

# Burngreave Messenger



Issue 75 • April 2008 • Free to everyone in Burngreave

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

*Voice of the Burngreave Community*

## Burngreave bouncing back



Story reporters: Jawahir Said and Lisa Swift  
Photos: Lesley Boulton

**Marchers gathered at Osgathorpe Park on 15th March, where Ibrahim Ilyas was shot in June 2006, to demonstrate against gun crime and for a better future for young people.**

Inderjit Bhogal led prayers saying, "Let us not judge ourselves by what others say about us, but by the very best values, and traditions and people among us. Burngreave....Be proud as a community."

The sound of the Seventh Day Adventists' Pathfinders drums filled the streets and raised spirits, as the march walked to Scott Road. At the cemetery gates, the



marchers remembered Younis Khan, who was shot there in March 2007.

Mrs Tizeta-Powell told us, "I have lived on Scott Road since 1962. I heard the drums and march going past my house and joined in. I want my grand-children to grow up in a peaceful environment."

The growing march, now of 250-300 people, continued to Nottingham Cliff Park, where Jonathan Matondo was remembered.

Rose Ardron told us, "I'm on the march today as I care a lot about the area and the young people here. We need to value the positive things young people do."

With banners held high, flanked by the local police, marchers took their message to the Town Hall, stopping traffic on the Wicker and in the city centre.

On the Town Hall steps there were songs and speeches. Burngreave's Youth Councillor Farhan Ahmed spoke about how young people felt unsupported by their peers, "At our office on Verdon Street, we will work together to provide mentors - but most of all a listening ear."

Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt finished by saying, "We must be bold enough and brave enough to say to those who carry guns, 'Put them down.'"

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

**Burngreave**  
Celebrates Learning  
**Festival**  
Free  
Sunday 18th May 2008 2-6pm  
Verdon Street Sheffield S3  
Join in the fun and learn  
For more information please call BCLC on 0114 279 4960

Burngreave Community Learning Campaign  
Fit Vale Family of Schools  
17-23 MAY 2008 WEEK

# Bitz & Bobz

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## Burngreave Community Action Forum (BCAF)



### What is BCAF?... Who is BCAF?

BCAF is a local forum that has existed for the last ten years, and is made up of people who live and/or work in Burngreave.

### How does the Forum Work?

BCAF works to channel the views and opinions of local people via its Quarterly Forum and Working Groups, feeding these through to service providers, policy makers and statutory agencies.

BCAF has an elected committee which meets monthly and coordinates the work of the Forum, making sure we focus on issues that are important to people in Burngreave.

The next Quarterly Meeting of the Forum will be on  
3rd May 2008, 12 - 3pm at the Vestry Hall.

Topics for discussion include:

- Feedback on priorities from BCAF AGM in February
- Policing and Community Safety
- Local Transport Priorities
- Refugee, Asylum Seekers and Migrant Workers
- Provision for Children and Young People

We welcome interest from anyone who may want to get involved as a member of the coordinating committee.

To contact BCAF: 0114 2728008 or email [enquiries@bcaf.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bcaf.org.uk)

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

**BCAF - it's your Community Forum!!**

## Sheffield Credit Union

### Pitsmoor

### Collection Points



- Tuesdays 8.15pm – 9.15am  
Firhill School Breakfast  
Club (pupils & parents only)
- Thursdays 11am – 12noon  
The Welcome Centre, Nottingham St.

To join the Credit Union come to one  
of the collection points, or call in at  
Sheffield Credit Union's office:

*The Gallery, Castle Market  
Monday-Friday 10.00am – 1.00pm*

*Or telephone: 0114 276 0787.*

**Pitsmoor & Burngreave  
members can contact us on  
07982 732 542**

### The Primary Mental Health Care Project

at Pitsmoor Surgery is  
thinking of setting up  
a local knitting group.

If you are interested in joining  
us please call Val or Helen on

**276 2644**

for more information.

## Write Horizons

Do you sometimes have lots of thoughts going  
round in your head that you can't sort out?

Do you wish you could say how you really feel?

Writing can be a way of expressing your emotions on paper  
where it can feel safe and secure and it can help you learn  
about yourself.

*Forget what you learned at school about grammar and spelling, they  
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*Therapeutic Writing can help reduce stress, get rid of worries and  
enhance well being.*

If you would like to try this very informal way of writing come  
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Wednesdays 1.30–3.30pm  
At Minna House,  
30 Minna Road.

**No experience necessary and it's free!**

For more information call:  
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Telephone: 276 2644

*Leave a message, I will return your call.*



# Roe Lane Centre demolition

Story: Lisa Harrison

Roe Lane Community Centre is to be demolished as part of the expansion of St Catherine's School. This will allow the school to expand without taking from the school field. The plans now include a multi-use games area which would enhance sports provision on school grounds.



The community centre will be relocated into a purpose-built space within school grounds, sharing the school's main entrance. As well as enhancing storage provision for the various groups that use the centre at present, the new space will be more than twice the size of the current community centre. However, school and community space will remain separate and secure.

With building work scheduled to begin in July this year and finish in September 2009, some local residents are concerned at the provision of community space in the interim. Various ideas are being discussed to allow for this, including use of the school's hall whilst building work is being carried out, but nothing has been confirmed at this stage.

The school expansion, including the issue of the community centre being demolished, will dominate the agenda at the next general meeting of Firshill TARA. Local residents around St Catherine's School are being strongly encouraged to attend this meeting to get their points of view across.

**The meeting will be held at Roe Lane community centre on Firshill Crescent on Monday April 7th at 6.30pm and is open to all.**

**The planning application is available for people to comment on until 16th April at Sheffield City Council's website ([www.sheffield.gov.uk/planning](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/planning)), or in person at Howden House in the city centre. There are two applications for St Catherine's (08/01070/RG3 and 08/01072/RG3) and one for the redevelopment at Pye Bank School (08/01077/RG3).**

## Postbox victory

Story: Ian Clifford

Residents will be pleased to see the return of the post-box on Burngreave Road, near the junction with Melrose Road following a campaign over recent months by the Messenger.

The post-box had been removed during road alterations for the Better Buses scheme, and was missing for over a year.



# The Editorial



## Questions for New Deal

In February, we reported on allegations about Burngreave New Deal and posed four questions relating to the openness and transparency of decision-making. The issue related to the appointment of two men, who were found to have committed misconduct at another New Deal. The full Council debated the allegations and our four questions became part of the final decision to launch an investigation, due to report back in June.

More recently, New Deal delivered an eight-page rebuff, saying "we want to set the record straight." A summary of their position is on the New Deal pages this issue, pages 18 and 19.

New Deal's money has undoubtedly funded good things for Burngreave. However, their publication fails to distinguish between Burngreave and Burngreave New Deal. They are not the same thing. New Deal stresses that the Partnership Board has an elected "community majority". It's important to note there that the recent elections were cancelled due to lack of interest amongst potential candidates.

Perhaps the real concern is the "Executive Sub Group" which manages the "strategic direction" - and personnel issues. Who are they and how much power do they have? One thing is clear: New Deal's claim that "the Sub Group reports back to the full Board" is not backed up by the minutes of the Board.

The Messenger has found out that the Executive Sub Group is made up of only the Chair and Vice-chair, along with Joanne Roney (executive director at the council) and Jane Brown (director of Sheffield First). Is the truth, then, that the community are excluded from the real decisions, which are made by these officers? That is something the investigation into governance arrangements will have to uncover if Burngreave is not to be tarnished by New Deal's mistakes.

### Messenger Info

Editorial meetings: 6.30pm at Abbeyfield Park House  
Next meeting: **Wed, 16th April. All welcome.**

Copy deadline: **14th May** Next issue published: **31st May**

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**New email: [mail@burngreavemessenger.org](mailto:mail@burngreavemessenger.org)**

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

## Good News for the Messenger

The Tudor Trust has agreed to fund us with £90,000 over the next three years. This is not all the money we need but it makes our future much more secure. They were impressed with our volunteer involvement, so a big thank you to all those who contribute to the Messenger - it's making a big difference.

The Burngreave Messenger is a community newspaper, funded by New Deal, with editorial independence. All content is copyright Burngreave Messenger Ltd or its voluntary contributors, not to be reproduced without permission. 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: Molly Butler, Ian Clifford, Rohan Francis, Naheem Hanif, Lisa Harrison, Douglas Johnson, Seraphin Nyirenda, Jamie Marriott, Lisa Swift.

# Companions carries on

Story & photo: Brent Moya

**When a change in landlord prompted the new owners to increase the rent, many feared the Companions Club on Barnsley Road faced closure. However after several rounds of talks, a compromise was reached, which enabled the club to remain open.**

New vice-chair, Bob Bridge provided a few choice words, "The Sheffield Companions Club, like so many others, was recently on the brink of closure after 40 years at its present location on Barnsley Road. However, thanks to some skilful negotiation and hard work by the newly appointed management

committee, the club is open for business as usual and, from 1st April, we are renewing memberships and encouraging new members to join."

