

Burngreave Messenger



Issue 82 • June 2009 • Free to everyone in Burngreave

www.burngreavemessenger.org

Voice of the Burngreave Community

Festivals go back to the community

With New Deal funding gone and Green City Action stepping down as event organisers, Burngreave residents are taking back their community festivals and running the events with volunteers.

Abbeyfield Festival will take place on 5th July and Fir Vale Fun Day on 19th July.

Funding for both events has drastically reduced, and this will have an impact on what the events will be like. Previous events have relied on paying performers and organisers, but this year it will all have to be done on a shoe string. Organisers of both events feel this will bring it back to what it is meant to be about – the local community, working together and showing off their talents.

Ivor Wallace of Page Hall Community Association is part of the group making

Fir Vale Fun Day happen, he said:

"We are so grateful to Fir Vale School for letting us use their facilities and thankful to the pupils who are keen to be involved and for responding to our call for ideas for the Fun Day. It feels so good that we are able to provide an event for Fir Vale; it feels even better when the community can come together to make it happen"

Steve Gayle from Burngreave Community Action Forum has been helping residents come together around Abbeyfield Festival, he told the Messenger:

"I'm pleased at the commitment shown by local people to ensure that Abbeyfield Festival takes place. It will be a day to celebrate all the good things about Burngreave."

Local organisations such as the Pakistan Advice Centre, Wensley TARA, Ellesmere

Youth Project and the Rock Christian Centre, have been offering their skills and support to make the events happen. The festivals have also received the backing of service providers like Sheffield Futures, Sheffield Homes, South Yorkshire Police, local schools and Activity Sheffield.

Both festivals are looking for help and support, and for people to take part. It's hoped this year will be the start of the return of old style festivals, where everyone feels they can contribute. Details for each festival are below.

Also coming up is **Firth Park Festival**, organised by residents. It takes place on **Sunday 28th June from 1–6pm** in the Park. This year it includes community stalls, food, music from Son Para Todos, Irish and Arabic Dancers, Latif's Kick boxing demonstration and Circus activities. Contact Betty on 243 2604.

Fir Vale poster by Curtis Galloway Husband



Sunday 19th July 1-6pm

Entertainment, music & dance, stalls, henna & beauty, food from different cultures, football and sports; children's activities, face painting, bouncy castle; prizes and much more.

To register your interest in contributing to the Fir Vale Fun Day contact Elaine Virgo on 243 9871, email: firmvalefunday@googlemail.com



from posters by Hannan, Karina & Amelia 2000-2002

Local performances, stalls, food, children's activities, sports, dance, music and much more!

If you'd like to be involved contact BCAF on 272 8008

To register an interest in performing on stage email info@eyprojects.org.uk

To register an interest in having a stall email abbeyfieldfestival@burngreave.org

New places at Fir Vale School

In May, Sheffield City Council discussed proposals for the expansion of Fir Vale School with students, parents and local residents.

Fir Vale is now very popular, with 49 pupils from its own catchment area failing to get places for September 2009. Additional places are planned at local primary schools, as well as a further 30 places at Parkwood School. Up to May 22nd, the Council was asking people's opinions on the following proposals:

- Increase the intake by 60 places per year, increasing the overall size from 750 pupils to over 1000.
- To expand Fir Vale rather than any other local secondary
- Increase the intake by 60 places per year, increasing the overall size from 750 pupils to over 1000.
- To expand at some point between 2011 and 2013.

Designs for extra school buildings are only at a draft stage, and will depend on the outcome of the consultation. A report will go back to the Council in July, before statutory notices are published in September when there will be another opportunity to comment.

SADACCA's new Youth Wing

From April SADACCA will be running new activities for young people aged 8 to 13, with funding from the Kids Can Do programme.

Every Wednesday from 4pm till 7pm, young people will be able to enjoy play, sports, arts and cultural activities at SADACCA on the Wicker. Contact Carmelita Duncan on 275 3479.

Launch of Young Persons' Health Drop-In Service

Thursday 11th June 2009 will see the launch of a Young Persons' Health Drop-In Service to be held at Earl Marshal Connexions Centre, the first in the Burngreave area. The service will focus on all aspects of health but will have a particular emphasis on advice around relationships and sexual health.

The decision to begin this type of work follows three months of consultation with local young people who listed smoking, drugs and sexual health as the top three health concerns for young people in the area.

Young people will be able to come and chat in confidence to workers regarding their health issues, get advice and guidance or be signposted to specialist agencies. The service will be completely confidential and will be staffed by trained youth workers who will be adhering to GP guidelines.

The launch event will include workshops on healthy eating, drugs awareness and much more. The event is open to all young people aged 13-19 from 3.30pm-5.30pm, Thursday 11th June at Earl Marshal Connexions Centre.

The service will be run in partnership with Sheffield Futures, Ellesmere Youth Project and the NHS Sheffield's Young People's Health Outreach Service.

For more information contact Ellesmere Youth Project on 243 5854.

SOLID

Supporting Outside Links Inside Detention

Do you have a loved one in prison?
Are you feeling isolated and unsupported?

We normally meet every first Monday of the month at
SYAC 120 The Wicker, Sheffield S3 8JD
from 7pm to 8.30pm

Come and meet others in a similar situation for mutual support

0114 275 6301
hello@solidsouthyorks.org.uk

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40 Earsham Street, Sheffield, S4 7LS. • ABA AFFILIATED

- All Coaches Fully Qualified & Police checked
- Private Sessions by Appointment
- Schools & Groups Welcome

Opening times

Monday – Friday: 3pm – 7pm

Saturday: 10am – 12 Noon

Contact Phil Wood For More Details

Gym: (0114) 279 9052 Mobile: 07946 250 587



Advertise in the Messenger - it works!

A local business received 25 calls as a result of placing an advert in the Messenger

A local group reported 65% of responses came from a leaflet distributed with the Messenger

For rates and further details, contact the Messenger on 242 0564



Next deadline:

1st July, for publication on 18th July

BNP: Not in Burngreave

Local residents have been disturbed to find that the BNP have been using Royal Mail's services to deliver their leaflets for the EU elections around Burngreave.

"We will be writing to Royal Mail formally to object to the delivery of these racist leaflets." - staff at a local refugee project.

"I am disgusted by the divisive content of the leaflets. We all get on really well round here." - resident on Firshill Close.

"The leaflets are very worrying. I live on a street where there are a lot of Muslim families. I am horrified to think that they have received these provocative, offensive leaflets." - Scott Road resident

There will be a stall run by Unite Against Fascism (UAF) on Ellesmere Green on Sunday 31st May at 11.00am to distribute leaflets and posters urging people to use their vote on June 4th in the European elections.

The Messenger interviewed Paul Scarrott, Secretary of Sheffield UAF to ask about their campaign and more specifically about the effects of BNP propaganda in a community like Burngreave.

"This makes it clear that Burngreave needs to take a stand against the BNP who, if elected, would come to Sheffield and use racism to stir up hatred and conflict within multicultural communities."

We asked what action local people should

take. Paul emphasised that it is crucial that people use their vote in the European elections to stop the BNP claiming to represent the people of Burngreave, Sheffield or any of Yorkshire.

Paul explained, "Unlike council or national elections, the BNP only need 11% of the vote in Yorkshire to get elected under the proportional representation system. So, to resist the BNP, the more people who vote, the more difficult it is for the BNP candidate to be elected."

We asked Paul why he thought that the BNP posed such a threat to communities like Burngreave. Paul explained that the BNP is a white supremacist organisation, dedicated to creating an 'all white' Britain. "Recently their leader said that all Blacks and Asians should be classified as 'racial foreigners', who should be 'repatriated.' Such a policy could only be attempted with violence and the destruction of democracy."

Paul repeated the campaign's key message - "Your vote could stop the BNP".

You can pick up posters and leaflets on Sunday 31 May at Ellesmere Green, or contact 07782 149 645 or email info@sheffielduaf.org.uk to arrange for a delivery of campaigning materials.



The Editorial

Burngreave residents have a unique invitation to the Town Hall on June 11th to tell councillors of the positives and negatives of Burngreave New Deal and the effect on the community. Sheffield City Council is investigating the management of the New Deal programme and, at the council meeting in March, we were promised that "input to the review would be welcomed from those people and organisations involved or affected by the current difficulties."

We need to take this opportunity - to register Burngreave's views and to make sure that we scrutinise the decision-makers properly. This is one thing we can learn from the fall-out of New Deal.

Visit our website for extra news, jobs and features:

www.burngreavemessenger.org

Sign-up to be kept up to date with new content and add our own comments

Contact us if you have a job or event to advertise on the website - it's free!

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NEW: Funding from Church Burgesses

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: Inderjit Bhogal, Ian Clifford, Michelle Cook, Saleema Imam, Rohan Francis, Zainab Jama, Douglas Johnson, Jamie Marriott, John Mellor, Lisa Swift.

Carwood gets its kitchens

Following the article in our last issue about Carwood estate's kitchens, we are pleased to announce that the kitchens are now to be completely repaired and fitted with quality doors and drawers. Some have been completed already and the tenants are delighted with the results. This is thanks to the hard work put in by Carwood TARA to convince Sheffield Homes that there was a problem and then working with them to bring about a satisfactory solution.



the area faces. Landlords learned about their own responsibilities, including problems such as overcrowding and antisocial behaviour, and gained information on practical issues, such as what should be in a tenancy agreement, how to deal with problem tenants and best practice in repairs and maintenance. Further events are planned.

The scheme is free to join and sets standards for quality of housing. Benefits for landlords include free access to waste recycling centres and discounted accountancy services.

Liaqat Ali Khan, who attended the session, said:

"It's been excellent with lots of useful information including things we weren't aware of before. It also presented a clear picture of overcrowding procedures. I will look into joining the scheme."

