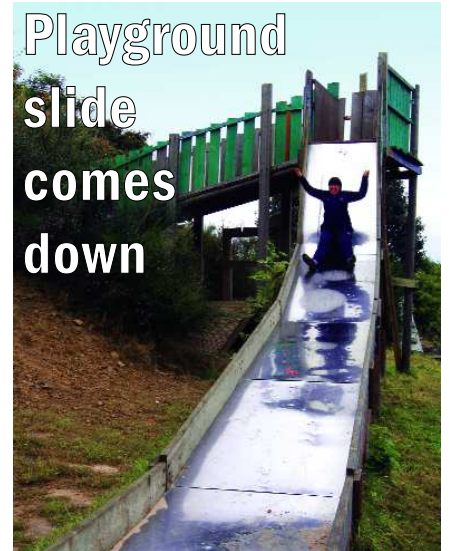
informative and educational and we would very much appreciate the support of the people of Burngreave to make this a play they will never forget.

The event is funded by: South Yorkshire Community Foundation

**Venue:** Library Theatre Tudor Square;  
**Date:** 12th and 13th October  
**Time:** 7:30pm  
**Tickets:** £6:00 waged, £5:00 unwaged

Tickets can be obtained from SADACCA, 48 The Wicker. Telephone: 275 3479. Or call 225 8124.

# Playground slide comes down



September marked the end of an era at Pitsmoor Adventure Playground as the 'Big Slide' was finally taken down after more than ten years of service. Many fearless youngsters took on its near vertical 'drop in' start and slow 'trouser hoisting' finish.

The Messenger would like to hear from readers who have memories or photographs of the playground or the Big Slide.

**Call us on 242 0564.**

## Coal, Frankincense and Myrrh Yemen and British Yemenis

**Free Exhibition  
Until 13 April 2008**



 **Weston Park  
Museum**

**The remarkable story of Sheffield and the Republic of Yemen**  
Western Bank, Sheffield



# Cricket arena at Abbeyfield

Story: Amie Rowland and Lisa Swift

**The derelict tennis courts at Abbeyfield Park were a hive of activity on 30th August as local people came to view plans for the new cricket facility and meet Yorkshire and England Cricketer, Craig White.**

Sheffield City Council, in partnership with the England and Yorkshire Cricket Boards has secured £80,000 funding from NPower to develop a purpose built cricket facility at Abbeyfield Park.

Local youngsters with a passion for cricket and interested local residents had the opportunity to comment on the plans and attempt to bowl Craig out! The feedback was extremely positive.

Ateeq told the Messenger, "I play cricket for King Edwards school, I'd like to play here when its done."

Anser Khan said "I play all the time, it'll be good to practice here when it's done."

Brett Weldon told us, "It'll be good when its done, we live right next to it." His brother Dale, who is a bowler for Thorncliffe cricket club, said "It's a good initiative, it will get people playing more."

Other residents felt that the new facility will bring new life back into the Park and will be an excellent resource for everyone.

Abbeyfield Park was chosen over other sites across the country due to the commitment and passion shown by the Abbeyfield Cricketers and the popularity of cricket in the area. And it's a lot to do with the enthusiasm and commitment of local cricketer and coach for the Firs Hill school team Hedar Rasool.

*"We're always playing here and coaching the kids, there's always a good atmosphere. I play for Shiregreen Cricket club now but when I was 14 we had our own team here in Burngreave. I'd like to see a Pitsmoor team here again, with young people running it themselves."*

Firs Hill teacher Bibi Hussain said: "I help Hedar with the cricket team, and you can see there's great talent in this area. We'd love to use this facility for after school practice, and in the future for tournaments."

Councillor Hussain told the Messenger, "I grew up playing cricket, and we've never had anything like this. It's brilliant."

Craig White commented that "The new cricket arena will provide a fantastic opportunity for young people. I have every confidence that it'll be a great success- especially with the enthusiasm I've seen here this evening!"



If you have any comments on this project please contact Amie Rowland on 0114 273 6952, or email [amie.rowland@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:amie.rowland@sheffield.gov.uk).

## What's oop George? Ah've broken me bat!

Story: Albert Jackson

**As the England Cricket team head off to Sri Lanka, we can remember Crabtree's own George Ulyett. I bet the Australians do, even 130 years after he played in the first ever Test Match in Melbourne in 1876/77.**



Born at Crabtree on 21st October 1851, whom he played cricket for in his youth, George joined Pitsmoor Cricket Club when he reached 16 and went on to play first class cricket for both Yorkshire and England.

