

DORE to DOOR

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

No. 36 WINTER 1994

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Seasons greetings

The Editor and Dore Village Society Committee would like to take this opportunity to send Season's Greetings to all the readers of Dore to Door, wherever you are.

1994 was a good year for the magazine which regularly achieved 16 pages and was delivered to over 3,000 local households each quarter. So a special thank you from the Dore to Door editorial team to those who give up their time to deliver Dore to Door, and the advertisers without whose financial support the magazine simply could not survive.

Lets hope 1995 proves a turning point for the local economy and provides satisfactory resolutions to many of the issues we face.

New Secure Unit

Over 200 people attended the public meeting at King Ecgbert School to hear details of the proposal for a Secure Unit on Limb Lane. Those in the firing line on the top table included, the Director of Social Services Martin Manby, Councillor Steve Jones, Chair of the Family & Community Services Committee and representatives from the Architects office and the Secure Unit at Hull.

After a short presentation of the proposals the heated questions from the floor showed the extent of opposition to the siting of a combined secure and open unit on the present site. Residents wanted reassurance about just how secure the new unit would be and were told that no one had absconded from the secure unit at Hull since it was opened. Questions were also raised about the likely impact on crime in the area and why it should be sited in Dore at all.

The council representatives tried to explain the reasoning as to why the Limb Lane site was chosen. There were also questions about how the 4 bed open unit would work alongside the secure unit and how the units would be staffed.

It was stressed that the secure unit means that the youngsters would be secure 24 hrs a day, which is different from the present when in the open unit there are no powers to restrain youngsters who can come and go as they please.

It would be fair to say that the meeting generated a lot of heat, but little light. It would seem that originally all three political parties voted in favour of a secure unit in Sheffield, built with central government funds. Dissent only arose when Dore was suggested. Even before the public meeting the full Council had already voted in favour of the proposal! All that remains now is for the Council to give itself planning permission. The Dore Village Society will be formally objecting to the application to build the 4 bedded open unit. Ed



An old photo taken approx 1927 outside The Devonshire Arms and sent in by A. Thorpe. Left to right they are: Mr Watkins, Joe Denniff, William Thorpe, Ted Thorpe ????? John Stone, John Thorpe ????? Adam Siddall. William Thorpe was the landlord – later Ted Thorpe after the death of his mother Jane. John Stone was the well known blacksmith recently mentioned. The group was probably associated with the Old Dore Ploughing Society.

News in Brief

Dick Dean and Jean Dean of Greens shop on Causewayhead Road retired at the end of October, and would like to pass on their thanks to all their customers over the years. Nicholas Dean and Paul Bellamy have taken over the shop and look forward to continuing local support for the business.

A Christmas Exhibition by Brian Edwards, of framed and unframed prints for sale, covering Dore, Totley and the Peak District, is to be held at Shape Design on Abbeydale Road South. Open from Tuesday 29th November to Sunday 11th December, 9am to 5.30pm Tuesday to Saturday. Special openings Sunday 27th November and 4th December from 11am to 4pm when Brian will be working publicly on new drawings.



Jack Simmons from Dore Infant School has a close encounter with a Barn Owl at Whirlow Hall Farm Fayre.

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

Autumn Meeting

8.00pm

Wednesday 23 November 1994

Old Village School

*Speaker Dr Ian Rotherham
City ecologist*

Wanted

Old pictures of Dore; memories; articles on the village or it's history; news; ideas for competitions etc. Contact the editor on 236 9025.

INSIDE: Citizens arrest • Yorkshire Tiger • Farming Scene • Letters • Ramblers Association • Book Reviews • and much much more!



The junction of Abbeydale Road South and Abbey Lane before the First World War. The Beauchief Hotel was then the Abbeydale Hotel, proprietor John Turner. The building was originally Abbeydale Station - the name of which is still to be seen above the front door. The building on the left was then a post office and newsagents - now the site of a stationers.

News in brief

Nina Cockburn of Dore recently won the Bradford area round of the Audi Junior Musician Competition. She went on to play her violin in the Scottish Regional final and has subsequently been offered a recital for the Harrogate & Ripon Musical Society next June.

At the same time local **Becky Hawley** was piloting her pony Bay Rocket to a best cross country award, as a member of the British team at the European championships in Belgium.

Stamps for the Christmas Scout Post will be on sale in the village from November 24th, and the last posting day will be Thursday December 16th.

The vital stages of man:

He believes in Father Christmas;
he does not believe in Father Christmas;
he is Father Christmas!

Book Reviews

Sheffield on Wheels is a people's history of transport in the city. There are contributions from over 80 different authors, all of whom have their own tales to tell about travel and transport.

The book is divided into three sections, Trams, looks at transport as a means of getting to and from work. Jams, is about the effects transport has on a city and how the city copes, and Charabancs is about getting away from it all - days out, beans and a night on the town.

The range of contributions is enormous, with the inevitable comparisons between Sheffield's legendary tramway system and Supertram and the decline and fall of Britain's railway network. This doesn't mean though that this is a book for the bus or train spotter, there are lots of memories of what it was like to use public and private transport in the city.

Illustrated with over 70 photographs from the collection housed in the Local Studies Library, this would make a great stocking-filler for the transport enthusiast or anyone wanting a different angle on Sheffield History. Published by Yorkshire Arts Circus it is available from most local bookshops price £9.95.

Central Sheffield is a compilation of images of an area within a mile of the Market Place. These have been selected from the collection of over 60,000 photographs housed in the Local Studies Library. Covering the period from around 1850 until 1950 more than 200 photographs detail life in the city centre. Selected from personal collections, official sources, commercial postcards and private family albums the look is a testament to the beauty, spirit and charm of the evolving city centre of the past.

Central Sheffield is published by Alan Sutton Ltd, price £8.99.

Editorial

The current concern in the village about proposals for a secure unit on Limb Lane and the development off Newfield Lane, serve to hi-light the distance between us as individuals and the democratic process.

As individuals or as a community, we were not consulted in advance about the Limb Lane proposals, nor party to the decision making process. On Newfield Lane we may protest, but the decision will be made by others from outside the community, using criteria we did not set and with no right of appeal for us.

We elect councillors and a MP to represent the interests of the people of Dore in Sheffield and the country as a whole, but who makes decisions about issues in our immediate community. Not us! Some would argue that this is the fundamental reason behind people becoming disillusioned with politics and the way things are run - the individual has no voice.

Perhaps we should have a Parish Council, certainly Sheffield is too large and remote from Dore to cover many local issues. Maybe the answer lies in some of the more imaginative ideas about how people can be involved in decisions affecting their communities, as currently doing the rounds in Europe.

In the meantime if you care about your community and what is happening to it, why not become more involved in the Dore Village Society and/or in the production of Dore to Door - any of the committee members would be pleased to hear from you.

The Dore Village Society and Dore to Door, should be the voice of our community. It is up to you to ensure this! **Ed.**

Christmas Walks

The National Trust and the Ramblers' Association have joined together for a series of walks during the festive season, led by representatives of the two organisations and mainly routed across some of the 590,555 acres of countryside protected by the Trust. Many of the walks will appeal to all ages; a few are protected by the Trust. many of the walks will appeal to all ages; a few are not suitable for very young children. Unless otherwise stated, dogs are welcome, provided they are on leads. Warm, waterproof clothing and stout footwear are essential for all the walks. For many, especially the upland and moorland walks, boots are strongly advised.

Tuesday 27 December - Grindleford meet 9.30am at Grindleford Station Car Park for an 8 mile walk over moorland and gritstone. Contact: Eric Cheetham (RA) Tel: (0625) 877700 Day 06525 426387 Evg.

Wednesday 28 December - Hardwick Hall and Park Meet 10.30 am at National Trust Car Park, Hardwick Hall for 6 mile walk over parkland, fields, meadowland and wood.

Wednesday 28 December - High Peak Estate Meet 10.30am at Edale Car Park (Map Ref SK125 835) for a fairly arduous walk of 8 miles in the Edale Valley and the edge of Kinder Scout. Bring a packed lunch. Contact: High Peak Estate Office (NT) Tel: 0422 670368 Frank Ogden (RA) Tel: 0742 368015.

Thursday 29 December - Kinder Estate Meet 11 am at Hayfield Bus Station for moderate 6/7 mile walk. Bring a picnic lunch. Contact: Ron McLoughlin (RA) Tel: 061 643 8346.

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Suggestions for your Christmas Fayre

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& mince meats

....

Pollards coffee
Longley Farm creams

....

Petits fours and choc mints

....

Biscuits and gifts for under the tree

Village Carols

The aim of the Village Carols project is to document the localised Christmas carol singing traditions of villages and towns in England and in particular the South Pennines.

Over 700 hours of tape recordings, manuscripts and other materials are being indexed and organised into a usable archive for which there is public access. The recordings are being copied and the copies placed in the national sound Archive of the British Library and in the Archives of Cultural Tradition at the University of Sheffield.

