

DORE to DOOR

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

No. 60 WINTER 2000

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Seasons Greetings

The committee of the Dore Village Society would like to take this opportunity to send seasons greetings to all members of the society and readers of DORE to DOOR, wherever you might be.

Water water every where

Late October and early November have been, to say the least, exceptionally wet! The river Savage re-asserted itself, despite earlier council efforts to resolve the problem, Abbeydale Road South was awash, and Limb Lane had to be closed due to the floods.

At one stage flooding was so bad on Hathersage Road, that on some mornings No 50 buses leaving the village reached Ecclesall via Long Line and Bents Road, which kept them to their schedules but left Whirlow and Parkhead passengers stranded.

Usually it takes several months of autumn rain to saturate the ground, a feat already achieved.

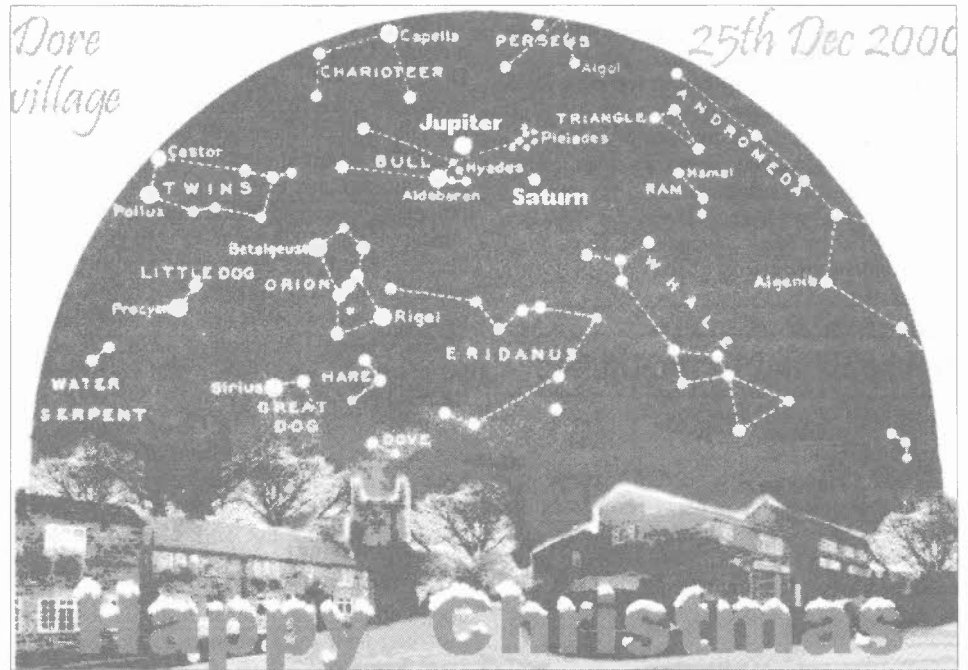
Any more rain in the near future will inevitably run straight off the ground threatening further floods. Still, what bets that we have a water shortage come August?

Dore Collection

For several years the Dore Village Society has been collecting information and artifacts associated with the history of Dore. Our aim is to collect, catalogue and display material on the locality and its history, for the benefit of residents, school projects and researchers. This collection already includes historic records, photographs, books, maps and items from fossils to Victorian tools and local finds such as coins. We have also been promised a copy of all the historic material about the area collected over the years by Brian Edwards.

The additional space now available to us means that we can for the first time display material properly and would now like to invite the donation of further items and archive material. If you have any old photographs, letters, diaries, press cutting etc then please let us know so that we can copy them or provide for their safe keeping.

We are also looking to bring back to the village items associated with Dore's history. One item is a beautiful grandfather clock made around 1720 by local clockmaker Pearson of Dore. We have a chance to buy this but will need donations to do so. If you think you could help in any way with this, please contact David Heslop on 236 5043, or John Baker on 236 9025.



DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

Winter meeting

7.30pm Thursday 30 November

Methodist Church Hall

History Afloat

A talk by Marjorie Dunn covering life on local waterways over the centuries.

Special General Meeting

There will be a brief Special General Meeting of the Dore Village Society in association with our winter meeting at the Methodist Church Hall on the 30th November. The motion before the meeting will cover some small amendments to the constitution, bringing it up to date and in line with the requirements of the Civic Trust, which we hope to join.

Copies of the revised constitution will be available on the night or in advance by ringing 262 0012 or 236 9025.

