

DORE to DOOR

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

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Dore Playground Project

All those living in and around Dore know how inadequate the existing facilities for play are on the Dore Recreation Ground. The Dore Playground Action Group has been formed with the aim of improving the play area by fencing it off and providing suitable flooring and equipment. This is inevitably expensive, with only so much money available towards the project from Council funds.

So far the local Cub Scout movement have been very supportive and have raised money for the Playground and the Dore Fun Run organisers have promised monies from this years planned event. The Lodge of Industry number 6579 have presented a cheque for £500 on behalf of South Yorkshire Freemasonry, and Dore to Door Catering have offered a gingerbread house for auction.

Other financial pledges have been made by Garfitts International Ltd of Halfway, and by Turf Machinery Ltd of Woking.

Many thanks to all who have helped so far, but we have a long way to go to raise the necessary cash. So please can you help. Do you work for or know a local company or organisation that might be able to make a donation or offer help in kind? If so please sound them out for us, or pass on details for us to follow up. Alternatively please support any fund raising events we run or if you can please let us have a donation. Money raised is being held in a special Dore Village Society Charity Account and with Council help all expenditure will be net of VAT. For more information contact Julie Brooks on 262 0712, or write to Mrs Samantha Porter, Dore Playground Action Group, 21 Causeway Head Road S17 3DR.

Letters

Dear sir,

I would like to draw your attention to the dangerous situation at the foot of Causeway Head Road by the Midland Bank, paper shop etc. Pedestrians wanting to cross the road, have to walk between the cars, and wait in the road until it is safe to cross.

Regretfully, a fortnight before Christmas, I was hit twice by a car reversing out as I was about to cross the road. Finally, the driver saw that I'd been hit, stopped and got out, otherwise I would have been run over. As I have had ongoing problems since a hip replacement, it was a very painful experience, and frightening too.

If for some reason, drivers can't park facing the way they are going, I would like to ask through the magazine, that they be extremely vigilant for pedestrian waiting to cross the road.

D Cobain (Miss)



Drawing of the Lych Gate by Sheffield artist Brian Smith who will be exhibiting a selection of watercolours and sketches of Dore Village at the Open Day on the 7th March.

**DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY
OPEN DAY
Saturday 7 March
9am to 1pm
Old School, Dore**

Dore Recreation Ground

As we go to press there is consternation over notices that have appeared in the recreation ground announcing proposals to plant 1,000 trees. This will be done by the International Tree Foundation following an approach by them to the Recreation Dept for a suitable site.

Unfortunately the Dore Village Society was not initially consulted on this proposal, nor was it advised in advance of the tree felling recently carried out at the Town Head Road entrance.

Arrangements have now been made to meet Council officials on the site, before work takes place, and to ensure planting follows the development plans drawn up for us by Sheffield Wildlife.

We believe the proposed trees will be native species and planted at 1 metre intervals along existing boundaries within the site, not open areas. The space actually taken up will be small, and no doubt there will be a high subsequent mortality rate.

Doorsteps to disappear

In future all new homes will have to be built with "level thresholds", to ensure access for wheelchairs. This follows a decade of lobbying by organisations representing the disabled and the elderly and is likely to be implemented by April 1999.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation first suggested the idea of a "Lifetime Home" that would last from cradle to grave. 16 changes were suggested by their recent report - changes that the average home would have to undergo, including many internal ones. Most of these have been accepted by the Construction Minister Nick Royston.

The level threshold is already mandatory for public buildings, shops and offices, many of which now suffer water damage in heavy rain. Steep slopes must also be avoided, resulting in a complete redesign of the plot. If a car can reach the back door, that can be the level threshold. The only exemption will be for houses built on steep slopes where steps are unavoidable. Much of Sheffield is built on steep slopes so it will be interesting to see where exemptions will be allowed.

So the doorstep, so useful for keeping out dust, draughts and downpours will go. Carrying your bride "over the slope" doesn't sound quite so romantic.

Gillian Farnsworth

INSIDE: The Dore Village Society; Wildlife garden; Farming notes; Planning; Clandestine Newts; Matrimony in mind; Spring Diary; Letters & News.

Calling all readers

Dore to Door comes to you courtesy of the Dore Village Society. But are you a member? We would like you to know a little more about the Society and the work it undertakes. Hence the information on this page and the forthcoming Open Morning on Saturday the 7th March.

The Society

The Dore Village Society was formed in 1964 and has been run by a changing band of volunteers ever since. It is in its way unique, being a cross between a community association, historical society, environmental group and parish council. Most fundamentally it is whatever the residents of Dore want it to be!

Since 1993 the Society has been a registered charity, with officers and committee elected at an AGM each May. It is involved in numerous projects, most of which people are perhaps unaware of. So here goes:

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

Main activities:

Communication & publishing. Dore to Door is published quarterly as a means of communication within the community, as a platform for the publication and exchange of

historic information, and as a medium for raising environmental awareness. The Society also periodically publishes books, leaflets and maps covering the history of development of the community, its environment and amenities. There is also a set of notelets showing local views and an annual Christmas Card.

Public meetings. Public presentations by outside speakers on subjects of interest and relevance to the community, including appropriate debate. These are open to anyone living in Dore and are free of charge.

Dore Collection. Collecting, cataloguing, displaying and research on, material relevant to the history and locality of Dore. We have been building up the collection by the purchase of material, copying of photographs & documents etc Please let us know if you have any old pictures of Dore, memories, or items of interest. The Society now has its own room at the Old School, used for storage, research and committee meetings.

Conservation & Planning. Protecting and enhancing the local environment by - monitoring and commenting on planning applications (especially in the conservation area), - active membership of organisations having overlapping objectives to those of the society, - working with and petitioning the local authority and its councillors, - initiating, funding and progressing ideas and projects with a direct environmental or community benefit. The Society is an associate member of CPRE, the Open Spaces Society, Friends of Ecclesall Woods (FEW), Abbeydale & Shepherd Wheel Action Trust (ASWAT), and the Royal Horticultural Society.

Dore Show. Organising and sponsoring the annual September village horticultural and crafts show.

Dore Playground Project. Raising funds for, and organising, improvement of the children's play facilities within Dore Recreation Ground. This is the first initiative as part of a wider recreation ground improvement project based on our public survey and plans drawn up for us by the Sheffield Wildlife Trust.

Legal fund. Creating and maintaining a fighting fund reserve in anticipation of any future legal support costs in fighting for the interests of the community.

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

Spring Meeting
7pm Wednesday 4 March
Old School Hall
Illustrated talk by Tony Davis
from the National Trust

Environment Weeks

Sheffield Environment Weeks this year will run from Saturday 9th May to Monday the 25th inclusive.

Last year there were a record breaking 235 events involving 92 organisations or Council departments. Events ranged from exhibitions to talks, from clean-ups to surveys, and over 10,000 people took part. This year offers an equally exciting programme, so watch out for details in the press and locally.

Once again the Dore Village Society will be taking part, including circulating leaflets giving details of recycling options. However, if you have any ideas or suggestions, or if a group you are involved in will be taking part, please let us know. Our environmental contact is Roger Millican who can be reached on 262 0012.

Gala & Festival Week

A varied programme is once again being planned for this years Scout and Guide Gala & Festival Week, which will run from 4 - 12 July. There will be a wide range of events put on by local organisations. More details will be included in the next Dore to Door.

Sarah Hackel would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in helping with the Village Well Dressing. This year, the plan is to erect the Well Dressing on the Green on Saturday 4 July, so as to be on view during the Festival week. The Well Dressing Service will be on Sunday 12th July after the Gala on Saturday 11th July.

The Gardens Open afternoon has proved increasingly popular so we would like to include as wide a variety of gardens as possible, large or small, themed, formal or otherwise. If you are proud of your garden and would like to share your ideas with others and to know more about what is involved, please contact Julie Bearpark.

Contacts:

Well dressing	Sarah Hackel	Tel 236 4279
Gardens Open	Julie Bearpark	Tel 236 9100
Festival Week	Anne Elsdon	Tel 236 0002
	Syd Crowson	Tel 236 6633
Gala	Alan Robinson	Tel 235 0935

One way or another

The Council made an order in respect of Devonshire Terrace becoming one way, for the greater part of it's length, back on December 6th last year. This provided a further 6 weeks for objections.

Meanwhile the traffic and parking have got worse. Let's hope the necessary signs are installed shortly, and that there are no nasty incidents while people get used to the new arrangements.

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1017051

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

Chairman

(Dore to Door & Dore Show)

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

Vice Chairman (Planning)

Mrs G Farnsworth 235 0609
11 Rushley Avenue, S17 3EP.

Treasurer

Ms M Watson 236 5666
11 Cavendish Avenue, S17.

Secretary

Mrs A Slater 236 6710
6 Old Hay Close S17.

Committee

Mrs L E Baker	236 9025
Mr G R Elsdon	236 0002
(Subscriptions & Notice Board)	
Mrs V Malthouse	236 2168
(Daytime No)	
Mr R Millican	262 0012
(Environment)	
Mr P Moore	262 1555
Mr A Steeples	236 0987
Mr P H Veal	236 8437

Editorial & Advertising

Dore to Door is published quarterly by the Dore Village Society and delivered free to over 3100 households in the 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 John Baker on 236 9025 or write to:

The Editor,
Dore to Door,
8 Thornsett Gardens,
Dore,
Sheffield,
S17 3PP.

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"Meetings:- Where minutes are kept and hours are lost!"

Open Day

The Society will be having an open morning on Saturday 7 March. This will be a chance for everyone in the village to see displays on the work of the Society and to visit our new room.

