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Burngreave Messenger

Voice of the Burngreave Community

May Day Greetings to all our readers

Parkwood's sanctuary for wildlife

A wildlife sanctuary was opened at Parkwood Springs by children from St Catherine's School on 20th April. It will be known by its original name 'Little Pear Tree Field'.

Jean Armstrong, local resident and member of Parkwood Springs Steering Group, noticed a neglected area next to Shirecliffe Road. Her research showed it was formerly known as Little Pear Tree Field.

The Steering Group obtained £20,000 from the landfill tax credits scheme run by nearby landfill site operator Viridor, which diverts taxes levied on landfill to improve the local environment.



with fantastic views over the Don Valley. This reserve will now provide a sanctuary for wildlife and for people in Burngreave and Shirecliffe to watch and learn about nature," said Jean (pictured bottom left talking to Radio Sheffield).

After opening the site, the children set about hunting for bugs and various slimy creatures which they enthusiastically identified and recorded.

Parkwood Springs Steering Group sees the Little Pear Tree Field sanctuary as the first step in working with the community to develop Parkwood as an attractive recreational and educational resource.

by Andrew Green

Sheffield Wildlife Trust and the Council's Trees and Woodlands Department organised the improvements.

The sanctuary now includes new woodland and wetland habitats, grassland and heath, and new footpaths to make it accessible. A boundary hedge was restored last year using traditional hedging techniques. Four new pear trees were planted, and children from Southey Hill Primary School sowed wildflower seeds. Viridor also provided several blocks of stone, weighing up to two tonnes each, to serve as seats.

"It can be all too easy to forget about the wonderful natural resource of wildlife found at Parkwood Springs,



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Applications from residents of the Burngreave area are particularly welcome for this post.

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If you have:

- Experience of working in an office environment, using Microsoft Office to produce letters, spreadsheets and databases.
- Excellent communication skills both in person and on the telephone.
- Can work as part of a team as well as being able to work with minimum supervision.

We would like to hear from you.

For further information and an application pack please contact Lizzy Clark at BNDfC on (0114) 292 0391.

**Closing date for applications
2.00pm, Friday 26 May 2006**

**Interviews to be held
Wednesday 14 June 2006**

Burngreave Opportunities is a partnership project between BNDfC, Centre for Full Employment, Sheffield Futures and The Sheffield Action Team, with funding from the European Social Fund.



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Or contact Daniel Massey, Dennis Tester
or Mohamed Hujaleh on 273 5134 or 273 4680
Email: prp@sheffield.gov.uk



Burngreave Grant Fund GRANTS OF UP TO £5,000

Get involved with your community...

*Does your organisation have a new or innovative idea
that would benefit local residents?*

Would a small grant allow you to develop your idea?

If so contact the BNDfC Grants Team to discuss your idea.

Organisations can apply for a grant of up to £5,000 and individuals and groups can also benefit with grants of up to £500.

We will even consider groups which are not fully constituted, but we need to be clear who will be responsible for the money.

Your applications will be considered as long as:

- It helps people get involved in their local community.
- The people who benefit are from the Burngreave New Deal Area.

The next closing dates for Grant Applications are:
26th May • 30th June • 28th July

For an application pack, phone the Grants Team
on (0114) 292 2906 or 292 2905.

ICT and E-Learning: What Works?

Planning an effective programme of ICT and E-learning for Adults in Burngreave.

**A free half day conference at
Forum House, 35 Spital Hill
Thursday 25th May 2006
10.30am-1pm**

Computers and the Internet have revolutionised how we live, how we work and how we learn.

- How does IT learning improve our lives?
- How does the Internet help learning?
- How can Burngreave make the most of new technology?

National and local speakers have been invited to this important Community Conference to help us to answer these questions.

**Open to all residents and learning providers from the
Burngreave area. To book a place, call BCLC on 2794960,
Tony Tingle on 2669489 or e-mail: info@burngreavelearning.org**



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By taking part in the BTCV Green Gym you can improve your health and fitness, reduce the risk of coronary heart disease, make new friends and feel more positive about life. You can also make a real difference to your local environment.

For more information call BTCV on
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In response to last month's article Ultimatum for BCAT, the Messenger received the following responses:

Statement from BCAF Chair

The March Quarterly Forum Meeting provided an opportunity for the Forum to discuss the current crisis affecting BCAT, which is facing imminent closure due to the potential loss of its funding.

The Forum was informed of the enormous progress made recently by the BCAT staff team in reaching their targets for capacity-building work in Burngreave. Following a frank discussion of the issues concerning BCAT's future, the Forum returned a vote of confidence in BCAT and its continued work in the community. This vote was unopposed.

It is now hoped that funding can be secured to ensure the future of the organisation and the jobs of all staff, to enable them to continue their valuable work supporting the Forum and its activities.

Kevin Hartney, BCAF Chair

Statement from BCAT Chair

BCAT Board of Trustees was much heartened by the overwhelming vote of confidence received at the Quarterly Forum. The board has commissioned Alan Wallace, whose consultancy carried out BCAT's mid-term evaluation, to carry out a brief update of our progress and achievements. BCAT has now agreed the funding conditions imposed by BNDfC. This should secure the immediate future of BCAT and its ability to continue its work in supporting the Forum, whilst other sources of funding are pursued.

Lynda Kenyon, BCAT Chair

Dear *Messenger*

I was surprised to read Kevin Hartney's comments about Burngreave New Deal being an unaccountable private company pursuing its own agenda in the article about BCAT and Burngreave New Deal in the April *Messenger*.

Can I point out that every person in Burngreave is directly mailed asking whether they want to stand for the New Deal board and all people in Burngreave have an opportunity to vote for the candidates.

On the other hand, historically, BCAT has not publicly advertised their Annual General Meeting and only people attending the AGM have been eligible to vote for candidates.

Name and address withheld

ed – This year's BCAT AGM is advertised on page 19.

FREE training on Newsletter production

The Burngreave Messenger in partnership with New Start magazine and the Fir Vale Forum are offering free, informal, training to residents of Burngreave and Fir Vale on how to produce newsletters.

The next three sessions will be about Feature writing.

Thursdays at Abbeyfield Park House,
10am–12 noon on 1st, 8th & 15th June

It will cover different types of features, how best to write up intros, quotes and supporting material and different kinds of approaches.

Design and Layout Training

Three one-day sessions learning the practicalities of design. The course will include practical tasks that will help you layout posters and leaflets, using text and photos in designs and how to prepare your work for professional printers. Places are limited.

Tuesdays at Abbeyfield Park House,
10am–4pm on 6th, 13th & 20th June

Photography in the Community

Practical photography with Carl Rose

Informal training over three sessions, including how to use your camera and taking photos of people in the community. Photos may be used for the Burngreave Messenger and Fir Vale News.

Wednesdays at Abbeyfield Park House,
on 31st May, 7th & 14th June

Daytime and early evening sessions planned.

If you would like more information:

Please contact the Burngreave Messenger on
242 0564 or email messenger@burngreave.net.

Parents of Prisoners Support Group

Do you have a son or daughter or other family member in prison?

Are you interested in joining our new support group?

Our group aims to meet informally on a monthly basis for mutual support and advice.