It is hoped that this and future sessions will result in a better experience for both landlords and tenants.

Mohammed Rafique said, "This is very positive and makes landlords more competent. I am a member of the scheme already and it is very helpful – we can phone and get advice for any problems."

If you are a landlord and need support contact Kevin Sharpe or Dennis Tester on 273 5134, email prp@sheffield.gov.uk.

If you are a tenant of a private landlord and need support, contact Private Sector Housing Services advice line on 273 4680 or email prp@sheffield.gov.uk.

Private Rented Standards Team,
Howden House, Union Street,
Sheffield S1 2SH.

Landlords' advice day

Story: Lisa Harrison

On 23rd April, an advice session to promote the Sheffield Responsible Landlord Scheme was run by the Pakistan Advice and Community Association in Fir Vale, in partnership with the Council's Private Sector Housing Team.

This interactive information event for local landlords was well attended and addressed some of the housing problems

**Landlords...
Sheffield City Council can help you**



Free access to a University run training course for landlords!

Sheffield Hallam University's

Landlords for Excellence

NEXT COURSE - SEPTEMBER 2009

It's free to join the Sheffield Responsible Landlord Scheme and you get the following benefits as a member:

- Discounts from traders, insurance brokers and solicitors
- Free access to Council waste recycling sites throughout the city!
- Free access to a dedicated landlord Housing Benefit Advice line!
- Free advertising for your vacant rented properties on the Sheffield City Council Property Shop website!

To find out more telephone Kevin Sharpe or Dennis Tester on 0114 273 5134

Or visit

www.sheffield.gov.uk/privaterentedproject or

www.sheffield.gov.uk/rls

Or email prp@sheffield.gov.uk

Jamaican High Commissioner at SADACCA

Story: Nasar Raof

The Jamaican High Commissioner addressed the Sheffield's black community on Thursday 30th April.

Following visits to local businesses and lunch with the Lord Mayor, he came to SADACCA where almost 100 people from the black community congregated to meet His Excellency the Honourable Burchell Whiteman, OJ, Jamaican High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.

Formally introduced by Carmelita Duncan, the High Commissioner said, "The Sheffield black community is a blueprint for other communities in the UK." He went on to talk about the Jamaican economy in the current recession and indicated it was not too troubled by the banking crisis. He

assured people that budgets for education, agriculture and welfare were still being upheld. "We need to protect our future," he said, as he spoke of plans for the post-recession period.

Questions were put to Mr Whiteman about the economy and fears of day-to-day life in Jamaica. People raised concerns about not wanting to go back home in the current financial climate. In response to questions about hospitals charging for what was supposed to be free, Mr Whiteman asked for the particulars so it could be addressed when he returned to the Commission in London.

Mr Whiteman assured people that the issue of prisoners being sent back to Jamaica is being looked into and cases have been reduced. Throughout the event, questions were asked about jobs being created back home for those wanting to go back to Jamaica to work in teaching and other jobs. The High Commissioner said, given the current financial climate, there is a "slow phase" but also said he encouraged private entrepreneurship to create jobs abroad.



His Excellency the Honourable Burchell Whiteman O.J (centre) visits Ellesmere Children's Centre during his time in Sheffield.

Residents from Carwood, Pitsmoor and Burngreave commented, "The evening has been great: it's great to see authoritative figures take an interest in our community."

Malcolm, a Burngreave resident, added, "I'm proud of where I come from but even happier when we come together so we can express how we feel."

New Deal sell off assets

Story: Ian Clifford & Lisa Swift
Cartoon: Patrick Amber

New Deal revealed plans in April to sell off Forum House and the New Deal Truck, as the full scale of their financial problems became clear.

Last issue the Messenger reported on how the Programme had run out of money and closed down all the projects. At the time residents were told that Government Office would not allow the buildings to be sold to support projects and that the Council had limited money to help out.

Executive Director Ann Allen told the Messenger, "There was never an unwillingness to sell Forum House when projects needed funding. Government Office said we couldn't sell assets unless clawback [returning money to the government] was removed, and at the time they didn't want to remove it. Seeing how drastic the situation is, they are now considering it."

Hole in the pensions

New Deal's main financial difficulty is a £500,000 hole in the pension fund. At one point it was suggested that the programme would go bankrupt by September this year unless Government Office allowed the programme to sell off assets.

More recently the Council have offered to give New Deal a loan to cover pension

costs, which will arise when staff are made redundant in September. These redundancies will include the Executive Director Ann Allen, who told the Messenger:

"The loan is something the Council have offered to other organisations. The pensions' deficit has affected the Council's own pension pot due to reduced returns from the stock markets."

Vestry Hall and Sorby House at risk

Despite this, New Deal are still facing insolvency in September 2010 unless they can sell Forum House. Government Office have stated that New Deal must survive its full 10 years until March 2011. If they do not, they may be forced to sell their other assets, Sorby house and the Vestry Hall, and the proceeds will go back to the Government.

A New Deal board report states "the profitability of Sorby House and Vestry Hall remains imperative". New Deal are optimistic that the buildings can break even, or generate money. However it's uncertain if the actual income will meet their projections.

The Council investigate

In March the Council agreed to investigate the causes of New Deal's financial crisis, after residents and councillors raised concerns at their Full Council meeting.

Council officers are due to report their findings to a Scrutiny Board (Strategic Resources and Performance) on 11th June. The Council are giving an open

invitation to groups and residents affected by the end of New Deal funding, to attend the meeting and raise any issues.

Strategic Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board, Town Hall, 2pm 11th June 2009.

Bids for the New Deal truck

New Deal have advertised the sale of the New Deal information truck in the Sheffield Star, asking for bids in sealed envelopes.



Several groups have raised concerns about the loss of the asset, when the original intention was for it to be passed to a community group at the end of New Deal funding. New Deal said the truck was rarely used in Burngreave, though it had often been borrowed by Barnsley PCT.

Closing dates for bids was 26th May. See the Messenger website to find out who got it!

Dispersal order in Fir Vale

From 28th May, a Dispersal and Curfew Order in Fir Vale, Page Hall and the Wensley Estate will allow police to move on groups of more than two people and enforce a curfew of 9pm.

The Order comes after several violent incidents in the streets. Some residents have complained that they find large groups of men in the street intimidating. At community meetings, the Police explained:

"This Order is not aimed at young people. The majority of residents will not notice any change because of the Order. Our concerns are with groups of men and issues around violent disorder. We will be using the extra powers when we have to, with the aim of preventing disorder in the street."

But there is concern the Order will not address underlying problems, including long-term under-investment in services and housing. The Police have promised to engage local people in a positive way but residents and local workers acknowledge that a lot depends on how Police use their new power. It runs until 6th September.

Youth Club kicked out of Vestry Hall

Youth Entertainment Club has been forced to leave the Vestry Hall. The club, which provided video games, table tennis and pool for boys aged 12-20 seven days a week, was closed by New Deal on 19th May.

New Deal's Ann Allen told the Messenger, "There had been a number of incidents of damage to the building and equipment and the rent did not cover the cost of the caretaker or the cleaning bill. We met with the group to discuss the issues, but in the end the level of damage was unacceptable and we had to close the club."

Organiser Omar Mohammed said, "We have offered to pay for the things that were broken, but New Deal say we have breached the contract, which cost £600 for the year. Now New Deal say we should pay £520 per week! Between 30 and 50 young people per day were using the facilities - its upsetting because there is no alternative for them." Omar has started a petition to keep the club open and can be contacted on 07727 111 198.



Burngreave Community Action Forum

BCAF: A new beginning

2009 has been a difficult year for many of the community projects in Burngreave. The funding cuts from Burngreave New Deal for Communities left some groups struggling to survive. In addition, the introduction of Community Assemblies will mean the area no longer has an Area Panel working directly for its benefit.

In this difficult period, it is increasingly important that groups and individuals in Burngreave share information and work together to highlight the needs of the area, build capacity, and help improve local services.

Burngreave Community Action Forum has traditionally been a focus for work to achieve these goals. However, BCAF itself has been hit hard by the cuts in funding and, with the changed circumstances across the area, it is clear that the Forum now has a new and daunting set of challenges to face.

If BCAF is to continue in its role, it must be able to change and adapt to meet these new circumstances. On Thursday 21st May, local organisations were invited to attend special meeting of the Coordinating Committee.

The conclusions from this meeting were that immediate and decisive action was needed to set out a new direction for the organisation; namely that:

- BCAF must have a structure and legal status that allows it to attract funding and function as a viable organisation. The first step in doing this will be to register the Forum as



limited company, giving it the ability to carry out functions such as employing staff and allowing it to operate as an independent body. To enable this to take place, a new constitution for the organisation will need to be drawn up and agreed..

- In addition, the purpose and aims of BCAF must be clearly defined. Since regaining a staff team at the beginning of 2008, much good work has been done by the Forum. However, with reduced resources, it will be necessary to be clear on the precise role that BCAF should play in Burngreave.

The meeting concluded BCAF's focus should be on the following areas of work:

Building Networks

Ensuring that groups and individuals across Burngreave are kept informed of developments and opportunities, are able to communicate with each other and know where to go for help.

Campaigning and Advocacy

Ensuring that the voice of Burngreave residents and groups is listened to and providing support and information to help issues to be raised; co-ordination of campaigns and petitions following the cuts to BNDfC funding was an example of this work.



Empowerment and Support

Enabling residents to come together and organise around particular issues: for instance, BCAF's work in bringing together a group of volunteers to run Abbeyfield Festival in 2009.

A small working group has been formed to draft some proposals for action that reflect this new direction for BCAF.

These proposals will be submitted for wider discussion and agreement at the next Quarterly Forum Meeting, which is scheduled for Saturday 20th June, 12pm-3pm, Burngreave Vestry Hall. We hope to see you there!