Held at the Old School from 9am to 1pm you can expect to see: Photo albums and archive material on the village; Information on traffic & transport issues; Details on planning; Information on Dore Show and a video of last years event; a display on water conservation; Paintings & Drawings of the village by local artist Brian Smith; Back copies of Dore to Door; A display on the Dore Playground project and much more. There will also be refreshments and a chance to buy Society publications and pay membership fees. We hope to see you there!

Peter Dutfield

We are sad to report that Peter Dutfield, a Vice President of Dore Village Society, died in November 1997.

Peter was a graduate of the London School of Economics, his subjects being Economics and Mathematics. He taught at two schools in the South before coming to Sheffield to do the job he really wanted to, teacher training. He became a lecturer at Sheffield College, now part of Hallam University, with special responsibility for teaching practice and for problem cases'.

While teaching in the South, Peter had become involved in a Central Television experiment in teaching by television - a studio being set up in the school yard, producing lessons for transmission to other schools. This was a particular interest that he brought with him to Sheffield.

Peter eventually retired from the College as a Senior Lecturer. Peter was active in village affairs and was for many years on the Committee of the Dore Village society, serving as Secretary and Chairman. On his retirement from the committee he became a Vice President of the Society. In Society affairs, Peter was a good man to have on your side. He would bide his time before making his point in discussions, but when this came you realised that he had used his time well - his remarks were always apt and constructive, as well as entertaining.

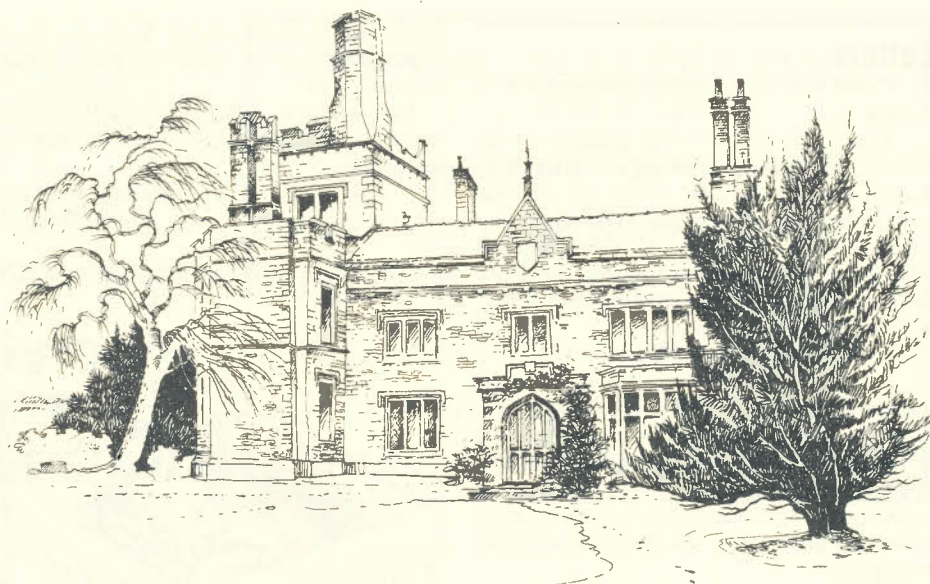
Peter was always good company and he had many friends who will remember him and his contribution to the life of the village.

Peter's widow, Joy, has herself been active in village life for some years, particularly on the Parochial Church Council, and to her go our condolences.

Onto the shelf

Please give just one minute's thought to the pleasure that the reading of books has given to you over the years. The novels of the great writers may have transported you to different worlds and times. Travel stories might have given you glimpses of other countries and ways of life.

Biographies will have told of the actions and thoughts of politicians, sports personalities, actors and many more. Think also of the books that friends have lent you so



Abbeydale Hall, now threatened with conversion to a public house.

that you can share the contents with them. Books make life so much richer.

Local libraries have done much to bring new books to those who otherwise would not have the chance to see them. However, there is now a real problem. Sheffield's Library Service has very much reduced funds for the purchase of new books and will be devoting the available money only to children's books and large print editions for those with poor sight. It is unable to buy anything for the general adult reader. Hence this appeal.

Please have a look along your shelves and through the cupboards for books that you can donate either to Totley Library or the Mobile Library. Ideally the books should be hard backed but good condition soft back versions would also be welcomed. Please do not offer books in poor condition. Although both libraries will be happy to accept books of any type, Totley Library is particularly keen to obtain more for its crime, adventure and general fiction sections. Talking books and taped versions are also welcome.

Please bring the books to the Dore Village Society Open Morning at the Old School on Saturday the 7 March. Alternatively take the books either to Totley Library (closed on Thursdays) or the Mobile Library (Thursdays from 11.00 to 12.30 and Saturdays from 10.30 to 12.30) in Leyfield Road. For those who are unable to deliver the books, you can telephone 262 0012 to arrange for them to be collected.

Please be as generous as you can; if each Dore household gave just one book, it would

be possible to almost completely re-stock the Mobile Library shelves. Somebody somewhere will be able to share your past pleasures.

News in brief

The Parish Boundary stone beside the Limb Brook opposite the end of Rycroft Glen was in danger of falling into the river, and has been resited further back from the bank by the Dore Village Society.

Work has stopped on refurbishing the Mobile petrol station at the bottom of Devonshire Road, recently taken over by BP, but no-one knows why!

Membership

Any organisation is only as strong as its membership. If you support our objectives please do join, the fee of £2 p.a. per person isn't much and hopefully you will feel it is value for money as far as the community is concerned. If you wish to be more actively involved in any of our activities or have ideas for new projects/areas we could look at, then please talk to any member of the committee - we would be pleased to hear from you. Likewise if you have any material for the Dore Collection or wish to make a financial donation - however small - or a bequest.

Dore Village Society · 1998 Subscriptions

If you wish to subscribe to the Village Society please complete the form below and forward with your payment to:

Greens Home and Garden Supplies, Causeway Head Road,

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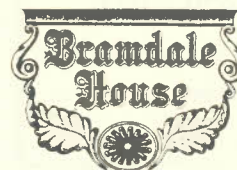
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Have you noticed?

New boxes on stilts have appeared throughout Dore, courtesy of the Post Office. Appropriately grey - the colour of our time? (with apologies to Crowded House), these will no doubt provide an excellent nursery for the talents of our young graffiti artists!

How long some will last remains to be seen. Judging by our local motorists, footpaths are only natural extensions of the road, and conflict with the new street furniture seems inevitable.

Originally pavement parking seemed restricted to the village centre, but has now spread down the main access roads to the village. At the bottom of Dore Road it has become a real hazard. If only drivers would realise that if they feel the need to park partway on the pavement, they shouldn't be parking at this point in the first place!

Doremouse

Ed. The Post Office boxes are intended to take some of the weight of our mail off of the feet of our hard worked postmen & women.

Mail will be delivered to these by van in advance and then picked up in the middle of a round. Crowded House' are a New Zealand pop group.



St John's Church Abbeydale Road South was consecrated in 1876. The new parish established itself with 6 boundary stones in the area (see news in brief).

Hoffman, (together with Hazel his wife), has been one of our excellent cooks for many years.

Washers up, cooks (one course only), hosts and hostesses, are desperately needed, age and gender no barrier. It may be that:

You could spare half an hour to wash up,

Have a favourite main meal we would enjoy, (expenses paid),

You're cooking at school and could share your skills with us in the holidays,

You're not free on a Tuesday but could occasionally leave a cold sweet course to be brought in by another helper,

You like meeting people and could welcome our guests on arrival,

You are looking for Community Work for your Duke of Edinburgh Scheme and your school timetable and staff will agree to a regular commitment with us,

You can't promise a regular commitment but would be willing to be a reserve for any of these categories,

You would like to come along first and see the Club.

Any further information or requests for a visit to Betty Young Tel 2364803 or Bessie Colley Tel 2365707.

Can you help?

.....once every 6 weeks on a Tuesday lunch time (rota system). To help with up to 14 very appreciative Senior Citizens at the Dore Lunch Club. Regular helpers include 2 of our committee members, George Elsdon & Gillian Farnsworth. A previous chairman Sydney

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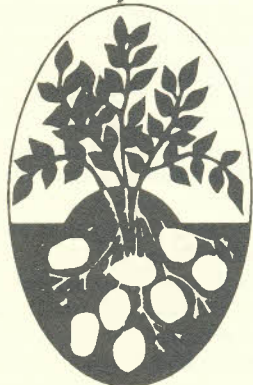
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Jean recalls

The gales that blew on Christmas Eve Night 1997, put me in mind of the gale Sheffield suffered in February 1962. The photograph on this page was taken after the gale by Len (or was it Les) Salter-thwaite, and shows Colin Fisher and his wife Edna examining one of the trees blown over then in the grounds of what is now the Secure Unit on Limb Lane.

Colin Ridge Fisher was born in Crosspool on the 16th June 1906. He left school at 13 and went to work as a gardeners boy. Later he did farm work and then became foreman for a large landscaping and gardening business. He attended night school to improve his situation.

Colin was also a very successful long distance runner, both locally and nationally, winning many prestigious awards. But he was a very modest man and kept many achievements to himself.

He married Edna Thorpe on the 22nd June 1927 and together they established their own landscaping and gardening business on Newfield Lane at the bungalow in 1936. They had five children. Fred the eldest was a milkman in Dore for many years, before taking Silver Hill Dairy at Ecclesall, which did not suit him at all. Eventually his wife Vera went back to nursing and Fred retired gracefully. Colin's second son, Donald, is the local builder on High Street Dore. His daughter Jean went in to nursing, married a doctor and lived Canada.

