

Good times...

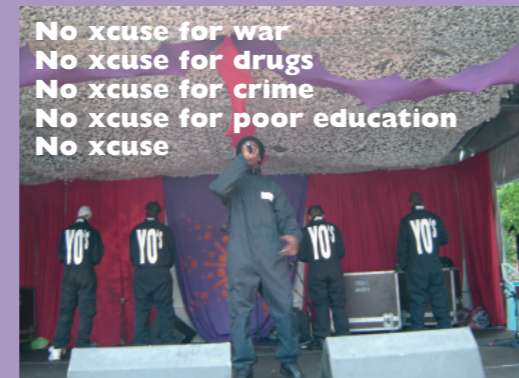


It's all good.
- Smalls, Crabtree
I like it me.
- Shaun, Manor

Brilliant, happy, lots of activities representative of everyone, everywhere should be like this.
Especially after the bombing in London, it's so appropriate.
- Francis, Firhill Crescent



No Xcuse



No Xcuse kicked up a storm during their mid-afternoon Abbeyfield set, delivering 40 minutes of quality live hip hop, including their forthcoming 'boy meets girl' single – *Beautiful Thing*. The group formed back in 1996 when 'man on a mission' Marcus Dailey scouted for best singers, MCs, writers and producers to make music with a message. No Xcuse also incorporate The Young Offenders, brought together in 2003 by Lewis Trotman, who performed their new single *Get mad*.

The crew, who all know each other through school, talent shows and the Firth Park MC scene were quick to emphasise the force that underpins their music, "We want our music to carry a positive message, to show that rap is about more than just violence and guns".

No Xcuse will also be performing at 3DOM Festival at Devonshire Green and Grapefest. Their website: www.noxcuse.co.uk/.

Issue 53 Free to everyone in Burngreave August 2005

Burngreave Messenger



Voice of the Burngreave Community

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

Great day... over too soon

Bitter disappointment followed the early closure of this year's Abbeyfield Multicultural Festival following what police described as a 'suspicious incident'. Green City Action (GCA) later confirmed it was a bomb scare, with more than one warning being received.

It was shaping up to be a superb day but after less than three hours the code words that nobody wanted to hear were passed round the staff and stewards, "Tony Blair is in the park", signalling a security alert and the park's immediate evacuation.

Garry Smith of GCA said: "I'm gutted. But to look on the positive side, we had thousands of people here having a great time. The Police have complemented us on our evacuation procedure and we're really proud of the way people behaved when it happened, everyone left in a really calm way."

Nothing was found in the park after a police search. But by then police had already announced to the waiting crowds outside:

"The party is over, the festival has finished. It will not be reopened."



Both © Carl Rose

The return of the bowlers



After two years of dereliction, the Messenger is delighted to report, that, during the festival, the newly-refurbished bowling green was officially opened by Abbeyfield Bowler Winnie Bentley and Lord Mayor Roger Davison.

Winnie and the Friends of Abbeyfield Park have battled for years to get the green resurfaced. Stanley Tew from the men's team said they were looking forward to playing in the park next season. The refurbishment was paid for by the Burngreave Green Environment Programme. The *Messenger* wishes the bowling teams good luck on their new green. If you would like to join the ladies' or men's teams please contact Winnie on 276 1575.



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Burngreave **Messenger** Abbeyfield Park House, Abbeyfield Rd, Pitsmoor, Sheffield, S4 7AT. Tel. 0114 2420564 email: messenger@burngreave.net

Before all that...



There was a very interesting mix of food and different varieties of music. I've had a really good start to my day I hope it carries on being good.
- Morgan age 15



It's the first time I've been. I'm keen to see Zion Train, it's nice to come over to this side of town. - Jim, Walkley



Festival photography by Camille Daughma, Carl Rose and Reuben Vincent
Festival reporting by Rose Almond, James Heath, Mark Lankshear and Gaby Spinks

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Greenfingers

Greenfingers Mental Health gardening group is looking for volunteers.

We have a large allotment site in Grimesthorpe and run groups Monday to Thursday with the occasional trip thrown in.

We are seeking people from all walks of life who have an interest in supporting people, or an interest in gardening or both. We particularly welcome volunteers who have community language skills. (We currently have Urdu and Kurdish speaking people as members who we would like to support better). IT skills also needed to help develop a website.

You will be well supported and some training is available that may be of help to your career.

Expenses will be paid for travel costs, childcare, refreshments etc.

If you are interested, we will be happy to show you round the allotment and answer any questions you may have.

Please contact Helen or John
on 274 3651 or 0793 292 7153

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8 Gower Street, Burngreave, Sheffield S4 7JW

We at Shiloh would like to take this time to invite you to our six days of

Holy Convocation on 26-31 July 2005

Tue-Sat: morning 11.00am-2.30pm; evening 7.00-9.00pm
Sun: morning 10.30am-2pm; evening 5.30-9.00pm

A time to sing, dance, shout and be happy as we celebrate in praise and worship unto the Lord Jesus Christ. Do not miss out, Come along and have a great time in the Lord.



The well for your needs



Dear *Messenger*,

I would like to thank you on your excellent magazine, which I look forward to receiving every month. I am writing about one of your articles in the June issue, regarding the buses B1, B2, and D1, drivers are friendly and it covers a good area. However I would like to suggest a change in the route to the D1 service to Darnall and Catcliffe. I think it would serve the area better if it went up Ellesmere Road and down either Sutherland Road or Lyons Street, and not down Gower Street as there are no houses. Also a bit of advertising by Morrisons and Big W on the buses would help to attract more passengers I think.

Yours faithfully, W Nicholds

New Deal, who fund Burngreave Buslink, told us:

Routes are reviewed every quarter, so any resident wishing to propose a change to a route can do so by contacting Joice Richards (on 279 6934) or attending the Environment theme focus group meeting on 28 July 6–8pm at Pitsmoor Methodist Church. The Burngreave Links service will be having an annual review this summer when detailed passenger information will be collated from surveys carried out on the buses.

Dear *Messenger*

I was surprised to read ‘People power in Shirecliffe’ in June’s *Messenger*. The headline and information originate from a narrow perspective and undermines groups in Shirecliffe.

Over the past few years there has been a hard battle fought in Shirecliffe. The neglect, culminating in a demolition programme has angered and demoralized many who have lived here for years. As clearance began some felt they had no choice but to move, others felt they had to stay. As in many communities there will be some who, in their ones or twos, by talking with neighbours or family, even a stranger at the bus stop, will begin to think things don’t have to be like this, things could be different.

Residents have been actively involved in regeneration, working with the Council and other bodies to plan new housing, community facilities and improvements to housing and green spaces. Groups such as Shirecliffe TARA have been working to improve housing for years, Shirecliffe Forum has a focus on regeneration, and new groups are emerging such as Shirecliffe Community Project and a Housing Project Group.

