

# DORE DOOR

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

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### Wassail Walk

The 24th annual Wassail Walk took place on Saturday 27th December in fine but breezy weather with 49 people enjoying a stroll around Blacka Moor. The first Wassail Walk took place in 2001 and the event continued every year whatever the weather except for 2020 when Covid intervened. This year's route followed some rarely walked ground and included a steep climb that was rewarded with fine views at the top.

On our return to the very welcoming, dry and warm Devonshire Arms many of us consumed a lot of mince pies and a modest quantity of mulled wine, so an enjoyable time was had by all. Thank you to David and Cath Fallaize for organising the refreshments. They have done this for several years, but by the time you read this article they will have departed from the Devonshire Arms. We wait to see if their successor is willing to carry on the tradition.

Keith Shaw

### Where Is This Sign?



Hint #1) Keen local walkers will have passed this sign on numerous occasions.

Hint #2) This sign has been taken over by the elements, but we can just make out the faint words 'Public Bridleway to Blacka Moor'.

Think you have a good guess? Check if you're right by going to [www.what3words.com](http://www.what3words.com) and entering the code `///peanut.royal.await`.

### Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - 'Working together to preserve and enhance the character of Dore'

In the Winter 2025 edition of Dore to Door we reported on early steps being taken to develop modest, practical community projects funded through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) arising from new development in the neighbourhood.

We have now secured volunteer champions to lead small groups to design, budget and manage the following projects:

- 1) Investigating and mapping footpaths in and around Dore as a gateway to the Peak District, including monitoring wildlife and improving access for all.
- 2) Public seating: one group member has been identified, but a lead volunteer is still sought to develop a plan for additional and/or improved public seating in suitable village locations.
- 3) More in Dore (a subcommittee of Dore Village Society): to further develop proposals to extend accessible play and exercise equipment at Dore Recreation Ground, for use by both children and adults. Residents with an interest in developing adult-focused initiatives are invited to come forward. Input from older residents, personal trainers and wellbeing coaches would be particularly welcome.
- 4) To develop a plan to improve the triangle of land opposite the Hare and Hounds for wider community use.

Some of these projects may identify worthwhile initiatives that exceed the level of current CIL funding. Where that is the case groups will be able to scope and plan further phases for delivery as future funding becomes available. Early outputs, however, may be capable of being funded from existing spending pots.

We aim to begin work on developing these projects in the Spring. We are also keen to hear ideas from residents for future CIL funded projects that reflect the Village's priorities as set out in the Dore Neighbourhood Plan and the Green Infrastructure Appraisal of Dore's Green Belt. A copy of both documents can be obtained from [christopher.pennell@uwclub.net](mailto:christopher.pennell@uwclub.net).

To volunteer for one of the project groups, or to suggest an idea for future CIL funding, please email: [julia.watkinson@dorevillage.co.uk](mailto:julia.watkinson@dorevillage.co.uk) and/or [christopher.pennell@uwclub.net](mailto:christopher.pennell@uwclub.net).

Christopher Pennell and Julia Watkinson

## Another Christmas, Another Magical Lantern Parade

Christmas in Dore wouldn't be Christmas without starting December's festivities off with the Dore lantern parade, now in its 16th year.

The weather, unlike last year, was kind to us so on a cold but clear Wednesday night on 3rd December we welcomed hundreds of families who had gathered from throughout the village.

New this year was the highly decorated Christmas tractor and magical Santa's sleigh, courtesy of Sean and Gillian Murphy and their family. Also joining the parade was the Christmas-themed Transport 17 minibus, the local transport charity that does so much in supporting the elderly and infirm of Dore village and the surrounding S17 areas.



The ever-popular Gemini dance group, 30 dancers strong, led the parade this year dancing enthusiastically and illuminating the streets of Dore with a colourful display to Wizard's "I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day". So many smiling children's faces cheered enthusiastically for Santa as he passed by on his magical Christmas trailer while the Victorian organ grinder performed a large selection of traditional Christmas tunes.

The parade culminated at the Christmas tree outside the village green shop, which we would like to thank for its wonderful, continued support.

This year, the countdown to the Christmas lights switch-on was led by Jodie McRae, founder and manager of the Gemini School of Dance while a large video wall played videos of Santa and his elves, enhancing the colourful event. Several joyful Christmas carols were sung enthusiastically by the gathered families, with the lyrics displayed on the video wall.

With the celebratory parade complete, many families dispersed to continue the festivities at the local shops, the Dore Cafe, the Hare and Hounds, the Door Club, The Dore Grill and the Devonshire Arms, where Father Christmas greeted the children and handed out presents to over a hundred children.

Dore is a wonderful community-led village and the Dore Village Society is proud to have played a part in bringing a little bit of Christmas cheer to start the Christmas festivities. The feedback we receive from so many delighted parents encourages us to keep the parade going.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the event run smoothly. Your dedication, as

always, is invaluable. Organisers, marshals, and technicians all contribute to the Dore community party. Long may it continue.

Dore Lantern Parade is a Door Village Society event and we value your feedback. If you would like to contribute to be part of, or further develop, the event please email us your comments and details to [caroline.davies@dorevillage.co.uk](mailto:caroline.davies@dorevillage.co.uk).

Happy New Year.

David Hayes  
Caroline Davies

Next Lantern Parade Wednesday 2nd December 2026



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Cover Photo: "Deer on Blacka Moor" - © Mark Smith  
Courtesy of Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust - see article on page 23.

### Abbeydale Golf Club Helps Their Local Hospice

Centenary celebrations at Abbeydale Golf Club seem to come thick and fast nowadays. The club is actually 131 years old but in 2024, they enthusiastically celebrated 100 years of playing golf on their present course, located off Twentywell Lane.

2025 threw up yet another significant milestone for the club with members and visitors being made aware of the fact that the current Abbeydale clubhouse was finally completed 100 years ago.

It was highly appropriate, therefore, that a special year for Abbeydale was enhanced even further by the magnificent efforts of Club Captains Mark Rendall and Sally Colver who raised over £40,000 for their nominated charity, St Luke's Hospice in Sheffield.

For many years, the golf club has enjoyed a close relationship with their local hospice which provides patients and their families with the high-quality care that they need.

At the cheque handover ceremony, St Luke's Chief Executive Officer, Jo Lenton, thanked Abbeydale GC for the significant amount of money that they raised during 2025 and said that every penny was valuable to them, particularly during these challenging financial times.

Abbeydale now looks forward to the 2026 golfing season which will be another special year for the club when they host both the English Senior Women's Stroke Play Championship (16th – 18th June) and the Sheffield Union of Golf Clubs' blue-ribbon event, the Sheffield Open Amateur Championship (26th June).

**Tim Jackson**



Abbeydale's Club Captains Mark Rendall and Sally Colver handing over their fundraising cheque to the representatives of the St Luke's Hospice in Sheffield.

### Abbeydale Rotary

The year 2025 ended on a very successful note for Abbeydale Rotary at its annual Christmas party for about 65 elderly residents. Many of these live alone or in care homes in the Dore and Totley area. Feedback from some of the guests was included in a letter sent to and published in the Star newspaper.

Preparations are going ahead for the 2026 Sheffield Young Artists Exhibition. It will be celebrating its 22nd year and held on 24th and 25th April at the Central United Reform Church.

It was initially set up by Rotarian and Dore resident, Ken Marshall, to encourage the artistic talents of Sheffield children. It continues to attract the interests of primary and secondary pupils. Last year, over 1000 paintings from 67 local schools were displayed at the exhibition. Its success over the years has triggered interest from some of major art centres in the UK. Early signs indicate that a record of 75 schools have registered for the 2026 exhibition. We now await the submissions of artwork for presentation and display in April.

**Graham Taylor**

### The End of an Era at the Devonshire Arms



David and Cath pictured shortly after taking over at the Devonshire Arms.

By the time that you read this David and Cath Fallaize will have departed as the landlord and landlady of the Devonshire Arms after more than 10 years in residence. When interviewed for Dore to Door just after taking over (issue 119, Autumn 2015) David remarked "Above all I want the Dev to stay a community hub" and he's certainly achieved that. Best wishes for the future to you both and we look forward to seeing you returning as customers.

Here's what David has to say about their decision to leave:

"After over ten and a half years as custodians of The Devonshire Arms, the time has come for us to hand over the reins and move onto pastures new. This isn't a decision that we have taken lightly but it feels to be the right decision for us. I'm not going to labour on about the government or pub companies but I thought I'd share some positive thoughts with you all.

"Undoubtedly the best part of running The Dev has been interacting with the community. It's been a pleasure getting to know so many of you over the years. I hope that you've found the pub a pleasant environment and somewhere that you feel safe and welcome. We've made many friends and have enjoyed taking part in community events such as Gala Day, Lantern Parade, the Wassail Walk and Remembrance Sunday. It's always impressed me that, for a suburb of Sheffield, the people of Dore still cling to the identity of village and community.

"Being fond of sports it's been great for us to have been at the centre of so many sporting events. The last ten years have seen some excellent performances from the national teams and I hope many of you have fond memories of watching the games here. Hopefully that will continue and the Sheffield teams can give you something to smile about soon too!

"We've noticed the generosity of our customers when it has come to raising funds for local and national charities. The meat raffles were always well supported as were the various other fundraising activities. Our customers donated many thousands of pounds during our tenancy and supported causes as near as More In Dore and as far as Ukraine! We're particularly proud that we managed to instal a defibrillator and purchased the Tommies and Mabels that you can see in the village during November.

"So what does the future hold for us? Who knows? At the time of writing we're preparing to move back into our house in Dore and have no intention of moving away. Jobwise we're open to all opportunities. We're very much looking to having holidays together again!

"Some thanks are in order. Thanks to all our customers for your support over the years – even the miserable ones – you know who you are!! Thanks to all the kind offers of help when we've been through some difficult times. And where would we be without our staff? Thanks to all of the current team and the many previous ones. We simply couldn't have done this without you. Many of you have gone on to have successful careers and I hope that working here was of benefit both in terms of finance and life skills.

"Please get behind the new licensee and help them to see what special places Dore and The Dev really are.

"Raising a glass to you all! Cheers! lechyd Da! Slainte!"

**David and Cath**

**Doreways News**

A very Happy New Year to all Dore to Door readers. First of all a very big thank you to everyone who supported the British Legion at the Remembrance Day event after the service. We were able to send a substantial donation to the British Legion through your generosity. It is always an emotional and sombre occasion. 2025 saw the launch of the Military Stories from the Graveyard booklet which picked out some of the stories of Dore military personnel buried in Christ Church graveyard. The booklet was launched at the Remembrance Day exhibition at Dore Old School. Further copies can be obtained – and followed – with either Dore Village Society or from Christ Church. Let's hope for kinder weather if you intend to follow the map. Or go to the DART blog site for expanded versions of the stories contained in the booklet and follow the stories in comfort!

What is to come from Doreways? Our next event is the very popular Dore Dragon Hunt, held to celebrate St George's Day. This year it will be held on Sunday 26th April starting at 2pm from Dore Old School. It's an opportunity to meet Theodore, the Dore Village Society mascot and have fun around the village. Of course there are free Dragon's eggs for all, and the whole event is free. Fancy dress positively encouraged! So watch out for posters later in the year.



We will, of course, be co-ordinating the Dore Festival events at the end of June and into July. This is such a happy time in the village with a wide range of events and activities for everyone. Full programme details should be available in the summer edition of Dore to Dore.

**Dorne Coggins, on behalf of Doreways**



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Dore Mercia Townswomen's Guild is closing at the end of January. Due to changes in women's lifestyles the membership has fallen drastically and so Head Office have taken the decision to close nationally.

The Townswomen's Guild organisation was set up in 1929 after women gained the vote and former suffragettes decided to start this organisation to promote further education for women and to protect their rights. In 1982 a group of Dore ladies decided to set up a group. Dorothy Armitage was the first chairman, and her daughter Carolyn Heslop is our present registrar. Dorothy Jones, who had strong links to Sheffield Teacher's Opera, was another member of the group (her daughter Judy McMurray is our current secretary). A third member was Bessie Colley who was very involved with Guiding in Sheffield (her daughter Ruth Darrall is our Outings Organiser). They and a few others started meeting in May of that year.



*Chair Sheila Bramah, Jill Hasting and members presenting charity cheque*

The present chairman Bernie Hardie took over seven years ago at the very difficult time of the Covid shutdown. We have a membership of 76 and through the years we have had many members.



*Carolyn Heslop (standing centre), Chair of Dore Mercia and Mayoress of Sheffield*

I'm sure many families in Dore will have recognised the name as many mothers, sisters, and daughters have been members.

Over the years Dore Mercia has raised many thousands of pounds for local charities, including St Lukes, The Children's Hospital, Weston Park, Support Dogs, The Salvation Army to name but a few. This year our charity has been Cardiac Research in the Young and we are presenting a cheque for £800 at our last meeting on January 27th to the local coordinator in Dronfield.

It's the end of an era for Dore and the country and it saddens me to write this as I have been a member for 37 years, many of them on the Committee and twice chairman.

Fortunately, two of our present members have come forward and are starting a new group: The Sheffield u3a Tuesday Group (Dore). We will meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 10am in the Methodist Church Hall.



**Janet Hewitt Treasurer**

*This tablecloth has all signatures of every member. Held by Judy MacMurray and Jill McBeth*



# More in Dore at the Rec

MORE  
IN DORE

## Working together with local businesses

The playground at the Rec is at the heart of everyday village life. It's used daily by families and is the only playground within safe walking distance for many of our local children.

### This isn't just a place to play...

...This isn't just a place to play, it's where friendships form, confidence grows, memories are made, and special occasions are celebrated. That's why More in Dore exists.

Run entirely by local parent volunteers who care deeply about this shared space, our aim is to maintain and improve the playground safely and inclusively, one step at a time. Our current priority is replacing the existing swing frame, which has now reached the end of its safe life.



### What's next?

If you'd like to explore how your business can get involved in a cause that directly impacts our community through sponsorship or donations, we'd love to hear from you.

Simply scan the QR code to get in touch and find out how you can help. Supporters will also have the chance to be featured on our new website, offering increased local visibility, launching this spring.

### Donate

Via the QR code

By cheque payable to More in Dore c/o Dore Old School, Dury Lane, S17 3GW

By bank transfer: More In Dore HSBC  
Sort code: 40-41-57  
Acc no: 80827061

*\*More in Dore raises funds as a subcommittee of Dore Village Society, a registered charity, supporting inclusive recreational opportunities for everyone at the Rec.*



 [moreindore@gmail.com](mailto:moreindore@gmail.com)

 [moreindore.co.uk](http://moreindore.co.uk)



Contact



### Dore Village Society Annual General Meeting

The DVS AGM for 2025 will be held on Wednesday 10th June 2026 at 7:30pm.

