

Poverty Conference

Friday 8th April 12.00 noon to 5.00pm
Spectrum Centre, Brunswick Road

Do you know what it's like trying to make ends meet or struggling to put food on the table?
Come along and make your voice heard at a key forum looking at ways of addressing issues of poverty in Burngreave.

Key Speaker

Prof Peter Kemp, University of York,
Author of *Routes Out of Poverty*
funded by the Joseph Rowntree Trust

Workshops

- Debt, savings and Credit Unions
- Families and Poverty
- Mental Health and Poverty
- Healthy eating on a low income
- Poverty and gender
- Adult education and training for those on a low income
- Poverty and benefit take-up

Food – Childcare

– Translation all provided
Prize Draw for Burngreave residents attending

For more details or to book crèche places, ring **Ian:** 279 6933 or **Eloise:** 279 6936.



Need free information about childcare or children's services?

We'll help you with any query you may have
Call or drop in to:

Children's Information Service
11 Leopold Street, Sheffield S1 2GY

tel: 0114 275 6699
info@sheffielddcis.f9.co.uk
www.sheffieldchildrenfirst.org.uk

Call for opening hours



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149 BURNGREAVE ROAD

Wicker Pharmacy
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Pitsmoor Dental Health Centre
Dr Alan Moffatt Dr K M Ackom-Mensah
wholistic dental care
139 Burngreave Road, Sheffield S3 9D1
Tel/Fax 0114 272 3076 Mob: 0831 116340

Issue 50 Free to everyone in Burngreave April 2005

Burngreave Messenger



Voice of the Burngreave Community

Including: Pitsmoor, Ellesmere, Carwood, Firshill, Fir Vale, Pye Bank, Shirecliffe and Woodside

Messenger reaches half century



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and much, much more...

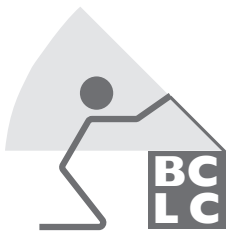
Welcome to the 50th Burngreave Messenger. Ever since the first two issues in 1999 we have been bringing you news and views, smiles and tears, celebrations and rows from the community.

Five years on we remain committed to the spirit of the early days (see page 17), we're still striving to improve communication, to keep people in touch and aware of opportunities and to celebrate our successes and diversity. We're still dedicated to an independent community voice that tells it like it is and speaks up for residents, and our editorial decisions are still made by residents and volunteers.

We're grateful to all our advertisers and funders for their support over the last five years. But most of all, thanks to all the writers, volunteers, staff and distributors who keep bringing us the *Messenger* – the Voice of the Burngreave Community.

BCLC appeal

The Burngreave Community Learning Campaign is committed to helping local adults go back into education. We find people the right courses or even start a course if one isn't available. We are here to help everyone, from all backgrounds.



One of the issues BCLC is trying to tackle is engaging the white community in the goings on of the area. In our figures for September 2004 to January 2005 only 13% of participants were white British. As 58.5% of Burngreave is of white origin then that is a small amount that are coming to us for advice.

Of the twenty learning assistants at BCLC, four of us are white British and we are actively seeking involvement and information from the white community in Burngreave on education, festivals and community interaction. We would like people's ideas, experiences and knowledge of the activities and courses available in the area.

If any readers are interested in courses, or want to give us your opinions on what's available for the white community then please come to Forum House, 35 Spital Hill, or call 279 4960 and ask for Rebecca, Katie, Kevin or Jean. We would also like to hear from anyone who would like to get involved in our May festival – *Burngreave Celebrates Learning*.

by Rebecca Cram, Community Learning Assistant

BCAT profile

I am currently employed as a development Worker at BCAT.



I am of dual heritage and my family and I are from Burngreave. To me, life as a child raised in Burngreave was a hard one and experiences of poverty and social deprivation a true reality for me. I was one of the lucky ones, leaving school in 1998 I began work as a bricklayer for Sheffield City Council. My career change has been to concentrate on work in the community sector.

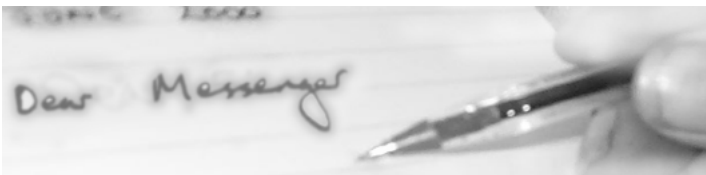
My first post in the community sector was working voluntarily at a Housing Advice Project in Nether Edge. I spotted an advert for a Learning Assistant at the Burngreave Community Learning Campaign and worked there for two years. I believe I've learned my trade as a Development Worker in Burngreave and enjoyed my time and learned much about the politics and diversity of our community.

In January 2005, I applied for the post as Development Worker for BCAT, and was successful in obtaining it.

I am now very keen to be part of the process of change in the area, as Burngreave has always been close to my heart. I feel the need to become a great example and role model in and around the community of Burngreave. I feel that changes are being made and the view of many residents in the community is supporting BCAT and BCAF spearheading many of those changes – this encouraged me to apply for the post at BCAT.

I hope to contribute to the regeneration of Burngreave and be remembered as one who helped with those changes.

by Bilal Luqmaan



Dear Messenger,

In reply to Christine Hanson in the March edition regarding my letter from the February edition, all our relatives that once lived in Pitsmoor were cleared out 20 to 30 years ago, but they still take note of any news they read about it. Reports of crime are usually in the forefront so they form an opinion, which could be wrong, of what it must be like in this area now. Hence the advice they passed on to us about being careful was taken note of.

When I lived on Petre Street, my girlfriend (now wife) lived on Woodside Lane just off Pitsmoor Road. Every night I walked home from Woodside Lane across Burngreave Road, along Melrose Road over the hill by the side of the cemetery, passed Burngreave School (Byron School) and down Lyons Road. In those days it was always with some trepidation especially if I met someone coming the other way. I don't think anything has changed except that in those days, like for Christine, it was my home territory. These days I am a complete outsider and so naturally have a slight fear of the unknown. On the brighter side we hope to make the trip again in the next couple of years, and being an avid reader of the *Messenger*, I have no doubt I will be more confident and take a walk and reminisce about my very happy childhood around Pitsmoor.

Regards Gordon Lawton, Renmark South Australia

Dear Messenger,

After reading the most recent issue of *Burngreave Messenger*, I noticed a letter from Sally A Stracey saying Telewest wouldn't come into the area after 4pm. I experienced something very similar when I was pregnant with my daughter. I started using tesco.com for my food shopping as I am on the second floor of flats and carrying shopping was a bit of a pain.

The first time I ordered shopping it came at about 6pm. But the second time I ordered shopping it was for a Saturday between 6pm and 8pm. It got to 10.30pm and no shopping had arrived. I couldn't phone until the Sunday, when I was sent round about five or six different people. They finally got me through to the manager at Tesco Abbeydale who told me that they couldn't get a driver to deliver in my area after dark. They offered me a delivery on the Monday morning. When I asked why I hadn't been informed I was told they had forgotten to ring me. When I finally received the order the driver was very rude to me as I couldn't help him with the shopping up the stairs (being seven months' pregnant)

I still shop with tesco.com and I order it for a morning as advised by the manager. I also ask the drivers if they have had problems with deliveries, I was told yes there were some incidents in Manor.

Mrs G Hopkins

We contacted Tesco and asked them if they have a list of bad areas which only get daytime deliveries and if Burngreave is on this list. A Tesco spokesperson said that they did not have a list of areas, but that in Burngreave their drivers had experienced violence and intimidation including a brick through a van window. She emphasised how much they wanted people in Burngreave to use their home shopping service and said that the local delivery store Manager was keen to take up the Messenger offer to visit Burngreave and meet local people. – ed

New Deal spending cuts

New Deal projects could be faced with spending restrictions this year as the government has instructed local Government Offices to implement cuts across Yorkshire and Humberside.

A report in the regeneration magazine *New Start* stated that all New Deal for Communities programmes were faced with a cut, totalling £10 million, from their budgets for the next financial year (starting in April). This was the latest such announcement about initiatives funded through the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, where most schemes (such as Supporting People) have also been told that funding would be reduced.

Government Office for Yorkshire and Humberside confirmed this would affect Burngreave New Deal (BNDfC), who are faced with a 12% reduction in proposed spending – meaning that this year's Delivery Plan would be for £10 million, instead of about £11.4 million. New Deal were already aware of the potential cuts in February when the *Messenger* reported on plans for Year Five of New Deal, but they have yet to decide if existing or new projects will suffer cuts. BNDfC Chief Executive, John Clark, told us:

"I am unable to give you any information at this stage as we are working on proposals to manage our allocation of funds to ensure we can still meet the priorities identified in the Year Five Delivery Plan. I would also want to engage with the Partnership Board and BNDfC-funded projects on any implications before they were published."

BNDfC are still in negotiation with Government Office, and hope to restrict the impact of any cutbacks upon activity in the area. It is far from certain whether any running projects will face any spending cuts at all even if the reduction is enforced, but whether they are or not, continuing uncertainty cannot be good for anyone.

by Richard Belbin

No room at Fir Vale School

The Messenger has learnt that 55 children can't get into their local secondary school. The fact that Fir Vale School cannot fit in everyone from the catchment area, could be seen as good news as it shows the school is now successful and popular. But this is cold comfort to those families who would like to be there too.

