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Issue 60 Free to everyone in Burngreave April 2006

Burngreave Messenger



Voice of the Burngreave Community

All the joys of Spring and Easter Greetings to all our readers

Mixed communities

Burngreave is to pilot a government scheme to create a 'mixed community', mixing rich and poor households, thereby increasing economic opportunity and improving the area as a place to raise children.

Research recently reviewed by the Rowntree Trust shows that concentrated poverty limits opportunity for people above and beyond their personal circumstances. Is becoming a 'mixed community' the answer for Burngreave?

The 'mixed community' initiative aims to build on the Masterplan and New Deal's work on social regeneration and crime reduction, to create a sustainable community that will last when New Deal ends.

Attracting new people

David Shepherd, Council lead manager for Burngreave said: "We need to attract new people to the area and retain them, whilst providing for those that already live here. We want to create a sustainable area, with new homes and access to jobs."

The Spital Hill developments, the new supermarket and inner relief road are also parts of the effort. The Transport Plan is envisaged to increase access to the rest of the city for jobs. Worksites near the relief road are also expected to create jobs.

Four hundred new 'high-quality design' homes are being built on the sites of the Masterplan demolitions. 300 of these new houses will be for sale on the open market and designed to



attract wealthy residents, while only 100 will be 'affordable' homes for sale or rent.

'Problematic' residents?

Some point out that Burngreave is already a mixed community and fear that this is simply a plan to remove residents seen as 'problematic', such as asylum seekers and low-income families and replace them with wealthy families.

At a February Area Panel meeting Mr Shepherd said: "The more people are channelled towards this area, the more difficult it is to regenerate." He is asking for 'freedoms and flexibilities' from government which include restrictions on the number of asylum seekers rehoused here.

Other questions remain – Where will those losing their homes to demolition move to? Will asylum seekers and other vulnerable people find other areas of Sheffield as welcoming as Burngreave? Will the new well-off residents spend their money locally?

by Kate Atkinson



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For more information contact

Panni Poh Yoke Loh

Community Education Co-ordinator

Firth Park Community College,

Fircroft Avenue, Firth Park,

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tel: 0114 257 4027



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Every Wednesday afternoon, 2–4pm,

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Or contact **Daniel Massey, Dennis Tester**
or **Mohamed Hujaleh** on **273 5134** or **273 4680**

Email: **prp@sheffield.gov.uk**



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Dear *Messenger*

I would like to comment on an advert by Green City Action in which they promote that it's cheaper to go greener.

It stated 'don't get conned by doorstep or telesales people who are just after your money'. I don't put other people working in other areas down. Whether its environmentally friendly or not, you don't go and start branding telesales people, doorstep workers or anyone from ANY field because it's a job, which pays someone's bills, which helps, maybe a single mother, parents, a student to pay their debts or a human being to make a living. It creates jobs. Just state the benefits and features in an honorable way and leave it at that. That's how I got my business from zero to quarter of a million.

Adam, CEO A&A International

Dear *Messenger*

I am writing in response to the proposed North Sheffield Better Buses project. The proposals do not take into account the fact that the bus lane on Burngreave Road and the relocation of the bus stop would actually create traffic problems.

A nuisance will be caused in numerous ways, such as: noise pollution from buses; invasion of privacy due to close proximity of buses to the properties; difficulty in entering and exiting property due to numbers of passengers; litter/graffiti being a constant problem for residents; abusive language from persons waiting at the bus stop; damage to residents' properties by persons who are loitering at the bus stop.

Having lived on Burngreave Road for over 25 years I believe the proposals would be a huge step backwards. I would ask the planning officials to reconsider the proposals.

Mr Zulfkhar Ali, Burngreave Road

Dear *Messenger*

Essentially I think that the Better Buses proposals are a good idea, as there is much need for improvement in buses getting past Spital Hill. But as a resident of Burngreave Road, where the proposed bus lane will be, I have some concerns.

The Council say the bus lane will reduce congestion; I don't think that this is possible. The congestion will just be displaced and held at the light on Burngreave Road, where there is currently never any congestion.

I am also concerned that the parking planned for Burngreave Road will frequently be unavailable to residents, such as when there are Church events, Ramadan, meetings at Arches' Housing or community groups. At least this is an acknowledgement that the clearway is not working for residents. I have already paid £90 in fines for being parked there at 8.15am when there is no traffic at all, on one of the widest roads in Sheffield, when people get away with parking on the pavements in Spital Hill. I parked there because there is sometimes nowhere else to park or unload.

I'm concerned that the congestion on Burngreave Road will mean I can't get to the house or leave the parking area. Otherwise, I think it's a good idea.

Nicholaus Hall

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Caroline McKenzie on **(0114) 223 2100**.

Closing Date: 17th April 2006

Ultimatum for BCAT

Burngreave Community Action Trust (BCAT) is set to down-size after funders New Deal have expressed concerns about the organisation. The following conditions have been set by the New Deal funders:

- Existing Trustees must resign and the organisation relaunched with new elections.
- Only four posts essential to the support and development of Burngreave Community Action Forum will be funded.
- Where job descriptions are fundamentally different to existing posts they must be subject to open recruitment.
- By the end of one year BCAT must have secured 50% match funding.
- A New Deal rep to have a non-voting seat on the new board of trustees.

Serious issues

Justifying the conditions, BNDfC Chief Executive John Clark said:

"The evaluation reports produced by BCAT themselves and the funders Objective One, identified serious issues with governance, management, delivery of projects and procedures and processes. BCAT has been in an improvement plan since the beginning of 2005 because it wasn't meeting its outputs, at the end of this there were still significant concerns."

The Charity Commission has stated that it was unusual for funders to impose conditions which meant constitutional changes and took away autonomy, but trustees have to take whatever decision is in the charity's best interest.

BCAT told the *Messenger* it had: "Encountered a number of difficulties. However, many of these issues have been addressed and it is the intention of BCAT to carry on and strengthen its vital work, building the capacity of individuals and groups in the community; whilst building on the work of Burngreave Community Action Forum (BCAF)."

'Squalid tactics'

At the recent BCAF Quarterly Forum meeting, attended by 50 people, BCAF Chair Kevin Hartney accused New Deal of attempting a 'hostile takeover' and being 'an irresponsible and unaccountable private company employing the squalid cut-throat tactics of the market'.

John Clark insisted that the conditions were in BCAT's best interest however:

"In principle we want a strong local organisation to be a development trust, and we have set the conditions to improve the situation."

The *Messenger* understands that BCAT Trustees have recently agreed to accept the conditions imposed on future funding by New Deal.

Fir Vale fundraiser

Pupils from Fir Vale School presented members of the Kashmir Earthquake Relief Appeal with a cheque for £1,637.65 to help rebuild a girls' residential college in Bagh, Azad Kashmir.

To donate to the Relief Fund, please send cheques payable to the Kashmir Earthquake Relief Fund, Kashmir Education Trust, 61 Carlisle Street East S4 7QN.



The
Editorial 

Mixed Communities

Burngreave residents value their present 'mixed community' and are aware that concentrated poverty brings disadvantage. But supporting and enhancing this mixed community must not be achieved by current residents losing their homes through demolition and being replaced with new wealthier residents.

We must remember that Burngreave has been built on a long-standing historical reputation for welcoming everyone, including the poor and destitute from near and far. Through the industrial revolution; the influx of the Irish community in the 19th century to more recent arrivals, Burngreave has welcomed all. Long may this reputation remain.