The location of the meeting, the agenda and a list of candidates for election as trustees will be posted on our noticeboards and published on our website. Other AGM papers (minutes of the 2025 meeting, the Trustees' Report and our annual accounts) will also be published on our website.

The provisional agenda is:

- 1) Apologies for absence
- 2) Minutes of the 60th Annual General Meeting
- 3) To approve the Trustees' Report
- 4) To approve the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025
- 5) To propose an amendment to the constitution (details will be published prior to the meeting)
- 6) Election of Trustees
- 7) Any other business

After the meeting has concluded there will be a talk by a guest speaker, details to be announced later.

### Membership Reminder

If you haven't yet renewed your membership and don't pay by Direct Debit or Standing Order, or want to join for the first time, you can do so by any of the following means:

1) Scan the QR code below to go directly to the renewals and payment page of our website. If you've not used QR codes before, the process is very straightforward: open the camera on your phone and point it at the QR image. A yellow label reading "dorevillage.co.uk" will pop up. Tap this label and the renewals and payment page of our website will open automatically in your phone's web browser.

2) Enter this url in the address bar of your browser: [www.dorevillage.co.uk/pages/how-to-join-the-society](http://www.dorevillage.co.uk/pages/how-to-join-the-society).

3) Go to our website ([www.dorevillage.co.uk](http://www.dorevillage.co.uk)), click on the Dore Village Society tab and then click on "How to Join or Renew Membership".



Join or Renew Membership".

### Contact Dore to Door:

**Editor: Keith Shaw**

[editor@doretodoor.co.uk](mailto:editor@doretodoor.co.uk)

**Tel: 0114 236 3598**

**Post: Dore to Door, c/o Dore Old School, Savage Lane, S17 3GW**

**Advertising: Richard Courcier**

[advertising@doretodoor.co.uk](mailto:advertising@doretodoor.co.uk)

**Tel: 07583 173 489**

**Distribution: Gillian Farnsworth**

**Tel: 0114 235 0609 if you haven't received your copy or if you'd like to help with distribution**

**Deadlines for the Summer edition:**

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**Advertising – April 13th**

**Summer publication: May 15th**

**Advertising Rates:**

• 1/8 page £50

• 1/4 page £100

• 1/2 page £200

• Full page £400

**There is a 10% discount for booking and paying in advance for four consecutive editions. There is a 50% discount for local charities.**

**Classified ads cost 30p per word.**

# Dore Village Society

Registered Charity No. 1017051

*The Society is the designated Neighbourhood Forum for the Dore Area, with responsibility for preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for Dore. The Society also aims to foster the protection and enhancement of the local environment, amenities and facilities within Dore, to encourage a spirit of community and to record its historic development.*

*Membership of the Society is open to all residents of Dore, those who work in Dore and elected local council members for Dore. Membership is also open to Corporate Members representing societies, associations, educational institutions and businesses in Dore.*

*Current membership rates are £10 per annum for individuals and £35 for corporate members. Telephone numbers of Committee Members and associates are below; for email, please write to [firstname.surname@dorevillage.co.uk](mailto:firstname.surname@dorevillage.co.uk), e.g. [jen.donnelly@dorevillage.co.uk](mailto:jen.donnelly@dorevillage.co.uk)*

### Committee Members:

<b>Chair</b>	
Jen Donnelly	0114 262 1861
<b>Deputy Chair</b>	
Caroline Davies	07764 169197
<b>Secretary</b>	
Andy Challis	
<b>Treasurer</b>	
Colin Robinson	0777 855 8555
<b>Planning</b>	
Philip Howes	07551 742745
<b>Dore to Door</b>	
Keith Shaw	0114 236 3598
<a href="mailto:editor@doretodoor.co.uk">editor@doretodoor.co.uk</a>	

### Website/Social Media

Andrew Cameron	
<b>Membership</b>	Joan Davis 07531 183438
<b>Environment</b>	Vacant
<b>Neighbourhood Forum Steering Group</b>	Christopher Pennell 07928 431654
<b>Community Activities</b>	David Bardsley 07950 411283
<b>More in Dore</b>	Julia Watkinson
<b>Notice Boards</b>	Caroline Davies 07764 169197



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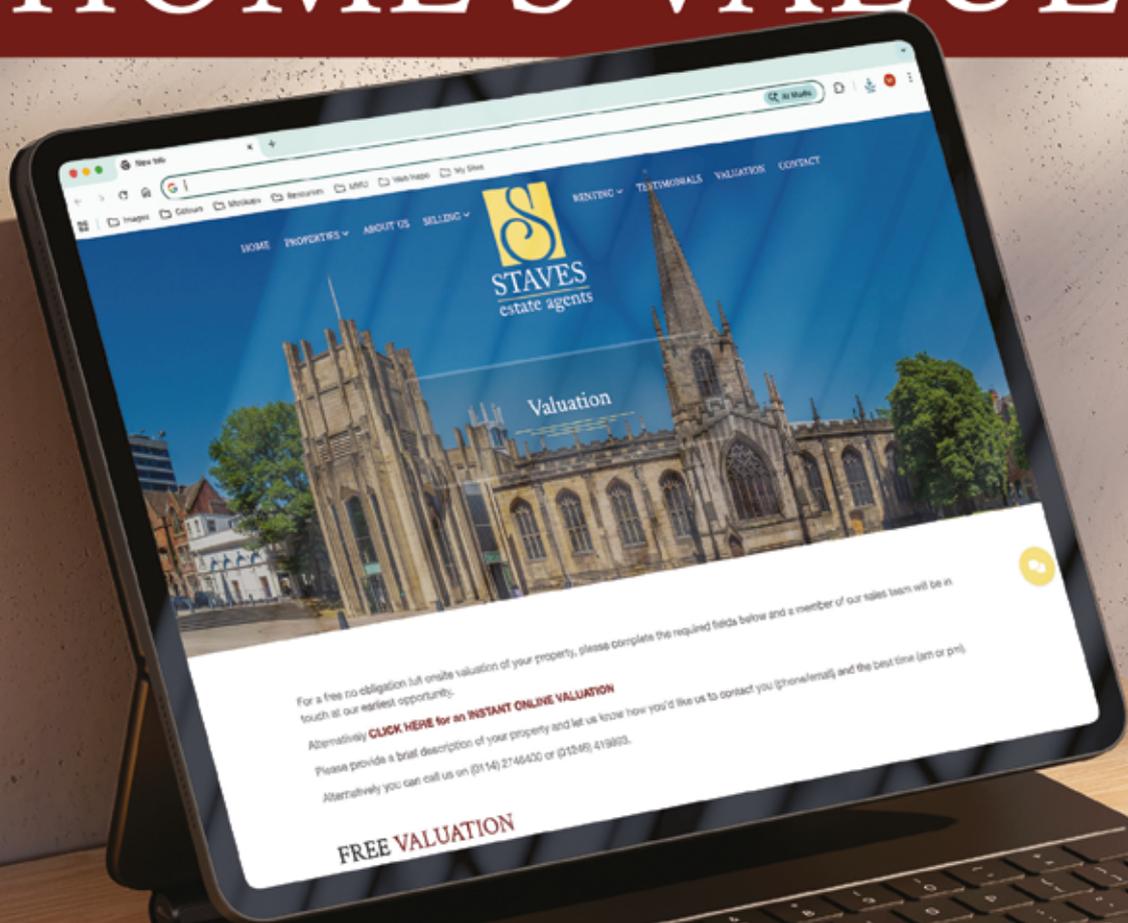
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Happy New Year to you all, I hope you had a pleasant festive break and an enjoyable start to 2026. It does feel like January has been 85 days of relentless snow, sleet and drizzle and the fields up at Whirlow are an absolute quagmire in places. I can only hope that now it's mid February and the days are getting longer that the sun has remembered that it is supposed to shine on occasions and has made an effort in the last few weeks.

Did you get chance to enjoy some of our festive events? There were a few to choose from.

### Lantern Parade

The lantern parade was well attended again this year, with a large turnout of families and neighbours braving the cold and damp to follow Santa in his pick-up from Causeway Head to the Christmas Tree for some festive singalongs. Gemini Dance performed along the way again in what has become a welcome new tradition. Well done and thank you to all the dancers and their teacher.

The organisers and marshals did a fantastic job of closing the roads and keeping everyone safe and David Hayes was there, as he always is, letting everyone know what is going on and leading the singalong. The Christmas trees around the village looked great again this year. Huge thanks go to the Christmas Tree Team who put them all up on a cold wet November weekend, you are superstars! As always, it is a case of many hands make light work, and this team could really use a boost to numbers. Please get in touch if you feel you would be able to help and I will pass your information on to the the Tree Team.

### Christmas Lights

Although not organised in any way by the village society, one of the highlights of living in this area is being able to walk around the neighbourhood in December and view all the lovely Christmas lights put up by the residents of Dore. When the dark evenings are starting to be oppressive it can really lift the spirits to see the twinkling fairy lights and the odd inflatable Santa (I even saw two Christmas dinosaurs standing on top of someone's porch). Even late in January there were a few houses still with lights shining out in the darkness. And when I passed them on my way home from work, they never failed to make me smile. Even so – bring on British Summer Time!

### Wassail Walk

The wassail walk on the 27th December is another village tradition that is still going strong. A good sized group of hardy souls braved the elements for a walk around Blackamoor. Keith, our resident walking guru and writer of many walks that have been published in this magazine, led the way again this year. There were a few stops along the way to enjoy the magnificent view and catch our breath. The Devonshire Arms very kindly hosted the post walk mulled wine and mince pies for us and it was lovely to be in a cosy atmosphere with a roaring fire. Our thanks to Dave and Cath for putting up with the muddy boots and paws.

This is the last time that Dave and Cath will be hosting the wassailers as they are moving on from the Devonshire Arms after 10 years of being landlord and landlady. The Dev has been a lovely welcoming place under their tenure, it is certainly an end of an era. On a personal note, I will always be grateful that they employed

local young people, giving them a boost to their confidence and social skills.

### Events to Look Forward to

After the Easter holidays we will be hosting our annual Dragon Hunt in honour of St George's Day. This will be on Sunday the 26th April. The hunt is organised by Doreways group, Fancy dress is encouraged and there are prizes for catching the dragon. There might even be an appearance by St George himself! The hunt starts from the Old School, more information will be posted on the two notice boards in the village and on the Dore and Totley community Facebook page closer to the time.

### Dore Festival

Dore Festival Fortnight will begin on the weekend of the 27th June. You can expect the usual activities, Fun Run, Dore Male Voice Choir, Scout Gala, and Thanksgiving Service amongst other things. The Well Dressing made a welcome return last year and hopefully will keep going with some new petallers as well as the more experienced ones. Keep your eyes peeled for information about how you can help with the well dressing and any other festival events.

Plans for the Festival and Gala will be more concrete by the May edition but in the meantime, if your young person is part of the Scout or Guide movement or you would like to be involved in the Gala, please consider helping out.

If you would like to help organise the Festival activities, the team would be really appreciative. Get in touch with the Village Society and we will pass your details on to the team.

### A Final Retirement

Two years ago John Eastwood decided to scale back his involvement with Dore to Door after 12 years of being the full editor. For the last two years he has been layout editor alongside Keith Shaw as content editor. He has now decided it is time to fully retire. Over the last 14 years John has taken this magazine from a black-and-white words only issue to the full colour glossy magazine you have in your hands today. We can't thank him enough for all his hard work and effort. Taking over from John as layout editor is Claire Shaw and I would like to wish her the best of luck in dealing with my always late submissions!

Jen Donnelly



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## Dore in the Snow

Maybe by the time this gets into Dore to Door we will have experienced the first snow of winter.... or maybe the impact of climate change has meant that snowflakes have yet to descend over our village. Dore Archive Research Team (DART) curate many images of Dore over time so we thought the readers of Dore to Door might like to look at some of the snowy photographs we hold in our Archive Collection.

To remind younger readers that there really used to be a lot of snow during winter here is an account of the Royal Mail cart's journey, which ran daily between Sheffield Central Post Office and Castleton, as it encountered a little bit of snow near Fox House.

Taken from the Sheffield Daily Telegraph of the 22nd February 1888, during a particularly bad winter:

### **THE STORM IN DERBYSHIRE: THROUGH THE SNOW TO CASTLETON AGAIN**

Sheffield markets were very thinly attended yesterday, owing to the roads being blocked in several directions, preventing the farmers from bringing their produce down, and in many instances from getting to town itself. Several Derbyshire friends, who set out determined to force a way through the snow, were obliged to turn back. Edward Hall, the driver of the Castleton mail-cart, with his companion, William Eyre, had another rough experience yesterday. Leaving Sheffield at half-past five o'clock in the morning, driving tandem, as before, they got on fairly well till Dore Moor was reached, the drifts they encountered up to that stage not being very formidable. But when they came to the Fox House side of Stony Ridge bar, where their troubles commenced the previous day, they were again in difficulty. It was the "same old place," but looked worse than ever.

Hall, thinking he might ride over it if he could not get through, pressed his leader, "Bess" to mount the wreath. She did so, closely followed by the wheeler, "Polly". Then both horses sank to the girths in the yielding mass. Mr Peat, of the besom industry, had again to be called into service. With two of his men and another helper from Longshaw Lodge, "Bess" was dug out, after some arduous labour. When the leader began to feel her feet she did her best to bring her mate out of the depths, and in the effort plunged about so much that the traces parted. Hall then went back to Peat's and procured some chains to make fresh traces. After three-quarters of an hour's work "Polly" was got out. Having been duly re-harnessed the journey was resumed.

About an hour and 35 minutes was spent in getting through this drift, which was the biggest met with on the road, Though only some four or five yards in length, Hall says that standing up in his cart he could scarcely touch the top of it. The passage was cut through walls of snow which were certainly twelve to thirteen feet high. Fox House (the driver says) is at present a perfect picture of a wintry scene in the Derbyshire moorlands, and well deserves the attention of the photographer. Eaves, windows, and ledges are outlined in snow, which is piled up in the porch. Mr Thomson and his folks are like hermits of the hills, walled in by the battalions in white.

From the Bridge Road turning to the Toad's Mouth there was no passable highway to be seen, the snow being level with the stone wall. Hall, forsaking his ordinary course, turned down through Padley Wood to Grindleford Bridge and Stoke Hall, by Leadmill to Hathersage. There the travelling, though heavy, was easy compared with the usual route.

The wind was blowing pretty stiffly, the snow, like a fine powder, settling all around them; there was no difficulty Hall thought worthy of mention was met with further, and he and his companion drove into Castleton at ten minutes to eleven, being due at five minutes past eight. Several Castletonians were on the lookout for him, and they gave him a hearty greeting as he entered the capital of the Peak country.