I spoke to departing principal Hugh Howe, who was responsible for the turnaround of the school's fortunes. He said, "There are children across the city who don't get into their first choice school and Fir Vale School has been over subscribed for several years." He explained that when parents apply to the school they are told about the statutory appeals procedure if they unhappy about the decision.

The PFI (Private Finance Initiative) school has a capacity for 700 students, although there are 723 registered, but the governors currently have no plans to expand.

Having spoken to parents I realised that this is a very stressful time for families who are still waiting for appeal decisions. The fact that they didn't want to jeopardise their positions by making a statement is telling enough.

Hugh Howe has announced his departure from Fir Vale School, and a new Head will take over in September. He told the *Messenger*, "It has been a privilege and an honour to have been involved with the evolution and development of the school. It has been a challenge, but I can't believe how quickly time has passed. It's been six years since the school opened. There is still room for improvement, but through education people can achieve their goals."

Where previously children from Burngreave chose to travel to better schools across the city; now they are choosing Fir Vale, which is a real sign of success. But the lack of places means some children only have offers for the next nearest school, which are, like Fir Vale once was, bottom of the list. Slowly the LEA is putting more resources into our schools, but wouldn't it be nice if everyone's local school had Fir Vale's reputation?

by Gaby Spinks



As we celebrate our fiftieth issue we are proud that what goes into the *Messenger* is still under direct community control. Instead of employing an editor we run an 'editorial group' which is open to anyone from Burngreave and is a great place to meet *Messenger* staff and volunteers.

We think this gives the *Messenger* its unique community flavour, stops the pages getting filled with hype and means we reflect the issues that matter to Burngreave residents. When so many leaflets go in the bin we know the *Messenger* gets read from cover to cover.

We hold editorial meetings at 6.30pm on Wednesdays at Abbeyfield Park House. Everyone is welcome, especially to the first meeting each month (6th April for the May issue) when we plan what should go into the issue. Come along on the 6th if you want to help make a difference, the next fifty issues are up to you!



Messenger Info

Meetings: 6.30 pm, Wednesday at Abbeyfield Park House
Editorial: 6th April
Management: 4th May
All welcome.
Copy deadline: 20th April

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The Burngreave Messenger is a community newspaper; funded by New Deal, with editorial independence. We aim to increase and encourage communication in Burngreave. Each edition is put together by an editorial team who write articles not otherwise credited. This month's team: Farzana Ahmed, Kate Atkinson, Annie Blindell, Clare Burnell, Martin Currie, Andrew Green, Mark Lankshear, Jamie Marriott, Tim Neal, Carl Rose, Rob Smith, Gaby Spinks, Lisa Swift and Paul Taylor.

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Set up to fail the ASBO?

Since an alarming *Star* headline featured two of the youngest youths placed on Anti-social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs), we have been keen to see what is in place to deter them from breaking their orders, and what effect being labelled, named and publicly shamed has had on these two local young boys.

I first spoke to local-born Robert Menzies father of both boys, Dan-I and brother Levan. Robert expressed his frustration and concerns about the supervision on offer.

“I went with Dan-I but they wouldn’t allow me to see the probation person with him – I don’t know what’s going on. As for activities – no, he just has to see the probation office at regular intervals.”

Robert explained he hadn’t been in a relationship with Dan-I and Levan’s mother for some time, but he was trying his best to be around to help as much as he could. He feels that without any special needs intervention his son has been set up to fail from day one.

Becoming a target

I also spoke to mother Cheryl Coley and asked her what support she was receiving from other agencies and youth providers.

“It depends on what they mean as support,” said Cheryl. “Dan-I hasn’t really received anything, other than a talk with our family support officer and a placement on a music course.”

Cheryl began to explain her concern. Dan-I has become a main target for the police in the area. “My son is being pulled over by that riot van in the middle of the streets, he now carries notification of his ASBO with him whenever he goes out.”

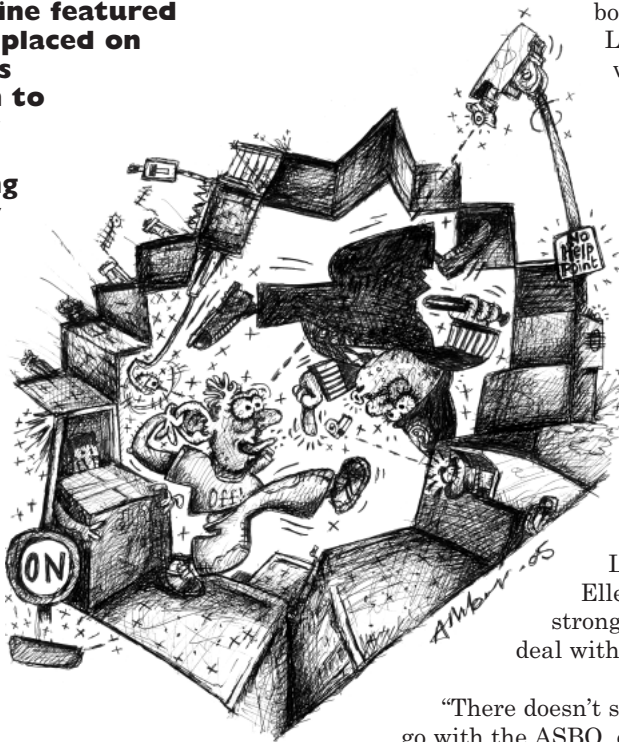
Nothing to do

I spoke personally to Dan-I Menzies who had broken his ASBO within a few weeks. He told me he thought being on an ASBO was a load of rubbish. I asked if, since he was named and shamed in *The Star*, he was receiving any help to keep occupied and out of trouble.

“No,” said Dan-I. “I don’t get any activities, I hang on the street ’til my curfew. I was walking on Nottingham Street, the police stopped me and said I’d broken my ASBO.”

“We have nothing to do anyway,” adds younger brother Levan. “When we’re outside, the centres aren’t open and when they are open, there’s still nothing there for us.”

Dan-I explained some of the activities he and others with him would like to take part in; abseiling, mountain climbing, indoor or outdoor pursuits, go-karting, paint balling, ten-pin



bowling. “Skiing on the slopes,” adds Levan. I began to see young people whose disadvantages in this life are inherent to parental and social circumstances.

These words are a reflection of what seems to be a real lack of challenging youth engagement, of effective facilitation and inducement inside the centres that are open. Without activities or supervision for young children like Dan-I and others, aren’t ASBOs just creating a short cut to a criminal record?

Lack of support?

Lorraine Blake, senior worker at the Ellesmere Youth Project also feels strongly that ASBOs aren’t the right way to deal with these problems.

“There doesn’t seem to be any form of counselling to go with the ASBO, other than going and signing in at a probation office, nothing else. It’s not being followed up with an evaluation of the recipient’s home environment. The children have no proper assistance, help or incentives to help them learn where they are going wrong.”

Serving the community

I went along to speak to the Area Team Leader of Burngreave’s Anti-social Behaviour Team, Wendy Barlow, who explained a few of the rules.

“There is no criminal record against the person with the ASBO unless the order is breached,” explained Wendy. “ASBOs are taken out under civil law, not criminal law. They can only be applied for by authorities such as the Police or Registered Social Landlords like Arches or South Yorkshire Housing Associations. There is an eleven-step process to the ASBO, it can be withdrawn at any stage. It can take 6–9 months and those seeking the order have to show proof that it is necessary.”

I enquired when a young person was placed on an ASBO, what mechanisms were in place to support them.

“One of the steps towards the ASBO is a professional meeting which would include any agency involved or who could offer support. If there is no support then some is put in place. If, on the other hand, support is already provided, a decision to proceed with the ASBO might be made.”

“The role of the ASBO team is to serve the wider community who are suffering from anti-social behaviour. We must be sure that people can enjoy the peace, quite and safety of their homes as well as the area they live. Support is not our remit, but we work with other agencies to put it in place. But Rob, this is a two-way process and you can take the horses to water but you can’t force them all to drink. Everyone has to own up to their own responsibility, regardless of age.” adds Wendy.

by Rob Smith

In trouble with the law...

Ten year old Ajay was terrified: arrested late at night on a serious allegation of assault and put in a cell, he told police he didn’t want a solicitor. His mother didn’t speak English, so I was called out to help him. It was my first time as an appropriate adult.

When someone aged under 17 is arrested, she or he can only be interviewed if an appropriate adult is present, to ensure their rights are respected and they are treated well. Usually a parent comes along, but if no parent or relative can, or won’t come, or if they are unsuitable (perhaps they are a witness), then in Sheffield the police call out a volunteer from the scheme run by SOVA (Supporting Others through Volunteer Action).

I asked Ajay if he knew what a solicitor was. “No,” he said, so I explained. The duty solicitor came, and Ajay was released without charge.

...and again

Louise, 15, had been asleep in bed when her mum phoned. She was drunk, and needed Louise to help her home. As they walked back home, a police car pulled up. “You two little girls ought to be at home in bed,” the officer said. This provoked a response from Louise which lacked politeness. Interviewed later, it was put to her that she had threatened to kick the officer in the balls. “No, I wouldn’t have said that,” answered Louise, “cause he hasn’t got any.”



Somehow all these young people turned out likeable, and easy to get on with once they realised I respected them. They trusted me. Kevin was arrested for shoplifting; why was he doing it? I wondered. Eventually I discovered he desperately wanted to talk to someone who could help him, because he was being abused by his father. Shop lifting was his bid for attention, and through the SOVA scheme I put him in touch with the help he needed.