Messenger Info

Meetings: 6.30pm, Wednesdays at Abbeyfield Park House
Editorial: 5th April
Management: 3rd May
All welcome.
Copy deadline: 19th 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: Annie Blindell, Clare Burnell, Ian Clifford, Camille Daughma, Rohan Francis, Naheem Hanif, Saleema Imam, Jamie Marriott, Brent Moya, Tom Sadler, Rob Smith, Gaby Spinks, Lisa Swift, Paul Taylor, Nikky Wilson and Reuben Vincent.

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A bumpy ride

Humps and road-narrowing may finally be introduced on Grimesthorpe Road and Carwood Road, six years after residents began lobbying Sheffield City Council for traffic-calming measures.

The first letter of complaint was sent on 29th January 2000. Since then, three petitions with nearly a hundred names on have been handed in, and countless letters and phone calls made.

Despite the 30mph limit, drivers speed along Grimesthorpe Road and around a steep bend onto Carwood Road at up to 60mph. Monitoring in 2003 found that 26% of drivers were breaking the speed limit. The roads are used as a rat-run by commuters during rush-hour and a race-track at night, said Pat Eckhardt of Grimesthorpe Road: "Late at night, as well, you can literally hear cars taking off."

Head wounds

"They overtake on the bend. You just stand waiting for the crash," said Grimesthorpe Road resident Jackie Willoughby. There have been nine accidents on Grimesthorpe Road and eleven on Carwood Road. Jackie added:

"There have been overturned cars; a man with his legs trapped in the steering wheel and a lot of very near misses. We've seen a lot of head wounds. One man this November was bleeding profusely from a gash on his head."

Six residents' vehicles have been damaged in the past year. Jackie's car and her husband's van were both written off in one crash: "He hit the van so hard it was pushed up over the kerb and onto the pavement," said Jackie.

Pat's dog has been knocked down on the road and a cat was killed four weeks ago. "This is a road used by schoolchildren to cross over for Fir Vale Secondary," said Pat.

A lamppost has been knocked down and a new disabled ramp was destroyed by a drunk driver. A chevron sign, put up to warn drivers of the steep bend, has been knocked down and replaced three times now. "Each time we make it bigger!" said Jackie.

New housing on Catherine Road

Arches Housing are now on site on Catherine Road providing up to 35 new homes for sale and rent. These quality homes will be highly insulated and very 'eco-friendly'. Prices for a two bed town house for sale could start from as little as £27k for a 25% share. Priority will be given to local residents wherever possible.

Anyone wishing to 'register an interest' in the homes should contact Julie at Arches Housing Association on 228 8137 or by email juliewi@archeshousing.org.uk.



"We believe they will wait until someone is badly injured or even killed," said Pat.

Councillors blame the six-year delay on funding problems. "Funding was approved in April 2005, but a year later, nothing has been done," said Pat.

Too much talking

Inadequate draft plans were responsible for delays: "They completely ignored the bend between 374 and 432 Grimesthorpe Road where the main problem is." Said Jackie: "There's no point in them narrowing the road further up, because drivers can see straight down, and if there's no other traffic they'll just put their foot down. We need something physical to stop them speeding round the bend."

"They do a lot of talking, but are not so good at doing anything about it," said Pat. "Councillor Hussein said something would be decided at the last meeting, but that was cancelled."

The meeting has been rearranged for 6th April, when residents hope that the application will be approved and work can begin as soon as possible.

Pat concluded: "If we don't get this extra funding, then I don't know. Some have threatened to barricade the road – the Council aren't keen on that idea!"

by Jennifer McKiernan

The Grimesthorpe road safety scheme could not be funded by the Council because it is not classed as a priority, but in 2005 it became part of Burngreave New Deal's Transport Strategy – a £1 million project, funded by New Deal and the Council, to improve road safety in the area.

Recent delays have been caused by the unexpected increase in cost of the Grimesthorpe scheme, from £200,000 to £315,000, because drainage has to be added to the road.

New Deal must decide in April if this scheme should be prioritised over other schemes, such as pedestrian crossings at the junction of Minna Road and Pitsmoor Road. The proposal to be discussed reduces the number of schemes to be funded from nine to six.

The Glorious 12th

The Crown Green Bowling season starts on 12th April and Abbeyfield Park will again host both men's and women's teams. If you're interested in joining please call Winnie Bentley on 276 1575.

To help get the season started Green City Action are organising a Knock-Out Tournament for local organisations and businesses. Members of the Abbeyfield Bowling Teams will give coaching sessions to each of the teams. If you're interested call Garry Smith on 244 0353.

The Pub Guide



The Hallcar Tavern

The Hallcar Tavern is situated in the centre of the Carwood Estate on Carwood Grove, handy for bus routes 20, 39 and B1.

There is a comfortable lounge and a small pool room. Outside we have a beer garden which is nice to relax in and enjoy the sun on a summer's day whilst sampling our range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.



We also serve tea and coffee and at lunchtime we have a selection of sandwiches and toasties. Children are welcome until 7pm.

Our beer is Boddingtons and Flowers IPN and IPA cask-conditioned real ale served on a hand pump. Lagers are extra-cold Castlemaine 4X or Labatts and our premium lager is Stella extra chilled.

Monday night is pool night. Darts, dominoes and crib teams play in the Burngreave league on Tuesday nights. Hallcar Tavern FC play every Sunday morning. New players are always welcome for all our teams. Friday night is bingo night with occasional karaoke or live acts either Saturday or Sunday. Pitsmoor Credit Union come in on Monday evenings at around 8pm.

You can also book private functions, for example birthday parties etc.

You can always be sure of a warm and friendly welcome from Elaine and Pete and all their staff, so come along and join us.

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Burngreave Area Panel

Pear trees and window boxes

Up at Parkwood Springs, just above the helipad, a new sign proudly announces that this small patch of land is 'Little Pear Tree Field Nature Reserve'.

Thanks to the sterling efforts of local residents in the Parkwood Springs Action Group, supported by Sheffield Wildlife Trust, about £20,000 has been raised to clear the land of debris and extraneous species; construct a path; maintain the wetland area; preserve the native moorland in the reserve – particularly the moorland heathers – all to encourage people to cherish a bit of wildness so close to the 'inner city'.

The Group found out from an old 1790 map that the ground had been known as Little Pear Tree Field. Now, thanks to the Community Forester and Action Group member, Jean Armstrong, three pear trees now form a small entrance into the reserve. Jean isn't resting on her laurels though:

"We want everyone to know about this 'secret'. So we're having a launch event on 20th April with local schools and Cllr Steve Jones saying a few words. We hope that children from St Catherine's, Firhill, Shirecliffe and Busk Meadow will all want to come back again and again."

residents resisted the demolition of their neighbourhood, and won over the Council to improve the area with the East Regeneration team providing the cash. Everyone is agreed that the 'greenness' of the area must be improved – it's been recently judged as one of the ten worst neighbourhoods in the city for the quality of its environment.



The residents' group asked for their street tree pockets to once again have



trees in them; and for more houses to have hanging baskets and window boxes. The Community Forester provided a solution to worries about trees blocking out light by suggesting mountain ash, more in keeping with the terraced streets than the large trees seen in the past.