Working Groups

Adult Learning Working Group

For anyone interested in the adult learning and skill. Next meeting Friday 26th June, 1.30pm at BCAF.

Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants Working Group

provides a forum for information, discussion and support to local residents and agencies. For details of the next meeting contact the BCAF office.

Transition Burngreave

Aims to engage everyone in the transition to an environmentally sustainable future. Next meeting Thursday 4th June, 6.30pm at BCAF.

Festival group

Residents working on organising Abbeyfield Festival. Meeting regularly through June, contact BCAF for details of the next meeting.

For more information contact:

BCAF,
82 Spital Hill,
Sheffield S4 7LG

Telephone:
0114 272 8008

E-mail: enquiries@bcaf.org.uk

Check BCAF's website for the latest information:
www.bcaf.org.uk

Health Matters conference

Health is a big issue for Burngreave. Our area has much higher rates of asthma, chronic heart disease, diabetes and respiratory illness than other parts of Sheffield.

It's because of these things that Burngreave Health Matters on Spital Hill was started, with funding from New Deal and Sheffield PCT.

On 16th April Health Matters held a conference to mark the opening of the health shop, which is already being well used by local people to get advice on health issues.

Attended by more than 100 people, both residents and workers, the conference heard how Health Matters is aiming to reduce ill health caused by diabetes, obesity, smoking and COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease – such as asthma or bronchitis). A number of workshops and drop in sessions have been run already including weight management, healthy eating and smoking cessation.

Conference workshops focused on smoking and the community involvement in health. One key issue raised by the smoking workshop was that 80% of new smokers are teenagers, but help for smokers to quit is only aimed at adults.

Attendees enjoyed a healthy lunch, before gathering information from a number of stalls on healthy eating, dental health and staying healthy.

To find out more about the support provided by the health shop, call in between 9.30am-4.30pm Monday to Friday, 11am-1pm on Saturday. Or call 292 0464.



Men's Health Programme

Free Discussion & Consultations in Burngreave

Every Thursday for ten weeks.

- July 2nd at Verdon Recreation Centre, 12pm–3pm
- Then from July 9th at The Furnival, Verdon Street, 1pm–3pm

Men take more risks with their health than women, yet they are less likely to make use of the services available, often because services and programmes are not delivered in ways that take account of men's particular needs.

With these open sessions you will be able to come and discuss sensitive issues in an informal way, with a private meeting always being available.

Each week a fully qualified professional will give help and advice on topics such as:

- Smoking Cessation
- Cancer
- Diabetes
- Drug & Alcohol Dependency
- Healthy Eating
- Eyecare
- Sexual Health
- Mental Health



For more information contact Richard Belbin on 0114 272 7497 or Aziz Muthana at Burngreave Health Matters on 292 0464.

NHS
Sheffield

Mental Health Ambassadors

Story: Lailuma, Djamila, Azeb and Zeinab

Students from a Level 1 ESOL class in the Vestry Hall conducted an interview with Saeed Abdi from the Somali Mental Health Project (MAAN), Sindy Chana, the new Ambassador Lead for Mental Health for Yorkshire and Humberside and Amina Mohamed, who has just been appointed Ambassador for Sheffield.

We discussed mental health: how important it is to know about it, how to cope with it and how to get good treatment.

Sindy Chana talked about the work she is doing:

"I work with people in different cities to set up supportive networks for vulnerable groups and communities so they can access services and help each other. We have appointed local Ambassadors to provide support for people with mental health problems from Black and Minority Ethnic groups."

Mental health problems are very common and can begin with anxiety and stress, Amina (pictured) explained:



"Anyone can have mental health problems. One in four people will have a mental health problem at some time in their life."

People with mental health problems face stigma and this is particularly true for people from BME communities. It's important that people get help early because, if problems are left untreated, they can become very serious.

Saeed Abdi spoke about the support people can get for mental health problems:

"In the same way that your body gets tired, your mind can also get tired. You can access the Somali Mental Health Project directly, without your GP. Our organisation gives help with absolute confidence. We don't judge people with problems; we accept them as human. The very best way to help is to listen and give people the right to be heard and respected. We shouldn't take responsibility away from people with mental health problems but give them the power to find solutions."

If you would like to get involved in supportive networks around mental health, contact Sindy Chana, BME Service Consultant for Race Equality Lead for Yorkshire and Humber on:

Mobile: 0777 313 6951. Email: sindy455@hotmail.com

Or for more information on the Somali Mental Health project (MAAN) contact Saeed Abdi on 275 8556.

Peace walk inspires

Story: Afrah Al-kheili | Photos: Richard Hanson



An inspirational peace walk took place on the 26th April, organised by religious institutions that encompassed local people, and guests from outside of Sheffield that were eager to come, and celebrate the togetherness, and the diversity the community is blessed with.

Celebrating its 6th anniversary, the walk set off from Burngreave, into Fir Vale, and continued to Firth Park. People from different faiths came to celebrate unity and peace. "It's a great occasion for all communities and religions." John Mellor.

Reflections and prayers were made outside mosques, and churches. The event finished outside the Methodist Church in Firth Park, where refreshments were given, and people had the opportunity to socialise, and network with one another. "This event is about accepting each other, and learning to live in peace with one another."

Refugee Week events

15th – 21st June 2009. All events are free.

Community Cohesion

Thursday June 18th (8.30am- 4.30pm)

An all-day conference for schools, communities and those working with refugee and asylum-seeking children.

Venue: the Holiday Inn, Victoria Station Road, S4 7YE.

Contact: Basil Sage, Ethnic Minority & Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS) - 250 6886, 07753 904 617; or basil.sage@sheffield.gov.uk

Presentation of training awards

Friday June 19th (10am- 4pm)

Live acts & music featuring people from Refugee Support, Burngreave After-School Study Support Project and others. Food & refreshments, children's entertainment.

Venue: SADACCA

Contact: Barry Brown 267 5250 or Barrington.Brown@mst-online.org.uk

Different Pasts, Shared Futures

Saturday June 20th (11am -2pm)

Entertainment, cultural dances, songs and food, plus a football tournament.

Venue: Vestry Hall

Contact: Joseph Walker: 07853 252 160 or winwalker2003@yahoo.com, or Akoi Bazzie: 07954 163 365 or Massayan2002@yahoo.com

Firvale School will also host the "Moving Here" exhibition during Refugee Week.

Alpha Mbodi campaigns against deportation

Story: Sheena Clarke

When they arrived in 2005, Alpha Mbodi and his two sons, Aimé and Junior, believed they had escaped the horrors of the civil war that was devastating the North Kivu region of DR Congo.

They settled in Burngreave and started to rebuild their lives. Now their prospect of a safe future has been shattered by the threat of deportation, they are asking people to support their campaign to be allowed to stay here.

Family left behind

After being targeted by government soldiers, Alpha Mbodi managed to escape with his two sons. Tragically, in the confusion and chaos, they became separated from his wife and daughter.

Although extremely traumatised, the family has integrated well into the local community. As active members of Sheffield Community Church (part of the Faith Ministries UK Churches, a registered charity), Alpha does voluntary work with troubled teenagers and families. His elder son, Aimé, attends Firth Park Community Arts College, where he expects to get good results in his GCSEs this year, while Junior is doing well at King Edward VII School. Both boys are very popular at school and in their church where they are active members of the youth group, Fresh Kids. Aimé is a talented footballer and plays for two football teams while Junior plays in a basketball team and is a keen athlete.



Jailed for working

Last year Alpha was jailed for working in a low-paid cleaning job without a work permit. While he realises that he should not have been working, he felt his first obligation was to provide for his family. He paid heavily, with a prison sentence and separation from his sons who were cared for by church friends.

You can support the Mbodi family by signing their online petition at

www.ipetitions.com/petition/familymbodi/

Or you can write to the Home Secretary using the model letter on www.burngreavemessenger.org/archives/april-2009-news/alpha-mbodi/



Adult learners in Parliament

Story: Rashida Hassanali

On Tuesday 4th May a group of twelve adult learners from the WEA Politics & Public Life course at Fir Vale School visited Parliament to find out more about how the parliamentary process works and to see for themselves what happens there. We were joined by other groups across the region involved in a WEA project to encourage citizens to 'Take Part'.

The day included a tour of the Houses of Lords and Commons and extra detail and commentary from Helen Jackson, ex-MP for Hillsborough and tutor to the group at Fir Vale. The group were met in the Commons lobby by Richard Caborn and discussed various local issues with him. We sat in the Strangers Gallery (Public Gallery in the Commons) and watched a debate on prison reform and other MPs questions in the House of Commons. A few



of us were lucky enough to get a glimpse of the real hub of political life in the capital when we had tea with Helen in the Portcullis building where MPs work and hold meetings and meet the press. Altogether this was a fascinating day out and an important opportunity for local people to experience the parliamentary process and gain confidence to be part of it.

Burngreave asks

"Any Questions?"

Story: Sophie Mei

Photos: Schani Cave

On Friday 22nd May, BBC Radio 4 broadcast their long-standing topical politics show 'Any Questions?' from Longley Park Sixth Form College.