One of Colin's interests was writing poetry and he penned the following poem after the Sheffield Gale. This grand-daughter in Canada, Deborah Stansfield Ricketts collected some of his poems and had them printed in a book, aptly called 'Reflections'. For a man who left school at 13, I think it must be agreed the poetry shows a flair.

Colin died on April 16th 1977 and Edna later moved from Newfield Lane to Dore Road, where she lived until her death.

Jean Dean.

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Colin Fisher and his wife Edna examining one of the trees blown over on Limb Lane in February 1962.

Near Beauchief as the daylight fades
One wanders thro' the leafy glades
Of nearby woodlands dark and deep
Where small live things oft seem asleep.

Tall fir trees tower to the skies
Proud Beeches gaze with sombre eyes
Whilst hollies, churches of the wood
Hold service, rustling, life is good.

But now upon these woodland walks
Stark terror, desolation stacks.
The wind, a demon enters here
Small beings tremble, stiff with fear.

The trees awake, their arms they brace
Withstand the tempests mighty race
They shudder, strain before the blast
How long, how long! This cannot last.

Till one at last admits defeat
Then more, and more until they meet
Like soldiers heroes of the fray
Have fallen, lifeless still they lay.

The wind has gone, the night is o'er.
The monarchs they will rise no more
The small things mourners all have cried
'Tis finished now, the trees have died.

Colin Fisher

Road re-numbering

Derbyshire County Council are proposing to redesignate the B6054 from Stoney Ridge to Calver as the A625, in order to regularise the main route since Mam Tor closed. The following points have been raised by Calver Parish Council:

- 1) The narrow width (2 lorries can't pass in some places)
- 2) The route includes a narrow bridge with a 90 degree turn.
- 3) The edges and walls of the bridge have already been damaged due to traffic

The RMC proposal at present being considered, to increase quarrying at Longstone Edge, could mean an additional lorry every four minutes on the Froggatt to Sheffield road, according to CPRE, who are campaigning strongly against further quarrying.

Gillian Farnsworth

Body Snatching

What does the phrase 'body snatching' conjure up in your mind? Some dark tale from Edgar Allen Poe or a tale by R L Stevenson? A grim portrayal by Boris Karloff? Well actually there was a time when dead bodies were a valuable commodity and many a corpse was dragged from it's recent grave, to the distrest of the deceased's relatives. Henry the VIII, in 1540, followed the example of James the IV of Scotland, in 1506, in making legal provision for the bodies of executed criminals to be dissected by the crude, unskilled barber surgeons of the time. This was intended as an additional punishment and also an aid to the study of medicine and human anatomy. Such dissections were usually carried out in public after execution and were regarded as a shocking and degrading treatment to the human body. The corpse of a relative or friend in popular culture was something to be treated with respect and to be dissected was regarded with horror and shame. As part of the draconian penal code of the eighteenth century an Act of 1752 allowed for murderers to either be gibbeted or their bodies be dissected after execution. Anatomical studies in this country began with the growth of private schools of anatomy set up as a result of the influence of the Hunter brothers, William and John, in the eighteenth century. The Hunter's teaching of anatomy by observations during dissection, put the subject on a proper footing. However because the only legal source of bodies were the prisons and legislation had given the monopoly on these to the Royal College of Surgeons, the demand from the private schools soon outstripped supply. As a result bodies were being dissected and sold from at least the mid 1700's. At High Bradfield to the north of Sheffield there is a watch house, erected in 1745, to deter body snatchers from raiding this large and isolated churchyard. The first half of the nineteenth century saw the activities of the resurrectionist's as the professional body snatchers were the activities of Burke and Hare causing national concern. In Sheffield it is the reputation of the Overend family and their supposed involvement in this grisly trade that provides interest. More about this in a future issue.

Ron Clayton

Farming notes

I suppose it's a sign of age, but I often wonder if it's just me or is it everyone else that's crackers.

In a week that's seen the escape of two pigs from an abattoir in Wiltshire make headline news, not just here but around the world, what I'd like to know is how do you get this trivial stuff to become so important? Every farmer has stock escape on occasions and it never attracts any attention apart from the person who wakes up in the morning and finds his garden's disappeared.

We've had pigs escape. On one occasion two got into the garden of what's now Kings Croft on Dore Road. The nit wit who lived there said he hadn't a clue where they could have come from, so he rang the Town Hall. They put him onto the diseases of animals people in Barnsley who sent somebody all the way down in a landrover to investigate. What a pity they didn't ring the Daily Mail. They might have paid us £15,000.

In the past we've had young stock escape in Ecclesall Woods when we've been driving them to the Moss for their Summer pasture. Once they ended up in Endcliffe Park after travelling via Bents Green, Whiteley Woods and Hangingwater. We got them corralled in the gents toilets.

Another time half a dozen got into the garden at Whinfell House. Never to be forgotten was the sight of Lady Neal leaning out of a bedroom window wearing a white tasselled mop cap and yelling "Mind me dahlias".

Then there was the time when one got into Whirlow Gardens. After chasing it all over the place we finally lassooed it and tied it to a tree.

Then we got the Land Rover and trailer to take it back home. Just as we were reversing up to it a little man in a peaked cap came dashing up and said we had to stay on the path. "We don't allow members of the public on the grass" he said.

It's a major problem with not having all the fields in a ring fence. In the old days we used to drive the cattle along the road to where they were going, but now the traffic is so bad we just can't do that anymore. Drivers see cattle on the side of a road and don't even slow down. They don't seem to realise an animal can suddenly jump sideways six feet when they're right up alongside it.

A large boar once managed to get the back doors open on an old Trojan van coming along Ecclesall Rd at Parkhead. It jumped out almost on top of a policeman riding along behind on a little Vellolette motorbike. The van doors swung shut again and we never noticed we'd lost it.

We got to Whirlow before the PC caught us up and said there was this big pig digging up the grass verge half a mile back.

We've had pigs get out through the canvas sides of a landrover going down Froggat edge, and also had a sow get in the front seat of a mini van. We had to stop for a rest when it got it's front leg through the steering wheel spokes. It kept switching the wipers on and off as well.

People have rung up wanting to know if there are deer in the woods, (some Guernsey heifers had got out) and another time if there were wolves in the woods (sheep).

The main cause of livestock getting out is if it's been disturbed in some way, usually by an uncontrolled dog. Only last week a dog got in amongst the sheep at the moss and chased them all over the place. Forty of them jumped

over the fence into the wood. When I yelled at the man to control his dog he said he couldn't stop it because it was deaf. He had to make hand signals at it. It's just tough luck if it's looking the wrong way. Besides that a dog going mad chasing sheep all over a field doesn't take much notice of someone waving at it 300 yards away.

After that it was three days before we got all the sheep back, they'd split into several groups and got lost in the woods. And then 20 of them wouldn't settle back in the field. Having been driven out they'd learnt how to jump the fence and wouldn't stay in. They've had to be moved elsewhere.

A huge amount of time and effort and all because someone can't control his dog.

Richard Farnsworth

Dore Pre-School

As many of you are aware, Dore Pre-School has met in the Church Hall Townhead Road for over twenty-five years. Many changes have taken place in that time, but the last year has been the most significant.

Nursery Education across the country is facing a period of tremendous change. A Nursery grant is now available for every four year old and many Infant Schools, as a consequence, have decided to take the children into school earlier. As a direct result of this policy, Dore Pre-School is one of the hundreds across the country that have been forced to close in December 1997.

Joan Cordran and members of staff would like to thank the parents, children and the community for their support and co-operation over the years.



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With matrimony in mind

Long ago when dutiful daughters were expected to allow their fathers to select a suitable husband for them, the choice was not always appreciated. Elopement was occasionally resorted to, but sadder consequences survive amongst Peak District tales.

One distraught maiden jumped from the roof of Winster Hall in the arms of her lover, the family coachman, and their spirits are said to haunt the building where they had not dared to be seen together in life. But when Hannah Baddely threw herself from a cliff in Middleton Dale she survived, all except for the broken heart which led to the exploit. Hannah had met the wrong man too, for he jilted her.

Two other forsaken girls are also remembered in local legends; in the 1300's a co-heiress of Highlow Hall became responsible for the first recorded haunting of this, her home, upon taking her life when her lover married a younger daughter of the Hall. Not far away, the ghost of Margaret Vernon has often been seen riding wildly home to Hazlebladge Hall, retracing a journey from Hope church where she had watched her sweetheart marry another. Poor Margaret lost her senses' and pined to death.

Few stories tell of young men who died from unrequited love, but by all accounts the tables were turned sufficiently often for an ancient custom to survive in Eyam until the end of the last century.

The morning after the wedding of his former sweetheart, any young man was likely to find a strange token suspended - generally on a convenient tree - outside his home. A be-ribboned oval garland of evergreens and flowers, especially dragon lilies, was offset by the bitter addition of an onion and a bottle of urine! Its symbolism is not too obscure to guess at.

Long ago, a happier custom was undertaken by the young men of Baslow who had to prove their readiness for the rigours of married life by scaling the large Eagle Stone on Baslow Edge.

Naturally they had already put in lots of practice, learning every foothold and the easiest ascent.

Most successful marriages do not make

sensational stories, but one that had a sensational beginning had a happy, if bizarre ending. When Joseph Hunt, once rector of Eyam church, made mock wedding vows to a young lady in her father's inn, his Bishop ordered the marriage to be performed legally. The couple had to spend the whole of their married life in the church vestry to avoid the consequences of a breach of promise by the rector's ex-fiancee.

But a record of seventy-six years of married life exists to challenge all those Peak District couples about to be wed; this was an achievement by Adam and Grace Woolley in the seventeenth century and is recorded in a memorial in the church of St. Giles, Matlock.