Spring flowers

In mid-March, children from Owler Brook School, local residents, Green City Action and Parks & Countryside staff set

to, digging, planting and mulching – both trees and spring flowers. Local forester Tim Shortland said:

"We closed the street off for a morning and the encouragement we got was grand. One person was a bit worried about trees being planted but after explaining that the species will fit with the street, and won't be too tall or shady, they agreed. If this enthusiasm can be maintained, Page Hall can start to look a treat – window boxes, flowers, trees, shrubs..."

Future work in and around Burngreave and Fir Vale this spring will hopefully encourage more brightness, more colour and more wildness. Little Pear Tree Field is having a 'launch' with local schools on 20th and 21st April; Green City Action's annual environment day in Abbeyfield Park is planned for Sunday afternoon, 21st May – and watch out for stalls, for planters, troughs and window boxes, around the area. All held together by an entry for

'Burngreave in Bloom' for the Lord Mayor's annual awards.

Lampposts

And look on the lampposts on Burngreave Road. Posters designed by local women based on Islamic designs publishing the amazing exhibition on 'Palace and Mosque' at the Millennium Galleries in town (until 17th April).

Councillors' surgeries are on Saturday mornings in Burngreave Library from 11.00am to 12.00 noon unless otherwise stated:

1st April: Steve Jones
8th April: Ibrar Hussain
12.15 to 1.00, Firhill TARA
15th April: No surgery
22nd April: Jackie Drayton
29th April: Steve Jones

Next Area Panel Meeting

- Thursday 25th May. Time, venue and agenda to be confirmed. See next month's *Messenger* for details.



Moves to improve bus services

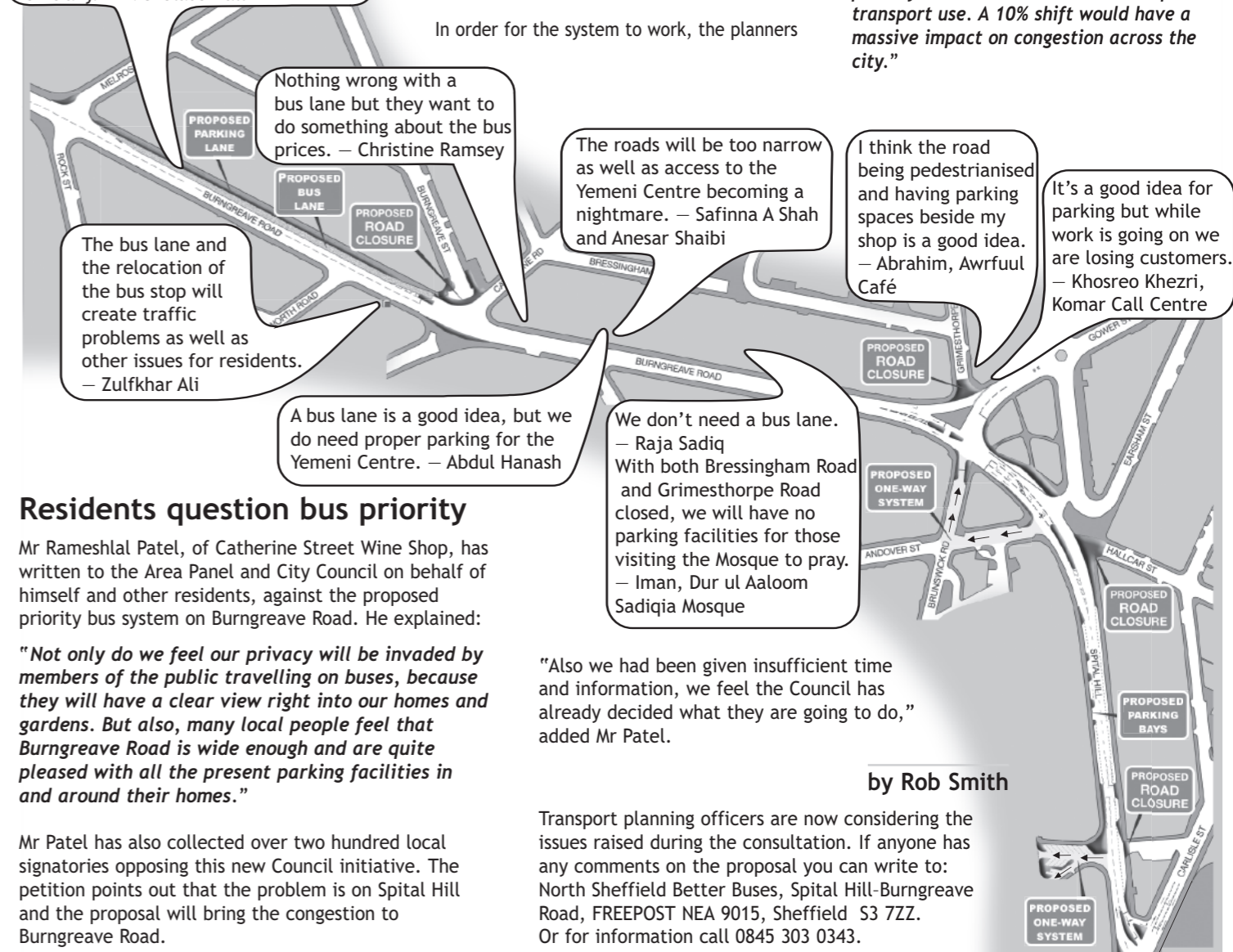
The Better Buses proposals for Burngreave have been met with confusion and opposition by local residents. The plans are part of citywide efforts to control the traffic, so that public transport can become more reliable. For the Transport Executive it will also be a way to monitor bus operators and oblige them to improve bus services.

Better Buses explained

The *Messenger* went along to one of the consultation events to see if we could make sense of the plans. The designers of the traffic scheme explained how the proposals would work. David Budd of the Council's Transport Planning department told us:

"The problem is traffic congestion at peak hours on Spital Hill, which prevents buses getting into the city centre on time."

I think it's a good idea, but congestion will just be displaced and held on Burngreave Road, where there currently isn't any. – Nicholaus Hall



Residents question bus priority

Mr Rameshlal Patel, of Catherine Street Wine Shop, has written to the Area Panel and City Council on behalf of himself and other residents, against the proposed priority bus system on Burngreave Road. He explained:

"Not only do we feel our privacy will be invaded by members of the public travelling on buses, because they will have a clear view right into our homes and gardens. But also, many local people feel that Burngreave Road is wide enough and are quite pleased with all the present parking facilities in and around their homes."

Mr Patel has also collected over two hundred local signatories opposing this new Council initiative. The petition points out that the problem is on Spital Hill and the proposal will bring the congestion to Burngreave Road.

Ideally the engineers would have put a bus lane on Spital Hill, but the road is too narrow, so they devised a system to relocate the queue of traffic up to Burngreave Road between Melrose and Catherine Roads, where the wider road allows for a 24-hour bus lane.

Satellite navigation

The bus lane will allow buses to pass queuing traffic, held on Burngreave Road by new lights at the junction with Catherine Road. Approaching buses are detected by a satellite navigation system, given a green and allowed to proceed while general traffic is held briefly. Traffic signals on Spital Hill would also be triggered to turn to green and allow waiting traffic there to move, clearing the way for the bus so it can continue on towards town without delay.

Reliable service

"The aim would be to manage the system so that buses would arrive when expected rather than just speeding them up," said Tony Lawery, project engineer for the scheme.