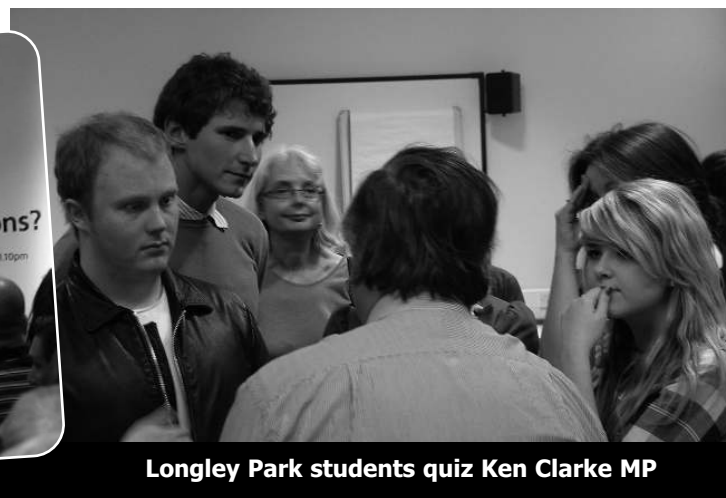
The national debate was attended by over 200 people, many from Burngreave, with an eclectic panel of MPs, which included Rt Hon Ken Clarke MP (Conservative), Ed Balls MP (Labour), Caroline Lucas MEP (Green) and Simon Hughes MP (Liberal Democrat), who were all tamed by the lively Chair – Eddie Mair.

The event was organised by Dave Darwent, the Deputy Director of Longley Park Sixth Form College, who said "this is extremely important for the local area – and it's great that so many people from the area have come."

Attendees were invited to submit their questions to the panel. 10 questions were selected and the key audience members were invited to the front to ask their question live on BBC Radio 4.

Vice Principal of Longley Park Sixth Form College, Don McLean asked, "Should the BNP be allowed to attend official state functions?" referring to news of Nick Griffin, leader of the BNP, being invited to the Queen's garden party.

The panel opposed the BNP, but their responses were somewhat different. Caroline Lucas, leader of the Green Party, felt it would be used as a political stunt for the BNP and felt angered that Nick Griffin, "who incites racial hatred," would



Longley Park students quiz Ken Clarke MP

be attending such an event. She stressed the importance of voting for other parties to "keep the BNP out". Simon Hughes, Lib-Dem spokesperson for Energy and Climate Change, remained diplomatic as he said, "BNP are a racist party but a legal party. Consequently, if they weren't invited, the worry is it would be even more of a political stunt." Ed Balls, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, replied, "the thought of the leader of the BNP with the Queen makes me sick to the stomach."

The debate focused on the current row over the MP's expenses scandal, to which the panellists agreed that the government needs to 'rebuild trust.' Kenneth Clarke, shadow business secretary, went as far as suggesting "bring back the Major government," which the audience and panellists alike, strongly opposed.

Ed Balls, close ally to Gordon Brown and recently criticised for his second home expenses, called for an independent investigation over the expenses row and agreed that the "massively important" issue needs to be solved before the government can "get back to the big decisions."

Such a reform of Parliament is clearly needed with, as Caroline Lucas suggested, "a government with more women and ethnic minorities" and a need to "get rid of the House of Lords – people choosing the people," added Simon Hughes.

The debate was lightened up by Burngreave's Rose Almond, who asked, "what would you do if four million pounds was deposited into your bank account?" Simon Hughes said he would "give it to other parts of the world that need it more."

The panel was challenged live on radio by the public forum-style event. Ed Balls admitted afterwards, "it was livelier than normal." Paul Scriven, the Liberal Democrat leader of Sheffield City Council, who also attended the event added: "Sheffield has shouted up and made it clear we have views."

You can listen back to the discussion on the BBC radio 4 website:
www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/bookfugu

See the full report of the night at:
www.burngreavemessenger.org

National Breast-feeding awareness week

Story & Photos: Sarah Cooper

Mums and babies from around the area got together on Wednesday 13th May to mark National Breastfeeding Awareness Week, which ran from 10th - 17th May.



The event at Abbeyfield Park House was organised by Action for Children Antenatal health/breastfeeding support workers, and was attended by around a dozen mums with their babies and children. Support workers were on hand to give information and advice, and there was the chance to unwind with a hand massage and nail bar.

Clare Cooke came with 4-week old Isabelle to meet other mums. Like many mums Clare had a few hiccups with breastfeeding, but says the help she has had from her breastfeeding support worker made it possible to carry on.

New mum Louise Kemp told me she had made good use of the phone service provided to offer support and advice. "At first I wasn't sure whether I should call, but they have all been really friendly and reassuring."

All the women I spoke to said breastfeeding has been a positive experience:

"I've breastfed all my children. It makes a good relationship between the mum and her baby." Mother of five Jazia Hamad, with 5-week old Anas.

"I can't imagine anything worse than having to get up in the middle of the night to sterilize a bottle!" Steph Abiva, with daughter Sabina

"It's easy to pick up and good for bonding. It's good to get time alone with just you and your baby." Louise Kemp with son Riley

For more information on Action for Children Antenatal and Breastfeeding Peer Support Services, contact your local Children's Centre:

**Burngreave: 252 5220
Fir Vale: 261 2010
Shirecliffe and Southey Green: 232 2203**



If your child is three or four years old, it's not too late to enrol them for nursery in September!

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Children raise cash for charity

Ellesmere Children's Centre staged a 'Wear Bright for Sight' day and raised £50 in the process for Henshaws, the leading charity for visually impaired people in the North of England.

From 11th to 15th May 'Wear Bright for Sight' encouraged people to wear their brightest, most outrageously coloured clothes to work and donate £2 toward the charity.

Staff and children at Ellesmere Children's centre donned wacky colours and had a great time while learning about people with disabilities.

Centre Manager, Sharon Curtis said:

"The children loved the whole day. It was great to be able to mix fun with learning and support a worthwhile charity at the same time."



Oliver at Byron Wood

On 31st March Byron Wood's Y3, Y4 & Y5 astounded parents, pupils and guests with an amazing performance of Oliver.

Taking songs from the original musical, pupils performed like professionals as Fagin's gang, orphans, flower sellers and market traders. Umar Bashir (Oliver) Mukarram Khatana (Artful Dodger), Misba Rasib (Nancy), shone in the lead roles, while other pupils did themselves proud in supporting roles.

Head teacher, Tony Carter, delighted the crowd as Fagin, with strong supporting performances from teachers Ted Elgy, Shaz Oxley and Sean Hudson, who stood in as Bill Sykes at the last minute.

Drama teacher Sarah Hyde expressed her deep pride in what pupils had achieved. Everyone agreed with special guest Lord Mayor Jane Bird – "it was a truly fantastic performance."

I was nervous but when I got on stage I wasn't so scared.

Jahja Egaal, Y4SO, Doctor



I really enjoyed it. I was so excited on stage. The show went really well.

Saira Mustafa Y5SK, Fagin's gang and orphan

I really loved it, being in Fagin's gang was great fun. At the end everyone was happy. I would love to do it again.

Glenis Korley, Y5SK, Fagin's Gang

Even though I wasn't playing a main I felt like I was in a real play, I loved it

Mohammed Ali, Y5SK, Mr Brownlow

I enjoyed being Bill Sykes. I were a little nervous but it was worth it. All my friends supported me - I nearly couldn't do it but they helped me.

Adam Ugas, Y5SK, Bill Sykes

The best bit was being with all my friends and I liked the singing and dancing. Miss Hyde was nearly letting tears out so we got her a little gift to say thank you. Precious Roberts, Y4RS, Flower girl, Londoner

I was so nervous. I just pretend there was nobody there. I liked the ending, we all took a bow then sang 'Consider Yourself'. Children started clapping and Miss Hyde was crying. Katwamba Mutale, Y4 Londoner/street seller

I was very confident and happy and I was excited to blow the whistle. Yunis Jama, Y4SO, policeman

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For an informal discussion please contact John Loveless on 0114 273 5455 or email john.loveless@sheffieldhomes.org.uk

For an information pack and application form, contact Margaret Goodall on 0114 273 4417 or email margaret.goodall@sheffieldhomes.org.uk

Closing date for applications is 5.00pm on Friday 12 June 2009.

www.sheffieldhomescareers.org.uk



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YCA celebrate university success

The theatre at Fir Vale School was full for a special celebration of university achievement organised by the Yemeni Community Association (YCA). Numbers going to university from the Yemeni community have increased dramatically over recent years and several dozen individuals received awards to recognize their achievements.

The event was opened with Quranic speeches and brief remarks by newly appointed Chief Executive of the YCA, Abtisam Mohamed and Chair, Saleh Alnoud.

Guest of honour, Richard Caborn and his father had both worked in Firth Brown's steelworks along with many Yemenis. Richard recalled his father, George Caborn, setting up one of the first anti-racist campaigns in Sheffield and called on people to make sure they voted in the local elections to ensure that the BNP did not get seats. Richard Caborn MP spoke of his pride in the achievements and said that his mum and dad, in particular, would have been really proud.

Those at the event were also treated to a fantastic dance and drama show from young people attending Arabic School and hilarious comedy sketches from young people attending the YCA study support project.

A key speech from graduate Sami Musaid called on young people to have clear goals and avoid the distractions of drugs such as Qat and Cannabis. Sami thanked the management committee of the YCA for their hard work.

Another speech from Murcilla Mosleh, celebrated the educational achievements of women. Murcilla said:

"Islamically, there is nothing that prohibits a woman from achieving any material goal a man is capable of achieving. Allah has created us with the same intelligence and brain capacity,



Photography by: Sarah Saleh, Yusra Ahmed and Emily Haimeed



we have the same rights. I am a Yemeni woman; I love my culture and my roots. Is there anything that prevents me from achieving my dreams and goals? Certainly not. My undergraduate years have been amazing. Alhamdulillah [thanks be to God] I have met people from all over the world, and have had the opportunity to develop my character through my experiences."

Cycling for women

Story: Rashida Hassanali

Last year the Fir Vale family of schools took over 100 people to Clumber Park for a cycling family day out. Many of the mums there couldn't cycle and we wanted to change that.