Julie Bunting

Book reviews

Those of you who have read his earlier books will know what to expect in Howard Smith's new book *Turnpike Trail - Gleadless to Calver & Sheffield to Baslow*. Carefully researched and amply illustrated with maps and drawings, the book sets the background to the evolution of turnpikes and then looks in detail at the Greenhill Moor Trust (later Owlbar Trust) Turnpike routes spanning an area from Greenhill itself, through Bradway and Holmesfield to Calver. To make it easy to follow the route is broken down into separate trails with historical notes woven in.

Thus we learn that between 1781 and 1880 a Tollgate stood on what is now Bradway Road at the top of Twentywell Lane, while the area at the top of Prospect Road was called Tinker Corner, after a Mr Tinker who lived at the corner building known as Bradway Grange, and owned Totley Chemical Works. It is perhaps those maps showing how the area looked in the late 18th century which make one stop and think about how much things have changed.

This then is an excellent book, full of detail, which will make one want to explore for oneself and represents good value. It is available from Greens shop on Causeway Head Road, or most local bookshops, including Best Wishes at the top of Twentywell Lane.

Yorkshire of one hundred years ago, is an armchair book, designed to be dipped into and enjoyed over time. As its title suggests, it takes us back to the turn of this century, using early photographs and quotations from the period to recapture the spirit of the time.

The photographs illustrate the past in a way text never can, from rich landowners to poor fishermen, from countryside to early industry. There is even a picture of Victorian artists drawing Beauchief Abbey. Pictures are drawn from every area of the county, and a lot of work has gone into collecting the snippets of text and quotations. From these we learn a certain innocence of the times combined with some worldly reality. A world all too soon to end with the First World War, and the book appropriately ends on a military note.

Yorkshire a hundred years ago was written by ex television producer David Gerrard and is published in hardback by Sutton Publishing, price £18.99.

With spring just around the corner, it is time to get out those walking shoes, flex your muscles and start thinking seriously about getting out into the countryside. Picking up and reading *Walking the Peak District Dales* may be just the motivator you need. Written by Chris Holmes and published by Sigma Leisure, the book follows the time honoured formula of picking a walk in the White Peak, illustrating it with a map and adding some local history or points of interest.

The author carries this off competently, and although the walks are not necessarily new, the book is easy to read and contained some tales new to me. Priced £6.95 it is available from most bookshops, or by mail order (+£2 p&p) from Sigma Leisure, 1 South Oak Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 6AR.

The Sorby Natural History Society is well known for its work and publications, and it will come as no surprise to serious naturalists that these two books are thoroughly competent works. *The Natural History of the Sheffield Area* manages in its 250 paper back pages to cover every aspect of the subject from the geology that determines the Sheffield landscape and soils to the host of insect life. Tips on observation, descriptions, distributions, and illustrations abound. Although not a new work it still stands the test of time and is a bargain at £4 + postage.

For anyone seriously interested in wild plants *A Flora of the Sheffield Area* is an essential guide to records past and present, complete with location maps. Price £6 + postage.

Both these books are available from the society's Hon Treasurer on 2364 269.

Update

Further to the article about Ash House in the last edition, I am informed by Mr Sid Hoffman, that all parishes had a workhouse and that the one for this area was probably situated on Ash House Lane, known then as Intake Road. (Thanks also to Mr Thompson for pointing this fact out to me in the booklet *Old Day's in Dore*). This publication also states that when Ash House was put up for sale in July 1932, the lane was referred to as Websters Lane on the Sale Plan.

Jean Dean.



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A Quarry Too Far

RMC plans to excavate a super-quarry in Longstone Edge, in the Peak National Park.

If you have driven recently from Calver crossroads to Hassop on the way to Bakewell, you may have seen a small quarry on the right. Last year the aggregates and ready-mixed concrete company RMC revealed plans to make this working into the nucleus of a super-quarry, which will eventually stretch as much as a mile to the west. If this happens, the eastern part of Longstone Edge will be devastated, destroying a lovely stretch of countryside which is criss-crossed by paths and much loved by all who know it. It will also scar the view from miles around, and generate lots of lorry traffic.

How has the proposal come about?

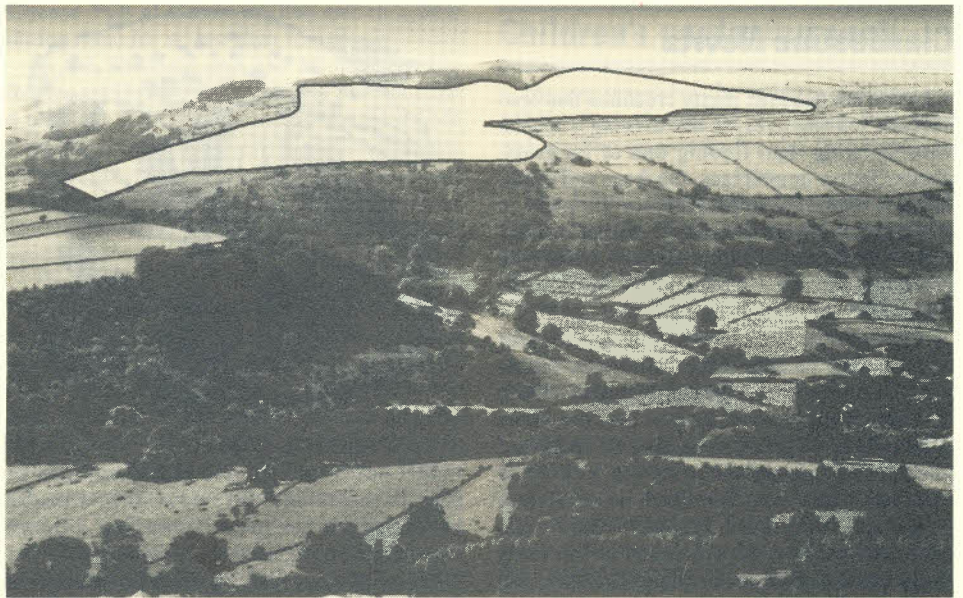
In 1996 RMC bought up a failed mining company so acquiring the lease to mineral rights approved in 1952. The permission is to win and work fluorspar and barytes and to work lead and any other minerals won in the course of working those minerals'. This gives them the right to mine for fluorspar and what are called 'vein minerals'. Longstone Edge is the main source of fluorspar in the UK.

However under the 1995 Environment Act, such old permissions must be reviewed by the Minerals Planning Authority - in this case is the Peak District National Park Authority. This revealed that RMC intend to interpret the 'any other minerals' in the permission as including the host rock limestone, and on the strengths of this to turn the small opencast mine into a vast new quarry.

What happens now?

The National Park Authority believe that the RMC proposals do not fall within the terms of the original permission. Consequently they are now about to take enforcement action to prevent RMC from extracting excess limestone from their working. RMC are expected to appeal and the hearing of this appeal will test the interpretation of the 1952 permission. If RMC win they will have carte blanche to pursue their plans, but if they fail they will have to stop quarrying.

The 'Save Longstone Edge' Group is giving the National Park Authority full support in curbing RMC, but it is also taking other action designed to strengthen the resistance. Since its formation in September 1997, over 500 households have joined the group, mostly from the parishes surrounding Longstone Edge, but increasingly from further afield. The Group



Longstone Edge, with the cut out area showing the proposed extent of quarrying.

aims to:

- * demonstrate public feeling.
- * bring into the decision-making process the crucial argument that this development falls foul of the principles governing what is permitted in a National Park. It is fundamentally wrong on this count. Official figures show that enough limestone is available from other existing permitted sources.

- * bring public pressure to bear on RMC to shoulder its responsibilities to the environment.

- * work to getting a favourable decision from the appeals process.

Other effects of the quarry

In addition to damaging the scenery and cutting footpaths the quarry will be noisy and dusty.

There will also be a big increase in lorry traffic along the roads into Sheffield, which will probably take half the output from the quarry. Quarrying a million tonnes a year will mean an extra lorry every four minutes during working hours to or from Sheffield, shared between the Ecclesall and Abbeydale Roads, the idea of a railhead at Grindleford having been discounted by RMC.

If you would like to add your support to the campaign to save Longstone Edge, please write to: 'Save Longstone Edge', PO Box 12, Calver, Hope Valley S32 3DY asking for our colour leaflet with joining details.

Julian Tippett, Secretary

Craft Demonstrations

Following the cancellation of last year's Totley Show due to the untimely death of Diana Princess of Wales, Totley Residents Association have decided to run a spring event featuring Craft Demonstrations. This will take place on Saturday 28th March, from 2 to 4.30pm, at the Totley Rise Methodist Church.

There will also be three appropriately seasonal competitions, for which entries will be accepted between 12 and 12.30pm. The competitions are: Decorating an egg (age up to 7 yrs); Making an Easter Card (age 7 to 12); and an Easter Hat - The whackiest, prettiest (any age).

For more information, or to offer a demonstration or exhibit, ring Delya on 235 1515 or Pauline on 236 1601.

News in brief

Sheffield has the worst average rush-hour speed outside London, a measly 17mph for the daily grind to work. Marks & Spencer are planning a trial in Sheffield of a scheme aimed at chargecard holders. These will be circulated details of public transport timetables, and refunded fares within certain limits, when people spend more than £10 in one of their stores.

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Clandestine Newts

Newts are delicate, pretty creatures that lead obscure, retiring lives, so discovering a newt is more exciting than finding one of its gross, clumsy fellow amphibians, the frogs and toads. These herald their appearance in the pond in spring with a loud chorus of dismal croaks. Newts, however, are only noticed when you are looking into the pond and one happens to swim out from a tangle of water plants.