Burngreave provides more SOVA volunteers than other areas of Sheffield. Perhaps we just like to help young people in trouble.

by Andrew Green

For more details on volunteering with SOVA, please see their advert on the top right of this page.



Sheffield Youth Justice Projects Could you be an appropriate adult?

Working in partnership with Sheffield Youth Offending Team (YOT), we are recruiting volunteers for the Appropriate Adult Scheme and the Resettlement and Aftercare Provision (RAP) Mentoring Scheme.

Appropriate Adults attend Custody Suites in Sheffield police stations to ensure the rights of vulnerable suspects are upheld. Minimum weekly commitment needed is six hours.

Mentors are required to offer support and guidance to young people who are to be resettled into the local community following a period of incarceration. Minimum weekly commitment needed is three hours.

Volunteers must be at least 18 and able to make a commitment of one year following training.

Full, accredited, training is given and expenses reimbursed.

For more information and/or an application pack please contact Darren, Guy or Tamsen on 228 8545.

Although all volunteers are checked through the Criminal Records Bureau at an enhanced level, a criminal record does not necessarily preclude involvement.

Private Landlords and Tenants The Private Rented Project Needs You!

Free information and advice
for private tenants!

Agenda

1. Disrepair problems
2. Tenancy Issues
3. Rents and Bonds
4. Anything that you would like to contribute

Come and have your say!

Wednesday 13th April 2005, 2-4pm
Verdon Recreation Centre,
Verdon Street, Burngreave.

Refreshments Available!

We continue to run the drop in session for both tenants and landlords offering free professional support and advice:

‘Drop in sessions’ every Wednesday, 2-4pm
BNDFC Shop, 131 Spital Hill

For more information tel: 273 4642 or 273 5134

‘Private Rented Project’,
Private Sector Housing,
3rd Floor, Howden House,
Sheffield S1 2SH



Local Jobs for Local People

Do you want to help the Burngreave area to be cleaner and greener?

Thanks to the agreement between Burngreave New Deal for Communities and Sheffield City Council you can help this happen.

1 Job Available Now
**Burngreave Neighbourhood
Environmental Action Team Operative**
£297.85 per week

Duties include:

- General horticulture and grounds maintenance
- Cleaning duties of streets and other sites
- Removal of fly tipping
- Operate appropriate powered hand tools

Informal enquiries:

Pete Townsend Tel. 0114 231 2422

Applicants must be 18 years of age or over.

Application forms and further details are available from the Human Resources Section, Olive Grove Depot
Tel. 0114 273 5232

Closing date: 14th April 2005



Green City Action



Is seeking to recruit a

Project Co-ordinator

for its Transforming Our Environment project

The successful candidate will have a track record of project and financial management, have a good understanding of environmental issues in Burngreave and be a proven fundraiser.

The contract is until February 2006 and is £23,000 pro rata for a 4-day week.

For further details or an information pack contact:

Green City Action

on 244 0353

or write to Abbeyfield Park House,
Abbeyfield Road
Sheffield S4 7AT

or e-mail enquiries@greencityaction.co.uk

Furnival Burngreave Community Projects

Project Administrator

£7.18–7.53/hour, 17.5 hour/week

The Furnival Project provides a range of education, training and support services for the community of Burngreave in Sheffield. We are now seeking an experienced/skilled administrator to join our established team.

The Furnival is a neighbourhood faith-based project and is committed to equal opportunities.

To request an application pack please contact Helen Platt

**Deadline for applications
18 April**

The Furnival
199 Verdon Street
Sheffield
S3 9QQ

tel: (0114) 272 7497

email: helen@thefurnival.org.uk



Pitsmoor Surgery

Full-time Admin Support Post

We are seeking an enthusiastic team player to develop this new role. Providing a full administration and reception service for the Burngreave and Pitsmoor Counselling Service you will be based at the Well Being Centre attached to Pitsmoor Surgery.

The ability to use Excel and Word is essential and three years minimum office experience including front line reception is required.

We are looking for someone with a flexible 'can do' attitude, who can deal sensitively with vulnerable people and who has strong organisational skills.

Ability to speak a community language an advantage.

Salary in the region of £13,470

depending on experience and qualifications

Initially this post is funded for 3 years

For an application form and job description please send a large SAE (inc 42p postage) to:

Menna Yarwood
Pitsmoor Surgery
151 Burngreave Road
Sheffield
S3 9DL



Closing date for applications 21st April

Young people voice concerns

Ongoing discontent from young people about youth provision has prompted us to ask funding agencies and local youth providers, what is going on for these young people.

A lot going on

New Deal told us that they have funded a lot of activities for young people, festive fun parties, DJ and dance workshops, film making, music productions and sporting activities, and the upcoming Easter Activity Extravaganza.

Sheffield Futures told us, "We deliver a range of services for young people aged 13–19, either directly or in partnership with other organisations." They listed activities at centres like All Saints, Verdon Recreation Centre, Earl Marshal, as well as outreach to Scott Road and Abbeyfield Park. "Connexions also provides personal advisers, helping young people with advice on employment and training."

It seems there are plenty of activities and one-off events, especially for under 15s with the steady support of school and parents. But is any of this enough to engage over 16 year olds, to prevent them coming into conflict with other residents, risking ASBOs and criminality?

Hanging about looking cool

Lorraine Blake, senior worker at the New Deal-funded Ellesmere Youth Project, runs detached youth work sessions around the tough Carwood and All Saints areas. "Those that have reached sixteen don't want to join in anymore," explains Lorraine. "They seem to prefer just hanging about and looking cool."

I also spoke to Michael Dennis, a family support officer funded by New Deal to work with families in Burngreave.

"There is a lot of provision, but is it the right kind of activity or is it just what we think they want? 15–18 year olds mature a lot quicker these days, we were happy with a youth club, Rob, but things have changed. We have to make sure young people aren't left behind, they need up-to-date facilities and activities."

Lorraine also recognizes the need for positive role models that encourage and show these children the right ways to live. "Nowadays kids watch drug dealers making fast money. We need alternatives reflecting a proper way of living in society."

Broken promises

Back in October 2004 the behaviour of young people in and around Abbeyfield Park was intimidating some park users and

the police were increasingly involved. The problems provoked a meeting of local residents and park tenants, bringing together Sheffield Futures, New Deal, Green City Action and other community youth providers. They set out to find a solution to the lack of provision for over 16s and the youth made the most of efforts to ensure their voices were heard.

They wanted and were promised a multiple games area for the Park's empty tennis courts. They also requested a youth shelter, a warm dry place where they could hang out and socialise. The stables building was a main suggestion, but a temporary shelter was promised.

With over six months since all those promises, nothing has happened. The temporary youth shelter and the multi games area have run into planning permission problems and the stables development stopped when the Council declared its intention, after many years of neglect, to now take full control of the regeneration of Abbeyfield Park.

What about the youth? What about keeping promises? What does that teach them? What do they learn? To be patient? Not to listen is more likely.

"We need youth clubs with provisions that suit us," said Shokit, age 19, speaking out on behalf of others. "A gym, Rob and some weekend leisure activities."



Hanging out looking cool... young people can be seen as menacing.

Faisal spoke of the need to modernise youth activities and their approach. Others spoke up about their wish to have a clubhouse that contained a widescreen TV, organised trips away, football and sports activities. "Places where we can chill out and feel is our own."

"Since New Deal came into our area we have been promised activities and not seen anything!" said Shokit. "Before they fund us they fund others. Have they got their priorities right, or are they still ignoring us?"

"The Vestry Hall or the chapel in the cemetery would be great, but like the stables, they're going to be some sort of art centre. What about us Rob? They forget about us until we're trouble." adds Shokit.

The youth also have concerns about the way local police have been handling their behaviour. "We feel targeted by police rolling round in a white transit van," continued Shokit. "One officer said 'If you don't want us rolling on you, then go and see your community leaders and get a youth centre and activities going.'"

by Rob Smith

Parkwood update

As explained in the March issue of the Messenger, Parkwood landfill site operators Viridor have applied for planning permission to dump active waste on the land they lease from the Council near the ski slope.

An exhibition to explain the proposal will be staged by the company on 5–6 April at Shirecliffe Community Centre, from 4 to 8 pm, when Viridor staff will be present to answer questions.

Viridor told the Messenger that they want to take into account what local people have to say when they finalise their plans.

Parkwood Landfill Action Group argue that although Viridor is not planning to expand the total capacity of the site, the amount of active waste that can be dumped there will be increased if the planning application succeeds.

by Andrew Green

To make a comment on planning applications you can either call the Council North West planning office on 273 4215, or email planningdc.north@sheffield.gov.uk.

The planning numbers are:
05/00956/FUL – installation of a landfill gas utilization plan.
05/00959/FUL – installation of a leachate treatment plant with a reed bed system.

Shirecliffe cable cars

The owners of the ski slope at Parkwood hope to install a cable car that will run from Upperthorpe to Shirecliffe Road. This would add an interesting new feature to the area and add to the public transport system.

The plans have a downside, according to local objectors. A proposed car park for 200 cars at the Shirecliffe Road terminal would generate more traffic in a congested area, and together with large buildings which would house the gondolas, would take over Council-owned green open space.

The top of the ski run would be raised by five metres, and trees would be cut down on the route of the cable cars.