We are based at SYAC – 120 The Wicker S3 8JD
Phone – 275 6301 or email parents1@btconnect.com

Our group is run by a few volunteers and we would welcome anyone who could help us in any way to provide a service to parents of prisoners and their families. Please get in touch with Vivian or Levi on the above number.

RIP 'Bigfoot' Steve

Sunrise 10th March 1963–Sunset 15th March 2006, aged 43.

Steve Anthony McLaren passed away on 15th March following heart problems in recent years and will be sadly missed. He was well known in Sheffield and other parts of the country. He was a great person, friend, brother, cousin and dad.

Known to most as Bigfoot and to others as Mobay or Gadgy, he had a heavy musical influence through his connections with Imperial Sound and music promoters across the country in the 1980s. He was also known as a Garage and House DJ around Sheffield in the late 1990s.

Steve was a very dedicated person to his family and leaves behind three sons: Aaron, Marvin and Montelle; two daughters: Chantelle and Shauna; stepson: Jermaine; two grandchildren: Malachi and Shamaya; brothers and sisters: Trevor, Barry, Talmage, Sadie, Joy, Ethel and Lorna; family to Chalmer, Calvin, Myrie, Patterson and McLaren.



Steve 'Bigfoot' McLaren

The Greatest Father in the World

Our Father was a special person, a man like no other
In him we saw a caring and loving man
One who guided with tender, yet, strong hands
In our hearts we felt his love and in our lives we saw his touch
The lessons he taught and the standards he set
Will follow us always
And no matter what else happens
We will always think of him with love and respect
But to us he is... and always will be Daddy!

Mosque celebrates

Over 1,000 people took part in a procession in April to celebrate the birthday of the Prophet Mohammed (*pbuh*).

Muslims from the Firth Park Road Mosque walked along Barnsley Road, Earl Marshal Road, Rushby Street, Page Hall Road and then back to the mosque. Speeches on the life of the Prophet (*pbuh*) were delivered by a visiting scholar and food was served.

The event is held each year and people are encouraged to attend and learn more about the Prophet (*pbuh*) and Islam.

by Naheem Hanif

TV appeal

Granada Television are making a documentary featuring Anthony Green, who was knocked off his bike by an unmarked police car in 1999. Granada are desperately trying to find people that may have witnessed the accident. Please contact Juliet Riddell on (020) 7633 2764 in confidence and she will call straight back.

The Editorial

The *Messenger* is sad to announce that we have had to make a half-time Development Worker post redundant due to economic reasons. Gaby Spinks, who has been with us for over three years, left the *Messenger* at the end of April and the *Messenger* would like to thank her for all the work she put into the project.

The *Messenger* has New Deal funding until November 2006, and we are working hard, like many projects, to develop a plan to keep going for years to come. The *Messenger* has a green light from New Deal but we are unlikely to ever have our current level of grant funding again.

Our aim is to reduce our dependence on grant funding while keeping the *Messenger* independent, delivered free to the area and produced by local residents.

If you would like to get involved or contribute, please get in touch.

Check out our free courses on page 18.

Burngreave Messenger

www.burngreavemessenger.org.uk

Make it your homepage!

Messenger Info

Meetings: 6.30pm at Abbeyfield Park House
Editorial: Wed, 10th May
Management: Tue, 30th May
All welcome.
Copy deadline: 17th May

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Abbeyfield Park House
Abbeyfield Road
Sheffield S4 7AT
(0114) 242 0564
messenger@burngreave.net
www.burngreavemessenger.org.uk

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: Kate Atkinson, Annie Blindell, Ian Clifford, Camille Daughma, Rohan Francis, Naheem Hanif, Saleema Imam, Ben Knight, Jamie Marriott, Tom Sadler, Rob Smith, Gaby Spinks, Lisa Swift, Paul Taylor and Reuben Vincent. All content is copyright Burngreave Messenger Ltd or its voluntary contributors, not to be reproduced without permission.

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BURNGREAVE MESSENGER

ISSUE 61 • MAY 2006

3

Football review

Merger promises brighter future

Burngreave Saints Under 8s are bidding a fond farewell to the area after being dealt a batch of mixed blessings since their formation, but a merger plan now promises a brighter future.

Two years of struggles off the pitch have tried the patience of Saints' manager, Rob Jolley, but now Darnall's Throstles JFC have joined forces with the Burngreave side, creating a squad to make rivals in the Sheffield and District Junior Sunday League green with envy.

"We managed to get through the season and made a vast improvement. We only won three games – performance wise it was a lot better than last season, but it's been a struggle."

The Saints have had problems attracting players and, the future was looking bleak. "We haven't got as much interest as I thought we'd get," Mr Jolley said. "We couldn't have carried on and I'd have been upset if we folded."

Now Mr Jolley will be moving with his players to Throstles JFC – a team with more than 35 years history – where he is looking forward to having enough players to employ a squad system and to enjoy such luxuries as substitutes.

Mr Jolley has been impressed with his plucky Saints, who never let their heads drop despite the uncertainty surrounding their future.

"We played with a smile on our faces and win, lose or draw we enjoyed it. Nobody likes to lose but you take the positives from parents coming up to you and saying 'brilliant', 'well done'. We've made a lot of friends along the way. I personally thank everyone who has supported us and whoever has played even a small part in our season."

Meteoric rise

Burngreave Saints Under 9s, who play at Petre Street recreation field, swept all opponents aside to be crowned Sheffield and District Junior Sunday League champions.

This is the first season the boys, unbeaten as Under 8s, have played within the league table format, and it

took them no time at all to find their shooting boots.

Team secretary, Deborah Colgrave, said the winning habit comes easily. "The last game of the season was against Hillsborough Pumas and it was about 7-0. That's the sort of scores they get."

With only two losses all season, the team has had a meteoric rise since Mrs Colgrave, a life-long Burngreave resident, remembers watching them play as the newly-formed Under 7s. She said: "It was like rabbits in headlights, they were being hammered every week 20-0!"

"I got involved because my son started playing. There is still a core of local kids but now, we are getting kids from all over."

Such is their success, several of the players, including Mrs Colgrave's son, Ashley, have been snapped up by Sheffield United Academy.

After enjoying a successful relationship with United Steel, the Under 9s are also seeking a new sponsor for next season which will see them mixing it with formidable teams such as Handsworth

Boys, Junior Blades and Young Owls.

Mrs Colgrave said: "I just wish for them to be as successful as they can. It is going to be tougher next season, because they are playing with the big boys now. But if they keep their confidence up they could do quite well. We'll just have to wait and see."

Next month, the deserving players, trained and managed by Patrick Blake, will be recognised at a gala presentation at Barnsley Metrodome.

by Ben Knight

Comfortable win ends season

Under 10s football team, Earl Marshall Juniors, ended their season with a comfortable 3-0 win against Hackenthorpe Warriors to finish sixth in Division D of the Sheffield & District Junior League.

A week earlier, they had contested the Trophy final with AFC Dronfield. They

went ahead early on with a well-taken goal from Patryk Nowak before conceding two goals late in the game. The players were disappointed to lose out after a run of four Trophy wins but reaching the final was a fantastic achievement and everyone enjoyed the big occasion.