At the Melbourne Test in 1882, after one smashing boundary drive he shook his bat, then walked a few steps from the wicket and held it up in the air. From the crease the following dialogue could be heard:

*"What's oop George?"  
"Ah've broken me bat!"  
"Whee'rs t'other?"  
"At back o't' door!"*

The Australian crowd was to mimic the conversation for the rest of the game.

A steel roller by trade, he also found time to keep goal for Sheffield Wednesday and later

became a cricket umpire and a publican at the Vine in Brunswick Street, all while being a husband to Emma and father to a son and three daughters. On the field he was known as Happy Jack and was renowned for his dialect. His brother John was Groundsman at Bramhall Lane where Yorkshire played some of their best games.

George Ulyett is just one of the many local characters who were buried in Burngreave and recorded in a new book by Albert Jackson entitled 'The Grave Digger' priced £6.00. The book will be available in November from the Burngreave Cemetery Chapel - open Sundays 11am-3pm or write to:

The Friends of Burngreave Chapel and Cemetery, 12 Burngreave Road, Sheffield S3 (Add 50p for postage).

GEORGE ULYETT (1851 - 1898)

**Test Matches** - 25, (1877 - 1890) Runs 949. Wickets 50

**First Class Matches** - 573, (1873 - 1893) Runs 20,803. Wickets 653

**First Class Umpire** - (1894 - 1895)

**Goalkeeper for Sheffield**

**Wednesday** - (1882 - 1884)

# Self-defence for women

Story: Lisa Harrison

"I've been here since the classes started. Kickboxing is an excellent way to keep fit." Sarah, one of the attendees at Al-Nisa, hesitated, then continued, "Cheryl's a very good teacher. She is very precise, making sure that we can execute each move properly, which is great for grading. If I got attacked now, I'd be able to defend myself straight away."

Al-Nisa Sport and Leisure is a Social Enterprise Community Initiative, with funding from UnLtd and BNDfC. It runs classes in combat arts and has a female teacher, Cheryl Mahmoud. The founding principles of this organisation are to



provide fitness, self-defence and confidence in a women-only environment. No boys over the age of 8 are allowed to attend.

An environment that can guarantee modesty is crucial to Al-Nisa's majority Muslim students. Aisha was keen to emphasise how unique this is: "I've been coming here for a few months. There's nothing else catering for Asian women within the community. I bring my children here too."

All women are invited to attend, regardless of background or belief. Everyone is treated the same way, which enables full integration. Naomi, a non-Muslim member of the class, said, "I've been coming here for just four weeks, but I've found it a very welcoming environment. It's great for cultural relations. I initially came because it's near to where I live and I was curious."

The premises which Al-Nisa is currently using are less than ideal, as they share a facility with an Islamic school. Due to vast demand and expansion, a dedicated building is now needed. This would enable the students to store equipment in the building, rather than moving it all in



## AL-NISA Sport and Leisure

"A new concept in combat sport and defence"

Full contact thai/kick boxing

Self defence courses

Boxercise – non contact exercise

Fully qualified, insured and CRB clear FEMALE instructor

Adult classes – strictly women only

Children's classes – mixed boys & girls (no boys over 8 yrs)

NEW beginners classes starting after Ramadan.

Also NEW over 50's gentle exercise sessions.

To register for any of the above please call

07752 094 070

Or E-mail:

al\_nisasportandleisure@yahoo.co.uk

and out for each class, and would allow more sessions to take place since demand is so high.

Cheryl Mahmoud, who teaches the classes, said, "Since our classes are only for women and young children, it is a unique and secure environment. These classes aren't just for Muslims though – we'd encourage any women from any background to attend. There are lots of people out there who want to try a sport in a female-only environment. The demand is huge in this area and I want to get others involved, but we'd need a new building to use which can guarantee a secure environment."

If anyone can help with finding a building or would like to sponsor Al-Nisa, please contact Ahmed on 07752 094 070.