We understand that the date for submitting formal objections has passed. If you have views about the proposal, you could let your local councillors know them.

by Andrew Green

The Forgotten Woodsiders

Having been fortunate to have resided in one of the proudly designed Italian ‘upside down’ houses on Woodside, I can now see they are gone, replaced by empty green spaces. But the last few wavy-roofed houses still stand. Some of the last residents of Woodside say these large family homes show heritage and should be saved.



© Carl Rose

Along with photographer Carl Rose, I went back to revisit the Woodside area and we could see for ourselves that the only houses left are two blocks of those large ‘wavy- roofed’ houses situated off Gray Street. On each of the blocks there are four wavy houses with visible signs that only one house on each block is occupied.

We went to the wonderfully kept wavy-roofed house that stands out beside three boarded properties. Number 8 Gray Street is owned by Nellie Ramsey who has lived there for over nineteen years, and watched the demolition of the maisonettes and other properties around her.

“I put up with all that dust. They informed me they’d knock us down three years ago and made me offers having done their own evaluation,” explained Nellie. “This offer was not satisfactory and for me Rob, it’s not all about the money. This is my home. As you can see, I’ve spent a lot of time and investment here.” Inside, the chandeliers and large black leather sofas blend in with the cocktail bar stools and ornamental décor of Nellie’s front room and open kitchen area.

“This is a big four-bedroomed family house – two inside toilets and bathroom, storage and washing room space, large living room kitchen and dining area,” explained

What’s the Woodside plan?

Woodside estate has now been almost completely cleared. No decision about what will happen to the estate has been made yet.

The Masterplan suggests options with varying mixes of new housing; flats, family housing or a ‘hillside village’ as well as improvements to the open space, new workshops along Woodside Lane and the conversion of the old Pye Bank School to high-quality flats with shops and services opposite.

The demolition was speeded up by nearly £1 million of New Deal money, as well as funding from the Council and Housing Market Renewal Fund. Joice Richards, New Deal’s Housing and Environment Theme Manager, told us the New Deal’s contribution to the demolition costs gives them a ‘stake’ in

the redevelopment of Woodside. This may mean the money is repaid if the land is sold, or land could be used to support community development. For instance the Masterplan quoted 80% private housing, 20% social, but the New Deal could use its stake to increase this percentage.

Any redevelopment would need a substantial investment, partly from the private sector and partly from public money such as the Housing Market Renewal fund. Some or all of the land may be sold to private developers. The New Deal say they hope a decision will be reached with the Council about the plans within the next six months.

The BCAF Buildings Group have been investigating other possibilities for Woodside.

Get ready for... the mile run

Running Club

All abilities welcome.

Tuesdays meet at 12 noon at the Firshill Sports & Arts Facility (Firshill School)

Warm up exercises followed by a gentle run around the beautiful Burngreave Cemetery. Showers onsite if you have to get back to work after lunch. Get ready for the Burngreave Mile Run in June.

We want to start more running clubs –possibly after school on Wednesdays

Kickboxing Club

A dynamic sport, great for stress relief and improving confidence and fitness.

Fridays 6–7pm at Verdon Recreation Centre

Male instructor/mixed classes

© Carl Rose



Ladies Soccer

Fun and friendly soccer training for all ladies aged 11+. Childcare costs are refundable.

Wednesdays 5–6pm at the Firshill Sports & Arts Facility (Firshill School)

We are working on developing an 11-a-side team to enter a league in September and need players. It doesn’t matter if you have never played football before. Come and socialise and get fit.

All Saints Soccer School

Soccer training for kids.

Mondays 4.15–5.30pm years 1–4, Wednesdays years 4–7 @ the Hallam FM United Academy on Firshill Crescent.

For more information about any of the above activities contact Burngreave Sports Network on 241 9100.

Sports Project springs into action

Girls Football Training

1700–1800, Tuesday at Pitsmoor Adventure Playground

This is a free coaching session open to girls 8–14 of all abilities with the option of playing in a girls’ football team.

Basketball

Saturdays, 0930–1100, at Fir Vale Sports Centre

Sessions are £1 and for 9–13 year olds. Separate sessions for boys and girls.

Junior Youth Club

At Verdon Recreation Centre

Tuesdays 1600–1800
Thursdays 1600–1800

For young people 8–14. Both sessions are 20p. This is a drop in session for young people with a number of different sporting activities to try.

Cricket

At Fir Vale Sports Centre

Under 13s

Wednesdays 1800–1900

Over 13s

Monday 1800–1900

Both sessions are £1 and are for young people who would like to improve their skills or just to play some fun cricket games.

Gym Sessions

At Cornerstones Surgery Gym

Women Only

Thursdays 0945–1045

Men Only

Thursdays 1100–1200

Both sessions are £1 and are open to anyone who wishes to use the gym equipment for either health reasons or just to burn a few calories.

Coming Soon

Sports Van – starts 19th April

Tuesdays, 0700–1900, at Firs Hill Sports & Arts Facility

The sports van is back for six weeks at Firs Hill Sports and Arts Facility and is equipped with lots of sports equipment for you to come and try free of charge.

Swimming – starts 11th April

Mondays, 1330–1430, at Upperthorpe Swimming Baths

Women only. Sessions running for 10 weeks. The baths are being hired out so it is a private session with female leisure attendants. To book a place please contact us, places limited.

For more information on these sessions contact the Burngreave Sports Development Project on 273 4266 or Michala Spacey on 0790 993 6381.

Sheffield and District Junior Sunday League

Results and fixtures

Date	Under 7s	Under 8s	Under 9s
5 March	—	—	6–5 Brimwood Utd <i>[home]</i>
13	0–22 Ecclesfield Red Rose <i>[away]</i>	2–2 Hoyland <i>[away]</i>	—
19–20	Crosspool Juniors <i>[home]</i>	—	2–4 Sheffield Rangers <i>[home]</i>
26–27	—	—	2–0 Sheffield Rangers <i>[away]</i>
30	—	Greenhill <i>[away]</i>	Thorncliffe Juniors <i>[away]</i>
3 April	Sheffield Wed Young Owls <i>[home]</i>	Chapelton <i>[home]</i>	Handsworth <i>[home]</i>

The BNDfC Grant Scheme

Since its launch in May of 2004, the BNDfC Grant Scheme has awarded over £400,000 to local individuals, groups and organisations working to benefit those living in the Burngreave area.

Between June of 2004 and February of 2005, the BCAT Grants Team (Tania Ferreyra and Guy Weston – pictured right) supported groups and processed over 200 applications for funding. Decisions on funding awards were made by a panel of local people at monthly panel meetings A varied and interesting range of projects were funded, a number of which include:

Pitsmoor Adventure Playground Users Group

Funding has enabled the group to put on a calendar of events throughout 2004 and 2005 for children from the BNDfC area. Events include Christmas Party, Easter Holiday Party, summer party and trip to Alton Towers, a Halloween and an Eid party...



Burngreave African Caribbean Resource Association

An ‘open day’ held at Barry’s Café allowed local residents to enjoy Caribbean food, make links and networks with other groups, and encourage information sharing and ideas.

Asian Women’s Health Group

Fun event for local Asian women to attend a theme park during the summer months.

Burngreave Sports Network

Funding awarded for various projects organised by this group. These include the ‘Burngreave Mile Run’, the very successful Petre Street Bonfire, a three-day community football tournament, and the Petre Street festival during black history month.



This page has been produced by BCAT for the BNDfC Small Grants Scheme.



Koncrete Kids Boxing Project
Funding for the purchase of a boxing ring, boxing equipment and specialist coaching for boys and girls and young adults interested in the sport...

Jamaica Society
The scheme enabled an inter-generational group of local residents to visit the permanent exhibition of the Slave Trail at the Liverpool Museum during Black History month. Local residents also linked up with the Liverpool Caribbean Centre, sharing Jamaican food and activities.

One World Dance & Music Association
BNDfC funding allowed this group to put on a programme of dance (street, jazz, ballet and Arabic) and music (saxophone, clarinet, piano) coaching and training sessions to young people from their centre in at Spital Hill.



Somali Housing Aid
Funding has supported this organisation in developing its future strategy and plan, helped with volunteer costs and trained staff members in language translation and first aid skills.

Somali Women’s Disability Scheme
A group of disabled local Somali women were able to visit Blackpool and a theme park during the summer months.

Sudanese Community Association
Basic office equipment and materials enabled this group to start to build their capacity as a community association, and allowed them to become more actively involved in the area.

Future Panel Rounds

Due to the success of the project, all funding for this year has now been awarded. Panels will resume with the arrival of new funding in April 2005. Closing dates and Panel sittings from April–July 2005 are as follows.

Closing Date for Applications	Panel Sitting	Letter informing you of outcome by
Fri 15 April	Thu 5 May	Thu 12 May
Mon 2 May	Fri 20 May	Fri 27 May
Fri 21 May	Wed 15 June	Wed 22 June
Fri 1 July	Wed 27 July	Wed 7 July

Closing Date for Applications	Panel Sitting	Letter informing you of outcome by
Fri 7 April	Thu 28 April	Thu 12 May
Fri 20 May	Wed 22 June	Wed 6 June

The BCAT Grants Team
If you have any queries relating to the scheme, would like to check closing dates for applications or just wish to discuss an project or idea which you would like funding, please contact the BCAT Grants Team by phone on (0114) 273 8578 or email smallgrants@bcatsheffield.org.uk and we will be happy to advise you.

Nellie, whose partner Andrew took Carl proudly round the property to take pictures. “The last three wavy-roofed houses are empty – the last person went last summer. There’s nothing wrong with them if they’re looked after. Those others have been allowed to deteriorate. They are big family homes that I believe show heritage. They should be fixed up and have families put back in them,” added Nellie.