These 'local' carols are usually distinguished by a core that dates back to the eighteenth century, some of which originated in the locality. They are 'fuguing' in character and are usually sung in two parts, treble and bass, referred to locally as 'firsts' and 'seconds'.

In the South Pennines the most common location for performance is the public house and in most cases they are sung informally without music scores, without a conductor without rehearsals and without a programme. The season for the carols varies considerably. For example, in Ecclesfield singing starts on the first Thursday after Armistice Day and sings are once a week, whereas Foolow only sing on Christmas Day.

A Festival of Village Carols is to be held at Grenoside Community Centre on Saturday 3rd December from 9.30 am to 11.30 pm. This will feature workshops to help participants learn sixteen or so carols from the core repertoire of the north west of the City. Food and refreshments will be available further details from the address below - booking is essential!



Illustration featured on the front of the 1994 Dore Village Society Christmas card. Available from Greens shop on Causeway Head Road.

The latest release from Village Carols is Carols from the Traveller's Rest Oughtibridge. This 80 minute, recording captures twenty one local carols. The words of the carols and the story of this unique tradition are told in an accompanying 44 page illustrated book. Village Carols from the Travellers Rest Oughtibridge: Stereo Music Cassette: Costs £7.00 plus 75p Postage. Available from: Village Carols, Bridge House, Unstone, S18 5AF. Tel: 0246 417315.

A La Carte

Why not counter the winter chills with a tropical touch - Banana and Pecan Tart:

Ingredients: (serves 6)

340g(12oz) packet of rich sweet shortcrust pastry; 6 Bananas; 60g(2oz) crushed pecans; 300ml(1/2pt) double cream; 3 eggs; 1tbs vanilla sugar; 2tbs rum

Method:

Roll out pastry and line a 10" loose-bottomed fluted flan tin; press up the edges well and prick the base. Leave to relax for 10 to 15 min.

Bake 'blind' for 10 min at 190 C, 375 F or Gas mark 5. Peel and slice the bananas; line the base of the pastry case with the banana slices and sprinkle with nuts. Mix the cream with the beaten eggs, add sugar and rum, then carefully pour over the bananas. Bake in the oven for a further 20 to 25 minutes. Serve warm with cream.

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Guides 40th Anniversary

In April of this year Judith Jackson and I compiled a list of 'old' Guides from the 125th Company. From record sheets, registers and photographs, this resulted in over 400 names. Hilda Jay has a log book bursting with photos of her Guiding years, from which she made a list of about 60 Guides, who were members during her years as Captain, from 1954 until 1961. She knew the whereabouts of most of these girls, so that we could send them invitations to our 40th Anniversary Party. From the remainder, we traced all but about 80. Many letters, phone calls and detective work was required to contact some of the 'old' guides. We discovered that many now live abroad in such places as Australia, New Zealand, Canada and America, as well as the four corners of the United Kingdom.

In the process of our task, Bessie, Colley told us that there were several ladies living locally and further afield, who were members of the 125th Company in the 1930's. With the help of Bessie, her sister Dorothy, Jean Dean and Betty Barton (née Green), we contacted over 30 of these ladies and 15 accepted the invitation to join our celebrations. I was particularly delighted to trace two of the Grant sisters, Jean and Biddy, who were the original leaders of the guides in the 1930's. Jean is now 84 and is in touch with Peggy Sandham (née Green) who lives not far from her in Oxfordshire.

So on the afternoon of Saturday September 24th over 100 ladies arrived at the Church Hall to join in our 40th Birthday Celebrations. Judith and I had put together a display of photos over the decades, along with other memorabilia, such as a video of the guides in the 1960's. Karen Pyle (Bishop) even brought her rucksack containing her camp crockery!

We were greatly relieved that Hilda Jay could be with us. She had spent a few days in hospital, after collapsing at home, but in true Guiding spirit, she was determined to be there. She made a speech about how she became involved in the Guide Movement and



Hilda Jay surrounded by ladies who were Guides when she was Captain between 1954 & 1961, taken at the 40th anniversary party on September 24th 1994.

cut the Birthday Cake, made and beautifully decorated by Norah Hollis. Hilda, Beryl Bradford and Lynn Tasker, all leaders of the 125th Guides, were presented with bouquets. Unfortunately Joyce Farris and Helen Swain (Bedford), also past leaders, could not be there. Angela Hogg (Barron) received her 10 Year Long Service Bar and Judith Jackson was given her 30 Year Long Service Bar, for being warranted as a Guider since 1964. She was also presented with an engraved cut glass rose bowl, in recognition of her long and tireless work with the 125th Guides.

Following these presentations about 20 of the present day guides sang some traditional camp fire songs and performed several stunts, ably led by Angela Hogg and May Hearnshaw (Smith).

Dore Trefoil Guild produced some delicious refreshments for which we were very grateful and so we partook of these and continued the afternoon chatting and reminiscing. Judging from the comments made, everyone enjoyed themselves, particularly becoming re-acquainted with 'old' friends from many years ago. We have heard that they are eagerly awaiting the 50th Anniversary!

Pamela Butterworth

Pets in Winter

Winter chills can bring suffering to many pets unless owners take the necessary steps to keep them happy and healthy – warns Britain's largest veterinary charity the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals.

Pets such as rabbits and guinea pigs should be housed in dry weather-proofed hutches and should be cleaned out at least twice a week. A diet of carrots, turnips and swedes is a good substitute for greens during the winter and a regular supply of fresh good quality hay should also be given. The water supply in the hutch must also be checked twice daily in case it freezes.

Dogs and cats who have ventured out into the rain or snow should always be thoroughly towel-dried. As the glow of a nice warm fire can be dangerously attractive, all fires should be guarded.

Caged birds need to be in a draught-free room, not too near a fire and hamsters and other small caged pets will appreciate a little

extra bedding during the cold months.

Outdoor fish will be starved of oxygen if their ponds are allowed to freeze over so it is wise to make a daily check. If the temperature drops, float a large plastic ball on the pond which can then be removed to leave an air-hole in the ice. The ice must not be broken as vibrations could harm the fish.

Outdoor dog kennels should be made draught and damp free by hanging a piece of carpet over the entrance (which must face south during the winter). A blanket or clean, dry straw will keep a dog comfortable and warm if changed frequently.

Owning a pet can be an enjoyable and rewarding experience but Christmas is not the ideal time for introducing a pet into the family home. The extra noise, the numerous visitors and the general change from normal routine creates an unsettling atmosphere for a new pet. If you have thought long and hard about having a new pet then get the relationship off to a good start by waiting until after Christmas when you can offer your new companion the time and patience they deserve.

If you already own a pet you will need to be responsible for the animal's health and safety over the Christmas period.

● "Treating" your pet to mince pies, Christmas pudding or other rich foods may give the animal an upset stomach. If you want to pamper your pet at Christmas specially formulated treats are readily available. But please do not encourage your pet to over indulge or consume alcohol.

● Pets can be fascinated by the glitter of Christmas decorations and may even attempt to eat them. So please ensure that all decorations are hung well out of your pet's reach especially sprigs of holly and mistletoe which have poisonous berries.

● Also, before you pull your Christmas crackers and party poppers please ensure that your pets are out of earshot as loud bangs may frighten them.

The PDSA is Britain's largest veterinary charity providing free treatment for over 1.4 million sick and injured pets each year.

Donations can be sent to PDSA, 7 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield 0484 513440 and there is a PDSA shop at 13 Cumberland Street, Sheffield open 9am to 5pm Monday to Saturday.

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Letters

Dear Sir

Being Australian and married to an expatriate of Dore – one, Jack Pycroft – since 1945, I have been educated to recognise many names and places synonymous with Dore and surrounding areas. That is why I, along with my husband, derive such great pleasure from reading the village magazine “Dore to Door” which is so kindly mailed to us each quarter by Jack’s aunt, Mrs Clark and his cousin Jean.

You and your staff are to be congratulated on a concise and informative publication which we thoroughly enjoy reading. Although we live so far away we like to hear about all the village activities as well as the reminiscent letters and articles pertaining to bygone days.

Best wishes for your continued growth and Season’s Greeting to all your readers.

*Beth Pycroft
New South Wales Australia*

Dear Sir

I recently undertook a walk to Rome. One place we stayed at was Acquapendente, where they have a tradition of making displays of pictures made from, inter alia, flower petals. They celebrate an event in 1166, when apparently the citizens revolted against the imperial officials of Frederick I, Barbarossa. The signal for the revolt was the flowering of a cherry tree.

We saw some of the stored pictures in a local church – it may well have been the cathedral. Anyway, they put me in mind of the Derbyshire well-dressing, although the techniques seemed rather different, with paint. It is possible they painted over the petals to preserve the colours of the picture. The petals would have faded by the time we were there.

The petals were stuck to boards rather than wet clay.

The subjects apparently range from the allegorical to the political. I had only a short time and could not go into the details. I saw one leaflet said the “Pugnalonì” are “force unico al mondo”. They obviously don’t know Dore!