# Parents oppose school expansion

Story: Brent Moya

**An Area Panel / education department meeting on 18th September provoked lively debate over the planned expansion of Saint Catherine's Roman Catholic Primary. 45 parents met panel Chair Cllr Jackie Drayton and Cllr Ibrar Hussain. They were joined by Education Deputy Director, Paul Makin and John Wade from the Roman Catholic Diocese, to defend the proposals.**

In reply to opposition to the proposal from parents, Paul Makin said: "There is pressure on schools in Burngreave with

many children going to school outside the area. In order to deal with the continued demand, the Cabinet thought it necessary to expand local schools." On the subject of increased traffic, Makin seemed unfazed: "While we understand concerns regarding increased traffic and disruption from building works, we assure you that we are experienced in this role, and increased traffic will be dealt with."

Many parents raised concerns that traffic outside St Catherine's was already causing problems: "We have an increased number of children getting run over and buses struggling to get up and down the road," argued one parent. "You would be taking away playing space when there isn't enough of it anyway and there are massive problems with obesity in this country," added another parent.

On the playground size, school head Mrs Fiona Rigby said: "We didn't have a

quality play space for Key Stage 1 (infants) but we do now. There are high levels of physical activity within this school and, if this development went ahead, then I wouldn't have any concern for the amount of space."

Another parent claimed that with the school size set to double, the main hall would not be big enough to house the whole school at assembly time. "We are gradually moving away from the ethos that this school has been built on."

Councillor Harry Harpham (Cabinet member for education) said he would report back concerns to Cabinet and claims were made that, if parents were not happy with the proposals, then they would not go ahead. Cabinet meets on 26th September and will have to consider the recommendations to approve the proposals as well as the petition from 165 people against them.

## WANTED!

**Local residents of Burngreave to be members of the Children and Young People's Strategy Group**

The group oversees the development of our work with children and young people and its implementation through projects.

**We have major projects covering:**

- working with schools to support young people (Family Advocacy),
- community-based Study Support,
- youth work in the area (Streetworx),
- sports activities (Active Burngreave),
- and pre-school childcare and Bookstart.

**We are looking for local residents who are:**

- committed to helping improve the life opportunities of young people from the Burngreave area
- willing to devote some time and energy to working with others on these issues.

The Strategy group meets once every two months.

If you're interested in improving the support to young people in the area, this is a great opportunity to have an influence over the next three years. There are two residents on the group which also has representatives from the BNDfC Partnership Board (also local residents), Statutory Agencies such as the Council, and Voluntary and Community organisations.

We also have a vacancy for a representative from voluntary and community organisations working in Burngreave (the person doesn't have to be a resident).

If you think you would be interested in joining the Strategy Group in one of these capacities and would like more information, please contact me:

**Jon Cowley, BNDfC Children and Young People Manager**  
**Tel: 0114 2922908 or 0773 9878589**  
**Email: joncowley@bndfc.co.uk**

## A final farewell from our Chair, Rose Ardron

For the past six years, I (and my long-suffering family and friends) have lived and breathed New Deal for Communities. Now I am standing down as Chair and from the Board. It has been a great opportunity for me to do useful work with others, building relationships and striving to improve our community. I have always wanted us to have nothing but the best and we deserve nothing less.

I feel proud that together we have been putting Burngreave on the map. I've sat round the table at the Sheffield First Partnership Board, where the strategy for the city is pulled together and heard Burngreave cited as an example of good practice in creating employment and training opportunities. The work of the business champion and the business forum is now used as a model for the city as a whole. This and many other examples show that Burngreave is contributing to the regeneration of the city as a whole and that increased opportunities and resources are beginning to flow into the area.

Everyday I hear the stories of how the services, facilities, activities and relationships that we now have in Burngreave are providing the stepping stones that help people find and follow their path forward in life. It's these stories that make all the work of the last six years worthwhile.

Regeneration is tough and complex; no body knows how to get it right all the



time. Sometimes results take so long to appear that you feel that nothing is happening and no one is listening to you. These are some of the things that I won't miss – that and the twilight shift of meetings and the endless paperwork and... I will miss the sense of shared purpose and energy that has come from working with the Board members and the staff team. I want to thank all of them and I wish them every success for the future. I also want to thank everyone from across our community who has supported and encouraged me along the way – I couldn't have done it without you.

*Rose Ardron,  
 Outgoing Chair of the Burngreave New Deal for Communities Partnership*

**A Big Welcome to our two new Neighbourhood Enterprise Champions Lisa Hughes and Farid Abdulla.**

Lisa and Farid will be working in the wider Burngreave area to offer help and support to generate the growth of new businesses in the area.