Next season, the club will be playing their first 11-a-side matches and are looking to maintain their momentum with regular training, friendly matches and tournaments over the summer. Earl Marshall welcomes new players to train with and possibly join the team. Players must not be registered with any other club and should currently be in Year 5 at school to be eligible.

For further information contact Mark Moran-Healy on 0777 645 7732.

by Mick Ashman

Caribbeans recruiting

The Caribbean Sports Club's adult football team narrowly missed out on promotion to the first division, finishing fourth.

Injury problems and the size of the squad meant that they were unable to finish as strongly as they had hoped.

"We were disappointed not to get promoted," said team coach Andy Kiwomya, "But we improved a lot from last season when we finished fourth from bottom."

"The Messenger has really made a difference to what we're doing. We have received a lot of support from the community because of it."

Anyone interested in joining the team is invited to attend a try-out, further details will be announced in the next Messenger. The team is open to anyone over the age of 18, from any section of the community.

The Caribbean Sports Club is holding its AGM on Sunday 14th May from 6-8pm at SADACCA and anyone interested in becoming a member should attend.

by Claire Berry

BURNGREAVE MESSENGER

The community of Burngreave are invited to an event at Burngreave Recreation Ground [behind Pitsmoor Adventure Playground] on Saturday 3rd June between 2.00 and 5.00pm

Bring along your family and friends with a picnic and take part in some of the free activities to celebrate and highlight the qualities of this currently under used community asset. The design proposals for the future of the Recreation Ground will be illustrated on site for discussion and comments along with information on other open green spaces in Burngreave.

for more information please contact Amie Rowland
Regeneration Officer, Parks and Countryside on 0114 273 6952

Celebrating Burngreave's Green Spaces

Calling Visual Artists

Last minute call for expressions of interest for a number of art commissions in Burngreave.

Two Commissions are available for Vestry Hall.
Deadline for applications: May 15

One Commission is available for an external artwork on the end wall of a relatively new build in the area.
Deadline for applications: May 22

For further information and a full brief please call Karen on 0114 285 2665 or 0781 736 3310 email karen@cupolagallery.com

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Children's Activities @ Kelham Island Museum

10am-2pm, Tue 30th & Wed 31st May 2006
Alma Street, Sheffield • (0114) 201 3511





contact: 276 9134

Burngreave Area Panel

A new school for Burngreave?

As the *Messenger* has reported recently, and many parents with young children will know, there is a growing shortage of school places for primary school age children in the area.

A shortterm solution was found thanks to the staff, parents and governors at St Catherine's – and the Catholic diocese – temporary classrooms are being set up at St Cath's for another form (30 extra children) for the next three years from September. Whilst this is not ideal, it is better than children having to attend schools well outside the area (like Busk Meadows, Hucklow or Limpsfield).

Now, staff within the Children & Young Peoples Directorate of the City Council (CYPD formerly known as Education or 'the LEA'), have brought together a number of key stakeholders to find a solution for the shortage of primary school places forecast for Burngreave and Fir Vale. It is possible that the solution could include at least one new primary school.

Colleagues in CYPD are all too well aware of the school closures in the area, and the scale of replacement, for example, at Pye Bank School. But the scale of the problem has changed quite rapidly. Burngreave and Fir Vale have experienced a population increase, which contrasts with what has happened across the rest of the city, where pupil numbers have declined significantly over the past eight years. The area used to have difficulty letting some rented housing; nowadays there are very few vacants. And more families are living in the area than previously – all of which is a sign of a revival of confidence. But the downside



New School at Tinsley Green

is that there are about one-third more 1–4 year olds at present, than 7–10 year olds.

A group of council officers, head teachers and other representatives responsible for educational provision are looking at this problem in some detail. It seems that in the Burngreave/Pitsmoor locality there is a demand for two more classes (60 places) for each year group; in Fir Vale, at least one more class. This could mean an extension (where possible) to the local primary schools, or more likely at present, a new school. Either way, the process isn't short.

The Council team would agree a way forward by the summer, and then take a proposal to the City Council's Cabinet by November. There would be a period of detailed, formal consultation in early 2007 around the area, which would lead to a bid for funding to the government in spring 2007, with a possible outcome by autumn 2007. A new school may then be completed in 2009 – a location has not been decided.

This provides a fantastic opportunity for children being born now to enjoy a school environment where learning and growing

can be second to none. There are some wonderful schools here at present; but the designs of new schools or children's centres in Heeley (Ann's Grove) or at Tinsley Green are a sign of how things might look...

What can you do? Tricia Slater in CYPD's Education Planning team (273 5820) is leading the project group and any subsequent proposal, which will form the basis of a full consultation process. Tricia is keen to hear people's opinions, but would like to assure people that any plans will have to be thoroughly discussed and agreed locally, probably early next year.

Compost bin deal

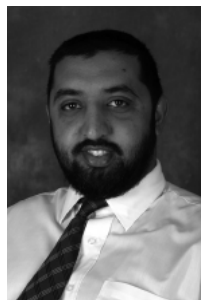
The City Council and Veolia (formerly Onyx) have won some funds to subsidise the cost of compost recycling bins. Instead of costing £40 or £50 for a 90cm or 100cm high bin, you can buy up to three for either £4 or £6 (free delivery); and you get a free 'kitchen caddy'! Ring the order line on 0845 077 0758 quote number 'SCC03GDD1' – or write to: SCC Offer, Blackwall, Freepost LS6334, Leeds LS14 1YY with a cheque payable to 'Blackwall'.

Next Area Panel meeting

The next Area Panel meeting will be held on Thursday 25th May at 6pm at Firhill Community Primary School, Orphanage Road. The agenda is likely to include a discussion about the revised form of neighbourhood policing – called 'safer neighbourhood areas'. How does this affect you and your locality? What could be done to make things better? If you want to check, ring the Area Action office on 276 9134.

Councillors' Surgery Dates

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



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

6th May: Ibrar Hussain
13th May: Jackie Drayton
12.15 to 1.00, Firhill TARA
20th May: Steve Jones
27th May: Ibrar Hussain
3rd June: Jackie Drayton

Next Area Panel Meeting

- Thursday 25th May – 6pm, Firhill Community Primary School, Orphanage Road.

Community News

Music in the Sun postponed

NonStop Foundation has announced that the proposed Music in the Sun festival will be postponed until 2007. The postponement is due to the upheaval of NonStop having to move premises from Rutland Road to All Saints Community Centre due to funding cuts.



The relaunch festival is now planned for Don Valley Grass Bowl on 28th and 29th July 2007. NonStop is continuing to look for local bands, DJs and volunteers for the event. Contact: musicinthesun@nonstopables.org, www.musicinthesun.co.uk or call 272 4753.

Solicitors consider 28-storey request

The proposal to build a 28-storey tower by the Wicker Arches is one step closer to reality as the Planning Board has asked for the removal of conditions recommended by planning officers restricting the height and scale of the building.



Planning officers had placed the conditions on the application due to lack of information about its potential environmental impact, but the Planning Board was reluctant to restrict the regeneration potential of the development.

The planning board's request to remove the conditions is now with the Council's solicitors, whose recommendation is due back with the board on 9th May.