In order for the system to work, the planners

explained that road closures would be necessary to avoid 'rat-running' and to help traffic to move through the area more easily. New traffic lights would be put in place at the end of Catherine Road and Carlisle Street. Parking bays would also be added in front of the shops on Spital Hill and at the end of Spital Street. David Budd told us:

"The parking bays on Spital Hill and Spital Street could range from two to four hours waiting time. There may be nominal charges through 'pay and display', so parking can be monitored and to make sure there are always some spaces for people using local shops. Details are yet to be decided."

The planners see many positive side effects of the scheme for local residents; there would be better bus stops, real-time passenger information and better parking for residents currently affected by clearway restrictions. Tony Lawery added that seeing buses sail by every morning might have an effect on car users too:

"When commuters see that buses are the priority we could see an increase in public transport use. A 10% shift would have a massive impact on congestion across the city."

by Rob Smith

Transport planning officers are now considering the issues raised during the consultation. If anyone has any comments on the proposal you can write to: North Sheffield Better Buses, Spital Hill-Burngreave Road, FREEPOST NEA 9015, Sheffield S3 7ZZ. Or for information call 0845 303 0343.

Kurds under pressure

On Wednesday 8th March at 5.15pm Spital Hill was blocked to rush hour traffic. Police cordoned off an area between the Kashmir Curry Centre and Burngreave Library. When I asked why, I was given the standard ‘We don’t comment on operational matters’, but an offer to provide a Kurdish/English interpreter prompted interest. Ari Moustafa, Chair at the Kurdish Community Centre, was however already at the scene, trying to mediate.

Frightening journey

There had been some serious fighting between about twelve young Kurdish men. Three were injured, taken to Rotherham hospital and released after treatment for stab wounds and a facial injury. Five men were arrested. One asylum seeker without leave to remain in the UK, was taken into detention by the immigration service. The other four were charged with violent disorder and remanded to appear at Sheffield Magistrates Court on 13th April.

I asked Ari Moustafa what caused the violence. He explained that it related to an incident that occurred during the frightening journey from war-torn northern Iraq to the UK. He was quick to add: “I feel really ashamed. It’s a shame for all Kurdish people,” and explained that the local Kurdish community was ‘surprised, angry and sad’ at the fighting.

Government blackmail

There is a lot of desperation in the Kurdish community in South Yorkshire. Burngreave has the highest concentration of Kurds in the region. Asylum seekers are not allowed to work and basic government support is conditional on their agreement to return to northern Iraq. This is a very dangerous prospect for most, fearing the violence and corruption which caused them to leave Iraq in the first place. As the *Messenger* reported in December, their refusal to be blackmailed into returning has left hundreds of Iraqi Kurdish asylum seekers in Sheffield without any income or accommodation.

The Government’s aim of forcing thousands of Iraqi Kurdish asylum seekers to leave the UK has, according to Ari, “Pushed people the wrong way. They are tired and angry. Destitute people make trouble.”

by Stuart Crosthwaite

Kurdish Centre reopens

In January the Kurdish Community Centre, at 163 Verdon Street, reopened under new management. We are open 10am–2pm Monday to Thursday. English classes every Wednesday and Thursday from 2pm.

We offer advice and support about immigration issues, accommodation, employment and benefits. We have free internet access and all communities are welcome.

There will be a public meeting to adopt a new constitution and elect a management committee, on Sunday 30th April at 3–6pm at Verdon Recreation Centre. *Nominations will close at 4pm.* Refreshments provided.

For more information call 279 5318 or 0770 426 6613.

Drug support

If someone close to you is taking drugs, drinking alcohol or maybe chewing khat in a negative way it can be difficult to cope with.



Burngreave Drug Project is offering free, confidential and non-judgemental support to families and friends of drug, alcohol and khat users.

A woman from the Somali community who lives in Burngreave tells her story, and how the project can help:

“When the police called me to tell me my son had been arrested for possession of cannabis, I was shocked, ashamed and frightened all at the same time. I was so confused, I didn’t know much about drugs and kept asking myself; why was he doing this to us?”

“I had noticed that he didn’t want to spend time with the family and seemed to stop caring about us and himself but I thought he was just growing up. He was always agitated by small things, he lost his job at the supermarket and money had begun to disappear. One day he got angry and violent, hitting me and leaving me with a large bruise on my head and arm. I felt frightened and alone. It never crossed my mind that my son was taking drugs even when some of my neighbours told me things that upset me about my son.

“When I found out he was taking drugs, I blamed myself for being a bad parent. I struggled to cope, lost sleep and felt tired and upset all the time. I was afraid to leave the house because my community is small and everyone knows everyone else’s business and I felt they were judging and looking at me.

“Six months ago I rang the Burngreave Drug Project to get help for my son as I did not know what to do anymore, he was back in the house and had stolen some of my jewellery. When I spoke to the family worker there, she offered me time to talk for myself. She told me that there are lots of families going through the same thing as me and that if I wanted support we could meet regularly to talk. I never knew that there was support for families or even really recognised that I needed help too as I always saw my son as having the problem, not me. She assured me that everything we talked about would be confidential and that no one would judge me so I decided to give it a try.

“I was embarrassed at first and it took time but getting support has helped my confidence grow and I have learnt how to cope better. I have also realised that what has happened is not my fault. It has been so great to actually have the time for me to voice how I feel when I have kept all my emotions inside for so long. I have also learnt how to relax and give myself space with the help of the Burngreave Drug Project complementary therapists. As a family member affected by substance misuse I can go for regular ear acupuncture sessions and have had reflexology, shiatsu and Indian head massage!

“My son is seeing a drug worker and together our family is getting closer again. It’s a long journey but I know we can make it with the support that we have been shown by the Burngreave Drug Project. I just hope other people realise they can get help too, I don’t know how we would have coped otherwise.”

If you are using drugs, alcohol or khat or are affected by someone else who is and would like help, contact Burngreave Drugs Project on 226 2970.

A New Deal for Burngreave

University helps establish Burngreave status

BNDfC has enlisted the help of students from the University of Sheffield to discover what you think about your area.

Fifty second-year undergraduates will be undertaking the research within Burngreave to establish what people think about the regeneration that has taken place and what they would like to see happen during the remaining five years of BNDfC.

During the research, the students will work to design and send out a postal survey to a sample of approximately 200 residents and then follow up face-to-face interviews with a smaller sub-sample of 50 people.

Jackie Toyne, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager for BNDfC, said: “It is vital to the success of BNDfC that we regularly communicate with residents and give them the opportunity to feedback to us about what they do and don’t like. We hope that the local residents selected will get involved and share their experiences. This research will look at the perceptions of the residents who live in the BNDfC area and aim to understand how well the programme is doing and what difference it is making.”

The research will begin in February and run until May 2006. The final report will be available and presented locally in July 2006.

For further details please contact Jackie Toyne at BNDfC on 292 0458 or email jackietoyne@bndfc.co.uk.