Leaving Castleton at 5.30 Hall did the return journey in excellent time. He was able to come by his ordinary route, a

passage having been cut from the Toad's Mouth to the Bridge turning through the drifted snow, which was heaped up on either side five feet high. He drove up to the Sheffield Post Office at 8.20, only 15 minutes behind time.



© PictureSheffield.com

From the Picture Sheffield Collection comes this snowy photograph taken around 1900 at Fox House. There are some grim stories of horse and traps overturning as they tried to negotiate deep snow drifts, which in our area were referred to as 'wreaths'.

Perhaps the oldest and saddest story about tragedy in the snow would be that of Margaret and Jane, two sisters who were found buried in a snow drift close to home. They were huddled in each other's arms. You may know the site of their misfortune as Meg and Gin Hollow – off Hathersage Road near the top of Whitelaw Lane. This event took place long before the 1800s when the Hollow becomes named on maps.

The earliest photograph of a snowy Dore dates from 1935 and shows a scene in the centre of Dore. See if you can recognise any familiar buildings. The lady in the shop doorway on the right of the photograph is where the Hare and Hounds extension is.



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The winter of 1947 was dreadful across the whole of Britain and made worse because the country was emerging from the effects of World War Two. Food rationing was still in place and to add to the misery of the deep snow basic food items like potatoes became in very short supply either because they had rotted in the fields or because transport was severely disrupted. So here is a photograph taken at Fox House in 1947, from Picture Sheffield's collection:



© PictureSheffield.com

The next photographs are from the DVS collection. The scene in the centre of the village should look familiar – Jester's Cottage is to the left of the policeman in his very distinctive cape, the Methodist Chapel has yet to be redeveloped and Piper House has long gone.



Into the 1950s and 60s Dore still experienced deep falls of snow which in some cases left the village cut off completely from the rest of Sheffield. Older residents may recall in, for example, 1963 that snow was as high as the upper floor of a double decker bus. The next photograph is from this period. The Farnsworth's tractor from Ryecroft Farm was an unusual way to get home from school!



You may think that snow is becoming an unwelcome and rare event these days - or maybe a happy circumstance for our younger residents. Here's two from the 21st Century - taken in 2010 by Marianne Morgan.



DART wish you all a very Happy New Year, with or without snow, and we leave you with a photograph taken more recently of our very photogenic village. We are always delighted to add to the Archive collection of photographs with any more images you would like to share with us.

**Dorne Coggins on behalf of DART**



## From our Local Councillors

It looks like 2026 is going to be a busy and pivotal year for the City Council. In common with every other local authority, the city's finances remain under severe pressure, particularly in Adult Health & Social Care and home to school transport for children with special needs. The increase in employers' national insurance contributions, either for council employees or for NI costs passed on by contractors such as care providers, has also made the situation worse. It appears that the direct grant from national government may offset these pressures, however at the time of writing we have yet to see the detail. Whatever the result, some very difficult decisions will have to be made in this year's Council budget.

The Local Development Plan will also feature heavily in this year's work, particularly with regards to the proposed development on Green Belt land. Residents from across the city made their views known to the Government appointed Planning Inspectors during a series of public hearings in 2025. A report is expected from the Inspectors in March with (potentially) a revised set of proposals, following which there will be another opportunity for members of the public to make their views known. We will keep you informed as soon as we have more details.

A review of local election facilities has also taken place, looking at the accessibility standards and the number of residents allocated to each polling station. The outcome is that we will have two additional sites in our ward. Totley residents north of Baslow Road who used to vote at the library will now vote at the Church of the English Martyrs on The Crescent. Residents south of Baslow Road will continue to use the library. Some of the residents who would previously have voted at the United Reform Church on Totley Brook Road or the church hall on Townhead Road will have a new polling station at Abbeydale Tennis club. The exact details will be confirmed in the run up to the local elections in May.



On a positive note we were very pleased to see repair work finally starting at Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet. In a previous article we reported on a leak that had been found in the dam wall. Water seepage was also beginning to affect a building directly behind the dam, and a decision was taken to drain the millpond to prevent further damage. After a long period of design work and consultation with Heritage organisations, work began with the construction of a temporary access for heavy construction equipment. We will be keeping an eye on progress, but the project team have asked us to point out that even after work has been completed, it will take several months for the millpond to be refilled naturally.

We have also been asked whether the temporary closure of the car park at Dore & Totley station is linked to the work at the Industrial Hamlet. We understand that it is not. Network Rail are bringing in heavy lifting equipment to facilitate repairs to a bridge over the river Sheaf and that equipment needs to be assembled on site before it can be used. A limited amount of off-street parking is being made available; however we remain concerned about the congestion that is likely to happen in the local area. The decision to close the car park was not made by the Council.

And finally ..... We were pleased to continue our support for the Totley Swift project with a further grant towards the installation of more bird boxes in the local area. These birds are a magnificent sight and it's fantastic to see more of them returning to the area each year.

As ever please feel free to contact us with any questions or feedback about Council services or come and meet us at one of our regular surgeries. These are held at on the 2nd Monday of the month at 6pm in Totley Library, and the 2nd Saturday of the month at 10:30am in Dore Old School.

*[martin.smith@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:martin.smith@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk)  
[joe.otten@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:joe.otten@councillor.sheffield.gov.uk)  
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## From our Member of Parliament

Happy New Year! As 2025 drew to a close, Parliament remained busy. Here is a brief update on some of my work.

As Chair of the APPG on SEND, I co-hosted an event bringing together Parliamentarians, practitioners, and families to discuss how we can build an inclusive education system. I also hosted sessions with constituents on the SEND system, which will feed into a report going to the Minister. I met with More Than a Score, a campaign calling for SATs to be abolished, highlighting the systemic issues with the assessment framework and its severe impact on SEND children.

Alongside Abtisam Mohamed MP, I met Minister Miatta Fahnbulleh to discuss protecting Sheffield's committee system. I am delighted that the Government has put forward an amendment to the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill, allowing Sheffield to retain the system. I pay tribute to local residents who have worked with us tirelessly to secure this result.

I have spoken in a number of debates. Among them, debates on badger culling, animal testing sites, biodiversity net gain, and child poverty. I spoke in the Baby Loss Awareness Week debate, reflecting on the experiences shared by families and campaigners. Following this, I joined Sarah Owen MP and Myleene Klass at the Miscarriage Association event supporting efforts to improve bereavement care and ensure all families receive the compassion and support they deserve. I also met with the Health Secretary and Minister for Women's Health to discuss better support for neurodivergent women, improve miscarriage care, and ensure equitable access to IVF, osteoporosis treatment, and eating disorder services.

Across Sheffield Hallam, residents have raised concerns about speeding, dangerous driving, poor enforcement, and pedestrian safety – particularly near schools, residential areas, and busy junctions. I joined Local Transport Minister Lilian Greenwood to support Labour's Road Safety Strategy, the first national plan in over a decade to tackle the rising number of deaths and serious

injuries on Britain's roads. The Government is investing £7.6 million in vital road improvements to the A57. Through the Safer Roads Fund, this investment will address the longstanding risk of fatal and serious collisions on the Snake Pass, directly benefiting our constituency. I joined South Yorkshire Mayor Oliver Coppard and Council Leader Tom Hunt campaigning for better rail links between Leeds and Sheffield to boost the region's connectivity and opportunities for growth. I am delighted that for the first time in 30 years the Government have frozen rail fares.

It was a pleasure to host the University of Sheffield's Equald team for the launch of their report in Parliament. The report provides a collection of toolkits to help people set up, use, and evaluate Individual Service Funds. I also attended the University's 'Mind the Gap' campaign, an important piece of work looking at how to tackle digital exclusion.

I had the opportunity to visit St Marie's Primary School before the Christmas holidays. The visit gave me a chance to see how the Labour government's investment in nurseries has helped schools create a warm, calm, and supportive environment for our youngest children.



Last year, I launched the Climate and Nature Crisis Caucus in Parliament with Zero Hour, a new cross-party group dedicated to tackling the twin crises of climate and nature. The same burning of fossil fuels that overheats our atmosphere also drives the destruction of forests and oceans that could protect us. I will continue to work on tackling the climate crisis through this caucus, and my work on the Environmental Audit Committee.

A huge thanks to all residents who have contributed to my Christmas fundraiser for Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity. The donation link will remain open until the 31st of January.

Thank you for reading this update. You can read a fuller update of my work on my website. As ever, if there is anything I can assist you with please do not hesitate to contact me at [olivia.blake.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:olivia.blake.mp@parliament.uk).

Olivia Blake MP

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# DORE GARDEN CLUB

Dore Garden Club was established in 2008 to encourage local interest in and enjoyment of gardening and growing. Our members include keen gardeners, allotment holders and house plant enthusiasts.

**Venue:**  
Dore Methodist Church Hall  
3 Savage Lane  
Sheffield  
S17 3GW

**Contact Us:**  
[doregardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:doregardenclub@gmail.com)

**When:**  
Meetings are held  
on the 3rd Wednesday  
of each month -  
March - November  
(Excluding August)

Talks start at 7.30pm

**Membership fee:**  
£25 for 8 meetings. Entry on the door is £5 and you will receive a warm welcome.

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## Programme 2026

DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
Wednesday 18th March	<b>Rob King:</b> Sheffield sustainable and experimental garden creator	<b><i>My Sheffield Garden</i></b> Creating a garden full of adventure
Wednesday 15th April	<b>Colin Hickman:</b> Hoyland Plant Centre	<b><i>Agapanthus and Nerines</i></b> The cultivation and propagation of these in pots and in the ground - a practical demonstration
Wednesday 20th May	<b>Faye Tuffrey:</b> Garden Plant Collection and Learning Manager, Chatsworth House Trust	<b><i>People, Plant and Spaces</i></b> Significant plants at Chatsworth and the people who grew them
Wednesday 17th June	<b>Dean Charlton:</b> Hooton's Walled Nursery	<b><i>The Journey of Hooton's Walled Garden</i></b>
Wednesday 15th July	<b>Steve Lovell:</b> Wildlife Garden Designer, Soft Landscaper	<b><i>Bark, Berry and Leaf</i></b> Texture in the garden
Wednesday 16th September	<b>Jeff Bates:</b> Horticulturist lecturer	<b><i>Propagation</i></b> All 8 methods demonstrated practically
Wednesday 21st October	<b>Vernon Sanderson:</b> NGS Trustee	<b><i>Behind the Garden Gate</i></b> Inside the NGS, Ahead of the 100th year at NGS
Wednesday 18th November	<b>Joseph Peatfield:</b> Garden Designer, Horticulturist (Head Gardener at Stanton estate)	<b><i>A Head Gardener's Year</i></b>



### Club News

Welcome to 2026 and another gardening year. Last year ended and this one started with my garden looking very confused. The small wallflower plants I planted in October for Spring flowering were soon in flower and a rhododendron was trying to make a guest appearance. I wait with bated breath to see what happens when they should flower.

The Club Committee has been busy in the Club's recess with, amongst other things, updating the Club's logo and DVS website page. Thanks are due to Hannah Willoughby who brought her design skills to bear in the colourful new logo you see. One of our new committee members, Vanessa Fields, has also used her artistic flair to redesign the page for the DVS website. This features the programme for 2026, which you see on the opposite page. We hope you like the results.

We have an interesting line-up of talks and some practical demonstrations this year thanks to Wilma Freeston and Christine Turney, our joint programme co-ordinators. We hope it will appeal both to the newer gardener and the more experienced. Visitors are always welcome if you want to sample any of our talks.

### Spring Events

All three of our Spring speakers are giving their first talk to the Club.

#### Wed 18 March: My Sheffield Garden – Rob King



Photo courtesy of Rob King.

Rob's Beauchief garden slopes away with a wooded hill in the distance. It is packed with plants and makes the most of the borrowed landscape.

Rob has an eclectic and artistic style and likes to reuse items others have thrown away. He is not afraid to experiment and make changes to his garden, which over the years has evolved into a space that has soul and character.

Rob started an Instagram account (@mysheffieldgarden) at the beginning of lockdown which quickly gathered interest. With the garden's growing popularity it featured on BBC Gardeners World in 2024, Radio Sheffield's Grow Show and in both the RHS Magazine and Modern Gardens.

In his talk, Rob will destroy the myth that you can't have a nice garden for grown-ups if you want to incorporate play areas and equipment for children. He has created both a fun and beautiful garden "full of adventure" from scratch and on a shoestring budget. He will describe how clever use of design, planting, trees, and salvaged materials has made this possible.

#### Wed 15 April: Agapanthus & Nerines – Colin Hickman

This will be a practical demonstration from an expert about the striking summer-flowering agapanthus (which are prolific in the Isles of Scilly) and the autumn flowering nerine. It will be full of useful growing tips for cultivation and propagation in both pots and



Photo courtesy of Colin Hickman.

the ground. There will be a selection of bulbs for sale on the evening.

Colin Hickman grew up in the family business at Hoyland Plant Centre, near Chesterfield, which he took over full-time some 10 years ago. The family grows and exhibits rare and unusual South African plants and bulbs. The nursery currently holds four national plant collections and numerous other collections of rare and unusual South African plants not found in garden centres. Colin is a regular exhibitor at RHS Chelsea and has won numerous prestigious gold medals.

#### Wed 20 May: People, Plants and Spaces at Chatsworth – Faye Tuffrey

Presentations by the Chatsworth garden team are always popular bringing together historical, plant and local perspectives. Faye was last in Dore when she accompanied two young people who spoke to us about the gardening scholarships they had won to train at Chatsworth.

Faye is not only the Learning Manager at Chatsworth, but also the Garden Plant Collection Manager. Her talk will be about some of the significant and rare plants at Chatsworth. There will be stories of the tropical waterlily, banana, pineapples and the Amherstia, the glasshouses that were built to house them, the people who grew them, and their place in the wider history of the garden. It will include recent research and new information from archives and historical articles.



Photo courtesy of Chatsworth House Trust. The "Pride of Burma" (*Amherstia nobilis*) or Orchid Tree.

#### Sheffield Orchid Society

The Orchid Show and Exotic Plant Fair is on Saturday 7th March, from 10am until 4pm in St John's Church Hall, Abbeydale Road South. After some poor attendances in previous years, last year's event was very busy with a team of marshalls dealing with the traffic. Six different orchid societies from the Midlands and the North of England will again be displaying the best of their grower's plants. There was a lot of interest in the vendors selling beautiful flowering orchids, cacti and air plants. Entrance £5.