Since December 2008, Fir Vale School has hosted Pedal Ready and Sheffield Cycling Champion Steve Marsden to provide cycle training for local women.

Half the 34 women taking part in the course had never been on a bike before and all can now cycle comfortably around the sports hall and Astroturf at the school.

Here is Julia Shergold's story:

"I got to the age of 43 without learning to ride a bike. This was a problem as my seven year old daughter loves cycling and I wanted to go with her, so when I saw the advert for the cycle training I jumped at it.

"This was the first time I had seen a Cycling Proficiency course offering to teach people from scratch. The tutors were fantastic. For beginners they take the pedals off the bike until you get your balance! Within 20 minutes I managed to wobble around on my own. I got a fantastic sense of achievement in learning a skill I had failed at as a child. I couldn't wait to tell my daughter.

"Women from a wide range of ages, backgrounds and cultures supported each other, learned together; and some of us have gone on to do netball at the school too, so the course provided a springboard for learning other things.

"Last Sunday my daughter and I went to Clumber Park. I hired a bike and we went on a two hour cycle ride round the lake. Most people may take riding a bike for granted but I'm still enjoying the novelty of it and am proud of my achievement. Many thanks to all involved."

For more details of activities in the Firvale Family of Schools contact Rashida on 243 9391.



Michael's painting 'Tom', which measures just 27cm x 20cm

National portrait finalist

Story: Zainab Jama

Local artist Michael Gaskell has reached the final three in the BP Portrait Award at the National Portrait Gallery in London. This is the fourth time he has been a finalist in the competition, this time the subject is his eldest son, Tom.

Have you lived all your life in Sheffield?

I moved to Sheffield in 1986 and lived most of these years in the Burngreave area. Tom actually went to Firshill school when he was younger.

Why did you choose to paint your son?

My inspiration was the Botticelli painting 'Portrait of a Young

Man' a picture I have always admired. Tom was at the perfect age on the cusp of growing from a boy into a man. I took the opportunity to ask him to sit for me, luckily for me he said 'yes'.

How long did the painting take?

I had the idea for the portrait 4 years ago when Tom was 17 and have worked on it on and off since then with the bulk of the work done over the last six months.

Did your son sit for the entire portrait?

I work from life and photographs, when he did sit for me I was usually looking really closely at the eye or hairs in his eyebrow, which wasn't always a comfortable experience for him.

What does your son think of the painting?

He likes it now, but he found it difficult to look at it for a long time. What he has found really interesting is the publicity around it being a finalist in the exhibition.

How do you feel about the painting?

I am pleased to have finished it and I do like it alot, but like most artists I am critical of what I do and cannot help scrutinizing my paintings all the time. It was entered into the competition in March so I haven't had the chance to look at it since then. It will be interesting to see how I feel when I see it in the exhibition.

How does it feel to be in the final three?

It feels really good, it is always a thrill when other people respond so positively to your work. This year there were 1,900 entries and to get down to the last three is a fantastic feeling regardless of what happens.

Have you ever painted anyone famous?

No, but I would like to paint Barry Humphries or Ken Dodd as both have faces with an experienced, lived in quality. I do know that Caroline Quentin has purchased some of my landscape paintings.

What is your next project?

I am working towards my next exhibition which will be this autumn or early spring next year. My paintings are small and detailed. I work slowly and it takes me about a year to complete 8 to 10 pictures. The exhibition will be mostly landscapes, with a portrait of my friend's father if it is finished.

Michael's painting will be part of a free exhibition in the National Portrait Gallery in London from 18 June to 20 September, following the announcement of the winner of the £25,000 prize on 16th June.

Student Voice Easter event

Story: Raveena Hussain (Fir Vale School Student Voice)

We are a group of students at Fir Vale School - Raveena Hussain, Amoon Fazeldin, Raquia Begum, all year 10 students and Zena M'shana, from year 11.

Our aim is to help build a closer relationship with the wider community and the Fir Vale family of schools (Firs Hill, Byron Wood, St. Catherine's, Whiteways and Owler Brook) with Rashida Hassanali, Extended Services Lead Professional. We also are given the opportunity to improve and progress in skills such as communication, accepting a challenge, taking a risk and teamwork.

Our first event, to celebrate primary pupils' success, was the "Easter Eggstravaganza" at Fir Vale Enterprise Centre on the 26th March, when 32 pupils and 8 staff attended. The first activity was



a competition to design the best Easter egg, then a game of pass-the-parcel. As part of an Easter tradition, an Easter Bunny Hunt for bunny chocolates hidden in the school grounds was arranged. Following a small tea party, with sandwiches and fruit, the afternoon ended with laughter and jokes and a magic show performed by Mr Summerhayes, Assistant Head at Whiteways Junior School. This event was supported by funding from Fir Vale School and Fir Vale Community Chest (administered by BCAF).

Songs and stories with Reem Kelani

Story: Saleema Imam | Photos: Anwar Suliman

On Monday 11th May, well known London based, Palestinian singer Reem Kelani, (accompanied by Bruno Heinen on Piano) gave a stunning performance of a number of songs from Arabic speaking countries, to a packed audience at the Burngreave Vestry Hall.

"This was multiculturalism at its best, a real celebration of diversity. Reem has such a gift for story telling, and sharing her knowledge of the history of music, musicians and composers from many countries. All were invited to participate, in clapping, finger clicking and ululation." David Havard



different nationalities were supported into learning and performing each others songs. Language didn't matter! It was a very emotional morning.

"It was a very special day for me. She carried me back to Palestine, making me sing our own songs. I appreciated the common feelings we shared." Arwa

"Reem Kelani made everyone special and everyone sang without music in their own languages. We felt sad, happy and emotional. People who even weren't Arabic sang in Arabic language. It was incredible event. She reminded people of their past and what

they learned from their mothers when they were young." Amal

"Reem asked me to sing in my language. I didn't have any idea how to sing but she pushed and encouraged me. And I sang and every body got happy. We were all from different countries and had different languages but we were singing all together." Azeb

"Listening to Reem I felt so proud to live in such a diverse community. I wish I could do more to bring Burngreave people together to celebrate and share things like music, stories, customs and recipes." Rashida Hassanali

Reem suggested that we should get together on a regular basis to sing the songs we remember from our mothers and grandmothers. If you would like to help start a regular singing group contact Lisa at the Messenger on 242 0564.

Though the performance (organised by Jon Cowley and Rashida Hassanali) was free, a collection raised £300 for a children's charity in Gaza.

As part of Adult Learner's Week provision Reem also led a workshop just for women on the following morning at Sorby House on Spital Hill. This surpassed even the excellence of the previous evening's performance. Women from a dozen



Cultural Crossings at the Vestry Hall

Story: Philip Weiss

The Vestry Hall came alive again this month with the latest incarnation of the Burngreave Cultural Industries Challenge.

There were workshops with local artist Leman Mirazi on the Zimbabwean thumb piano known as the mbira and Burngreave dance choreographer Owen Ncube. Younger children enjoyed drumming with Kutamba Kids. Aspiring video artists studied award-winning films on subjects ranging from trading cities of 16th century East Africa to modern dance companies. The film session concluded with the feature film 'Flame' about women in the liberation struggle.

Workshops for up-and-coming publishers were led by Sarudzayi Chifamba-Barnes, who showed local people the nuts and bolts of putting a book together. For several weeks, Ethel Dlamini had been supporting local actors in the new play 'Dambudzo', as part of the African writers course. She gave a great talk on developing theatre from Africa.

The real climax of the evening was Burngreave-based Hype Squad

showing off their dance skills. They will continue to work with SOSA-XA! Sounds of Southern Africa, led by cultural director Mandla Sibanda: future projects include the Abbeyfield Festival.

It was all wrapped up with a visit from Zango, the Bristol-based orchestra who combine western instruments with electrified mbira.

Thanks to Prisca Mudzengerere for some great photos. **To join the Burngreave Cultural Industries Challenge, contact SEMEA on 0114 243 7899 & 213 3803 or at www.sheffieldchallenge.ning.com**





Earl Marshall Juniors Season Review 2008 - 2009

Report: Mick Ashman
Main photos: Sahiful Ishar

Despite seeing success on the field of play in 2009, local Pitsmoor and Burngreave based football club, Earl Marshall Juniors, had to come to terms with the unexpected and tragic death of Club Secretary Mark Moran Healy (pictured right).



Mark's enthusiasm and commitment to junior football was instrumental in allowing Earl Marshall to set up two new teams in 2007 and 2008 and the club now boasts three teams playing in the Sheffield and District league, at Under 7s, Under 8s and Under 13s level. His loss has been felt by everyone at the club and we all miss him dearly.



This season the Under 13s team secured promotion to Division B, clinching promotion with an impressive 6-3 win against local rivals Ecclesfield Red Rose, in front of the biggest crowd of the season. Abdi Ali celebrated becoming the season's top scorer adding to his tally with four of the goals.

The Under 8s squad continued to make outstanding progress in what was only their second season together, notching up a number of memorable wins including some against the league's more established clubs. Their hard work in training and on matchdays will bring its rewards when they start to play for competitive points from September.

Earl Marshall Under 7s started with a smaller squad and a few players left during the winter months, but the remaining team stuck together and worked hard throughout the season. They enjoyed their first experiences of team football, saw their results improve on the pitch and can't wait to move up to Under 8s level.

All three teams will be holding trials for new players in early June. If you would like more information on Earl Marshall Juniors – a football club that is proud to reflect the diversity of our local community – then please contact Mick Ashman on 07843 731430.

“Minilympics”



Story: Farhan Ahmed & Afrah Al-Kheili

Young people aged 14-16 ran for fun in the EIS (English Institute of Sport) on the 9th of May.