Scout Post

Once again the local Scout Groups are taking part in the Scout Christmas Post scheme from 23rd November until the last posting date on 14th December. Special 15p stamps will be on sale locally with the proceeds going partly to local scouts and partly to local charities. Greeting cards only can be sent under the scheme to all of Sheffield, Dronfield and Chesterfield, as well as some outlying areas.

Dore Millennium Play

As the decision on the application for funding of this project is still awaited (Oct 2000), it has been decided that summer 2001 would now be a more appropriate time for the production to be staged. Many local organisations have already expressed an interest in being actively involved and it is hoped that the playwright, Caroline Small, will soon be able to begin researching and writing the play. This project is intended to involve all age groups, and it is hoped that through drama workshops, there will be many opportunities to share and record memories of life in the Village during the twentieth century.

Look out for more details in the usual places around the Village for an update on what will be happening next.

Birthday celebrations

Dore to Door reaches its 60th edition with this issue, representing 15 years of publication. It is usual to celebrate such occasions and the kind donation of a bottle of champagne by local firm Wine Direct Ltd, will allow someone to do so. Please see the Christmas competition elsewhere in this issue.

And while you reflect on the last 15 years, please spare a thought for the editor (and his wife!).

It must be time for some fresh blood to make an input to the magazine, so if anyone out there is interested in helping in any way, however small, please give us a call.

INSIDE: Letters; News in Brief; Book Reviews; Diary; £1 liners; and much more.....

Christmas competition

This is your chance to win a bottle of Ruinart Champagne worth £25, donated by Wine Direct UK. Simply put your name and address, and the answer to the following question, on a postcard, and hand this in at Greens shop on Causeway Head Road, or post it to the editor - address on page 2. Closing date 1st December 2000.

Question: **For how many years has Dore to Door been published?**

The draw will take place in the new DVS room during the open morning on 2nd December. The first correct entrant will receive the champagne. There are three runner up prizes of books donated by their authors: *Maggie Kelly* by Marjorie Dunn; *The Mystery of Carl Wark* by Mick Savage; and *Shiny Sheff* (Sheffield's fighting ships) by Alistair Lofthouse.

Transport and Traffic Update

Progress has been made recently on schemes affecting the village.

School Crossings - It's good to hear that the school crossing patrol is being re-instated on Furniss Avenue. On behalf of the children and parents, thanks are expressed to the new crossing warden for volunteering. The task can be tricky at times, especially in the heat of the morning rush hour.

So, drivers, please be on your very best behaviour at this time.

To help children cross Bushey Wood Road safely into the school grounds, a short stretch of the road near the top bend is to have zig-zag lines indicating a school crossing zone. The

police are to be present initially to advise drivers that the zone is to be kept completely clear of cars at the operational times. The space is not to be used as a drop-off area but is intended to provide drivers and pedestrians with a stretch of road with completely clear visibility. A further appeal to drivers, please respect the lines and their purpose. It only takes one second for a child to be hurt!

Parking Restrictions - The three schemes introducing further parking restrictions in the village were discussed at a public meeting. As a result of this and written comments from the Dore Village Society, a number of changes have been made to the original proposals. Near the Old School, there will be a minimum of restriction near the junction of Vicarage Lane and Savage Lane. Previously, the Council was proposing to extend this along Vicarage Lane almost as far as the vicarage. On Devonshire Terrace Road, the restriction has also been reduced near the bus stop to allow more parking space for shoppers. The main element of this scheme, restriction of parking opposite the bus stop, is retained and will extend round the bend almost to the Co-op.

The proposal from the Co-op to introduce and part fund a lay-by in front of the store has been put aside for the time being. The Traffic Orders for all three schemes will be prepared in November with the work being done early next year.

Causeway Head Road - The Council has drawn up its initial ideas in response to people reporting their fears when crossing Causeway Head Road to reach the shops. Consultations will shortly be taking place with local residents, the Area Panel and the Dore Village Society where views on the Council's ideas and suggestions for others will be invited.

The ideas being put forward for consultation include a build out of the pavement near the HSBC Bank to lessen the width of road that pedestrians have to cross and to improve visibility past parked cars. There is also scope to provide a pedestrian refuge island near to the junction with High Street. Views will also be sought regarding having limited waiting restrictions in the parking bays near to the shops.

Funding has been set aside for safety improvements here and it is hoped to have a scheme completed on site before April 2001.

