At the BCAF quarterly meeting on Saturday 3rd of May, the Youth Council and young people in Burngreave came to express their distress about not being given the voice and power to contribute to changes taking place in Burngreave.

The protest came after a Sheffield Futures restructure resulted in the Streetworx manager post being replaced with a Burngreave area manager, leaving Streetworx’s Zain Abdullah without a job. “Why has only one person lost their job?”, said youth councillor Kadie Ann. His post has now been taken over by another manager who will be running five projects at once, including Streetworx.

“This change means that the youth service for Burngreave will be in one team,” explained Vernon Colleymore, manager at Sheffield Futures. “There is nothing more important than the Youth Council.”

Young people feel that they are not consulted on important issues, or given the opportunity to take part in decision making. “Voice is that which is heard not ignored,” said youth councillor Farhan Ahmed. Their other concern is the sudden change to the way the service will be delivered, and the fact that young people were not consulted on this. “We were not consulted. We have been ignored,” said Zahra from the Youth Council.

The next stage is for Sheffield Futures to settle an agreement with the Youth Council, where there is a clear understanding of the role the Youth Council should play when any decisions are taken on behalf of young people.

The Youth Council have met with Richard Caborn, New Deal and Sheffield Futures.

The following commitments have been made:

- More time and resources from Sheffield Futures to support the Youth Council.
- Allow the young people to review the changes.
- Empower young people in decisions that affect them.
Jeevan Project

Jeevan provides opportunities for young Asian women with learning disabilities. It aims to empower and encourage young Asian women to speak up for themselves and integrate into society.

The project also organises activities such as awareness days, events, publicity, media workshops, computer skills, arts/crafts, educational visits and other activities which help develop interpersonal skills.

Jeevan also offers one to one support targeting isolated young women who have left school. This includes building confidence, self-esteem and raising aspirations.

If you have any spare time and would like to put something back into your community by volunteering, or you know someone who has learning difficulties and could benefit from our project, please contact Marlene Burrell on (0114) 261 9130 or at Jeevan group, c/o Pakistan Advice and Community Association, 58 Owler lane, Firvale, Sheffield, S4 8GA.

Partnership organisations include Sheffield futures, Symposia project, Oakes park school and Talbot school.

Elders Project

The Elders project’s aim is to attract elderly members (especially those who are socially excluded, isolated and vulnerable) of the Burngreave and Firvale area to take part in activities.

A wide range of services are delivered under this project which include the Lunch Club where elderly people can come and meet like wise people and socialise, keep fit sessions allowing much needed exercise, day trips and health walks, seminars and events conducted by local and national organisations.

Members are also encouraged to become part of a steering group which is user led and determines what type of activities and services should be delivered.

Can you help support the elders project by volunteering or are you elderly suffering from isolation or would you like to take part in consultations to develop services?

If so then please contact Mr Alam Khan to complete member registrations on (0114) 261 9130 or at: Pakistan Advice and Community Association, 58 Owler Lane, Firvale, Sheffield, S4 8GA.
**TUNE 103.1 FM INTO BURNGREAVE COMMUNITY RADIO**

Story: Lisa Swift

As we go to print, Burngreave Community Radio is testing its transmission and planning to be on air on 103.1 FM by 31st May.

Organisers are planning a schedule that will include music, community projects, young people and community languages.

Only a month ago, it looked unlikely to happen at all. When OFCOM granted the five year license in 2006, they set a two year deadline to be on air. This expired at the end of February. OFCOM agreed to extend the deadline but no funding was in place.

New Deal told the Messenger they had tried to work with the project but it had been difficult to maintain communications with those involved. Alongside this, a number of residents accused the project of not being inclusive, calling for the two directors of Burngreave Community Radio Ltd to hold an AGM. In April, New Deal’s board finally decided the Radio was a low priority, meaning it would get no funding.

Despite these difficulties, seven residents finally formed a board of directors. With premises on Cookswood Road, the project is calling for volunteers to contribute to shows and the running of the station.

In a final twist, New Deal have been forced to release an apology to Aisha Special K:

**Sincere apology from BNDfC**

It has been brought to BNDfC’s attention that there is some local speculation about small grants funding previously received by Burngreave Community Radio and other related organisations. BNDfC would like to confirm for any interested party that all of the grants received by those organisations have been accounted for by its Acting General Manager, Chair and Founder, Aisha Special K. Our sincere apologies to Special for any embarrassment and upset caused by this situation. BNDfC acknowledged Special’s huge contribution to the regeneration of the area and the welfare of its people in their Achievement Award - her contribution to the BNDfC programme will never be forgotten.

To find out about DJ and presenter opportunities, or if you would like to be involved in BCR, email bcr103.1fm@hotmail.com or call Aisha Special K on 07786 101 660.

**Gun trials update**

Two brothers - David Cohen, 28, of Upperthorpe and Ashley Cohen, 25, of Oughtibridge - were convicted on 11th April of the murder of taxi driver Younis Khan and were jaled for 31 and 33 years, respectively.

The prosecution did not allege that either man was present when Younis Khan was shot on Scott Road in March 2007, but rather that they organised the killing. Police have not found the person who pulled the trigger. Both brothers have protested their innocence. Ramzan Mirza was cleared by the court.

On 25th April, Danville Miller (“Debo”) was convicted of the non-fatal shooting of Dennis Small, owner of the Blue Mountain Café on Spital Hill. Miller was given an indeterminate jail sentence of at least 9½ years. Indeterminate sentences prevent a prisoner being released until they have been assessed as no longer being a significant risk to the public.

On 30th April, a jury failed to reach a verdict in the trial of Negus Nelson, 19, on the charge of murdering Jonathan Matondo, 16, in Nottingham Rec in October 2007. He was, however, acquitted of shootings on Melrose Rd earlier the same day. Nelson has been remanded in custody pending a retrial, which is unlikely to happen before next year and may not be held in Sheffield.

Giving evidence, Detective Inspector Matt Fenwick read out a ‘terrifying catalogue of violence’ between the ‘S3’ and ‘S4’ gangs, whose rivalry is said to have led to the death of Jonathan. He said Burngreave is ‘difficult to police’ because people living in the area are afraid to give information to the police for fear of reprisals.

**Having a voice**

The young people’s protest on 3rd May really showed us what the Burngreave Community Action Forum can be all about… having a voice.

This forum meeting wasn’t just about banners and demands for answers, it was about talking to people with the power to change things.

Concerns about the loss of mature street trees were met by Tim Shortland, the Council’s transport planning officer, who promised to consider changes.

And the Youth Council showed us that community action isn’t just about shouting loudly. Their workshop discussed how they could have a say in youth services.

The test now is to see if BCAF can make sure these things happen. If any of us can help strengthen BCAF’s hand by our involvement, we should do it.
Concern over Grimesthorpe development

Story: Lisa Swift

Residents have expressed concern over new housing plans for Grimesthorpe Road.

Redwall Developments Ltd have submitted plans for 124 flats and 44 houses at the top of Smithies Field. The plans are due to be considered by the planning board in July.

The plans show flats with 8 levels. Half are small ‘studio’ flats, of less than 30 square metres. The rows of houses are up to five storeys and range from 4 to 8 bedrooms. There are no plans for any to be ‘affordable’.

The development has been controversial from the start, with local residents complaining that Redwall destroyed the green space along Grimesthorpe Road and felled trees before submitting planning applications. The Council rejected outline permission, but this decision was overturned in an appeal, with the planning inspector insisting the site was ‘brownfield’ (previously developed), so it could be used for residential development.

The developers now want to remove most of the remaining trees, including 27 with Tree Preservation Orders now in place. Only 21 would remain.

Some residents have submitted objections to the plans, which include concerns about the number of properties, the height of the buildings and the pressure a high density development would put on local schools, services and roads.