Partnership Board Meeting – Wednesday, 22 February 2006	
What was discussed	What we decided
Delivery Plan The final draft of the Year 6 Delivery Plan was presented to members for their approval prior to submitting the Plan to Government Office for Yorkshire and Humber (GOYH).	To approve the Delivery Plan for 2006/07 presented at this Board meeting with a BNDfC spend of £13,622,717.
Childcare Focus Members reviewed the outcome of their discussions on childcare and their recommendations arrived at through Partnership Board focus meetings in January and February 2006.	To approve the extension of the Childcare Consortium proposal for a further 12 to 24 months. To note the approach to undertake the development of a Childcare Voucher Scheme. To agree they should receive an updated report on developments in September 2006.
Asset Management Strategy Members agreed that the programme’s asset management strategy should focus on the acquisition of assets that provide the community with facilities that transform the area and the quality of services that are available.	To approve the Asset Management Strategy. To note that a further report reviewing the current Asset Management Sub Group will be submitted to the Executive Sub Group in March 2006.
Forum House Members discussed the purchase of Forum House.	To approve the purchase of Forum House at a cost of £475,000. To agree to receive representation from BCF and any other organisation at sometime in the future regarding the ownership of Forum House as a way of sustaining the BME community support infrastructure in Sheffield.

For more information on BNDfC please contact 279 6932



Burngreave Grant Panel

Would you like to take the first steps into helping your community – learning committee skills and making important decisions about how money is spent?

The Burngreave Small Grant Fund gives a range of grants from a few hundred pounds up to five thousand pounds and we are looking for Burngreave residents to join the panel. The commitment involved is around one afternoon or evening a month. Training will be provided and expenses paid.

For more information on becoming a member of the Grant Fund Panel, please contact Grant Officer, Ased Saddiq on 292 2905 or Grants Admin, Chris Dignam on 292 2906.

News in brief

BOPPs

Burngreave Opportunities (BOPPs) is now running from the old JobNet premises on Spital Hill. JobNet services are still accessible through the centre so if you need support in finding a job, to improve your skills or working out what you want to do with the rest of your life, call in for a chat.

BOPPs will be moving over to Forum House within the next couple of months which will give the project more space to deliver a range of services including job search advice and guidance, money management training and back to work grants.

BOPPs will be officially launched later this year, so keep an eye out for the date and venue in a future *Messenger*.

Theme meetings

BNDfC Theme Focus Meetings are open to everyone who lives, or has an interest in, the BNDfC area. They provide a platform where residents can share their ideas and issues can be discussed. For further information please contact a member of the Community Engagement Team:

Crime and Education – Ali Abdi, 279 6920 or 0773 987 8601.

Employment and Enterprise and Health – Ophelia Clarke, 292 0459 or 0773 987 8602.

Housing and Environment – Carol Anderson, 292 0460 or 0773 987 8600.

The next meetings are:

Health: 3 April & 5 June, St Peter's Church Hall, 5.30–7.30pm

Employment & Enterprise: 5 April & 3 May, Ellesmere Children's Centre, 1.30–3.30pm

Over-arching: 11 April, The Furnival, Verdon Street, 6–8pm

Housing: 13 April, BNDfC Information Shop, 6–8pm

Crime: 18 April, Pitsmoor Methodist Church, 6–8pm

Education: 19 April, St Peter's Church Hall, Lyons Street, 6–8pm

Environment: 27 April, Pitsmoor Methodist Church, 6–8pm

Warm welcome for regeneration duo

BNDfC is welcoming two new managers who are looking forward to working with local residents to further drive forward the regeneration of Burngreave.

Kate Hurley is the new Housing, Crime and Environment Theme Manager. She joins from Groundwork Dearne Valley, an Environmental Regeneration Charity, where she worked in partnership with Doncaster's New Deal for Communities programme and more recently the Housing Market Renewal team in Rotherham.

Kate said: "I am really excited about my new role – Burngreave is such a vibrant area and you only have to walk around Ellesmere Green at lunchtime to see how much there is going on. I am particularly keen to start work in supporting many of the transformational projects that are underway in the area such as Vestry Hall and Sorby House, which are both very positive developments in the area.

"As part of my new job I will be completing an evaluation of the Anti-social Behaviour Team and the New Deal Police to help the two organisations to continue working effectively with the local community and the Safer Neighbourhoods Team. I will also be liaising with Sheffield City Council's regeneration team and local residents on the housing side to create development briefs for Catherine Street, Woodside and Ellesmere."

Also joining the New Deal team is Sandra Greateorex, who will be responsible for the Over Arching and Health themes. She brings to BNDfC a wealth of regeneration experience having worked as a Pioneer Area Co-ordinator in Barnsley on a South Yorkshire-wide capacity building project.

Sandra said: "A key aspect of my new role at BNDfC will involve helping to assist projects to secure alternative funding streams as the New Deal programme reaches its final five years. This will be done through continued work with focus groups and strategy groups to identify positive ways to move forward. We will operate very strategically and aim to get local people to think in the same way."

Sandra, who spent time in Burngreave when she was growing up, is very excited about returning to work in the area.

She added: "Many years ago, my Auntie owned the pub on the corner of Carlisle Street and I often went to stay with her. Ever since then I have had a real passion for Burngreave – there are always lots of positive things going on and I am relishing the opportunity to work in the area."

John Clark, Chief Executive of BNDfC, said: "We are delighted that Kate and Sandra have joined our team – they have both worked in the regeneration sector for many years and bring with them a vast amount of experience. They have exactly the right credentials and expertise to help us build on the positive work that is already taking place within Burngreave."



(L-R) Sandra Greateorex, BNDfC's new overarching and health theme manager, with her colleague, Kate Hurley, who will manage the housing, crime and environment themes.

Back to the community

The 'thriving' Verdon Recreation Centre is looking for a local community group to take over its management.

The centre was opened in 1988 after a need for a recreational facility in the area was identified. A partnership between Sheffield City Council and the Sports Council (now Sport England) funded and ran the centre.

A voluntary management committee, made up of local people, managed the centre successfully until around three years ago, when the pressures of running the facility became too much.



"The centre takes a lot of running," said David Frith of Activity Sheffield. "The members gradually dropped out one by one until there was no-one left," he added.

The Council's Activity Sheffield is eager to reinstate a voluntary management committee to run the centre. At the moment Activity Sheffield put on their physical activities at the centre, but they want a community group to manage its opening at other times so it can be a more accessible facility. Activity Sheffield would still be involved to provide support and advice.

"The centre deserves to be back in community control," said David Frith. "After all, the community knows what's best for the community."

Verdon Street is going from strength to strength and offers a wide range of activities to all ages:

For further details contact Verdon Recreation Centre on 249 1626 or Michalis Kallis, Activity Sheffield on 0790 993 6215.

by Claire Berry

Activities at Verdon Recreation Centre

Tuesday
2.15–3.15pm, Tai-Chi (*over 18s*) • £1
4.00–5.30pm, Kool Klub (*8–14 year olds*) • 20p

Wednesday
10.00–11.00am, Women only aerobics (*free crèche*) • 50p

Thursday
4.00–5.30pm, Kool Klub (*8–14 year olds*) • 20p
6.30–7.30pm, Stretch and Tone (*women only*) • 50p
7.45–8.45pm, Yoga (*over 18s*) • £1

Friday
12.00 noon–2.00pm • FunDamentals (*for parent and toddler, 18 months–3 years, gym sessions*) • Free
3.30–4.30pm, Football (*8–14 year olds*) • 30p

Free at Easter

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday
3rd–13th April, 12.00 noon–5.00pm

Offering a variety of organised sports and play activities.

BME Forum

Over 250 people attended Sheffield Chambers' black and minority ethnic (BME) business forum's Moving Forward event in February.



L-R: Bernadette Grocock, Julie Readman of Business Link South Yorkshire and Hakim Wais of BME Forum Steering Committee.