Roger Millican

UFO pigeons?

Several Dore residents witnessed brilliant white lights hovering in the skies south of the village one evening at the end of September. UFO excitement gripped 'The Star', but the consensus seems to be that it was a flight of pigeons wheeling in the sky. First ducks, now pigeons. What will Dore be famous for next?

Open mornings

The new Dore Village Society room will be open to visitors on Saturday the 2nd December, and on the first Saturday of the month thereafter, from 10am to 12noon. Please come along to talk to members of the committee about local issues or the history of the village, to buy Christmas cards and other DVS publications, or to renew your membership.

Editorial & Advertising

Dore to Door is published quarterly by the Dore Village Society and delivered free to over 3,200 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.

[Email editor@dorevillage.co.uk]

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Millennium award

The Friends of Ecclesall Woods (FEW) have been successful in applying for a £5,000 grant from the Millennium "Awards for All", to help improve understanding of the complex archaeology of the woodland. Developed in partnership with Parks, Woodlands and Countryside, the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service and Sheffield Hallam University, the project will help increase local people's knowledge and awareness of the woodland's archaeological interest through a series of training days, and provide more detailed interpretation of the features already known.

The information gathered will also be used in interpretative and educational events.

Concern over secure unit

The children's secure unit on Limb Lane is still a 'cause for concern', according to the Government's Social Services Inspectorate.

Following a visit in April, the inspectorate has criticised Sheffield Council's senior management for failing to act on all the recommendations it made when it inspected Aldine House in 1999.

At the time the inspectors highlighted the high turnover of staff, a lack of training, and "inadequate" senior management, including a failure to carry out the number of monitoring visits required by law. There were also concerns about the way teenagers with challenging behaviour at the home were restrained. It is the third time inspectors have criticised the eight-bed unit which was built just three years ago at a cost of £2.1 million to provide secure accommodation for children and teenagers on remand or who are a danger to themselves or others. In the last year, an additional £600,000 of Government cash has been spent on the home putting in security cameras and other improvements.

Since it opened the home has had three permanent and one temporary manager with the present manager Francis N'Jie taking over earlier this year. It has also suffered a high staff turnover, not helped by low morale and difficulties over recruitment.

Aldine House costs £ 1.1 million a year to run, funded by fees paid by the Government to place children in the home. Currently it is accommodating four children!

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)

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

Vice Chairman

(Environment)

Mr R Millican 262 0012
16 Devonshire Drive, S17 3PJ.

Treasurer

Mrs M Watson 236 5666
11 Cavendish Avenue, S17 3JN.

Secretary

Mrs A Slater 236 6710
6 Old Hay Close S17 3GQ.

Committee

Mrs L E Baker (Dore Show) 236 9025
Mr G R Elsdon 236 0002
(Subscriptions & Notice Board)
Mrs G Farnsworth 235 0609
Mr D Heslop (Planning) 236 5043
Mrs V Malthouse 236 3632
Mr P Pryor 236 9831

Membership Subscriptions

The Dore Village Society has now moved into two rooms in the recently extended Old School.

The original single room had become too small to accommodate the Society's increasing activities and archive collection of books, maps, artifacts, etc., relating to Dore and its history.

It will now be possible to display items and improve access to residents, schools and researchers.

Information on Dore can also be found by anyone, via the Society's recently launched web site.

The rental on the new rooms has been negotiated with the Trustees of the Old School at a favourable rate, but this still represents a considerable increase in our annual budget. Fitting out the rooms and improving services to members will also cost money.

As a registered charity the Society relies heavily on subscriptions to carry out its objectives on behalf of members and Dore residents generally. The DVS committee has therefore reluctantly agreed, that from January 2001, the annual membership subscription per person will be increased from £2 to £4. Fortunately the government will now donate money to "top up" subscription and donations made by taxpayers, to charitable organisations such as Dore Village Society. This will allow us to significantly increase the value of subscriptions received.

We have plans to improve services and benefits to members, starting with a full annual programme of events, which will be launched with the new year's subscriptions.

Summer of '84 Reunion

A reunion has been organised for anybody who was in the 5th year at King Egbert School in the summer of 1984, you would now be aged 32/33.

It is being held at the Non-Political Club on Ecclesall Road at 8pm on Saturday November 18th, entry is just £5, payable on the night, to cover the cost of buffet and a trip down memory lane with an '80's disco!