Housing has been one of the most pressing issues. Sheffield Homes had agreed to bring all houses up to the Government’s Decent Homes Standard but a compound for the contractors was essential.

A site behind the recycling centre was identified by the Housing Project Group but there were concerns about methane emissions. An alternative site was just off Shirecliffe Road, next to the heliport site. No-one in the TARA, the Forum, or the Housing Project Group were informed this site was problematic. In fact many commented what a good site it was and were pleased the work could proceed.

It was therefore a complete surprise to read that ‘people power’ in Shirecliffe had, in a matter of days, forced the contractors to relocate. Who are these people with so much power and why weren’t community organizations involved in discussions? Finally we would question the statement that the compound would block

access to the recreation land, there are public footpaths around it. An adequate site has now been prepared on Longley Avenue West, but we would dispute that it had to be moved.

This is an exciting time for Shirecliffe. We are looking forward to the regeneration work, and yes, in the short term there will be building work and disruption, it’s only to be expected. Let’s hope other residents will be understanding and accept short-term inconvenience, it will bring greater benefits to us all in the longer term.

Keith Donstan
Chairperson, Shirecliffe Tenants’ and Residents’ Association

Dear *Messenger*

Thanks for your article in the June issue about the Inner Relief Road. I liked the clear simple plan showing the main features (‘HUGE dual carriageway’, ‘ANOTHER HUGE dual carriageway’). But surely you are wrong to think that the intention is to cut Burngreave off from the rest of Sheffield. Actually the Council aims to: “*Re-integrate Victoria Quays, the Law Courts, Exchange Riverside and the Wicker areas with the City Centre*”, according to the website. Nothing to do with keeping us out at all, although I suppose some local businesses might feel that closing the central section of the Wicker to cars isn’t the best sort of integration from their point of view. It’s really just about fair treatment for all those poor excluded inner-city yuppies and District Judges.

Marcus Windle

Dear *Messenger*

I returned home on Friday 17th June to a letter from Burngreave Sports Network (BSN) telling me the Mile Run would be coming along Scott Road and the road was to be closed between 9.30am and 12.00pm on Sunday 19th. This was the first notice we had the run was to come anywhere near Scott Road, let alone close it completely. The bottom of the letter said, “Please note all public buses have been rerouted during the race.”

We could not believe the short notice we had been given to move our cars. To where? Every side road is full with residents’ cars!

Later that evening a council notice outlining the closures appeared on a side road. It stated permission for the closures had been granted on May 13th.

I rang BSN who had no explanation why we had only just been informed. I explained that I am on call from work and may need to get off Scott Road at short notice. I was told as long as I found a marshal I would be allowed out but not back until the racing had finished.

Did the organisers realise the race day was Father’s Day? Off Scott Road is a Nursing Home and Elderly Persons’ sheltered housing. How were visitors expected to visit their relatives or relatives’ graves in the cemetery when their only means of getting there is public transport?

We do not have any problem with the Mile Run closing Scott Road, all we are asking for is better communication about events that close our roads!

Name and address withheld

BCR back on air

Burngreave Community Radio (BCR) failed to make it on air in June, after OFCOM turned down their application for a license.

The station was planning to transmit between 25th June and 22nd July with about £18,000 of funding from New Deal as part of their elections project. OFCOM can only offer BCR the license from 15th July, but this is too late for the NDC elections, so it looked like BCR would stay off air this year.

Now with the help of local sponsorship and £1,900 from New Deal the whole show is back on! BCR will have the bare minimum needed to buy the license, and they will be looking for support through volunteers and sponsorship. If you can help contact Aisha Special K on 0773 987 8596 or aishaspecialk_sct@hotmail.com.

BCR will be on air 15th July–11th August on 87.7FM.

Beyond the plan

The approval of the Masterplan in May was not the end of the journey, just the beginning. As promised, the Council are now setting up project groups which will be involved in putting the plans into action.

The Area Panel are hosting two community conferences in July to update people on the Masterplan, discuss the role and structure of the project groups and then set them up. The Council stated:

“We want to make sure local Communities are at the heart of the regeneration process. The project group for Page Hall will help the Area Panel produce a set of regeneration proposals for the area, the other project groups will mainly be responsible for helping to implement the Masterplan proposals that have already been agreed. The project groups and the Area Panel will be responsible for producing reports which will go to the Council for consideration.”

If you are interested in getting involved in the project groups, or you would just like to be kept informed, come along to one of the meetings, both at 6pm: on 26th July at Fir Vale School (Dining Room) and on 28th July at Shiloh Church, Gower Street.

BCAT loses Grant Fund

Last year the Small Grants project funded over a hundred local activities with grants of £500, £5,000 and £25,000. But the grant panel has only met once since March, endangering some groups’ ability to provide summer activities.

The Small Grants Fund has been managed by Burngreave Community Action Trust (BCAT), but New Deal (BNDfC), who fund the project, recently marked it with a ‘Red Light’, given to projects it has major concerns about. Now New Deal has decided to take over the management of the project. John Clark, BNDfC Chief Executive, told us:

“The decision to terminate the contract was based on evaluation of the first year’s performance and concerns about the effectiveness of the management and delivery of the project. It is BNDfC’s intention to meet with BCAT to explore how lessons can be learned from this experience, but we do not feel it would be helpful or productive at this stage to make public specific concerns that could potentially undermine the delivery of other programmes managed by BCAT.”

New Deal has marked out five other projects with ‘Red Lights’; these are Green Gym, Listen to Us, Pitsmoor Somali Youth Project, Promoting Healthy Lifestyles Asian Disability Project and BCAT’s Organisational Development Project.

BCAT were unable to comment on the termination of the Small Grants Fund contract for legal reasons, but said they are in discussion with New Deal.

New Deal will be running a grant round in July, in the hope of funding those projects wanting to provide summer activities. Details are on the leaflet in this *Messenger*, or you can contact New Deal on 279 6932.



The *Messenger* shared everyone’s sadness at the premature end to the festival. Green City Action told us they hope to hold another event in the park in the near future.

Thanks are due to Green City Action and all the volunteers and stall holders who worked so hard, one said she felt “like someone shot Santa”. We hope you’ll all come back next year to make it bigger and better!

You may notice as you read the month’s *Messenger* the absence of Rob Smith’s daring reporting on the issues that matter most in Burngreave. Rob is taking a break from the *Messenger* for a few months, but we hope he will be back on the case in the near future. In the meantime contact the *Messenger* office if you would like us to report on something.



Visit our website for more festival coverage

Messenger Info

Meetings: 6.30 pm, Wednesday at Abbeyfield Park House
Editorial: 20th July
Management: 24th August
All welcome.
Copy deadline: 10th August

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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, Annie Blindell, Clare Burnell, James Heath, Saleema Imam, Jeff Kirby, Mark Lankshear, Gaby Spinks, Lisa Swift and Paul Taylor.