The plans can be seen via the council’s website: www.sheffield.gov.uk/planning where you can submit comments.

The applications are numbered 08/01989/REM, 08/01990/REM and 08/01999/REM.

Traffic “Chaos” at School gates

Story: Lisa Harrison

Around 35 local residents and planners met on 28th April 2008 to discuss plans for the expansion of St Catherine’s School. The school is set to double in size and the Roe Lane Community Centre is to be demolished and rebuilt. Groups currently using the community centre will be relocated to Sheffield United Football Academy and local schools.

Council Architect Derek Statham explained the new plans, showing the community centre at the heart of the school.

A Roe Lane resident commented on the traffic during the school run. She said that her son has special needs and his school bus was stuck in the street for about 15 minutes trying to get through all the traffic. Children on the bus had become distressed and her son was hit.

Another local person described the current situation as “chaos”, and people complained of their driveways and garages being blocked by traffic on a daily basis. Local resident John Marples said, “Are we going to wait until a child is killed? The number of children is going to double under this scheme.”

St Catherine’s Headteacher Fiona Rigby responded, “It’s a total nightmare. I share your concerns. We can’t tolerate things as they are.” Fiona went on to say that evidence is being collated to present to the council’s Highways Department to ask for double yellow lines.

The meeting ended on a positive note, with all present agreeing to work together and to establish a working group.

Esso to Tesco

Work has finally started on the new Tesco Express store at the site of the former Esso petrol station on Barnsley Road.

Tesco hope to open the store in late September 2008 and will be offering up to 30 jobs for local people. The Express stores are smaller than a supermarket and this development will end several years of speculation about what will happen to the site.

New Deal Investigation complete

The investigation into Burngreave New Deal by Sheffield City Council around contracts awarded to Jack Davies and Bill Husband is now complete.

The Messenger understands the report is to be presented to the full Council on Wednesday 4th June and will then be public. It may reveal answers to questions such as:

• How much, exactly, was paid for these contracts and what tender process was followed?
• How much was paid to Bill Husband for 6 months work as deputy Chief Executive and whether references were taken up for this appointment?
• Whether the programme had adequate procedures to cover these situations and whether they were used?

• Were the board members fully aware of what had occurred?

Speaking on behalf of the programme, Deputy Chief Executive Ann Allen said: “BNDfC has co-operated fully with the internal audit by Sheffield City Council and we will welcome the outcome of the report which we believe will find no evidence of any improper conduct.

We acknowledge that the recommendations to be made will show that some of our procedures were not as rigidly controlled as they could have been and we have already taken immediate steps to make the necessary improvements.”

Look on our website for the report www.burngreavemessenger.org
Street Pastoring

Street Pastoring is faith-based engagement with young people on the streets, often in the evening. It offers support, guidance and a listening ear for young people.

A meeting is being organised to discuss setting up a Street Pastoring scheme in Burngreave.

Local church members or any one interested in being involved in the scheme are welcome to attend the meeting on Monday 16th June, 7-9pm at Seventh Day Adventist Church on Andover Street.

Contact Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt on 07931 732 490 for details.

Interfaith walk of unity

The 5th annual march for peace organised by Burngreave’s religious institutions took place on the 13th April. We were set to go through Burngreave, Fir Vale and Firth Park as usual.

In the beginning we all gathered outside St Catherine’s Catholic Church on Burngreave Road, then walked down Barnsley Road and into Fir Vale, continuing to Firth Park. We paused outside Mosques and Churches along the route, where silent reflection and prayer was made.

This was the first time I took part in an event that allowed religious integration through walking! As we smoothly walked down the path, I was met by people of different faiths. There were also people from different denominations within the same religion which shows the event successfully brought about greater unity.

We finished outside the Methodist Church in Firth Park where refreshments were provided. This was a good time to relax and greet one another. From all that walking we all felt rather unified through the same feeling of needing a good ‘cuppa’.

St Catherine’s refurbishment

Shrouded in blue safety mesh and scaffolding, one of Burngreave’s most iconic buildings is undergoing a long awaited programme of renovation work.

At a cost of £500,000 the improvements to St Catherine’s Roman Catholic Church on Burngreave Road, will be paid for with a loan from the diocese and include a new heating system, rewiring of the electrics, re-plastering, a new roof and repairs to the exterior brickwork.

Father Albert Savaille, of St Catherine’s said the work should be finished in October. He was thankful to neighbouring Pitsmoor Methodist Church for their generosity in offering St Catherine’s the use of their building for Mass and acknowledged it as a sign of the growing interfaith movement in Burngreave.

The church was originally built in 1926 with contributions from the Catholic community in Burngreave, and is now home to a congregation of over 30 different ethnic groups.

‘Integration for da nation!’

On the 16th April an interfaith discussion took place at the Vestry Hall, bringing together faith organisations from Sheffield and Bradford to share ideas and good practice.

As part of the Youth Council Burngreave, I provided information on what commitments we have made as the voice of young people. I was inspired that night when Robert Beard, part of Interfaith Dialogue and Social Action, said, “having a good cuppa with a lovely Muslim throws out stereotypes.” Burngreave is the most multi-cultural, multi-faith, and multi-ethnic community - if this statement is applicable anywhere, then it’s here.

He went on to say, “The voluntary community faith sector is not recognised enough by the Government; we are worth billions... we provide homework clubs, care, education, health, support, activities, events and so forth.”

From Bradford the Nasiha organisation has a wealth of Islamic material which is taught in school and is widely available on their website (www.nasiha.co.uk). Sajid, the representative of Nasiha, noted that "people, especially in Muslim communities, find it difficult to blend their religion with the British society." The key to integration from their perspective begins by "looking at our society in a positive way."

After an evening of discussion, the Kashmir Curry Centre recharged our batteries with fantastic food and reunited us with the same beautiful taste of curry.

The Messenger is developing a section on its website about Burngreave’s faith groups and their activities. If you would like to add information please get in touch on 242 0564 or mail@burngreavemessenger.org

www.burngreavemessenger.org/community/belief-in-burngreave
World class musician

Story: Liz Searle

To most Burngreave residents, Kamalbir is known for working in Ellesmere Road Post Office. However, he is also famous around the world as a performer and composer of classical Indian music.

Kamalbir reveals that ‘the musician part of me is the dominant part but I try to keep it hidden from the public. I am always singing in the Post Office but I keep my eye on the door and if someone comes in, I stop.’

I asked Kamalbir how he began his musical career. His father is a classical singer, who in turn taught the young Kamalbir to sing. After looking in vain for a sarangi (a bowed, stringed Indian instrument) teacher, he took up the flute at age ten and the violin at sixteen. While studying medicine, Kamalbir entered the ‘All India Radios’ music competition - comparable to the BBC Young Musician of the Year - and won the gold medal.

Smiling modestly, he admits that it was a big shock to win. Although his interest in music did make concentrating on his studies more difficult, Kamalbir gained his degree and is, as well as a Postmaster and an international musician, a qualified doctor.

Kamalbir recounts how he has always followed the progress of his idol Jagjit Singh, still number one in India at the age of 65. Jagjit Singh sings ghazals, Urdu poetry set to music, in a lighter style that brought it into public attention. The two men met when Jagjit Singh came to the UK and have kept in touch ever since.

Kamalbir has worked on the albums of Indian legends such as Anup Jalota and British artists Kula Shaker and David Essex. The ‘Bride and Prejudice’ soundtrack included his violin pieces and recently he has provided Sheffield Theatres with music for ‘A Handful of Henna’.

So what’s next for Kamalbir? He may be heading back to the West End to perform the score of ‘A Handful of Henna’ and is also considering running music workshops for Burngreave residents.