We've over 50 people coming so far, but would love to see as many of the year as possible, so if you, or someone you know, were in this year, please just turn up on the night.

If you want any further information please contact any of the following: Kerri Hickman 230 2913; Derry Walker 237 8921; Amy Sykes 281 8225; Teresa Malone 251 4077.

Kerri Hickman

(kerri@inmyattic.f9.co.uk)

South West Area Panel

The next public meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 29 November at Holy Trinity Church, Grove Road Millhouses. The meeting will discuss general planning issues in the area, with guest speakers David Curtis, Head of Planning, and Councillor Ian Auckland, cabinet member for Economic and Physical Development. This is your opportunity to raise issues on recent planning decisions and general planning matters.

A full stop

In September 1998, Betty Young saw a lorry knock over the "stop" sign at the bottom of Rushley Road, leaving exposed wiring. She rang Direct Services immediately and before long a large wobbly orange cover was put over - wobbly because tangled metal still protruded. Nothing else was done despite frequent phone calls. The Mr Blobby cone was so large that only a handspan of pavement has been free for road crossing on a very busy bend. Walkers with dogs, sticks, prams, children and pushchairs have had to walk in the road and negotiate the very uneven tarmac and metal debris. Many complaints have been sent to the Town Hall. (It was admitted this November that the database includes entries dating from Autumn 98.)

In the middle of October an extra obstacle arrived - a "men at work" triangle, large enough to completely block the corner. No men and no work done! So now you had to walk on Dore Road itself.

By chance on the 1st November 2000 Mr Hague of Direct Works (road signs and pavements) was in Dore supervising a project. When I took him to Rushley Road and gave him "a piece of my mind" he promised action. Within a day the workmen and YEB men had come, the site tidied and tarmaced. Moreover, Mr Hague is hoping to deal with the missing and damaged road signs, which we were told could not be resolved because of lack of money.

Is this the new "street scene initiative" we keep reading about?

Gillian Farnsworth

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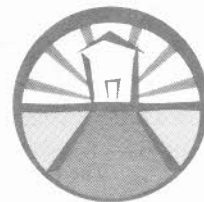
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King Egbert School

Over 200 people attended a Public Meeting on 12 September to hear the proposals for the redevelopment of the Mercia and Wessex sites of King Egbert School.

The case for redevelopment

The case for redevelopment by the City Council was put by Penny Pennington - Education Officer (Capital Development), Diane Gair - Project Manager (Contracts Unit), Carol Cresswell - Architectural Adviser (Sheffield Design and Property) and Bob Evans - Headteacher (King Egbert School).

The school is in need of extensive capital works. The arrangement on a split site together with unsuitable accommodation is also unsatisfactory. Rebuilding is considered the best solution.

There is a funding opportunity through P.F.I. (Private Finance Initiative). By this a private consortium designs, builds, finances, operates and maintains the buildings and facilities. The Council makes an annual payment for 25 years for these facilities and provides the educational needs. There is a 70% subsidy paid by the Government towards this, but the financing of the project also relies on income from the sale of surplus land and out of school hours use of the facilities.

The consortium is selected by the Council from a reducing shortlist, and the successful bid would provide the best proposals for building, standards and conditions.

If the project moves forward as the Council hopes the principle dates would be:

Outline Planning permission - December 2000

Public exhibition of bidders proposals - October 2001

Detailed Planning Consent for two final bidders - November 2001

Construction commences on site - April 2002

New school opens - September 2002

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31 January 2001
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The proposals

The proposals, put to the Public Meeting, were that:

- 1) the new school should be built on the Wessex Site (on the south side of Furniss Avenue),
- 2) half the Mercia Site (now occupied by school buildings) together with a small area of about 4 hectares of land on the Wessex Site, at the end of King Egbert Road, would be sold for housing to help fund the scheme,
- 3) the other half of the Mercia Site would be retained and managed by the consortium, as open space for recreational use.

The Council are proposing three alternatives for the school on the Wessex Site.

- A) Provide additional buildings on the land between Totley Brook Road (northern end) and the existing buildings,
- B) Provide an additional building on the playing fields to the south of the existing building and adjacent to the Totley Brook Estate boundary, with a new access between the houses on Totley Brook Road.
- C) Demolish the Wessex building and rebuild a complete school on the existing building footprint. This would entail use of temporary accommodation on the open space of the Mercia site during building works, at a cost of about £1 million.