Co-organisers Mohammed Ahmed, a local resident, and the Burngreave Young Advisors, Farhan Ahmed and Afrah Al-Kheili, believe sport truly unites people. This event, from publicity to licensing was entirely done by these three and shows other young people can do it to.

“It was enough to see that they had a smile on their face and didn't want to go home, to show it was a successful event.”
Afrah

On the day there was a series of running events for all to take part in and for entertainment, break dancing, Shrek, Nintendo Wii, Music and other sporting activities.

Farhan adds, “We advertised throughout Sheffield bringing together different communities, to show that the Burngreave area has a lot to give and our young people are as capable as any other area.”

Participants ran against one another in teams. The aim of the event was not for competition but to promote unity by overcoming cultural, religious, and class barriers, giving young people an opportunity to demonstrate their talents.

Everyone was awarded a gold medal with a personal certificate indicating their lap timings.

Mohammed says other young people could do the same, “all you need to do is get hold of a form from an appropriate funding organisation, fill it in and send it off”

Imran Ali from Activity Sheffield was amazed by the success “We do events like this and publicise it all over Sheffield but still don't get many people participating. Running is something that many youths move away from and would rather go for activities like football.”

Community Assemblies are coming



Local residents will be getting the opportunity to have their say about how services are delivered and what they want in their area in a different way in future.

Sheffield City Council is replacing the Area Panel structure across the city with seven Community Assemblies. Burngreave and Fir Vale will come under the newly-created North East Community Assembly, which also covers Brightside, Shiregreen, Southey and Owlerton.

This is why there haven't been any area panel meetings since March, as the changeover takes place.

First meeting for the North East

However the good news is that the first public Community Assembly meeting for the area will take place on Wednesday 17 June at Longley Park Sixth Form College, with a chance to meet councillors and the team.

The aim of the Community Assemblies is to give local people the opportunity to have their say about how services are delivered earlier in the decision-making process. The Assemblies will be able to set priorities for some services – at first this will be for parks, street cleaning and libraries, but in the future other services could be influenced.

The Community Assembly meetings will be different to the Area Panel's, as the councillors will have more power to make decisions about Council services. However there will still be the opportunity to ask questions, raise issues and present petitions at the beginning of the meeting.

Developing a community plan

In September a Community Plan for the area will be published. The plan will look at what major issues affect the area, such as crime, health, employment and education. It will also contain 'citizen's targets' which will address smaller issues that may just affect one street or a small area, such as fly tipping.

What goes into this plan will be developed from feedback from the local

community, the priorities of local councillors, information from local services and data about the area.

The new team will be at the Abbeyfield and Fir Vale festivals this summer, ready to explain the new ways of working and listen to what local people want. This will help us develop the Community Plan.

More than just meetings

It's expected there will be four main meetings across the Community Assembly area. Alongside these, there will be further events or meetings which will take place in the different wards. These events will be called 'You Say' so please look out for them being advertised. There will also be other opportunities to give feedback, for example through the internet.

The 12 locally elected Councillors for the assembly are:

- **Burngreave** – Cllr Jackie Drayton, Cllr Ibrar Hussain, Cllr Steve Jones
- **Firth Park** – Cllr Joan Barton, Cllr Alan Law, Cllr Chris Weldon
- **Shiregreen and Brightside** – Cllr Jane Bird, Cllr Peter Price and Cllr Peter Rippon
- **Southey** – Cllr Leigh Bramall, Cllr Tony Damms, Cllr Gill Furniss

The North East Community Assembly staff team are:

- Alison Rayner, Community Assembly Manager
- Vicky Williams, Planning and Performance Officer
- Hannah Isherwood, Assembly Officer
- Lisa Moran, Safer Neighbourhood Officer
- And a Team Support Officer

The Assembly will also be supported by a team of people from other Council services and partner organisations to ensure that residents within the North East Community Assembly receive the best, and most appropriate, services.

The first North East Community Assembly meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th June at 6-8pm at Longley Park Sixth Form College, Horninglow Road S5 6SG (buffet provided from 5.30pm).

In the meantime, if you would like to find out more, please contact the North East Community Assembly on 203 7562

Firth Park Library, 443 Firth Park Road, S5 6QQ or via email – communityassemblynortheast@sheffield.gov.uk

If you need transport to get to the meeting, please contact us at the office on 203 7562.

Community Chest

If you are a group or organisation in the Burngreave ward, you can apply to the new Community Chest fund set up by the North East Community Assembly. Grants of up to £200 are available. The deadline is June 12th.

Decisions will be made by local Councillors. For more details of the criteria for the grants, guidelines and application forms, contact Vicky Williams at the North East Community Assembly



Councillor Surgery Dates

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

13 June: Jackie Drayton, 11am–12noon Burngreave Library and 12.15pm–1pm Firhill Tara

16 June: Ibrar Hussain, 11am–12pm Shirecliffe Centre and 12.15–1pm Norwood/Bishopsholme

18 June: Jackie Drayton, 2.00pm–3.00 pm Pakistan Advice Centre

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

11 July: Ibrar Hussain, 11am–12noon Burngreave Library

11 July: Ibrar Hussain 2.15pm–1pm Firhill Tara

16 July: Ibrar Hussain, 2pm–3pm Pakistan Advice Centre

21 July: Ibrar Hussain 5pm–6pm Carwood Tara

Jackie Drayton, 11am–12pm Shirecliffe Centre and 12.15–1pm Norwood/Bishopsholme

Pub reunion

Story: Michelle Cook

I joined around 30 locals in The Normanton pub on Earldom Road for their reunion. When I arrived the bar was decked with balloons and nibbles. I asked organiser John "Fozzi" Foster what it was all about.

"The idea was to get all of us old drinkers together to celebrate the pubs of Burngreave, both now and in the past." Thanks to Facebook, people have been contacted from far and wide to relive their Burngreave days. Most still live in the area but others have moved away, one bloke said he had not seen his pals for 35 years.

As the room filled with people and their memories, I became aware that 3 generations were represented. Landlady, Kay spoke of the fun they had 25 years ago with the "pram pushes" at the Catherine Arms and Gower, both now closed. Having fully refurbished The Normanton, she is delighted with the support from local drinkers and hopes to encourage more to enjoy the beer garden and Thursday bingo.

Richard, known locally as "Skateboard," had travelled from Walsall to be at the night. He said, "It was always a good night in Pitsmoor and Burngreave, we'd have a regular lads' night out every Friday without fail." Arthur Robinson, now of Darnall, said the Normanton was the first pub he had a drink in. Others joined in to tell tales of the circuit from The Wicker to Burngreave, reeling off lists of pubs long gone, The Station, Brown Cow, Carlilse, Robin Hood, Tea Garden. So what is left now? I followed the growing throng, swelled by newcomers from the Tollgate and Pitsmoor pubs, down Ellesmere Road to find out.



First stop was The Grapes on Gower Street, a traditional boozier, some of the younger folk spoke of enjoying a game of table space invaders there. Next stop was round the corner to The Staffordshire Arms, tucked away near the onion factory, this is a nice pub offering some of the best snooker and pool facilities around as well as regular "turns", singing acts, on the weekends. Matt Scott, the landlord said he enjoyed drinking in all the local pubs and they were like a little family but were welcoming to everybody, I agree with this as I received a very warm welcome everywhere I went.

The grand finale was in The Royal Oak, complete with karaoke and buffet. All in all it was a top night out in Burngreave. John says he will make it an annual event, but I suspect the lads will be meeting up long before then!

Kid 1 and Kaney B

Story: Brent Moya | Photo: Jodie Booth

A local music production company have made waves after entering their material into a local competition.

Bad Sign Productions formed in 2008, flanked by a growing list of local artists including Sister Nina, Kid 1 and Kaney B, Sean G, SteamedUp, Mc Flesh, RS1, DJ Mink and Dutty Dan.

Bad Sign Productions feel it has been important to give some of our local talent a real opportunity to flourish. "It's important to encourage young performers and local talent positively. I think using music constructively is beneficial in building inclusion, using creativity to break down walls of negativity that are created around us."

Ex Messenger worker Robert Emmanuel Smith is managing director for Bad Sign Productions and informs me that this video recording opportunity came out of nothing.

"Someone who's created an album came



Kid 1 & Kaney B - Link Up Drink Up

to see me and I suggested contacting South Yorkshire Film Industry."

On contact with Sheffield Independent Film Robert was informed about the '2Weeks 2Make It' music video competition in which film makers are paired with musical artists. However it also emerged that there was only one week left for submitting material.

The lack of preparation time did not deter the group as, Kaney B (Cainan Blake) and Kid 1 (Tom Hutt) were

selected along with 18 other South Yorkshire musical groups selected from 200 entrants.

"We received the good news on Monday 10th April when the organisers invited us to attend Sheffield Independent Film to be partnered with JPL film productions."

JPL productions are owned by John Paul Lancaster, a photographer turned film director who studied fine art at Sheffield University and recently finished a film making course at the London Film Academy.

From then on, like 18 others, they were given two weeks to produce a music video. Their record 'Link Up Drink up' is known as Dubstep or 4/4 and sounds like a mixture of Niche and Drum & Base. Robert feels the track has commercial appeal, "We chose this track because it's catchy and has a feel good factor with boy meets girl lyrics," he said.

The winners were announced at an awards ceremony on the 29th April. Unfortunately Link Up Drink Up didn't win, but ran a close second for the audience participation vote.

To see the video search YouTube for Kaney B and Kid 1, or see the link on the Messenger website.



Ken Riley, Normandy veteran

Story: John Mellor | Photo: Richard Hanson

On 6th June 1944 the Allied Forces of World War II began their invasion of the Normandy beaches, the 'D Day' Landings. The largest military operation in history saw hundreds of thousands of troops being ferried across the English Channel from Southern England to Northern France in a well planned and highly organised operation. Among them was Burngreave resident Ken Riley, one of only a handful of Veterans of the Normandy Landings still living in Sheffield.