“Put up ya Christmas tree the man said”

Having refused the Council’s offer made in November 2003, Nellie wrote to the council notifying them of her decision. She said, “At a meeting on 9th December 2003, Assistant Area Manager Carl Borg and colleague Graham Crowe, informed us the council weren’t pursuing the purchase of my property.”

“Put up ya Christmas tree the man said,” added Andrew, making his return.

“Yep, I was so excited I went out and bought a new kitchen,” added Nellie. “But less than a week later, on 16th December, Graham Crowe phones to say ‘Don’t put up the tree’. The Council had reneged on their decision and would be seeking to demolish the last wavy-roofed houses, including mine.”

Writing to Carl Borg in January 2004, Nellie stated the stress they were placing her under and asked for any further communication to be in writing. Having heard nothing she believed the decision to move her may have been defused – until yet another year later and a very recent phone call from a housing official.

He informed Nellie that because the Council did not have any schemes running in the area they couldn’t take out a compulsory purchase order now. “But he said by May 2005 they will have a scheme going that would let them place a compulsory purchase order, if I haven’t sold them my

property,” said Nellie. “Again none of this has been put in writing.”

Save the wavy-roofed houses

Nellie’s wavy-roofed house was bought as a freehold property that means she owns both property and the land it’s on. “There are no neighbours because those who were Council tenants were forced to move.” As a home owner, Nellie’s position is different.

“They’ve been rehousing families on Shirecliffe, in properties that still have outside toilets, Rob,” adds Nellie angrily. “These wavy houses are unique, being the only ones of that design in Sheffield and I believe they should be invested in for families.”



© Carl Rose

We asked the New Deal if they could use their £1 million ‘stake’ to help save the wavy-roofed houses but they told us they have no influence on the demolition plans as these are part of a programme agreed by the Council’s Cabinet.

by Rob Smith

Eco-homes for Woodside?

Members of Burngreave Community Action Forum’s Buildings Group paid a visit to the Hockerton Housing Project this month.



Hockerton is the UK’s first earth-sheltered, self-sufficient ecological housing development. They generate their own clean energy, harvest their own water and recycle waste materials, causing no pollution or carbon dioxide emissions.

The homes act as huge storage heaters – they take warmth into their massively insulated shell during the summer, through their beautiful south-facing glass frontages. This keeps them warm and cozy throughout the winter – and means zero heating bills!

So – can anyone think of anywhere south facing, where there’s a hill, where maybe we could have rows of zero-heating-bill, affordable eco-housing? Oh crikey! Wouldn’t Woodside be perfect!

BCAF Buildings Group are looking for ways to bring eco-homes to Burngreave – and to make it genuinely affordable. Such homes shouldn’t just be for the rich: imagine a world where a team of previously unemployed Burngreavers were given training support to build

their own eco-homes, getting a stake in its value and a new set of skills in the process.

It’s not such a crazy idea. Housing Associations are working on ‘mutual home ownership’. Maybe we could involve

organisations like this in Burngreave?

Here’s Hockerton’s website (and check out the virtual tour): <http://www.hockerton.demon.co.uk/>

The next Buildings Group meetings are 5th April and 3rd May, 6.30pm at Recycling Matters. Telephone BCAF on 272 8008 for more information.

by Dan Olner

Fighting for change

Conflict around the Masterplan has continued this month as the Burngreave Business Forum refused to endorse the Council’s consultation on the plans for Spital Hill.

At a meeting of the Business Forum on 23rd March, Sheffield City Council brought two options for a supermarket on Spital Hill. The Forum had been asked to decide whether to demolish the Ashram or the East House, to make way for the 5,000m² supermarket, but the Forum refused to endorse either option. The meeting was then asked to endorse the consultation process, but they refused.

Supermarket plan

The Forum had put forward eight possible sites for the supermarket, which Burngreave residents have regularly said is needed. The Council said only the two sites on Spital Hill were suitable for the size of supermarket required.

The Councillors requested that the planners consider a smaller supermarket and some present requested more consultation. The Council agreed to take back the concerns raised and look again at the proposals and consider further consultation.

Talking to businesses

When the *Messenger* asked the Council if further consultation would take place, David Shepherd told us:

“Tuesday night’s meeting wasn’t representative of the overall feeling of businesses. We have done extensive consultation on the Masterplan

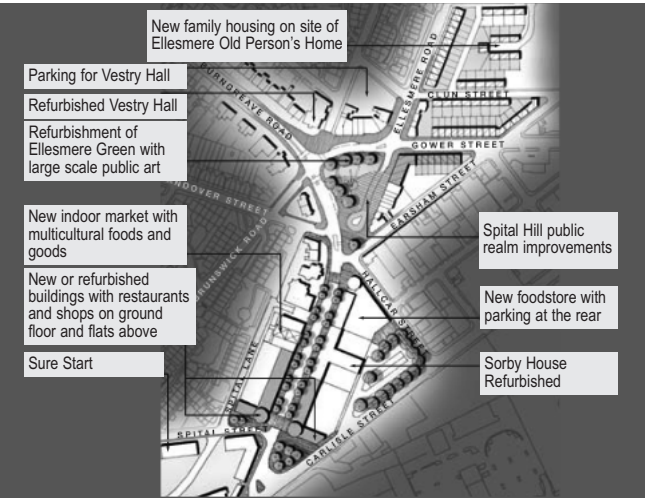
particularly in Fir Vale and Spital Hill. We have conducted individual interviews with businesses based in Spital Hill, Catherine Street, and Kilton Hill to assess their views and needs. There will be a further technical appraisal of the supermarket location.”

The Council discussions with traders have been about the proposals to redevelop Spital Hill, this includes possible demolition and redevelopment of most buildings in the next ten years. The Council told us that of the 60 businesses they spoke to, 20 agreed with the proposals in principle and 13 agreed depending on acceptable relocation packages. The figures also showed that 25 businesses thought a supermarket would have a negative effect on existing traders.

Are the Council listening?

A member of Spital Hill Local Voice has been demanding the results of Masterplan consultation around Spital Hill for months and has had to use the *Freedom of Information Act* to get them. He discovered that in the three phases of the consultation, which have taken place over the last year, the Council have received only 265 responses from residents.

In the second phase, residents were asked to chose between options. The leading choice, with just 35 votes, was option three which had new buildings on both sides of Spital Hill leaving only Sorby House to be refurbished, and a



Council’s Spital Hill Masterplan – November 2004.

food store is on the site of the Ashram.

This third option was taken forward to the final phase of consultation which began in November 2004, the Council has received 117 responses so far. In comparison Spital Hill Local Voice recorded over 800 signatures of local residents who were against the ‘wholesale demolition’ of Spital Hill.

“At no time have we proposed the wholesale demolition of Spital Hill,” the Council’s David Shepherd told us. “We understand people’s concerns and the petition has been fed into the consultation process, however we must focus on working through the groups already set up in the area to represent residents.”

Spital Hill Local Voice are still campaigning for ‘proper’ consultation to take place. The group argue that Burngreave residents have not been given the opportunity to express what they really want.

The Council told us the Masterplan will be going to the Cabinet, who will make the final decisions, on 11th May.

by Lisa Swift

The Good, the BAD and the Messenger

In celebration of the 50th issue of the Messenger this article takes a look at the paper’s origins. People new to Burngreave might imagine the Messenger has always been funded by New Deal; but it was in late 1998, well over a year before New Deal was announced, that two Community Development Workers arranged a meeting of what was to become the crew which got the first two editions of the Burngreave Messenger to the press and to our doors.

Burngreave of the late 1990s renowned for the number of committed activists whose involvement in community initiatives was inspired by a range of convictions. From 1995 through to late 1998 a local news sheet, *BAD News* (Burngreave Action and Development) by Doug Johnson, was produced with the support of the Arches Housing Association. It ran for eight or so issues but eventually folded due to organisational pressures. It was crucial the Messenger didn’t meet the same fate.

Finding funds

The idea of creating a local newspaper “...emerged at the same time as BCAF, in its original locally inspired form, when we had a community work team at Abbeyfield House supported by the Council” said Drew Dallen. Tony Tingle and Pete Lyons, the Community Development Workers based in Abbeyfield Park House, were not central to the actual organisation of the early issues. “We were able to take a back seat,” said Tony, but they managed to facilitate funding from the Sheffield Community Enterprise Development Unit (SCEDU) for a feasibility study, and from Community Health Sheffield (through Gary McCulloch) that underwrote the first two editions.

Communication and commitment

The first meeting, like the following ones, took place in Abbeyfield Park House in the Credit Union office. It was attended by Drew Dallen, Saleema Imam, Aisha Special K and Mike Bentley. They also discussed, with Matloub Husayn Ali Khan, the setting up of a local radio station – an initiative later resulting in BCR (Burngreave Community Radio). Nobody has yet claimed credit for the name ‘The Messenger’ (although rumour has it that Special K mooted it first) but what is remarkable is how successful they were in setting the style for the Messenger over the following years. “They record the spirit of those moments,” said Drew of the first two issues. It is a credit to the hard work and dedication of the original volunteers that they established a model of community commitment and editorial independence – the spirit of which has lasted through to the current day.