Discussion and questions

The following concerns were raised at the meeting;

- 1) Traffic calming measures were considered vital on Furniss Avenue, and around the school.

The proposals were seen as a vital opportunity to resolve the parking and traffic problems in the locality.

- 2) School vehicles should be parked in the school grounds. Mr. Evans gave some assurance that was the intention.
- 3) Serious concern was expressed as to the problems of land drainage in the area. Residents were worried that poor drainage would be made even worse by the proposals, unless serious thought was given to the treatment of the two sites at an early stage.
- 4) Concern was raised about the proposed housing development on both the Mercia and Wessex sites. The officers of the Council pointed out that the sites were allocated for housing on the Unitary Development Plan, approved by the Government some time ago. Further, the new school could not go ahead without the revenue from the housing land sales.
- 5) There were requests that if housing was to be built, it should be limited to bungalows.
- 6) The officers could not say how the housing land would be developed. That would be a decision of the consortium, subject to planning consent.
- 7) There were concerns about the proposed use, for access into the Wessex site, of the

strip of land in Totley Brook Road because of the poor sight lines.

- 8) The meeting was told that it was not financially feasible to retain the Mercia building for community use.
- 9) The officers confirmed that the open space land was so designated on the U.D.P. and could not be developed for other uses by the Council or the consortium.
- 10) The meeting was told that there was not a preferred scheme of development of the school, although the suggested rebuilding of the school on the Wessex building footprint was unlikely because of the cost of the temporary arrangements.
- 11) The purpose of making three outline planning applications was to give the consortium bidders an idea of what might be approved as a scheme for development.
- 12) The meeting was assured that the residents of Dore would be kept fully informed and consulted as the proposals progressed, and that any concerns raised would be considered for inclusion in the specification prepared for the bidders.

David Heslop

Street Scene

Street scene is a new initiative to improve the appearance of residential areas and the quality of life for people who live there.

A consistent issue of concern amongst residents in the City has been the deteriorating physical condition of the roads, footways, verges, and street furniture. The effect of this deterioration has been to give the impression of decline and neglect which reduces local confidence and pride. It impacts on both public space and residential areas.

Street Scene has been specifically developed to concentrate on the following areas:

Replacing broken and damaged street signs; Improving road markings; Improving the maintenance of grassed and decorative areas; Removing accumulated litter and rubbish. The Council is committed to ongoing consultation with its customers on how the Street Scene can be improved. Residents and local community groups play a vital role in helping the Council maintain the upkeep of an area and everyone can play their part. Help us to care for the Street Scene by contacting us at: street.scene@sheffieldworks.demon.co.uk or call Sheffield Direct Services on 273 4567 (lines open: 8.00 am - 6.00 pm, Monday - Friday)

Homesitters Ltd

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New Dore Village Society Christmas card by Brian Smith.

Christmas card

This year the Dore Village Society is offering a number of different Christmas cards. In response to a regular request for a smaller card appealing to a younger audience, the first shows a snowman behind the King Egbert stone on the green. Others feature scenes in the village, and finally in response to overwhelming demand last year's Dore Ducks card has also been reprinted.

You can buy the cards in packs of 5 at Greens on Causeway Head Road, from Valerie of Dore, from the Dore Village Society room on 2nd December or our occasional streets stalls.

Ryecroft Farm development

Dore to Door came in for stick from some readers in respect to our lead article in the last issue - see letters. Others voiced their support. Fortunately tipping is now substantially finished and landscaping of the site is in progress. However, just to put things straight:

We well understand and sympathise with the financial difficulties farmers currently face and can see the attractions of diversification, including that of providing pasturing for the increasing number of privately owned horses. It is sad that the Council, as Landlord, has no apparent strategy for supporting the viability of its tenants holdings, apart from selling them off, as has just happened on Long Line, and no doubt will with Ryecroft Farm at some future point.

Unfortunately the excessive tipping of spoil to create a riding circle has nothing to do with this - it could have been done (and usually is) by excavating into the slope. See Avenue Farm. The sheer scale of the operation was totally out of line with the needs for the creation of a simple riding circle. Why?

Our concern then is with the planning process, the Council and government legislation.

Everyone must be aware of the massive building development on the old Totley College site and in Whirlow. This has involved moving thousands of tons of spoil, yet where this was to go, or the impact of its movement, was not taken into account in granting planning permission.