If you are interested in learning about Indian music contact Kamalbir violinsings@yahoo.co.uk or on 07980 968 486 (evenings and weekends).

East meets west

Story: Liz Searle

On the hottest day of the year so far, music is booming from the PA in the Vestry Hall and dancers are hard at work at one of their twice-weekly rehearsals for ‘East Meets West’, a show designed to showcase music and dance from different cultures.

I met Isha Nandra, the show’s creator and asked her how the idea came about. She replies that she has always been involved in musical performances as her father Kamalbir Singh is a classical musician although this, her first production, will not be a ‘pure’ classical show, but one that combines a variety of styles.

The show, Isha explains, is a mix of Bollywood and Bhangra and Western culture. “We have traditional Asian music and dance, with Western touches such as hip hop and street dance; this fusion of styles reflects the international and multicultural society of Sheffield.”

Isha advertised the idea on internet sites like Facebook for a cast of dancers; of the thirty who initially responded, fifteen are now dancers and the others are creating publicity, making costumes and mixing the music. She comments, “All of us are contributing; all of us are doing everything in one; we’re all helping each other.”

At the rehearsal, Isha seems to be everywhere at once - dancing onstage, filming the scene and rushing to show it to the dancers to discuss it. As well as performing locally, they are creating a ‘behind the scenes’ video of their production. All the cast are university students who currently have exams to contend with as well as the pressures of staging a two night show. Isha is sitting her four A-level exams at the moment!

When I ask what future plans Isha has, she says she may continue staging shows and is considering Events Management at university. It is clear she already has the talent.

‘East Meets West’ will be coming to Burngreave Vestry Hall on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st June. Tickets are free but numbers are limited. Contact the Vestry Hall on 213 3801 to book your place.
Supporting the Adventure Playground

Story: Sam Galbraith | Photos: Rohan Francis

The St George’s Day Event at Pitsmoor Adventure Playground on 26th April was a success! There were lots of new faces and it was good to see girls playing on the newly opened aerial runway which was recently fixed by staff and members of the users Group.

The Users Group also did a flag making activity and made drinks for the children. As an occasional worker on the playground, I know how valuable the help of volunteers is: it allows children to get more one-to-one attention. With the staff being congratulated by the Council for the 12% increase in attendance figures, more people are needed to join the Users Group.

As a playworker particularly interested in giving children a space for creative expression and adventurous physical play in natural scenery, I am very happy to see an increased number of children of all ages at the playground, especially with the new under-fives area.

Sheffield Futures also use the site once a week. It is indeed an increasingly useful commodity!

If you’d like to get involved with the Users Group in any way, please contact Lisa Swift on 07855 726 653.

To find out more about the users group and development on the new building go to: www.burngreavemessenger.org/community/adventure-playground

What did you like best about the day?

“Lots of things to play.” Saleh

“Drawing a house.” Elbatool

“Playing football.” Messiah

“Being friends.” Corey

“Playing on the scooters. It’s the first time I’ve played on one.” Nauman

Byron Wood parents’ day

Story: Rubina Perveen
Photos: Seraphin Nyirenda
Comments: Adar Diriye

On Wednesday 14th May, parents and children turned out in force to support the Family Fun Day. It was organised after parents at Byron Wood decided they wanted to set up a parents’ group.

There were many discussions around educational events and courses, both for parents and children. The group was officially set up on 1st May 2008 and with the support of parents the Family Fun Day was organised by David Hall (Learning Mentor) and Alexis Cowan (Extended Schools Co-ordinator).

There was a bouncy castle for children, an Asian clothes stall, a book stall, henna painting, face painting and bric-a-brac.

Children had a chance to throw wet sponges at a teacher - obviously this event was most enjoyed! And not to forget food cooked by parents. Also, representatives from Fir Vale School came along to hand out school information packs for secondary education. Every one was united on the day with a sense of enjoyment. The weather turned out well and everyone got on with what they enjoyed most. Even the ice-cream van enjoyed being there!

It was well organised and £670 was raised on the day. Watch this space as future events are already being talked about. The organisers want to thank everyone who helped them make it happen.

“It’s a brilliant event what brings families together.”

“It’s an important event because it brings family together and builds relationships with people.”

“I think we should do this event again next year.”

What did you like best about the day?

“Lots of things to play.” Saleh

“Drawing a house.” Elbatool

“Playing football.” Messiah

“Being friends.” Corey

“Playing on the scooters. It’s the first time I’ve played on one.” Nauman
Hope, optimism, unity and entertainment are the keywords for Burngreave resident Wajdi Raweh in his Sheffield Live radio show ‘Sixty Minutes in Arabic’. The weekly programme, which is a mixture of discussion and music, has already earned him the backing of his radio colleagues, who have asked him to increase the length of his broadcasts for the forthcoming season.

The Messenger talked to Wajdi about his show and how he got involved in Sheffield Live.

“The Yemeni Community Association was approached by Sheffield Live’s co-ordinator, Alan Fransman, who was looking for an Arabic language show.

“I had an interest in the media and saw the opportunity to bridge the gap between the diverse communities who speak Arabic and promote integration and unity within our society.”

As well as talking about topics such as economics, culture, health and relationships, the programme attempts to bring attention to the issues facing young people and the challenges and difficulties they encounter in their lives.

While discussion is the core of the show, music also plays an important part. The show features popular Arabic music and traditional Yemeni songs. Wajdi feels the musical content of his show can help open it to a wider audience and form a connection between different cultures.

“Music is also a language and Arabic music bridges communities. Anyone can dance to it!”

In a recent broadcast, Wajdi interviewed the acclaimed Yemeni Poet, twenty year old Saleem Al Shayee, during a visit to Sheffield. The show went down so well with the listeners that it was repeated.

After nearly twenty shows, Wajdi is hoping to begin broadcasting live with an expanded show of two hours. He has enlisted a volunteer called Aziz Bin Geleh, a media student, who is helping to create the programme and gain experience of radio production. Wajdi is hoping to involve more people to keep the show sustainable and continue to reflect the diversity of Sheffield’s communities.

“There’s an art to making radio. There’s a beauty in the music you choose, beauty in the words you speak and beauty in choosing the material. I feel more connected with people and that I’m helping them. I want to build on this with email and ‘phone-ins’ later on.”

Wajdi finished by saying, “The show’s success depends on retaining a good and harmonious interaction with the audience.”

Siteen Daqiqa be Alarabi can be heard on Thursdays 8-9pm on Sheffield Live, 93.2 FM, or via www.sheffieldlive.org. For more about Wajdi’s show, visit the Messenger website: www.burngreavemessenger.org/community/yemeni-radio-show/

Listeners can contact the show by emailing: bealarabi@hotmail.com

Music in the Sun this August

After a break of eight years, it looks like Music in the Sun will be back this summer. NonStop Events Ltd aims to re-stage the multicultural music festival that was started at SADACCA in 1989.

The festival will again take place at Don Valley Grass Bowl, which was its home in previous years. The following dates have been set:

Saturday 2nd August (1pm - Midnight)

Sunday 3rd August (1pm - 9pm)

With support from New Deal, Music in the Sun will be hosting a Burngreave community stage at the festival. A committee has been formed of local residents who will be seeking out local musicians and performers to demonstrate their skills live on stage. If you want to perform, contact Courtney Sterling at All Saints Community Centre on 256 2940.

If you would like to be involved in Music in the Sun, are interested in being a sponsor or you just want more info, contact event organiser Dee Warburton on 272 47 53, musicinthesun@live.co.uk.
Getting on with your neighbours

Story: Michelle Cook

These days, with many people relocating away from family, people are not as close to their neighbours as they used to be. When problems occur there is often no one to talk to and gain support.