As with other amphibians, the newts' year starts as they emerge from their winter hiding places and gather in ponds to breed. Their courtship displays more finesse than the rather unlovely clasping and struggling of frogs and toads. The male newt carries out a ritual to court and win a mate, for which he develops a gaudy courtship dress. His new colours are more intense, the toes of his hind feet develop fringes, and a crest forms along the back and on the upper and lower sides of the long tail.

Thus arrayed, the male newt swims to a female, sniffs her flanks and takes up position, floating in front of her and blocking her path broadside. He gently waves his to show off his colours and crest. She may try to push past but will eventually acquiesce to the next part of the ritual.

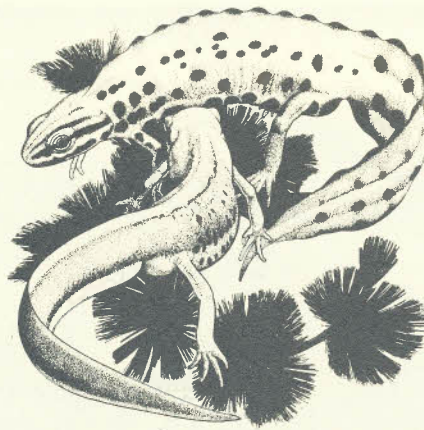
The male alternately flicks his tail, sending a burst of water that knocks her backwards, and then bends it double and fans it rapidly. The flow of water carries secretions from the glands on the male's body which stimulate the female's nose. She shows her acceptance of him by moving slowly forwards, and the male retreats in front of her while continuing to fan his tail. If you have newts in your garden pond, watch for the fanning display which is a common sight during the spring months.

Once mating is over, egg-laying takes place among the weeds. Again there is a contrast with the frogs' and toads' masses of spawn. The female newt lays each egg singly. Look for a newt slowly picking its way through the underwater foliage. She will choose a leaf - Canadian pondweed is eminently suitable - grasp it with her hind feet and lay a jelly-covered egg on it. Then the leaf is deftly folded over and stuck down with the jelly. Eventually, the egg hatches into a tiny, delicate tadpole, with external gills but no limbs, just like the early stages of the familiar frog tadpole.

Adult newts stay in the pond long after the frogs and toads have left. They enter the water in late March or early April and do not leave until July or later, which makes newts a much more satisfactory addition to the wildlife of the pond, although they can be a nuisance by eating tadpoles of frogs and even of their own species.

In time the newts slip away from the pond as unobtrusively as they arrived, and they are lost to sight. Occasionally one is turned up through gardening activities, curled up under a stone or log, or hiding in leaf litter. The terrestrial part of the newts' life is something of a mystery. Their diminutive size and creeping habit make them less conspicuous than a hopping frog or toad.

Moreover they come out only at night to search for food. The diet consists of insects, worms and small snails which they will swallow whole. When the weather turns colder, they retire to hibernate in a nook or cranny, sometimes a number gathering and



twining together in a ball.

The newts in my garden are common or smooth newts and they now form a health colony which has grown from half a dozen individuals I introduced some years ago.

My neighbour also boasts a population of the larger, much rarer great-crested or warty newt. The six-inch male is a prize find in his breeding colours, and high, deeply notched crest that gives him the look of a gentle dragon. I cannot introduce this species because it is protected by law, and catching warty newts is now illegal under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Incidentally, you may be lucky enough to come across the third British species, the

palmate newt, especially if you live in heath or hill districts. The male differs from the male common newt in having a less conspicuous crest and webbed hind feet. The tail looks as if it has been clipped at the tip, leaving a short black filament trailing.

By all accounts, it seems that newts have survived better than frogs and toads in my neighbourhood. The farm ponds that once supported large breeding populations have largely disappeared or are heavily contaminated. But amphibians have also had a hard time in the landward side of their lives, where intensive agriculture has robbed them of the small animals that they eat. There is no doubt that the boom in garden ponds throughout suburbia has been the salvation of amphibians.

Robert Burton

Reproduced with the kind permission of the author and the RHS magazine 'The Garden'.

Correction

In our Autumn 97 issue we carried a brief item on Derbyshire Fonts based on an extract from the Peakland Abecedary, written by Julie Bunting. The book is published by Footprint Press, price £7.50, and whose correct address is, The Happy Walking Shop, Unit 4, Lathkill Dale Craft Centre, Over Haddon, Bakewell.

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Into the Hope Valley

Looking back at some historic transport and tourist services in the Hope Valley, as described at the time.

In the 1895 edition of Sheffield Independent's 'Dore and Chinley Railway gossiping guide to the (Peak) District', the activity generated by the new railway line is apparent. At Grindleford Station both G. Godber and William Kenyon operated carriage services which met the trains daily, claiming that passengers may drive to Eyam, Middleton Dale, Chatsworth or other places at a very moderate fare. Cafes mushroomed on the other side of the Totley Tunnel - Mrs Rowbotham's Refreshment Rooms at Edale offered every accommodation for schools, picnic and pleasure parties, apartments and stabling.

The Shearers Temperance Hotel at Grindleford Bridge stated that Rechabite and Temperance Societies will find good accommodation at Widow Shearers, she would be pleased to see them in small or large parties, rallying round her and helping her through this world.

Several hotels advertised horses and carriages let out for hire whilst Matthew Robinson at Hope (late carriage driver for 14 years from Tideswell to Sheffield) begs a call from his old friends from Sheffield at the Hall Hotel, seven minutes from Hope Station, where wagonettes and other conveyances meet all the trains to go forward to Castleton. The mines there of course benefitted tremendously from the increased tourism and the Cheshire

Cheese Pub at Castleton had put in a new dining room for no less than 150 people.

At the Sheffield end, the Midland Dining Rooms on Howard Street offered dinners from 6 pence (2 1/2p), the expanding Sheffield Cafe Company with 21 catering establishments throughout central Sheffield built a large refreshment pavilion for 400 persons at Castleton featuring ladies and gentlemen's lavatories!

The forward to this little book claimed "The Dore and Chinley Country moreover affords residential attractions to Sheffield and Manchester people who in these Derbyshire Highlands can breathe the cleaner air when their business houses are choked with fog and the sky looks dense enough to be blasted with dynamite. There can be little doubt but that in a few years hence this health inspiring district will be dotted with mansions and villas designed by, let us hope, a Norman Shaw, in artistic sympathy with the superb scenic surroundings, and not the architectural atrocities of Mr Buggins who builds for today and charges for all time".

This piece, written by Edward Bradbury - famous for his travel books and guides, went on to praise the railway "it will drive off the road that satanic usurper of the highway, the traction engine!"

Of course Totley had reaped the benefits of the railway as described in my book on the Totley Tunnel, and had been usurped by traction engines well into this century, when Billy Gascoigne had transported ganister from the Strawberry Lee Mines to the Totley Brickyard.

Brian Edwards.

Children's gardening pack

Do you remember the thrill, excitement and anticipation of planting your very first seed and waiting anxiously for the first leaves to appear?

The Royal Horticultural Society aims to pass on this experience to a younger generation through a new pack titled Worms, Wellies and Window Boxes. The pack contains a project book which includes activities such as creating a simple hanging basket and an indoor water garden, two mini books on garden plants and puzzles, and two packets of seeds.

Aimed at age six to twelve, the pack provides much botanical information necessary for work at Key Stage Two of the National Curriculum. Price £4.99 + £1 p&p. More details available from RHS Enterprises Tel (01483) 211320. The RHS web site is at <http://www.rhs.org.uk> (no full stop).

News in brief

Dore Deli has been taken over by Chris Lomas and his wife Sue, not by a Chris Homes as reported in our last issue!

A pioneering scheme in which visitors help fund footpath repairs has now arrived in the Peak District. Holiday makers staying in accommodation booked through Peak Cottages will be asked to donate £1 per booking, matched by 50p from the holiday firm, which will go towards the cost of a National Trust footpath worker.

DORE GRILL RESTAURANT

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See Blackboard for Chef's Daily Specialities

3 COURSE LUNCH £7.00

PENNE - Pasta quills in Bolognese and cheese sauce baked and topped with Grano Panado
SPARE RIBS - Pork spare ribs in garlic butter
SOUP - Chef's fresh made soup of the day
PANCAKE - Herb pancake filled with chicken and mushroom topped with a mushroom sauce
MELON - Melon and fresh fruit in Creme d'Menthe syrup
PATÉ - Chef's homemade paté with finger toast and salad
GARLIC BREAD - Topped with melted cheese

PIE - Chef's homemade pie of the day
ROAST - Chef's roast of the day
STEAK BORDELAISE - Braised beef in red wine sauce
FISH - Fresh market fish baked with a herb crust
SALMON DUGLERE - Poached salmon in white wine, tomato and mushroom sauce
VEGETARIAN LASAGNE - Layers of pasta sandwiched with vegetables and cheese sauce

VEGETABLES - Chef's choice of vegetables and potatoes of the day
Sweets or Cheese and Biscuits

Coffee £1 extra

Full A la Carte Menu

4 Course Dinner £14.50

SOUP - Chef's homemade soup of the day
PENNE AL FORNO - Pasta quills in a spicy sauce and baked in the oven
GARLIC BREAD - Garlic bread topped with melted cheese
BRIE - Brie coated in breadcrumbs, deep fried and served on a fruit coulis
SMOKED MACKEREL - With horseradish sauce
PATÉ - Chef's homemade chicken liver paté served with fingers of toast
PRAWN WALDORF - Celery, apple, walnuts in Mayo with prawns
SPARE RIBS - Pork spare ribs cooked in garlic butter

CHICKEN - Chicken breast filled with garlic cheese served in cream sauce
PIE - Chef's homemade pie of the day
STEAK - Prime Sirloin garnished with tomatoes and mushrooms
SALMON - Fresh poached salmon in white wine, tomato and mushrooms
CHILLI BEAN CON CARNI - Mixed beans in Chilli sauce, served with rice.
MIXED GRILL - Large mixed grill served with mushroom and tomatoes
ROAST - Chef's choice of roast of the day
FISH - Fresh market fish baked with a herb crust
VEGETABLE LASAGNE - Layers of pasta sandwiched with vegetables and cheese sauce
MEDDALINS OF BEEF MARCHAND DE VIN - Succulent slices of undercut in a rich wine and herb Sauce

VEGETABLES - Chef's choice of vegetables and potatoes of the day

Sweets or Cheese and Biscuits

Coffee and Mints

Planning

Abbeydale Hall. There is an application from Greenalls Pubs and Restaurants to extend Abbeydale Hall, change the access, make 62 parking spaces and turn it into a pub. Our comments (abbreviated) concern;

1) Description of proposal. No mention of restaurant in proposal wording, but a dining floor area is shown on the plan.