Somali Youths Against Crime

Local resident Abdillahi Hassan, local parents and agencies have come together to tackle issues involving Somali young people – particularly crime and drugs.

"This is an initiative aimed at improving achievements of Somali students aged between 14–19," explained Abdillahi. "The aim is to engage the young people most at risk of involvement in crime and drug use. It involves working with both ex-offenders and first-time offenders and working closely with South Yorkshire Police."

The project will be launched with a poster campaign declaring: 'Say No to Drugs, Keep Burngreave Safe, Say No to Crime, Yes to employment and yes to improvements' in English and Somali.

BNDfC, South Yorkshire Police and South Yorkshire Community Action sponsor the Somali Youths Against Crime Project.

To find out more contact 275 1270.

Claire's diving success

Local resident, Claire Blencowe, has just returned from her successful debut at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, Australia. Claire achieved personal bests in the 3-metre synchronised diving and the 1-metre springboard.



At sixteen, Claire was one of the youngest members of the England Team and came an outstanding fifth in the synchronised event with her partner Katherine Hamilton. Her England team-mates went on to win bronze medals in the same competition.

Since the Games, Claire has gone on to compete in 3-metre synchronised diving at the Arena Cup in Stockholm, coming sixth and the Grand Prix in China. Her next destination is America for another leg of the Grand Prix where she will be competing in the 10-metre synchronised diving.

With this first major Games experience under her belt, Claire is now hoping to dive at the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

Bennetts Tyres reprieved

Bennetts Tyres, which has operated from premises on Kilton Hill for twenty years, has had a reprieve from planned demolition under the Masterplan. Out of the blue a letter arrived from the Council, which told the Bennett brothers that their business was safe – for now.



The brothers still don't know how long they can remain in the premises. "We don't know whether we're coming or going," said Steve, "This has been going on for three years. It's ridiculous."

Two other businesses on Kilton Hill, Bradley & Foulds and LowKost Taxis, will also remain. LowKost Taxis told the *Messenger*:

"The Council said they wouldn't be going ahead with the plan because they've run out of money to build the housing proposed."

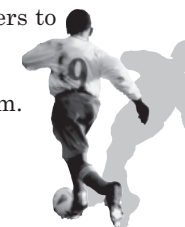
Bennetts Tyres – car tyres, van tyres, exhausts, batteries and tyre repairs – 270 0752.

by Claire Berry

New football teams

Earl Marshal Junior Football Club require players to form brand new teams at U12s and U13s for season 2006–07. Training takes place at Firvale Sports Centre, Mondays and Wednesdays, 5–6pm.

Contact Patrick Edwards on 0774 783 1856. (Players must not be registered with any other team.)



The Two Brothers Restaurant

Under new management since March, this idyllic traditional Middle Eastern establishment is causing a stir, as many local people enter and savour its menu.

I also went along, not only to taste the food but also to meet Maz Tasken, one of the now locally talked about brothers and the establishment's new co-manager.

Greeting me warmly, Maz explained that, as a family business, the reason they took on the restaurant is to share their traditional Middle Eastern food and culture.

"I am a Turkish Kurd, Rob, and I have brought with me my vast experience of food and food preparation, and of course hospitality."

The two brothers also employ three chefs who cook and prepare food representing each traditional dish. "We cater for Kurdish, Iranian and Turkish cuisine and there has been a good response from local people here."

One of the Two Brothers Restaurant's most favoured dishes is the Adana kebab. "And our Mama's famous biriani and chicken rossina. We call it Mama's because it was our Mum who taught us how to cook this dish," chuckles Maz.

By now I was invited to eat and was served the Adana kebab,



succulent lamb surrounded by salad and sweet-flavoured bread.

"Our Two Brothers Restaurant is open from 11am till 1am seven days a week."

"All our customers who like to drink, can bring their own bottle of wine," adds Maz. I was now busy eating as he continued explaining, "We also have a good food delivery service Rob, for those who want to eat at home."

For all deliveries and takeaways of this delectable Middle Eastern cuisine or to pre-book that party table, don't wait says Maz, contact him on 278 6786 or visit the restaurant at 34 Spital Hill.

The two brothers have also shown their great hospitality, welcoming members of the local community to drop in for teas and coffees.

Jean Wood, Chair of All Saints Tenants and Residents Association (ASTRA), added, "Maz welcomes everyone himself and is keen to listen, and you can tell he's genuinely interested in what goes on in Burngreave. We are privileged to have people like Maz in our community, he is a great asset and we need to give him all our full support."

by Rob Smith

'Looking Upward, Moving Forward'

It was with great pride that members of the Jamaican community gathered at SADACCA on 30th March to launch the Sheffield Branch of the Jamaican Diaspora, headed by Chairperson Miss Carmelita Duncan (pictured, far right).



With many Jamaicans settling here since the 1940s... It is still good for us as a people to come together and support each other, recognising and adapting a high sense of responsibility in building stronger communities wherever we are.

It all began with the Diaspora Conference, June 2004 in Jamaica, with the aim of forging better links between Jamaicans at home as well as those living overseas to enhance the future growth and development of ourselves as a people.

In attendance was the High Commissioner of Jamaica, Her Excellency Ms Gail Mathurin, (pictured centre left) and Lord Mayor of Sheffield Councillor Roger Davison.

There was an attendance of about 200 people throughout the day. Jamaicans from Preston, Leeds, Huddersfield Manchester, Chesterfield and as far as London came together to mark this event. There were displays from various Black organisations within the community as well as an exceptional display on Jamaica and our Heritage.

As it approached lunch time, food trolleys were brought in and the lovely aroma of various Jamaican dishes filled the room, bringing back nostalgic feelings of being home.

The day's events ended on a high note when Eddie Hypolite, one of the facilitators from London spoke, reminding us not to lose our sense of history and to remember where we came from. The values instilled in us by our parents, of good manners and respect for each other, should be passed on to our own children. *Howdi an, tenk yu noh brok noh square* – simply saying how are you and thank you is a good thing – this is slowly becoming a thing of the past.

He went on to say that it is being replaced by the 'ghetto tragic' – valuing quickly made money (Bling, bling), or the 'ghetto fabulous' – doing well despite living where not much is expected of us. The former being more readily embraced. If this continues we will slowly lose our identity as a people.

Eddie Hypolite's presentation had interjections of humour though addressing serious issues, but he definitely left us with lots of food for thought.

by Camille Daughma

BURNGREAVE MESSENGER

A New Deal for Burngreave

Vestry Hall's new look on show

An important public meeting has been organised so you can get involved in the future plans of one of Burngreave's most prestigious landmarks.

The event will give you the chance to find out about the plans to renovate Vestry Hall, transforming it into a Community Learning and Events Centre. You will be able to see what the centre will look like inside and help shape the programme and manage the centre.

The informal meeting will take place at Shiloh Church, Gower Street on Thursday 18 May from 6pm–9pm. For more information, please contact Jon Cowley on 292 2908 or email jon.cowley@bndfc.co.uk.



Artist's impression of how Vestry Hall will look.

Are you on Incapacity Benefit and looking for a new start?