To find out more about how they can help you with ideas for new businesses and find the help you need to get your new venture off the ground you can contact the team by phone or by calling in to Forum House on Spital Hill.

**You can meet the team at the forthcoming events:**

**Shield, the Business Ideas Workshop**

- Get the expert help and support you need to develop and support your new business ideas. On 17th October between 6.00pm and 8:00pm at Vestry Hall

**Franchising Discovery Day**

- Monday the 8th October at the Sheffield Megacentre. Talk with either Lisa or Farid for further details.

**Lisa Hughes – 07917 014 313 • Farid Abdulla – 07825 626 046**



## Burngreave's 4th Annual Bonfire celebrations

- **Sat 3rd Nov 2007**
- **4pm -9pm**
- **Petre Street playing fields**

**FREE event.** Come and enjoy:

- Pyrotechnics fire works display
- Live music
- Local and continental food
- Stalls
- Local services information

Strictly no pets.

No alcohol and no personal fireworks.

**If you would like to take part in this years' event please contact: Leroy Betts 07917 014 312.**



## Crimestoppers

If you have information about criminal activity in your neighbourhood and you don't want to get involved or give your name you can call Crimestoppers. Crimestoppers is the only charity directly supporting the police to help detect crimes and bring offenders to justice.

Crimestoppers take information about any crimes, for example, driving whilst disqualified or without insurance, receiving stolen goods, burglaries or drug dealing. Your suspicions are enough for the Crimestoppers call agent to research your information and pass it on to the police.

When you ring your call will not appear on itemised phone bills from a land line. Crimestoppers call agents don't have caller line identifier (CLI); don't have the 1471 facility; and never trace calls.

Call agents are forbidden from telling the police the gender, apparent ethnicity or age of any caller. If a caller has inadvertently said they live "next door," or "are related" to the person they've given

information about, this is automatically kept out of the report sent to the police.

If the information you give leads to somebody being arrested and charged, you can claim a cash reward of up to £1,000 and still stay anonymous.

When you call you ask for a reference number and ring up later on to find out if anybody has been arrested and charged. If someone has been, you will be asked to choose a bank from where you want to collect the cash, you go to the bank on a chosen day, give the reference number and you will be given the cash. No signature and no record.

If English is not your first language, Language-line is available so an interpreter can join in with the conversation to ensure you fully understand the questions.

When you ring Crimestoppers you will speak to a person not a machine.

The number is 0800 555 111 and the service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

## Update...

### Burngreave Police team

You may have seen a couple of new faces around Burngreave this last month. PC Jonathan Simpson has left the area and has been replaced by PC Ian Talbot who started his new role in August.

Ian is an experienced officer who has worked at Attercliffe for the past two years during which time he has worked extensively in the Pitsmoor and Burngreave areas.

The team has also welcomed a new PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) Supervisor, Lyndsay Cutler, who has supervisory responsibility for four PCSO officers working in the Burngreave area. Lyndsay has come from Barnsley where she has had considerable experience in working with problems concerning anti-social behaviour and the development of community issues.

The Burngreave and Pitsmoor areas continue to be low crime areas. As with other areas in Sheffield it has recently been subject to a spate of lead thefts. Individuals have been arrested in respect of these thefts and the property has been recovered.

Dene Tingle, the Crime Reduction Officer for the Safer Neighbourhood area, has been engaged to offer advice to people who have been the subject of these crimes. If you need to speak to Dene he can be reached on 296 4426

Officers from the Burngreave team participated in the rescheduled Abbeyfield Festival on 2nd September. The team valued the opportunity to meet with many local residents and were kept busy chatting and giving advice throughout the event.

If you would like to talk to anyone in the team please call 296 4489 and leave a message if they are not in they will call you back. If you want to report a crime telephone 220 2020 and of course, in an emergency, call 999.

A Residents Forum to discuss the issues around Police/Community relations will be held Wednesday 17th October at Vestry Hall. A buffet will be served from 5.30pm. Please come along.



## Residents take on the traffic on Firs Hill Road

Two roads in Pitsmoor – Firshill and Passhouses – will be part of a major new national scheme called “DIY streets”. The aim is to “help residents to re-design their own streets affordably, putting people at their heart, and making them safer and more attractive places to live.” It wants to “create an equality between people and cars that is decided by the residents themselves”. The Area Panel suggested Firshill and Passhouses Roads because the residents had recently petitioned for a change. The Council will put up half the funding, with the rest from Sustrans through grant funding from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation. How did we get to this stage?