Mediation Sheffield (MESH) is a free mediation service available to Sheffield Homes tenants and residents in the Burngreave New Deal area. The service helps people involved in neighbourhood disputes – such as falling out over noise or rubbish. MESH hears both sides and helps people come to an agreement. It is not legally binding. Sometimes people agree to be referred to other agencies.

MESH is looking for volunteers, especially people from different ethnic backgrounds who are available during the day or in the evenings. I interviewed MESH volunteer Lyn Brandon to find out what is involved.

Lyn has been a volunteer for four years. First she had to undertake accredited training, which can either be a full week, or one day or evening a week for up to 9 weeks. It is taught by trainers who are experienced in the field of mediation and involves role-play. Next Lyn shadowed more experienced mediators, some of whom are paid staff.

Lyn said she’d been involved with cases involving neighbours, some former friends who had fallen out over issues such as noise, fences and general differences and lack of understanding about each others’ lifestyles. People either refer themselves or are referred via Sheffield Homes though involvement is voluntary.

Ultimately people want peace in their homes and are looking for a way that both parties can move forward. Sometimes the most helpful thing is to have someone listen to their grievance as they often feel isolated.

I wondered what qualities she felt were need to be a mediator. Lyn said:

“You need to be interested in people, a good listener and being able to reflect back what has been discussed. It is very important to remain neutral.”

In her time as a mediator Lyn has a great deal of satisfaction from the interesting work and would recommend anyone to look into applying and undergoing the training.

If you are interested in this valuable work and would like to become a volunteer, the next training session starts on 13th October. For details please contact Fiona Jervis at Mediation Sheffield (MESH) for an application form on 241 2774 or email fiona@mediationsheffield.org.uk.

One man and his dog

Story & Photo: Brent Moya

Sheffield Homes have found themselves under fire after they refused an elderly man permission to keep his dog.

Mr Barry Ashmore of Margate Drive has been threatened with eviction should he not comply with the demands of Sheffield Homes.

A letter sent on 28th April demanded he remove his dog because “neighbours did not agree with him keeping it”. They laid down an ultimatum ordering the pet be re-homed in 21 days or he would face eviction.

I met with a clearly distressed Mr Ashmore, who was quick to point out his reasons for having a dog.

“I’ve been burgled before and I don’t feel safe anymore. I just couldn’t live without him, he’s my companion.”

Having lived on the estate for the last 8 years with his dog, Ginger, a Cross ‘Heinz 57’, Mr Ashmore would find it hard to say goodbye.

“That dog makes me feel safe at night, I’m an elderly man who hasn’t got much, so why are they doing this to me?”

His son Neil is equally upset by what he has witnessed, “I’m disgusted, what’s going to happen to the dog? It comes to something when they target good citizens like my dad. This is affecting him so much it could kill him.”

Mr Ashmore, who is registered as disabled, relies on his pet for peace of mind, “I can’t get around too easily and he provides company as well as bringing me things like the paper.” He hopes the Sheffield homes will see sense and hand him a reprieve.

Sheffield Homes told the Messenger:

“Mr Ashmore is breaching his tenancy conditions by keeping a dog in a block of flats without permission. We have written to all the tenants in his block to ask if they are happy for the dog to remain there, and are still awaiting their replies. We are aware that the dog is extremely important to Mr Ashmore and do not want to cause him any distress, so we will be visiting everybody in the block to get their views before deciding to take any further action.”
A local project to help residents of Burngreave with social welfare issues has now set up office in the heart of the community on Spital Hill.

Burngreave Advocacy Now was set up in 2003 and previously operated from the SADACCA centre on the Wicker. It is now based on the site of the former Job Link office on 99–103 Spital Hill.

The Project aims to help resolve problems that residents may be facing through a group of paid and volunteer advocacy workers. Advocates help vulnerable members of the community who are not fully accessing their rights due to barriers such as language, disability, lack of confidence or simply lack of information.

Advocates can help by making phone calls, reading and writing letters, helping to fill forms in, attending appointments and giving information about other services. They are a voice for people in powerless situations and protect their rights.

Advocates are proficient in English as well as the community languages of Arabic, Somali and Urdu / Punjabi and can also provide assistance to speakers of other languages through interpreters.

The Project has four paid advocates and a growing number of volunteer advocates. Amongst them are volunteer advocates Joanne Crowe and Denise Palmer.

Joanne said: “Volunteering allows me to help and support other people whilst I can gain valuable experience to become a full time community support worker.”

Denise added: “I live in the community and despite having six children I can find the time to volunteer and give something back to the community. Volunteering is also helping me gain confidence to move into full time work.”
Parents are an important part of helping children to do well in school, but it’s not easy to get involved with your children’s education, when there are real life worries to deal with.

The new Family Advocacy workers will be making sure families can deal with problems that might get in the way of children doing well. They can help with housing and tenancy issues; benefits, debt and bills; issues around speaking English as second language and further education; school related concerns; childcare; family health issues; parenting skills; employment; voluntary work and community work.

Bushra Karim, based at Firs Hill Primary School says: "I will be working closely to support families to address any issues that may prevent pupils from doing well at school. I have worked in various community roles for the past five years. I speak the Kashmiri community language and recently spent two years in Damascus, Syria, studying Arabic so have a very good command of Arabic too." Contact: 07800 515 357.

Angela Stewart, based at Pye Bank School says: "I love working with people and have done so for past 15 years, including working with asylum seekers, teenage parents, adults and children with disabilities, mental health, the homeless and the elderly.” Contact: 07800 515 357.

Sue Siddall, based at St Catherine’s says: “I have worked with both children and their families for a number of years now. I think it is very important for parents to play an active part in their child’s education and this role gives me the opportunity to support and encourage parents to do this.” Contact: 242 1177 or 07813 562 027.

Hannah Wellington, based at Fir Vale says: “I was born in Sheffield and went to school here. Working as a teacher in Doncaster made me think about moving into a career where I could help support families. I am really looking forward to working with the Burngreave community and the families of those with children at Fir Vale School.” Contact: 07890 321 226.

Shamsi Eaveson, based at Parkwood High School says: “I am a qualified Secondary Teacher and have been worked in Sheffield schools for the past 7 years. My experience includes behaviour management, mentoring and counselling, setting up and delivering extra study and homework clubs and Summer/holiday clubs. I love my work and making a real positive difference in people’s lives.” Contact: 07814 918 913.

Parkwood School Social Cohesion Conference

Sheffield Hilton Hotel
Friday 11th July

Parkwood School supports children from a range of areas, including Pye Bank, in Burngreave, where there are families from a range of cultures including many Somali, Pakistani and Yemeni families as well as white British and Caribbean families. The school also supports families from Shirecliffe and Southey Green where there are mainly white British families. Parkwood School is organising this conference to look at how the school can work with other services and people in the community to support different communities to work together and get on well together, both in the school and in the wider community.

The conference hopes to attract key decision-makers and give young people from different backgrounds a chance to influence that decision-making.

If you would like to attend the conference, contact Headteacher Chris Mallaband on 231 0221/2.
On Tuesday 20th May, national figure Professor Charles Desforges spoke to an audience of over 100 Burngreave parents. His message was from research that shows parents can have a bigger effect on their children’s progress than school, simply by talking to their children more. Parents from the Life Long Learning and Skills ESOL class reported on the event:

Professor Charles Desforges talked about his life and his parents. As well he talked about how education has changed since he was young and gave us some ideas about how to deal with the problems our children have.

Khadiza Hassan

The most important point was to have conversations with your children and to give them time – I felt guilty when I heard that, because I haven’t been kind enough to my children and I don’t talk to them enough, but on that day I started to make conversation with my children and I gave them more time. Also my children don’t understand my language. I try to talk them anyway, they can understand me and I mix some Somali and English but I know that the important point is to talk to your children.