Come and talk with the Work and Well-being team at the BNDfC van as part of the Burngreave Celebrates Learning Festival on Saturday 20 May at Verdon Street between 2–6pm.

The information available will include Apprenticeships for All – training and employment opportunities for local residents, Burngreave New Deal for Communities and Burngreave Opportunities.

Up to £400 in free high street vouchers are available throughout the programme. Participating in the programme will not affect your benefit. If you are unable to attend the event but would like to find out more contact: 272 2743.

Partnership Board Meeting – Wednesday, 29 March 2006

What was discussed

Study Support Evaluation

Members were informed of the progress of the Burngreave Study Support Consortium and the outcome of the interim evaluation of the project.

Community Safety Report

Members were told what had been agreed through discussions on the three Community Safety Projects which had been given the go-ahead. (The projects were: Police Team, Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Team and the Community Wardens.) They also discussed the recommendations that had been agreed at the earlier meetings.

Vestry Hall Project Manager

The Partnership Board discussed the Vestry Hall Learning Centre Manager project.

BNDfC Information Shop

The Partnership Board discussed the Information Shop Phase 2 project.

What we decided

To endorse the recommendations of the evaluation, including to continue funding the project as set out in the proposal.

To welcome the efforts of the Consortium to find other sources of funding. In addition, to allow the Consortium to use the 2006–07 BNDfC funding to ensure that it is still able to operate fully in the early part of the financial year while the results of other funding bids become clear and we pursue Objective 1 funding.

To agree to receive a further report on the financial situation and progress towards the evaluation in September 2006.

To approve the extension of the ASB and Police Team projects.

To note the approach to the integrated evaluation of these projects.

To receive an evaluation report and recommendations for consideration in July 2006.

To approve the Vestry Hall Learning Centre Manager Project at a cost of £125,420.

To approve the Information Shop Phase 2 project at a cost of £51,318.

For more information on BNDfC please contact 279 6932

News in brief

Coffee morning

Every Tuesday morning the Burngreave Women's Health Network will be holding a Healthy Coffee Morning.

They are hoping as many local women as possible will join them to take part in a range of fun activities. These include cook and eat sessions, tackling weight gain, healthy hearts, stress and emotional well-being, complementary therapies, diabetes checks, aerobics and health walks. A selection of healthy refreshments will be on offer and fun and laughter will also be the name of the game!

To join in, pay a visit to The Furnival, Verdon Street, every Tuesday morning from 10am–12 noon. For more information contact Fatima Musa on 271 6971 or Norah Brown on 271 6978

Youth work

BNDfC's Community Engagement Team (CET) has been working with a group of kids from Parkwood School to organise an after school photo workshop.

Leroy Betts and Ali Abdi, from the CET, said: "This is a great way for us to work with the kids and develop their skills in something they may not have done before."

Theme meetings

Everyone is welcome at the following meetings:

Employment & Enterprise: 3 May & 7 June, Ellesmere Children's Centre, 1.30–3.30pm

Over-arching: 9 May & 13 June, The Furnival, Verdon Street, 6–8pm

Education: 10 May, St Peter's Church Hall, Lyons Street, 6–8pm

Crime: 16 May, Pitsmoor Methodist Church, 6–8pm

Environment: 25 May, Pitsmoor Methodist Church, 6–8pm

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

Housing: 8 June, BNDfC Information Shop, 6–8pm

Forum House provides Burngreave jobs boost

Burngreave Opportunities (BOPPS) – the One Stop Shop for Jobs and Training – is just one of the projects moving into Forum House.

All of the projects within these premises will be employment and skills related, which means that a whole hub of services will be available to you under one roof.

BOPPS is a unique partnership made up of representation from Sheffield Futures, Centre for Full Employment (JobNet), Sheffield Action Team and Burngreave New Deal for Communities, with funding from the European Social Fund. The purpose of the partnership is to ensure that a range of skills and expertise are available to you if you live in Burngreave and to ensure that you have access to the best support possible to help you find employment.

The team pictured is able to offer the following services:

- Careers advice
- Advice on writing a CV
- In works benefits interviews
- Information, advice and guidance to support you in finding the right job
- Financial support in overcoming barriers
- Training advice
- Job matching services
- Support with pre-employment skills such as confidence building, writing application forms and interview practice
- Mentoring support before and after you find work
- Support after you have found a job

The service is available if you live in Burngreave and are between 16 and 65 years old. It doesn't matter if you are already working – perhaps you are looking to learn new skills and use them in a new job.

The project will also be talking with local employers to ensure that they advertise their vacancies locally. If you live in Burngreave and are interested in local jobs we can help you at all stages including help with the interview.

Overall, the project has been designed to work closely with you, giving you the support you need which will help you overcome some of your personal barriers to finding a job.

If you would like to find out more about this project, then please call the team on 0800 0730727.



The Burngreave Opportunities team.

Safe and legal



The NETT Safety Driving course is run jointly by NETT (Nationwide Ethnic Transport Training) and Sheffield Futures, teaching young people, referred by youth workers, to drive safely and legally.

Tutor, Norman Mason, says a lot of the young people who attend, were taught to drive in other countries at a young age by their relations, and don't realise that doesn't allow them to drive here. One boy thought the fact that he had held a provisional licence for three years entitled him to drive.

Ali Ahmed, age 20, has been driving since he was 14, when he committed his first offence, but now he wants to be legal. Mohammed, now age 19, started driving in the Yemen at 13, came to Britain aged 17 and immediately received his first offence. Both of them would encourage others to do the course.

"I want to be legit and get insurance. It's important," said Ali.

Burngreave police officers, Simon Leake and Paul Wilson, explained to the group the effects of driving without a licence, tax or insurance – court and even a prison sentence for persistent re-offenders. The police are very supportive of the course, saying it's important to get licences and stay legal. Unfortunately, young people are still the main target for police to stop.

The course is a pilot scheme but NETT hopes it will continue. It runs for two days a week for two months, with one day for practical driving lessons, and the other studying for theory tests and looking at other safety issues. Participants also study English and maths and receive a certificate upon completion.

"Once they've realised that they can drive legally, their lives can move on from constant confrontations with the police and appearances in court to being a normal everyday driver," said Norman.

If you're interested in this course or any of the other driving courses that NETT runs, please contact NETT on 244 4139 or email@nettraining.org.uk or Amin Kassim from Sheffield Futures on 0776 691 5693 or email amin.kassim@sheffieldfutures.org.uk.

by Gaby Spinks

Better Buses update

Amendments to the proposals for Burngreave buses, announced in last month's Messenger, are being considered following a series of consultation meetings held last month.

'North Sheffield Better Buses' team received feedback from 220 people on various aspects of the plans, as well as a 150-strong petition specifically opposed to moving the out-of-city bus stop away from the proposed new junction at Catherine Road. This was widely objected in other consultations, as was the proposed closure of Burngreave Street.

These issues, as well as improved pedestrian and cycling facilities, are being considered by the Better Buses team, who are developing amendments aiming to meet as many of the concerns raised as possible, while still meeting the original objectives.

Residents will have further opportunity to comment as the plans go through Traffic Regulation Orders, and to the City Council's Planning and Highways Board. Another leaflet detailing proposals and inviting comments will be distributed shortly.