“We wanted to improve communication in the area so that people could know about and take advantage of opportunities,” said Special K. “We wanted to make a difference. We wanted a vehicle for something to happen and to put people in touch with each other” agreed Mike Bentley. Importantly what this



group also wanted for the future of the Messenger was editorial independence. According to Mike the first editions were ad hoc affairs with every decision made by consensus, a point re-enforced by Special K who said “there was no editor just an editorial group”. No-one was paid and the copy came in from a variety of sources wished to support the initiative. People like Rob Smith – already an influential force in these early editions.

Don’t forget Anthony

Burngreave’s image within Sheffield and a perceived negative attitude towards the area was a driving force behind the cohesion of the group. The case of an 18-year-old college student who on the evening of 7 April 1999, was knocked off his bicycle and run over by a police car near Catherine Street in Burngreave was a rallying point for activists and residents.

“Anthony Green became big news because of the attitude of the police towards all in Pitsmoor and the bias of The Star. Such was the timing of that injustice that we had a good story to champion for the first issue,” said Drew. The story of Anthony led on the front page of the first issue and set the standard for the campaigning of the Messenger.

Hard work

The organisational pressures of the first edition alone were intense and carrying such professionalism through to the second edition proved even more onerous. The editorial group used facilities offered by a print workshop at the Montenevy Community Workshop in Parson Cross where they learned about layout, “We made the plates to print the sheets ourselves. The paper was built on commitment and dedication,” said Special K.

But the pressures were intense, “Herculean demands of a monthly edition and all the demands of setting up the routines, infrastructure, philosophy and management plans and reports, researching, writing, printing and delivery required for the funding,” said Drew. It was thus perhaps an appropriate conclusion to this remarkable episode that New Deal was announced and elected to draw on the success of the Messenger to promote its message across the community.

50 not out

“One of our aims was always sustainability, that we could go on if funding was withdrawn” said Special. The paper’s place in the community of Burngreave will be the base of this, the Messenger was always meant to be a community paper and as Drew said “It is crucial to the overall success of our community that people know what was being done and why”.

The Messenger has reached its 50th issue. Congratulations to the original team and congratulations to those whose dedication, organisation and commitment have carried the paper forward from those early days. This article may not be about you but the continued success of the Messenger is!

by Tim Neal



contact: 276 9134

Burngreave Area Panel

A blizzard of public meetings – and no election in sight

Over a month ago now was the night of the last Area Panel meeting. It was the 'day of the snow', and the meeting was cancelled. Marilyn spent all afternoon on the phone and as 6.30pm came, there weren't crowds of people trying to get into Pitsmoor Methodist. Two people fought their way through and I think they deserve a mention. Laila (from Owlter Brook School) came on the 76 from High Green; and Robin (from South Yorkshire Forest) came armed with his pamphlets on using renewable fuel – willows to you and me – as a contribution to a sustainable Burngreave. Laila and Robin will be 'guests of honour' at the re-arranged environment meeting (see below).

The next Area Panel meeting is looking at **Parkwood Landfill** site. The operators Viridor have submitted plans to increase the capacity of the site to handle waste, but also to shorten the time Parkwood will be a landfill site. Viridor (Dan Cooke)

will be using the meeting to explain why. The councillors have also asked the Director of Public Health (Jeremy Wight) to bring us up to date with what the local NHS have done in tracing if there are any links between the site, and illness and chronic conditions in the local communities. We're hosting this jointly with Southey and Owlerton Panel – **Tuesday 12th April at 6.30pm at Shirecliffe Community Centre** on Shirecliffe Road (near Busk Meadows school).

The following week the meeting will be about the **Masterplanning** process, which includes plans for Spital Hill, Woodside, Catherine Street, Owlter Lane, Skinnerthorpe and Page Hall. You've been living with this for over twelve months now – exhibitions, door to door interviews, consultants, big angry meetings and smaller gatherings. The City Council's Cabinet are being asked in mid-May to back plans that will go to the government for approval. The Panel councillors have insisted that before that, local residents will have the chance to hear what is being proposed. So that's on **Sunday 17th April at 12 noon at Fir Vale School**.

We've re-arranged the Area Panel meeting on **environmental improvements** – especially the



Award winner, Christine Steers: For organising activities such as guided walks around Burngreave Cemetery.

parks, bits and pieces of open land, woods and ponds – for **Thursday 28th April at 6.30pm at Pitsmoor Methodist**. And there's three local projects and people to receive environmental awards, John Lawson and Helen Warburton of the Greenfingers project, Christine Steers of Friends of Burngreave Cemetery and Chapel, and Friends of Abbeyfield Park.

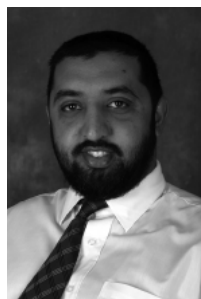
The bulldozers are out behind the hoardings at Nursery Street preparing the site for the **inner ring road** from Shalesmoor to the Wicker. Gibraltar Street is now one way for over a year. Two years plus of construction work lie ahead. How will it affect our area? One way of finding out is that local groups and schools are being invited to have organised visits to see the work at first hand – and talk to the workers involved. Give them a ring at the site office on 289 4480.



Award winner, Friends of Abbeyfield Park: For activities such as the One World Tree Day.

Councillor's Surgery Dates

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



- 7 April, 6.00–7.00pm, Shirecliffe Community Centre (Jackie Drayton)

- 9 April, 11.00am–12.00 noon, Burngreave Library (Steve Jones)
- 9 April, 12.15–1.00pm, Firshill TARA (Steve Jones)
- 12 April, 5.30–6.00pm, Wensley TARA (Ibrar Hussain)
- 21 April, 12.30–1.30pm, Firvale Forum (Jackie Drayton)
- 23 April, 11.00am–12.00 noon, Burngreave Library (Steve Jones)
- 5 May, 6.00–7.00pm, Shirecliffe Community Centre (Ibrar Hussain)

Next Area Panel Meeting Date

- Tuesday 12th April, 6.30pm at Shirecliffe Community Centre.

Don't forget you can contact the Area Panel and Burngreave Area Action Team at: 12–14 Burngreave Road, S3 9DD. Tel/Fax: 276 9134 Email: burngreave@btconnect.com.

Are you being heard?

The recent Household Survey showed people feel we're starting to see real changes and that our area is becoming a better place to live in. Despite that arguments continue about how we are represented. Here the Messenger brings you a guide to some of main organisations that represent and work for the Burngreave Community.

Burngreave Community Action Forum

BCAF is a community-run organisation which represents Burngreave residents and organisations. Many local organisations are affiliated to BCAF and they run 'Working Groups' which seek action on issues like 'Health' and 'Children and Young people'. They run quarterly Forum meetings which attract 70–100 residents and hears reports from projects and debates, problems and solutions in the area. They are run by a Co-ordinating Committee, chosen at their AGM. To get involved with BCAF you can attend the Forum meetings, or contact the BCAT office on 272 8008.

Sheffield City Council and Burngreave Area Panel

Many services in the area, environmental maintenance, schools, housing etc as well as schemes like the Masterplan are run by the Council. The Council is funded by taxation and run by elected councillors. More and more the Council's local work is influenced by the Area Panel who have funds for their own work and to support local organisations. You can raise issues with the Area Co-ordinator, attend the Area Panel meetings or your Councillor's surgeries (see page 16). Most residents over 18-years-old can register and vote for the councillors in local elections.

Of course these are only a few of the groups active in the area. Firvale has recently set up its own forum, similar to BCAF and there are a range of Tenants' and Residents' Associations and other groups representing parts of the community. Other services often have ways the public can be involved.

Burngreave Community Action Trust

BCAT is a large charity that belongs to nearly 100 community members. It is run by a Board of Trustees chosen at their AGM. They employ all the staff and run the office on Burngreave Road. They run projects for New Deal and other funders, including the New Deal Grant Scheme (see page 18). They have a close relationship with BCAF through the Co-ordinating Committee, but are a separate organisation. To join the BCAT membership or to find out more contact their office on 272 8008.

Burngreave New Deal for Communities

The New Deal is a regeneration programme. Central Government are providing £50 million over 10 years, aimed at 4,000 households in Burngreave. We are now in Year 5. New Deal is directed by a Partnership Board made up of Community, Statutory and Voluntary Sector Representatives and is run by the staff team under Chief Executive John Clark. The ten Community Reps are elected from all adults over 15 years in the New Deal area. Residents can attend Theme Groups, the Information Shop, the Community Reps' surgeries or the six-monthly public meetings. The Partnership Board have also set up a Limited Company so they can run their own projects. See pages 14 and 15 for details of the upcoming New Deal elections and how to get involved.

Forum row

This month Kevin Hartney, the new Chair of the Burngreave Community Action Forum (BCAF) used his first address to a Quarterly Forum to make a scathing attack on New Deal, saying it had marginalised BCAF and is undermining its work. Kevin claimed the Forum had a direct link to the community, giving credibility and legitimacy to its decisions, but that New Deal's accountability was 'insubstantial'.

During a heated debate the claims were strongly denied by John Clark, New Deal Chief Exec, who said, "New Deal does substantial work to consult with the community. We distribute information to every house, publish it in libraries and run the Information Shop and Theme Group meetings. The New Deal Community Reps are elected by the whole community and put in many voluntary hours making themselves available at their surgeries and public meetings."

New Deal's elections are being held in July and you can register to vote now (see pages 18–19). The record breaking 52% turnout in the 2001 New Deal Election slumped to 23% in 2003 and this year's turnout will be closely watched.