Since it seems doubtful whether many people in Derbyshire have heard of Acquapendente or vice versa, I wondered whether you knew anybody in the Well Dressing scene who might be interested in making contact with the Italian version?

*Henry Hart
Forest Hill, London*

Have you noticed

Close your eyes for a moment and the developers are back, this time in a social guise. The western edge of Dore ends at Newfield Lane and all the better for it. The green belt provides protection to the countryside next to the city and without it the urban sprawl that is Sheffield would spread and spread.

The dividing line between country and town has to be drawn somewhere. No doubt if there was profit in it, someone would advocate repopulating the Iron Age site at Carl Wark. Undoubtedly it is profit not social consciousness which drives the agent for this proposed development. Lets hope no City councillors jump on this bandwagon and use the so-called social argument for chipping away further at Dore’s green fields.

We all enjoy Dore’s rural surroundings, which is why many people moved here in the first place. But when nature shows her face on

the pavement, whether in leaves or snow, why do some turn a blind eye. Please remember those who still walk and clear the leaves or snow from in front of your house. And not just the end of the drive. There is nothing worse than being faced by a pile of leaves or snow cleared from a driveway entrance onto the adjacent pathway.

Sadly the stable, with all it’s almost intact internal features, has gone from next to the Devonshire. What was, with the blacksmiths shop and pig styes, a unique group of buildings, has been reduced to a pseudo period setting at a cost reputedly in excess of £300,000. How many meals will need to be served to earn that much profit I wonder. Still it could have been worse, at least the building is in stone and some attempt has been made to blend it in. On a more positive note, those who have lived in Dore for any length of time will applaud the improvement in appearance of the semi opposite the top end of the Townhead Road shops following recent building work.

Doremouse

Ringling the Changes

You may have noticed many adverts and articles in this issue have new seven figure numbers and a different area code. These are also printed in the latest local directory in anticipation of national changes by BT in April next year.

In Sheffield the changes involve adding a 2 to the front of existing numbers and a new area code of 0114 instead of 0742. All the new numbers can be used now, so don’t forget to tell your distant friends and relatives on your Christmas cards!



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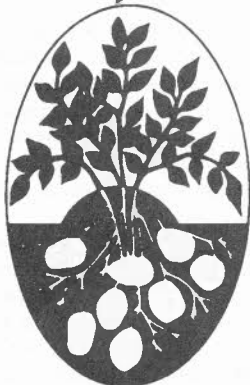
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The Earls and Dukes of Devonshire

The third in a series of articles

William Cavendish, third Earl of Devonshire (1617-1684)

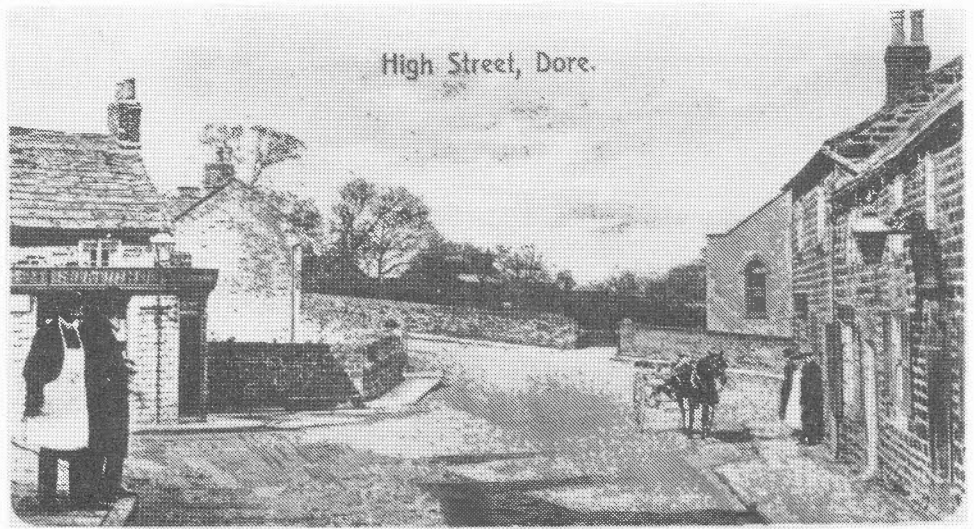
Namesake of both his grandfather and his father, the third generation William Cavendish inherited the Devonshire earldom at the early age of eleven. If he was to prove a better guardian of the Cavendish estates than his father, careful preparations for his future role had to be completed.

Fortunately, his formative years had been spent under the conscientious influence of his mother, the Countess Christiana, who went on to spend the earliest years of her widowhood settling debts which for a time had threatened to jeopardise the future of her two sons.

This done, the Countess re-employed her late husband's old tutor, the philosopher Thomas Hobbes, to complete and broaden the education of her elder son. Between 1634 and 1637 Hobbes introduced him to the major cities of Europe.

In 1639 the handsome Third Earl of Devonshire married Elizabeth Cecil, daughter of the Earl of Shrewsbury. The previous year he had completed his first term of office as Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire, following which he became High Steward of Amptill and joint Commissioner of Array for Leicestershire.

The Cavendishes maintained their accustomed royal favour. As a child, William had been created Knight of the Bath at the coronation of Charles I, and the Countess Christiana became a trusted friend of Queen Henrietta Maria. It was inevitable that this prominent Royalist family would later become drawn into the Civil War. From the start the Earl and his younger brother, Charles, put their fortunes and their lives at the disposal of the King. Charles Cavendish, the epitome of a brave and gallant cavalier, raised a regiment at his own expense and saw repeated action as its bold colonel. He rode



High Street Dore from a post card sent in 1913. The corner sweet shop was then a stationers.

behind Prince Rupert in the cavalry charge at Edgehill and distinguished himself sufficiently to be given command of Royalist forces in Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire. At the age of twenty-three he fell in action when his soldiers faced Cromwell at Gainsborough in 1643.

It was in memory of Charles Cavendish that his mother built the chapel at Peak Forest. Only after Restoration of the Monarchy could it be dedicated to St. Charles, King and Martyr, according to her wishes.

William, meanwhile, had been present with King Charles at York in 1642, in which year he was expelled from the House of Lords and ordered to stand committed to the Tower. This followed his refusal to take his place in parliament, for which he was impeached together with eight other peers of high crimes and misdemeanours.

Well aware of the potential dangers of political protest, the Earl left England to live in France, upon which his estates were sequestered. The Dowager Countess watched events with dismay. The death of her younger son had made William's survival paramount and she used her still-strong influence to persuade him to return to England in 1645 and, of vital importance, to appear willing to compromise his Royalist sympathies by submitting to parliament.

The Earl was pardoned upon a fine of £5,000 and went to live with his mother in her Buckinghamshire home, Latimers. The King spent a night there in the middle of October 1645. After a time the Earl did move back to his childhood home, Hardwick Hall, but had to wait for the Restoration before he could return to Chatsworth, which had been occupied by both sides in turn during the Civil War.

The unassuming lifestyle of the Third Earl, coupled with the disturbances of recent years, left him with no inclination to squander his inheritance. During the Commonwealth he had been restricted to acting as its guardian but once back at Chatsworth he was able to set about attending to its upkeep and restoring order. Updating the great house revealed the first worrying indications of major faults in its proportions when cracks opened up in the masonry.

In 1660 the Earl was reappointed Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire and Steward of Tutbury before becoming Steward of the High Peak. Having, literally, put his house in order he allowed himself more time to study

literature and science. He started to assemble a library which has since grown into possibly the most important and valuable in private hands in England. Much credit for its foundation must go to his lifelong companion Thomas Hobbes, by this time famous throughout Europe as author of *Leviathan*. This work was much despised but the philosopher remained under the family's devoted wing until he ended his days in their household in 1679.

William Cavendish survived Thomas Hobbes by only five years. He died on 23 November 1684 at his house at Roehampton and was brought back to Edensor for burial. His widow Elizabeth survived him by five years. Their son and only surviving child, another William, succeeded to the title; a younger son had died unmarried in 1670.

The new Earl buried his father with honours which would have befitted a Duke, a title which he felt had been unfairly withheld. This honour would yet come to the House of Cavendish, and sooner than anyone could have foreseen.

Julie Bunting

Newfield Lane

Eric Kalman, of Whirlowdale Road, acting on behalf of the owners of the land between Dore Moor House and Dore Moor Nursery, has submitted an outline planning application for residential development.

Mr Kalman's high profile proposal envisages a mix of rented and private housing on the extensive site. The social element of the scheme is seen as a transparent attempt to persuade the Council to breach its long standing Green Belt plan for the area, and follows similar initiatives elsewhere in the region.

When contacted recently Mr Kalman was unaware of the many sites in Dore and nearby areas, already with outline planning consent.

It is hoped that the Council will continue to uphold its policy with respect to development in the Green Belt as evidenced by recent decisions on applications at Limb Lane, Longline and Totley Hall Lane.