2) Traffic. The suggestion is that traffic exits from the site on to the one way system at Abbeydale Sports Club and thence to the main road. Whilst this might be preferable to 2 exits in close proximity, the following need to be addressed - doubling of vehicle numbers; floodlights facing the proposed exit; and position of bus stops.

3) Entrance gateway and walls. Not Grade 11 Listed along with the Hall. Suggested widening would affect the right-hand section. We have questioned the necessity of this, as visibility was required "from the junction" and no vehicles should be going in that direction.

4) Effect on neighbours. So far the site has been used between the hrs of 9am to 9pm for 5 days a week. We have suggested amended opening and delivery times to reduce extra noise. We also pointed out that an evening course student might be expected to stay for the entire evening whereas a drinker would not necessarily, thus increasing the numbers of cars coming and going.

5) Gardens. Concern that public access to these gardens can continue after all the voluntary work done in restoring these and the ponds, and that the Friends of Abbeydale Wildlife Gardens can continue to take groups round thus benefitting the community.

6) Rights of Way. Long use by walkers from Abbeydale Road South through the gardens up to Ashfurlong Road. Proving this may be difficult. 20 walkers have to pledge that they have used it continuously for 20 years.

7) Trees. The weeping ash should be marked on the plan.

8) Signage. Plea for discreet signage and lights.

Ed. The deadline for this magazine means that we cannot comment on the public meeting called by Richard Allen MP on 5 February concerning the above proposal. However we will have further details on this and other planning issues at our Open Day and on the new noticeboard.

Nab Farm. Having been in the same



Three beech trees that fell spectacularly across Old Hay Brook

family for 3 generations, this will be changing ownership. Built in 1650 and largely unaltered, it would normally fall into the category of Listed Building. During January I have been in correspondence with the Dept. of the Environment with a view to securing it. They are the channel to English Heritage (who published their last Sheffield List in December 1996)

120/122 Causeway Head Road. A plan to build a 5 bedroom house across these 2 back gardens would involve a driveway onto Parkers Lane. We have objected on the grounds of unsuitability of site for the size of dwelling, over dominance of adjacent properties, and inconsistency of building line.

Tennis courts. Both internal and external courts are to be added at Abbeydale Sports Club. Because of their proximity to the Water Lane footpath, there is concern that the new outdoor courts (where the cricket nets were) did not show comparative elevations.

Church Trees. Two trees need to be cut down soon. They are beech trees suffering from root decay fungus. One is to the left of the lych gate and the other faces the Dore Grill. Mature trees, they have been looking unhealthy for the last couple of years. As with former felled churchyard trees, replacements will be planted. We have to face the fact that this wonderful circle were planted together and will increasingly face old age together!

Storm trees. At least the lych gate tree didn't crash through the Vicarage on Christmas Eve, which nearly happened at Rushley Cottage when the ivy covered tree crashed down along the pavement. Other ones to fall were the 3 beeches near Totley Grove that fell spectacularly across Oldhay Brook (see photo). It may have been heavy rain causing the flooded stream to overflow the footpath which loosened the roots. They tore up the footpath which has now been resurfaced.

Also in Bushey Wood a field maple fell, taking an old gatepost with it. Both of these would be part of the old field system.

Footpaths. 1) Newfield Crescent to the Recreation ground. We have asked the Footpath Officers to resurface this badly eroded path. Two manhole covers stand proud to about 4ins making it impossible for prams and bicycles etc. It is also overgrown, particularly in the bottom section.

2) Savage Lane to Gilleyfield Avenue. The problem here is a little different. A change of surface from concrete to eroded tarmac coincides with a bad gradient, causing water to collect and forming an impassable "ford". As well as resurfacing, some drainage is needed here and a better incline.

Knowle Green. Although Yuill Ltd have chosen the name "Wyvern Vale" to market the development we understand that this will not be the name of the cul de sac. The choice of name is made by the council, taking into account historic factors and local preferences. Some derivative of Knowle Green is therefore most likely.

It is always nice to know how others see us. Amongst the purple prose of the brochure praising the "tranquil" (my italics) village, is the following "It's a short distance to the verdant City of Sheffield to the West".....!??

Gillian Farnsworth

News in brief

A video tracing the history of the cutlery industry on its 700th anniversary, has been produced by members of the Sheffield Cine and Video club. Significant events have been dramatised against appropriate local backdrops, including Abbeydale Hamlet. The club can be contacted on 236 1267.

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The wildlife garden

With the capricious nature of our weather, we can never be certain if we are going to have an early spring, snow in May or even both, but one thing is certain, as temperatures slowly rise, both plants and animals will respond to this change. Flowers blossom, leaves unfurl and animals finish their winter hibernation having avoided the worst of the winter weather.

So why then do we have plants such as jasmines and viburnums which clearly are insect-pollinated plants, flowering during the winter - a time when the only insects in the garden are a few winter gnats swarming in shafts of sunlight? The answer lies in the weather these plants would experience in their native habitat during the winter months. Flower buds on these plants are formed in the late autumn but any further development is suppressed by heavy falls of snow which insulates them until the spring thaw takes place. Once the plants are exposed to a rise in temperature, the flowers rapidly complete their development and blossom, and so take advantage of the first emerging insects. In the UK, we do not usually have such a persistent snow cover, so these plants often blossom as soon as the flowers are formed and carry on doing so throughout the winter, providing cheer in our gardens throughout these long, gloomy days.

Many of our native woodland plants also flower very early in the year so why have snowdrops, celandines and wood anemones adopted such a strategy? Clearly, the timing of their flowering is triggered by increasing

Deadline for Summer Diary Events Thursday

30 April 1998

Ring 236 9025 or write to the Editor

temperatures which coincides with the tree canopy being at it's most diffuse. This not only helps the plant maximise the amount of light available for growth but may well help early insects locate their brightly coloured flowers.

In the wildlife garden such plants are a vital lifeline to early emerging bees and other insects, providing them with much needed nectar and pollen. Of these the most important, or at least the most showy of our spring plants are the willows, especially the 'goat willow' or 'sallow' (*Salix caprea*). The insect pollinated flowers of these plants, the yellow catkins or 'palm' of the male plants and the silvery female catkins or 'pussy willow' have long been seen as the harbingers of spring. In Roman times they were used in the festival of 'Floralia', the goddess of flowering and blossoming plants, whilst they are still used as a substitute for palm fronds throughout northern Europe in Palm Sunday celebrations.

Not only are pollinating insects attracted to the catkins but also insect eating birds such as blue tits. Like many of our native tree species, willows support a large variety of insects (up to 250 species) which make up a large proportion of the food available for these birds later in the year.

The short days of winter can be a trying

time for our wild birds as their natural food sources become exhausted. The daylight hours are often spent in a frantic search for food and many birds try to maximise this time by modifying their behaviour. Blue, great and coal tits fly in large mixed flocks and aggressive birds like blackbirds become more tolerant of their neighbours. We can obviously help wild birds by supplying a wide variety of foods but does it make any difference as to where we position the feeders? Surprisingly it does. If a nut-holder is positioned away from the house and close to cover then not only will a greater variety of birds be attracted, but the numbers of birds using it will also increase. This will also help birds hide from predators like sparrow-hawks. You may find for instance, that because robins are highly territorial you may have a pair using only the front garden and a different pair restricted to the back, so a number of feeding stations may be called for.

It was once traditional for housewives to clean their houses thoroughly on March 1st. Windows were closed and every nook and cranny was scrupulously cleaned. This was not as you might imagine to remove the accumulated dirt, but to rid the property of fleas for the coming year.

Similarly it is a good time to clean out the old nest material from bird boxes before the birds start looking for potential nest sites - and in doing so you will do the birds a favour by removing any overwintering fleas.

Dyed in winter's snow and rime

Constant to their early time'

(John Clare, when describing wood anemones)

Jack Daw



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Methodist Church Building

Much comment has been made about the work being done to the Methodist Church on the High Street. Dore people will have their first opportunity to see the results of this £100,000 rebuilding scheme when the church reopens on Saturday March 21st. After a celebration service all the residents of Dore Village are invited to call in after 3.30pm and see for themselves. The celebrations will continue on Sunday 22nd March with services at 10.30am and 6.30pm, led by Rev. John Thompson, Dore's Methodist Minister.

One aim of the work has been to make the church more accessible and welcoming - passers by will have already noticed the new wide entrance from the street, with a slope up to front doors to make life easier for wheelchair and pushchair users. The sense of openness continues through the new sets of glass doors into a wide carpeted entrance hall - considerably larger than the narrow corridor it replaces. A small balcony has been created above the entrance hall which as well affording extra seating for the congregation, now accommodates the organ which used to be at the front of the church. A disabled toilet facility has been installed in the corner under the stairs.