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3,000 oppose landfill developments

A petition signed by nearly 3,000 local people opposing the proposed developments at Parkwood landfill site was presented to a meeting of Sheffield City Council on 6th July. The petitioners object to planning applications for a leachate treatment plant, an electricity generator which would burn gases produced by the decay of waste, and to the proposal to expand the dumping of active waste.

The petition was delivered by Paul Antcliffe of Parkwood Concerned Tenants, Residents and Businesses Group, who explained to the *Messenger* that although the leachate treatment and electricity generating proposals might appear desirable, in practice their viability depends on the expansion of the active waste area of the site.

Paul told the full Council meeting that recycling of waste should be maximised so that landfill sites like Parkwood, in the heart of the city, could be closed.

He reported on the numerous problems caused by the site, including odours, dust, fibres, litter and noise. Some people have inhaled what they believe is a gas, which instantly made them feel sick. He called for the installation of a Hapsite gas monitoring and identification system, used for analysing emissions from other landfill sites.



[l-r] Maxine Bowler, Paul Antcliffe, Shaffaq Mohammed, and Paul Scriven, leader of the Liberal Democrats.

The planning applications for the leachate treatment plant and the electricity generator are likely to be put before a planning board at the end of July.

Contact: Paul Antcliffe of Parkwood Concerned Tenants, Residents and Businesses Group on 276 2353. Their website: <http://mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk/pctrbg/index.html>.

Shaffaq Mohammed is Shadow Cabinet member for Streetscene and Green Spaces; contact Liberal Democrat office on 273 4361.

by Andrew Green

Let's get it sorted!

After a lot of negotiations and frustrations Burngreave now has its own recycling point for glass - three recycling bring banks in Gower Street car park. There is also a paper bin for those who don't have blue bins. If these facilities are well used and undamaged the site will hopefully be expanded to collect other recyclables.

Reducing, reusing and recycling our waste decreases pollution, landfill and the demand on limited raw resources. It's easy to do your bit for the environment once you get into the habit. Simply rinse jars and bottles, and pop them into the recycling bring banks. It's a good idea to be a regular recycler and not let it build up at home as it'll become an inconvenience and you'll be less likely to do it.

There are plenty of other things you can do to minimise the waste you create



– for more information log onto www.recyclingmatters.org.uk/, or call SCRAP on 275 5055. Use your blue bin for paper and card only and if you have space you could compost all your kitchen and garden waste. Compost

bins are currently available for £3 for composting at home – call 0845 077 0758.

by Ruthe Heskin

Garden waste collected

Onyx can collect your garden waste using their green waste sacks. You can buy them at Burngreave Library, the Town Hall and Howden House – they are three for £1.50 and at the moment you get another three free! Once they're full, contact the Council helpline on 273 4567 and select the 'Onyx' option. The sacks can be filled with grass and hedge cuttings, flowers and leaves (no kitchen waste). There must be a minimum of three sacks for collection.

The Area Panel are proposing to purchase some of these bags and give them away to elderly people in the area. If you are interested in having garden waste sacks, please contact the Area Panel Office on 276 9134.

BURNGREAVE MESSENGER

Burngreave is a vibrant multicultural community situated close to Sheffield city centre. Burngreave New Deal for Communities was established in 2001 to deliver a ten-year £52m regeneration programme tackling the issues of deprivation in the area. As we now move into year five of the programme we are looking to recruit committed and energetic individuals to the following posts:



Employment and Enterprise Theme Manager Salary £26,530–34,746

This is a key post within the programme and will develop and expand the activities that are already underway and integrate them into Local Economic Development of the area.

You will need to have:

- Sound understanding of local, regional and national economic policies and their impact on communities, with working knowledge and experience of employment training and enterprise programmes and how they can support local initiatives
- Demonstrable experience of the development and implementation of employment, training and enterprise strategies, and a working knowledge of funding regimes for employment, training and enterprise support and development
- Knowledge of growth areas of employment in Sheffield and South Yorkshire Sub-region and key initiatives linked to employment
- Experience of effective partnership working, project management and networking skills and excellent team working ability

Interviews will be held
Monday 15 August 2005

Employment Centre Manager Salary £26,530–34,746

We are looking for a dynamic and motivated manager to set up, manage and monitor the BNDfC One Shop Employment Advice, Training and Job Brokerage project.

You should be able to work positively with both jobseekers and our partner organisations eg Jobcentre Plus and Employment Labour Market Solutions etc to move BNDfC residents into sustainable employment, ensuring accessibility for disadvantaged groups. You must have knowledge of Government Policies concerning employment, training and job brokerage issues, including barriers faced by those within the local labour market.

Interviews will be held
Friday 19 August 2005

Health and Crime Theme Manager Salary £26,530–34,746

The successful post holder will manage the Health and Crime theme areas for the programme. Managing and developing effective, efficient and inclusive Health and Crime Theme Groups and Theme Strategies.

You will need to have:

- Knowledge of the Health and CrimeTheme Group topic and current/developing initiatives
- A working knowledge of funding regimes and partnership working
- Excellent presentation skills, team working and networking skills
- Good numeracy skills and experience of project management
- Excellent team working ability

Interviews will be held
Wednesday 24 August 2005

Monitoring and Evaluation Manager Salary £28,921–34,746

Your role will be to further develop and implement a local evaluation strategy for the programme at project, theme and programme level. As well as managing the monitoring of projects through the Contract and Monitoring Officers and providing qualitative and quantitative reports as required.

You will need to have:

- Excellent communication skills, strong people skills and the ability to work with people of all levels
- Detailed knowledge and understanding of risk, project and programme management, experience of evaluating the effectiveness of projects and programmes against success criteria and outcomes
- Experience of researching, collating and analysing qualitative and quantitative data and of using Microsoft Word, Excel and databases.

Interviews will be held
Wednesday 17 August 2005

For further details or an application pack please contact Tom Felicien on 0114 279 6932, or email enquiries@bndfc.co.uk

Closing date for all posts – Wednesday 3 August 2005 at 4pm



contact: 276 9134

Burngreave Area Panel

Who Gets What?

The Council never has quite as much money to spend as it needs to have. So it often has to decide how to target, prioritise, select where to spend (and consequentially where not to spend). Burngreave and Fir Vale areas are one of the few areas of the city where there has been, and still is, an active investment programme for private housing. Some years ago, there were major refurbishment schemes, but recently there have been more selective facelift-type schemes. Last year, it was Barnsley Road; this year it's Rock Street, Nottingham Street and Andover Street. But how does the Council decide which streets get chosen for facelift works?



people can afford to pay for improvements or to assessments of property conditions. It might increase the costs of bureaucracy to have to conduct surveys and means testing, and reduce the money available for the works on site. Facelift treatment might well help a hundred houses directly, but indirectly improve the housing market in the whole area for all owner occupiers. Sometimes, depending on who is putting up the money for the facelift scheme (like the government through Transform South Yorkshire), the streets to be targeted might have been already decided. The Council can have

influence but not control. In other years, the funding is provided, and decided by, the Council alone.