For further information, readers should call the Information Line number – 0845 303 0343.

Green Brigade in action

The Burngreave Green Brigade has been hard at work in Abbeyfield Park, helping the Friends of Abbeyfield Park to weed and dig over the disused flower-bed in front of the tennis courts. Volunteers treated the area with organic fertilizer and sowed a mix of annual flowers that will produce a riot of colour this summer, making the park much more attractive and providing an important source of nectar for insects. Thank you to those who gave their time and effort to help, and it was nice to talk to the many residents who offered moral support.



Toy Library

The Toy Library has reopened at Abbeyfield Park House, lending out toys. The next opening is 11am–1pm Monday 8th May. It was nice to see this valuable resource being used again. When the weather improves we will be having 'bring your picnic' sessions on the grass outside so parents and children can play and meet new friends. Come along; membership and loans are free.

If you want to help make the area a nicer place or help with the Toy Library or Tool Bank then ring us on 244 0353.

A load of bowls

Green City Action is organising a bowling competition for teams of five players. This will be a knock-out format and may the best team win. There is no entry fee, no green fees and no prizes. If you have a team or can organise one, ring Garry on 244 0353.

Deliver it green...

'I want to go to university...'

During the Easter holidays over 50 young people from Burngreave Study Support projects visited Sheffield University, getting a taste of life as a university student.

Older pupils extracted DNA in the Medical Biology Department and made popcorn and candy floss in the Chemical Engineering Department while young pupils attended art, writing and music workshops.

The visit was a great success, giving young people from Burngreave the opportunity to experience the sights and sounds of university courses – in particular the practical elements of science.

Visits like these prove that striving towards further education is within everyone's capability. You only have to be committed and willing to achieve it. It is important that links between community groups and further education institutes continue, so that we bridge the gap of fewer ethnic minority young people attending higher education.

Thanks are due to Sheffield University Access Department and to New Deal for ongoing funding for the Burngreave Study Support Consortium.

by Nasira Amin, ReachHigh 2 Co-ordinator

"I liked the music workshop because we got a chance make our own music. I want to study English because I enjoy reading stories. Going to University will also be fun because we're not going to do work all the time." – Ayat Abdul Qader, age 10



"The best thing about the visit was the DNA experiment and the chemical engineering workshop. I'm hoping to get good grades at school and study science and computers. Also going to University would help me get a good job." – Shuayb Nisar, age 12

"I felt very mature and like a young adult. University seems such a fun place where you can meet people from all kinds of backgrounds, from all over the world. I am thinking of studying medicine because I want to help my community." – Nadia Rehman, age 12



"I enjoyed my visit to, especially the science lab workshop because it made me feel like a real scientist. I want to go to University because I want to further my education in science and it's my favourite subject." – Sehrish Baig, age 14

"The workshop I liked the most was the experiment about how to check DNA because it was active, exciting and fun. When I leave school I want to study psychology because I'm good at communicating with people. The trip has made me want to go to University in the future." – Ayesha Akram, age 13



"I liked the music lesson because we got to make lots of noise and make up fun rhythms. The visit made me think about going to university. I would like to go so that I am well educated and hopefully achieve a lot. At university I would like to study Law so I can be a lawyer." – Emily Haimeed, age 11

Burngreave Academy presents Roots for Regeneration lectures

7.30pm Friday 12th May
'Social Movements Today'
Professor Alan Scott, Professor of Sociology, Innsbruck University

7.30pm Friday 19th May
'Marxism and Socialism: Ideas for tomorrow'
Professor David McLellan, Emeritus Professor of Political Theory, Goldsmith's College, London

The Studio, Burngreave Ashram, 86 Spital Hill
For further info, contact:
Ahmed Gurnah (279 4961) or John Vincent (243 6688)

Special prize draw

For the Kashmir earthquake relief fund – to take place on 24th June in the Peace Gardens in the City Centre. All the proceeds will go towards building the Sheffield Bagh Girls' College in Kashmir.

The draw will be launched by the Lord Mayor and prizes include a return flight from Manchester to Paris, a cricket bat signed by the Pakistan Team, a 17" LCD DVD Player, a signed Sheffield United football, several meals for two at local restaurants, a pair of signed boxing gloves donated by Brendan Ingle.

Any assistance with selling tickets would be most welcome. Tickets can be obtained by contacting Shahbaz Ramzan on 0775 378 0205 or Abdul Assim on 0791 628 4009.

Supporting families



Area Family Support Co-ordinator Michael Dennis and the team of home visitors (pictured), are providing vital early help to families in Burngreave to make sure children reach their full potential and that difficult situations don't get worse.

Michael Dennis is convinced that 'early intervention' works but it relies on allowing the children's voice to be heard; building up a trusting relationship with schools, health workers and housing staff and working closely with the voluntary sector. The commitment of the four locally recruited home visitors who speak seven languages between them is also key. Without this work, children might end up in care, causing great emotional pain for children and parents as well as huge financial costs.

The project offers support around bereavement; mental health problems; acute behaviour and communication difficulties; drug or alcohol abuse; helping those with no English access services; bullying; exclusion and special educational needs.

Michael also works with Burngreave Sure Start; Refugee Housing; Burngreave Drug Project; Sheffield Multiple Heritage Service; Black Palm; Burngreave Domestic Abuse Project; Cellar Space and alongside North East Family Support team to ensure families in crisis access statutory service.

The Family Support Co-ordinator's work is funded through the Council's Area Panel and Burngreave New Deal. This funding will continue until

October, when it will be looked at in the wider context of how to support families.

You can contact the Family Support office on 273 5446 or Michael Dennis on 0775 378 0227.

Case study

A single mum suffers with depression and struggles to get up in the morning. She is unable to set any routine or boundaries for her teenage children who have been excluded or are at risk of exclusion from school. The children's concern for their mother means school issues are relegated, as they become carers for her.

The school inclusion officer is concerned that taking the family to court will only make the situation worse, but with mum's consent the inclusion officer makes a self-referral to the Family Support Co-ordinator.

Michael deploys a home visitor, a local person employed to provide some day-to-day support. She encourages mum to seek counselling through her GP; gets information about local-based courses, helps her to set routine and boundaries. At school, the learning mentor supports the children who are at risk of exclusion in school, while the Cellar Space project provides local support for the excluded children.

The home visitor helps mum rebuild her self-esteem and confidence, the children's school attendance and behaviour improve. The Inclusion Officer monitoring attendance is no longer concerned.

East Sheffield Regeneration Team

Woodside

Woodside is one of the largest and most visible sites the Council will release to developers. To ensure that in future Woodside reflects the community's needs, the team organised the Burngreave New Housing Project Group to discuss what should be built there, using the Cabinet agreed Masterplan as a starting point. Membership of this group is now closed but we hope to provide reports in the Messenger.



Woodside Lane looking towards Woodfold, demolished in January 1960.

In November 2005 we asked for those who used to live on Woodside before 1960 to contact us with their memories. We hoped this would help us to learn from the past before we planned for the future. Lots of people got in touch to tell us stories about their time there, some even brought their old photographs. When relaying one man's stories a woman told us, "I know him, he used to make me shimmy up lamps to light his cigarettes!" We learned a lot from talking to people, for example many mentioned the hill site being unsuitable for the elderly and physically disabled residents. Their ideas will help the team and confirm some ideas we had on what shouldn't be repeated on this site.