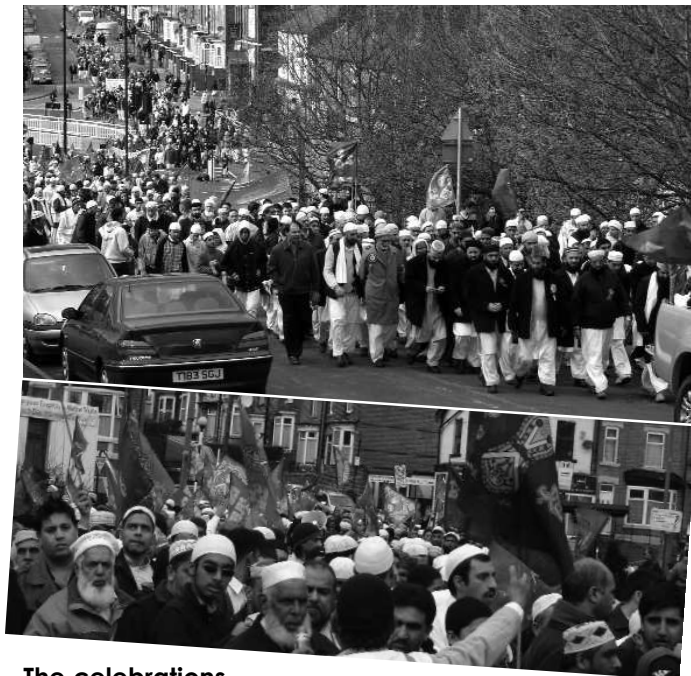
Bob outlined the importance of the club, "Many people will not be aware that this club for ex-service men and women provides a place to socialise and enjoy the fellowship of others, something that is unique in the area. We aim to provide many opportunities for community activity within the club as well as being available for functions."

The Club needs the support of its members, old and new, so anyone wishing to get in touch should ring 0114 242 5332. Those with links to the services, including reservists and cadet forces, are eligible for membership at only £12 per annum.



# Mosque celebrations

Story & photo: Farhan Ahmed



**The celebrations for the birth of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) are initiated during the 3rd month of the Islamic calendar – Rabi-al-Awwal. Sunni Muslims throughout the world traditionally take part in marches to celebrate the event.**

Each year the Sheffield Council of Mosques gathers to decide as to which Mosque in Sheffield the march ought to be carried out at. On the 16th of March the event took place in Fir Vale Ghuasia Masjid. Over 1000 people attended from the Sheffield community. People also came from Rotherham, Doncaster and Leeds.

The heavy winds helped spread the Takbirs (chants) around the Fir Vale district; flags were high in the sky and local business representatives provided refreshment during the procession.

# Wade Street Green Space

Story & photo: Ivor Wallace



**At last work is to start on the very first development in the Master Plan for the Page Hall area.**

An area at the bottom of Wade Street, which is the nearest green space to the terraced houses of Page Hall, is going to be revamped. It has been three years in the planning which involved officers from the East Regeneration Team and local residents.

There will be seating for parents who drop their children off at Owl Brook School, there will be seven new trees planted and the whole area will be landscaped, making it a friendlier place. There will be new lighting and better pathways across the green providing easier access to Wincobank Hill. The existing sub station will be screened off by metal panels that have been designed by pupils of Fir Vale School.

At the launch on Monday the 17th March, Councillors Ibrar Hussain and Jackie Drayton said it was good to see the results of a working partnership between the Council and local residents come to fruition. The whole project is expected to be completed by the end of June.

# Byron Wood Nurture Unit

Story: Liz Searle

**As I enter the Sunflower Room, home of the Nurture Unit at Byron Wood School, I am welcomed by staff members Tracey Lindsell and Sam Brookes, Navlet Reid, the Assistant Head, and the children who attend every morning.**

As I share breakfast with the children and staff, I see how polite, friendly and kind they are. The atmosphere is very calm and positive.

The eight children cheerfully discuss how they feel about the Nurture Unit:

*"I like the Sunflower Room."*

*"It's fabulous."*

*"They are the bestest teachers in the world."*

The Nurture Unit was formed to build the social and emotional skills necessary for learning and functioning in mainstream school. The children, who spend mornings in the Sunflower Room before returning to their own classes after lunch, focus on basic literacy and numeracy, as well as structured play activities which develop their social skills. Tracey explains that some of the children have not had the early experiences of social play which

would allow them to learn and interact within a mainstream class. She emphasises how well children respond to the 'therapeutic, calming' atmosphere and activities which build skills such as sharing and turn-taking.

The Nurture Unit was founded just over a year ago after Navlet and Tracey completed four days' training in Leicester, whose Local Education Authority supports Nurture Units. All Byron Wood staff were introduced to the idea through training and meetings, and now champion the initiative. The Sunflower Room is the first of its kind in Sheffield, a fact of which the school is justly proud. Navlet comments:

*"I think every school should have one."*

After two to four terms, the children return to their classes and teachers and classmates have reported that they have developed their confidence and 'foundation for learning'. Sam mentions that children often ask to join the Nurture Unit as it is viewed so positively within the school and that its 'graduates' can come back to visit as a reward for their good behaviour.

Families support the Nurture Unit by working on homework tasks with the



children and attending events such as coffee mornings. Tracey says that the families have made '120% effort' to work with the Nurture Unit and Navlet adds, 'If it makes a difference to one family, it's worth it'.

The Nurture Unit is going from strength to strength and, with the new library and computer suite to open on April the 16th, Byron Wood has a lot to be proud of.

## Fairtrade at St Catherine's

Story: Kookie Chilengwe & Sheila Gesage, St Catherine's School Council members



**In St Catherine's Primary school, people have realised that others in the world are not as fortunate as us, so we find it important to help them; the way that we do this is by buying Fairtrade products.**

We entered a competition for Fairtrade Fortnight and the winners from our school were Alexander Rigby and Alicia

Pinder. After Alicia had received her prize, she said, "It was fun and a great experience, now I know what Fairtrade is about."

By entering the competition, the main objective was to learn about Fairtrade and how it affects other people's lives. If it wasn't for the competition, we wouldn't be able to understand that our actions have great effects on countries less fortunate.

The things our school are trying to do are:

- Make all the staff's tea and coffee Fairtrade.
- Make the school council's biscuits and snacks Fairtrade.

We are one of the many schools that are trying to make a difference and we always take any opportunity to show that we do our part to help.

Fairtrade is not only found in schools - their products are in most shops. They are the same like chocolates, juice and bananas but they taste BETTER because you've made a change.

### Richard Caborn MP Visits

In March, our Y5 and school council children went to visit the houses of parliament and meet with Richard Caborn, our local MP. We enjoyed our time with Mr Caborn, so we asked him to attend one of our school council meetings. Find out more on the Messenger's website, [www.burngreavemessenger.org](http://www.burngreavemessenger.org).

*More on our website...*

## Buses better?



Nearly five months after the launch of the 'Better Buses' scheme in November 2007, one of our volunteers took a ride along the new bus route and asked passengers for their views.

Many said they still experienced impolite drivers, late running buses, and incorrect information.

First Bus passengers can now claim a free FirstDay travel ticket if their bus is more than a minute early or more than twenty minutes late. Claim forms and Customer Charters are available at travel information centres or see the Messenger website for further details.

## Lloyds Pharmacy refurbished

Story & photos: Seraphin Nyirenda



The Lord Mayor officially re-opened the refurbished Lloyds Pharmacy on Ellesmere Road on 30th January, in front of their staff, visitors and customers.

Manager Jennifer Harris said, "We've made the dispensary bigger and we've got a consultation area for doing diagnostics testing and also taken on more staff."

As part of the celebration customers sponsored balloons for Jessop's special baby care unit, raising £100.

## Campaign for Aman Ali



25 people met on 27th March to support Aman Ali, featured in February's Messenger, as he began his campaign to remain in Britain. He fled from Afghanistan in 2002 after his family were killed. When his asylum claim was refused, he was left destitute and had to work illegally. He fell and broke his back while repairing a roof. Now without leave to remain in the UK, services are difficult to access. Aman said:

*"I can't get physio or the support I need. I can't go anywhere; I'm not entitled to anything. I need to do something about it now!"*

## Forum House open day

Story: Lisa Harrison Photo: Anwar Suliman



On February 13th 2008, Forum House opened its doors to provide visitors with information about the range of services on offer around employment and training.

The event attracted over 400 people with twenty or so employers, training providers and local enterprise organisations represented.

There is more information about Forum House's services on the Messenger website or by contacting them directly on 0114 275 5106.

## Sorby House



The New Deal funded £4.5 million refurbishment of Sorby House was completed in November last year. A management company was appointed at the beginning of February to manage the lettings, but two months on it still stands empty.

A quarter of the building is reserved for community groups, but New Deal's Chief Executive, John Clark, has stated:

*"Sorby House is not a community centre, its purpose is to generate income. We estimate that it will generate £250,000 per year to fund other community projects."*

With rents set high, who will be able to afford to rent space in Sorby House? Updates on this story will be on our website.

## Longley Sixth Form Equality Week

Story: Derrick Okrah

Events at Longley Park Sixth Form College's Equality and Diversity Week (4th to 8th February 2008) ranged from cultural representation and finding out about sensory impairment to disability and sexuality awareness to gospel choir singing in the plaza.

Mohamed, a final year student, said, "Hosting such events really brings the student body together as one big and happy community."

"Let's hope this sort of event does not end here but continues in the future," said Jason, a student.