Pauline Drissell

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## Totley Library

### Crafty Christmas Fun and Games

The traditional Christmas Fayre was a great success again with an impressive range of hand-made gifts on offer ready for Christmas. Honey from local bees, table-top trees, knitted wrist warmers and original artwork were just some of the treats for sale. Santa's Grotto was a complete sell-out with Santa ably assisted by a number of colourful if quite mature, Elves!



*Crafts and Crowds*



*In The Grotto*

### Concert Time February 27th

To cheer up a famously dismal month, we are delighted to welcome local superstars, Bob Hall and Hilary Blythe, to play and sing for us in an evening of blues and boogie. Bob has an impressive back catalogue of blues and jazz, performing with big names like Mick Fleetwood, Peter Green and John Lee Hooker. He is an outstanding boogie-woogie pianist and founder member of several blues bands including The Groundhogs so prepare for something special! Hilary, a recording artist in her own right, sings classic country and folk songs and will be accompanying Bob on acoustic guitar. We are really fortunate to be able to host these two exceptional musicians in an evening not to be missed. And to add to the overall excitement, Bob and Hilary will be supported by our very own Totley band, Seven Hills Jazz! February has never been so upbeat!

Tickets are on sale in the Library – but better hurry as it's coming up fast!



*Local superstars Bob and Hilary  
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## What?! Another concert?

Yes, Cellar V are playing for us on Friday March 27th with their signature mix of harmony vocals, Beatles and other 60s songs which are almost guaranteed to get you singing along! Forget Glastonbury, the Library is where it's all happening! Get your tickets now!



## From Event to Event Space!

Following the recent Library refurbishment, movable shelving means that we can now host many more events and activities that need floor space. We can now go from this:



To this:



Taking approximately 15 minutes, two people can move all the shelving to the rear walls to expose at least 90 square meters of usable floor space which can then accommodate large meetings, lectures and talks, exercise classes, choral and band performances or rehearsals and so on. Then in another 15/20 minutes it can all be returned to normal as if it were all a dream! Thinking of where to schedule your Pilates class? Look no further, the Library can do it.

## Saving Lives in the Library

Recently we have been hosting two medical students on placement from Sheffield University who are sharing their skills with Library volunteers and learning themselves how much the Library contributes to the well-being of the local community. Bringing some quite alarming artificial bits of replica humans, they trained enthusiastic staff in British Sign language and the life-saving art of resuscitation. Now you can be confident that Library staff can help with more than a lost library card!



## Showtime

This month the cinema is showcasing two very different films to chase away the February blues.

### Friday February 20th 7pm

"The World's Fastest Indian" stars Anthony Hopkins as an amateur motorcycle fanatic who dreams of testing his bike and his courage in Bonneville USA to achieve the fastest speed record on a test track. Charismatic but rather grungy (!), he makes it to America after a series of setbacks and adventures but then hits the wall of bureaucracy! What to do now? Can he make it? The Indian is a motor bike apparently...

### Thursday February 26th 3pm

"Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale" stars just about everyone. This is something of a contrast to the previous film and features no one who could be described as grungy! Faced with public scandal, financial trouble and social disgrace, the family are in deep trouble. Should they embrace social change and rely on the younger generation to lead them forward into an egalitarian future? Hmmm.

## What's Wrong with the Library??

Where are all those people, young or old, who don't come into our lovely Library? And why don't they come? Do you know why? Give us your thoughts and suggestions by replying to the Library Face Book post or just come in and chat about it!

## The Book Worm Recommends...

Emerging from a cosy winter burrow, the Totley Book Worm would like to recommend a favourite hibernation read "Raising Hare by Chloe Dalton". Despite being non-fiction and a lockdown tale, this modest book spins a compelling narrative of the rawness of nature and how we can be changed by it to become more aware, alert and at peace with our place in it. On top of that, it's a delightful story of a family of hares sharing their existence with the author with the added bonus of educating the reader into the ways of hares in the natural world. Worth coming out of a winter burrow to pick off the library shelf.

Jill Croskell

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### Ladies Tuesday Group



Firstly we would like to thank everyone who contributed new toys, books and games for our Annual Toy Collection last December. At our Coffee Morning on 6th December we were overwhelmed at the number of gifts that we received. These were taken to the Salvation Army, who organised their delivery to children who may not otherwise

have received presents on Christmas Day.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday March 10th at 2:30pm in the Church Hall. Our speaker will be June Price who will be sharing "More Tales from the Vicar's Wife". June is a very entertaining speaker with a wonderful sense of humour. One not to be missed!

On April 14th, we are having an outing to Abbeydale Miniature Railway. What could be better than a talk and a ride on the train followed by refreshments. Fun & Laughter all the way.

May 12th, Don Witton will be giving us a colourful and entertaining illustrated talk on plants and gardens.

June 9th, Margaret Jackson will be giving us an illustrated talk on "The Rotherham Chapel on the Bridge". Come and find out more about this unique historical attraction.

We are a very friendly and welcoming group who meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in Dore Methodist Church Hall. Visitors are always very welcome.

Membership is £25. Visitors £4.

### Welcoming Space

Thanks to a generous donation from the Dore Village Society we were able to enjoy a delicious pea and pie lunch on 17th December. We served 29 meals and were grateful to Liberty Foods Farm Shop for supplying the food. After a two week break over Christmas we opened our doors again on Wednesday 7th January, with our normal format – a warm welcome to all, plenty of tea, coffee and biscuits, opportunity to chat and socialise, perhaps a game of dominos or a look at the daily papers, as well as a light lunch (currently soup and a roll) around 12 noon. All this at no charge – but we do appreciate a donation towards running costs!

Think this might be something for you or someone you know, but is getting to us a problem? We may be able to help as we use a Transport17 mini-bus and at the moment we have spaces available. So we can pick up, locally, and return you to your home just after 13:00. We do have to make a specific charge (currently £4.50) for this service.

So if this interests you, a relative, neighbour or friend please phone Jackie on 0114 235 1085 to see how we might be able to help.

### Rosemary Memory Café

On the first and third Tuesday afternoon of each month AgeUK Sheffield hold a memory café in our hall. This is an opportunity for you and your loved ones who have dementia to socialise and join in other activities. We support this initiative by providing volunteers to help. Please contact AgeUK Sheffield on 0114 250 2850 for more information before attending.

### Room Hire

Our hall is an ideal venue for children's parties, (sorry no bouncy castles!), family get togethers or one-off or regular meetings. We have some daytime availability during the week, along with some evenings. There is also availability at the weekends. More information is available on our website.

### Worship

Our weekly act of worship is on Sundays at 10:30am Our style of worship is mainly traditional and is usually led by a Methodist Minister or a Local Preacher. We enjoy singing led by an organ and we use "Singing the Faith" as our hymnbook. Usually once a month we celebrate Holy Communion and for this we use gluten free bread and non-alcoholic wine.

Our services usually last about an hour and afterwards there is the opportunity for further fellowship over a cup of tea/coffee in our hall.

### Our Website

Our website [www.doremethodist.org.uk](http://www.doremethodist.org.uk) contains much more information about our church, our services, our activities and information on other groups who meet in our building. You can also scan the QR code alongside to access it.



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## Sheffield Vulcan Rotary Club

What's the connection between a glut of apples, hundreds of whips, and crates of water? Answer- All three have contributed to Sheffield Vulcan Rotary Club's successful 2025. To explain: one member's sale of much of his bumper apple crop helped boost our charitable funds, the whips in this instance were small saplings of various native trees which we planted at the Rotary camp at Castleton, and the bottles in the crates of water were handed out by Vulcan members at the Sheffield 10k marathon finishing line.

These three diverse activities are just part of the many that keep Vulcan Rotary members occupied throughout the year, and the variety means that everybody can find something to interest them in serving the community in which we live. As part of Rotary International (a global network of more than 1.2 million members) we aim to improve the environment and help others less fortunate than ourselves, whilst enjoying the friendship and fun that is part of our Club's ethos.

For example, did you drive and park at the Whirlow Hall Farm Christmas Fair this year? If so those volunteers in high-viz jackets were Vulcan members. And on 19th December you may have heard some enthusiastic Carol "Singers" at Sheffield Station raising money for St Lukes Hospice – that was us, perhaps not ready for the Albert Hall, but certainly very willing.



Like our previous years, 2025 was full of worthwhile and satisfying tasks to benefit the local community. We have collected for Marie Curie Cancer Care at Morrisons, Meadowhead (we were the ones with silly big Daffodil hats), where we also organised a collection of old spectacles, to be recycled in needy places abroad. Beauchief Gardens, which Vulcan has for some years been renovating and maintaining, continues to keep us busy and currently we are leading a project to bring a grand historic horse trough to its final resting place there where the public can enjoy it. Annual events like our Golf Day (on 26th June this year) and Custom and Classic Car Shows on the Moor (24th May and 18th August) help raise the funds that enable us to support many local (and a few international) charities.

The above activities are not a comprehensive list, but hopefully they give a flavour of the variety of projects that members can be involved in, depending on their own abilities, likes, and available time. And Vulcan also has a strong social aspect: fellowship is a key benefit of Rotary. We meet and dine on Tuesday evenings most weeks at the Norfolk Arms at Ringinglow. Usually we have an after-dinner speaker – topics vary from Ghost-writing to The Swinging Sixties to Support Dogs to....just about anything. We have an active walking group, our own Rock Band, and various social events throughout the year (partners are always welcome).

So if you're looking for something worthwhile to occupy some of your free time (as much or as little to suit you) and you think we could help, why not contact our Secretary Steve Pritchard via email at [contactus@vulcanrotary.org.uk](mailto:contactus@vulcanrotary.org.uk) and arrange to come along to a meeting. You'll be very welcome.

**Alan Brown**  
Rotary Club of Sheffield Vulcan

## The Time Travellers Archaeology Group

Another year and another opportunity to uncover more buried secrets. We have a busy schedule in store for our members and of course anyone who wants to join in what we are offering. Full details of our programme can be found on our Facebook page or on our website: [www.thetimetravellers.org.uk](http://www.thetimetravellers.org.uk) (the 'the' is critical in our web address otherwise you will end up with Doctor Who!)

We offer walks, talks, tours and as the weather improves, the opportunity to learn practical archaeology skills through test pit work in the local area. As larger dig site opportunities become available The Time Travellers are always keen to be participants. Last year that meant Castleton, Gainsborough and Roughbirchworth amongst others. We will also be participating in this year's Festival of Archaeology in July. There will be an Exhibition at the Discovery Centre in Ecclesall Woods with a very fitting theme – Archaeology and Nature. Watch out for further information about dates and times.



On our regular away trip last year, where we explored Hadrian's Wall, we came across one of the mysterious objects from the Roman period which is perplexing archaeologists as to its purpose - a dodecahedron. This one is in the fabulous Museum at Corstopitum Roman site at Corbridge in the Tyne Valley. They have been found all through the Roman Empire

and come in various sizes. So the challenge to our readers is – what do you think it was for?

Happy New Year and who knows what discoveries 2026 holds!

**Dorne Coggins, Secretary of The Time Travellers**  
[dornecoggins@gmail.com](mailto:dornecoggins@gmail.com)

## Meet The DVS Team

### Julia Watkinson: DVS Trustee and Chair of the More in Dore Sub-committee

I joined the DVS committee as a result of my role on the More in Dore Committee. The More in Dore group was established in 2019 by Tim Ashman and Claire Goring to raise funds for renovating the children's playground in Dore Recreation Ground, including replacing the ageing equipment. Shortly after formation it was adopted as a sub-committee of the Dore Village Society where it could take advantage of the Society's charitable status and reputation, and shortly after that I became Chair of the sub-committee.

One of the things I'm most proud of through my involvement in More in Dore is the part we've played in helping to regenerate the playground.

This has been a genuinely collaborative effort, working closely with Sheffield City Council's Parks and Countryside Team and, just as importantly, listening to local families who use the space every day. Our role has been to help bring community voices into the conversation to share ideas, concerns and hopes for a playground that feels welcoming, safe and fun.

The Recreation Ground is a place where friendships form, people pause and the village comes together in small but meaningful ways. Throughout the process, we've tried to ensure the improvements respect the green setting while creating a space that feels cared for and inclusive.

It's been heartening to see what can happen when the Council and the community work side by side. This project reflects what More in Dore is really about: practical action, partnership, and looking after the everyday places that help make Dore feel like home.

Could you, your family, or your business support our goal of raising £10,000 in 2026 for new replacement swings? If so, email [julia.watkinson@dorevillage.co.uk](mailto:julia.watkinson@dorevillage.co.uk).

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### A New 'Old' Running In Board

A few years ago a FoDaTS member donated a large wooden sign he'd been keeping at the back of his garage. There are large black letters saying DORE on a white background and framed with a black border. Sadly one corner was rotten so it's unsuitable for outdoor display.

Our initial thoughts were that it was a running in board, usually mounted at the end of platforms to show clearly where a train was stopping. The dimensions and old Midland Railway style seem to be about right, but there are no pictures showing such a sign with only the one word, DORE. The station name was only officially abbreviated to that for a couple of decades in British Railways days.

Ted Hancock's two volume history of the Hope Valley line has pictures of the station and several local signal boxes. All platform signs show the full name very clearly as DORE & TOTLEY, as do timetables. It's a mystery.

In the station's early days in 1872 there were two mainline platforms with no footbridge. The signal box only controlled the signals at the end of the station platforms as there were no junctions. Once the Hope Valley line opened there were three junctions each with its own signal box - Dore South, Dore West and Dore Station Junction. Might this old board have belonged to the long since demolished original signal box that may have been known simply as DORE? No pictures have come to light. The junctions didn't come until 1894.



Whatever the history we've arranged a replica of the sign that was in place before 1904 at the south end of what is now Platform 2. The new sign is positioned as near as possible to the location of the old original. It's in modern materials so won't rot and looks good from the mainline so rail users will become aware of DORE & TOTLEY.

The sign was funded by the High Peak and Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership and made by Fast Signs of Sheffield.

### Open Meeting and AGM, 25th November

Reviewing the last year it was good to report that all the work to redouble the tracks through the station, extend the existing platform, and to add a new platform and footbridge is now complete. Not only in place but being well used. Many are being attracted to Dore & Totley for the first time or haven't used a train for many years. In days of old most were going into Sheffield. Not any more, it's to Manchester with many off around the globe from Manchester Airport.

It was noted that the finer details of the promised landscaping work were left until very late and weren't as extensive as we'd expected. Nevertheless volunteers have worked on platform planters, planted hundreds of daffodils and will be adding more shrubs and other appropriate greenery as 2026 progresses.

Both the old wooden benches beside the drop off zone were damaged during the works but have been repaired by a FoDaTS member. Abbeydale Rotary Club are hoping to do more work on planters in the coming year. Three sturdier new wooden benches have been donated, two at the south end of the old platform. There's still no covered seating on Platform 2 but we're hopeful that a new covered shelter will one day appear - and maybe a toilet.