Amal Ahmed

Professor Charles Desforges said parents should spend time with their children and support children’s individual needs. It is important to realise that all adult support for children revolves around the appropriate use of language. They should give their children self-confidence and self-esteem and encourage children to talk about what they are feeling. They should also allow time to rest.

Zahra Saleh

I only understood about 10% of his speech, so I learned that if you are not an educated person you can still help your children. I heard some things I already knew.

Anab Ali

His speech was not loud so I only understood a little. You should start talking to your child when they are a baby to get a relationship between you and your children and give your children a chance.

Adar Dirije

I understood what he was talking about because I talk to my child to help her with homework. I give her time during holidays at the weekends. I didn’t understand before that if you don’t have an education you can help your children. I remembered when I was young my parents taught me the right things. Now I know how important the parents are, not the school or where you live.

Zeinab Musse

If you take a walk down Abbeyfield Road you’ll stumble across the small Edwardian square which preserves many of its original features. In recent months following funding from BNDfC and Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, improvements have been carried out to the fencing, pathways, plantings and seating to restore the park to its former glory.

A ‘Friends of Devon Gardens’ has recently formed and will play an ongoing role in the upkeep of the Park. If you would like to get involved with the Friends group please contact the Parks & Countryside Service on 273 6952.

We are having a family event on July 12th to celebrate the Park improvements. Please come along and join us for a picnic, events and activities from 12-4pm.

Bowling for fun

With bowling season in full swing, the Abbeyfield Park green is looking in fine form.

Practice sessions are now happening every Monday 5.30pm-6.30pm (unless its raining). Its ideal for beginners, but more experienced players are welcome. Remember to wear flat shoes.
Somali Women’s event

Story: Nagat Abdullah & Lisa Swift

One Saturday night in April, there was a fantastic party at the Vestry Hall organised by Sado Egal from Somali Women’s Disability Group.

This party was to celebrate International Women’s Day, and was funded by New Deal.

The party started at 8pm and forty pretty ladies wearing beautiful traditional Diric (dress) came to enjoy traditional dancing and Somali modern music. Mr Khadar from the Awrfuul restaurant made delicious Somali food with rice and meat.

Everyone went home very happy, saying there wasn’t enough time. All Somali women need to sometimes get out of their homes to enjoy themselves. There should be more activities for Somali women and children.

On behalf of Somali Women’s Disability group, Sado said, “Thank you to New Deal for their funding. We want to make the parties happen every two months. There are no social events for Somali women, they have to sit at home and they are bored.”

Thank you to Sado Egal, who was brave to organise the event. This is something that should happen every month for women.

Learning Festival

Story: Douglas Johnson | Photos: Muntaz Ahmed

Sunday 18th May 2008 was a great day for a local and friendly festival so the Burngreave Learning Festival at Verdon Street was perfectly placed and timed.

“There was a big party; there were lots of people,” said Simon Johnson, aged 6.

Performers included salsa and jazz bands, belly-dancers and local kids doing traditional and modern dance. Top of the talent table was Kula, traditional Zimbabwean drummers and performers who lead the crowd in singing songs of pan-African tradition - plenty of dancing there for children and adults alike. I asked Nagat, standing next to me, how come all her Somali friends knew the songs from Zimbabwe but she pointed out “they’re our songs too”, even if sung a bit differently.

Something else that excited the spectators, as always, was the chip-pan fire demonstration - one of those odd bits of public education that’s always dramatic and popular.

Numerous stalls in Verdon Recreation Centre and plenty of food in the Furnival meant that everyone was catered for, whether they had a desire to make willow lanterns, fix bikes, learn a taste of everyday Urdu or for rice and peas from the Furnival’s regular café.

The festival was organised by the Burngreave Learning Campaign and will be the last one. “This project began in 2004 and funding has been approved until August 2008,” said New Deal.
After school study with the police

PC Alan Hancock has been working with young people at Burngreave After School Study Support, to help them understand the dangers of weapons and drugs. The young people explained what it was all about:

Yusra Ahmed, age 12
Throughout the last couple of weeks we have been learning about gun and knife crime as well as cannabis in sessions with PC Hancock.

The first week included learning about guns, the different types there are and how much harm they can cause. We learnt how many years imprisonment you could face for assaulting or killing someone.

The second week PC Hancock showed us some images of knife wounds; most of them were fatal and the attacker got a long time in prison.

The third week we were given a slide show about cannabis, it was really interesting because we saw what effects cannabis had on people.

I think the knowledge we have and will gain will help us in our later life.

Sarah Alabbadi, age 13
I have learned the harm that gun crime can do to you and knife crime and the different types of guns there are.

We have been working in groups and we have learnt about the many young people who have died because of gun and knife crime. This is because many young people feel they have to carry guns and knives for protection.

Secondly we learnt about a drug called cannabis. Cannabis is a type of flowering plant, we also found out that cannabis can be harmful and un-harmful to people.

I feel that I have learnt a lot through the past few weeks. This has improved my understanding on gun and knife crime and the effects that drugs can have on you.

Shaista Shukar, age 12
Guns are now a major crime, especially with youngsters carrying guns around which they think makes them look cool. But do they actually know what trouble they can cause? One single bullet can cause death or serious injuries.

People think having a gun will bring safety for themselves and their family members. But they are wrong. It causes even more trouble and causes even more consequences to face like a criminal record, jail, loss of a relative or family member, loss of their own life.

Police take “BB guns” off children in public places as whatever looks like a gun is a gun, even if it is a fake. If anyone sees you with a gun, they’ll call the police and if you point the gun at anyone you could be shot at by police - they think you’re a threat to their life.

Osgathorpe Plans

Story: Amie Rowland, Parks & Countryside

It’s a warm evening, the Park is packed with people. Kids playing in the playground, a cricket match going on, neighbours catching up, and a footy kick around on the grass.

It’s fantastic to see Osgathorpe Park so well used after all the hard work that has been put in by the Friends of Osgathorpe Park (FOOP) working with the Parks & Countryside Service. Footpath lighting, new trees, wildflower planting and artwork in the playground all help to make the park feel safer and cared for.

The next project that we’re focussing on is the Active Play Zone (see plan). We’ve spent lots of time consulting with youth groups, schools and other stakeholders in the area, and this plan consolidates what we’ve been told; that we need a space with improved surfacing that will cater for a variety of sports activities and a range of ages.

Whilst flood lighting is not seen as a priority, high fencing will protect the Earl Marshall Road residents from balls, and new terraced seating on the bank will allow people to watch the activities.

The climbing boulder was an extremely popular element. We are actively seeking additional funding to enable this project to go ahead. If you have any comments on this design please contact the Parks & Countryside Service on 273 6952, we are keen to hear from you.
Do you have information about criminal activity in your neighbourhood?

Do you want to report it but don’t want to get involved or give your name?

Then call Crimestoppers anonymously on: 0800 555 111.

Crimestoppers is the only charity directly supporting the police to help detect crimes and bring offenders to justice.

Information about crime is taken, including:

• Drug dealing
• Burglaries
• Receiving stolen goods

You will not be asked your name or where you live.

Crimestoppers do not have caller line identifier, the 1471 facility and never trace calls.

Crimestoppers do not tell the police your gender, apparent ethnicity or age.

You can claim a cash reward of up to £1,000 if your information leads to somebody being arrested and charged. Ask for more information.

Language-line/interpreter also available.

Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

www.crimestoppers-uk.org

FREE TWO-HOUR CYCLE TRAINING SESSION

Want to get out on your bike either to get fit or get to work but bothered by traffic and don’t know where to ride?

Take advantage of our professional, friendly FREE one-to-one cycle training. Training is tailored to your needs with day and evening sessions available with either male or female instructors.