### Calls for traffic calming

Earlier this year, a petition asking for traffic calming signed by virtually everyone on Firshill and Passhouses Roads was submitted to the Area Planning Board. The Area Panel was aware that traffic calming schemes are strictly considered, with the number of cars using the road, any recent injuries from road accidents and any information on traffic speeds all having a bearing. The local police team were of the view that it didn't require any ‘engineering’ solutions – but more patrols. Likewise, although Highways staff could see the problems with traffic avoiding other humped streets (Abbeyfield Road), they weren't convinced that Firshill and Passhouses were in more need than other streets in the city.

The Area Panel decided to try to get more information from residents that might support their case. About a third of residents replied. One said “Very often cars get into Passhouses Rd in a not



advisable speed. They come down off Scott Rd and speed up into Passhouses Rd without any care to the fact that someone could be crossing the road”. Another wrote, “A lot of young people drive up and down the road at high speeds. Sometimes they do ‘skids’ at the end of Firshill Rd”. Someone counted the number of cars and pedestrians on the street for an hour in the morning – 56 cars passed by the shop on the corner and 167 pedestrians! We asked what people thought was a solution – most said traffic humps, and more police patrols and cameras. A few suggested better street lighting, no informal selling of cars, improving the park, and closing the street by the shop.

Unfortunately, when the Planning Board considered the response to the petition in June, they decided not to support the petition due to more urgent priorities elsewhere in the city.

### So what now?

Simple really – it's now in the hands of everyone on Passhouses and Firshill Roads to decide, working with Sustrans and Council officers. We'll keep you informed.

## Bring out your rubbish

That time of year again – throw out the unwanted rubbish that can't be re-used or recycled. It's still geared to those without access to their own transport to take stuff to the bring-it or recycling sites. Remember, you'll get a leaflet from Green City Action a few days beforehand and all your ‘allowable’ rubbish has to be out on the street before 11am.

**25 October:** Bolsover, Wheldrake, Cammell, Vickers, Ellerton, Lindley, Mortlake.

**30 October:** Earl Marshal Rd, Drive, Close View, Whiteways Close, Drive, Grove and Road, Margate Drive.

**31 October:** Crabtree Ave, Close, Cres, Drive, Lane, Road, Cannon Hall, Goddard Hall, Hampton, Firvale Rd, Hallam Rock.

**1 November:** Barnsley Rd, Norwood Close, Drive, Road, Firshill Ave, Roe Lane, Conningsby Rd, Pitsmoor Rd.

**6 November:** Burngreave Rd, Melrose Rd, Coupe Rd, Burngreave St, Catherine Rd, Burngreave Bank.

**7 November:** Abbeyfield, Holtwood Rd, Osgathorpe Rd (bottom end), Stair, Devon, Firshill Rd.

**13 November:** Scott Rd, Passhouses Rd, College Court + Close.

**14 November:** Osgathorpe Rd (top) + Drive, Sturton, Skipton, Pexton, Blayton, Kirton, Ellesmere Rd N, Gayton Rd, Firview Gdns.

**15 November:** Page Hall Rd, Rushby St, Owler Lane, Selby, Dunmow.

## 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.

**13th October:** Jackie Drayton, 11am–12 noon Burngreave Library and 12.15–1.00pm: Firshill TARA

**27th October:** Ibrar Hussain, 11am–12 noon Burngreave Library

## Next Area Panel Public Meeting

Thursday 4th October at 2pm – note afternoon time – at Roe Lane community centre on Firshill Crescent. Items include Brigitt Cowen from Sheffield Homes giving an update on Homes/council housing in the area; Crabtree Pond and Roe Woods reports; and an item on DIY streets. All welcome. For more information see the the Area Panel website: [www.sheffield.gov.uk/in-your-area/area-action/burngreave-area-action](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/in-your-area/area-action/burngreave-area-action).

# It's the tree planting season again!

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

## What we achieved last season...

Last season was the most productive for Burngreave Community Forestry since I started in September 2005. In total 2,356 new trees were established in the area, of which 110 were heavy standards (over 8ft high). During 27 dedicated sessions 129 young people were engaged and over 200 school children were involved both at school and on woodland sites. In all, twenty-five sites benefited from practical environmental improvements and 405 volunteers were able to participate in 76 events.