If you wish to object to this application write to the Department of Land and Planning, Town Hall, Sheffield S1 2HH. A petition against the proposal is circulating in the village. The Village Society Committee met on 9th November 1994 when it was unanimously agreed to object to the proposal.

— • S.A. SWIFT • —
— • C.A.T.E.R.I.N.G. • —

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Dore Junior School

On the 23rd of September Dore Junior Schools Sponsored Walk took place. All the children did laps round the field and at the end everyone was exhausted! Lots of parents came to help and some even walked too. So far we have raised £2563 which will all go to buying Acorn A4000 computers for the school. We have now got enough money for three systems but the money is still coming in!!!

A total of £250 has been raised by Dore Junior School for the Macmillan Nurses Appeal. The money was collected by school pupils selling buns, biscuits, books and craft items during September and October 1994. There was also a very successful coffee morning attended by parents and friends of the school. In order to make sure we raised enough money we drew round our deputy head, Mr Scholey, and stuck 2ps and 5 pound notes over him. Because he is very tall we made a bet that if we covered him he would have to waltz with our head teacher, Mr Wileman. We did cover Mr Scholey so in assembly they danced together which the pupils found very funny. Some of the money raised will go to support one nurse who works in the Sheffield Childrens Hospital helping very sick patients.

English weeks is where we had a story teller visit our school. he told us some stories about horrid giants and scary ghostly tales. He told them in a funny kind of accent. All the school thought he was really good. He also played his concertina and his piccolo and some other musical instrument that goes with the story.

We also had some people from the

pandemonium theatre and they did a play about Queen Elizabeth I and more or less what happened in her reign. It included music they had made up by themselves. They also had a variety of costumes they kept changing into for different bits of the scenes. All the school saw it and everyone clapped loudly and cheered at the end.

This report was compiled by Rosanna Moore, Naomi Allum and Susannah Corker (All aged 10) on one of our new Acorn 4000 computers.

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1017051

**Dore Village Society, Limpits Cottage,
Dore, Sheffield S17 3DT.**

The objective of the Society is to foster the protection and enhancement of the local environment and amenities within Dore, encourage a spirit of community and record its historic development.

Chairman

Mr. A.C. Bownes
Limpits Cottage,
Causeway Head Road S17 3DT 235 2107

Treasurer

Mrs. C. Veal
172 Dore Road, S17 3HA 236 8437

Dore to Door

Mr. J.R. Baker
8 Thornsett Gardens, S17 3PP 236 9025

Committee

Mrs. G. Farnsworth 235 0609
Mr. M. Hennessey 236 6632
Mrs. S. Ross 235 1948

Dore Show 1994

Despite rain on the day, entries for the 94 show were only slightly down on last year, and true to form 'Dore' turned out raincoats and umbrellas at the ready in the afternoon.

After a better growing year than recently, the vegetable & flower sections were well supported, as were the domestic and wine classes. At the Old School there were more sidestalls than any previous year, even overflowing onto the front playground and pushing the Sheffield City Morris Men to perform on Savage Lane - closed for the duration of the show. The Stannington Brass Band excelled themselves playing in a large tent (which seemed to help the acoustics) and for those who have always wondered how they do it, there was a chance to try for themselves at a well dressing demonstration.

Most importantly everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and thanks to a band of dedicated helpers and all those who exhibited or attended, this year's show can safely be counted another success.

In the meantime make a note in your diaries for Saturday 9th September 1995.

Toads

This years winter production by TOADS is of "There Goes The Bride" by Ray Cooney & John Chapman. Wednesday 23rd November to Saturday 26th, 7.30pm at St John's Church Hall, Abbeydale Road South. Tickets from Kate Reynolds, 3 Totley Grange Close, phone 236 6891.

First Steps Nursery School

The Old School, Savage Lane, Dore.

The local Nursery School with qualified teachers which offers a wide range of educational activities:

indoor and outdoor play

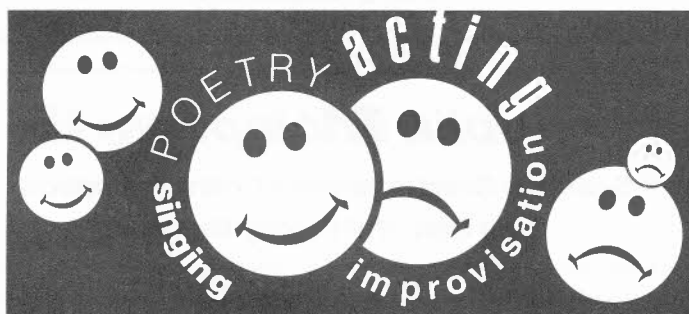
language and numeracy skills

computer art

science music

.... und wir lernen Deutsch

Telephone (0742) 365712/368100 and 0836 663184 (School)



Caroline Cooper
childrens theatre

Acting classes for all ages at Dore Old School, Saturday morning.

Please Call Sheffield 630963 for information.

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come true**

At Broadfield Bathrooms we have Sheffield's finest range. Our superb showroom has an enormous range of bathroom suites, tile and accessories as well as a complete display of working showers. Never satisfied, we now have a range of bathroom furniture, we deliver free of charge and we'll also advise you of a suitable fitter.

Call into our showroom on Broadfield Road near the junction with Chesterfield Road and see a range of bathrooms to turn your dreams into reality.

We're open 9am - 5pm Mon - Sat, Or phone us on 0742 507655.

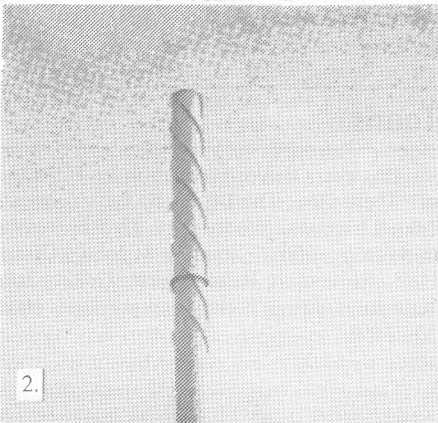
at Broadfield Bathrooms
the complete bathroom service

Pictures of Dore

Can you identify the locations in these photographs?

Prizes will be given to the first three correct entries opened at the Dore Village Society meeting on 14 December 94.

Entries should be sent to 8 Thornsett Gardens, Dore, S17 3PP.



Dore Service Station

*Best Wishes for
Christmas and the New Year*

Country Garden

*Compliments of the Season
to all our customers with best wishes for the New Year*

DORE VIDEO

*Wishing all our customers a Merry
Christmas and a happy New Year*



Your **Dorestep** independent estate agent.
Compliments of the season to all our clients and
residents of the village.

Chris's

*Bakery & Coffee Shop
Compliments of the Season to all our customers*

Colin Thompson

**Seasons Greetings from Colin Thompson
and Son, the Family Butcher**

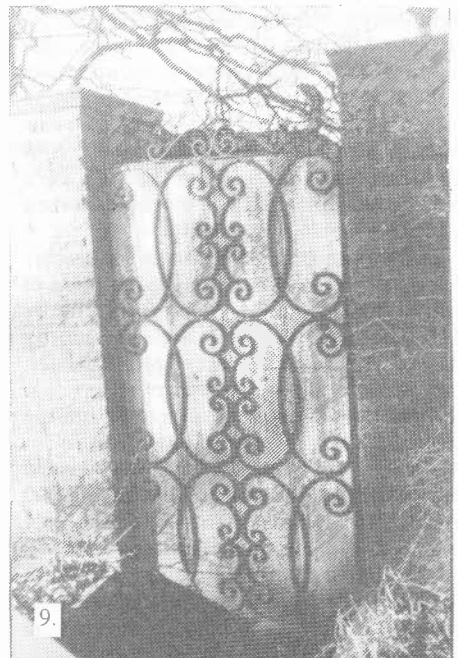
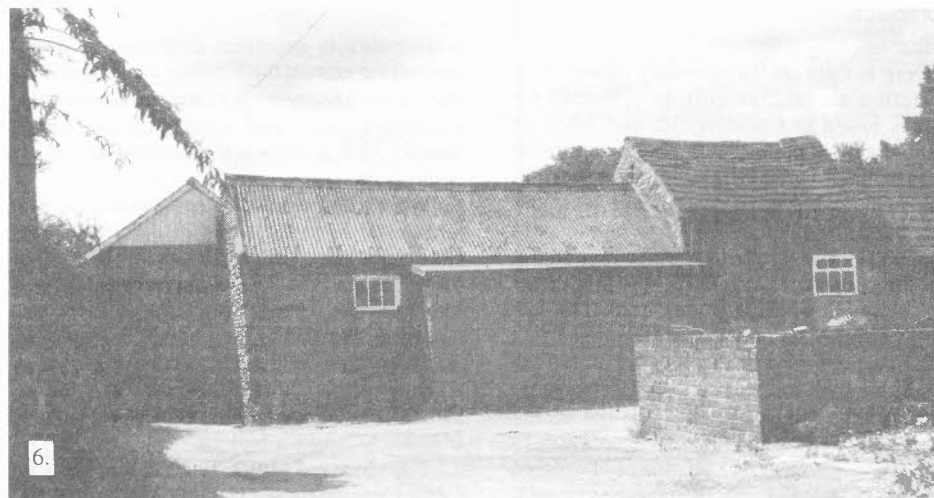
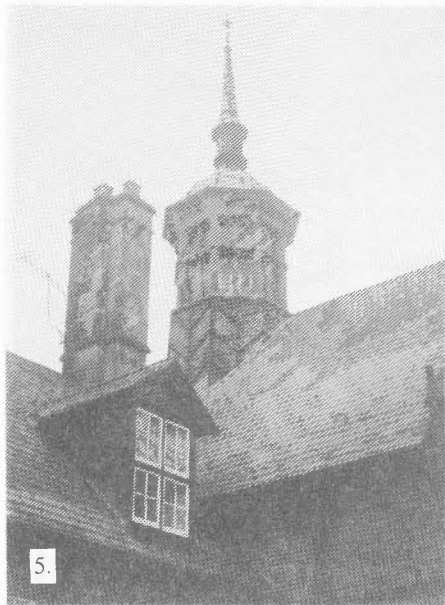