BCAT AGM

After the resignations surrounding last year's BCAT AGM (see Messenger 38) this year's was another tense meeting. In her report to the meeting Chair Lynda Kenyon joined the criticism of 'those who hold the purse strings', saying they didn't appreciate BCAT's work. Lynda's chairmanship was challenged but she was re-elected. The Messenger has received a letter complaining about behaviour of BCAT members at the meeting, but the accusations have been flatly denied. As the Trust runs its own complaints procedure, we don't feel it's right to print details at this time.

by Mark Lankshear

Asylum seekers

Little attention is paid to the difficulties asylum seekers and refugees face. While the national news media are quick to criticise and demonise asylum seekers, their views, the problems they encounter and how they are treated are often ignored.

There are many destitute Iraqi asylum seekers in Burngreave who have been refused refugee status but cannot leave as the government states there is no safe route back to Iraq. They cannot work or claim benefits. Unsurprisingly, this can lead to health problems such as depression, and even self harm. Organisations such as ASSIST (Asylum Seekers Support Initiative) exist to help but negative attitudes from the public make it difficult.

A Community Welcome?

Despite fleeing persecution, asylum seekers and refugees are often tormented here too. The Messenger sought to speak people who had settled in Burngreave and were facing difficulties, but many are afraid to talk for fear of the repercussions. River Wolton, from the Women's Conversation Club and a volunteer at the Northern Refugee Centre told me: "Within Burngreave some asylum seekers and refugees are already living with daily harassment and abuse, so there is an understandable reluctance to have media exposure."

Support organisations that work with asylum seekers and refugees suggested the hostility towards them is due to a lack of awareness and information in host communities. Barry Brown, Community Initiative Officer at the Refugee Housing Association said: "You will have people whose mind you can't change. But for me, information is the key. I feel if people understand the plights of destitute asylum seekers, they tend to approach them differently."

He continues: "It comes down to preparing the host community: letting people know the bad experiences asylum seekers have had that cause them to come here. We also need to encourage sympathetic members of the host community to speak up. This work is being done at the moment but the stigma that's attached by the media to asylum seekers and refugees has made it difficult."

It's also important to note the benefits asylum seekers and refugees bring to our community. However, we shouldn't be discussing them in terms of costs and benefits. With immigration such a key focus in the election campaign we should concentrate on dispelling myths and encouraging integration. Burngreave is a tight-knit community and we need to preserve tolerance and encourage a welcoming spirit.

by Kate Atkinson

Useful numbers and websites

ASSIST: PO Box No 2078, Sheffield S2 4YQ
Refugee Housing Association: 267 5250
Women's Conversation Centre: 275 0731
Counselling and Interpretation, Burngreave Ethnic Network (BEN): 272 4472/4447/4448
Refugee Council: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/>
Information Centre about Asylum Seekers and Refugees: http://www.icar.org.uk/res/map/regions/eng_n_yh/sheff/index.html

Advice Centres in Burngreave

Burngreave New Deal are supporting a group of Advice Centres in the Burngreave area to give advice and information on a wide range of subjects including: Welfare rights, Housing, Debt, Employment, Immigration, etc.



Pitsmoor Citizens Advice Bureau

30 Spital Hill, Sheffield S4 7LG
Tel: 0114 275 5376
Fax: 0114 276 9454
Email: pitsmoorcab@yahoo.co.uk

African Caribbean Community:
Howard Golding at 30 Spital Hill
on Tuesdays 12:00 noon-3:00pm
Somali Community:
Sahra Abdi at Burngreave Library
on Mondays 9:30am-12:30pm
MAMAS on Spital Hill on Thursdays 12:30-2:30pm



Northern Refugee Centre

30 Spital Hill, Sheffield S3
Tel: 0114 241 2780
Call in: Monday or Friday
10:00am-1:00pm or telephone 275 5376
for an appointment
At Sheffield Advice Link (SAL)
The Gallery, Castle Market, Sheffield S1 2AJ
Drop in service:
Tuesday or Thursday 10:00am-12:00 noon



Yemeni Welfare and Advice Centre

43 Attercliffe Common, Sheffield S9 2AE
Tel: 0114 261 5164
Fax: 0114 261 5164
Email: advicecentre@yetc.co.uk
Arabic speaking community
43 Attercliffe Common
Drop in or telephone for an appointment
Monday-Friday 9:30am-1:00pm



Pakistani Advice Centre

58 Owler Lane, Sheffield S9 2AE
Tel: 0114 261 9130
Fax: 0114 242 3634
Email: pacfirvale@aol.com
Burngreave Library
Monday 9:30am-12:30pm
58 Owler Lane
Monday 1:00-3:00pm
Tuesday & Wednesday 10:00am-3:00pm



A New Deal for Burngreave

elections set for July

Why not find out more about standing for election as one of ten community representatives on the BNDfC Partnership Board.

All resident board election candidates need to be supported by at least four nominations from Burngreave residents. Nomination forms will be distributed to every household by 25 April.

Four information sessions where you can find out more about what becoming a board member really means will be held at various locations around Burngreave (see timetable below).

How to register to vote

Everyone who lives in the BNDfC area is entitled to vote including those without residency status from the Home Office, those who have recently moved to the area, and residents aged over 15.

In order to vote, your name must be on the New Deal election register. Closing date is Monday 13 June so don't miss out – make sure you are registered to vote to make your mark on Burngreave.

If you are already registered to vote in local and national elections, you will automatically

be on the BNDfC electoral register unless you've opted out of the public register.

If you are not sure if you are on the register, complete the form which will be distributed to your home during April and return it to the information shop on Spital Hill or post freepost to **FREEPOST BNDfC**. Do not write anything else on the envelope.

The information supplied for the electoral register will be treated as confidential.

How to vote

There will be a three-week window in which to post your vote, plus an additional opportunity to vote in person at the polling station at the Abbeyfield Multicultural Festival on 10 July.



Election timetable

The countdown to five new community reps being elected on July 11 starts now.

Sun 3 April – Electoral register opens.

Mon 11 April – Electoral registration forms.

Mon 25 April – Nomination forms for candidates distributed to every house in BNDfC area.

Information sessions for anyone interested in becoming a candidate, or finding out about the elections:

Thu 28 April, 12 noon-2pm, Verdon Recreation Centre

Thu 5 May, 6-8pm, Firshill School

Mon 9 May, 6-8pm, Pitsmoor Methodist Church

Tue 10 May, 12 noon-2pm, Information vehicle on Gower Street car park

Mon 16 May – Final date for return of nominations for candidates.

Mon 13 June – Electoral register closes.

Mon 20 June – Ballot papers distributed.

Mon 20 June-Wed 29 June Election hustings (details TBC). The candidates chance to put over their personal messages and to convince voters that they are the right people for the job.

Sun 10 July – Polling station at Abbeyfield Festival.

Mon 11 July – Closing date for return of ballot papers by post.

Mon 11 July – Announcement of election results.



BNDfC Elections

Theme Meetings

Everyone is welcome at the following theme meetings:

Employment & Enterprise: 6 April & 4 May, Ellesmere Children's Centre, 1.30-3.30pm

Health: 4 April & 9 May, St Peter's Church Hall, Lyons Street, 5.30-7.30pm

Over-arching: 12 April, The Furnival, Verdon Street, 6-8pm

Education: 13 April, St Peter's Church Hall, Lyons Street, 6-8pm

Crime: 19 April, Pitsmoor Methodist Church, 6-8pm

Environment: 28 April, Pitsmoor Methodist Church, 6-8pm

Housing: 12 May, BCAT meeting room, 6-8pm

Burngreave New Deal

Burngreave New Deal for Communities has now announced the timetable for the 2005 elections for residents to become community and voluntary sector representatives on the BNDfC partnership board. Here, we take a look at what the process will be, why it is important and how you can make a difference to our community by getting involved through voting or becoming a board member. Don't miss your chance to have your say - make your mark on Burngreave.

Proposals approved

A number of changes to the election process were proposed by BNDfC and explained in the last edition of the Messenger.

To confirm, there places for ten community representatives on the BNDfC board – from the 2005 election they will be elected to carry out a four-year term. Open elections for resident board members will continue every two years but only half of the ten places allocated for residents will be contested each election to ensure continuity and stability on the board.

In order to increase the geographical diversity of resident board members, we will promote the elections equally in all areas within the BNDfC patch.

We intend to create two additional places for young people aged 16 to 25 years, selected by the proposed youth council once up and running.

Please see the election update column for confirmation of other changes.

How to become a board member

Do you live in the Burngreave New Deal area?

Would you like to make things better for your local community?

Do you have ideas about the changes you'd like to see – and the time and energy to help make those changes happen?

Tony's best bits



Tony Hall has spent the last two years as a community representative on the BNDfC board - for him it has been a very varied and rewarding time. Here tells us what he enjoys the most about being involved and why it is all so worthwhile:

- 1 Working closely with all the statutory agencies really counts and makes a difference. To have a voice and input into what they do is very beneficial.
- 2 Being part of setting up different projects – to see them start from nothing and then blossom so the people of Burngreave really profit from them is great.
- 3 Just being part of it – meeting all the different cultures has given me a true insight into our community. It's been an excellent learning curve.
- 4 Travelling extensively to other NDCs and seeing the different NDC models across the country. This has allowed me to bring back new ideas and good practice to Burngreave and implement them.

And what is Tony's message to anyone who is interested in becoming a board member – “Go for it,” he says. “Try and get involved straight away, accept any training offered and enjoy it!”