**We're adding more content to our website as it develops. Full versions of these stories are on our website. Why not have a look?**

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



**The Council's Cabinet met on 27th February 2008 and approved officers to submit a formal "Expression of Interest" to develop Parkwood into an Academy. In the end, it wasn't debated by the full Council, although the Anti-Academies Alliance presented Councillors with a 300-signature petition.**

The Council will now have to carry out further consultation on the "feasibility" of the proposals and a new consultation document is expected at the end of April.

The Messenger has been keeping track of progress on the website – [www.burngreavemessenger.org](http://www.burngreavemessenger.org)

The letters on this page from Mick Ibbotson and Chris Mallaband show two different views on the question of whether Parkwood should become an academy.

### Thoughts of a Parkwood parent

Parkwood High School's academy proposal is not a win-win situation and it will affect your children - so you need to be aware and involved in the process.

The school is led by Chris Mallaband but there is at present no guarantee that he will be allowed to stay on as head of an academy. This is not good news. Ofsted rate the school "good" with "outstanding" bits so why put that at risk?

There are other issues, firstly being perception. Academies have previously been a last-gasp attempt to fix failing schools. Parkwood is not a failing school and, although academy status is not purely for this type of school, there is a stigma attached to it. Is this how we want outsiders to view Parkwood?

The next issue is the building, which is in need of a major facelift. Offering a new build if the school goes 'academy' seems a crass attempt at blackmail. If a new build is needed (and it is), the status of the school should not come into it.

The council is leading on this proposal and it is they who make the decisions. The option they have chosen for Parkwood is with a private partner which will mean opting out of local control. Perhaps it's time for our local councillors to climb off their fences and let us know what they really think.

So what will academy "status" actually bring to the school? Edutrust can choose the curriculum and bring their expertise to bear on all aspects of the school. The financial gain is overstated and in all likelihood the extra costs will mean less money to spend per pupil.

There is already some vocal opposition to the proposal. Sheffield Anti-Academy Alliance has been quite active in the consultation meetings so far and is pushing for an open debate. Some of their arguments are persuasive and, as a parent, I believe they have a right to have their say, even if I don't agree with all they say.

Finally, my message to all involved: don't sit in silence, have your say. It is your children's future at stake. Remember the Ofsted report: it would be a real shame if this great work was undone by making the wrong choice now.

Mick Ibbotson, Longley Resident and Parent

### Response to "Two Sides to Every Academy"

I am writing in response to the story, "Two Sides to Every Academy" published in the last edition of the Messenger. In particular I would like to offer some corrections to some key inaccuracies and also to offer some of my own views. I know, of course, that some people are not in favour of Parkwood becoming an academy and I completely respect their views. I do believe it is important, however, for everyone to hear a balanced view of the arguments for and against.

The Academy will not be a limited company as stated in the story and Edutrust, as the sponsor, are a not for profit charitable organisation. There is no suggestion that the Academy will be a "business" – it will be an educational institution! Edutrust are very clear in their aims and aspirations for young people and academies – their website is very informative: [www.edustrust.org](http://www.edustrust.org).

Edutrust have always been very clear about helping Parkwood achieve its vision and they see this as "partnership and not takeover". This sentiment was clearly expressed at both public meetings but does not come across in the story as written. The school governors view this as essential and were first attracted to working with Edutrust because of this complete commitment to partnership working.

The issue of governance is made much of in the story. The governing body for the Academy will reflect the communities served by the school within the legal framework provided by the government.

I was surprised to see the word "gamble" ascribed to me in the article. That is certainly something that I would never do with the future of Parkwood. I did, however, speak about the need for Parkwood, in common with all organisations, to take risks from time to time. It was really good to hear so many people express confidence in the school and acknowledge the improvements that have been made – all of these have been because we have taken risks. This was clearly acknowledged within our recent Ofsted Inspection – when we have been brave and have innovated we have been successful. I think that is a bit different to "gambling"!

I think it is unfair to describe both meetings as tense – the second one certainly was but not the first. Also – at the first meeting I think it would be fairer to describe the "gulf" being between the vast majority of the audience and the small number of questioners who raised issues of concern.

The Council have now accepted the recommendations of the Neighbourhood Commission to allow the process to move forwards into the next stage. During this stage there will be plenty of opportunity to discuss the vision for the Academy. I really hope that as many people as possible will take the opportunity to work with us so that if it does go ahead then it will be the best possible school for the young people and the local communities and for the City. I hope that the Messenger can play a role in helping with this debate and discussion over the coming weeks.

Finally, can I extend an open invitation to readers to visit the school – I am happy to show people around at any time and the young people love seeing visitors in the school who are interested in what they are doing and achieving.

Chris Mallaband, Headteacher, Parkwood High School





## Building on success

Story & photo Liz Searle

**On the 20th March, the Women's Construction Centre (WCC) celebrated the opening of its new learning centre at Buckenham Street. The achievements of recent students were recognised by a presentation of certificates to forty women for tiling, bricklaying, plastering and plumbing. Visitors heard from manager Ros Wollen how the WCC has made great progress since it opened two and a half years ago. Courses are now so popular they are often oversubscribed.**

Jane Thomas, chairperson of South Yorkshire Women's Development Trust, commented that WCC had performed better than expected, the learners proving to be a real success story. "The WCC has been ground-breaking nationally and, as a hub of the community, will provide a legacy for the future," she said.

Other speakers included Mr and Mrs Lawa and Dr Patel of the Hindu Community Centre, that owns the building, and Dee Desgranges of the Adult and Community Learning Unit, that provides funding. She noted how special the WCC is as it offers opportunities for learning skills, supports progress into self-employment and challenges stereotypes. Both she and Jackie Drayton congratulated the staff and learners for their hard work and achievement.

Chantelle Gilbert described the plastering course as 'fantastic and fun', with 'a brilliant tutor and course mates'. She is now considering studying Interior Design at university.



Another learner, Anne Lawton, also extolled the virtues of the tutors and learners, emphasising their good liaison with the Hindu community.

The evening ended with the formal opening of the learning centre and the newly tiled hallway and toilets. These new additions to the Centre not only demonstrate the ability of its learners but will provide greater opportunities for future classes, as English, maths and computer skills will be taught there.

**Contact the Women's Construction Centre on 0114 273 7046.**

## Race 4 Life Training

Story: Rebecca Norton, Active Burngreave  
Photo: Anwar Suliman

**On Sunday 15th June 2008, Race 4 Life will be held at Don Valley Stadium in Sheffield. This is a 5km jog or walk to support the work of Cancer Research and the special thing about this 'race' is that everyone entering is female.**



Each Wednesday afternoon a group of ladies meet at Verdon Recreation Centre to do some training. The age of this group ranges from mid-twenties to sixty-plus, all with varying levels of fitness and each with their own reason for completing this physical challenge. Some of the ladies want to help raise money for the charity while improving their own fitness and gaining a sense of achievement. Most of the women know someone who has experienced cancer so they want to remember them and raise awareness.

**For more information contact Rebecca Norton of Active Burngreave on 07909 936 244.**

## International Women's Day

Story: Molly Butler

**Arriving to find a buzzing atmosphere at the Vestry Hall on Friday 7th March, we did a round of the stalls (and buffet), and gained insight into the wealth of educational and social activities for women in the area.**

We spoke to Nicky Reed of the Workers' Educational Association (WEA), who told us that there were new courses in public speaking and active citizenship beginning after Easter.

We then spoke to Louise Hill of Burngreave Opportunities. They are based at Forum House on Spital Hill and offer free advice to people seeking work. They have a wealth of information for people actively seeking work in the area.

Aisha Jones of SAVTE (Sheffield Association for the Voluntary Teaching of English) described their six week course for people wishing to teach English on a voluntary basis. They find a

suitable placement for the trained volunteers. Teaching is usually on a one-to-one basis in the student's home. "I'm learning something new each day as a volunteer," said Aisha. She also said that anyone interested in volunteering as a teacher should contact SAVTE. Teaching qualifications are not needed.

Finally, we spoke to Fatima Musa of the Black Women's Health Network (BWHN), who runs a group at the Furnival on Verdon Street every Tuesday from 10 to 12 noon. All women are welcome and they can learn about healthy cooking and eating, complementary therapies and health information.

Overall, we saw a good mix of organisations and the stallholders felt it had been a successful day, with around 200 people through the door.

### Contact details:

**WEA - 0114 275 2623  
Burngreave Opportunities - 0114 275 5106  
SAVTE - 0114 241 2765  
BWHN - 0114 271 6971.**



# HEET at the Rec

Story: Farhan Ahmed  
 Photos: David Ainscough

**The HEET event held at Verdon Street on 1st March was aimed at young people, providing enlightenment on health, education, employment and training.**

Communities Development officer Patrick Edwards, for Sheffield Primary Care Trust, organised the event. Institutions from the Burngreave community and other areas were present. A wider audience attended as well as the youths.

Anna Maria of Burngreave Community Learning Campaign said, "It's fantastic to see different stalls that are not even from Burngreave, this shows people are helping us."

This event was not restricted to the space in the Rec centre. Outside, with the Burngreave truck, musical performances, sports activities and guest speakers took the stage. It was a good split that allowed people to calmly seek



information inside or to join in with the fun outside.