We worked with a host of organisations including BTCV, Green City Action, the Area Panel, Sheffield Futures and the Youth Council, to mention but a few who have worked hard with us to help increase the tree population in the area. At this rate Burngreave will boast a degree of tree cover to rival any other area of the city.

## Get involved...

This season a similar range of activities are planned and will be accessible to all. Woodland management is proposed in woodland along Bagley Dyke next to the Northern General Hospital and an exciting forest gardening project on Parkwood Springs will be launched. Tree planting will be taking place on



sites across Burngreave and along with adult volunteers, young people and school children will be given the opportunity to participate. Please contact me if you wish to suggest a potential tree-planting site.

## Trees for free...

Burngreave Trees for Free is offering apple and pear trees again this season for residents interested in growing food at home. In addition tree and shrub species will be available to create hedges, an excellent way of marking boundaries whilst providing valuable habitats for wildlife. If you are interested or require more information please call the number below with your name, address, contact number and tree requirements. Please note, Burngreave Trees for Free is only available to residents of Burngreave.

Many thanks to all involved, I would especially like to say thank you for the award that I was delighted and privileged to receive last January. I look forward to working with you in the coming months

Please call Tim Shortland on 2734190 for details of events this season.



# Recycling Banks at last!

Story: Saleema Imam

Local recycling banks that we've been asking for over the last five years have finally appeared on the Roe Lane Community Centre car park, (on Firshell Crescent).

"They are already proving very popular with residents", says Sheila of Firshell TARA, who requested them at a Firvale Friday meeting a few months ago.



Clothing, plastics, cans, mixed glass, paper and card can all be recycled there.



# Green City Action

## Apple press for hire

The weather may have caused many problems this year but it has also produced a glut of apples. We have a great apple press for hire for those who wish to make their own apple juice. The tool bank is now open 1pm to 4pm on Wednesday and 10am to 12 noon on Saturdays with a wide range of tools for hire.

## Apprentices sign on with growing GCA team

The GCA team continues to grow and we are pleased that two local young men have signed on as apprentice stewards. Denzil Ramsey and Nathan Richardson have started work and will complete a comprehensive training package during the next 18 months. Both from Burngreave, these young men join our team of stewards working on our green spaces for the benefit of the whole community.



The Deliver It Green project, funded by BNDfC and the Area Panel is making a real impact now with its emphasis on getting the work done and Harlestone Street was one site that has benefited from a facelift recently. The steward team worked hard to reclaim the old roadway that had become overgrown with grass and weeds making it a safe and tidy walkway for residents to use. This followed on from the installation of 120 metres of new footpath linking Verdon Street with Rock Street and the GCA renovated playground on Denholme Close Open Space.

## Deliver it green...

Dear Messenger...



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

Dear Messenger,

I refer to your article and the accompanying letters referring to the proposed building of a Mosque and Madressa at the top of Earl Marshal Road. You state in your article opinions have been sought from the community. How is it then, that nobody sought my opinion? I live nearest to the present Mosque and I suffer great inconvenience on a daily basis and have done so ever since the Mosque came into operation.

I'm also part of the community, but I was not consulted when the present Mosque came into being and no doubt I will be ignored about the planning and siting of the future Mosque.

I'm very pleased for any people who have a faith, but it should not be followed at the expense of others who have their own faith.

I have dirt and filth thrown into my garden and the driveway to my home is constantly blocked. When I ask people to move, they become abusive, rude and sometimes threatening.

I understand that all main faiths encouraged people to be respectful towards older members of society and to respect their property, but this quality is sadly missing in some of the people I have dealt with when they are waiting for their children to leave the Madressa.

I can accept that they want their children to be safe, but this shouldn't mean that their children should run through my garden or that their parents should throw rubbish into it. I also should be able to use the drive leading to my house, but apparently people using the Mosque can safely ignore all the parking rules and nothing can be done about it.

The newly proposed Mosque will apparently only have parking spaces for 10 cars, so this horrible problem of rubbish, noise and bad mannered people parking their cars across my drive will go on and because I am in the minority I will be ignored.