THE VICTORIA WINE COMPANY

Merry Christmas to all our Customers
from Allyson and Staff

DORE DENTAL CARE

Seasons Greetings to all our Patients
from Dore Dental Care - Tel 2368402



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*Compliments of the Season
 to all our customers*

GREENS
HOME AND GARDEN SUPPLIES
*Compliments of the Season
 to all our customers*

VALERIE OF DORE
 Send Christmas and New Year
 Greeting to all our customers

John Purcell
 Gentlemen's Hairdressing,
 Ladies Spring Court
Seasons Greeting to all our customers

Dore Classics
 Seasons Greetings to all customers past and present
 Thanking you for your support and loyalty

Kurtz **HAIR DESIGN**
 Make sure 1995 starts in style!
 happy New Year to all our customers

HAIR PLUS
*Wishing our Customers
 love, joy and peace at
 Christmas*

JOHN CLARK DAIRYMAN
 John and Sandra wish all their customers a
 Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



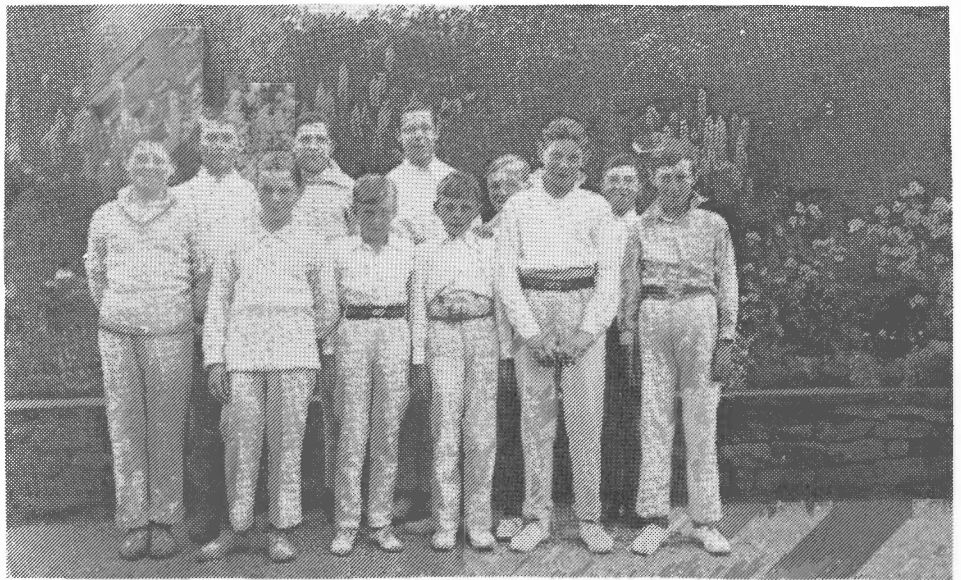
Farming Notes

After all the hype, Vesting Day came and went with hardly a flurry. Vesting Day was the day the Milk Marketing Board ceased to be. In its place is a voluntary co-op named Milk Marque due to start operations on April 1st. This was put back to November 1st because of various shenanigans by the dairy trade.

Farmers have always grumbled about the Milk Board, but the prospect of being without it, suddenly concentrated the mind. Only two farmers in the Dore, Fulwood, Totley area have left Milk Marque and signed with Northern Diaries. Northern Diaries have put enormous pressure on farmers to sign with them direct, offering 2¹/₂p per litre above whatever MM pay. The big dairy companies hoped that if they could sign up dairy producers direct, and kill MM at birth they would be able to control the price of their raw material. So far they've not managed that. It remains to be seen whether there'll be a trickle away from MM if they maintain their price differential.

In the meantime, dairy farms are heartily sick of all the stories, claiming the price of milk to the customer is being forced up by MM. The price to the dairies has hardly changed. Any price increase is profiteering ... sorry ... restoring margins. The only people paying significantly more are the cheese manufacturers, for reasons too involved for this article. It's a bit of a mystery why the MMB was abolished, considering 30,000 farmers broadly wanted to keep it and only about 6 dairy companies were for closing it. Rumour has it that the directors of a large Northern based group are related to some Northern based MP and blood is thicker than water ... or milk. You read it first here. Another national scoop for Dore to Door.

On the farm, the only difference we noticed was that the nice new milk tanker which had already been painted in the Milk Marque colours and logo was replaced by an old A reg. blue MMB tanker not seen for years. The driver sported a new jersey, though! The big difference between now and October 1933 when the MMB started, is the EEC quota system which restricts UK production (including New Zealand imports) to 80% of demand. As long as this artificial shortage exists, milk production should be



Who's for cricket? Back row third from left - Bernard Elshaw; Middle - Stanley Bingham. Front middle - Dick Wragg; second right - Jack Marsden; far right - Frank Wragg. Picture sent in by Mrs Wragg.

profitable.

Dore is right on the boundary of two milk collection areas. Our milk is collected by tankers based in Chesterfield, and taken to Nottingham for bottling and processing; to be brought back to Sheffield for distribution. Milk in Fulwood is taken to Wakefield, and then brought back. This is because past business rates in Sheffield were so high that it was far cheaper to cart milk to other cities than maintain bottling plants here. The last one at Brightside and Carbrook closed last year. Sheffield must be the only big city in the country with no milk processing plants and no large slaughterhouse. Farmers dislike seeing livestock travelling long distances as much as anyone else, but as more abattoires are forced out of business through increased overheads (particularly of rates and local authority inspection charges) animals have to travel further and further.

On the arable side of the farm the cereal harvest went quite well. Some of the winter oats had suffered in the wet January and February but produced a passable crop. The spring sown barley at Dore Moor was a fairly late harvest but yielded about 35 cwt per acre. These are low yields by today's standards, but greatly save on feed bills in the winter. The weather just came right at the beginning of October. The ground was all drilled with

winter oats in excellent condition. It's just coming up now in the Hunting Field, Landslip and Seven Acre. so far, we've not had the clouds of rooks and wood pigeons which usually give it such a hammering just as its coming up.

We've had a bit of fun rounding up the young cattle in the field on Parkers Lane. Cattle get very attached to their field when they've been in it all summer long, and don't like to leave. The Venture Scouts spent two hours chasing them around and then gave up. They needed to be driven down Rushley Avenue to the Garden Field but our attempts also failed, and we had to resort to subterfuge. It's nice to outwit a bullock.

The fence has been erected in the 9 acre on Cross Lane where the Gerald Haythornthwaite wood is to be planted. These trees will provide some much needed shelter in the field, although it will take a few years yet before they are significant.

Richard Farnsworth

Peatland Campaign

The Sheffield Peatland Campaign is a partnership between Sheffield City Council, Sheffield Environment Forum and all the voluntary conservation groups in the city. The aim is to make Sheffield a peat-free zone. Only by persuading people to use alternatives to peat will we save our last remaining peatlands.

Sheffield Peatland Campaign offers information about alternative products which can be used instead of peat. It also promotes better management and protection of our existing peatland sites.

The City Council has already signed the National Peatland Protection Charter in 1991 and promises to phase out all peat use by 1996.

You can become an individual supporter of the Campaign - a peatland protector. We will send you details of all forthcoming events, guided walks on peatland sites, information on peat free gardening, composting techniques and all the latest news.

Send a cheque or postal order for £3.00, made payable to Sheffield Centre for Ecology Unit, to Jean Glasscock at Sheffield Ecological Unit, City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield S10 2PT.