The session can help with:

• learning to ride
• helping to choose your route
• help with basic cycling skills

The first session is subsidised by the Sheffield City Council, further lessons can be arranged at a cost of £35.00 for a two hour session (£20.00 for child/unwaged).

Phone 205 3073
For details www.sheffield.gov.uk

Burngreave Small Grants Fund

Get involved with your community...

Do you or your organisation have a new idea that would benefit local residents – would a small grant help to make it happen?

Organisations can apply for a grant of up to £500 and individuals and groups can also benefit with grants of up to £500. Social and sporting activities are eligible for up to £500.

Examples of what we fund are…

• Activities for children or young people
• Trips for local residents
• Education and courses
• Healthy eating or exercise initiatives
• Environmental improvements
• Equipment for local groups

Your applications will be considered as long as the people who benefit are residents of the Burngreave New Deal Area.

The Grants Panel meets in the last week of every month; application deadlines are two weeks before. Contact the grants team for more information.

For an application pack:
Phone the Grants Team (Val and Chris) on: 202 2905
Or download a pack from our website: www.bndfc.co.uk/projects/smallgrants

NEW! ‘Pick & Mix’ Training Programme

The concept is simple!

You choose the training you want from the list below and we’ll deliver your individual training package in a local venue, for free!

Simply choose any combination from:

• Business Administration - 3 hours per week (Basic Level & Level 2 technical certificate)
• English - 3 hours per week
• Maths - 3 hours per week
• Pathways to Employment - 2 hours per week (Interview skills, confidence building, CV writing & application forms)

Each training course is no more than 3 hours per week, so you can choose to do all 5 areas and because it would be under the 16 hours permitted by Jobcentre Plus, any benefits claims will be unaffected.

To be eligible you need to live in Burngreave and not be in full time education, employment or training.

For more information please contact Apprenticeships for All on 0114 272 2743.
Earl Marshall Juniors
Season Review 2007-08

Story: Mick Ashman | Photo: Richard Hanson

Earl Marshall Under 12s have been promoted to Division C having finished fourth in Division D last season.

Pre-season friendlies suggested that the team were capable of making the transition. There were comprehensive wins against Hillsborough Pumas and Owls Trust All Stars.

The team were unable to carry this momentum into September but their first competitive Cup game saw an excellent hard-fought 3-2 win over Dodworth Miners Welfare. There was a real sense of optimism when Earl Marshall faced AFC Dronfield in their first league game but, despite being the better side on the day, they shared the points in a 1-1 draw. A week later there was a better result when Brampton Dynamos were completely outplayed in an emphatic 6-1 win.

Early disappointments

Unfortunately the victory was followed by four straight defeats in October, including dismissal from the Cup to Sheffield Rangers. A crucial 4-3 win over Sheffield Wednesday Young Owls in November with Earl Marshall grabbing all three points in the last few minutes was celebrated in style by the whole team but the win was followed by two defeats against Birley Spa and Hackenthorpe Juniors - Hackenthorpe played like a team in the hunt for promotion.

Flying high

Confidence was restored with two away 2-2 draws against high-flying Brinsworth Whitehill and Bramley Sunnyside. There were some outstanding individual performances and defensively Earl Marshall were highly effective. A home defeat to Heeley confirmed once again Earl Marshall’s inability to take points off teams outside the top four and sure enough when they travelled to Young Owls, they ground out another 2-2 draw. The result seemed to herald a turning point. A narrow 1-0 win against Birley started a sequence of five wins in the remaining eight games, with defeats for Greasbrough, Brampton, Hackenthorpe and Aston.

Looking up

The narrow win over Brampton gave Earl Marshall 19 points and, with their superior goal difference, effectively guaranteed Division C status for the new season. With the pressure off the players, they delivered three excellent end of season performances. They were unlucky to lose against league runners-up Brinsworth and, at Hackenthorpe, a stunning four goals in 10 minutes ensured that they overcame a 2-0 deficit. The team went on to finish the season in style with their first back-to-back win of the campaign, a 3-1 victory at the expense of Aston Juniors. If they can maintain their form over the course of next season then they will be serious Division C promotion contenders a year from now.

Earl Marshall’s Under 7s also had an excellent first season and are looking forward to proving themselves as Under 8s.

Earl Marshall Juniors FC are looking for new players for Under 13s (Y8), Under 8s (Y3) and Under 7s (Y2) teams.

Contact Mark on 07776 457 732
Managers and coaches also needed.

Burngreave Saints

Story: Brent Moya | Photo: Danny Hall

It was a disappointing season for Burngreave Saints Under 11s, but with a new home pitch at Parkwood Springs and a new club sponsor, Northern Counties Housing Association, the future looks brighter.

Club secretary Emma Wilkinson says the winning feeling had eluded the team and resulted in relegation. “We’ve had a bad season, and we only won two games.” Nevertheless, Emma says, the club intends to bounce back. “We’ve had extra training and scouting sessions. The aim is to come back bigger and better.” Despite the setbacks, the team has entered every tournament on offer and won a final at Wickersley Tournament beating Mexborough on May 11th.

The new club sponsor has pledged funding to sponsor local teams in Burngreave. “They are going to buy us a container for storing equipment,” continued Emma.

I also chatted to Steve Richardson, Activity Sheffield’s Football Development Officer, regarding his work on the Parkwood pitch, which he negotiated free of charge from the Council. “Already there is a need to develop it further - we need an adult pitch to accommodate the increased demand.”

To find out about in Burngreave Saints contact Emma Wilkinson on 07902 121 629.

What’s Going on this summer?
If you are running activities for young people this summer, make sure you get them in the ‘What’s going on?’ booklet 2008.

It will be delivered through schools so children can get the most out of summer. Contact Linda Holt at Burngreave Streetworx for a form, 272 3628, Linda.Holt@sheffieldfutures.org.uk

Deadline for forms is Friday 13th June.

Grants for young people’s activities

Burngreave New Deal’s Small grants team will be running a special grant panel for young people’s summer activities.

If your group hasn’t been able to get funding from elsewhere, contact the team for an application pack as soon as possible.

Contact Chris Dignam 292 2906, chrisdignam@bndfc.co.uk for a pack. Deadline for applications is Friday 13th June.
Somali Mental Health

The Somali Mental Health Project or Maan (meaning mind) started in 1992, following the Sheffield Somali Trauma Conference.

It aims to help people with mental illness, increase understanding of mental health issues and provide a bridge between services and the Somali community.

Saeed Abdi, Team Leader at Maan, was interviewed for the Messenger.

Why do you think Somali people need this project?

“Somali people need access to services from the GP, to the consultant, to the specialist services. There are people in the Somali community who do not have enough English or enough information to understand what is available. We help with interpreting so they can understand what’s happening to them, and make sure other support is in place.”

Do people have problems because they have fled their country or are they caused by something here?

“Some problems are caused by trauma because of the loss of home, property and family members in Somalia. There are also problems that people have met here, like not speaking the language, poverty and unemployment. Mental health is about the health of the mind - everyday worries, from bills to looking after children, lead to anxiety. It can also be more serious. We often deal with very serious problems because the problem has not been dealt with early enough. Then there is khat, which is an issue in its own right.”

Mental illness affects many Somalis in Sheffield, not just men but also women and children. How do you find people who need help? How can we help the whole community?

“When I came to Sheffield, there were many projects for the Somali community but a lot are not working now. We need more projects to address all our needs. We help with mental health problems but, if we see other issues like housing or immigration, we can sometimes help. If we can't help, we make sure people get help from other services.”

“One of the problems we have in the community is that we hide mental health problems from each other and from the doctors. It’s only after a long time when something bad has happened that Maan comes to know about it.”