Name and address provided

Dear Messenger,

The recent debate over Umar Mosque/Madressa on Barnsley Road reminded me of a similar debate and complaints by local residents (including Muslims) against a Mosque (Prayer House) during the Ramadan in 1997-98 when the local Muslim community had converted a house on Abbeyfield Road into a Prayer House and Educational centre. So, planning permission was sought and was granted (after support from a local Councillor) and strict conditions were imposed to keep number of worshippers/students to a maximum of 40. This centre mainly catered for elderly Muslims, children and women. Eventually, the house reverted back to residential use.

From 1998-99, some members from the former Abbeyfield Road Islamic centre began to attend/support Umar Mosque. After a difficult struggle the Mosque developed a good reputation, and recruited a high calibre Imam. Umar Mosque began to thrive and some Muslims were well aware of the future possibilities of complaints from residents (as the Mosque/Madressa was mainly located in a residential area).

However, prior to the Imam's appointment, a cross-section of Muslims (including myself and two Muslim Councillors from Burngreave and Firth Park) from within Burngreave attended meetings between July 2000 and October 2000 at the Sheffield

Medical Centre (Dr. Q. Zaman's Surgery), Spital Street. These meetings came about as a result of broad agreement for the proposed project at the BNDfC roadshow meeting on 10th April 2000 and the SHWAM report's mention of '...Muslim School...' (Dr Zaman had previously floated the idea to build a Mosque/Islamic Centre on the land adjacent to Handley/Spital Street, in 1997). The group drafted a terms of reference and Architectural Feasibility Study by Burnell Briercliffe Architects estimated at a cost of £40k for the Islamic Cultural Centre – which was later called 'Burngreave Community Well-Being Centre' (BCWC) with a letter to BNDfC (Theme Groups) and Sheffield First. The group did not receive a response from BNDfC & Sheffield City Council. Unfortunately, the BCWC Steering Group was unaware that this proposed plan would later transpire into the Multicultural centre in the form of Forum House on Spital Hill under the auspices of the Black Community Forum (BCF) by early 2001. Had the BCWC development gone ahead it would have been better for the Muslim community, it would have brought people together and the problems being faced by Umar Mosque would have been avoided.

MATLOUB HUSAYN ALI KHAN

Dear Messenger,

In response to the article in the June Messenger regarding the proposed building of a 3 storey Madressa on the Masjid Umer site, I and many other residents felt this rather biased and not reflecting the full picture, and would make the following comments:

No one is objecting to there being a small local mosque, however, over recent years Masjid Umer has been utilised as a Madressa (teaching establishment), contrary to the original planning application. This has led to problems of people from outside the local vicinity sending their children there when there are adequate facilities in other parts of Burngreave and Sheffield.

"... over 700 people attend the Madressa" - The original planning application was for a local mosque not a city-wide Madressa, with no indication, at the time, that the mosque committee wanted to develop a Madressa on a scale completely unsuitable for the site or vicinity.

"...vast majority of the young people that attend are from Burngreave" - Comments on the Council Planning Department Website show that many in favour of this application come from around the city: Firth Park, Heeley, Walkley, Dronfield and as far as Leicester, York, Leeds and Hull.

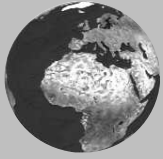
"...there is a genuine traffic issue, but the issue is only between 7-7.15pm." – at the recent Area Panel meeting in July, the Area Co-ordinator and Councillors acknowledged, "problems of travel and parking issues in the area around the Northern General Hospital," and parking issues due to the Madressa are among issues documented by residents on the Council website and at the Area Panel meeting. A three-storey purpose-built Madressa on the proposed site would just add to the problem.

Those voicing concerns are not against having local mosque(s), but against an ill-thought out application for a 3 storey teaching facility, which is clearly not suited to its current location. We hope those involved in the application think again and take into account the feelings of both Muslims and non-Muslims and look for an alternative more suitable venue that won't add to the current problems experienced by local residents.

Name and address provided.

In response to residents' concerns, the plans for the Mosque & Madressa have changed and include the reduction in roof height to match buildings nearby, relocation of access routes to reduce disruption, and allocation of pick-up points for parents and children. More information can be found at: [www.sheffield.gov.uk](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk), planning application ref: 07/01306/FUL.





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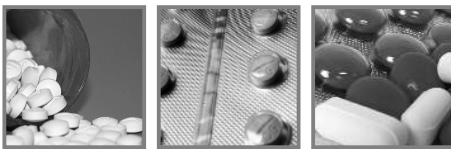
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