As with any event this too had some drawbacks. This occasion was aimed at young people but only the older generation seemed to be present inside. I think this is because stalls of information are not an effective way to communicate with the younger generation. The youngsters were crowded outside where it was 'kicking'.

Mr Latif brought his kick boxing crew along and had them wear their costumes



and walk around handing out information leaflets. This worked well and allowed them to provide first hand information. As youngsters we can, from time to time, switch onto 'screensaver' mode, but by approaching us and getting our attention we concentrate more.

Many people thought it was a good event and took the point of view expressed by a representative of the Connexions team: "This is a useful exercise, and we should do it on a regular basis".

# Fir Vale Fusion

Story: Danny Hall & Nicholaus Hall  
 Photos: Nicholaus Hall

**In four years from now, when the Olympic Games come to these shores, the dream is to have a Great Briton on the podium. To have world class athletes, there needs to be opportunities for young people, Fir Vale Fusion Athletics is providing that for Burngreave Youngsters.**

The organisers of the scheme are well aware of the benefits it offers. Dave Spacey, Athletics Development Officer for Activity Sheffield, says: "It's very important for them to get into athletics, for their development and also to make friends and keep them healthy. With the large number of events in our sport, athletics has something to offer everyone."

An initial programme was set up for eight weeks at Fir Vale School and 25 youngsters attended every week of the scheme, leading to them being awarded a scholarship to train at Don Valley stadium. The initiative has been described as creating 'a real buzz'.

The Messenger asked the children what they thought:

*"I like it because it's fun and you do*

*different things every time." I like the 60m sprint, I don't mind hammer (the type you throw) though too much, but I like hurdles." Wanjiko Msigiti (9, Firshill School)*

*"I get to learn neat stuff and get to do competition with other groups." Deian Sinclair (9, St Catherine's School)*

*"I like high jump and sprinting and I like speed bounces - I can do 46. It's not that hard; it depends on what we're doing. I'd like to do it in the future and basketball as well." Anisah Hussain (11, Whiteways Junior School)*

*"Sometimes it's hard, sometimes OK." Faran "Mr F" Houssain (11, Whiteways Junior School)*

*"It's fun and difficult sometimes. You feel much healthier when you run around. I like the games and competitions, e.g. bulldog. I want to continue doing it for a long time." Zain Asif (11, Whiteways Junior School)*

Emma Msigiti (mother of Wanjiko Msigiti) said, "I think it's fantastic. She started at Fir Vale School and she really enjoyed it. We've tried different activities but this is the only one she's taken to. I think she'll carry on with this programme for as long as it



goes."

Dave Spacey says, "The parents have been fantastic, a great response from them. We get 60 kids here on a Saturday morning which is really quite amazing."

Keep an eye out at London 2012 – one of Britain's Olympic heroes could be familiar to the Burngreave community.



# Pitsmoor Adventure Playground Free Events



## St George's Day Saturday 26 April

Lots of themed activities including:

- Flag making
- Fancy dress
- Face painting
- Painting of the mural wall
- Large craft activities – sword and shield making
- Bouncy castle

## Spring Event Saturday 17 May

Including:

- Construction of a may pole
- May pole dancing
- Fancy dress
- Face painting
- Henna painting
- Arts and craft activities.

## Wimbledon Saturday 28 June

Including:

- Tennis tournaments
- Tennis coaching
- Face painting
- Arts and crafts
- Party games
- Strawberries and cream.

All events will run 12-4pm and are FREE!!

Children under the age of 5 years must be accompanied by an adult.

Children between the ages of 5 and 7 years must be accompanied by a child over the age of 12.

Children over the age of eight may attend unaccompanied.



For more information, please contact Amy Deacon on:

Telephone: (0114) 203 9394

Email: [Amy.Deacon@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:Amy.Deacon@sheffield.gov.uk)

## Adventure Bounces Back

Story: Rohan Francis

Photos: Amy Deacon

**It's been a tough year at Pitsmoor Adventure Playground, with delays to plans for a new building and rumours about cut backs. Thanks to staff and volunteers' efforts it's really bouncing back.**



### Under 5's launch party

Staff organised a big party in February with two bouncy castles and a lantern making workshop with local artist Patrick Amber. The new play equipment never arrived but no one was too disappointed. The playground was alive with over 250 children who enjoyed all sorts of fun and games, and completed a huge hammer head shark lantern.

### Easter Party

The new play equipment finally arrived in March and was installed in time for the Easter Party. Children descended on the site just in time to see Jackie Drayton cut the ribbon on the new facilities and lend her expertise to the official starting of the eagerly awaited 'Easter Egg Hunt'.

### Extended hours

Streetworx launched a pilot project to open the playground for 14 – 19 year olds on Tuesdays and Fridays, 8-10pm. The first of these sessions was another success as around 30 young people gathered to play pool, table tennis and football.

### Plans for a new building

A new building for the playground has been discussed for years. There has been some progress, despite initial drafts being



turned down by the planning department and the users group. Further meetings are planned with Council architects and planners in April. To find out more come along to the next users group meeting on 10th April, 7pm at the Playground.

### Memories

The Messenger would like to hear from anyone who remembers playing here as a child or was involved in its construction or the famous fundraising efforts during the early 1980s. Contact us on 242 0564.

# Greenfingers grows again

Story: Michelle Cook

Photos: Marc Charlton & Rohan Francis

Early on the morning of 31st January, Greenfingers had their greenhouse blown up by vandals. A few weeks later, they are well on the way to recovery, thanks to the support of the community.

The scheme, at Grimesthorpe allotments, involves local volunteers and paid workers to act as mentors for those experiencing mental health problems.

The new £2800 greenhouse has been erected and the site so well cleared that there is now little trace of the explosion. Many of the tools lost have been replaced thanks to generous donations:

- A whip round at Abbeyfield Grange care home, in lieu of Christmas cards raised £100
- Northlands Community Mental Health Team whip round £72
- Sheffield PCT £500
- Burngreave Area Panel £2000
- Sheffield City Council, Parks £990
- One SAGE volunteer donated his travel expenses
- Tools For Africa donated tools
- Local individuals and supermarkets also contributed

Diana Tottle, project director, said "I would like to thank everyone for their support."

James Kazadi, one month into his post as an admin worker, said, "I love my job, I get a great deal of satisfaction from working in this environment with such great people." James brings experience of his homeland in the Congo, where he helped his father who is a keen gardener.



A celebration day is planned for volunteers, with an exhibit of clay masks made at a workshop with potter, Sue Mulroy and Natural England. The Tuesday women's group will also unveil their mosaic 'welcome' plaque.

It is clear this project is a valuable resource to the local community. The workers engage people in so many ways - not only gardening, but arts and crafts and even preparing soup for lunch. The view from the hill and the fresh air give an extra feeling of well-being. It is much more than just an allotment.

**The project is always looking for volunteers who are able to commit at least half a day a week. Anyone interested can contact Diana Tottle on 0114 274 3651.**



Story: Molly Butler

Photos: Seraphin Nyirenda

**On the 21st March, the Kurdish Community Centre organised a Newroz festival on Ellesmere Road.**



It was a cold, drizzly day but I was greeted by the lively music and dancing of the local Kurdish community celebrating their New Year or Newroz, which is on the first day of spring. The atmosphere was vibrant and emotional. The children were busily making a bonfire whilst the adults, many dressed in traditional attire, performed their dances with enthusiasm, waving scarves and flags. Once the fire was lit, everyone gathered round to sing the Kurdish National Anthem.



I was perplexed by the date on the banner - 2,708 - I was informed by Mahsoom that it represented the date that Kawa Ahenger, an important symbol of the Kurdish struggle, toppled the tyrannical regime.

I spoke to Hussein, Fueet, Alan and Adil who said they thought the event was wonderful. Adil said it filled him with emotion for his culture.



Photos: Anwar Suliman



# Handful of Henna

Sheffield Theatres treated Burngreave to free performances of a Handful of Henna in February, funded by New Deal. So many people came to the first event at the Vestry Hall, that a second performance was arranged. The project was part of a community tour which included performances at Pye Bank and Firs Hill schools.

The play has strong links with Burngreave, Kamalbir Singh, of Ellesmere Post office, wrote the songs and music for the play. He told the Messenger:

*"I was asked to do the music by director Karen Simpson. It was a real challenge as I wanted the music to be very original. I was inspired by old artistic Bollywood films and Indian classical music. It took a month to write, compose and record the songs at home. It was a lot of work, but it was good to do something with a local link and a great experience."*

## Reviews

Rashida Hassanal

'A Handful of Henna' transported us to a rainy, distant airport where a mother and daughter argued and sulked, recently arrived back in the mother's homeland. Many of the audience laughed at the familiarity of the memories and the dilemma of being caught between two worlds. No wonder, as the drama evolved from local women's stories themselves, with an evocative soundtrack composed by Ellesmere post office proprietor, Kamalbir Singh. It was a pleasure to see such demand for theatre in the heart of our community and we look forward to Vestry Hall becoming a regular venue for plays and performances.

Umme Salama Hassanal (aged 11)

I really enjoyed watching the play with my mum because we both understand the language and the cultural 'jokes'. The best bits were the dancing and singing, the costumes and the way the props changed into different things. I also really enjoyed how the actors changed into different characters. I liked Nasreen because she was about my age and I understood what she was feeling.