We think a consultation event for the whole community to suggest ideas that will work is needed. We are holding an event in early summer to give everyone the opportunity to meet the project group and look over their ideas. We hope you will come along with your suggestions for what might be Woodside's future. Watch future Messengers for the date.

Contact:
244 0222



Communities unite to aid Somali drought

A recent event raised £550 to build a well in drought-stricken Somali.

The initiative for the appeal came from Somalis and Yemenis in Burngreave whose hearts went out to the plight of those in Somalia. While most of the Somali community in Burngreave and Sheffield are from the north of Somalia, the suffering of those in the drought stricken southern province has moved hearts and led to the setting up of the Sheffield Somali Appeal Fund.

The fundraiser, held at the Yemeni Community Association in Attercliffe, was kicked off by speeches from Fatima Deria, Abdul Shaif and police Superintendent John Brennon. Those present then heard Mubarak Hassan speak movingly about how eight million were affected by crop failure; 1.6 million of these being children under 5. Mubarak explained how weakened resistance made children more likely to die from diseases like measles. Abdullah Hassan read a thoughtful piece written as part of A-level course work, contrasting the



Fundraisers including Superintendent John Brennan (2nd from left), Fatima Deria (3rd), Abdul Shaif (4th) and Abdo Gas (6th).

affluence of the dissatisfied West and its epidemic of obesity with the attitude of those in Somalia, who still bear a smile despite difficulties.

Quality musical entertainment all the way from London in the form of Somali singers Mohamed Suleiman (‘Guray’) and Nimo (‘Degen’) brought the audience to their feet dancing. Another treat involved a hilarious sketch on the theme of ‘sharing’ from the comedy group ‘Timmy and Tommy’, performed by young people from a range of backgrounds.

£20,000 is needed to build the well. £12,000 had been raised before the event, leaving about £7,500 still to be raised. Fatima Deria will be making a field visit to Somalia to help site the proposed well.

If you would like to make a donation, please make a deposit to ‘Sheffield Somali Appeal Fund’, NatWest bank account number: 222 04970, sort code: 56-00-09.

Help for tenants

NOMAD’s Burngreave Tenancy Support Scheme, based on Grimesthorpe Road, provides housing advice, support and practical help to people from all backgrounds who live in the Burngreave area.

NOMAD have successfully supported those moving into new homes, as well as existing tenants, who are at risk of losing their tenancies or may be struggling to maintain their homes. They can assist people to negotiate the housing and benefits system, help people to find education, employment and training opportunities and access the health systems or relevant groups in their area.

Working with clients from all backgrounds and ages, NOMAD has experience of working with issues surrounding mental health, substance misuse, domestic violence and a variety of other needs. Project Manager, Sam Mansell, said:

“NOMAD aim to promote independent living by encouraging people to develop and learn new skills. An example of which was providing support to a woman from Africa who spoke little English and had many health problems. She had no family or friends and needed support to set up home and access the health system. NOMAD helped her get benefits and access college. She was finally able to live independently.”

Caseworker, Donna Wilson, told the *Messenger*: “We visit clients at least once a fortnight at home. We also work with other local organisations to find the best help for clients.”

Private tenants can benefit through NOMAD SmartMove, who provide support to tenants in the private sector. They also offer a Bond Guarantee scheme. SmartMove Manager, Lynne Allen, said:

“In some cases our project may also provide bond guarantee up to £300. An example of SmartMove’s support included a man who had split up from his partner. SmartMove helped him to set up payment plans and to budget, helped him to find a tenancy, claim housing benefit and eventually take responsibility for the full care of his two children. The family were finally able to access their first holiday in some years through the Family Holiday Association.”

If you think NOMAD may be able to help you then contact us. Referrals can also come from family, friends, GPs or other agencies concerned about an individual or family.

NOMAD is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. It has a 21-bed residential project in Rotherham for homeless young people and an advice centre on West Street, Sheffield, where they also run a young persons’ project, Nomad Plus.

NOMAD recognises the valuable contribution made by people giving their free time to the service and offers a range of volunteering opportunities that could lead to nationally recognised qualifications.

For NOMAD’s Burngreave Tenancy Support Scheme, call 244 0944 or email burngreave@nomadsheffield.co.uk. For SmartMove call 273 8805 or email smartmove@nomadsheffield.co.uk. To volunteer telephone Trudie White, Volunteer Co-ordinator, on 275 5441 or email volunteers@nomadsheffield.co.uk.

by Ben Knight

New Deal projects update

New Deal funding ran out for some projects in March, following New Deal’s decisions to give them ‘red’ and ‘amber’ lights and no further money. This issue, we asked what has happened these projects?

Work continues

Bookstart has received additional external funding. New Deal are adding to these funds for two years. Bookstart provides books and advice to families with pre-school children and wanted to thank residents for their support. Contact Julia on 0771 577 1504.



Cellar Space Project, at the Furnival, which works with young people excluded from school, have other funding until the end of August. They have recently received encouraging news from various charitable foundations and are awaiting confirmation in writing. Contact 2799276.

Family Support gives practical support to families in the area (see page 12). The Partnership Board had a tied vote on whether the project should get a green light and more funding. The project is now awaiting approval for a further six months. Then the project hopes to be taken up by the Council, so it can provide the service long term.

Burngreave Language Support Agency (BLSA) has expanded its service to include European languages following a trip to Brussels, making other funding more accessible. New Deal is continuing funding until August so students can finish current courses. Arabic courses and interpreting training for bilingual workers in the area are also ongoing. Sheffield Community Enterprise Development Unit (SCEDU) is supporting them in their transition into a social business. Contact 272 2833.

Catherine Street Renewal Project paid for two workers in the East Regeneration scheme to develop plans

for Catherine Street; Brotherton Road; Cranworth Road and part of Rock Street. Rock Street benefited from a facelift through the scheme. The project has now been absorbed by the Masterplanning process with work continuing through Housing Market Renewal funding.

Burngreave Community Action Trust (BCAT) have agreed to meet the conditions set by New Deal and funding has been extended by the Partnership Board to May 2006 while a further proposal is developed and agreed. The new project will be for 12 months, after which a further proposal will be developed, if BCAT shows progress and meets conditions.

Uncertain futures

Catch the Drift, 256 2940, will continue to work with excluded young people for the next couple of months and hope for continuation through placements from schools and a partnership with the Council’s Children & Young People’s Directorate (CYPD). Anna Revill, development worker, said Catch the Drift agreed with New Deal that CYPD should fund the education of excluded children but felt New Deal could have done more to get CYPD to recognise the voluntary and community sector as partners. Anna said: “they missed that opportunity and seem to have dismissed us. Given the number of referrals we receive, what will happen to excluded young people now?”

Burngreave Domestic Abuse Project, 272 6021, are still running but funding ceases in July. The project told us: “We have been very proactive in seeking funding from charities, but having no core revenue funding is working against us”. Referrals are still coming through, but if no funding is found by July they will be passed to other domestic abuse services in Manor and Parson Cross. They added: “It’s a shame because our service has taken a long time to become established and get a reputation.”