Ken received his call-up papers early in 1943 when he was 18, having been in the ARP during the Sheffield blitz in 1940, keeping a lookout for incendiary bombs on night watch. Ken had attended All Saints' School, leaving at the age of 14 to start work. He continued studying at night school for the National Certificate of Engineering. This experience enabled him to train as a radio operator in the Royal Armoured Corps and it was in this capacity that he landed on Juno Beach on 16th June 1944. Ken says of this event:

"We were told that we would arrive at high tide and would have to disembark in 6 feet of water. This meant that the underside of the tank had to be carefully sealed to prevent sea water getting in, a job which took several hours. However, on arrival the skipper of the landing craft decided to wait until we could disembark directly onto the beach, so our efforts had not been necessary."

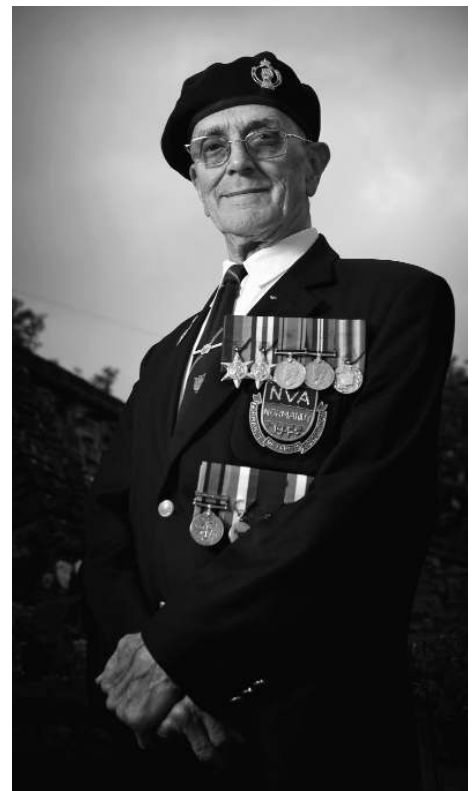
Ken told me of two incidents that nearly cost him his life:

"Our division had fought its way through Northern France to the Belgian border where we experienced a very cold winter in the Ardennes (1944-45). We were the leading tank in a column en route for Arnhem when we were attacked by a German Panzer Tank. Fortunately our gunner was pointing our gun at a slight angle, causing the shell to be deflected with little damage to the tank. Had the gun been pointing directly ahead the shell would have come straight through the turret where I was sitting."

"On reaching the Dutch-German border we stopped for the night on the edge of a forest. For protection we dug a trench under the tank, between the tracks, and the 5 members of our tank crew stayed there overnight. In the morning, just as I was brewing up 5 mugs of tea on a petrol stove, the Germans started firing at us from the forest. The other 4 members of the crew quickly got under the tank but my tea-making duties delayed me. The shell landed 5 feet away and two flying pieces of shrapnel hit me, one in the left leg and the other in the back. Fortunately the ground was soft from heavy rain and this absorbed much of the impact; had the ground been dry and hard the explosion would almost certainly have killed me."

After being wounded, Ken was taken to a field hospital and then to Brussels General Hospital before being repatriated to continue his recuperation. Ken commented: "I would have liked to make the Army my career but this was not possible on health grounds."

I asked Ken what was the worst thing about the war. He said, "Seeing all the



avoidable death and destruction – war is a fool's game." I then asked if there was anything good that he could say about the war. He replied, "The total comradeship, sharing and risking our lives together, sharing our last cigarette. This is something I haven't found since returning to 'civvy' street."

Ken is the Chairman of the Normandy Veterans Association (Sheffield Branch) and, along with his wife Joan, has been invited by our local MP Richard Caborn to attend the 65th Anniversary Commemorations at the House of Commons, followed by a visit to 10 Downing Street to meet the Prime Minister – truly a well deserved honour for this brave man and all his comrades.

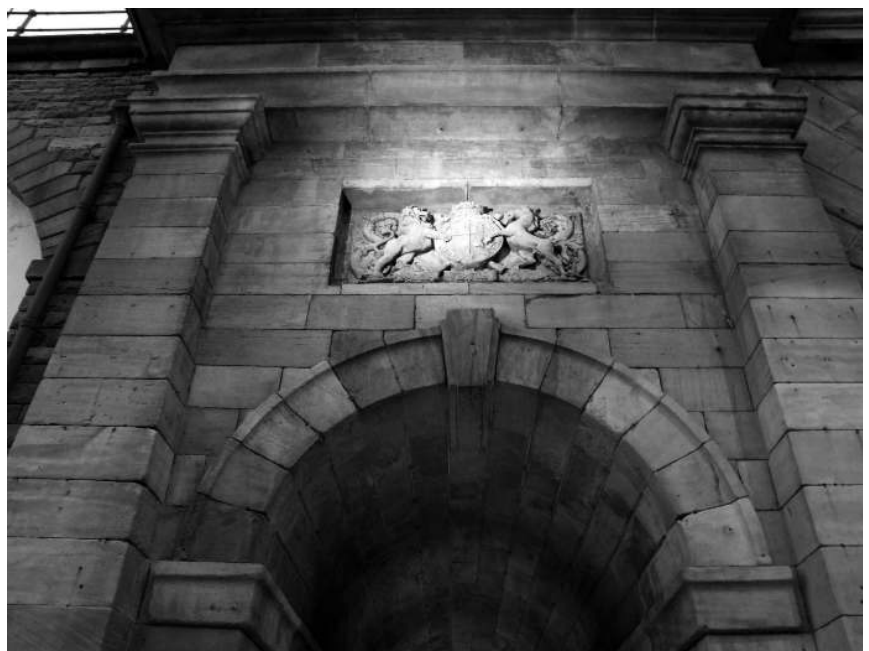
Cleaner Arches

Story: Douglas Johnson | Photo: Rohan Francis

The stone facing of the landmark Wicker arches has recently had a clean-up, thanks to Network Rail and Sheffield City Council. The operation follows on from recent decorative lighting in the pedestrian arches and illumination above the main span. The work was to enhance the visual impact of the arches on the main route between Burngreave and the city centre.

Network Rail paid £56,000 and the council contributed a further £40,000 to the cost of cleaning.

However, whilst traders at the Wicker Forum had heard of early stage plans to renovate 22 of the arches on both sides of the Wicker, Network Rail's spokesperson said they were "not aware of any big development planned for the arches."



A little piece of heaven: Devon Gardens

Story & Photos: Gaynor Carr

Finding a peaceful spot in a busy city can be a challenge but residents in the Abbeyfield Road area have their own little piece of heaven.



Devon Gardens is a small Victorian park which has benefited over the last two years from significant improvements to pathways, benches and planting. Many more members of the community now use the park regularly for somewhere pleasant to relax in the sunshine and somewhere safe for the children to play.

The Friends of Devon Gardens volunteer group has organised a series of regular residents' gardening events this year to plant spring bulbs and clear weeds from some of the flower beds, in preparation for the highlight of a Community Party in the Park on Saturday 11 July. Chair of the group John Chapman said,

"We hold events throughout the year to make sure the park stays looking good and we have all ages helping out - from 5 upwards - so it really is something where

everyone can become involved. We'd be delighted for more local residents to join us - it's good exercise, a bit of fresh air and a great chance to meet your neighbours and make new friends!"

Dave Wright (Parks Officer with the Council) has encouraged the Friends group to aim for Green Pennant status - a national award to recognise high quality green spaces that are managed by the local community.

If you'd like to become a member of the Friends group, join in with any of the events or just share our little piece of heaven, you can find out more from our web pages on the Messenger website (www.burngreavemessenger.org/community/friends-of-devon-gardens) or by calling John Chapman on 07860 101 907 or Phil Jakob on 07796 977 856.

Exploring earthworms

Story: Maxwell Ayamba

SHEBEEN - the Sheffield Black & Ethnic Minority Environmental Network - organised a soil and earthworms survey in Abbeyfield Park on 19th May for students of the Community Foundation Studies course at Sheffield College's Fir Vale Centre, as part of the Open Air Laboratories (OPAL) new initiative. The aim is to get people back in touch with nature by exploring and studying their local environments.

Across England, OPAL has a wide range of activities for different age groups such as measuring mini-beasts, learning about lichens, surveying wild flower meadows, finding out about the wildlife of a local pond or park. Our wildlife faces a growing number of pressures, with populations of our most familiar animals and plants changing at an alarming rate. OPAL activities allow students to build a



detailed picture of the local environment and log it on their website.

OPAL will also be running a series of nationwide surveys, including studies into soils, biodiversity, water, air and climate. The soils and earthworms survey is the first of these.

Fir Vale Centre students were excited about the survey. Dawn Griffiths, a teacher from Sheffield College, said, "This

is an opportunity for our students to undertake a practical field science study. Most of them have no knowledge about the different plant and animal species in England, it is important not only to learn about but also to protect them."

Do your own survey or just see the earthworm guide at: www.OPALExploreNature.org.

Memories of 1984

Story: Nikky Wilson

Photo: John Harris/reportdigital.co.uk

Since the beginning of March this year, there has been a lot of writing and reflecting on the 1984 Miners' Strike, marking the 25th anniversary. One Burngreave resident, Lesley Boulton, was actively involved in supporting the miners' cause and has strong memories from this time. I went to meet her at her home in Pitsmoor and to hear her own account of the Battle of Orgreave.

During the strike, she became involved with Sheffield Women Against Pit Closures because, as she put it, "you had to work quite hard to ignore what was happening in South Yorkshire that year. It began to feel rather like a police state, with police on the slip roads to the M1, stopping people and turning you back if they didn't like the look of you. Along with my friend Audrey, I started visiting some of the picket lines, just to support striking miners, and did a lot of fundraising for their families.