Pupils from Fir Vale School attended and performed Caribbean steel band; santur and tabla duet and Bollywood dancing. Their involvement enabled some to gain a work placement.

Bernadette Grocock, Sheffield BME Forum Co-ordinator, said: "The work placements are an excellent way of getting young people motivated by learning from role models. It enables them to gain an early insight into business development and will hopefully inspire them to become the next generation of entrepreneurs."

For more information about the BME Business Forum contact Bernadette on 281 4748 or e-mail bernadette.grocock@sccl.org.uk.

Radio roadshows

Following news that Burngreave Community Radio had gained its five-year broadcasting licence, people registered to get involved at the first roadshow-style meeting about the radio held in March.

To get involved in any aspects of this community radio's development please come along to any of the following events:

Monday 10th April
6–8pm, St Peter's Church, Lyons Road

Tuesday 18th April
6–8pm, Firhill Out of School Building, Orphanage Road

Saturday 22nd April
1–3pm, Burngreave Library

For any further information contact Rob Smith on 0779 605 8564 or Leroy Betts on 292 0460.

Celebrating Women’s Day

The theme for International Women’s Day 2006 was ‘Inspiring Potential’.

It is a day which is meant to look at the challenges women face as well as looking at their advancement and development. It’s also about offering support, embracing and enhancing women’s community: an international celebration of education and empowerment.

All these themes were facilitated at the Verdon Street event on 8th March.

The event got off to a good start with a steady flow of women from all nations coming together to celebrate womanhood.

There were various stalls that offered both information on issues that affect women – for example domestic abuse; services; free health checks and pampering – massage, facials, hair and nails.

I was quite pleased at the turnout. I reflected three years ago, it was quite difficult to get such a good turn out at an event and the attendance usually dwindled after lunch, but this was not the case. We have definitely grown as a community. Together we can achieve so much more.

To all women who daily facilitate in various roles, you are our unsung heroes – RESPECT.

by Camille Daughma



Women enjoying a successful celebration at Verdon Recreation Centre on 8th March.



All © Camille Daughma

Amber Taxis wait for green light

The idea of Sheffield’s first all-female private membership taxi services is being brought to reality by Margaret Bamberry of Earl Marshal Close.

Margie explained that Amber Cars South Yorkshire aims to create a safer service for women and has taken over two years of preparation and market research.

“I went to college to gain my business access qualifications, City and Guilds and Inland Revenue PAYE. My main idea is to run a safe, exclusively female taxi service, operated strictly by women drivers and controllers.”

Initially, the Council’s Taxi Licensing Section questioned the research and justification for a women-only service.

“After seeking advice, I approached the Council to justify the need for this service under the Sex Discrimination Act.”

The Act allows discrimination in recruitment in certain limited circumstances where services can most effectively be provided by a member of a specific gender.

“There is only one other firm of this kind in the country, and Amber Taxis South Yorkshire would become an elite firm dealing with the transportation of women clientele only. This idea has already received a very positive response from various local and citywide women’s organisations: sheltered hostels, faith, religious and cultural groups. We are also negotiating contracts for the nightly transportation of female staff working at ‘30 Plus’ and other city centre bars and clubs. Social services have also been in contact expressing a keen interest in the service we are going to offer.”

More complications

Having secured the tenancy to the old DB Taxis site on Andrew’s Lane,

Margie has come up against planning problems due to the building’s listed status. However, Margie hopes to overcome this and any other obstacles that may prevent this Burngreave-based initiative getting off the ground.

Danger to women is a sign of the times and the *Messenger* agrees with Margaret, that there are many agencies and local organisations as well as women themselves, that will benefit from the development of Amber Cars South Yorkshire.

Jobs available

For information regarding Amber Cars vacancies for fully-licensed female taxi drivers (ref: CVD22665) and female radio controllers (ref: CVD22666), visit your local JobCentrePlus.

by Rob Smith

Writing Together!

Parents at Pye Bank School have created a book as part of the Adult & Community Learning Unit ‘Writing Together’ course. Inspired by Dr Martin Luther King’s words ‘I have a dream’ it includes students’ writing about their lives and experiences. Tutor Kath Swinney explained:

“There are Writing Together; Reading Together and Spelling Together courses, all of which have been a great success. Work from the Writing Together course has been used to create a booklet.”

Student and mother Ifrah Ahmed told the *Messenger* how happy she was to have contributed: “Learning English, my second language, is really helping me a lot.”

Jawahir explained how having a good teacher helped her to write and talk about things. “Especially things that have affected me in my past. My English speaking has improved and helped me to write about my sister whom I’ve not seen for 17 years.”

Here are some extracts from the book.

My dream is that my children get a good education.

My dream is to meet my sister that I have not seen for 17 years.

My dream is to go Makka.

My dream is that all war is stopped.

My dream is that everyone is healthy and that everyone has food.

I have a dream that one day the remains of racist attitudes will be destroyed.

I also dream that world domination will no longer be an issue.

by Jawahir

My dreams are very good because I live with my husband.

I dream about children and education. My dreams are very beautiful about my life and family. I dream that the world becomes a good place because we all need the whole world to negotiate and discuss the future.

by Zelnab

I have a dream that one day the people of Somalia will stop the war.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and join hands and rebuild their destroyed country and bury their differences.

I have a dream... I have a dream that one day the nation of Somalia will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that one day the nation of Somalia will live by the true meaning of their beliefs.

I have a dream that one day the people of Somalia will create equal rights for men and women.

by Zahra

My Childhood Story

I was born in Somalia, Somalia is in Africa and it is between Kenya and Ethiopia. I live with my family. I had both my parents, five brothers and two sisters. My father worked in the bank and my mum was a nurse. I had a lot of friends in Somalia. The weather was always hot and sunny. The food was fresh, we ate fresh meat and fish we never used frozen things except water.

I started school when I was seven years old we learnt Somali, basic Arabic and maths. The teachers were very strict. If you were late for one minute you were punished even if you had a good reason.

We started school at 7.30 in the morning and finished at 12.30. When I came home, I ate my lunch then I did my homework. After that I helped my sisters with their homework. When my parents went to work I looked after the children because I was oldest child in my family.

Our education system was different from UK. We have one holiday in each year. My grandparents lived in the countryside. They were farmers they planted lot of things such as mango, bananas, oranges, guavas, apples, watermelon and vegetables. During the holidays I visited my grandparents. I was very excited when I went to the countryside. I worked with my grandparents. We fetched water a very long way. We travelled by foot.

by Zarah

The Writing Together course is held at Pye Bank Primary School. To join, contact Kath Swinney, Skills for Life Development Officer on 266 7503.



Green City Action

Grow your own curry

GCA has joined forces with the Workers Education Association to bring you the opportunity to learn how to grow the ingredients for a great curry. This is a very hands-on course with a great outcome, your very own designer curry. The course will run in May and June and consists of six four-hour blocks. The course is free to anyone on benefit or a household income of less than £15,000, contact us for details. No previous experience of gardening is necessary.

If you are interested in any other sort of gardening and have ideas for a course let us know, as we will be organising further courses

Burngreave Green Brigade

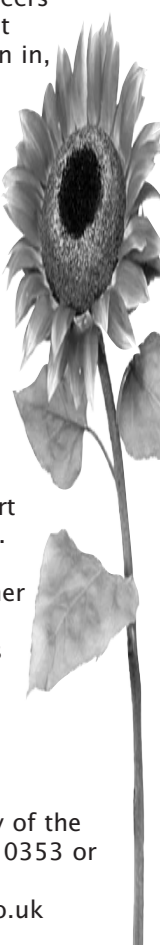
Do you want to help us sort out our green spaces? If so then why not join our existing staff and volunteers and work together to make it happen. Come along and join in, make a difference and enjoy yourself at the same time. Contact us now to sign up for the Burngreave Green Brigade, together we will deliver it green.