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<p>DEBT COLLECTION</p> <p>Using Debitlaw computerised system for cost-effective debt recovery. All areas of civil litigation Contact: Mark Fowler</p>	<p>PERSONAL INJURY AND LITIGATION</p> <p>Accidents on roads, holiday, at work and personal compensation actions Contact: Bill Eames, Sean Loughie</p>	<p>COMPANY FINANCING AND COMMERCIAL MATTERS</p> <p>Including contracts of employment, planning law and commercial contracts. Banking law Contact: Peter Rylands</p>	<p>MATRIMONIAL</p> <p>Child law and maintenance. Injunctions, separation and divorce. Property settlement Contact: Angela Coles</p>

City Plaza, 2 Pinfold Street, Sheffield S1 2GU Tel: 0742 700999
also at Dronfield and Staveley

News in Brief

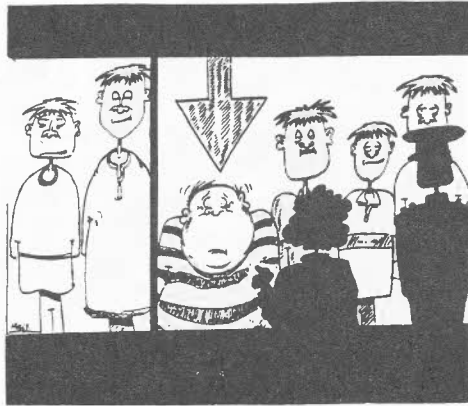
Shape Design has sold their site on Abbeydale Road South and leased back the retail shop after lengthy negotiations. This step guarantees the continuation of the Edwards family business in the area for years to come. At the same time there are plans to reopen the restaurant early in the New Year. The third part of the site will be occupied by Sheffield Architects Ritchie and Rennie. Shape, whilst continuing the retail shop, will broaden their interior design services from home and workplace. The contract section which has recently been working on the much acclaimed Atrium at Sheffield Hallam University, has been retained as design consultants to Essex University and Anglo United Plc and is currently producing interior design schemes for various customers including the Maynard Arms at Grindleford.

Totley Library will be closed from 24th to 27th December, shutting at 5.30pm on the 28th and closed on 2 January.

The **inaugural tree planting** of the Haythornthwaite Commemorative Woodland, at the junction of Brickhouse Lane and Hathersage Road, will take place at 2pm on Saturday 26 November. Gerald Haythornthwaite will plant the first tree, assisted by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress.

The **Good Pub Guide for 1995** has a solitary entry for Sheffield in the shape of the Fat Cat in Alma Street, with awards for excellent beer and cheap snacks. In contrast there are 13 listed pubs in North Derbyshire including the Miners Arms in Eyam.

WANTED



VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY REQUIRED TO ASSIST IN

Identification Parades

South Yorkshire Police are looking for volunteers for identification parades at West Bar police station. There is a payment of £10 for the first hour, ie 5 minutes - 59 minutes, £15 for 1 hour to 1hr 59 minutes.

They are looking for male or female volunteers aged between 12 years - 65 years of any shape, colour or size. If you would like to help please contact Andy Kaye or John Bradshaw on 0114 276 8522 Ext 4181 or 4217.

Repeat Victimisation

A recent Home Office report highlighted

the problem of repeat victimisation, particularly relating to domestic burglary. Repeat victimisation is when the same person or place suffers from more than one criminal incident over a specified period of time.

Once a house has been burgled its chance of repeat victimisation is four times higher than a house that had not been burgled before. The likelihood of a repeat burglary within one month is 12 times the expected rate. Of repeat burglaries within one month, half occurred within 7 days.

Surveys of convicted burglars have indicated that once they successfully attack premises they feel a certain safety when repeating the offence. That is to say having got away with it once they tend to try their hand again.

A sad state of affairs but there are two clear messages: **One.** Try very hard not to be a victim in the first instance. Most domestic alarms, patio locks, 5 lever B.S. locks etc are fitted after a burglary. It makes sense to fit those security precautions *before* you are a victim. **Two.** If you are burgled statistics indicate that you may well be burgled again within the month. Don't sit back and think lightning doesn't strike twice. It does! Get that security updated.

Deadline for Spring Diary Events Monday

6th February 1995

Ring 236 9025 or write to the Editor

DORE GRILL RESTAURANT

36 Church Lane, Dore, Sheffield S17 3GSS
Telephone (0114) 262 0035

Proprietor José Muino welcomes you
Dore Grill & Restaurant is once again offering the finest English and Continental Cuisine.
Full Table D'Hôte & A La Carte. Conference Rooms are also available.

Private Parties Catered for

**Fresh Grimsby Fish, Grilled Whole Lemon Sole,
Grilled Salmon Steak, Whole Lobster with Salad
or Thermidor, King Prawns & Garlic Butter**

CHRISTMAS FARE LUNCHEON (3 COURSE) MON TO FRI £10.50

SMOKED MACKEREL
(with hot Horseradish Sauce and garnished
with Side Salad)

CHICKEN LIVER PATE
(served with Finger Toast)

SOUP OF THE DAY

PRAWN, APPLE AND CELERY
COCKTAIL

ROASTED LOCAL TURKEY
(with Chipolata, Bacon Roll and Savoury
Seasoning)

ROASTED LEG OF PORK
(with Apple Sauce and Savoury
Seasoning)

GOUJONS OF PLAICE
(Strips of Plaice, Bread Crumbed and
Deep Fried)

VEGETARIAN PANCAKE
(filled with Vegetables and glazed with
Cheese)

All main courses served with Potatoes
and Seasonal Vegetables

Choice from the Sweet Trolley or
Christmas Pudding

Tea or Coffee with Mint £1.25

CHRISTMAS FARE DINNER (4 COURSE) MON TO SAT £16.50

HOT SMOKED MACKEREL
(with melted Butter and Salad)

SMOKED TROUT WITH HORSERADISH
SAUCE
(garnished with Salad)

CHICKEN LIVER PATE
(with Finger Toast)

PRAWN COCKTAIL

MELON FAN WITH FRUIT
ROASTED LOCAL TURKEY
(served with Chipolata, Bacon Roll and
Savoury Seasoning)

ROAST LEG OF PORK
(Served with Apple Sauce and Savoury
Seasoning)

RUMP STEAK CHASSEAUR
(cooked in Red wine, Demi Glass, Tomatoes and
Mushroom Sauce)

FRENCH POACHED SALMON STEAK
(served with a Lemon Sauce)

VEGETARIAN MUSHROOM
STROGANOFF
(served on a Bed of Rice)

Served with Potatoes and Seasonal
Vegetables

Choice from the Sweet Trolley or
Christmas Pudding

Coffee and Dinner Mints

Times of Opening

Christmas Fare Lunches December Only

Christmas Fare Lunches Served: Monday to Friday 12 - 2.30pm

Dinner Served: Monday to Saturday 6.00 - 11.00pm

Sunday Lunch: Sunday 12.00 - 2.30pm

Open Boxing Day for lunch only Dinner dances on request during December

NEW MENUS FROM JANUARY 1995

£1-Liners

To cash in on unwanted items or promote your services locally, simply place an entry in this special classified section.

All you have to do is complete a form available at Greens shop on Causeway Head Road (or phone Sheffield 236 9025) and return it along with a fee of £1 per line. Your entry will then appear in the next published issue.

CHEZ VOUS CATERING Dinner parties - entertain in your own home. Also Childrens Parties, Buffets, Special Occasions and Business Functions. Tel Elaine 236 7668 or Jayne 236 2921

HATE IRONING. Let me do it for you. Phone 236 9180

SWISS CHALET TO LET Situated in picturesque walking country with magnificent views of mountains. Ideal for skiing holidays in the winter. Lounge with wooden ceiling, balcony and log fire. Three bedrooms, modern kitchen and bathroom. Centrally heated. Details of rates and weeks available from 0629 640752 evenings or Sheffield 262 0476 office hours.

PENINA ALGARVE PORTUGAL. Luxury ground floor apartment sleeps 4/5. Large pool. Beach. Moderate rent Wk/Fort/Month. Tel 0114 236 0110.

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DOG MINDING Shirley Richardson will love and care for your dog for a day - week - month. Your dog lives with us in the house, not in a kennel. Ring 236 7333 evenings.

CARPET CLEANING - as used by some of the finest local homes, call (Dore) 262 1345.

UPHOLSTERY CLEANING - as above. Use us, don't compromise, call (Dore) 262 1345.

RUG CLEANING - as above S.Yorkshire's only Professional Cleaners Association member, call (Dore) 262 1345.

CATERING WITH STYLE Special Occasions, Christmas Buffets & Dinner Parties etc. Sue Lamont 0246 239835

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JULIA OWEN local antique dealer looking to purchase any old items, large or small Phone 236 9447 or see me at the Antiques Emporium off Broadfield Road.

PICTURE FRAMING. Local. G Thomas 236 3431

HALL FOR HIRE - suitable for meetings, parties, shows etc. Kitchen available. Dore Junior School. Tel 368283

Children start the Fun Run at Whirlow Hall Farm Fayre.