Suze Reynolds

Evocative and enchanting, a story of homecoming, reunion, adventure and identity. Nasreen (Ambur Khan) is a typical northern 12 year old 'made' to accompany her single mother, Saheeda (Goldy Notay) to a family wedding 'back home'. Secrets are exposed and relationships explored in this poignant and sometimes irreverently funny tale. Originally this touching play was written for two main actors with cameos played by Sheffield children, now it is revitalised with two actors (Krupa Pattani, Preeti Saul) playing those parts between them. Intuitively lit, the set lent atmosphere to the fast paced fusion of near and far. With hot food by Caribbean Cuisine, it was a grand night in a grand place.

**The following quotes are from women who study Entry Level 2 English. Who watched the performance at Firs Hill school.**

*"I enjoyed the play because I have never seen a play before. I liked the acting and singing. I like this story because some people are funny". Mandy*

*"I liked the singing. She played with dolls and her sisters". Zahida*

*"I like two parts of the story – the first part where the old lady went for a wee in the bushes and the second one where they were driving in a car". Shamim*

*"I liked this story because this story makes me happy. I like the music and singing because when I clean my house I listen to music". Sadiya*

*"I liked the driving. I enjoyed this play very much". Razia*

*"I liked Saheeda because she was very funny. I really enjoyed the play because I have never seen a play before". Zeinab*

*"I liked Saheeda's acting and singing. Her daughter made me feel upset and she was really sad. I liked Nasreen's acting when she needed the toilet because she made me laugh. The music reminded me of when I was in Pakistan." Waqarun Nisa*

*"I liked the part of the story when aunty was driving the car because it was funny. I liked the music because it makes me happy. I really enjoyed the story". Amal*

*"I like Saheeda best when she played with dolls. She played with her sisters. I really enjoyed it. It was wonderful". Fiaz*

**Sheffield Theatres will perform 'Warrior Square', at the Vestry Hall on 4th June. For more info contact Jon Cowley on 292 2908.**

# Young Advisors

Story: Afrah Alkheili | Photo: Carl Rose

Six young residents have set up a new project which aims to make sure young people's voices get heard.

The 'Young Advisors' is for young people between the ages of 15 and 21. The purpose is to encourage them to feel they are making a difference in their community, and that they have a voice of their own.

The Young Advisors will make sure services, organisations and decision makers involve young people, and make things happen in their community.

They also expect to offer valuable information on what it is like to be a young person; their thoughts, feelings, and concerns especially with what goes on in their area and what affects their lives the most. Young Advisors will speak out for young people and make sure that they are involved in decisions that affect them.

*"I want to become a role model to the youth. Some one they can look up to, some one who can make a change and get their voices heard". Chelsea.*



The Young Advisors (left to right); Chelsea Brodhead, Denzil Ramsey, Zanumb Bibi, Shaun Dawson, Afrah Alkheili and Nathan Richardson.

## Changing Nottingham Cliff

*"I hope to influence the improvement of facilities for young people in the area". Shaun.*

Young Advisors have set out to renew Nottingham Cliff Park. "It is important for kids to have somewhere to play, and socialise safely," said Afrah. Young Advisors have been able to put together £13,000 for this project so far. This is a great achievement, and it is only the start.

*"We have to make more things available for young people, such as parks and youth clubs". Denzil.*

## Involving young people

In the near future, the young advisors plan to help organisations 'youth proof' their practices, policies, and tasks. They will also help organisations understand how to attract, and maintain the interests of young people. This can only be done if organisations are prepared to work hand in hand with Young Advisors.

For any one who is interested in finding out more information, or wanting to work with Young Advisors, they can be contacted through the Streetworx Manager, Zain Abdulla on 07921 491 540.

# Teach them well... They will lead the way



Story & photo: Camille Daughma

**Within Burngreave recently, a lot of focus has been on the issue of exclusion. We have challenged organisations as to what they intend to do. While they all have a role to play, should they be the first port of call? Have parents and teachers been made to feel so powerless that the answer must come from outside?**

Harvard University once did a study to illustrate the effect of positive expectancy on children. Three teachers and a group of children were selected at random. The teachers were told they had been selected as the best ones to teach a group of children with high IQ. They were advised not to inform the pupils about this but just to work with them through the year. Needless to say, at the end of the year, the children performed their best. The moral of the story is that if we have high

expectations of our children, 9 times out of 10 they live up to them.

Recently the SADACCA Study Support group went on a trip to the Houses of Parliament and the Science Museum in London where the children were able to make sense of the country's history and political system, planting seeds of aspiration that, one day, they will be able to sit in the House of Lords.

The trip to the Science Museum brought science to life, helping them to understand how it relates to everyday living and describing opportunities for creating solutions for tomorrow's problems. These activities help develop positive images in the minds of the young people and help them realise they can make their community and their country a better place to live in.

"The children are our future, teach them well and let them lead the way". (Whitney Houston).

## SADACCA Study Support

For children aged 5-16 year

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday  
4.30pm-7.30pm

Contact Carmelita on 275 3479

# Burngreave FC

Story Rafiq Saleh and Khalid Salih  
Photos: Nicholaus Hall

**When funding for Burngreave Sports Network came to an end, Rafiq Saleh, Amin Saleh and Tariq Ahmed set up Burngreave FC. The team is currently for people aged 17 upwards and we aim to encourage young people into the team. We are always looking for a local business to sponsor the team.**



The Team has had a stunning cup run reaching the semi-final of the Cyril Milner League Cup. BFC was one of 3 clubs to receive a bye in the first round. In the second round we were drawn against Sheffield Bankers away at Sheffield United Cricket Club. We won the game comfortably 10-4 although we did concede 2 goals in the last couple of minutes. Mohammed Al-Mutareb got 4 quality goals, Yahia Asaad got a brace, Khalid Salih, Bilal Ahmed, Rory Powell and Sharaz Noor completing the score.

In the quarter finals we came up against Thurgoland Welfare. Away again, we were behind at 2-1 but in the 2nd half we went up a gear and won 4-2. Rory Powell stole the show with a brace. Mohammed Al-Mutareb and an own goal completed the score. We then came up against Gleadless in the semi final. A mistake from the keeper cost us a goal and Gleadless was leading 1-0 at half time. In the 2nd half our strikers, Mohammed Al-Mutareb and Yahia Asaad wasted a hatful of glorious opportunities to win the game comfortably and Gleadless punished us for not taking our chances by getting a second. Khalid Salih pulled one back, blasting the ball through the defenders and goalkeeper to halve the deficit. We then pushed on and committed players forward to get an equaliser but Gleadless found gaps and got the goal which put them through to the Final.

In our first season, Khalid, Mohammed A, Mohammed M and Yehia have worked hard to maintain the team. We have over 35 individuals improving weekly, we have learned to get along with each other and all sacrificed something for the team. We have young people turning up to our home games to watch and encourage - that really gives players a sense of pride.

Currently we train at Fir Vale Astroturf on Wednesdays 6pm-7.45pm. Anyone interested is welcome to come.



[www.burngreavefc.com](http://www.burngreavefc.com)

# Vaughan launches cricket pitch

Story: Danny Hall | Photo: Gaby Spinks

With help from England test captain Michael Vaughan, the English Cricket Board and nPower launched the start of work on the 'Urban Cricket' initiative at Abbeyfield Park in Burngreave.



Under the £140,000 scheme, a purpose-built cricket facility is being constructed in the park and five school playgrounds will be redeveloped into 'Urban Cricket Zones'. The ECB, their sponsors and Vaughan were at the site on Thursday 7th February to announce the scheme and the England skipper gave the project his backing.

"It's great to see these schemes making a difference to the local community," he said. "I didn't have many opportunities like this when I was young but I just used to play against a lamppost. The aim is to introduce cricket to people who've never played the game."

Former cricketer Alex Morris played for Yorkshire before working as Activity Sheffield's Cricket Development Officer and stated that the community of Burngreave is 'great'. "Everyone's really into their cricket here. We help clubs move onto the next stage of their development. Four kids have already progressed through to Sheffield districts.

*"The nPower Urban Cricket Zone is a great facility that'll be used all year round - cricket's still an emerging sport in this area but a lot of people are playing it, so the more facilities we have here the better."*

It's estimated that the pitch will be completed in early April, when it will be open for anyone to use. There will also be regular coaching sessions. To find out more contact Amie Rowland at Sheffield City Council on 273 6952.

# Burngreave Small Grants Fund



*Get involved with your community...*

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

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

Examples of what we fund are...

- Activities, trips, education and courses
- Health, environmental improvements or equipment

**We currently have grants of up to £25000 to give away, and the deadline is 30th April 2008. We would love to hear from any group interested in applying. It can be used for a wide range of ideas including building renovations or staff costs.**

Your applications will be considered as long as the people who benefit are residents of the Burngreave New Deal Area. The Grants Panel meets in the last week of every month; application deadlines are two weeks before. Contact the grants team for more information.

**For an application pack:**

Phone the Grants Team (Val and Chris) on: 292 2905

Or download a pack from our website:

[www.bndfc.co.uk/projects/smallgrants](http://www.bndfc.co.uk/projects/smallgrants)

Drop in sessions on Wednesdays 10am–12 noon at Vestry Hall and 2pm–4pm at Forum House.