But is this how you think it should be done? The councillors on the Area Panel want to know your thoughts; and some Messenger readers have also asked questions. Over the next two months, the Council is asking whether facelift investment and treatment is being targeted in the best way. Tell us what you think, and attend the 29th September meeting of the Area Panel where this matter will be discussed in more detail. The venue will be confirmed soon.

The Panel have continued to spend some of its money from government on trying to help Burngreave Bloom. More large planters, window boxes and hanging baskets. Except that two new planters in Page Hall have had to be removed as they were attacked! But they'll soon be back...

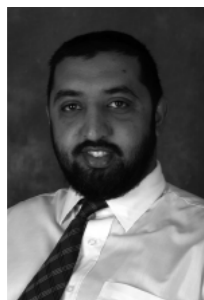
And lastly, a word to drivers. From 1st August onwards, parking attendants from the Streetforce service will be carrying out spot checks in Burngreave, Fir Vale and Page Hall to make sure all parking is lawful. The Panel has asked that before then, unlawfully parked cars are reminded about parking regulations. What do yellow lines mean? Can you park on pavements? If you're parking, make sure you know the answers!

- 21 July, 12.30–1.30pm, Firvale Forum (Steve Jones)
- 23 July, 11.00am–12.00 noon, Burngreave Library (Steve Jones)
- Please note, there are **no** Councillors' surgeries in **August**
- 1 September, 6.00–7.00pm, Shirecliffe Forum (Jackie Drayton)

Next Area Panel Meeting Date

- Thursday 29th September, 6.30pm – venue to be confirmed. For more details, see above.

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.



Against the G8

I am proud - like many other Burngreave residents - to have protested against the G8 meetings. The G8 countries are eight of the world's richest and most powerful: USA, Germany, Japan, UK, France, Italy, Canada and Russia. They met in Scotland on 6th July to discuss world trade, climate change and their 'war on terror'.

Many anti-poverty campaigners believe that the purpose of G8 meetings is to keep themselves as the richest eight, at the expense of developing countries. They point, for instance, to the fact that poorer countries' aid is dependent on them privatising their essential services, with western companies getting the contracts.

The Justice and Interior Ministers of the G8 countries met behind closed doors in Sheffield on 15–17th June. Their agenda was to discuss the 'war on terror' and international crime. Protestors, however, believed that they would use this as an excuse to introduce further moves towards a Big Brother state, including the introduction of compulsory identity cards in Britain. We got a taste of their plans when police banned demonstrations against the G8 ministers, while they wine and dined in Cutler's Hall and the Winter Gardens. With the Pitsmoor Against the War banner at the front, we



marched ahead anyway in the face of the biggest police presence in Sheffield to date.

Burngreave was a focus of anti-G8 activity, with local people helping to maintain a meeting and rest centre for protestors; producing and distributing leaflets; reporting events and playing in the Rhythms of Resistance Sheffield samba band. Banners were made and displayed in imaginative publicity stunts in Burngreave and Park Square roundabout. We also played a role in the important job of educating ourselves and the wider community about just how the G8 operates to keep the rich rich and the poor poor.

by Stuart Crosthwaite

Poverty – It's not fair!

On Monday, 4th July, St Catherine's Primary School started a week of Making Poverty History. We are trying to put pressure on the G8 leaders to make decisions that will change lives.

Did you know that people living in poverty have to live off of 70p? IT'S NOT FAIR!!



The human chain

St Catherine's children and adults all held hands on 4th July and wore white clothes to make a big white chain.

Awareness

The younger children at St Catherine's have held an art exhibition with work based on Africa. Here are some of the things that people thought about it: Reuben Knowles in year 5, ten years

old said, "Lots of detail, I like the sunset best", Edgar Lowman in year 3 said, "Very good especially the pots", Katrina Love in year 4 said "Great, I really enjoyed it". All the children and adults enjoyed the art show.

The reason why we are doing Make Poverty History week is to raise awareness in all children and adults, so that everyone can have an equal share of the world's resources.

by Elisha, Kay and Bethany Y5

NDC Elections

As we go to press the result of the New Deal elections is about to be announced, but it's not been a smooth road to the ballot box.

The first set of ballot papers, which were salmon coloured, said vote for three people, but this was wrong. So a second set of blue ballot papers was sent out saying vote for five people. All 'salmon' ballots are to be discarded. Will this affect the vote? A local resident told the *Messenger*:

"When I got the second envelope with 'Electoral Reform Services' on it, I ignored it because I'd already voted. I was about to throw it away. The envelope should have been marked urgent or something. And then there was no information about the candidates with it, I'd thrown the original away and now I was expected to choose two more people without it. Some people just won't bother."

New Deal told the *Messenger*:

"We are confident that re-issuing of ballot papers will not affect the number of ballot papers received as the new papers were issued within days of the originals being dispatched. Many voters will choose to vote at the festival rather than sending their forms via the post. Electoral Reform Services (ERS) have also confirmed that this has not compromised the legitimacy or likely turnout of the election."

The *Messenger* also received reports from residents who hadn't received their ballot papers, but New Deal reassured us there were only three isolated cases and these had been put right.

ASTRA EGM

Notice of All Saints Tenants and Residents Association Extraordinary General Meeting, to reselect a new committee. Open to all fee-paying members living in the Bressingham–Ellesmere–Carwood area.

Wednesday 27th July, St Peter's Church, Lyons Street, 5.45pm for 6.00pm start.

Correction

Last issue we reported the sale of St Catherine's Church Hall on page 7. We have been informed by the Church's Council that the sale price was incorrect. We would like to apologise for any distress caused. The *Messenger* has tried to confirm the actual sale price with the involved parties but was unable to do so.

The Fir Vale Workhouse

The early history of the Northern General Hospital is not always obvious to many people visiting the large modern complex today. However, if bricks could talk, some of the older hospital buildings, like the old clock tower, could tell a story or two about their origins as the Fir Vale Workhouse, a place that inspired fear and dread in the hearts of many.

Opened in 1881, the workhouse was built to house anyone who was unable to look after themselves due to poverty, old age or ill health. It had a main section for 'general paupers', an asylum, a fever hospital and later a vagrants' ward (known as the *Tramps' Palace*). It also had a home for orphans, abandoned children and the children of inmates. The inmates had to do farm work, laundry, cook, clean and sew. Being sent to the workhouse was a sign of having fallen on hard times and people living there endured great stigma.