We were fortunate to receive presentations from the Stakeholder Managers of both Northern and TransPennine Express. Darren Allsop from Northern outlined the performance of Northern's current trains and their new procurement plan for gradual introduction to service from 2031. He was unable to offer any specific news about restoration of the full hourly stopping service on Sundays, possibly in May? (Recent rumours suggest probably not!)

Rachel Marsden from TransPennine Express also brought us updates on performance and confirmation of an extra stop at 8.15 on Sunday mornings for Manchester, an hour earlier than Northern's first service. Both happily fielded many questions.

### But There Was a Sting in the Tale That Day – the Car Park!

We'd been looking forward to better services and a tidied up station but Network Rail clearly had other ideas. Neighbours living within 250 metres of the railway had that very morning received a letter from Network Rail and Story Contracting telling them of three months of potentially noisy work. It also warned of total closure of the car park from 12th January until April. The letter couldn't have been timed better, or worse.

A Community Event was to be held at Christ Church Community Centre, Dore on 10th December between 15.00 and 18.00. Alternative parking to be in Dore Masonic Hall car park. That news rather dominated the rest of the meeting but we had no further information. What happened next requires a separate article!

### The New Sunday Services

The first 8.15 from TPE was very well filled on arrival from Sheffield. Just before Christmas that was to be expected. East Midlands completely new 9.49 was also almost full. On its return journey arriving here at 12.30 it was full with three or four standing from Stockport. All three were well patronised both to and from Dore proving how much they were needed. Of course if Northern had been operating their full hourly stopping service quite a few of these travellers might have opted for them with their cheaper fares.

This experience gives us heart when asking for more stops whenever possible. Half hourly to and from Sheffield is our longer term aim.

### InPost Locker

We'd hoped this would be in for Christmas. The concrete foundations were laid but wiring up was delayed. The site may now be within Story Contracting's working area, certainly out of effective reach until Easter.

### What next?

Restoration of the natural station surrounds when the current occupation ends. Longer term consideration of additional parking. More covered waiting areas and seating. More stopping trains.

### Getting in Touch

If you're a Facebook user you can find and join us by searching for FoDaTS. It's an active group with over 1030 members and is updated frequently with topical information, questions and comments.

Alternatively look for our website at [www.fodats.net](http://www.fodats.net) We hold bi-monthly committee meetings at Totley Library and are always happy to hear new ideas. Ask for details and maybe come along.

If you're not on Facebook and would like more information please send an email to our Secretary: [njbarnes@outlook.com](mailto:njbarnes@outlook.com) or to myself: [chrismorgan4@btinternet.com](mailto:chrismorgan4@btinternet.com)

**Chris Morgan**  
Chairman



## Whirlow Bridge to Porter Clough, Brown Edge and Lady Cannings Plantation

This walk, recently lead by Peter Bower, takes in a number of views down the Porter and Mayfield valleys and across to well beyond Sheffield. Starting at Whirlow Bridge the walk proceeds up the Limb Valley towards Ringinglow then Porter Clough, Brown Edge and Lady Cannings plantation, returning by Limb valley and Whirlow Brook Park.

The Limb Brook forms the ancient boundary between the Saxon kingdoms of Northumbria and Mercia and, later, the Sees of York and Canterbury. It's also the site of a Nature-based Solutions Demonstrator project that's part of the Upper Don Source to Sea programme. This involved implementing a number of natural flood management methods such as leaky dams, attenuation ponds and tree planting to help store and slow water flows to reduce the risk of flooding, and to support wildlife.

The walk is suitable for all times of the year although some parts can be muddy after wet weather. Refreshments and toilets can be found at Whirlow Brook Park at the end of the walk. Car parking is available on the road by Whirlow Bridge.

From here walk up the footpath on the right of the Limb Brook until you emerge from the wooded area via a gate. Turn right and walk along a track bordering farmland, past Smeltings Farm and onto Ringinglow Road. Cross over and walk left for a short distance to a stile on your right. Go over this and follow the path past the Alpaca farm and down to a track in Porter Clough. Now turn left and follow the track uphill until it meets a tarmacked road. Continue up hill to the junction with Fulwood Lane where you will find seating and the Sheffield Rotary Club lookout point, a stone pillar and a map with arrows pointing to distant features and listing the distances.

Cross the road, go over the stile and follow the path uphill alongside Porter Brook (now a small stream) towards a collection of disused quarries. You are now very near the source of the river Porter. The path soon veers left towards Ringinglow Road. Cross over the road and follow the path that borders Lady Canning's Plantation for a short distance and go through a gate on your left

into the plantation. Follow the track through the plantation down to the road, cross over, go over a low stile to your left in the stone wall and take the path that descends alongside the Limb Brook back to the car parking area. When near the end of the path there's a diversion available over a wooden footbridge across the brook. This takes you past Whirlow Brook Hall and the café and toilets, and back to the car parking area.

**Distance:** 8.5km / 6 miles.

**Time:** 2.5 hours.

**Text and Photo by Keith Shaw**

Further information about Wyvern Walks can be found on our website at: [dorevillage.co.uk/pages/wyvern-walkers-programme-of-walks](http://dorevillage.co.uk/pages/wyvern-walkers-programme-of-walks) and on our noticeboards.



## Upcoming Wyvern Walks

All walks start from Dore Old School car park at 9:30am. We recommend bringing a drink and snack.

### 26th February 2026

5.7 miles - led by Heather Brennan, 07535 247474.

Car share to Bakewell Long Stay Pay and Display Car Park at Smiths Lane. (Pay on departure Grid ref: SK 220 684).

Then from Bakewell, Cemetery, Norton Barn Farm, Haddon Fields, Haddon Hall, Haddon Park, Monsal Trail, Bakewell.

Stop overlooking Haddon Hall for a snack. Drink or cafe lunch / fish and chips on return to Bakewell.

### Monday 16th March 2026

6 miles approx. - led by Peter Bower 07748 086793.

Limb Valley and Porter Valley walk. Car share to Whirlow Brook Park upper car park.

Walk through Rough Standhills, descending to cross Limb Brook and then climb through woodland to Ringinglow Road. Crossing the road, we will descend to Forge Dam and then follow Porter Brook upstream, later taking a steep path out of the valley to reach Ringinglow village. We will return along Limb Valley to the car park.

### Wed 15 April 2026

6 miles approx. - led by Chris Goldie 07443 944401 and John Proctor 07960 791879.

Start from Old School, walk down Limb Lane to Whirlow, through the Quarry Gardens and on to Whirlow Farm. Short break here for refreshments and comfort break. Walk to Parkhead then through Ecclesall Woods and back to Dore.

## Sheffield u3a

u3a (or University of the Third Age) is a UK-wide movement of local groups where retired or semi-retired people learn for fun, share activities, and socialize. The group members run their own groups and there are several u3a walking groups in Sheffield (at least 16!) ranging from short ambles of three to five miles to more ambitious walks covering up to 10 miles, with everything in between.

For more information go to <https://su3a.org.uk/groups/> and scroll down to see a complete list of u3a groups in Sheffield.

In Dore there's also the Tuesday Health walk group, meeting in the Community Hall on Townhead Road from 10am and setting off at 10:30am for slow-paced short walks of two miles or less, followed by tea, coffee, biscuits and conversation afterwards.

If you are interested just turn up on a Tuesday morning, they are a very friendly and welcoming crowd.

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## The Season Which Asks Us to Wait

Late February mornings have a particular feel. The light, while still thin, no longer feels quite as bleak, a pale promise rather than a glare. Frost still lingers in some shaded corners, while birdsong tentatively returns, a little unsure of itself. Walking through carpets of crocuses with blackthorn blossom spilling from the hedgerows, it can be easy to believe spring has sprung, but for wildlife this is one of the most demanding times of the year.

This is the season of transition, when winter has not fully loosened its grip and yet the drive to breed, grow, and move is already underway. Food is still scarce, shelter is precious, and disturbance can have lasting consequences. On the edges of Sheffield, where gardens melt into woodland, moor, and meadow, the choices we make at this time can help shape what survives the spring.



Robin - © Jon Hawkins  
Surrey Hills Photography

Birds are often the first to catch our attention. This is the time of year when robins fiercely defend their territories and blue tits are scouting out nesting sites. A walk on Blacka Moor or along the local lanes brings bursts of sound; great tits calling from the hedgerows, wrens rattling from deep cover, woodpeckers drumming from hidden trunks. These birds are burning energy fast. Natural food sources are still limited, so keeping feeders topped up can make a real difference. Sunflower hearts, peanuts in suitable feeders, and suet provide vital fuel as birds

prepare for the demands of breeding.

Water is equally important. A shallow dish, refreshed regularly, can be a lifeline, especially during dry spells or overnight frosts.

Gardens which feel quiet and slightly untidy often offer the best refuge. Hedges, shrubs and ivy are already being inspected as future nest sites, so resist the urge to cut back. It's never too late to put nest boxes up too, quietly positioned and left undisturbed.



Lesser Redpoll - © Bob Coyle

Away from the trees and hedges, life is stirring closer to the ground. Hedgehogs may begin to emerge from hibernation if temperatures suddenly rise. This is a dangerous time for them, even ones who complete hibernation undisturbed. Fat reserves are low, insects are scarce, and a sudden cold snap can be fatal. If you



Frogs at mating time - © Richard Burkmar

are lucky enough to have hedgehogs visiting your garden, leaving shallow water and meat-based (not fish) pet food or cat biscuits can help them through this vulnerable period. Compost heaps, log piles, and long grass should be checked carefully before being disturbed. Avoid slug pellets and pesticides, which harm the very wildlife that helps keep gardens healthy.

Frogs, toads, and newts are also on the move now, drawn by ancient instincts back to breeding ponds. Mild, damp evenings can see them crossing paths and roads in surprising numbers. Ponds should be left alone during this period. Frogspawn can appear earlier than expected, and clearing vegetation now risks destroying eggs or larvae. If you haven't already got a pond, putting one in is absolutely the best thing you can do for wildlife. Even small water features can provide a temporary refuge.

Insects are less obvious, but no less important. On sunny days, queen bumblebees emerge from winter hiding places, heavy and purposeful as they search for nectar and nest sites. Early flowering plants such as snowdrops, hellebore, and native primrose offer vital food when little else is available. Leaving patches of leaf litter, hollow stems, and dead wood provides shelter and breeding sites for countless invertebrates. A garden which waits patiently before being fully tidied becomes a far richer place!

Walking on Blacka Moor at this time of year reveals the quiet dependence of wildlife on our carefulness. The heather and grasses lie muted, yet skylarks rise into the cold air, spilling their song across the moor, and meadow pipits flicker just above the ground. Hidden in stone walls, hedgerows and field edges, small mammals and birds wait out sudden shifts in weather, relying on undisturbed spaces to survive. Moving slowly, keeping to paths, and keeping dogs under close control allows these creatures to go about their fragile business unnoticed, especially the ground-nesting birds which are often hidden from view. Sometimes the kindest thing we can do is step lightly and let life continue at its own pace.



Installing a small pond - © Penny Dixie

Living on the edge - between city and countryside - brings responsibility as well as privilege. Gardens, paths and green spaces become stepping stones between nature reserves like Blacka Moor and the wider landscape beyond. By offering food, water, shelter, and a little peace, we help wildlife bridge the hardest weeks of the year.

There is a temptation in these early months to reset everything, to sweep away winter and start fresh. Nature works differently. Decay feeds growth, mess shelters life,

and patience allows hidden processes to unfold. Tidy gradually, not all at once. Leave some corners alone. Let last year's stems stand a little longer. Accept that a living landscape is not a manicured one.

Spring will arrive whether we hurry or not. Wildlife needs us to slow down, pay attention, and make space. In doing so, we ensure the sounds, movements, and small wonders of the season continue to unfold on our doorstep.

Discover how easy it can be to add a small wildlife-saving splash to your green space with our guide:

[www.wildsheffield.com/how-to-build-a-mini-pond](http://www.wildsheffield.com/how-to-build-a-mini-pond)

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## Site SWS19 alongside Cross Lane and close to Parkers Lane will be Taken Out of the Green Belt

As I explained in the Winter 2025 edition of Dore to Door, David Crosby and I (acting for the Dore Neighbourhood Forum and the Dore Village Society) provided detailed planning evidence and arguments in both written and oral presentations to the National Planning Inspectors in the autumn formal Examination of Sheffield Council's proposed choices for Green Belt sites to be released to meet tougher house building targets set by Government.

Far from clarifying the position in a hoped-for early response from the Inspectors, the whole issue was subsequently magnified out of proportion by local newspaper claims that a whole new tranche of Green Belt sites was being additionally considered, including three huge sites also in Dore, namely:

- the entirety of Ryecroft Farm alongside Ecclesall Woods;
- substantial land between Limb Lane and Ecclesall Woods including, for example, Whirlow Playing Fields; and
- the entirety of the Green Belt to both sides of Cross Lane.

A later newspaper article clarified that the Inspectors had asked a simple question about these sites and others initially considered by the Council for release but the Council had quickly rejected them for fundamental reasons. Even that clarification was undermined by the headline which still left a question mark in the air. Meanwhile we took the initiative ourselves to clarify with the Inspectors' team that they had **not** formally asked the Council to nominate any more Green Belt releases than those under consideration in the autumn Examination.

Given that the Council gave the public a further opportunity to comment after the oral Examinations, David and I decided to table further written presentations in mid-January 2026 which both

strengthened the case we had already made against releasing site SWS19 and additionally took the opportunity to signal Dore's complete opposition to any Green Belt releases on the scale mentioned in the local newspaper 'leaks'. We are satisfied that the Council has no intention of proposing any releases beyond those already on the table, but we wanted to underscore the likely scale of opposition if any thoughts to the contrary are raised in the coming weeks.

It should be recognised that this is not a unified Council policy. The Labour/Green majority on the Council approved the list of Green Belt sites to be proposed for release and the Lib Dems voted against. The latter believed that there had been scope for squeezing a few more new homes from previously developed Sheffield before turning to Green Belt solutions. On top of that even some Labour Councillors chose to abstain and at least two local Labour MPs have been publically repudiating some of the sites proposed by the Council. What is apparent is how committed the existing Labour Government is to significantly increasing the rate of new building to meet growing national need, but also how under-resourced many Councils are to manage such programmes and how keen many housebuilders are to avoid difficult inner-city housing projects and to welcome in their place some easy to build Green Belt opportunities.

In an interim late January letter from the National Inspectors they have concluded that, on balance of evidence and need, the Council is justified in taking out of Green Belt status most of the land it proposed in May 2025. That includes Site SWS19 in Dore.