## Burngreave Community Wardens

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

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

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

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



## Tackling anti-social behaviour

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

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

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

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

Tel: (0114) 293 00 00

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

[www.sheffieldhomes.org.uk](http://www.sheffieldhomes.org.uk)

*Translation/interpretation service is available.*



## Yorkshire & Humber CRIMESTOPPERS

Working in partnership with the police

Do you have information about criminal activity in your neighbourhood?

Do you want to report it but don't want to get involved or give your name?

Then call Crimestoppers *anonymously* on:

# 0800 555 111

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

Information about crime is taken, including:

- Drug dealing
- Burglaries
- Receiving stolen goods

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

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

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

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

Language-line/interpreter also available.

Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



[www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

# New Inspector for Burngreave

Story: Seraphin Nyirenda

**We invited Inspector Adrian McWalter to our office to talk about his new role managing the Burngreave, Shiregreen and Firth Park Safe Neighbourhood Area for South Yorkshire Police.**

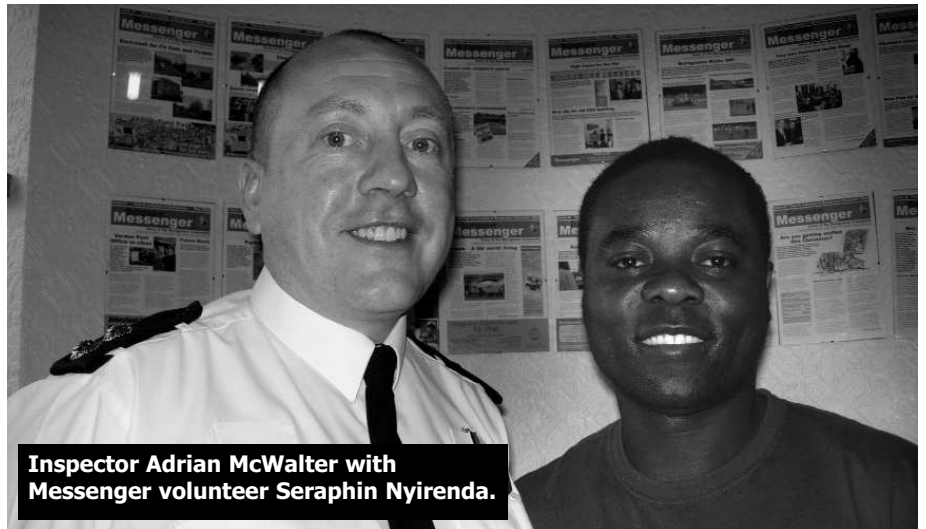
Adrian has been a police officer for 23 years and an Inspector for the last three. He has a background in policing gun crime and has come to his new job with determination.

## ***What's it like policing in Burngreave?***

Policing in Burngreave for me is obviously a challenge. I take personal pride in making Burngreave the best area in Sheffield. At the moment, Burngreave is in the best 6 areas for crime and anti-social behaviour, not the worst. I think this is something people overlook.

## ***People in the area complain about the poor response from the police. How do you prioritise calls?***

Incidents are graded: we have an *immediate* incident where somebody is at risk of injury or harm. The next incident is a *priority* incident. After that we've got a *scheduled* incident, which is where my team comes in, picking up anti-social behaviour, criminal damage or low level drug dealing. Every morning we decide on the priority and I deploy the officers to that area for that day. With anti-social behaviour, we have to decide the right action to take. Kids playing in the street is not anti-social behaviour and we might have to explain that to residents. But if there is a real problem, we might work with other organisations, for example



putting in place alternative activities for young people.

## ***People continue to tell us that they have seen drug dealing and reported it but nothing happens. What is happening?***

That is a very good point. We have to think intelligently and we may deploy non-uniformed police. We have to gather enough information before we can act. People should continue to report problems to us if the problem continues.

## ***Some people feel the police are not sensitive enough. They think they will not be protected. Do you think this is a problem?***

I totally agree that it is a problem. We must make people secure in knowledge that the information reported is safe. I don't feel we sell our successes enough - if we did, I think it would increase the trust people have in us to do our job. There are times when we get it wrong but we learn from our mistakes.

## ***None of the Burngreave police team are from black and ethnic***

## ***minority communities – why is this and do you think this is a problem?***

I have one officer from a BME background; the rest are white. Here in Burngreave, I have to work to break down barriers and increase engagement. I think if we do our engagement job right, people from minority communities will see the police as a career for them too.

## ***Many said you did a good job of support at the a march against gun crime on Saturday 15th March. How do you feel it went?***

For me it was about celebrating the fact that Burngreave isn't the Wild West. There are people out there who are willing to stand up and say Burngreave is a good place. Days like that, where you come away with a big smile on your face, don't come very often. It was a really enjoyable day for me and the community spirit was fantastic.

I understand that the Police's work in Burngreave is not done and if people have got an issue, please contact me on 2964621 or [adrian.mcwalter@southyorks.pnn.police.co.uk](mailto:adrian.mcwalter@southyorks.pnn.police.co.uk).

# Conversation Clubs

**Burngreave is home to a wide variety of languages, but demand for one outstrips all others - English.**

Conversation clubs tailor language learning to what users need. Local volunteers help them run effectively as the emphasis is on real questions and needs. You are just the person we need as a volunteer if you:

- Want to help your neighbours in Burngreave & Fir Vale
- Have some free time and want to do something useful and rewarding
- Have some specific knowledge of the area
- Want a reference, voluntary work experience or free training in ESOL delivery

We are looking for volunteers for around two hours once or twice a week. For more information, please contact Rashida Hassanali on 07773 583 699 or email [rhasanali@firvale.com](mailto:rhasanali@firvale.com)

# Fancy trying out bowling?

Story: Lisa Harrison

**Crown green bowling is one of Britain's oldest sports. It's fun to play, easy to pick up but difficult to master, and offers a great source of gentle exercise.**

Local residents Winnie Bentley and Lisa Harrison are organising a taster session for newcomers where you can learn the rules, try it out and see for yourself. We're hoping enough people will be interested so we can set up weekly sessions.

If you're interested, we'd love to hear from you. The session will be on Sunday 13th April at Abbeyfield Park at 2pm. You will need to wear flat shoes (trainers are perfect). For more details, please e-mail Lisa Harrison at [sparky.lisa@gmail.com](mailto:sparky.lisa@gmail.com) or contact the Messenger on 242 0564.



# On Me Shed Son

Story: Brent Moya

**In light of the recent vandalism caused to allotments in and around Burngreave it makes a refreshing change to see the community fighting back.**

Kevin Cooper of Fir Vale is one of those people. After having his Wincobank allotment damaged by vandals last year he has moved heaven and earth to regenerate it, building a state of the art greenhouse in the process.

In September last year, Mr Cooper's plot was raided by vandals who stole equipment and caused damage to his shed. "What upset us most is that we share our produce (vegetables) with the local community," said Kevin.

I was invited to open the new shed by Mr Cooper who was kind enough to lay on refreshments; he outlined the importance of the project:

*"I haven't just re-built this for myself; this is for everyone who has suffered as a result of vandalism. I will not just lie down and let these things happen without a fight."*

Kevin, who has lived locally his whole life, says his allotment holds sentimental



value. "I've dedicated this place to my late parents who meant everything to me."

The allotment, which is also looked after by Barry Ashmoore and Long Shanks, boasts a fine selection of vegetables such as onions, broad beans and leeks. Add to this the fantastic view across the city and it comes as no surprise that Kevin spends much of his free time there: "I always come up here; it gives me time to think and reflect."

Kevin Cooper would also like to thank Charlie Morgan for building his greenhouse.



## Cherry Tree Planting

Story: Christine Steers

**Thanks to Sheffield Small Grants Panel, the Friends of Burngreave Chapel and Cemetery were able to plant 30 wild cherry trees in the form of an avenue along a popular path in the Cemetery.**

Many people had requested more trees in this beautiful place and so on Sunday 16th March, Tinsley Tree Project, with guidance from Mr Tim Shortland, were starting the process.

The Lord and Lady Mayor arrived at 1.30pm. After a short tour of the Chapel, they proceeded to the planting area, followed by a small but keen crowd of local people. The Lord Mayor spoke about the beauty of the grounds and how it was a valuable space for quiet contemplation.

He then helped the first tree into its prepared hole. They departed and the rest of us returned to the Chapel for a cup of tea and a biscuit. The remaining trees will be planted in the next few weeks. We look forward to seeing them in bloom next year.



# Green City Action

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

## Nottingham and Devon revamped by stewards

Much of our time in the last couple of months has been spent delivering a number of improvements at Nottingham Cliff Recreation Ground. Nathan, our apprentice, has been working with young people in the area. They have come up with a list of improvements they would like to see in the park.

DIG stewards have been:

- Re-siting four bench seats to the side of the kick pitch with paving in front of the benches
- Repairing, renovating and painting all benches in the park
- Repainting all the play equipment
- Cleaning and repainting the park railings
- Pruning shrubberies
- Tidying the woodland border to Nottingham Street boundary and sowing wild flower seeds
- Cleaning up the path edges throughout the park
- Strimming and tidying overgrowth to fence lines and borders



Devon Gardens has also received a lot of steward attention lately with the railings being repaired and painted, overgrown shrubs pruned back, self set trees cleared, new benches and bins installed, flower beds reinstated and lots of TLC administered by the stewards.