“The Somali community believe in ‘possession’ - when people see what they think is ‘madness’, they go to the mosque for help. Religion is important and does help but we must also see the doctor because they will help and medicine has helped many people.”

Anab Ali writes:

For most Somalis, English is a second language so the project helps with translations. They also help with housing, doctors, hospitals and sometimes even shopping. The project is very important because every society needs to look after its vulnerable people. The project now cares for 160 people.

Jawahir Said writes:

In our community, there are a lot of Somali men who seem to be depressed. I believe that the reason for this depression is the fact that they know that their lives are heading nowhere, so they start to drink and chew khat all the time. Depression is a common thing. Anybody can become depressed; it’s about how you deal with it and I don’t think that these men are educated enough to know how to deal with depression. They should be taught how to handle it and try to get their lives back because everybody needs a little help.

To find out more about Maan (Somali Mental Health Project) contact 275 8556 or admin.maan@tiscali.co.uk.
A Burngreave man who was struggling on income support has secured a full time job thanks to the help of an innovative employment project.

Kurdish refugee, Mohammad Amin Ahmed (40), who has lived in Sheffield since 2003, accessed Burngreave Opportunities (BOPPS) and is now working full time as an adult trainee in joinery for Kier Sheffield.

After moving from the political turmoil in the region north of Iraq, Mohammad settled in Burngreave in the hope of getting a job in the building trade. Says Mohammad: “I left my wife and son, who is now 16 years old, behind to come to the UK so it was a massive decision. But there is too much war in my country and no jobs so I just wanted the opportunity to build a better life for myself and family. At first finding work here was a real struggle and I was on income support but still desperately trying to get a job in the construction industry.

But Mohammad’s luck changed when he heard from a friend about BOPPS, a unique partnership between Burngreave New Deal for Communities (BNDfC), Sheffield Futures and JobNet, who helped him apply for a job at Kier Sheffield.

BOPPS, based at Forum House on Spital Hill, aims to ensure that a range of skills and expertise are available to Burngreave residents and that they have access to the best possible support to help find employment. Over the last year, it has helped almost 300 people into work by offering a range of services including training and careers advice, confidence building, help writing application forms and interview practice.

Adds Mohammad: “I was so happy to be put in touch with BOPPS – they helped me to get my CV in order and the staff were so helpful. Soon after they put me in contact with Kier and I was really pleased to have an interview and then be appointed in a full-time position. It allows me to get practical experience on the job for three days a week and for the remaining two days work towards gaining a relevant qualification. I am currently studying for an NVQ level 2 in site carpentry and doing basic English, numeracy and literacy.

“It is my dream job really, I am just hoping I can continue with my work and studies so I can progress enough to bring my family over to Sheffield which will mean we can all be together.”

For more information about BOPPS, please contact Vicky Brennan on 0114 272 6096.

More BNDfC Board members!

The Burngreave New Deal for Communities Partnership Board has representation from community, business, voluntary & community and statutory organisations but there are still a number of vacancies which current members are very keen to fill.

Partnership Board members decided to fill the vacant places by co-option and decided the criteria for co-option should be:

In selecting persons to be co-opted, the Directors shall take into account the benefits of appointing a person who through residence, occupation, employment or otherwise has special knowledge of the area or who is otherwise able by virtue of their personal or professional qualifications to make a contribution to the pursuit of the objects or the governance of the Company.

If you are interested but need a little (or a lot) more information on what being a board member involves, please get in touch with John Clark, Chief Executive (292 0398) or Ann Allen, Deputy Chief Executive (292 2907). Both John and Ann are happy to have a conversation with you, this can take place over the phone or in person and discussion can be about any aspect of being a BNDfC Board member, they’ll answer all your questions. Or, if you would like to nominate yourself contact Ann or John on the numbers above and they will explain what needs to happen next.
Reach High 2 - supporting young people

So what is Reach High 2 and how has it benefited young people of Burngreave and further afield? Reach High 2 is an after school study support project which allows young people to have extra curriculum sessions in Maths, English and Science.

We have seen how it has benefited us; for the youth the Reach High 2 (RH2) project has got us off the streets and into further education, helped in our GCSE grades, supported us emotionally and gave us new friends.

We have seen the project develop contact with the Somali community to grow stronger and closer and unite as one.

So let’s hear what’s been said on the streets and study support about RH2!

“Because of Reach High 2 I am doing better at school. I did a report and got really good grades.” Amira age 10

“On the streets you’re unsafe and Reach High 2 gets you off the streets, looks after you, feeds you, makes you safe and cares.” Kyle age 16

“I never used to come study support now I have my maths grades have gone up 1 sub level. I feel confident in every subject and want it to carry on running.” Ifra age 11

“When I wasn’t at study support things were bad and I was out all the time, now I have somewhere to socialise and meet others.” A year 11 pupil.

“Stops us getting in trouble, for example breaking the law, hanging around street corners and not using our time productively.” Ikhsal age 14

So Reach High 2 has helped us and been there when we need it the most.

Thanks to Ayesha Akram and Ayesha Saleem, aged 16 who wrote this article.

Hope for the future

The aim of the Hope project was to give 6 young hopefuls the opportunity to gain skills, experience and knowledge by undergoing different training programmes and work practice. The skills, experience and knowledge acquired are transferable and could be implemented in many different environments and work roles.

The Hope project has run for 3 months and has now come to an end. The project gave the 6 young hopefuls ongoing training throughout this period.

A few examples of the training are:

- Introduction to youth work
- Football coaching
- Health and safety
- Drugs/alcohol awareness
- First aid
- Team building
- Interview skills
- Cultural awareness
- Confidence building
- Time management
- Peer mentoring
- Planning and delivering

Denzil Ramsey and Shaun Dawson are 2 of the 6 people benefiting from the Hope project and in their own words here’s what they had to say about their experience.

Denzil Ramsey: “Hope was an excellent idea and a good way for me to get my career started. It helped me boost my confidence when working with children and adults.

“I feel I helped the youth by simply keeping them busy in order to stay off the street, I think they felt they could look up to me which encouraged them to take part. I gained experience on how to work with youth in the street, and did different training to help develop me further during the time of the course.

“I learnt how to plan sessions, half term trips and deliver community events. I think everything was fine and I had a really good time working in the Hope group.”

Shaun Dawson: “Hope has helped me in many ways. It has helped me build my confidence, to work as part of a team and to gain skills to plan events etc.

“I feel I have helped the community in many ways; Organising activities for young people and playing games with the young people. Hopefully I have been a good role model.

“I now have a lot of planning experience, youth work experience, better team work experience, I have done quite a few training courses including, understanding gun gang culture and knife awareness, child protection, sports leadership and other training. I hope this will better my chances of getting a job. I have really enjoyed working with young people.”

Hope has given both Denzil and Shaun a very positive and encouraging experience. Good luck to both and the rest of the young hopefuls in whatever they choose to do in the future.
Making public transport more reliable

We’re almost there. Spital Hill has two-way traffic; the inner relief road is open and the Wicker’s nearly finished. After over two years of upheaval, it’s time to see if the new roads are helping to make the local buses run on time without those long delays going into town.

The Better Buses promise

As you’ll all know, the new bus lane and traffic lights on Burngreave Road from Melrose Road to the wine shop, are intended to make sure that buses run reliably to their timetables; if they’re running late, the lights hold back general traffic to allow the buses to move ahead – and then the lights are set to allow unhindered progress past Ellesmere Green and down Spital Hill. This is just one bit of a wider scheme from Chapeltown to the Wicker known as the Burngreave and Northern General Hospital; the operators are expected to make sure their buses are clean, reliable, punctual, well maintained, meet a minimum of Euro III emissions and have good, trained drivers. This Scheme started in November 2007 and has now been running for six months.

Is it working?