When it was first built, the workhouse was situated far beyond the boundaries of the city of Sheffield and surrounded by countryside. Its name changed over the years but it wasn't until 1967 that it became the Northern General Hospital. It was hoped the change would finally erase horrid memories of the workhouse from the minds of older generations.

Stories about the workhouse have been collected by the Northern General Hospital History Project. One rather sad tale, recalled by the district nurse who visited them, was the story of two sisters, Martha and Elisa, who had entered the workhouse as children in 1890, shortly before their mother died. They were so affected by workhouse conditions that they lived an extraordinarily frugal existence, long after leaving the institution.

"Their flat was very clean but lacked any sort of comfort and although the sisters kept themselves tidy, they had very few



Inmates of the workhouse c1920.



Fir Vale Workhouse Gates.

clothes. Neither of them had ever heard a radio or seen the television. Because their stomachs had become accustomed to the workhouse diet, they were unable to eat normal foods. Bread had to be two days old – eating it fresh would give them stomach ache. Dinner would be boiled mutton with the fat skimmed off and used to make dumplings. For tea they would have bread and jam but the jam would be scraped on and off to make it last longer. And when they received their £10 Christmas bonus for the first time, they said they had never had so much money before and felt they should save it towards their funerals. But they always said of the workhouse: 'We were fed, had a clean bed and a roof over our heads so we were lucky really'."

The hospital has moved on from 'the grim old days' when its inhabitants received only the most basic provisions, and now provides its patients with the

best care possible. Many older people, however, still refer to it as the 'old workhouse'.

In an effort to ensure its past is not forgotten and to record how medical practices have changed, the NGH History Project is gathering stories, photographs and memorabilia related to both the workhouse and the hospital, from throughout its history. Are you willing to share with us any memories, stories, memorabilia or photos of the hospital or the people who worked there? We can copy and return any precious photographs if you wish to keep them. Contact Lyn Howsam at the Northern General Hospital History Project, c/o Clock Tower Reception, Northern General Hospital, Herries Road, Sheffield S5 7AU, tel: 271 5879 or email: ngn.archives@blueyonder.co.uk.

Memories of the Workhouse and Old Hospital at Fir Vale by Lyn Howsam can be purchased from the Clock Tower Reception at the hospital, price £4.95, or copies can be borrowed from Burngreave Library.

by Lyn Howsam and Nikky Wilson

Dig up the past!

Have you ever wanted to have a go on an archaeological dig? The Archaeology Department at Sheffield University is inviting Burngreave residents to join them on a dig on the Brodsworth Estate near Doncaster in August. All transport, training and equipment provided. Come along to a meeting on 27th July in Burngreave Library (time to be confirmed) or contact Nikky Wilson on 276 1900 for more information.

Friends of Burngreave Cemetery & Burngreave Voices invite you to:

The Burngreave Well Dressing Saturday 30th July, 10.30am–1.00pm

Come and see the well dressing displays made by local volunteers and children from Firshill Primary School. Also a guided walk in the cemetery, displays in the chapel and tea and scones for everyone!

PS Volunteers wanted to help create the well dressing picture (from flower petals) on the night of 29th July. For more information contact Nikky Wilson at the Burngreave Voices Project on 276 1900.

Burngreave Voices: Our Stories Celebrated is a Sheffield Galleries & Museums Trust project in partnership with Sheffield Libraries, WEA and Sheffield College, and is supported by Sheffield City Council and BNDfC.

A New Deal for Burngreave

Making your mark

Burngreave residents were given the opportunity to shape the future of their area by attending a special public meeting organised by BNDfC.

The event at Ellesmere Green aimed to keep local people informed about BNDfC activities and enable them to have a say about how New Deal is improving the area they live in.

Visitors were treated to a feast of free food and family fun with children's rides and games.

The BNDfC communications vehicle was at Ellesmere Green throughout the afternoon, where members of the BNDfC Partnership Board and interpreters were available to answer any questions.

Displays and activities were on show to promote the work of various projects funded by BNDfC.

The brand-new BNDfC website was launched and the community were encouraged to have a go and give us their comments – www.bndfc.co.uk/.

We are now in the process of looking at and responding to the feedback we received from those who attended – here are some key points that were raised:

"It is fantastic to see all these people here – great sense of community spirit."

It was a really fun event and this has been reflected in the comment above and in many of the other comments we have received.

"More recognition for those of us who go to school out of the area. We need to feel that we are not forgotten just because we go to school out of the area."

You are not forgotten. BNDfC does support all children who live in the area through a range of activities such as the Celebration of Success event, festive fun parties, Study Support Groups and a variety of youth work. However, we will ensure we do more in the future.

"More plain English – less development jargon."

The regeneration sector has developed its own set of acronyms, jargon and slang. We recognise this and are committed to the use of 'plain English'. Thanks for making this point and we will endeavour to cut out jargon in the future.

Others comments received on the day will be responded to personally.

Aisha Special K, Burngreave resident and BNDfC board member said:

"The public meeting is a great opportunity for people in Burngreave to make their voices heard and have an impact on the way the area is developing."

"They take place every six months, but this time we thought we would try something different and move away from the formal style, instead visitors were encouraged to circulate and talk in smaller groups. It was a wonderful initiative that took advantage of the summer months and brought the meeting to the public."

"We appreciate the effort people made to come along on the day. The feedback we have received has been truly positive and it was a really memorable occasion."



Theme Meetings

Everyone is welcome at the following theme meetings:

Employment & Enterprise: 3 August, Ellesmere Children's Centre, 1.30–3.30pm

Health: 1 August, St Peter's Church Hall, Lyons Street, 5.30–7.30pm

Over-arching: 9 August, The Furnival, Verdon Street, 6–8pm

Education: TBC, St Peter's Church Hall, Lyons Street, 6–8pm

Crime: 19 July & 16 August, Pitsmoor Methodist Church, 6–8pm

Environment: 28 July, Pitsmoor Methodist Church, 6–8pm

Housing: 8 September, BCAT meeting room, 6–8pm



For more information on BNDfC please contact 279 6932

Challenge New Deal...



There may not have been helicopters, TV cameras or even Annetta Rice in sight but that didn't make a difference to Burngreave New Deal for Communities (BNDfC) staff who took part in the ultimate challenge.

Around twenty BNDfC employees got their hands dirty in a team challenge event as they put something back in to the community they work for.

They spent the day refurbishing Green City Action's offices and the toy library – vital community facilities.

Green City Action, a community-managed environment organisation, is based in Abbeyfield Park and provides a lending library of toys to local residents – a key resource for families in

the area on low incomes. BNDfC staff cleared out the toy store areas and updated the way things are stored so that it is easier for volunteers and families to use. They also painted Green City Action's offices.

The day ended with a barbeque to celebrate their achievements and launch the new and improved facilities.