Most people will have noticed the new apse which has been built on to the south wall of the church (towards the village green). On the 21st March, visitors will be able to admire for the first time the new stained glass windows installed into its seven openings. These have been designed and produced by Ros Jones in her studio at Eyam - it will be worth calling in just to see the window. All the people who use the church hall throughout the week will become familiar with the new windows thanks to the glazed screen between the church and the entrance hall. They will also notice the new, comfortable chairs which have replaced the pews, and the new, pitched ceilings. Even the old lamp shades have gone, to be replaced by modern "uplighters" around the walls. The woodwork throughout the church, including

the screen, chairs and pulpit, is in ash, which adds to the sense of lightness and space.

While all this work has been done to the church, the hall behind has not been neglected, with minor alterations made to ease wheelchair access, along with complete redecoration.

The reopening in March is the culmination of more than two years prayer and planning by the congregation. Preliminary meetings of the church members identified the shortcoming of the existing church and sketch plans showed how those improvements could be made in practice. The planning authorities had to be consulted, including English Heritage, as well as the appropriate national bodies responsible for Methodist Church buildings. The congregation also had to be sure that they could afford to pay the bill! Although some money was in reserves, and grants were available, the larger part of the cost is being met by church members, mostly through direct giving but augmented by a series of very enjoyable fund-raising events which will be continuing through the year.

The Methodist family in Dore is looking to the twenty-first century with confidence that in these modern, comfortable and welcoming premises, it can continue, along with their friends at the parish church, to contribute to the spiritual well-being of our community, offering a warm welcome to visitors and newcomers alike.

John Thompson

Members of the Parish Church and Methodist Church will be joining forces again during lent this year for a series of weekly meetings starting on Ash Wednesday, February 25th. The meetings, which start at 8pm, will be following a course devised by Nicky Gumbel at Holy Trinity Church, Brompton - the author of the by now, well-known "Alpha Course". Everyone will be made welcome at these sessions, to be held in the Parish Church. Further details are available from the Vicar, David Williams (2363335) or Methodist Minister, John Thompson (2363157)

Well I Never

An ample supply of water has always been essential for farming and civilised life as we know it, making adequate sources of water a key determinant of where buildings and farms were first located. Despite our apparent local surplus of springs and surface water, possession of a clean supply has proved a valuable asset and caused many a dispute in the past.

Today we take piped water for granted, but time was when the water diviner was highly valued as he sought an underground supply or suitable site for a well. And when the hazel rods twitched the real work began. No pneumatic drill, modern drilling rig, or bore hole - just picks, spades and sheer hard work. Digging a well in solid rock was difficult, but at least the sides were self supporting, but how did they cope on softer ground, or on a mix of shales and boulders?

One of the earliest techniques was to start by building a sturdy circular wooden template, which left the diameter of the required size of the shaft in the centre. This was laid on the ground at the required spot and three or four courses of unmortared bricks or cut stone were laid onto it. The soil inside would be excavated and carefully eased out evenly from under the

frame, so that it gradually sank to a new level. Once the top of the intended lining had sunk to ground level the process was repeated, gradually creating a well shaft.

The dry summer months were best for creating a new well. Digging could take weeks, with each bucket of spoil being careful lifted out using a simple pulley system. Eventually the water table would be reached, leaving whoever was at the bottom of the shaft working in water for as long as they could. Finally the shaft was mortared if necessary and the job completed.

There must have been several wells in Dore, and indeed old maps show a well in the middle of the village green, although no trace remains today. In order to complete our records we would like to know of any other well sites in Dore, whether still accessible or capped. If you have one in your garden or know of one elsewhere, please contact any member of the DVS committee - you will find details of their names and telephone numbers at the front of this issue.

Dore Art Group

Dore Art Group was started many years ago by a group of six dedicated amateur artists who had been painting in each others homes but felt that a tutor and a permanent venue would be better.

So Dore Art Group was formed with Mr Norman Bevan as tutor. Immediately there were enough people interested to run a class on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Art Group has continued to flourish in this format to the present day. The Group has always held an exhibition in the Spring, showing the culmination of the two terms hard work. Thanks to the support of the local people the Exhibition goes from strength to strength. The Group is very appreciative of this support and we hope that we will see everyone again this year. The Exhibition will be held on Friday, 17th April, 2pm-8pm and Saturday 18th April 9.30-5pm in the Old School, Dore.

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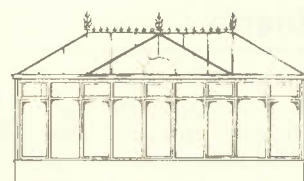
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Church Hall Drama

We have acquired for the Dore Collection, 5 minute books which belonged to Dore Dramatic Society, covering the years 1934-1971. Programmes, photos and obituaries are also included.

This article covers some extracts from the years 1934-1946.

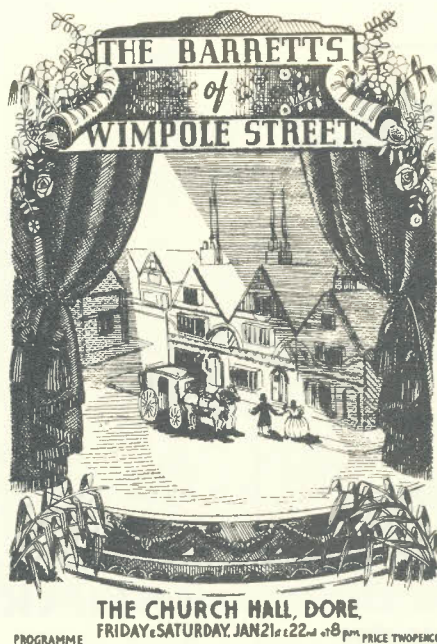
The Society was formed in the December 1934, with an annual subscription of 1 shilling and a 1 penny payment at each meeting. 3 months later the sub. was raised to 5 shillings with no weekly payment.

The title was the Dore Church Dramatic Society, with membership to be drawn from the Church. Another rule stated that funds raised would go to charitable causes and to the building, equipment and maintenance of the new Church Hall. In its first few years of existence 25% of the hall's maintenance costs came from D.C.D.S. Social events ranged from Novelty Parties with Recitations and "prizes for Spot Dance, Elimination Dance, Statue Dance and Musical Chairs" to trips to Stratford and Liverpool, and a Mystery Run with directions in rhyme.

In 1936 "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was done in the grounds of Dore Moor House, which merited a review in "Amateur Stage" (Yorkshire Telegraph and Star). The 2nd AGM was postponed because of a flu epidemic.

Music in those days might have a grandiose title - Dore Variety Orchestra appears in the Nov. 1937 minutes, "but as their proficiency was at present in doubt the matter was left over for further development". Later in 1939 there was also reluctance. "Mr. Bell's offer to provide the orchestra for music at the plays was discussed and it was decided to have the matter in abeyance until the Chairman had the opportunity of hearing the orchestra". Had all the best trumpeters joined the Army bands? Of course there was a way out of this embarrassing dilemma "The music for dancing was kindly provided by Mr. Hartley who lent us his radiogram"

The common problem of one person



choosing plays with a view to casting himself in the best parts inevitably happened. Mr. Mole also produced them! The 1937 minutes read "The Society considered that the choosing and casting of plays was being carried out by himself " Mr. Mole promptly offered to resign, was persuaded back then managed to get on the casting Committee of 3, from a Society of 47, one of whom was Mr. Aldrich (a cooperative man !)

Anticipation about the new premises turned to consternation. Notes of the Stage subcommittee say "As shown on the plans the stage is only suitable as a concert platform and that if possible:

- 1) a door be put at the back of the stage into the corridor.
- 2) the fires containing a flue be removed.
- 3) there should be a trap in the ceiling (sic) approx. 15 foot long and 2 foot wide.
- 4) there should be a trap in the stage at the back.
- 5) the stage be carried 3 ft. forward.
- 6) a proscenium arch be fitted.
- 7) the architect be asked to submit a design for a more suitable stage".

As only point 2) of these suggestions was carried out, we can only assume that plans were already too far committed for change. For all of us who have prayed for adequate wings and fallen headlong down the steep steps to the corridor, the thought of 2 trapdoors as well doesn't bear thinking about.

A phonographic performance licence was bought for 10s 6d. and new lighting equipment for £25.

Books were hired from the Drama League. Notes from a 1937 programme say "It is hoped that the new hall, to be built on an adjoining site, will be completed by the Autumn".

On opening night December 1937, "The vicar in the course of his remarks expressed the opinion that the Stage preached the greatest sermons"

There was almost immediately a problem with seating. The "Barratts of Wimpole Street" was the next production and "It was decided to hire a quantity of chairs for the play from Atkinsons as there were not sufficient in the Hall". Cushions were to be brought by members to cover all the old chairs. The "Barretts" was another success. Amongst the

cast was a black spaniel that was a direct descendant of Tuppenny, who played Flash in the original London run.

As the War years took effect, productions stopped and proceeds from social activities were channelled into the Red Cross working party and Knitting Fund (comforts for local men in the forces). As 1946 drew on, a questionnaire was sent asking patrons which of these categories they preferred, Comedies, Thrillers, Straight Plays or Costume Plays. They had certainly done a play about the French Revolution "The Aristocrat" and 2 Passion plays.

The charge for the Hall was now £2.5s 0d which the Society regarded as excessive. It seems amazing that 9 years after the Church Hall was opened the chair situation was still not resolved and actors were expected to bring or buy chairs for their audience. "Extra chairs to be bought by a loan of £25 each from 10 members". 100 Civil Defence chairs were regularly lent by the Police.