Seed Bank

The ever popular seed bank opens in April with support from the Area Panel. We stock a wide range of vegetable, herbs and flower seeds — come along and start growing your own right now. Advice is available if you are not sure how to start. Whether you have a big garden or a window box there are things you can grow. We are open Wednesday and Thursday 10am-4pm and Saturday 10am-noon.

For more information on any of the above give us a ring on 244 0353 or drop us an e-mail, enquiries@greencityaction.co.uk

Deliver it **green...**



Playing at Wembley

Situated at the bottom of Sutherland Road amongst factories and wasteland, ‘Wembley playground’ is only a shadow of what it once was.



The Council are planning to sell the land off in May and the future looks bleak for this local landmark. Unbeknown to most people this small piece of debris-ridden wasteland was actually once upon a time a beautiful small playground. The playground has belonged to the council since records began, but in 1940 the land was taken over by the RAF for use in the war effort and they paid Sheffield Council a mere £1 for the use of the land. It was home to a barrage balloon and the Home Guard. It was then released by the RAF and given back to the Council in 1945. The earliest map we could find with the playground marked on was dated 1955.

In my search to find out more I spoke to Burngreave resident Errol Edwards.

“My friends and I used to play there in the late ’60s and early ’70s. It was our local play area, where we used to hang out, along with the Peace Gardens and Ellesmere School playground. If you stepped out of your house and there wasn’t anyone at one place you would go to another to see if there was anyone there.”

It is part of the many different things that have been demolished or left to rot over the years on Sutherland Road and the surrounding area. Some people may remember the Public Baths around the same place but they all went during the industrialisation of the area. I also asked Errol about the name ‘Wembley’ where did it come from?

“Well I don’t think anyone can really remember where the name came from. There was a game we used to play on the park called Wembley but apart from that it’s a bit of a mystery.”

I also asked Errol if he had any special memories of the playground.

“Well there was a park-keeper, a Scottish man I think, that used to run the park and see to it. It always seemed strange to me that the Council employed this one person just for the upkeep of that small piece of land. He was always very protective of it and he would close it up every night at six in the evening. Nobody dared try and sneak in after six.”

So with the piece of land about to be sold off, I asked Errol what he thought about it.

“The park has deteriorated to such a state now I think it’s beyond saving. Though it does depend what the Council will do with it or who they will sell it to.”



After my meeting with Errol, I spoke to Melvin Reilly of the Council’s parks department. He explained that the playground, until recently, had charitable status:

“There are quite a few parks with charitable status in the north of Sheffield. This was given to stop the Council disposing of them so they were put into the hands of the Charity Commission. The Council has now been granted permission to dispose of the site. The money made from selling the site will be spent on other parks or playgrounds in the Burngreave area.”

If you have any thoughts on how the money should be spent please contact the *Messenger* on 242 0564 or email messenger@burngreave.net.

by Tom Sadler

bohp

20th March 06 - 30th October 06

**“Digital Journeys”
Burngreave Oral History Project**

Destinations Arts is using digital technologies to collect and share the memories of the first generation of African Caribbean migrants.

We will be running free creative workshops in Burngreave from April 2006.

Learn how to create digital photographs & videos using the latest computers or take part in our Black History Month 2006 performance.

To find out more visit www.bohp.org
email info@makedigital.org or call
‘Destinations Arts’ on 0114 220 2330

"share you stories, because memories matter"



BURNGREAVE MESSENGER

Janice’s just recognition

Janice Young, owner of Youngs Criminal Defence Services on Spital Hill has recently been up for two awards in recognition of her legal and community services.

Janice, who first set up her business single-handedly in London in January 1994, received a Community Impact Award at the Burngreave Business Awards in February and was also shortlisted for the High Sheriff’s Awards.

I went to visit Janice in her offices on Ellesmere Green to talk to her about her career to date and also about these awards. She greeted me with a wide smile and warm hello. First, she told me of how she came to work in Burngreave.

“After living in London for years, I began to yearn to work somewhere where I felt part of a community, which is something that I felt was lacking in London. By moving up to Sheffield, and more recently Burngreave, I hoped to obtain this, and I certainly did. Sheffield has a great community feeling.”

I spoke to Janice about her early years and her reasons for wanting to become a solicitor.

“As a child, I suffered a lot of bullying and abuse at school. I always wanted someone to stand up and help me. As I grew older, I decided it was something I would like to do for other people, so I decided to study law, to try to make a difference.”

I also found out more about exactly what services Janice provides and the history of some of her work.

Women’s Construction

On Thursday 9th February, the Minister for Women, Meg Munn MP, and the government’s Equality team organised a ‘Have Your Say’ event at Sheffield Hallam University for women to put issues they see as important forward to government.

First Meg Munn visited the new Women’s Construction Centre, above the Hindu Temple in Buckenham Street. She listened to the aspirations of women doing a plastering course to undertake further training. Meg looked forward



“We deal in a number of cases ranging from murder, rape to shoplifting. We have had some quite high-profile cases as well. We still do cases in London and even have a case pending at The Old Bailey. We have also had some of our cases reported in the papers.”

Apart from her obviously busy, full-time schedule as a solicitor, Janice is a married mother of two, and says that she makes sure to spend time with her family. She is also engaged in numerous other projects in and around Burngreave, such as being a committee member of Black Palm, a mentoring scheme for black ethnic minority men, and being vice-chair of the Burngreave Business Forum. She admits that time management can often be quite difficult.

“Being a solicitor and a full-time mum and wife can be very demanding! Everything is a priority, each thing is as important as the others. I just have to try

and juggle all the different activities and get a good balance.”

From the way she spoke to me about her career with passion and enthusiasm, Janice really does feel she is happy; she is doing what she really wants to do. There was, however, one thing in particular that she said really made her job worthwhile.

“It really is thrilling to see young clients turning their lives around and doing well. It is a fantastic feeling. I also get many thank you letters from clients, and this is nice. It’s a great feeling, knowing you’ve really helped someone.”

I went on to ask Janice about her awards and how she felt about them.

“I didn’t believe it at first. Just to be nominated for the High Sheriff Award, let alone be shortlisted! The ceremony for the Burngreave Business Awards was also amazing. It was really great to see so many people who have achieved so much in the area. It felt like I was floating on a cloud, and I’d quite like to stay up there a little longer!”

Finally, I asked Janice if she had any advice for aspiring solicitors.

“Think about the area of law you want to go into. Also, contact firms in your area to see if there’s a chance of getting some work experience with them. You have to be sure you want to do it; it’s a vocation not a career. Go for it once you have decided that it’s what you want.”

Youngs Criminal Defence Services is located on Ellesmere Green and they can be contacted on 249 5444.

by Reuben Vincent



Meg Munn MP with members of the plastering course at the Women’s Construction Centre.

to opening the new businesses that some were planning.

This course is sponsored by the Community Foundation Community Champions Fund and each week eight women spend time under expert tuition restoring one of Burngreave’s old buildings.