One particular day stands out in Lesley's memory:

"On the 18th June 1984, we decided to go to the mass picket at the Orgreave coking works - I had discovered an interest in photography and I wanted to take some pictures there. It was a beautiful June morning and, apart from a small altercation between miners and police on the road, nothing much was happening when we first arrived.

"I ambled about, taking pictures and talking to people. Because it was so hot, the men had taken their shirts off and some were playing football. But then the police started getting quite intimidating - those on foot got into 'Roman cohort' formation with their big long shields and suddenly the cavalry charged at us. We just ran! Along with a whole bunch of others, I escaped down a railway embankment but then headed back into the village to find out what was happening. It was mayhem - police were beating people with truncheons and arresting them and I was pretty dazed by it all. It was extraordinary really - the police just seemed out of control. I found it very disturbing to see that authority used in such an arbitrary and brutal way.

"Stepping over a low wall on one side of the road, I discovered a man lying on the ground, groaning, who looked like he needed medical attention. So I stood up and was about to call to a policeman for an ambulance when suddenly an officer



on horseback bore down upon me - that's when the photograph was taken by John Harris. Luckily another man standing behind me just reached out and grabbed me by my jeans and yanked me to safety.

"After that, I just got myself off the pitch and it wasn't until later that I realised what a near miss it had been. But at the time, this sort of violence was happening all over the coalfields so there was nothing unusual about it. The photograph generated a lot of publicity, first in the left wing press and then at a Labour Party conference when all hell was let loose!

"In the end I was put under a lot of pressure - hate mail, phone calls and harassment of my family - but I was able to use my own photographs from the day as evidence to support other people's cases. So at least I contributed in some small way. And it didn't dim my enthusiasm - I kept up 'til the bitter end, even went to Kiveton and walked behind the miners when they marched back to work.

"Looking back, I think that day was very important for me personally because it showed me what the state was prepared to do to get its own way. It's made me rather cynical of authority ever since. The photograph has become something else, which is not to do with me at all; it's about the 'boot stamping on a human face forever' as George Orwell wrote in his novel '1984'."

I asked Lesley if she would do it again. Unsurprisingly, her reply was, "Of course, if the cause was right. I wouldn't allow a man on a horse with a stick to put me off!"

If you want to know more about Lesley's story and the stories of other women working in industry, then look out for an exhibition by South Yorkshire Women's Development Trust later in the year. You can contact them by phone (tel 01709 834441 - ask for Julie or Jess) or email them at industry.sywdt@btconnect.com or try their website: www.sywol.org.uk



Abbeyfield Park centenary

Story: Richard Belbin

The world was a rapidly changing place in 1909, though one that would be, in many ways, still very familiar to us. A 'brave new world' was under construction, with Louis Bleriot making the first flight across the English Channel, and work on the Titanic being started. Meanwhile, the USA was extracting itself from one foreign intervention in Cuba but starting another in Nicaragua, Britain was coming out of a serious recession, a liberal government was about to be forced into an early election by the conservatives, Manchester United won the FA Cup, and Burngreave's reputation across the rest of the city was poor.

Many families were feeling the pinch in those times, and not just the poor. One of the better off 'sufferers' was the family of a local solicitor called Bernard Wake (after whom a ward in the old Royal Hospital on West Street was named), who owned Abbeyfield House and the surrounding grounds.

Built in the 1840s, and originally called Pitsmoor Abbey, Abbeyfield was five and a half acres of land which first belonged to William Pass, the owner of a local colliery. Wake then turned it into a family home, adding the sundial, conservatory, greenhouses, a tennis court and outhouses in the 1890s. The gardens were redesigned and a boating lake created.

By 1909, however, the family had had enough of the 'changed conditions of the neighbourhood' and wanted to sell up, and so offered the house and grounds to

the City Corporation for £10,500, an amount from which they would not budge, despite many requests from the council. Meanwhile, a rather more generous benefactor had simply 'presented' Norfolk Park to the city.

£10,500 was a tidy sum in those days (equivalent to almost £850,000 today) and so the corporation debated the question for some time, as did residents in the pages of the local press. Various correspondents thought it would be a waste of money, especially since there were already facilities at Firth Park and Burngreave Recreation Ground, and that the corporation simply could not afford it. So, at the first meeting of the General Purposes & Parks Committee, the offer was rejected.

The government of the day was supporting a series of public works across the country as a way of alleviating the poverty caused by the recession, and investment in parks was one of the ways they had of achieving this (in the same year they also introduced the first Old Age Pensions, and a minimum wage act). As well as the purchase of Abbeyfield, just over £1000 was spent improving the grounds at the Burngreave and Nottingham Cliffe Recreation Grounds.

The local MP, Liberal Henry J Wilson, supported the purchase, and offered £1000 from his own pocket 'fearful lest by any chance [Abbeyfield] should be lost to the city.' Writing to the local press he said that it would make an 'excellent pleasure ground' and that "Firth Park is so far out that practically none can properly avail themselves of it unless they have at least two or three hours to spare. Even then they must have a long walk or the expense of a tram."

His offer was supplemented by one of £1,500 from the Town Trust, which left the council with just £8,000 to pay, plus £250 fees. On January 4th the Finance sub-committee approved the plan, and it was passed to a full council meeting for approval later that month.

Even then there were objections from councillors from Broomhall and Ecclesall, but the majority were happy with the plans put forward by Councillors Sir Charles Skelton and Mr Carter and the purchase was approved, with a loan to be repaid over the following sixty years. On July 15th Mayor Lord Fitzwilliam, formally opened the park to the public.

Abbeyfield has gone through many changes since then, with the house being used as a 'work-room' for the unemployed, training domestic servants, and then a school, as well as a dwelling house for the park workers. The boating lake was filled in and the playground moved to where the lake was, but whatever its design, the park has been immensely popular with residents from Burngreave and further afield and has always been as well loved as Henry Wilson thought it would be.

What are your memories of Abbeyfield Park? We hope to print some people's stories next issue. Contact us on 242 0564 or mail@burngreavemessenger.org

Discover the history of Burngreave

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To book a place contact Lisa Swift at the Burngreave Messenger on 242 0564 or email lisa@burngreavemessenger.org

Places are limited

Request to sell Forum House

BNDfC has formally approached our funders, the Department for Communities and Local Government, to see if it would be possible to have the clawback restrictions currently in place on Forum House, lifted. This would mean that technically we could then sell the building without having to repay the NDC grant used to buy it in the first place.

Back in February, when we first advised projects that New Deal funding was to end in March 2009, it was suggested to us that the sale of one of our buildings could provide continuation funding for projects. At that point there was no willingness to remove clawback but during the past two months, as discussions on the BNDfC succession plans have continued, and the commitment of our funders to Burngreave has become even stronger, it has

become clear that to secure the future of the successor body we need a significant cash injection and the possible sale of Forum House would be one way to do that. BNDfC has therefore been invited to submit a business case for the removal of clawback, with no guarantees of success.

Readers should be aware that we are sharing this news with you at the earliest opportunity and that the disposal of the building is by no means certain, particularly given the current economic climate we're all battling with.

Update on Project Continuation Arrangements

As identified in the paper to the last public Partnership Board meeting, all but one of the projects scheduled to run this year with NDC funding are continuing. BNDfC thanks go to the projects themselves for their stalwart work in responding to the situation, to the Area Panel for their work with mainstream agencies to get activity funded and by no means least to the City Council, South



Yorkshire Police, Sheffield Homes and the Primary Care Trust for their fantastic financial contributions to keeping key projects going.

Open Evening

BNDfC would like to invite residents and businesses of Burngreave to come along to Sorby House and Vestry Hall on Tuesday 9th June to see what facilities are available.

Light refreshments will be served at both venues between 6pm and 8pm.

Produced by New Deal • For more information on BNDfC please contact 279 6932

A year of tree planting

The Community Forestry team had a fantastic year in Burngreave. We ran 35 events including tree-planting, bulb-planting, guided walks, forest schools tasters and some environmental improvements.

Over the planting season 183 adult volunteers were involve, while 29 activities involved over 300 young people from Byron Wood School, St Catherine's RC School, Fir Vale School, Watercliffe Meadows School, Watoto Pre-school, Sheaf Training, Streetworx Young Advisors, Fir Vale Connexions and Limpsfield School.

During the last year (October 2008 to April 2009) Burngreave Community Forestry:

- Planted 80 large heavy standard trees of 29 varieties in 18 different locations in Burngreave
- Planted 750 whips (small saplings)

- Planted 11 fruit trees in 3 locations
- Distributed 47 fruit trees to local residents

All year we have been rewarded with keen volunteers who have got really stuck in, often in terrible weather, and who have made our job easy by appreciating the value of trees. We hope our efforts have gone some way towards creating a greener, healthier and more pleasant Burngreave, and look forward to more of the same next year!

Although the tree planting season is over we will still have plenty to do over the summer, starting with a Woodland Boddgers' Camp in June. This event will give over 200 children from 3 Burngreave schools the opportunity to visit their local woodlands and to try their hand at traditional woodcrafts such as pole-lathe turning, willow weaving and hurdle-making – linking the products we use with the trees that produce them.

If you have suggestion as to where you would like to see trees planted (not just in Burngreave but also in other parts of the city) please visit www.sheffield.gov.uk and complete our Tree Planting Nomination form which



Photo: Ersalan Hussain

you will find a link to on the bottom right hand side of the home page. We aim to compile all the requests and use these to investigate new sites for tree-planting over the forthcoming years.

For further information please contact Leonie Kapadia, Community Forester on 07976 988 627 or Leonie.Kapadia@sheffield.gov.uk.

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