If you would like to get involved at either of these sites then get in touch with your Deliver It Green team on 244 0353.

## Deliver it green...

## Back in 2000...

We've just distributed the summary from our Year 8 Delivery Plan to every household in the area. As part of making the plan the Partnership Chair and the programme Chief Executive looked back at what's been achieved in the last seven years...

**Back in 2000 local people said "crime will be reduced" and there will be "a reduction in the fear of crime"...**

Through the investment by BNDfC in additional police officers; neighbourhood wardens; street lighting and security improvements to the homes of the most vulnerable, the latest information shows that crime in Burngreave is significantly less than the city average (36.9 per 1000 compared to 60.9 per 1000) and the fear of crime has reduced by 42.8%.



**Back in 2000 local people said "Spital Hill should be an attraction", "empty buildings should be put to a positive use", "roads should be cleaner" and "parks should be improved"...**

Through the investment by BNDfC in Spital Hill we have seen the redevelopment of Vestry Hall as a learning centre; Sorby House as commercial office space; along with the development of children and family services in the Children's Centre; litter has been reduced by 50%; green spaces have been brought back into use and Abbeyfield and Osgathorpe Park have been improved with new play facilities.

**Back in 2000 local people said they wanted "better schools" and "better educational facilities", support for people who "have a language other than english" and "more things for young people to do"...**

Through the investment by BNDfC in additional resources for schools the number of children getting 5 A\*-C GCSE's has doubled; the Burngreave Community Learning Campaign and the redevelopment of Vestry Hall as a

learning centre has resulted in more adults involved in learning than anywhere else in the city. The Streetworx project has provided a voice for young people and assisted them in developing a range of activities for young people.

**Back in 2000 local people said "there should be more businesses in the area", "we really need jobs", "better prospects for everyone" and there needs to be "an increase in people's wealth"...**

Through the investment by BNDfC there are more and better businesses in the area than ever before, demonstrated by the annual Burngreave Business Awards. Through the Tesco and Sorby House developments there will be an additional 800 jobs in the area. Burngreave Opportunities in Forum House are helping over 300 people get jobs every year. This has led to an increase in household income; a reduction in the unemployment rate and national recognition for the work undertaken to support enterprise and the Burngreave Business Forum.



**Back in 2000 local people said "nice housing should be restored", and "housing improvements" were needed, they wanted "people staying in the area"...**

Through the investment by BNDfC in the Housing Facelift programme, the Home Maintenance Scheme and additional workers in Street Force, 40% of



**JOHN CLARK**  
Chief Executive

**RONNIE LEWIN**  
Partnership Board Chair

properties have been improved, vacancies have been reduced by 12%, satisfaction levels in the appearance of the area have increased by 41% and house prices have increased significantly.

**Back in 2000 local people said there was a need for "a service for people who are addicted to drugs", "people should be acknowledged as people; their strengths and weaknesses seen" and they should not be "negatively labelled"...**

Through the investment by BNDfC in the Burngreave Drugs project, Advocacy Now, Home Visiting, the Emotional Support & Well Being project and the Greenfingers project for people with mental health issues, there has been an increase in overall health levels of 10% and an increase in the services available in the area to support those in most need.

## The future...

While these are great achievements there is always more work to be done.

Throughout the next year we'd like people to get involved and talk to us on how we deliver the priorities that will continue to build Burngreave as an asset to the city of Sheffield with a diverse community that supports each other and is no longer prepared to accept or be portrayed as second best.

The full Year 8 Delivery Plan is on our website at [www.bndfc.co.uk](http://www.bndfc.co.uk), and in it you'll see our working priorities and tasks for 2008-9 which will focus on securing a succession strategy for the NDC programme, making the most of Spital Hill developments and ensuring that local people continue to access jobs and training opportunities.

## Ten years of Abbeyfield Festival



For ten years Green City Action (GCA) have organised Abbeyfield Park Multicultural Festival. For this special anniversary, GCA want to celebrate past festivals and make sure the whole community is involved. If you are a local musician or artist make sure you get in touch. Or if you have memories or photos of past festivals GCA would love to here from you.

### Festivals through the Summer

Green City Action will run a season of festivals this summer. The first event is Environment Day in Abbeyfield Park on Sunday the 1st of June. Then its the tenth anniversary of the award winning Abbeyfield Park Multicultural Festival on Sunday the 13th of July, which is supported by BNDfC. This is followed by the 3rd annual Fir Vale festival set for Sunday 14th September (T.B.C).

### Planning Committee

GCA are looking for people from the local community to get involved in the events. It could be as part of the planning committee set up for our events, this will meet on Thursday 15th May, 6-8pm at Abbeyfield Park House. Or as a volunteer on the day. In addition GCA are particularly interested in artists and musicians who would like to perform at this years festivals.

**Please contact Bob Worm on 0114 244 0353 or bob.worm@greencityaction.org.uk.**

## Neighbourhood Enterprise Champions Salary £20-25k

Neighbourhood Enterprise Champions of the BIG programme have now been in post just over 6 months and have been successful in identifying and assisting a large number of local residents on the path to self employment. BIG programme is now looking to expand its team with a further 4 Neighbourhood Enterprise Champions.

**Closing Date: Thursday 24 April 2008 at 12.00 noon**  
**Interview Date: Wednesday 14 May 2008**

For further details see [www.bndfc.co.uk](http://www.bndfc.co.uk). For an application please ring Linda Horsewood on 0114 279 6932 or email [enquiries@bndfc.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bndfc.co.uk).

## Setting the record straight...



**Meeting of the Partnership Board at Vestry Hall.**

Readers may be aware that in recent months 'The Star' newspaper has run a series of articles criticising the Burngreave New Deal for Communities regeneration programme. Unfortunately, some of the reporting has been inaccurate and eventually the BNDfC Partnership Board has decided to respond to those articles by setting the record straight.

That has been done by addressing the points raised by The Star in an edition of 'I Live in Burngreave' which has been delivered to all households in our area.

We have also responded directly to The Star with the letter which is reproduced in full on our website.

As a result of the articles, on 6th February, Liberal Democrat councillors put a resolution before the City Council asking for an investigation into the matters raised by the press. Our own local Councillors were solid in their defence of the programme as they are involved and are aware of the good work being achieved.

BNDfC have always said they will co-operate fully with any such investigation. The results of that investigation will be made public when the Council meets again in June 2008. That investigation will cover the questions raised by the Burngreave Messenger in their last editorial.

Once that independent enquiry is complete BNDfC will respond publicly to its findings.

Our primary message to everyone in this is that we'd really appreciate people coming to talk to us to find out anything they want to know about the programme. If you have any questions about our programme please don't hesitate to get in touch with us on telephone number 279 6932.



## The challenge for responsible landlords

Last November, the Council highlighted the example of one landlord of a multi-occupancy house on Pitsmoor Road. A joint inspection (Council and Fire Service) of the premises had been carried out following complaints that it was being let without a license. Alarms were found to be not working and fire doors were either missing or didn't fit.

The landlord was instructed to bring the property up to a safe standard and carry out essential works. Two hours before the final inspection was due to take place – thankfully, after the fire doors had been properly installed – a kitchen fire broke out causing serious damage. But with the modifications in place, none of the tenants were harmed and damage confined to the kitchen. As Cllr Weldon said:

*“The pressure the council and the fire service placed on the landlord made a massive difference; this could easily have been a different, and tragic, story....we investigated due to complaints – we owe it to the tenants and city’s responsible landlords”.*

Two months later, this same landlord was fined £1,920 for breaching health and safety laws, for not undertaking all the required works in a specified period. A spot check on his property revealed the lack of legal requirements including fire alarms, fire exits, fire-resistant doors and emergency lighting. Richard Taylor, from the Sheffield Fire Safety Team, said:

*“I hope this sends out a message that landlords have a responsibility for the safety of their occupants. They need to take appropriate measures to bring their properties up to the required standard.”*

There are many good landlords who provide high quality accommodation to rent. But there are a number of landlords who, maybe out of ignorance, maybe through cutting corners, give the private rented sector a bad name. There is a greater spotlight on private rented housing these days as the pressure on council housing grows, and people have more difficulty trying to buy. And in the Fir Vale and Burngreave area, we have a high and growing proportion of private rented housing.

### Support for tenants and landlords

To respond to this, the Council is determined to try and improve matters for tenants and for landlords. A team of staff are employed to work in some parts of the city, especially in Burngreave and Fir Vale areas to encourage better management of, and physical improvements in, the housing stock; help create a better local environment; and provide practical advice and support to landlords and tenants. The team helps run the “landlords for excellence” course at Hallam University – to explain and consider how better management practices can be developed -, and runs the Responsible Landlords Scheme (with a range of benefits). The team also responds directly to tenants with information and help on disrepair matters; tenancy rights, security of tenure and illegal eviction. If neighbours want to check out their concerns, they can contact the team as well. How – either ring 273 4680 or email to [prs@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:prs@sheffield.gov.uk)



## Street Champions

There will be the regular quarterly gathering of the twenty or so local volunteers around Burngreave, Firhill, Pitsmoor and in Fir Vale who are our ‘street champions’ – being the eyes and ears to make sure that our streets are a pleasure to walk around, reporting any problems to Street Force, Green City Action or Sheffield Homes. All the volunteers receive help with carrying out their volunteer ‘duties’; and we meet every three months for a ‘de-brief’ .... The next one’s on Monday 14th April from 1pm at Abbeyfield Park House – and we’re inviting those of you who would like to join in to turn up and see whether it’s your thing – over tea and a bite to eat.