This was the result of full houses for a 3 night run.

The Society also competed against other Societies in the Festival League, gaining good marks and experience. I'm still puzzling over the judge's comments on a light comedy done in 1948, "The date 1937 should have been stated, despite the sausages". Were they that smelly? They had asked for use of the side building now used as The Ark coffee room. In those days it was a Gas Cleansing Chamber, not a very hospitable place.

A crisis occurred in Nov 46 with a letter from the vicar Rev.E G Thorpe who disliked the last play "Quiet Wedding". He considered it "salacious sordid and suggestive" and expressed the view that it condoned adultery. He requested that the Society remove the "Church" from their title and all literature. He also gave a cast list of the previous production, and put remarks by every name - "Member of church", "Occasional attender" or "Non attender".

So in January 1947 the title became Dore Dramatic Society with the rules and constitution suitably changed. By then there were 53 members, almost all comprising married couples or children of members, and three plays a year were produced in the February, May and November.

Gillian Farnsworth

Edwina Black

The next production by the Dore & Totley United Reformed Church Dramatic Society sees a welcome return to costume drama.

Edwina Black is set in 1895 and one could easily imagine a large Victorian house on Dore Road being the setting for the psychological melodrama that unfolds. Wealth, intrigue and scandal are woven into the plot, originally entitled The Late Edwina Black and written by William Dinner and William Morum for a first production at the Ambassador Theatre in London in 1949. Time has not weakened in any way, the complexity or credibility of the characters caught up in this web of deceit and you can be sure of a good night's entertainment.

The play will be in the Church Hall Totley Brook Road from 25th-28th March at 7.30pm. Tickets may be obtained from the Box Office (236 4440), Martin's Shop or members of the Society.



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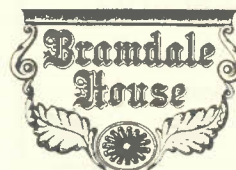
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Accidents do happen

According to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), no matter how careful you try to be, accidents will happen! So make sure you arm yourself with some first aid skills.

Accidents are more or less inevitable in our day-to-day lives: on average, nearly three million people go to hospital each year because of a domestic mishap. Distractions while cooking often lead to nasty cuts and burns, DIY can be full of calamities, and some accidents happen just because you're stressed, or in strange surroundings - at someone else's house perhaps. All of which just goes to show how important it is to know something of the basic skills of first aid.

In an emergency it is often the action of a first-aider which saves a life. The casualty may be suffering from shock as well as injury, so it is important to keep them calm until an ambulance or doctor arrives. Seriously injured people should not be moved, others need to sit or lie down.

First Aid kits should always be available at home, but better still is to have some basic training.

The St John's Ambulance and Red Cross both run first aid courses - you can find their numbers in the phone book. If you don't want to go that far there are first aid manuals, but make sure they are approved by one of the above.

Here is some practical advice for one common problem: *If someone sustains a burn*, pour cold water on to the injury for 10 minutes (20 minutes for a chemical burn), or until the pain disappears. It's important not to apply lotions or fat to the affected area, or to touch it or burst any blisters. Carefully remove any clothing and jewellery from the area before it swells, but don't remove anything sticking to the burn. Call for an ambulance if you think it necessary. Cover the burn with a sterile dressing, clingfilm or any clean piece of material, unless the burn is on the face, in which case just keep cooling the affected area with water until help arrives.

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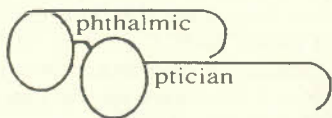
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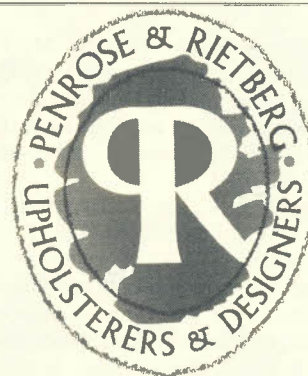


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Diary - Spring 1998

FEBRUARY

- 16 **Wortley Top Forge - History & Archaeology.** Talk by Jeff Morris for S.Y. Industrial History Society. Kelham Island Museum, 7.30pm.
- 17 **Making a suburb.** Talk by Mr J Salt for Tuesday Group, Methodist Church Hall, 7.45. Tel: 262 0601
- 18 **Social meeting.** Totley & Dore support group for the visually impaired. 11am, 4 Grove Road. Tel 236 6894
- 23 **Councillors Surgery (C).** Totley Library, 6pm-7pm
- 24 **Music Train** with the Pat Walker Band from Sheffield 7.18pm but collecting at Dore. Refreshments & more music at Edale then 9.25pm return journey. More details on (01663) 746377.
- 28 **Archaeological walk.** Ecclesall Woods by Paul Ardron for FEW. 10am Abbey Lane sawmill.
- 28 **A Tapestry of English Music.** Concert by Sheffield Bach Society, Sheffield Cathedral, 7.30pm Tickets from 266 8257.

MARCH

- 2 **How some things work.** Talk by Mr Prof Evans for Hallamshire Historic Building Society, Quaker Meeting House, St James Street 7.30pm Everyone welcome
- 3 **Spring Gardening.** Talk by Mr S Jackson (Radio Sheffield), open to men as well, for Tuesday Group, Methodist Church Hall, 7.45. Tel: 262 0601
- 4 **Spring Meeting,** Dore Village Society. A talk on the National Trust by Tony Davis, Old School Hall, 7.30pm. Admission free - everyone welcome.
- 7 **Open Morning.** View the work of the Dore Village Society. Old School, 9am to 1pm. Refreshments. Admission free.
- 9 **Councillors Surgery (LD).** Totley Library, 6pm-7pm
- 14 **Jumble Sale.** K.E.S.A. Wessex Hall, King Ecgbert School, 11am to 12 noon admission £2; from 2pm 20p. For jumble collection tel: 236 2556.
- 21 **Methodist Church Building** open to public from 3.30pm
- 23 **Councillors Surgery (C).** Totley Library, 6pm-7pm
- 24 **Music Train** with Deepcar Folk from Sheffield 7.18pm but collecting at Dore. See 24 Feb above.

- 25 **Local Butterflies.** Talk by Bill Smylie for FEW. Holy Trinity Church Hall, 7.30pm.
- 25-28 **Edwina Black.** Costume drama, Dore & Totley Reformed Church Dramatic Society, Church Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets from 236 4440.
- 28 **Craft Demonstrations.** Totley Residents Assn, Totley Rise Methodist Church, 2-4.30pm entry 20p (see article)
- 28 **Concert.** Dore Male Voice Choir, Ecclesall Parish Church for Friends of the Samaritans. 7pm. Tickets 281 6886
- 28 **Mass in B minor Bach.** Concert by Sheffield Bach Society, Sheffield Cathedral, 7.30pm Tickets from 266 8257.
- 31 **Talk,** by Rev J Thompson for Tuesday Group, Methodist Church Hall, 7.45. Tel: 262 0601

APRIL

- 6 **Slide box & AGM.** Talk & slides by Andrew Shepherd for Hallamshire Historic Building Society, Quaker Meeting House, St James Street 7.30pm Everyone welcome
- 8 **New Zealand** Slide show by Mr D Hawkins, for Dore(E)T.G. Old School 7.30pm. Visitors welcome
- 13 **Councillors Surgery (LD).** Totley Library, 6pm-7pm
- 17-18 **Dore Art Exhibition.** Old School. Fri 2pm-8pm, Sat 9.30am-5pm.
- 20 **Councillors Surgery (C).** Totley Library, 6pm-7pm
- 20 **Cromford & High Peak Railway.** Talk by Andy Pollock for S.Y. Industrial History Society. Kelham Island Museum, 7.30pm.
- 21 **Sponsored Knit** in aid of church refurbishment fund. Tuesday Group, Methodist Church Hall, 7.45. Tel: 262 0601
- 21-25 **Princess Ida,** by Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society. University Drama Studio, Glossop Road, 7.15pm. Tickets from Mrs Robinson on 236 6592.
- 22 **Members evening.** Meet the committee & OS Maps of Ecclesall Woods. FEW. Holy Trinity Church Hall, 7.30pm.
- 24-25 **Rags & Razzamatazz.** Show by students of Jackie Collins School of Drama. St John Church Hall, 7.30pm Tel 236 4367.
- 28 **Music Train** with the Little Buffaloes from Sheffield 7.18pm but collecting at Dore. See 24 Feb above.

MAY

- 1-2 **Spring Concert.** John Wade Singers. St John's Church Abbeydale, 7.30pm. See article. Tickets 236 0820
- 5 **Visit to Eyam.** Tuesday Group, Methodist Church Hall, 7.45. Tel: 262 0601
- 9 **Car Boot Sale.** K.E.S.A. Mercia site, King Ecgbert School, 10am to 1pm. To book space tel: 236 2556.
- 9-25 **Sheffield Environment Weeks.** See programme to be published nearer the date.
- 11 **Councillors Surgery (LD).** Totley Library, 6.00-7.00
- 13 **Amateur Theatricals** Talk by Mr R Brown, for Dore(E)T.G. Old School 7.30pm. Visitors welcome
- 16 **Concert.** Dore Male Voice Choir, High Green Methodist Church, for High Green Primary School. 7pm. Tickets 281 6886
- 18 **The Five Weirs Walk** The story so far by Simon Ogden for S.Y. Industrial History Society. Kelham Island Museum, 7.30pm.
- 26 **Music Train** with the South Riding Folk Network from Sheffield 7.18pm but collecting at Dore. See 24 Feb above.



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