Whirlow Hall Farm Trust

The Whirlow Hall Farm Fayre in September attracted 11,000 visitors to a wide range of activities and entertainments, ranging from falconry demonstrations to Brass Bands. There was also a very successful Craft Marquee with exhibitors selling a wide range of handmade goods. One the day, a record £24,000 was raised for the Trust's work with disabled and disadvantaged city children. Many thanks to those residents of Dore who attended and helped towards this fantastic figure.

The main fundraising project at the Farm is the conversion of an old barn into a residential unit designed with the wheelchair user in mind. This will be a unique opportunity for disabled children and young adults to enjoy the sense of freedom already experienced by some 1500 children every year who stay overnight at the Farm. It is hoped that work will begin in the New Year.

George Cunningham, the well-known Sheffield artist, has once again painted a Christmas Card exclusively for Whirlow Hall Farm Trust. This is available during normal office hours from the Trust Office, at the special price of £2.25 for 5 cards or telephone 235 2678 for further details. Orders are also being taken for oven ready fresh Turkeys, either call personally at the Farm or telephone to place an order.

Although the farm is not normally open to the public, organised visits from playgroups, schools, scouts, guides and adult groups can be arranged by telephoning Ian Longden on 236 0096.

Lambing days are held during the early Spring when there will be an opportunity for the public to visit and see Whirlow Hall Farm at work. Further details in the next edition of Dore to Door.

News in brief

Dore Grill like any other local business has to advertise to survive, so it can hardly be blamed for buying into the Council's latest money raising wheeze - see front page of our last issue. Infact proprietor Jose Muino does a lot to support the village through donations to local organisations including providing the sheep for the Scout Gala lamb roast and advertising in local magazines.

Problem pictures

Unfortunately the quality of pictures in our Autumn edition was not up to our usual standard due to technical problems. Our apologies to those featured - hopefully those in this issue will be back to normal. **Ed.**

100 years ago

The following extract on Ecclesall Workhouse is taken from the Sheffield and Rotherham Independent, Christmas Week 1894.

".....the Guardians of this Union have for many years past endeavoured at this season to make the poor people under their care as happy as possible, and this year has not been the exception. The Board provided the usual roast beef, plum pudding &c. and to this many kind friends contributed. Christmas letters containing illuminated cards were sent by Mrs Thomas S Ellis of Brincliffe Mount, and these were placed under the pillow of each inmate. The dining hall has recently been beautifully painted and decorated by pauper labour under the superintendance of the Workhouse Master, Mr James Walton and it was further beautified with festoons, mottoes &c., made by the willing and dextrous hands of Mrs Walton (the matron). The dinner, which was the most important item of the day, was served in a highly creditable manner, and everyone appeared to thoroughly enjoy it. - After dinner several hymns were sung, and at the conclusion, Mr W Ibbotson on behalf of the Guardians said it afforded him great pleasure to be present and to see all so happy and contented..."

The 1894 Xmas Number of the Weekly Independent was advertised as 'A Remarkable Pennyworth'. It contained 'A speciality of Tales' including the intriguingly entitled 'Christmas Day up a Telegraph Pole' by C. Tolputt, described as 'A thrilling tale of the Russian Steppes - and cannot fail to keep the reader intensely interested' Jokes, Pictures and Conundrums are interspersed on every page. Very entertaining reading is furnished by the competition essays which include - A Story in Sheffield Dialect, the candid confessions of several ladies on Why I Married my Husband. Making in all an Xmas present which should not, on any account, be missed'.

Air Training Corps

We have been fortunate in Dore that since 1974, the local ATC have added both music and dignity to Remembrance Day. I'm sure we've all been impressed by their discipline. Bitter weather is frequent in November. Added to this, marching at the crossroads last year was more like negotiating a torrent. They live up to their squadron's motto "To strive and not to yield". They are the only Queens own uniformed organisation in the area and the 366 Squadron (one of 55 units in the City) has a catchment area of the whole of West Sheffield, perhaps a third are from Dore - a short walk from the village centre to the headquarters on the Mercia site of King Egbert School.

The squadron was founded in 1974 by

Flight Lieutenant A.L. Stevens who ran it for about 10 years. It is now run by Flight Lieutenant David Rowe who has 45 cadets of 13-20 years old in his charge at the moment. In September they also take part in the anniversary of the Battle of Britain, parading at the City Cenotaph Barkers Pool with the Fellowship of Services. The band is drawn from any members showing an interest. This varies and has sometimes been a sizeable group. Probably this year it will be two buglers - and, Hannah Ward who returns from University to take part.

Other activities besides drill, are the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme - orienteering adventure training, navigation and air experience flights. There has been a strong link with R.A.F. Finningley for the latter, and it is with some apprehension that the ATC plan future events. (RAF Finningley is due to

close in April 96) Air experience flights can still run from Church Fenton, but this is little more than a hut at the end of a runway so fingers are crossed that suitable facilities will be found.

Do cadets join the Armed Forces for a career? There is always interest but selection is becoming increasingly tight, with more academic qualifications demanded. Many of the service jobs on site are now "civilianised" with staff only working office hours. However a recent ATC Dore Cadet - Luke Jeeves was accepted by 29 Commandos, and is putting his training to good effect. If you would like to help the half dozen volunteers who run this worthwhile organisation (Tues & Fri evenings) please ring Flight Lieutenant Rowe Tel: 0246 415084. No RAF background necessary.

Gillian Farnsworth

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Surgery behind Dore Chemist,

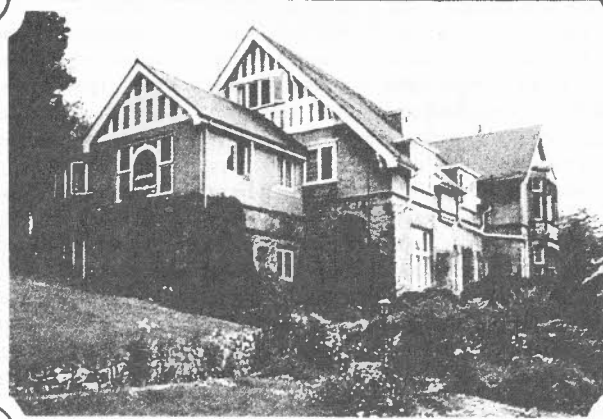
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The Yorkshire Tiger

So many of us now live so much of our lives vicariously through the TV screen that we are more familiar with the lion, leopard and cheetah than with our native fauna.

And yet for those who take the trouble to seek them out, we have carnivores of our own which, size for size, are more formidable than any of the big cats. A lion weighing 350 pounds may bring down a 700-pound zebra and throttle it to death, but there are hunters on our fells that have a far more fearsome power. A half-pound stoat will kill a three-pound rabbit as a matter of routine, using a single bite into the hindbrain. A female weasel, small enough to curl up inside a tennis ball, will slaughter an adult rat, and then fall in a savage fury upon its nestling young. No night-forest tiger even burned so bright.

Stoats and weasels are similar in appearance, though the old epigram has it that they are "weaselly distinguished because they are stoatily different". A large male stoat may be the size of a small ferret, whilst a small female weasel may be hardly larger than a long mouse. At close quarters the watery-red upper parts of a weasel are separated from its pure white under-parts by a wavy line, whereas the line between the stoat's golden-brown back and creamy belly is straighter. The stoat also differs from the weasel from having a black tip to its tail, and in sometimes turning white (except for the tail tip) in winter.

Stoats and weasels are found throughout Great Britain, but are particularly prevalent in the Dales because such a large proportion of our landscape is suited to their hidden lifestyles. They thrive on our damp moors and rough pastures, they reach full potential in our rabbit-infested woods, and they share our love of drystone walls. The thick old walls around our moors are so much to their taste that individuals will sometimes defend 'ribbon' territories a couple of miles long and only 50 yards wide, keeping at all times within sprinting distance of a wall.

When you chance upon a stoat or weasel which takes refuge in a wall, you need only hide a few yards downwind and wait for it to peep back out. If you make a repeated small squeak by sucking between thumb, forefinger and lips, you will hasten the process. The speed with which the little sprite can scurry along inside the wall will astonish you. A head pokes out here, disappears, and pokes back out twenty yards away a second or two later.

Surely there must be two? But no, it leaves the wall and dashes a little way towards you, slips down a mole run and pops up ten yards off to the left. Then it catches your scent and is gone, leaving your heart thumping and your soul aglow. Recently I called up a weasel like



Male weasel with field vole

this from over 200 yards away to within touching distance of my feet, over rough pasture on a thorn-clad hillside. No tawny-maned lion ever pleased me so much.

Gamekeepers use the same trick to shoot what they regard as 'ermine vermin' whenever they see them. They also make little stone tunnels where moor walls meet peaty becks and put their traps inside. Stoats and weasels will be caught even when there is no bait in the tunnel, for they are unfailingly inquisitive. It saddens me to see something as vibrantly alive as a weasel lying dead in a trap but, in fact, the keeper is the least of its enemies. Numbers are controlled by the competition between individuals – as well as between stoats and weasels themselves – and its effect on the delicate balance between parasites, disease and food supply.