Garry Smith from Green City Action, said: "The work carried out by the New Deal team on their challenge day surpassed our expectations. They achieved a great deal in a short space of time, completely redecorating both our offices and reorganising the toy library store. Both these tasks will help Green City Action to deliver services to the Burngreave community."

Sponsors and donors include Burngreave Drugs Project, JobNet, BTCV, SR Raja, JB Hats, Ellesmere Bakery, Spital Hill £1 discount shop and DADD D HEERE.



Partnership Board Meeting – Wednesday, 25 May 2005

What was discussed

Vestry Hall project

The building will be refurbished to provide a community learning centre.

Sorby House project

The building will provide services for the community and commercial office accommodation.

One Stop Shop

A new multi-agency comprehensive employment and employability project for Burngreave.

Race and Diversity Strategy

The strategy sets out how BNDfC meet the diversity of needs in our community. The strategy is supported by an action plan which will be monitored throughout the year and reviewed annually.

Local Evaluation

The Local Evaluation Framework has been developed to measure the effectiveness of the BNDfC programme in delivering local priorities.

What we decided

To approve the project in the sum of £3,100,169 (subject to the conditions being satisfied).

To approve the project in the sum of £3,977,220 (subject to the conditions being satisfied).

To approve the project in the sum of £537,183 (subject to the conditions being satisfied).

To approve the Race and Diversity Strategy and Action Plan.

Approved the development of a project to enable the recruitment of an Evaluation Co-ordinator.

Straight to the point

Drugs are a major issue in Burngreave, dealing and drug use are still the one thing people would most like to see improved. The recent launch of the Burngreave Drug Project's (BDP) Complementary Therapies service adds to the outreach work they're already doing and builds on surveys and community work done by Sheffield Black Drugs Service (SBDS), all supported by New Deal and the North Sheffield Primary Care Trust.

When I visited the new project in The Studio, Hallcar Street, Emma Msigiti the receptionist and Annette Lucas, one of the therapists, were full of enthusiasm. A wide range of people are already attending for ear acupuncture, massage, reflexology and shiatsu, and they're coming back for more! The therapies can help with all sorts of drug and alcohol problems, including stimulants like crack, and can be used alongside other treatments.

"The treatments can be a time for yourself," Annette told me, "They help balance your emotions, calm fears and anxieties, help with withdrawal symptoms and can help you maintain abstinence. We try to make it a really safe place, we know many people who are harming themselves with drugs have experienced all kinds of abuse and have all sorts of issues. We have male and female therapists and can provide language support."

As well as one-to-one therapies the



Ear acupuncture is a simple, safe and effective technique shown to reduce cravings and withdrawal symptoms, improve sleep and appetite and help relaxation.

service is running drop-in ear acupuncture sessions on Mondays to Thursdays. You need an assessment first, but the sessions are open to drug users and their families.

'Stretch and relax' are sessions being run at Verdon Recreation Centre, 6–7pm on Thursdays. It's open to anyone and teaches exercise and relaxation techniques. Emma explained how excited the team are to be working from their new bases in Burngreave. By working in partnership with Turning Point, SBDS and other agencies, BDP, including the Complementary Therapy Team, are providing a wide range of services and support to local drug and alcohol users.



As Annette demonstrated her massage technique The Studio filled with quiet sighs of relaxation.

The service is for anyone in Burngreave who has made, or is trying to make, changes in their substance use and is open to family and friends who directly support people using substances. Referrals can be made by your GP, the Burngreave Drug Project or other agencies, friends or family.

by Mark Lankshear

For help with alcohol or drug use contact:

Burngreave Drugs Project – 226 2970
Sheffield Black Drugs Service – 249 3700
Kickstart – 279 6734
SHED (under 19s) – 272 9164
Milestones – 0845 004 2216
Sheffield Drug Intervention Programme – 0845 004 2220
Confidential 24-hour help line

Our survey says

Survey results comparing New Deal areas against the national average have shown New Deal seems to be having a positive effect. More people in New Deal areas think their area is improving than people in the UK as a whole. Most people have heard of New Deal and think it's helping.

In 2002 people in New Deal areas were much more worried about personal safety and being robbed than in the UK as a whole. By 2004 this was one of the biggest improvements, especially in Burngreave. Trust in services is improving in Burngreave and most New Deal areas, but it's falling in the UK generally.

The Household Survey, carried out by MORI in 2004, was based on 503 face-to-face interviews in Burngreave and nearly 20,000 interviews nationally. By comparing results from Burngreave, other New Deal areas and the national average

we can see where we fit the national pattern, but also where Burngreave seems different from other deprived areas.

When asked what most needed to change in Burngreave, drug dealing, local shops and supermarkets were top answers. Along with parks and open spaces these issues seemed much more important here than in other New Deal areas.

Another result where Burngreave seemed significantly different in 2004 was 33% of us said we felt we could influence decisions compared with only about 25% in 2002 and across New Deals and the country generally. We are as satisfied with our GPs as the national average, and more than average are happy about hospital services, but unusually for New Deal areas, people in Burngreave seem to be finding it harder to see their GP than they were in 2002.

by Mark Lankshear

Summer Football



BSN Prince's Cup Under 18s

5-a-side football competition

To be held on Sunday 7th August, 1pm at Woodburn Stadium PITZ.

Burngreave Sports Network are registering teams, with interest welcome from under 14s, under 16s and under 18s, both boys and girls.

For more information contact Rafiq Saleh on 0791 740 3299 or 241 9100.

BSN Burngreave Cup Adult football tournament

On 13th and 20th August, at Sheffield United Academy. Register your team now, just £15 per team.

Contact Patrick Edwards on 0774 783 1856 or Ali Abdi on 0773 987 8601.

Join the BSN Committee. Next meeting will be Wednesday 10th August, 1pm at BCAT

Trip to Anfield 17th August

Coach trip to Anfield Stadium, home of Liverpool FC, winners of the UEFA European Champions Cup. Contact 241 9100 for more information.

Sports Project Summer Activities

Athletics Taster Sessions

Come along to a fun-filled athletics session trying all the different events. These sessions are free, and open to both boys and girls aged 8–15.

Mon 1st & Tue 2nd August	12 noon–3pm	Abbeyfield Park
Thu 25th & Fri 26th August	12 noon–3pm	Osgathorpe Park

Learn to Cycle

Come along and learn to ride or come along and have a practice with qualified instructors. Limited places, so please call to book a place. Bikes **not** supplied. All sessions are free, and open to both boys and girls aged 7–11.

Thu 11th August & 1st September 9.30–11.30am Firshill Sports & Arts Facility

Four-Day Swimming Crash Course

Come along to our crash course and learn to swim at Concord Sports Centre. Please call for more information or to book a place. Sessions are free, and open to both boys and girls aged 7–11. Times and dates are yet to be confirmed.

Find out about more sports summer activities in the *What's Going On?* booklet.