### Next Area Panel meeting

Cornerstone building (Carwood Road/Grimesthorpe Road) on Wednesday 21st May, 6-8pm. Forewarned is forearmed! All welcome.

### 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.

**12th April:** Ibrar Hussain, 11am–12 noon Burngreave Library and 12.15–1.00pm Firhill TARA

**15th April:** Ibrar Hussain, 11am–12 noon Shirecliffe Centre

**26th April:** Steve Jones, 11am–12 noon Burngreave Library

**10th May:** Steve Jones, 11am–12 noon Burngreave Library and 12.15–1.00pm Firhill TARA

**20th May:** Ibrar Hussain, 11am–12 noon Shirecliffe Centre

**24th May:** Jackie Drayton, 11am–12 noon Burngreave Library

## Owen McDowell

The sad death of Owen McDowell on 29th February has left behind many good friends and colleagues in Pitsmoor. Over 300 people attended his humanist funeral on 14th March. The following tributes have been received by the Messenger:

### Fiona Addison and Phil Rees

Owen was much loved and respected by his many friends across this city and further afield. His loyalty, integrity and commitment to the causes he believed in will be remembered by us all, but it was his sense of humour, his wit and his outrageously loud laughter that made Owen stand out from the crowd.

Owen lived in Pitsmoor for almost 20 years before moving to Walkley to be nearer the countryside he so loved. In the 80s he was involved as a volunteer advice worker for Pitsmoor Citizen's Advice Bureau, putting his legal knowledge and skills to good use on behalf of people who needed advice and support.

He then worked for the Sheffield Advice Centres Group, passing on his knowledge of Welfare Rights as a skilled and enthusiastic trainer. Most recently he took on the role of Assistant Manager, at



Sheffield City Council's Asylum Team. His commitment to equalities, to the struggle against prejudice and discrimination, were abundantly clear.

Owen celebrated diversity. He really enjoyed meeting new people from different cultures both here in Sheffield and abroad on his many travels.

Owen used his significant skills as an organiser and as a promoter of events to champion Refugee Awareness Week in Sheffield. In June 2007 he organised a hugely successful 'One World Over' concert at the Crucible theatre, an excellent multi-cultural event bringing in an audience of between six and seven hundred people, and I know that was something he was very proud of.

### Abdul Razak Saleh, of the Yemeni Community Association

In all his job-roles, Owen was passionate and committed. While working for the PCT he set up the Carers' Forum and was very committed to helping carers from BME communities. In his later role with the asylum team, Owen again showed a down-to-earth understanding of the needs of asylum seekers and refugees and the support they needed. Owen was a great man and he will be missed very much by people in our community.

### Stewart Lodge

In fond memory of Owen McDowell who encouraged many people (myself included) to get up and perform; after all if he could do it surely we couldn't be any worse.

*We will probably laugh until we cry  
We'll do both  
When we meet up  
All his friends*

*We will remember  
This  
is what makes life worthwhile  
And then oddly  
the sound  
will tell us  
he is not in the room*

## Nobat 'Norman' Khan

Story: Naheem Hanif

**Long-serving shopkeeper Nobat Khan of Khan Brothers Grocers, on Scott Road sadly passed away on March 13th 2008 after battling leukaemia.**

The popular grocer served the local community from his corner shop on Scott Road for more than 30 years and was a well known local figure.

Known as simply "Norman" to many people in the community, he had served four generations of customers and was well known for his good character, sense of humour and broad Yorkshire accent.

Ill health forced him to reduce his workload over the last two years and in February 2008 he developed a chest infection which further weakened him. He died from leukaemia, a cancer of the blood, aged 67.

His son Mujahid Khan said: "All of our family miss him as do our customers, he made the shop what it is today. We are also very grateful for the compassion shown by the local community and we thank them for their support at this difficult time."

Many of Mr Khan's friends and customers attended his funeral. His body was then returned for burial to his ancestral home in

Attock, in northern Pakistan.

Local customers also sent their condolences.

Mike McColgan of Scott Road said:

*"We were shocked and very saddened to hear of Mr Khan's death. He had a great character, who enriched our lives in Pitsmoor. We shall miss him greatly."*

Sandra Jessop formerly of Scott Road said:

*"We are so sorry to hear about Norman's death. Our thoughts are with his family."*

Nobat arrived from Pakistan in the 1960s with his younger brother Isa Khan. He worked in the city's steel industry for a number of years before setting up his grocery business in 1977.

He will be sorely missed by all who knew him in the community he had served for so long.



**Nobat Khan (centre) with younger brother Isa Khan (right).**

**Please send us your memories or condolences and we will add them to the Messenger website.**

Dear Messenger...



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

Dear Messenger,

When surfing the net this evening I came across your article on Pye Bank School. I was immediately transported back in time to 1957, I was 7 and it was play time. We lived on Gray Street and I waved at mum over the school yard wall while she washed the upstairs windows.

Teachers were strict and I was ridiculed by one, re my name, "Christine Bluff uses too much fluff" (we were stuffing rag dolls). We played in the bombed buildings and craters after school, still there from the war. Generally speaking the teachers at Pye Bank taught me well and I am grateful to them and the school.

Thanks for the memories Messenger.

Yours sincerely, Christine Bluff.

Dear Messenger,

I would like to address this letter to our local Councillors and environmentalists. The Fir Vale area is a disgrace. Looking around, there is too much fly tipping and lately clothes left for charity vans. Fir Vale is a very depressed area with socio-economic deprivation, poor housing, bad health and no jobs for young and old alike. Why should we live in a bad environment? Other areas get money to have nice trees, better lighting and cleaner streets but Fir Vale seems to have been forgotten.

What happened to the playing field above Whiteways School? It was promised to be open to the community but now is fenced off. Also the fields on Earl Marshal Road that have been closed off to Fir Vale School. Currently many young people resort to playing sports on busy roads or in cramped driveways. The only space that has been left in our community is Osgathorpe Park. No doubt this is because it is difficult land to develop. The development of the play area is a positive step but much of the rest of the park is unusable and often soiled by irresponsibly-owned dogs.

The takeaways should be regularly monitored and no more licences be granted until there is a significant improvement in their waste management. Furthermore, if takeaways have been closed for poor hygiene, the owners should not regain their licences. There has been a drastic increase in rodent numbers. The Council has not addressed this issue yet. Neither have they addressed the issue of potholes on the roads of Fir Vale. There are a large number of potholes which pose a danger to motorists.

The town is full of bright developments, of new layouts and a mass of new apartments, which are designed to provide the Council with rents - posh housing for a new generation of residents with no regard for the existing community. I request that our Councillors get back to more practical ways of making peoples lives better.

With all of these basic problems, is it any wonder the youth of Fir Vale are disillusioned and the prior generations feel let down?

We want a cleaner, greener, healthier Fir Vale. Does anyone feel the same?

Regular reader.

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

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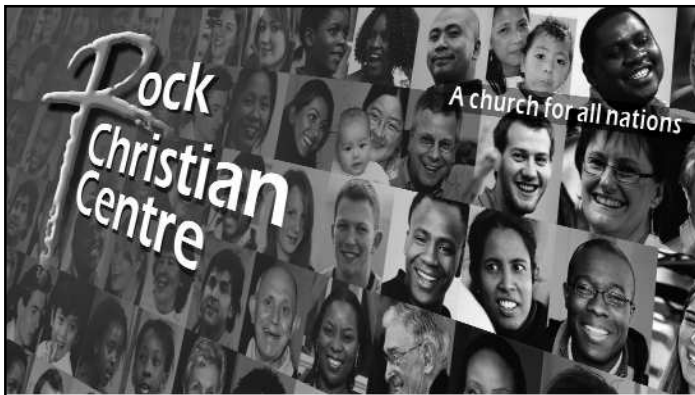


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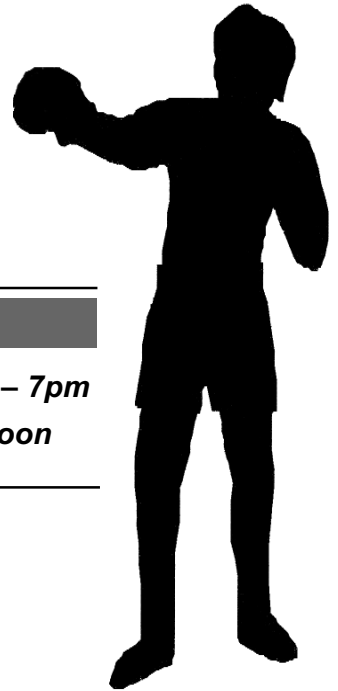
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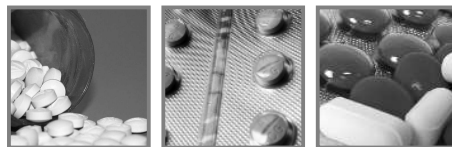
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