Community projects keep going

The Yemeni Community Association (YCA) was funded to provide capacity building and quality assurance training for Burngreave organisations and the YCA itself. Chair of the YCA, Abdul Shaif, said: “It’s disappointing that this funding is

ending, as these posts were critical to our work and mean a reduction in capacity building and quality assurance work.”

Pitsmoor Credit Union has a small amount of funding for a worker supporting new collection points and are fundraising to keep that going. Extra input from volunteers is filling the gap. They are disappointed in New Deal’s lack of support and told the *Messenger*: “New Deal were developing a strategy to help people in debt, but they seem to have abandoned it, and to have lost the plot when it comes to poverty.” Contact 273 8555.



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Community Language Schools, 261 0461 Tue/Wed, are continuing on a reduced income and staffing level. The Urdu school has received a £3,000 grant from the Council and the Local Network Fund has provided £12,000 for the Urdu, Arabic and Somali schools. However, the schools are operating with significantly fewer tutors. Jane O’Brien, Organisational Development Worker, hopes the Yemeni Economic Training Centre can support further volunteer tutor training and said: “Although the Association of Sheffield Community Language Schools won’t be able to work as closely with mainstream schools in the future, I hope the language schools will continue to grow and flourish, with the good work of the last three years continuing.”

Not continuing

Creative Burngreave will not continue after their funding ends in July. They are currently constructing a website for local artists.

Safer Homes, run by the Council’s Sheffield Homes, provided burglar alarms, security lights and other security measures free to Burngreave residents. This scheme has ended, but the Council can still fit window locks and door chains if you have had a break-in and can provide a police incident number. Contact 273 5554.

Hit show at the Chapel

It was an event that had all the makings of a hit show, with a wide range of Burngreave talents being showcased, in the dramatic setting of Burngreave Cemetery Chapel.

I imagined all the acts being combined into a grand performance – a Broadway hit. I wasn't disappointed as I came out of my mini daydream to the sound of loud applause after the presentation of each project, funded through Creative Burngreave.

The second part of the night began with a performance by Rosie and Eleanor from Jamboree Arts' Acrofanatics who stole the show as the Botox Twins.

The act started off with a puppet show making fun of people who have botox treatments. Then suddenly as if by magic the puppets came to life dressed as punk rockers who performed acrobatics to the sound of music.



cosmetic surgery, it seems to be increasingly popular with both men and women to have cosmetic surgery done, hence the name."

An exhilarating performance Twins... Encore!

They were followed by Carmen Franklin, who presented a series of poems to the beat of African drums. It reminded me of school days and the Parish Speech Finals back home. Her finale was *The Limbo Dancer*, and she surprised us all with a mouth-opening

performance of dance movements receiving roaring applause from the audience.

I was quite thrilled with her performance at the event and enquired what inspired her to include drumming. She laughed as she explained: "The drums were arranged, the performance came together, that was quite by accident really".

Carmen is originally from Guyana (South America) and came to England in 1961. She lived in London until 1977, then came to Sheffield and has lived here ever since. Her occupational background is in education, particularly with adults. She was the co-ordinator for the Afro-Caribbean Education Project which involved encouraging African Caribbean adults to become involved in education for the betterment of themselves and their children.

Carmen's performing skills began during her schooldays and gradually evolved over the years. She loves singing and usually just sang for mere relaxation. She studied at the Royal School of Music for a year while in London. She got involved with her community in Sheffield around 1982, forming a women's choral group in the mid-1980s. They participate in local functions as well as festivals. Carmen also enjoys story telling. "My children grew up on my made-up stories," she said, which she told on the spur of the moment: "I made up stories as the mood took me." She describes poetry as 'my love'. "There are several poems that I am able to recite but I prefer to read poetry, as I like to take the audience with me on a journey, as it were. I select the poems I present based on the audience I am performing for, poems they can relate to. I enjoy myself, that's the sort of person I am, I'm a lone performer, I sing and perform from the heart."

Carmen was followed by the contemporary dancer, Simone Thompson, who was breathtaking (pictured centre bottom).

Finally Michelle Scally-Clark's dub poetry gave us all a reality check and ended the evening on a high.

by Camille Daughma

Tales from Africa

In November 2005, the Messenger reported on Ray and Emily, two local residents preparing for a 5,000 mile trek for their honeymoon. Four months on and happily married, they're back in Sheffield with enough photos and stories to last a lifetime.



They took part in the Plymouth-Banjul challenge, raising money for chosen charities through sponsorship. It took them through France, Spain and parts of northern Africa, before reaching Banjul, Gambia.

I was truly fascinated by the numerous extraordinary stories they told me; tales of mud-hut hotels, troublesome border crossings, markets selling 'absolutely anything you could want' and stolen car mascots, amongst many others. One of the things they were very surprised about involved their experience in Algiers, the capital of Algeria.

"People just came up to us on the streets and asked us if we were OK and did we need any help. One man, instead of giving us directions, actually took the trouble to take us, waving away our repeated thanks. Amazingly, we were also taken to our hotel by the police, who claimed they had nothing better to do! Most everyone we came across was content with what they had, which was not very much by our standards. They had no real desire for anything more. It just goes to show you don't need all the mod-cons that rule our life today to be happy."

The voyage was not without its darker, harder moments and inevitable problems.

"The desert was very hot! But there were some very cold nights there as well. The temperatures were frequently changing dramatically, and often unbearable."

Ray and Emily raised roughly £2,000 for Weston Park Hospital, and the LandRover they auctioned in Banjul raised the equivalent of £1,700 for local charity Asset. They also gained local support and interest in their trip; The Gardener's Rest pub followed their journey, constantly updating their position on a map.

When asked if he'd consider doing it again, Ray said: "I'd do it tomorrow."

Emily was slightly less enthusiastic, claiming she would but avoiding the dangerous parts: "The things we worried about before we went could not have been further from the truth. We had a great time."

The trip will certainly be something Ray and Emily will remember for the rest of their lives, and the fact it was their honeymoon just makes it that much better.

by Reuben Vincent

Adventurous play

Pitsmoor Adventure Playground has existed for more years than I care to remember, and I can honestly say I have been involved in one way or another throughout most of my life.



I spent many days there as a child, and I remember my first major childhood injury (probably little more than some severe grazing!) occurred on my way there when a group of older children persuaded me to 'sledge' down the Byron Wood School path on a piece of cardboard.

The playground has been a focus for so many children's experiences, including mine, since its inception. It allows children to explore their environment, learn about taking safe risks, and develop balance and co-ordination whilst having fun, and should count ourselves lucky we have one of only two Council-run adventure playgrounds situated within Sheffield.

There are so many opportunities and activities going on here; from the chess club to camping holidays; sports activities and arts and crafts, to family centred and cultural parties and events. This really is a prime example of a community hub.



As the current chair of the user group it feels good to be back, and even better when I see people I remember from my youth getting involved too. There's plenty of room for more - if you'd like to join the users group, which supports extra activities and helps plan the future, come along to our meeting on Tuesday 16th May, 7pm at the Playground or call 203 9394.

by Alice Johnson