[Interestingly the South Planning Board which makes planning decisions has no

councillors from Dore Ward on it! And you may recall when Abbeydale Hall was being discussed, the then chair would not even allow one of our local councillors to address the relevant meeting!]

As it happens, conveniently, this spoil could be tipped on council land in Dore without travelling too far, but then we understand the even more convenient offer of filling an old quarry on Totley Hall Farm was not pursued.

Tipping is an expensive business and covered by Landfill legislation including payment of landfill tax. But there are tax exemptions, including tipping for recreational use! Exemptions should be registered, but according to the Environment Agency this scheme has not been. The cost of doing so is £12, therefore it is not economic for the Agency to pursue failures to register!

Finally landowners usually receive healthy payments per lorry load for allowing tipping. Did the Council benefit, and are they investing the income into the farm? We could go on.

We do wish John Farnsworth and Ryecroft Farm well, but isn't it time society took a more holistic view of planning and the impact of developments?

John Baker, Editor

Cards for good causes

The Sheffield Charity Christmas Card Shop this year can be found in the Cathedral. The shop is open from 10am to 4pm, Monday to Saturday. On sale are cards from both national and local Charities. For information call Mary Watson on 236 5666.

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Letters

Dear Sir,

It would seem that due to a little known existing law and with a Government White Paper due in the autumn, we now have the opportunity of having our own parish council. The support of only 10% of the local electorate is required.

Bradway certainly does not make the most of its natural scenic advantages. We have Twentywell Lane but not one well made into a feature. The grass verges, when they are cut are left with long grass clippings on them. Missing road signs, litter etc.

Surely if the local people were in charge of making the best of Bradway we could do better.

Perhaps joining forces with Dore and Totley to make a more viable entity.

Roy Cooper

*Ed. How do people feel about this idea?
Does anybody want to start a campaign?*

Dear Sir,

Dore-on-the-Web.com

I have to confess that I am not really into computers yet, so, when I saw that Dore village now has its own computer web site, I must admit I wondered - who might use it. Well, on Sunday 8th October, I had occasion to find out for myself.

My husband and I returned home after having had lunch out with our family to find a strange man in the act of ringing our doorbell. He introduced himself as John Furness, currently of Macclesfield, a descendant of the family of Richard Furness, famed schoolmaster of Dore. John Furness explained that he was a descendant of Richard's brother Peter, and was in the process of tracing his family tree. Knowing that Richard Furness had



Hare & Hounds Pub. Can you put a date to this picture?

connections with the village, John had keyed in 'Dore' on his computer, then 'Furness', and up popped the book title 'I, Richard Furness'.

On the strength of this John Furness made the journey from Macclesfield to Dore to find me, as author of the above book, in the hope of tracing some more of his ancestors. I was delighted to be of help to him and we had a fascinating hour swapping information about Richard Furness and his family.

In his childhood John had lived in the old farm known as 'Olde House' in Eyam, where Richard was born and grew up. Although the house is a private home, still in the Furness family and not open to the public, John has arranged for me to visit the house in the near future. To actually see inside the childhood home of my hero will be a real thrill, so I have good reason to be grateful to www.dorevillage.co.uk which made it all possible.

Josie Dunsmore

Ed. Details of the book, still available from the society, were found in the Publications/archive section of our web site, which lists our current publications and links to local archive material online.

Dear Sir,

Following issue number 59 Autumn of Dore to Dore and the article on page 23 "Dog Fouling & the law" I have edited down my letter to the Council on this subject and have enclosed it for you to publish if you think it relevant:

My family moved into a new house which adjoins the village Park at the rear, this was a tremendous benefit to our three year old daughter who could gain access to the swing park without having to go on to traffic bearing Road's

We have a long established conker tree at the end of the garden next to the dry stone wall, which borders the park. The conker tree is abundant with conkers, an obvious temptation for young village children to come and collect. We often saw children throwing sticks in the air to knock the conkers down.

I decided to tidy up the area that the children needed to stand in to obtain the conkers. This area of the park is council property and had a considerable amounts of broken glass, rusting tin cans, old rusting barbed wire, stones (some were quite sharp as

they had previously formed a part of the damaged dry-stone wall) pieces of wood containing nails etc all of which posed obvious health and safety hazards to adults, the numerous amount of dogs that are walked in the park but most importantly of all the children.