Sadly we have lost the case for saving this site, but there would still have to be a planning application to consider.

Meanwhile the drive to increase the rate of new house building is exposing the shortage of skilled craftsmen to build the houses, the pressure on inadequately staffed planning departments to cope with the workloads and the danger of hard-pressed Ministers undermining valued protections against Green Belt loss.

Christopher Pennell

## Dora



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### Creeping Change

A great deal of understandable concern is being expressed about the prospect of further housing development on green belt land, in Dore and Totley. In recent years this area has already absorbed a substantial amount of new housing, for example on the King Ecgbert School playing fields, as well as increased housing density through the infilling of large gardens.

However, alongside this very visible pressure, there are other, quieter changes taking place. These relate to how the area is being managed and maintained, which incrementally erodes the unique character of this area that has made it such a desirable place to live and work.

I grew up in a fairly standard urban South Yorkshire town, not especially attractive, and I was struck by the difference when I later had the opportunity to move to Dore. Here was a place with close proximity to all the facilities of the city, yet set within beautiful countryside, with a strong Peak District rural character, and a network of woods and parks creating green corridors into the city. Over the 25 years that I have lived here, however, there has been a great deal of change, particularly in recent years, some of which remind me of the town where I grew up.

Here are just two examples:

### Forest Dogs Land, Shorts Lane

Dog day care is an important and valued service, particularly for working people, and neither that nor the quality of care provided to the dogs is being questioned here.

Shorts Lane, leading to Blacka Moor, was a charming idyllic country lane, and the public footpath through the grazing land offered gentle, open views across the landscape. Over one hundred objections were raised to the application to change this green belt grazing land into a commercial business premises, mostly from local residents and from Dore Village Society, with a particularly strong objection from the Peak District National Park Authority.

The concerns raised included the impact of the high fencing, needed to contain dogs, on the low dry-stone walls and fencing characteristic of the area, the loss of openness of views across farmland, the likelihood of further applications for more lighting or buildings, increased traffic on a narrow and quiet lane, and potential disturbance to wildlife and to horse riders. There was also concern that a change of land use could allow for a different, potentially more intrusive commercial activity in future if the current business were to move on. Although the application was initially refused, it was resubmitted and eventually approved. Sadly, the lane and public path now feel very different.

Forest Dogs stated that, in moving from the city into this sensitive rural location, they would work with the local community to fit in. The erection of a large advertising hoarding, clearly aimed at people using the public footpath for countryside walks, feels at odds with that intention or is a lack of appreciation of what people value here. This part of the site is not screened by planting and therefore will not soften over time. If Forest Dogs genuinely wish



View from the public footpath, at Shorts Lane



Shorts Lane – the original gate to the grazing land and new gate now

to work with the local community, I am sure there are changes that could still be made to honour those earlier commitments and reduce the visual impact of the development.

### Network Rail

In the summer of 2025, Network Rail replaced the original and attractive coping stones on the bridge at Millhouses Park/Archer Road with concrete slabs. Where graffiti had never previously been an issue, it appeared very quickly. Materials that feel out of keeping with their surroundings can unintentionally change how spaces are treated and change behaviour. Regularly removing the graffiti increases maintenance costs, so often isn't done. Over time, such changes can also demotivate local people from volunteering to care for their area. It raises the question of whether other beautiful stone structures, such as the bridge at Beauchief or the Twentywell bridge might be treated this way in future.

Similarly, Network Rail's approach to the environment around Dore and Totley station has been deeply disappointing. This includes the installation of industrial grey fencing opposite the beautiful Ladies Spring Wood, a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and the removal of the green screening provided by shrubs and trees along this stretch.

### Preservation is Possible

There are many more examples I could write about, but I would like to end on a positive note...

I was heartened by the recent actions of residents in Sheringham, Norfolk, who succeeded in saving their distinctive 1950s bus shelter outside the railway station from demolition. It was due to be replaced with a metal and glass utilitarian structure, but the community valued the existing shelter enough to challenge the



Railway bridge at Millhouses



New Fencing at Dore and Trolley Station

arguments put forward for its removal, including claims around health and safety and modern requirements. They even slept in the shelter until politicians took note! Their efforts not only preserved a well-loved local feature but also saved money and resources.

Closer to home, in 2008, local residents successfully campaigned to have inappropriate street lighting removed from Baslow Road on the moors. Many people said this could not be won, yet it was. A freedom of information request revealed that the serious accidents cited to justify the lighting had occurred in daylight hours. The argument that lighting would improve safety here had no foundation. This campaign showed that damaging changes are not always inevitable and can sometimes be reversed.

Another close call involved the line of sycamore trees along Hathersage Road at the Blacka Moor site, which were earmarked for felling because they were not native. However, with the loss of so many ash and elm trees, the long-established sycamores are now recognised as contributing to resilience and diversity in the face of climate change. While attitudes towards sycamores have shifted, attention now seems to have turned on conifers and I hope we do not lose valuable winter cover for wildlife before their importance is properly recognised too.

I hope this article encourages people not to accept the gradual erosion of what we value here as inevitable. Often the reasons given to justify inappropriate change can be questioned and challenged. Dore Village Society was founded in 1964 with precisely these aims, clearly set out in its constitution. More than sixty years later, there is still an opportunity for all of us to work together to protect what makes this place special, perhaps sometimes needing the same determination shown by the people in Sheringham.

Dawn Biram

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## Dore's Early Links with Abbeydale – Part 2

### Nineteenth-Century Changes

*A NEW COACH from Sheffield to Birmingham (4 insides), called the BLUCHER, via Baslow, Bakewell, Ashbourne, Uttoxeter, Bromley and Litchfield, from King's Head, Change Alley, to St George Hotel, High St, Birmingham, to commence Sunday 7th May 1815 and every Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday. Depart 7 a.m., arrive in Birmingham early same evening. Return from Birmingham every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7 a.m. – Wm Wright, Sheffield; Wm Greaves, Bakewell; J. Tarbutt, Ashbourne; and T. Hewlett & Co., Birmingham.*

The new turnpike road to Baslow obviously expanded opportunities for the transport of people and goods between Sheffield and the Peak District. When local newspapers and directories mention services to Bakewell it is often unclear what route they are describing, but if Baslow features it seems most likely that the road in question is the Baslow Turnpike. The advertisement in the box is from the Sheffield Mercury of 29 April 1815. Taken along with the commentary of 13 May quoted below it strongly hints that this is indeed the recently opened route.

General Field Marshal Blucher, the Prussian military leader, was a close ally of the Duke of Wellington. He had received a hero's welcome on a visit to England in 1814 (and was to give Wellington material help in winning Waterloo on 18 July 1815). Reporting the inauguration of the new service, the paper described the Blucher as 'a most eligible conveyance through a country [district] to which such an accommodation has been hitherto unknown'. People turned out along the route to welcome 'so truly elegant a stranger'.

### To Town by Carrier's Cart

For the people of Dore a new carrier service was probably more useful. 19th-century carrier's carts were primitive two and four-wheeled horse-drawn wagons with a canopy and roof rack, and were used by rural carriers to transport people, bulky goods, and farm produce between villages and market towns.



Brownell's Sheffield Directory of 1817 featured John Sheldon's service from the Angel Inn to Baslow and Pilsley on Tuesdays and Saturdays. In 1833 Robert Sheldon was offering a Saturday service to Chatsworth from the Rose and Crown in Waingate and in 1839 again to Baslow and Pilsley. Whether these carriers would stop anywhere isn't recorded but the obvious stopping place was the Cross Scythes in Totley, as was certainly the case from the 1860s. Commercial access from Dore village to the Baslow Road remained difficult and I suspect that the road's novelty value was diminished when another was opened in 1818, the Dore Turnpike (Hathersage Road) from Ringinglow Road foot in Ecclesall to near Fox House.

This provided a safer and less exposed journey over the moors than the old road along the Houndkirk ridge, and for the villagers,

apart perhaps from the short sharp stretch of Limpits Hill, an easier alternative route to Sheffield than by Abbeydale. Not that people travelled as much in those days as we might imagine - villages were far more self-sufficient. After 1818 people living up on Dore Moor had the benefit of carriers from the Hope Valley potentially stopping at the Devonshire Arms, the original name of the Dore Moor Inn; Gell's Directory of 1825 lists one from Castleton and three from Bradwell. The earliest mention of a carrier from the actual village of Dore occurs in the 1830s when Peter Pinder conveyed people and goods to and from Sheffield on Tuesdays. He was a fairly substantial farmer who probably lived at Limpits near the bottom of Rushley Road.

Successors of Peter Pinder flit through the directories. From 1845 to 1855 we have Dore-born Samuel Lowe, once a farm worker and now primarily a brickmaker, running his cart to Sheffield on Tuesdays and Saturdays. He lived with his wife Ann and family at Townhead. After he died aged 56 in 1862 it looks as if his widow took over the reins, for Josie Dunsmore mentions Mrs Ann Lowe operating to the Blue Bell, Sheffield on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Meanwhile others had come on the scene: William Coates in 1849 (market days), listed again in 1862, and a Mr Taylor from 1852 (daily), using the Cutlers Arms and the Green Man respectively in New Church Street. Half a century later a writer recalled leaving parcels at those inns for the country carrier, and the carts' slow pace of 3 to 4 miles an hour. Were such carts still running? Perhaps so, he mused, in remote places. 'It is a long time, however, since we saw one, although in our earlier days we remember looking at the inside passengers with wonderment, sitting in the dark'.

John Dunstan

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## Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society

The Society supports a charity of their choice each year. Last year we collected over £1000 for the Alzheimers Association and this year we are supporting Baby Basics, a Sheffield-based charity supporting families with children 5 years and under who are experiencing difficult times. As a start, just after the concert we were able to send off over £500 to them due to the generosity of the members and audience - and what a Christmas concert we had! A full house, with an audience there to enjoy themselves and - from where I sat and the reaction of the people I spoke to - they certainly did. We were complimented not only on the performance but for the programme mix, in which there was something for everyone.

There were traditional carols, some Christmas songs which I had not heard before we rehearsed them, and a carol selection by Gustav Holst (yes, him of The Planets fame) and who, despite his name, was an Englishman born in Cheltenham. It was a very difficult piece but one which I think we performed well. There were also two instrumental solos with Sami Jones playing the saxophone and, unusually, a cor anglais solo (a big brother to the oboe) played by Carolyn Bean.

More than one family enjoyed it so much they have already booked their tickets for the shows we are performing in April. These will be *Trial By Jury* and *The Zoo*, two short one-act operettas each lasting around 40 to 50 minutes. The performances are to take place on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th April 2026 at Dore Community Hall on Townhead Road in Dore, and on Saturday 18th April and Sunday 19th April at Whittington Moor Methodist Church Hall at the bottom end of the Dronfield Bypass. Each performance will start at 2:30pm.

*Trial By Jury* is a great one-act romp with loads of comedy and great music. I have it on good authority that it has been slightly extended, but I have no knowledge of what that might entail. Although it satirises the judge and jury, it was written in 1875, but some barbs hit home today.

*The Zoo* is another one-act operetta with music by Sir Arthur Sullivan but this time in collaboration with B.C. Stephenson using

## Dore Male Voice Choir



A Happy New Year to All; our year ended with 3 fantastic sell-out Christmas concerts back at our home, Christ Church, after its major refurbishment. Our guest artist was Matthew Secombe the grandson of the late Harry Secombe - what a voice and performer. I have been a member of the choir for over 20 years, and I have never witnessed standing ovations over the 3 nights by the choir and audience, his performance of Largo al Factotum was off the scale.



the pseudonym 'Bolton Rowe'. We have adapted this little delight to a Sheffield setting with, I am told, local references. I have no doubt there will be plenty of laughs along the way.

As these performances are all matinees they tend to be very popular, especially with those who do not like to venture too far at night, so it is advisable to book early. The recent Christmas concert sold out about three weeks before the date of the performance!

The tickets are on sale from the usual source:

by phone on **07565 805405**

or via the web at <https://doregass.weebly.com/tickets.html>

The earlier you book the better as there are only a limited number of seats and it is a popular event!

We hope you had a good Christmas and wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

**Derek Habberjam**

And so, to the new year, we have several concerts already in place:

Life is a Song with Birkdale Senior School - 24th April

Gala concert - 20th June (which is earlier this year due to our overseas tour to Belgium)

Dore festival - 9th July

Seven Hill Beer Festival - 30th August

Party on the Green - 6th September

Cry charity Festival - 5th December

Our Christmas concerts with our old friend Neil Balfour - 10th, 11th and 12th December.

Neil has toured with us in Italy and has appeared in our Christmas concerts, another great performer.

So, a busy year ahead! Visit our new website for further information and to listen to some recordings - [www.doremvc.com](http://www.doremvc.com).

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## A Glimpse into Dore Freemasonry

Like many of you I have walked past the entrance to Dore Masonic Hall at the bottom of Dore Road, but not understood what the local story of Freemasonry is. With the help of Tony Mather we will look behind the scenes and find out more about local and national Freemasonry in this article.



Tony is local through and through, with a love for Dore and its history. His parents moved to Dore when he was 18 months old and he attended Dore School, then Dore Primary School, when it first opened, followed by King Egbert School. He went on to be an apprentice motor mechanic and has subsequently run his own company specialising in Jaguar and Land Rover. He told me of the other threads running through his life: music and specifically singing as exemplified by being a Totley All Saints chorister and a member of Dore Gilbert and Sullivan Society; as a young person he loved the structure and interest offered to him by the scouting

movement. He met his wife when he was 13 and they have many shared interests including music. She is also a Freemason.

I asked Tony what had attracted him to become a Freemason. It was through his love of singing he met a group of people he felt at home with, in the Dore Gilbert and Sullivan Society. Finding out that they were members of a local lodge, he decided to find out more. He was not from a family where there were Freemasons but his wife had some relatives who had been.

Talking of lodges, I asked about the structures and traditions of freemasonry. The widely accepted view is that it originated from organisations of mediaeval stonemasons who built the castles and cathedrals that still stand today. However, the organisation evolved and in addition non-stonemasons formed lodges. A gradual process of governance emerged through Grand Lodges and in 1717 the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) with headquarters in London was established. UGLE oversees lodges spanning 48 provinces or regions across England and Wales as well as districts overseas. Dore is in the province of Derbyshire reflecting its historic origins before becoming part of Sheffield in 1934. Tony has responsibilities across Derbyshire as a senior Freemason as well as being a member of the local Longshaw Lodge which meets at Dore Club. The oldest lodge locally is Chantry which was consecrated in 1890. Other local Derbyshire Lodges, for example Amadeus Lodge and King Egbert [sic] Lodge meet at Dore Masonic Hall. Some lodges are specialised for example Fly Fishers Lodge. The

meetings comprise a formal meeting, in traditional surroundings, where the chair officiates. There is a sense that these traditions and ceremonies have not changed over 300 years and they are focused on the core principles of Integrity, Friendship, Respect and Charity.