The centre also runs courses in Computer Aided Design (CAD) and DIY starting at the end of May. For more info contact Women’s Construction Centre on 273 7046 or email wintt.sywdt@btconnect.com.

by Ros Wollen

Passion for boxing

Muhssen Nasser, a 19-year-old welterweight (class) boxer has been professional since he turned 18 last year. Having grown up on Lopham Street in Burngreave, Muhssen has always held a strong interest in the sport and boxed as an amateur from the age of 12.



With the full support of his family and with his two brothers aged 22 and 16 years also heavily involved, there is much hope for Muhssen's future. His friend Rafiq Saleh, from Burngreave Sports Network, explained Muhssen's passion for boxing and how the community of Burngreave has in its hands a rare opportunity to play a pivotal role in his hopes of long-term success.

“Our aim is to promote Muhssen’s profile within Burngreave; he hopes to bring something back into this community and to channel the energy into other youngsters.”

It is vital that the youth in Burngreave, and in Sheffield, witness for themselves the likes of Muhssen, because he is living proof that achievement in sports can be done, regardless of your background.

With a total of 37 bouts under his belt, including nine wins out of nine professional fights and having fought all over Europe, including Spain, Italy and Ireland, it certainly suggests that he has the talent to become a top-class boxer even at his tender age.

All the way to the top

Muhssen is very passionate about what he does and looks up to boxers such as Muhammed Ali and Sugar Ray Robinson as his inspiration, his aim is to carve out a career in boxing. “I would like to go all the way to the top,” said Muhssen.

Aside from boxing Muhssen is also in full-time education and plans to attend university in September. These added financial constraints mean he will need to bring in more money to support his boxing career. When Muhssen is not at college he is training at the gym or praying. He keeps his head down and he trains like he prays – religiously.

Despite the excellent progress being made by Muhssen, with no profile and no sponsorship it will be hard for him to keep moving in the right direction. “We are looking for sponsorship for Muhssen so he can use the money to buy new equipment such as gloves and boots and to pay various other costs.”

This money would take some of the pressure of his shoulders as at present he has just enough to live on. Any one interested in providing sponsorship should contact Muhssen on 0778 366 0356.

by Brent Moya

Ellesmere at 10

It seems strange to think of our area 10 years ago, before Ellesmere Children’s Centre (ECC), and other prominent childcare facilities like the Black Women’s Resource Centre.



Local people have worked hard to develop accessible, affordable, high-quality childcare that reflects the community.

Initially the ECC building was virtually derelict, with no glass in the windows. Sharon Curtis was employed as co-ordinator with one other nursery officer, and a steering group from the local community. Sharon was presented with a wish list and a bank account of £1,800. It's an achievement that several of the original steering group are still involved, including Katherine Robinson, who is still Treasurer.

Arson attack

Memorable times for Sharon include getting the Lottery bid in 1996 for £110,000 to fund the project for three years. Then the arson attack a year later which caused £45,000 worth of damage. Sharon says the caretaker at the time just wanted to board up the building and admit defeat, but Sharon and the parents didn't let that happen.

“They came in and cleaned and cleaned. And we were open again in six months.”

Awards

Winning the Burngreave Business Awards in 2005, and two more in 2006, plus the Duke of York ‘Good Practice’ award this year, has reaffirmed Sharon and the Centre's commitment to childcare for Burngreave.

The highlight for this year is a staff visit to China, to experience early years childcare, teacher training and alternative medicines.

To sum up her time Sharon said:

“It’s been an interesting rollercoaster, but the benefits of intercultural exchange have been enormous.”

Anniversary celebrations will be held on 30th June at Ellesmere Children's Centre. Everybody welcome.

by Gaby Spinks

Children’s achievements applauded

Applause rang from the University’ Octagon Centre as it hosted this year’s BNDfC Burngreave Children’s Education Achievement Awards on Wednesday 1st March.

Parents, teachers and community representatives braved the cold to see over 500 children mount the stage and receive awards.

“It’s fabulous to be here,” said Lesley Kay (Head Teacher of Fir Vale School), “This is a positive way to recognise and celebrate the achievements of young people, not just about attainment and attendance in school but in all aspects of community life such as contributions to after school study support groups.”

14-year-old Germaine Colphon, from Parkwood High, happily explained his award was for good behaviour, “And from now on I will try harder and do this again.”

Mohamed Shamassan, teacher of the Arabic Language School explained how great it was getting all the kids who are doing the same thing together. Study Support Co-ordinator Diane Haimeed added: “This brings our communities together, thanks from the Yemeni Community Association to New Deal for putting on this event.”

Really proud

Chris Stanton of Andover Street, witnessing his daughter Katie receive an award for music, said: “This is a brilliant idea for all the kids and the whole Burngreave community. I’m really proud of my daughter.”

Deian Sinclair received an award for reaching Level 2 Key Stage 1. “We also came last year,” explained his mother



Beverly Stuart of Roe Lane, “We think it’s a brilliant idea, all coming together to see the kids who have achieved from all different schools around our community.”

Kasim Musim was awarded for soccer skills and his father Abdul was beaming with pride as he also told me: “This is great event and a great idea.” His 6-year-old daughter Miriam Musim agreed, adding that next year she would also be getting an award.

15-year-old Francesca Roslyn Whyte, of Firvale School, receiving an award for outstanding work at Key Stage 3, said: “Brilliant Rob, it was a brilliant evening. I’m proud to be a part of the Burngreave area and to have achieved at Key Stage 3. My advice to others is:

don’t stress yourself, just take it how it comes and believe in yourself.”

Wajhat Hussain, age 10, from Firs Hill School received his award for excellent behaviour. “His brother Nazar is 16 and attends Firvale School,” explained their father. Nazar has achieved five GCSEs (A*–C).

David Chipasha, representing Hinde House School had come to see his sister Alesi, receive her award. “I think this is a very good idea. Although I’m not getting an award, I do hope to get one next year.”

Amber Williams of St Catherine’s School achieved Level 2 at Key Stage 1. Her mother Donna said: “This gives our children more encouragement to achieve.”

Murva Durand of Malton Street, proud of her daughter Tanisha Johnson achieving Level 2 at Key Stage 1 added. “It’s a fantastic idea that gives them self worth, reward and recognition.” Murva’s eldest daughter Natasha Allen achieved five GCSEs (A*–C) at Notre Dame School.

Brilliant!

Alice Hopewell (7) also achieved Level 2 Key Stage 1 and proud father Ian smiled and said: “Brilliant! It’s brilliant.”

Young Laricha Williams (7) of Firs Hill School also achieved Level 2 at Key Stage 1. Proud mother Charlene Ramsey said: “This gives our children something to work towards and hopefully can continue next year and for years after.”

by Rob Smith

‘Illusions of Grandeur’

Spectacular Displays of Ultra-Violet Artwork & Stunning Visuals

An ‘Open Up (Sheffield) 2006’ event

Hosted by ‘The Friends of Burngreave Chapel’

At ‘MI Space’ at Burngreave Chapel/Cemetery, Melrose Rd, S3

Special Preview Opening: 7-10pm, Friday 28th April – All welcome!

Opening Times

Sat 29th, Sun 30th April, Bank Holiday Mon 1st May: 2-4pm and 8-11 pm; Wed 3rd: 8-11 pm; Sat 6th and Sun 7th: 2-4pm and 8-11 pm.

For more information contact

Patrick on patrickamber@hotmail.com or 0790 679 2963.