Call for players

Earl Marshall Juniors FC Under 10s are calling for more players to join their team.

The team trains on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Petre Street.

To find out more:

Contact Mark Moran–Healy on 0777 645 7732



Designer Youth Shelter

Ever thought of owning your own home? Can't afford the down payment on a mortgage? Never mind! You can have your very own place to hang out, out of the rain and wind, in your favourite haunt – Abbeyfield Park. Fabulous views across well-manicured lawns, centrally located in a listed park!

All you have to do is build it yourself. Green Watch Rangers will provide tools, expertise, skills and materials to build you your very own designer Youth Shelter. The Rangers will be available on the between Monday 25th July and Friday 5th August between 1 pm and 5pm.

There's a lot to do: laying the foundation, fixing the timbers, setting the uprights and basic joinery, building the roof beams, fixing the sides and front panels and fixing the roof and gutters.

The task may be extended on consultation with you, the young people involved.

The Rangers will provide gloves, helmets, all the tools and refreshments. All you need to do is come along and pitch in. You never know, one day you might want to use the skills you learn in your own house.

Wear old clothes and be prepared to break a sweat...

Community Engagement Team Activities Abbeyfield Park

Six weeks of activities with a range of services delivered for local people including: DJ workshops, dance workshops, drumming workshop, graffiti workshops and sports sessions

This work will be conducted by a number of local organisations working in partnership. And loads more...

Contact: Leroy Betts (0791) 701 4312

Firshill Fair



At this year's event there was a buzz of activity as people spilled in through the gates. Parents and children were getting involved with running the event, offering book stalls, second-hand clothing, food, raffle tickets, bouncy castles and face painting. Also on offer were football and cricket training which were held in the sports facility.

Both © Carl Rose

One of the highlights of the Firshill Junior and Infant school calendar is their yearly summer fête. Held in the infant school on Orphanage Road, the fête attracts parents and children from the school and the surrounding area.



It seemed that an enjoyable time was had by all who attended this year's Firshill school summer event.

by Carl Rose

Rambling

You may have seen adverts in previous Messengers for Burngreave Ramblers' walks and been curious to know who this group is or even be tempted to join them. Here's your chance to find out more.

Despite the name this group doesn't have any connection with the national 'Ramblers' walking group. We are a small group of local people who like to go walking in the countryside in Derbyshire or outside Sheffield. The social side is important as well and life histories often get swapped climbing up hills. The walks are about five to seven miles long and we share cars to get out. There is no charge and walkers bring a packed lunch in the summer. People who come on the walks are all ages (5–60) and at different fitness levels. Children come on the walks but need to



be able to walk the distance. We are a hardy bunch and walk in snow and rain though its lovely to walk amongst the wild flowers and sunshine at this time of year.

People come for all sorts of reasons. For some it's the chance to do something entirely different to the rest of your life; the sense of achievement of climbing to

the top of a hill and seeing miles around you; being in an unspoilt environment away from buildings and people; getting fit not in a gym, or just getting a buzz from natural beauty.

Regular Rambler Judith said:

"I come for the good company and exercise. Going walking relieves stress and you can breath fresh air. It's free and there's lovely scenery and you don't get much of that in Burngreave".

Because the walks are often on rough and muddy ground, people need to have strong shoes or walking boots and having a waterproof coat makes life much more comfortable. If you'd like to know more about the walks or want to join us ring David on 242 3870 or Jill on 243 8867.

by Jill Portman

NonStop

NonStop is a community arts organisation specialising in nurturing the creative talents of individuals and groups through training and support. Based on Rutland Road, they are just a hop and a skip away from all Burngreave residents.



[l-r]: Bullitz, Sam Bawden, Beheshteh Yousefi, Adil, Serena Varley, Tex, John Tuxman, Mick Mottershead, Mystery Shadow! and Colin Harvey.

welcoming when I met them and I felt instantly at ease. Uniquely, everything they produce feels cutting edge, showing they have their roots firmly fixed in urban culture.

The NonStop Foundation was registered as a not-for-profit company in 1999, but have been around in various forms since the late eighties. It began as ‘Too Damn Kreative’, the crew won a Prince’s Trust award to help develop the talents of graffiti artists, break-dancers and urban music promoters.

They now have a busy schedule showcasing local talent, holding numerous accredited training courses and preparing for their annual 3DOM Festival. Managing to squeeze me in for a chat, John Tuxman, Marketing Co-ordinator at NonStop, told me of the many highlights of the year. He told me how, through the help of NonStop, six young hopefuls from across Sheffield have been nominated for the BBC’s Urban Music Bursary. They could win a year-long £10,000 bursary and expert training and advice from the music industry’s leading figures.

Burngreave’s own Natasha McFarlane, 25, a solo artist specialising in singing and street dancing, has been nominated. For the past ten years Natasha (*pictured above right*) has collaborated with other artists to produce R&B, Soul, Pop, Hip Hop and Garage music.

As part of NonStop’s ongoing training, Natasha and other artists from their Cultural Development Programme (CDP) are currently being showcased at all of the community festivals around Sheffield, culminating in a live performance at their 3DOM Festival.



Whilst at the Foundation I met some of the artists currently performing in the citywide talent showcase. Involved with NonStop for three years, Liam Wild aka ‘Rogue State’ said, “I’ve been making tunes since I was fourteen. Through NonStop I’ve had the opportunity to hook up with other musicians and producers. They’re really easy to approach and have been very helpful.”

Chipping in on the conversation, Brad Morton, aka ‘Bullitz’, bigged up everyone who has helped him at NonStop. “I have learnt MIDI sequencing and sampling on the CDP. In the future I hope to run my own record company to help support and promote unsigned artists.”

It seems that by harnessing young talent, the NonStop Foundation is giving those who want it the support for a successful and interesting future.

by Carl Rose



BURNGREAVE MESSENGER

What’s going on?

Listen to Us Project

Friday 12th August 1–6pm
Burngreave’s Olympic Celebration Sports Day
Osgathorpe Park. Everyone welcome. For further details contact Owen Wright on 279 7770.

Rother Valley Country Park Trip

Wednesday 17th August, 10am–2pm

Cycle riding, playground, conservation games, sports activities.

Open to families or unaccompanied children over 8.

Cost £12 per person. Bring a picnic lunch or eat at the café.

Limited places, so book early!

Contact Pauline on (0786) 699 8498

Christchurch

This summer we are launching a Youth Drop-in called ‘The Hangout’ – it will be open every evening (6–9pm), Mon–Fri 1st–19th August in the Welcome Centre, Christ Church Pitsmoor, Nottingham Street.

It is a place for young people (11–18 years) to come, listen to music, play on the PlayStation, paint, chill with friends, watch a band or DJ, catch a film, eat some munchies and just hangout.