Early indications show that in terms of passengers using buses, across South Yorkshire there’s been approximately 1% increase over the last year. On the North Sheffield bus services there’s been more than a 2% increase. Over the last year, timekeeping on the corridor (between one minute early and five minutes late) has been met on 82% of journeys, compared to 87% across the city; but in the latest month, the trend has been upwards with 89% of local journeys being on time. Reliability was no different to the rest of Sheffield. Customer complaints were higher than a year ago, but a much lower increase compared with complaints throughout South Yorkshire. And in the latest month, complaints had dropped by a quarter. Should the services fall below the prescribed standards for the corridor, then this is formally raised with the bus operators to be resolved with the ultimate sanction being a referral to the Traffic Commissioner who has powers to impose penalties on operators failing to meet the standards.

Mike Nuttall from the Transport Executive says, “the North Sheffield scheme is now showing some positive improvements in areas of passenger growth, punctuality and reliability…. However, there are some issues which require discussion with the operators regarding reliability, cleanliness and litter. With the scheme only running since November, the signs are positive”.

But what about...

There are other issues that we are picking up locally. There’s little sign that any other operator or the PTE will be able to re-start the B1 & B2 local service (not enough patronage or income; not far enough from the main bus routes to warrant a subsidy), despite some sturdy and loud local support. Parents at some local primary schools who have some distance to travel have suggested a special concessionary fare for children and their parents travelling to/from school – to use buses rather than cars. At present, from Firth Park to Firshill and back on a 75 it would cost £3.20p with one child. We’ll be taking this up with the bus companies. And some local concerns that whilst bus drivers and their supervisors remark on some local ‘hot spots’ – like Firshill Crescent – they don’t seem to pass this concern on to the PTE. And so it doesn’t get logged as a priority!

Next Area Panel meeting

The next Area Panel meeting is on 12th June at 6pm at the Vestry Hall. Discussion items include services for older people, including older Muslim women and men; parking and travel to/from the Northern General; and the priorities of the Area Panel in 2008.

All welcome.

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 the second and fourth Saturday mornings of each month.

12th June: Steve Jones, 11am–12 noon Burngreave Library and 12.15–1.00pm Firshill TARA
17th June: Jackie Drayton, 11am–12 noon Shirecliffe Centre
Steve Jones, 12.15–1.00pm Norwood/Bishopholme TARA
28th June: Ibrar Hussain, 11am–12 noon Burngreave Library
12th July: Ibrar Hussain, 11am–12 noon Burngreave Library and 12.15–1.00pm Firshill TARA
15th July: Jackie Drayton, 11am–12 noon Shirecliffe Centre and 12.15–1.00pm Norwood/Bishopholme TARA
Tackling anti-social behaviour

Sheffield Homes are committed to working with tenants and residents to prevent anti-social behaviour. We believe people should be able to enjoy peace and quiet in their own home and feel safe and secure in the areas where they live.

There are a number of steps against anti-social behaviour that Sheffield Homes, the Police and our partner agencies can take, including, verbal warnings, written warnings and cautions, eviction of tenants, fixed penalty notices and much more.

We aim to deal with your complaint as quickly as possible and all cases will be strictly confidential.

To find out more about reporting anti-social behaviour please contact Sheffield Homes Anti-Social Behaviour Team:

Tel: (0114) 293 00 00

Burngreave Housing Office,
177 Spital Hill, Pitsmoor, S4 7LF.

www.sheffieldhomes.org.uk

Translation/interpretation service is available.
Dear Messenger.

I write to agree with the reader who wrote the letter on page 22 of the April Messenger. Everything this reader writes is 100% correct. Halfway up Hampton Road coming from Fir Vale Road on the right side of the pavement there is a pot hole, very deep and round. I am surprised no one has fallen into it and hurt themselves badly. At the moment on Fir Vale Road, somebody has dumped a mattress on the pavement in front of my neighbour’s garage. Their garage is around the corner of Hampton Road. Last year someone dumped an old TV in the same spot. I do not believe people know what dustbins are for. There are newspapers and all sorts of rubbish. I’ve picked up letters with people’s names and addresses on. The wind blows everything down the road. And people this end of the road have to put up with the rubbish outside their houses or tangle up around their car wheels. There are a few neighbours who come out and sweep outside their homes. The street cleaners do a good job but next day it’s just as bad. Around the corner on Fir Vale opposite the Corner Shop all of the trees were cut down and now it is just a dump. There are rats coming from this same place. Some of the neighbours on Fir Vale say they have seen rats there.

Fir Vale Resident

Dear Sir/Madam,

In reply to your letter in the April Edition of the Messenger, I agree that Fir Vale is a disgrace. If the police and wardens did their jobs and moved on traffic parked on double yellow lines, then at least the traffic would be better. There should be a bus gate at the main junction as traffic coming down Barnsley Road regularly blocks the junction. Why can’t the takeaways be made to employ just one person for them all to pick up their litter whilst the shops are open? If they do not comply, either fine them or close them down. It is in their interest to keep streets clean to keep the shops open.

As just one of a group of dog owners who regularly visits Osgathorpe Park, I can tell you it is a minority of dog owners who let their dogs foul the park.

The park is a disgrace; most of the paths are rutted with potholes and dirt. We have been trying to get the railing fitted around the playground and a rat infested mattress collected for the past two years.

The football/cricket pitch is in a terrible condition when it is wet. When you look at Abbeyfield Park and Firth Park, you can see where all the money’s gone. It would help with the problem with litter if the shopkeepers on Scott Road did not give school children carrier bags for their crisps and pop in a morning. All they do is throw them away in the park. Finally the Community Centre is nothing more than a graffiti wall and a place for drunks and prostitutes. It should be closed and knocked down.

It would not take much to improve Fir Vale and the surrounding areas if people did their jobs and our councillors got off their backsides and did something.

Ellesmere resident

We welcome your letters but please include contact details as we cannot print anonymous letters. We also reserve the right to edit letters.
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www.rockchristiancentre.org

Landlords...  
Have you heard how  
Sheffield City Council (SCC) can help you?  
Free access to a University run training course for landlords!  
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It’s free to join the Sheffield Responsible Landlord Scheme and you get the following benefits as a member:  
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• Free access to Council waste recycling sites throughout the city!  
• Free access to a dedicated landlord Housing Benefit Advice line  
• Free advertising for your vacant rented properties on the SCC Property Shop website!  
To find out more telephone Kevin Sharpe or Dennis Tester on 0114 273 5134  
Or visit www.sheffield.gov.uk/privaterentedproject or www.sheffield.gov.uk/rls  
Or email prp@sheffield.gov.uk

Burngreave Community Wardens  
The aim of the Community Warden Service is to improve the quality of life in your area by:  
• Reporting issues related to crime and disorder such as burglary, fly tipping, drug dealing, youth nuisance and anti-social behaviour.  
• Providing a highly visible presence on the estates, on foot and in vehicles, with a view to deterring and preventing anti-social behaviour and crime.  
• Engaging with and supporting tenants and residents on all local issues.  
The warden service is currently run seven days a week, and all information obtained from tenants and residents is handled in the strictest confidence.  
If you have any queries or want to request a patrol please telephone the Community Wardens on (0114) 293 0000.

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3 A.C.E. Business Centre, 120 The Wicker, Sheffield S3 8JD.
Phoenix Music Club flies again with two new pilot events at the Companion’s Club in Pitsmoor. Don’t miss out on the fun, as we have two packed programmes for you. As people have often said about Phoenix, “something you love, something new, and something to dance to.”

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Doors Open 7.30pm. Event runs 8-11pm
Tickets £8/£5 available on the door
Companion’s Club, 482 Barnsley Road

Phoenix Music Club - Sheffield
www.phoenixmusicclub.org.uk