Integrity, Friendship, Respect and Charity underpin the purpose of Freemasonry. What does that mean locally? The members of our local lodges contribute through subscription to cover the cost of meetings, they also donate alms and organise raffles at the meetings. Freemasonry roles are all voluntary so there are very few overheads and the money can be dispersed amongst local charities. Recent beneficiaries have been Ashgate Hospice, Edale Mountain Rescue Team, Dore Methodist Church warm space initiative and King Egbert School Air Cadets.



They are always looking for community projects that need a helping hand. They have become more involved in the Remembrance Day parade and service in recent years, demonstrating respect for those who have given their lives in the service of our country.

I was impressed by the opportunities afforded by the principles of Friendship and Respect. This seems important in today's world where people often work on-line and perhaps have to move to different parts of the country for work. Perhaps a network of honest like-minded people, wherever you may find yourself, is attractive to you? There are, however, some qualifications for joining. You must be male, at least 18 years old and have completed your secondary education; be of good character and hold a belief in a supreme being. Freemasonry is open to all religions and beliefs, so long as you understand that there is an order that is beyond human endeavour. In Longshaw Lodge there are 4 religious texts that members can swear an oath on, demonstrating the diversity of the members, about 30 in number.

I put it to Tony that Freemasons have been seen as a rather secretive organisation in the past and he agrees. Improved communication is one change he is keen to work on. This article is a start, he says; it will hopefully dispel myths and reflect the true nature of the organisation. Previously you had to be specifically invited by a member to join. This is no longer the case. You are very welcome to find out more, whether you wish to join or whether you want the lodge to engage with any local community projects.

If you wish to see a little more before deciding whether to join or not there are white table open meetings at most Masonic Centres. Longshaw Lodge secretary can be emailed on [longshaw8792sec@gmail.com](mailto:longshaw8792sec@gmail.com).

Women do have two separate Grand Lodges in the UK and further information about their work can be obtained from:

[www.owf.org.uk](http://www.owf.org.uk)  
[www.hfaf.org](http://www.hfaf.org)

The Order of Women's Freemasons  
Freemasonry for Women

Tony has some concluding thoughts for you. He only wishes that he had found local Freemasonry earlier in his life. It is definitely a way of life, each Freemason considering at meetings how they can become better people; more integrated and helpful to the local community.

Anita Campbell

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I've always been fascinated by science and, after gaining a degree in chemistry, I spent several years teaching the subject - a career that I greatly enjoyed. I've never lost my enthusiasm for communicating scientific ideas and discoveries, and explaining their relevance in our everyday lives, so I thought I'd write a series of articles intended for everyone, irrespective of their science background. It will comprise light-hearted items about everyday phenomena, or questions that you might not have thought of asking, such as 'Why don't penguins' feet freeze?\*' and 'Does anything eat wasps?''\*\* (Incidentally, these are both titles of books full of similar questions published by New Scientist.)

As a teacher I would sometimes be asked: "Why is science important?" Well, the simple answer is that without the things that science has enabled us to do we'd be living in caves, clad in animal skins and hunting and foraging for food to stay alive, or dying of preventable diseases. Of course, science is only part of this story, because the exploitation of scientific discoveries needs contributions from mathematics, engineering and a variety of other disciplines. However, for these articles I'll stick to science. So here's the first topic:

### Do Eyebrows and Eyelashes Have Their Own Ecosystem?

The simple answer is yes. But before I go into that, why do we have eyebrows and eyelashes?

Eyebrows are very useful in stopping rain and sweat running down your forehead and into your eyes. That's really important if you've just spread sunscreen on your forehead as people who shave their eyebrows, or lose them for any reason, well know.

Acting in conjunction with eyebrows, eyelashes are barriers to dust and debris that might obstruct vision or cause eye infections. Eyelashes are also very sensitive and act as sensors, just like cats' whiskers, detecting anything that gets close to your eyes. This triggers a reflex action that causes a protective blink. Eyelashes also act as air filters for your eye and reduce tear evaporation, helping to keep eyes lubricated. Anything that interferes with their flexibility or causes lash loss, such as plucking or excessive use of false eyelashes or mascara, will affect their ability to protect your eyes.

Eyebrows also play a significant role in communication, expressing emotion and indicating feelings. Raised eyebrows can indicate surprise, disbelief or disapproval, whereas lowered eyebrows are associated with concentration, puzzlement, confusion, or annoyance. A momentary raising and lowering is often used as a greeting or an acknowledgement of someone's presence. Eyebrow movements also occur instinctively in conjunction with facial expressions, gestures or verbal comments to create emphasis. Mr Spock was an expert at using eyebrows for this purpose!

In fact it can be difficult to understand someone's meaning without eyebrows. This is well illustrated when talking to someone who has had Botox treatment. Botox paralyses the muscles of the forehead, preventing movement of the eyebrows and making it very difficult to interpret facial expressions.

So that's why we have eyebrows and eyelashes, now to answer the question in the title: do eyebrows and eyelashes have their own ecosystem?

Eyebrows and eyelashes provide habitats for eyelash mites, also known as Demodex mites and, although this might feel unsettling, they are a natural part of our body's microbiome. Almost everyone has them without realising it, but usually in low numbers. They perform an essential service by cleaning up dead skin cells and

\* Part of the answer is something called countercurrent heat exchange, an application that's basically a heat transfer mechanism used for heating (as in penguins' feet) or cooling (as in air conditioners) and has many other everyday applications.

\*\* Yes. Robber flies, praying mantis, beetles, hoverflies, centipedes, spiders and moths all eat wasps.

excess oils around the eyes that would otherwise accumulate and give rise to allergic reactions or skin- and eye-infections.

These mites are about three-tenths of a millimetre long and are invisible to the naked eye. They stay hidden in hair follicles during the day, emerging only at night. They are beneficial and don't usually cause any problems unless something happens to significantly increase their population.

Keith Shaw  
Editor, Dore to Door





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**The Castle Inn in Bradway** was my first ever review for Dore to Door almost 10 years ago. With three changes in ownership/management in the intervening period it seemed like high time to return. For the most part the interior has hardly changed, and is very traditional pub, although the chicken rotisserie has disappeared.

It was a quiet mid-week evening when we wandered in and were able to get a table without a booking. There were a few drinkers at the bar and three other tables occupied. The drinks we ordered at the bar were brought over to the table together with menus. The food offering was pretty old-school, with none of the gastro-pub choices that may have graced, and possibly over-complicated the menu in my previous review. All the pub favourites were on there – fish and chips, lasagne, burger, sausage and mash, and a range of pies, as well as a separate pizza menu and four specials on the blackboard. Most of these were around the £15 mark, with a couple of dishes creeping up towards £20. A point to note, however, the menu that can be found on the website is not the current menu. I can only assume that the website hasn't been updated by the current management team.



My son chose the Salt & Pepper Squid (£6.25) as a starter. It was served with a garlic mayo dip and was perfectly adequate – crunchy batter and succulent squid, not at all rubbery and nicely seasoned. I had the

Greek Style Lamb Koftas (£6.95) served with minted yoghurt and some greenery. The koftas were really good. The perfect level of spicing nicely offset by the yoghurt dip, and the lamb was juicy and tender. So, off to a pretty decent start, washed down with a good pint of Moonshine for me and a Carling for him.



For the main course, I went to the specials board and chose a Beef Cheek Bourguignon Pie (£17.95) served with mash, peas and gravy. I had to enquire whether it was a real pie, or a 'stew with a lid', and when reassured it was the former, I confirmed my choice.

And a very good choice it was. The shortcrust pasty crust was excellent and held together perfectly on the fork, and the filling was rich with very tender beef cheek all really well seasoned. The significant portion of mash was buttery and smooth, although with the very slight criticism that it probably needed a bit more liquid to loosen it up. The quality of the gravy matched the rest of the dish, and there was plenty of it. Only one thing was missing, and as I turned round in my seat to summon the waiter, he was walking towards our table, with the required bottle of Hendo's already in his hand!



My son chose the Slow Cooked Brisket, which at £20.95 is the most expensive dish on the menu. It came served with mash, tenderstem broccoli, peas, gravy and a giant Yorkshire pudding. The vegetables across both dishes were cooked with the right amount of bite and seasoning, and the mash and gravy were as described above. The brisket was as tender as it possibly could be – obviously slow cooked as advertised, succulent and tasty with a slight hint of barbecue. The Yorkshire was also as advertised



– giant. I suspect that it was bought rather than made, as it was too uniform in shape and colour, but that didn't detract from its taste and is perfectly understandable.

The size of the main courses left us full and despite looking at the dessert menu, we both had to pass. Just to report, the choices were in keeping with the rest of the menu – cheesecake, sticky toffee pudding, ice cream etc. all at £5.95.

So, in conclusion, definitely not fine-dining, and not even a gastropub, but well cooked, tasty pub food at a very reasonable price point and as such good value for money. I have commented in the past on some more expensive establishments as not being the sort of place you could go every month, but at a shade over £70 for two of us including two pints each, it wouldn't break the bank at that frequency.

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## Brunsmeer AAFC 2025/2026 Season

Prior to the Christmas break, a number of teams had a great finish to 2025 and the first half of their season.

### Under 10s Boys

Division A and Cup Champions 2025

In the final game of the season against a strong team from Rawmarsh it was a case of winner takes all.

After 10 minutes Brunsmeer were losing 2 – 0 but came back to win 5 - 3 overall.

### Under 11s Boys Red

Brunsmeer Under 11s Red celebrated their successful first half of the 2025/2026 season with a trip to the oldest football club in the world, Sheffield FC, to be mascots for their home game against Pickering.

The Reds had won five, drawn two and lost two games during the Autumn period in Division 2 with notable wins against local rivals Crosspool and Ecclesall Rangers. The boys walked out to Sheffield FC and cheered them on to a 3 – 2 victory to finish the year in style.

### Under 13s Boys Red

The boys are currently top of Division A and still in their County Cup competition.

### Pitches

In view of the significant rainfall, especially later in the week, there have been a number of postponements so far this season.

We are currently obtaining quotations to put in place complete new drainage systems for the pitches at The Meadway, whereby hopefully we will be successful in obtaining FA Grounds Maintenance assistance.

### And Finally...

Further to my November article, I have pleasure in providing you with some history on the Club and how it all began. This article was originally written in 2017 by the late Co-Founder Richard Foster, seen in the far left of the team photo.

Kind Regards,

*Paul*

Paul Shepherd  
Chairman  
07748 783007

[ps@shepherd4advice.co.uk](mailto:ps@shepherd4advice.co.uk)

## Creation of Brunsmeer Athletic AFC

In the summer of 1967 a few games of football were taking place in Meersbrook Park and Endcliffe Park. A few lads from Meersbrook Bank Church Youth Club, and a few lads from Brunswick Trinity Church Youth Club met together and played. This was a summer event (coats down; coats for goal posts). One week it was Meersbrook Park then the following Sunday at Endcliffe Park and so it continued for about 3 months.

On one particular Sunday after we had been playing, I suggested that if we could secure a football pitch somewhere in the area where we all lived, maybe we could form a team.

They say it's not what you know, but who you know, and my next door neighbour was with the local education department recreation section and within 2 days he came back to me with a pitch at Castle Dyke Playing fields. So Brunsmeer Athletic Amateur Football Club was formed.

From September of that year we started to play some friendly matches. I bought an all blue strip for £20, for the team which I borrowed out of my till at my butchers shop and 2 footballs. All purchased from Jack Archer Sports suppliers on Bramall Lane.

The football we played was only average but the enthusiasm was second to none. It was a family atmosphere with girlfriends, parents etc. even in those early days getting involved for social events and day trips.

Most of that season we played friendlies and at the end of our 1st season April 1968, we had applied for a place in the Imperial Sunday League 3rd Division.

We had 2 seasons in the Imperial league.

In 1970, we joined the Regional Sunday league, Division 3. In 1973 Brunsmeer were approached by Ron and Annie Leach, Pete Cadet and Mick Hyde. They had a cub team at under 10 years and because they belonged to a church they could not get in to a Sunday Junior football league. So this was discussed by all of us and we felt the time was right to move forward and start a Junior section. So in 1973, they joined us as our 1st Junior Team. This was 52 years ago. They had to provide a Secretary, Treasurer, Fixtures Secretary and so the journey began...

One person who became the driving force behind the whole club was co-founder Andy Wilson (6th from the right, shirt and tie). He cared so much for the club, that he eventually gave his life for it and he was still too young. God Bless you Andy.

At this point I just want to say a massive thank you to all of those people over the years who gave their time and talents to B.A.A.F.C., without their efforts and inputs the club would not have survived

All the best for a very strong future.

Richard Foster, 2017



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## Playing One No Trump Contracts 2: Competing against 1NT

It's frustrating when your opponent opens 1NT and you have an opening (or near opening) hand and want to compete. Often the only option is to pass and let your opponents find a playable contract. A popular counter to 1NT is a convention called ASPTRO (a combination of two other conventions: ASPRO and ASTRO). The basis of this convention is an unbalanced two suited hand (usually 5-4) with at least one of these being a major suit, and opening points or thereabouts.

Here's a commonly played variant of this convention.

Over opponent's 1NT opening bid:

An overcall of 2♣ shows hearts and another suit (which can be spades or a minor suit) at least 5-4 either way.

2♦ shows spades and another (which can be hearts or a minor suit) suit, again at least 5-4 either way.

With both majors show the shorter suit first. This is known as the anchor suit.

Bids of 2♥ and 2♠ are natural and show 5+ cards with no four card suit.

A bid of 2NT shows 5-5 in the minors.

A general guide to strength is 10 to 15 points but suit quality, shape and vulnerability are also important, for example with a good 5-5 you might decide to compete with fewer than 10 points.

With 16+ points, double for penalties.

### Responses to an ASPTRO Bid

With a weakish hand and fit in the major suit (ie. 4 cards) bid two of the major and with five bid three (ie. to the level of the known fit).

Without support for the major:

After a 2♣ overcall respond 2♦ to deny heart support. This is a relay bid with no fit for the major suit and is asking for partner to bid their 5 card suit if a major, or the minor to deny a 5 card major. Overcaller can pass the relay bid if their 5 card suit is diamonds.

After a 2♦ overcall respond 2♥ to deny spade support. Again, this is a relay bid and is asking for partner to bid their 5 card suit if a major, or the minor to deny a 5 card major.