When numbers are low the territories are large, food supply is plentiful, the effect of parasites and disease is minimal, large litters are born and more young survive. Research has shown that the average lifespan of a stoat or weasel – about a year – is much the same on both kept and unkept land. The only effect of persecution is to deepen the population trough in late winter, thus giving nesting game birds a chance in spring.

Stoats and weasels mainly eat small

mammals. The classic prey of the stoat is young rabbits, whilst the weasel is a perfect 'mouser'. It used to be said that a weasel can pass through a man's wedding ring, though it would have to come from quite a big finger. Certainly the runs of field voles and moles beneath tussocky grass are its normal haunts, and the vole its chief prey.

However, stoats and weasels also include birds, nestlings and eggs in their diets. Healthy adult birds may fall foul of a lightning attack from cover before they have a chance to take off, but more usually they are taken from roosts in stone walls or ivy-covered trees. One of the most unusual tricks for catching birds is to try and mesmerise them with a show of acrobatics, edging closer all the while.

I watched a stoat on a small patch of sand below Bolton Bridge a few months ago, performing somersaults, rolling, chasing its tail, and doing what I can only describe as "hand-brake" turns in an attempt to attract a group of mallard from the rocks in midstream. In this particular instance the dance of death failed, though stoats do kill mallard. I once saw from tracks in the snow where a stoat had grabbed a ground-roosting mallard and been carried several dozen yards in flight before bringing it down.

The keeper's concern for his pheasant and grouse chicks is no doubt justified, but any losses that he inflicts in spring are more than redeemed by better survival of the young in summer. Young weasels born in spring may even be having young of their own before autumn, though stoats have only one litter each year. The sex life of the stoat is best not examined too closely by those of an anthropomorphic bent. Only the female comes out of it with any credit, for she takes sole responsibility for raising the litter. Her lion-hearted qualities are never better exhibited than when she is defending her young.

One bright day in late May I was accosted by a stoat chattering angrily at me from holes amongst dead bracken on Hazelwood Moor. I approached what seemed to be her main nest hole on hands and knees, squeaking all the while. When I was still a few feet away she suddenly charged out straight at my face, stopping within arm's length. For a few seconds, as she stood spitting fire and venom, I thought she would rip into me, but she disappeared as quickly as she had come, leaving me with nothing but admiration for her valour.

Later I heard that she had been seen carrying her young away, one by one, to a safer refuge. And later again I met her and her family still together at the height of summer, six or more almost fully grown stoats hunting as a pack. Pity the warren that they were about to raid.

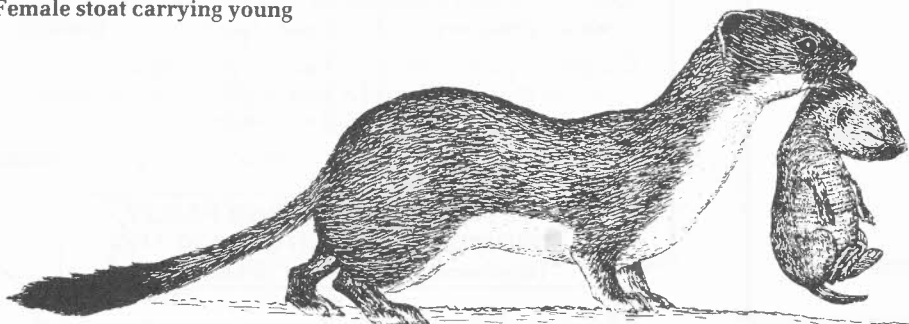
And so, when you tire of televised lions and tigers, remember your stoats and weasels out there in the Dales. To the keeper they are little tubes of malevolent power, with teeth at one end and smells at the other, distillates of all the fumes of hell. To me they are delightful imps, packing as much action as they can into a short life and tiny frame, far more worthy of admiration than any indolent feline.

Roger Nelson

This article is based on one published earlier in the year in the Dalesman.

Roger Nelson is the author of "A Dales Naturalist," published by Dalesman, price £12.95, telephone 0756 701326

Female stoat carrying young



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Diary - Winter 1994

to 23 December. **Metamorphosis.** An exhibition of pots, prints, paper, & collage by Norman & Jean Cherry at Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet.

NOVEMBER

- 14-2 Dec **Art Exhibition.** By Mrs Fearnie. Totley Library.
- 19 **Competitive Music Festival.** Dore & Totley Community Arts Group. King Egbert School. For syllabus Tel 236 6212. Evening winners concert 6.00 to 7.00pm.
- 21 **A Victorian Christmas.** Mike Williamson. Totley Residents Assn 7.45pm Totley Library. Free. Tickets from Library.
- 21 **Paper Mills in South Yorkshire.** Talk by Tanya Schmoller for Sheffield Trades Historical Society 7.30pm Health & Safety Laboratories, Broad Lane. Tel 230 7693.
- 22 **Dancing for fun.** Dore Church Social Committee. Church Hall Townhead Road 8pm-11pm. All welcome. Tel 365274.
- 23 **Autumn Fair.** Dore Infant School 3.10pm
- 23 **Autumn Meeting.** Dore Village Society. Talk by Dr Ian Rotherham 8.00pm Old Village School.
- 23-26 **There goes the bride.** A comedy. TOADS, St John's Church Hall 7.30pm Tickets 236 6891.
- 26 **Haythornthwaite Woodland.** Inaugural tree planting. Brickhouse Lane 2pm.
- 29 to 11 December. **Christmas Exhibition.** By Brian Edwards at Shape Design. See news in brief.
- 30 **Conservative Councillors' Surgery.** Totley Library 5.30pm-7pm.

DECEMBER

- 3 **Santa's Grotto.** 11am to 1.00pm Dore Junior School.
- 5 **Carols & Readings.** Joint performance by Dore(E) and Mercia Towns Women's Guilds, Dore 7.30pm.
- 7-11 **Victorian Christmas Market.** Kelham Island museum. Normal times of opening and prices.
- 10 **Christmas Concert.** With Sheffield Teachers Choir. Dore & Totley United Reformed Church. 7.30pm Tickets £3 (concessions £2) Tel 236 4440.
- 14 **Christmas Party.** Dore(E)T.G.
- 12 **Watercolours Art display.** By Mrs Jennings. Totley Library.
- 12 **80 years in a Small Coal Mine.** Talk by David Flack for Sheffield Trades Historical Society 7.30pm Health & Safety Laboratories, Broad Lane. Tel 230 7693.
- 13 **Gainsborough Old Hall.** Talk by Naomi Field for Hunter Archaeological Society. 7.00pm Arts Tower University of Sheffield. Visitors welcome.
- 14 **Liberal Democrats Councillors' Surgery.** Totley Library 5.30pm-7pm.
- 16 **Christmas Carol Concert.** Totley Library. With children from Totley Primary. 10.15am onwards. Coffee & mince pies. Free admission.
- 16 **Carol Singing.** Village Green 6.30pm to 7.30pm by Dore Infant School. Light refreshments.

Dore to Dore is published quarterly by Dore Village Society and delivered free to 3000 homes in the Dore area. If you are interested in submitting an article or letter, have local news to report, or wish to place an advertisement, please contact the Editor on 236 9025 (evenings) or write to 8 Thornsett Gardens, Dore, Sheffield S17 3PP.

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- 16 & **Christmas Concert.** Dore Male Voice Choir, Church Hall,
17 Townhead Road 7pm Tickets 236 3903.
- 21-22 **Christmas Fayre.** Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet. 10.00am to
9.00pm see advertisement.

JANUARY

- 7 **Christmas Dinner Dance.** Dore Church Social Committee Tel
236 5274.
- 10 **The Company of Cutlers.** Talk by Mrs Julie MacDonald for
Hunter Archaeological Society. 7.00pm Arts Tower University of
Sheffield. Visitors welcome.
- 11 **The Salvation Army Around The World.** Mrs Dorothy Rowney.
Dore(E)t.G. Old School 7.45pm.
- 16 **The Cutlers' Company.** Talk by Julie Macdonald for Sheffield
Trades Historical Society 7.30pm Health & Safety Laboratories,
Broad Lane. Tel 230 7693.

FEBRUARY

- 6 **Chapels & Churches in South Yorkshire.** Talk by Dr Clive
Binfield for Hallamshire Historic Building Society. 7.30pm
Quaker Meeting House St James Street. £1
- 14 **Neolithic Axe Production - Great Langdale.** Talk by Dr Mark
Edmonds for Hunter Archaeological Society. 7.00pm Arts Tower
University of Sheffield. Visitors welcome.

Every Thursday. Coffee morning. United Reformed Church. Totley
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Every Thursday. Ladies Keep-fit. United Reformed Church. Totley
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