During the clearing up of this area I came in contact with a huge amount of dog faeces. It would appear that due to the fact the grass is longer in this area than in most parts of the park and that no Doggy bins were situated here it was far easier to allow dogs to "do their business" in an area that would conceal the evidence rather than have to physically clean up the mess. I decided to clear up this revolting health hazard and in shortening the grass made it easier for the young saplings to grow and flourish.

I was contacted in due course by a member of the local council who expressed a concern about the costs of removing dog faeces from the park and quoted a figure of approx £13,000 per annum to do it. I pointed out that I believed the real issue was the potential danger to children of 'Toxocara Canis' a very serious disease which is transmitted to children via dog faeces and can cause blindness and in extreme circumstances death.

I am sure this health and safety issue is of concern to the council and it is a responsibility of all adults park users to look after the welfare of children, in this case the dog owners have a very specific responsibility to tidy up after there animals.

I have offered the Council sponsorship of a Doggy bin for this area of the park, however the council representative believed that a more effective solution would be to impose fines on dog owners who are not taking their responsibilities seriously enough. This course of action would save the council money and improve facilities, but to date no action from the council.

Michael Acton

STOP PRESS

A Guided Walk, for Dore Village Society members, will take place on Tuesday 5th December led by David Heslop. Start 10am from the Old School. 6 miles (with shorter option).



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Dear Sir,

As someone who was born and brought up in Dore I was very interested to visit your web site.

My mother still lives in Dore and I still visit and miss the place. I was educated at the old school and was a member of the last class to leave for secondary school before the new school opened.

I remember our visits to the church from school and as a Brownie (or was it a Guide?) I helped Betty Brown with the well dressing one year. I was married in the church and my two children were christened there.

I have lived in various parts of Coventry for all my married life and now live in a suburb called Binley Woods. Three members of my family have been members of the local amateur dramatic company and my husband runs the web site for the company and the village, perhaps you would like to visit our site www.billh.demon.co.uk. We have had a lot of interest from all over this country and abroad and feel that this is an interesting and useful service to the community. How about a link with other village web sites?

Mum won't need to send Dore to Door any more now I can read the news online.

Kathryn Hardy

Dear Sir,

I would like to reply to the article on page one of the issue 59 i.e. Rycroft Farm Development'.

Having read the article and those within I would like to take issue with the writer of this article who seems to resent the development of a livery business based on one of the founder farms of our village. The writer seems to have failed to recognise what the alternative could be. We have a unique village with tradition and

with character - including our ducks. We have a village being eroded by houses and more houses - squeezed into patches of our greenland and taking away the personality of our rural village. I for one would very much prefer horses to houses and wish Rycroft Farm every success in their new venture.

Jan Hulley

Dear Sir,

Just what is the point of inviting people to object to housing developments in their areas, when on the whole, money and developers get their way, with complete disregard to the views and wishes of the local people.

Dore is no different to anywhere else. Setting aside 'nimbism' many people in the area agree that the need for 4/5 plus bedroomed houses has already been sated. And that what is required is sensibly sized accommodation, so that people, as their children fly the nest', will not be forced to leave the area in search of smaller housing elsewhere. Now we see bungalows being demolished, and more large houses being built. There have been several sites in Dore that would have been ideal for housing more suited to an older age group wanting to down size, but still

huge properties are preferred by builders.

Even if local planners do listen to local voices, complaints, preferences, suggestions, and turn down an application, often the builder will re-submit his plans, slightly adjusted, or appeal to higher and distant bodies so that eventually the work goes ahead with no significant changes.

And certainly not in favour of local opinion. How can we get control of our own environment?

There are other issues here too. It is obvious

that even if we do not live on a flood plain, flooding can still occur as the old sewers and storm drains are not enlarged and cannot cope with the new demand. Our water simply becomes someone else's problem.

Other local services are also stretched. Schools, for instance are already very full. It seems there is no account of the needs of communities or forward vision in planning. Or any vision at all!

Name & address provided

Dear Sir,

Further to the note by Jean Dean in the Autumn number of Dore to Door, the sight of a photograph, or even a description of South View Cottage, Drury Lane, before its modernisation in 1977 would be greatly appreciated.

Muriel Tompkins

Reference the above letter. Mr Frank Evans, a previous owner of the cottage on Drury Lane has provided a photograph which we will pass on, although unfortunately it is not of a good enough quality to reproduce here. The owner before Frank was his uncle - Alan Evans and the cottage was occupied by one of Franks aunts - Agnes Evans. Frank owned the cottage and the adjoining properties and his mother lived in one.