With a good hand (ie. at least opening points/seven losers) you can bid 2NT as an unassuming cue. In this context 2NT is artificial and forcing and asks overcaller to bid again to show shape and/or strength.

Here are three examples:

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
♠ 9 4	♠ A Q 9 5 4	♠ A J 7 5
♥ K Q 10 6	♥ K 7	♥ K Q 9 5 4
♦ A K J 8 3	♦ 8 2	♦ 7 6
♣ 9 2	♣ K J 8 5	♣ Q 5

Right hand opponent opens 1NT (12 to 14). Before reading further, what do you bid with these hands?

**Hand 1:** bid 2♣ showing hearts and another. Pass if partner bids 2♦ to deny a heart fit.

**Hand 2:** bid 2♦ showing spades and another. If partner makes a relay bid of 2♥ then rebid 2♠ to show the fifth spade.

**Hand 3:** bid 2♦ to anchor to the shorter suit. If partner makes a relay bid of 2♥ to deny spade support pass to show five hearts.

Now try this one with South as dealer and neither side vulnerable. South opens 1NT, how might the bidding proceed from here?

<b>West</b>	<b>East</b>
♠ A J 10 3	♠ K Q 2
♥ K Q 4	♥ J 5 3
♦ Q 9 8 7 2	♦ K 10 6 4
♣ 8	♣ 9 4 3

If passed all round 1NT makes easily. However if West overcalls 2♦ North will almost certainly pass and East can bid 2♥ as a relay bid denying four card support for spades and asking for the identity of the five card suit. South will pass and West will bid 3♦. That will be passed out so how would you play 3♦ on a Q♣ lead from North followed by J♠?

Firstly, by leading Q♣ and J♠ North has denied holding K♣, and thus the A♣ as well. Having already shown three points, North must have the remaining four or South would be too strong for the opening bid. These must be one of A♥ or A♦. To investigate ruff the J♠ and lead the K♥. North plays A♥, in which case you now know that A♣, A♦ and J♦ are with South. North will now probably play another club to reduce declarer's trumps or a low spade. How do you play to either of these leads?

If a club, ruff and play a low spade to the king, or if a spade win with the king. Now lead a low diamond and if South plays low take the marked finesse of 9♦, cross to Q♠ and lead another low diamond. This line restricts South to one trump trick and West makes the contract with an overtrick.

Here is the full layout:

	<b>North</b>	
	♠ 9 8 6 4	
	♥ A 9 8 6	
	♦ 5	
	♣ Q J 10 5	
<b>West</b>		<b>East</b>
♠ A J 10 3		♠ K Q 2
♥ K Q 4		♥ J 5 3
♦ Q 9 8 7 2		♦ K 10 6 4
♣ 8		♣ 9 4 3
	<b>South</b>	
	♠ 7 5	
	♥ 10 7 2	
	♦ A J 3	
	♣ A K 7 6 2	

Without the intervention by West N/S make 1NT for +90.  
With the ASPTRO intervention E/W make 4♦ for +130.

Keith Shaw



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- Wed 25 Totley History Group. Talk by Mike Higginbottom, "Demolished Sheffield". Totley Library, 7:30pm. Refreshments served afterwards. Members £2, Non-members £3.
- Thurs 26 Wyvern Walk. 5.7 mile loop walk from Bakewell. Departs 9:30am, Dore Old School. See pg. 25 for more info.
- Thurs 26 "Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale" movie screening at Totley Library, 3pm.
- Fri 27 Bob Hall & Hilary Blythe in Concert at Totley Library, 7:30pm.

## MARCH

- Tues 3 Dore Ladies' Group. Talk by Kerry Brooksbank, The story of "Ma's Laces". Community Centre, Townhead Road, 7:45pm.
- Sat 7 Orchid Show and Exotic Plant Fair. 10am – 4pm in St John's Church Hall, Abbeydale Road South. Entrance £5.
- Mon 9 Local Councillors' Surgery. Totley Library, 6pm.
- Tue 10 Dore Methodist Church Ladies Tuesday Group. 2:30pm in the Church Hall. Talk by June Price, sharing "More Tales from the Vicar's Wife". Visitors always welcome, charge £4.
- Sat 14 Local Councillors' Surgery. Dore Old School, 10:30am.
- Mon 16 Wyvern Walk. 6 mile Limb Valley and Porter Valley Walk. Departs 9:30am, Dore Old School. See pg. 25 for more info.
- Wed 18 Dore Garden Club. Talk by Rob King, "My Sheffield Garden: Creating a Garden Full of Adventure". Dore Methodist Church Hall, 7:30pm. £5 on the door.
- Wed 25 Totley History Group. Talk by Anne Louise Booth, "Victorian Women". Totley Library, 7:30pm. Refreshments served afterwards. Members £2, Non-members £3.
- Fri 27 Cellar V in Concert at Totley Library, 7:30pm.
- Sun 29 Abbeydale Miniature Railway reopens. Trains run 1pm until 5pm. Entrance opposite 283 Abbeydale Road South, Sheffield S17 3LB.

## APRIL

- Tues 7 Dore Ladies' Group. Talk by Heather Thomas, "The Goboka Rwanda Trust". Community Centre, Townhead Road, 7:45pm.
- Sat 11 Local Councillors' Surgery. Dore Old School, 10:30am.
- Sat 11 & Sun 12 Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society present The Zoo & Trial by Fury. Dore Community Hall, Townhead Road, 2:30pm. See pg. 33 for tickets and more.
- Sun 12 Abbeydale Miniature Railway. Trains run 1pm until 5pm. Entrance opposite 283 Abbeydale Road South, Sheffield S17 3LB.
- Mon 13 Local Councillors' Surgery. Totley Library, 6pm.
- Tues 14 Dore Methodist Church Ladies Tuesday Group. An outing to Abbeydale Miniature Railway. A talk, a train ride and refreshments. Meet at the Miniature Railway on Abbeydale Road South at 2:30pm. Visitors always

welcome, charge £4.

- Wed 15 Wyvern Walk. 6 mile loop walk through Quarry Gardens, Whirlow Farm and Ecclesall Woods. Departs 9:30am, Dore Old School. See pg. 25 for more info.
- Wed 15 Dore Garden Club. Talk by Colin Hickman, "Agapanthus & Nerines: The cultivation and propagation of these in pots and in the ground - a practical demonstration". Dore Methodist Church Hall, 7:30pm. £5 on the door.
- Sat 18 & Sun 19 Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society present The Zoo & Trial by Fury. DGSS Whittington Moor Methodist Church, 2:30pm. See pg. 33 for tickets and more.
- Fri 24 Dore Male Voice Choir. "Life is a Song" with Birkdale Senior School. 7pm – 9pm in Birkdale Senior School Hall, 4 Oakholme Road, Sheffield S10 3DH. Tickets - no charge! Bucket collection.
- Fri 24 & Sat 25 Abbeydale Rotary's 'Sheffield Young Artist Exhibition'. Central United Reform Church.
- Sun 26 Dore Dragon Hunt. Dore Old School, starts 2pm.
- Sun 26 Abbeydale Miniature Railway. Trains run 1pm until 5pm. Entrance opposite 283 Abbeydale Road South, Sheffield S17 3LB.

## MAY

- Tues 5 Dore Ladies' Group. Talk by Paul Selby of NESST, "Maintaining and Improving Sheffield's Urban Environment.". Community Centre, Townhead Road, 7:45pm.
- Sat 9 Local Councillors' Surgery. Dore Old School, 10:30am.
- Sun 10 Abbeydale Miniature Railway. Trains run 1pm until 5pm. Entrance opposite 283 Abbeydale Road South, Sheffield S17 3LB.
- Mon 11 Local Councillors' Surgery. Totley Library, 6pm.
- Tues 12 Dore Methodist Church Ladies Tuesday Group. 2:30pm in the Church Hall. "Once seen never forgotten", an illustrated talk by Don Witton. A colourful talk on plants and gardens. Visitors always welcome, charge £4.
- Sat 16 & Sun 17 Spring Plant Sale. The Hardy Plant Society, South Pennine Group, will be selling a wide and interesting selection of plants, all at very reasonable prices. Grown by our expert members who will be on hand to give you help and advice. Cash or card payments and please bring your own boxes or bags. Free admission. Sheffield Botanical Gardens (Thompson Road entrance), 11am – 3pm Sat, 11am – 2pm Sun.



# Tristan Swain

**Garden Services and Maintenance**  
Established 1984

Unit C4 Sheaf Bank Business Park  
Prospect Road Heeley  
Sheffield S2 3EN

**Tel/Fax:** 0114 255 4689  
**Mobile:** 07831 802 539  
**Email:** tristan@tristanswain.co.uk



[www.tristanswain.co.uk](http://www.tristanswain.co.uk) Public Liability Insurance Waste Transfer Licence

The article below first appeared in *Dore to Door* issue number 40, Winter 1995. We are reproducing it here, with thanks to Julie Bunting for research and preparation of the original material. If you are interested in reading previous installments from this series, all past issues are available at [www.dorevillage.co.uk](http://www.dorevillage.co.uk).

### The Earls and Dukes of Devonshire

*The seventh in a series of articles.*

#### The Third Duke of Devonshire (1698 - 1755)



*Painting by George Knapton*

Like his predecessors, this William Cavendish was brought up to be aware of how his class depended on social and political stability. But because he lived in times that favoured aristocratic Whig families due in great measure to the political activities of his own father and grandfather, the First and Second Dukes of Devonshire - this Cavendish heir had no real inclination towards politics. As Lord Hartington he did serve as MP for Lostwithiel and when he inherited his title, in 1729, was rather taken

under the wing of his late father's old friend, Sir Robert Walpole.

As Third Duke of Devonshire he was appointed Lord Steward of the Royal Household. Then Walpole set him up as Lord Privy Seal and, in 1737, as Viceroy of Ireland. The Duke kept this lucrative position for three years, well suited to the role and popular with the Irish people.

Various described as "plain in his manners, negligent in his dress ... lazy ... homespun ...bluff", Devonshire possessed a steady reliability which was praised by Dr Johnson:

"He was not a man of superior abilities, but he was a man strictly faithful to his word. If, for instance, he had promised you an acorn, and none had grown that year in his woods, he would have sent to Denmark for it. So unconditional was he in keeping his word..."

A less generous critic was the gossipy Horace Walpole, son of Robert, who sniped that "The Duke's outside was unpolished, his inside unpolishable". True the Duke was a heavy drinker and an avid gambler but it was his Duchess who really came in for some snobbish criticism.

#### Family Life

She had been born Katherine Hoskyns, daughter of a wealthy businessman with no claim to noble breeding. It so happened that when the future Duke, as Lord Hartington took her for his wife, he was plagued by large gambling debts which had escalated since he left Oxford. For the down-to-earth heiress and her father, 'Miser' Hoskyns, there were no qualms about merging her fortune with a title.

By 1720 the Hartingtons had an heir, William, to be followed by three brothers and three sisters. Family life was close-knit and homely with the children given 'pet' names: Guts, Gundy, Mrs Hopeful, Mrs Tiddle, Puss, Cat and Toe. Even after Katherine became Duchess of Devonshire, she presided over an easy-going household. Horace Walpole may have described her as 'delightfully vulgar' but when the Devonshires did entertain, guests were relaxed and their conversation informal.

The Third Duke undertook few changes at Chatsworth but in 1733 he had to commission William Kent to rebuild Devonshire House in Piccadilly after it burned down. Kent also designed new

furniture, most of which is now at Chatsworth, as are two portraits by Van Dyck presented to the Duke by Horace Walpole.

Little occurred to disturb the Devonshires until their peace was suddenly shattered early in 1748, when 'Guts' Hartington set his heart on marriage to sixteen-year-old Charlotte Boyle, sole heiress to the very rich Third Earl of Burlington. She was in line to inherit two mansions in London, Bolton Abbey in Yorkshire and estates in Londesborough and Ireland.

To some, though, the Burlington ancestry was flawed by its descent from Richard Boyle. In the reign of Elizabeth I, Boyle had taken advantage of the stricken Sir Walter Raleigh - soon to be executed - by purchasing estates from him at bargain prices.

It was also widely known that the Third Earl of Burlington maintained an enduring and intimate relationship with architect William Kent, whilst Lady Burlington was the longstanding mistress of the Duke of Grafton. Worse still, Charlotte's elder sister, Dorothy, had died at the age of seventeen after rumoured ill-treatment from her husband. He was Lord Euston who happened to be the son of the Duke of Grafton.

This account of the scandal was published eighty years later amongst the recollections of Elizabeth, second wife of the Fifth Duke of Devonshire: "Lady Dorothy ... married a man she adored and of the first rank, but he was a man of vicious principles and in love with his brother's wife. He promised her, so it is said, that no son of his would inherit his father's fortune and when Lady Euston was with child, he drove her through the worst paved streets of London. He made her walk till exhausted. She had been seen to sit fainting on the steps before peoples' houses... When Lady Euston was in labour he suffered none but the midwife to come and after her death - she died in labour - the same thing. The birth was premature and the child died."

#### Unhappy Differences

Whatever the reason for her disapproval of Charlotte Boyle, the Duchess of Devonshire would insist only that the girl was too young to marry her very eligible son. Although the Duke probably favoured the match, above all he wanted peace and quiet. For once, however, he could not retire into his complacent shell and, against his nature, was drawn into a bitter family feud. He would have been happy for either his wife or their son to concede defeat but there was to be no compromise.

Finally a private wedding was held on 28 March 1748 in London, hosted by the Burlingtons. The Duke of Devonshire attended but the Duchess stayed away; by the time her husband returned to Chatsworth she had moved out and into the rectory at Eyam. The new groom and his father made constant efforts to restore good relations but were rebuffed. By this time the Duchess was directing her distress at the Duke, writing to him: "my abhorrence to this most Cursed Match increases more and more every day I live and has made such unhappy differences amongst us."

It took over a year of persuasion to bring the Duchess back to Chatsworth. Horace Walpole wrote to tell a friend in June 1749 how the Duke had resigned from his position as Lord Steward of the Royal Household "for the unaccountable and unenvied pleasure of shutting himself up at Chatsworth with his ugly mad Duchess; the more extraordinary sacrifice, as he turned her head, rather than give up a favourite match for his son."

From this time the Devonshires distanced themselves from Court life. As Walpole had inferred, there were whispers that the Duchess had lost her reason. For the Duke, whose great passions were still gambling and drinking, being cut off at Chatsworth left him with little to live for and he died in 1755.

Yet he had lived long enough to see the untimely death of Charlotte and the attendant vast increase in Cavendish wealth. As for his Duchess, she not only outlived her husband and her unacceptable daughter-in-law but also her own son, William, the Fourth Duke of Devonshire.

**Julie Bunting**