Election Update

Expenses

Are you aware that all costs incurred when being a board member are reimbursed? Childcare and transport are also offered if you need it so you can attend meetings and events.

Induction

New for this election – resident board members will undertake a three-month induction period before taking up their position. This will include a comprehensive training programme and shadowing existing board members.

Development

Giving board members the chance to develop themselves is also a new focus for BNDfC.

A plan to improve skills and knowledge, including the use of personal learning plans, is currently being developed. On offer will be more support through formalised and individual learning and development programmes. This training will be funded and related to board members roles.

Getting the Investors in People standard will also provide BNDfC with a framework to ensure all staff and board members have the right skills, knowledge and motivation to perform efficiently.

Did you know...

- You can vote in the BNDfC community reps elections if you are aged 15 and above.
- You can meet existing community reps on the last Saturday of every month, 11.30am–1.30pm at the information shop on Spital Hill.

Behind the scenes at the museum...



© Carl Rose

This month sees the beginning of a new course for Burngreave residents offering the chance to develop the skills needed to investigate the living history of the area. To find out more about the course and what it's like to work in a museum I met Kim Streets, Burngreave resident and Curator of Social History at Weston Park Museum.

For Kim it all started with an interest in history. “I was always fascinated by history, especially those stories from people whose voices aren't often heard. After doing a degree in history, I volunteered at Kelham Island Museum for a year and then got a job as a documentation assistant for Lincolnshire Museums. I came back to Sheffield as an assistant curator in 1991.”

So what does a curator actually do? “Most of my work involves looking after the museum's social history collection. I receive donations, document and record them, gather information about who used them and when, and finally use the objects and stories in new displays and exhibitions. Most of these objects are not rare or valuable but what matters are the stories they can tell us about the people who owned them. This is what's so exciting about the job! People's histories are so diverse, sometimes they can be peculiar – like the bed that one man from Wincobank kept because an incendiary bomb had landed in the middle of it – sometimes they can be very moving, but they're always fascinating.”

As an originator of the Burngreave Voices project, Kim is passionate about finding ways to tell the stories of people

living in Burngreave. “Once I got to know the collection, I realised what was missing were the stories of people from this area. Maybe it's because people don't feel they have anything important to say or contribute, but in fact they do: everyone has a story to tell!”

And what about the new course? “One of the reasons for running this course is to bring to light some of the hidden histories of Burngreave residents and to recognise their contribution to the life of the city past and present. Students will learn the skills needed to interview people, so, in effect, they'll be doing their own first-hand research. This could involve talking to their family members, or thinking about their own experiences. It will emphasise skills such as listening, reading and using the internet, but will also teach students how to record an interview as well as some basic photography techniques. The opportunity for work experience will also help to make it all real for the students, so that they get a chance to see for themselves what goes on in a museum, gallery or library.”

And the final word from Kim: “Working in a museum is such a fantastic thing to do! I love my job and feel it's a real privilege to be in receipt of so much family history.”

by Nikky Wilson

Burngreave Voices and Sheffield College: Our Stories Celebrated **Creating a History of Burngreave**

A new course to

- Investigate the history of the area
- Record stories of local residents
- Gain work experience and develop study skills

**A free 12-week course:
Tuesdays, 9.30am–3.00pm**

at the Graves Art Gallery and Millennium Galleries
starting **Tuesday 12th April 2005**

Childcare and travel costs will be reimbursed.

For more information call Nikky Wilson from Burngreave Voices on 0114 276 1900 or Sue Varley from Sheffield College on 0114 260 2582.

What a choice!

International Women's Day came early in Burngreave this year with an event on the 7th (not the 8th which is traditionally the day).

But nevertheless a great day was enjoyed by all those women who came along to the Spectrum Centre that morning. And what a choice of activities awaited them: be pampered or be creative... or do both! There were lots of stalls and practical activities such as painting, creative writing, carpentry, African drumming, willow weaving, flower arranging and Arabic calligraphy. In addition women could have a free massage, or henna-painted hands or a session with a hair and beauty expert. Lunch was accompanied by singing from the Sadacca Women's Group and Sure Start organised the crèche. Altogether a highly sociable and entertaining day for Burngreave women, with over 300 people turning up.



ABORT COMEDY presents

WONKY BEAUTY

ABORT comedy, Sheffield's resident comedy theatre company, bring to your doorstep their new show for people to laugh at.

APRIL 15th
S6: Upperthorpe Healthy Living Centre
(www.uhlc.org.uk)

APRIL 16th
S3: Verdon Street Recreation Centre
(www.sheffield.gov.uk)

TICKETS ON THE DOOR £3 & £2 (concs)
SHOW STARTS AT 7.30pm and lasts one hour

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Contact ABORT comedy on: 0114 2754206 OR email abortcomedy@yahoo.co.uk

What's so funny about living in Burngreave?

If you are one half of Sheffield's only comic theatre duo – ABORT comedy, then possibly, quite a lot.

Burngreave-based writer and performer – Stewart Lodge, talks to the other member of ABORT comedy – Steven Loader, about making a funny show for people to laugh at.

Steve: Why bring a comical theatre show to Burngreave?

Stew: Because we like performing outside the city centre, finding new venues and new audiences and adding to the growing social spectrum of a community.

Steve: Good answer.

Chapel cinema show saved

We thought we had planned for every possible situation, only to discover with less than a week to go that our cinema screening venue was unsafe. That was the beginning of what ended up with over 200 people attending a visually and



Both © Christine Steers

acoustically amazing ensemble of screenings, supported by a live performance from Sundaze, and an array of moving images from both Burngreave- and Yorkshire-based filmmakers.

The venue, Burngreave's Cemetery Chapel was being surveyed ready for a bid for money to renovate it. But the survey declared the spire to be dangerous and banned entry. Frantic phone calls to Bereavement Services, resulted in some concern about the £3,000 needed to fix the problem. Christine Steers, of Friends of Burngreave Cemetery and Chapel, was despairing until "I heard a rumble on Burngreave Road and when I looked out the window there was a massive crane that had arrived to access the spire." It's Thursday, the day before the event, several men are up the big crane with a blacksmith considering the options to make the spire safe. The blacksmith has to nip back to his workshop to fashion a custom-made part. Before we know it, it is 4pm and it all fixed.

Friday morning, we set about cleaning the chapel and setting up. From 6.30pm

Stew: Thank you. Next question.

Steve: So, the new show is called *Wonky Beauty* – what's it about

Stew: It's about looking for beauty in the smaller things around us, in the details. We've been thinking about how some parts of a city are considered beautiful and some are not.

Steve: It's the same with people though isn't it? Some people are said to be more beautiful than others. And things, objects etc.

Stew: Yes, but things don't have to be perfect to be beautiful.

Steve: And our show isn't perfect is it?

Stew: No. But it is funny and in a funny way might be very beautiful.

Steve: Oh very good.

Stew: Thank you.



© Carl Rose



people start to arrive, including a bus load of delegates from all parts of Europe (on a regeneration/cultural exchange prearranged with Spat-C). Before we know it the evening has ended, thanks to all who supported this event especially Cassie Limb and the heroic efforts of Bereavement Services and the blacksmith.

by Jennifer Booth
Cinema feasibility co-ordinator

Sure Start opening

The Lord Mayor of Sheffield came to Page Hall in March for the Grand Opening of the new SELCO (Sure Start Early Learning Centre Owler Brook) building at Owler Brook School.

The new building, on Wensley Street, had already been up and running for a couple of weeks before the Grand Opening Ceremony on Friday 11th March, attended by around 50 local parents and children, along with representatives from local community organisations.

There was a slight hiccup at the opening ceremony itself as the Lord Mayor, Councillor Michael Pye, didn't have anything to cut the ribbon with, until Owlerbrook headmistress Sue Graville came to the rescue with a pair of scissors!



The SELCO building is the new home of Sure Start's Early Years team, who have moved from their office at Verdon Street. The new building also houses a purpose-built crèche facility and training room. Those present at the Grand Opening were given a guided tour of the building and enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch with an enormous selection of food from five different cultures – Arabic, English, Indian, Pakistani and Somali. Sure Start's mascot, Cedric the Dragon, also made a brief appearance to entertain the children!

Lesley Green, Chair of the school governors, described the addition to the school buildings as "Making a lot of sense," adding that "It will really help to strengthen our community".

by Daryl Gowlett



Hip Hip!

After a crazy start with excited parents chasing after one another and familiar requests for children to move their cars, the first Burngreave Young People's Award Ceremony began.

Awards were presented to hundreds of us, from early primary to the end of secondary school, for sports achievement,



excellent behaviour, and much more. But it was clear that we were all there for one purpose: to celebrate the hard work and success of the young people in our area. These efforts are definitely worth recognition because as MC Nigel said as he welcomed us all, "these kids have worked super hard".

The presentation was accompanied by a play produced by the Yemeni Study Support Project, 'Don't take drugs', and a freestyle break dance performance by Street Vibes and Spectrum Crew, part of the Burngreave Problem Busters project. Both were wonderful and the performers worked hard to help make the night a success.



After the entertainment we were called up group by group to receive our awards. Every young person was applauded as they collected their certificates (and of course their book tokens!) and as a result of the sheer numbers of people we all ended the evening with raw hands from our enthusiasm.

Everyone I spoke to enjoyed the evening and felt that it was great to come together to celebrate these achievements. "It was a fantastic evening," an old teacher of mine told me, "Nice to see so many different cultures supporting our children and hopefully, we can keep moving forward!"

by Ceilidh Hammill

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