Activities for kids and their families in Burngreave for Summer 2005 and beyond...

Events for the Firvale & Firshill Area

Activity Sheffield in Conjunction with Sheffield Futures

Contact Dawn Rowley (0776) 888 8716 or Elaine Virgo 243 9871.

Friday 29th July, 11.45am–6.00pm
Horse Riding for 8–19 year olds.
Wednesday 3rd August, 1.15–5.00pm
Ski or Snowboard at Sheffield Ski Village for 8–19 year olds.
Wednesday 10th August, 9.30am–6.00pm
Family trip to Scarborough
Wednesday 17th August, 9am–7pm
Trip to Alton Towers for 13–19 year olds.

All of the above trips cost £1 each. Places are limited so book early. All unaccompanied children must have written consent to secure a place.

Pick up and return point for all these trips is Earl Marshal Youth Centre.

International Dad’s Day

On Saturday 13th August at Verdon Street Recreation Centre, from 10.30am–3pm.

Including: stalls and workshops covering areas such as men’s health, staying active, fathers’ role in parenting, photography and much more! Pampering and relaxation activities for dads to enjoy, outdoor activities and craft activities. FREE lunch will be available. Crèche facilities (AM) will also be available. Contact Lynne on 261 2010 to book a crèche place. For more information contact Shirley on 278 6414 or (0786) 677 8947.

FREE men’s pampering kit for dads who attend!

Environmental Fun Day with Burngreave Rangers

Wednesday 31st August, 1–4pm

Denholme Close (bottom of Verdon Drive). Treasure Trail with prizes, den building, art using natural materials. Fun for all the family. Free, just turn up.



Sunday 31 July 2005
1–8pm

Osgathorpe Park
(Earl Marshall Recreation Ground)

In its fifth year the festival is an excellent annual family occasion. There will be a diverse range of activities including...

Musical Sound System & Live Entertainment, Penalty Shootout, Grass Sledging, Sports Games & Competitions, Food, Drinks, Ice Cream, Bouncy Castles, Sumo Wrestlers, Bronko the Bull, Large Slide, plus much more...

Book your stalls now!

Find out about summer activities for young people in this year’s *What’s going on?* booklet. To get your copy contact Verdon Recreation Centre on 249 1626.

Or get involved as a volunteer, and help make it happen! Help us to make this year’s festival the best ever, by helping us to spread the word of ‘One Love’.

Contact: Aisha Special K (Festival Manager)
Burngreave Problem Busters,
119 Brunswick Road, Sheffield S3 9LQ

Tel: 0114 273 1040 or 0773 987 8596
or email: aishaspecialk_sct@hotmail.com



BURNGREAVE MILE RUN 2005

Over 100 people of all ages took to the road on Sunday 26th June to take part in the third annual Burngreave Mile Run.

This year's route took the participants from Abbeyfield Park gate onto Abbeyfield Road, along Scott Road, and down onto the finish at Petre Street playing fields. There they were greeted by cheering spectators, bottles of complimentary water and numerous different stalls offering food and drink. Finally the site was host to the award presentations to the winners and runners-up in all the races.

The weather failed to disappoint as the event was blessed with sweltering heat and bright sunshine which certainly didn't go unnoticed by those participating.

Event organiser and chair of BSN Robert Smith said:

"It was great again to see so many people running and taking part in organising the events safely. Although gaining the involvement of those 14-19 year olds was difficult – we saw only a small turnout of competitors from this age range. Hopefully next year's Mile Run event will grow and become even more successful."

A similar positive response was shown by participant and local resident, Clare Burnell.

"I think the event was a great success and was well organised. It worked well as the roads were closed to cars, residents came out to spectate and cheer, which supported the runners and made it a very friendly and enjoyable experience. The way that everybody set off together as a group added to this."

So with the success of the event increasing with time, we can be sure to expect a great day at next year's run (weather permitting!).

by Reuben Vincent



All © Carl Rose

Burngreave on canvas

People of all ages have been expressing their views of Burngreave in paint at the Ashram, Spital Hill, resulting in two wonderfully colourful, cheerful and lively murals.



The budding artists have been discovering their creative talents in workshops organised by Burngreave artist Patrick Amber (pictured right) and Eleanor Parsons, co-ordinator of the Ashram/New Roots Café.

"The aim was to open art up to everyone, so you didn't have to be an artist to get involved," Patrick said.

The first mural was inspired by the carnival of light and the second, larger mural was based on the theme of 'living and growing in Burngreave'. The multicoloured painting was an effort to represent the multicultural nature of



Burngreave, and depicts the lively character of Ellesmere Green.

"We tried to get people talking about what they liked about the area, so we could get a positive portrayal of Burngreave in the mural," Patrick explained.

"It has been fantastic," Patrick said, "The best thing about making the murals was it allowed ordinary people of all ages to get involved. Most of their experiences of art at school were

negative, so their confidence in being creative was a bit low. But when they got into this they realised they could enjoy making art."

The plan is to display the murals somewhere public. As I left the Ashram, there was even talk of displaying them outside the New Roots Café, which features in the paintings.

More ongoing creative workshops, including mask making with cardboard boxes, are planned every Tuesday and

Wednesday, 4-6pm from 2nd August, this is subject to funding being granted. For more information contact Patrick at patrickamber@hotmail.com or Eleanor on 0783 812 3071.

by Kate Atkinson



Even more adventures

Pitsmoor Adventure Playground has been redeveloped over the past few months. The new structures built have changed the landscape and view of the playground, and have already attracted new users. There is a new rope swing, assault course, roundabout and a playhouse as well as a new sand pit and climbing frame. Steve Edwards, who runs the Adventure Playground, explained that a grant of £32,470 from New Deal paid for the changes which include a picnic area and planting around the site.

I asked some of the children at the playground what they thought of the improvements. Jerome Edwards, 14, said, "I like the assault course the best because it's different and is something that the playground has never had."

Jessica Robinson, 13, stated, "I like the roundabout because of how fast the staff can make it go." Rhiane Homer, 8, said, "I like the sand pit because it is fun and I enjoy being buried in the sand." Sarah O'Callaghan added: "I really like the sand pit because I like being messy and having fun". New user Alexandra Jay Hallam-Hoyle said, "I saw it before the new stuff was brought on and it just looked plain, now it looks exciting and there is lots to do."

The children seem to really enjoy the playground's new equipment. I also asked parents and staff about the changes. Naveed Hussain, a regular casual worker, said: "The facilities are very good and I wish I had the same facilities when I attended as a youth". Rob Lawson, local parent, who has been using the playground for twenty-five



years said, "I am amazed to see that after all this time the playground is still alive and kicking and providing a safe environment for children to play together and mix with others from all walks of life".

As a user of the playground, I believe it keeps going from strength to strength and can carry on getting better.

by Ryan Higgins, junior volunteer