The alterations were carried out by C.E.Cook (Ringinglow). Whilst they were removing a tree at the front, they found the roots had undermined the foundations and the outside wall was demolished and rebuilt using the original stone. The stone mason who carried out this work was Mr Ken Ingham of Dore.

Jean Dean



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Letters

Dear Sir,

I think we are to assume that the editor of Dore to Door has written the page one comment on Ryecroft Farm development (issue No59) which contains unsourced and leading phrases like "there is also concern" over the possible development of a commercial livery business based on the farm and the "likely impact of its horses on Ecclesall Woods" and using words like "you could be forgiven for thinking Dore had acquired its own industrial dump site."

I find no published evidence elsewhere in the magazine of "concern" or the view that Dore has a dump site and, in the absence of others' credited observations on the issue, I consider his use of such phrases to be inappropriate.

He concludes with the implication that the livery horses will "likely impact" on Ecclesall Woods - and then encourages his readers to turn to a letter inside which is devoted - apart from a three-line reference berating naughty cyclists - to horseriders abusing the bridle path rules. This letter makes no reference to the proposed livery but I suggest the linking of the page one comment about the livery to the writer's views inside on unruly horseriders could lead to an unfair and unjustified connection in the minds of the readers.

That apart should we not just stand back a little and consider the possible wider issue. Here we have a farm, one of the few surviving in our village, worked for generations by the Farnsworths, and which presumably has faced and continues to face the frightening monetary difficulties

experienced by Britain's small farmers, daring to look for a way forward by diversifying into horses and livery and thus preserving the green fields that surround us.

A frightening, long-term alternative may well be another mass development of executive houses, a new road network linking Dore Road with Rushley Avenue and the loss of the Ryecroft lands.

I was born here in the Forties, have lived here for most of my life and I believe Dore is about horses, is about ducks in the High Street, the preservation of traditions unique to village life and we should not let a temporary stream of heavy lorries or muddy smears on Dore Road colour our views when a farmer is seemingly doing no more - and presumably with official permission of his landlord masters the council - than attempting to

provide a service to a new generation of riders, and continuing to use his lands, albeit with horses and perhaps not his milking herd.

Yes, teach some of these young riders a few more manners if they get the opportunity to go to this livery. Encourage them to acknowledge the courtesy of the village motorist - a livery teaching is not just about riding skills but about instruction in equestrian manners and the acknowledgement of the considerations of other road users.

We have a truly unique community spirit in Dore, founded on the old core families of the village, on the farmers and the country heritage, and blended with the welcome mix of the newcomers, the families that came with the old Midland Bank, the mums and dads of the city's industry, the sporting superstars - the very people who have come because we have horses, ducks and countryside around us.

With consideration, tolerance and good sense there is room for us all.

David Mastin

Dear Sir,

I am researching my family tree and after many false trails I have found that there are many of the Green family in Dore Churchyard. My great grandfather farmed 50 acres in this area. His name was Walter and his wife was called Elisabeth. His brother George was a farmer in the area from 1860 to 75. He was the landlord of the Dore Moor Inn. I have visited the Church and met the vicar, who directed me to Walter and Elisabeth's grave. I would appreciate any information on the Green's who lived in Dore Village.

S.P. Greene

Ed. Mr Green can be reached on 0114 236 8496

Age Concerns

Age Concern are urging all Pensioners to check whether they may be entitled to extra money, particularly following this year's 75 pence per week increase to the basic State Pension.

The benefits that tend to go unclaimed by older people include income support, housing benefit (help with rent), council tax benefit and attendance allowance. Older people may be put off claiming because they are not aware a benefit exists or because the forms are daunting, but help is available. Anyone who feels they may be entitled, and would like to find out more, should contact the Age Concern information Line on 0800 009966 and ask for a 'Your Rights Fact Pack'.

On a seasonal note

Champagne - an English Invention, or a French Development?

Until the end of the 17 century the wine made in the Champagne region of France was a murky rosé colour, and it was still, not sparkling. As French glass was too weak for fizzy wine before about 1695, and an efficient seal such as cork was not available, sparkling Champagne's debut in France must have been between about 1695 and 1698.

The English, by contrast, already had the technology - (their glass was coal-fired and strong, and they had cork from Spain) - and there is proof that they used it to make still wines sparkle at least 30 years before the French!

At the Royal Society in 1662, a Dr. Merret stated that "our wine-coopers of recent times use vast quantities of sugar and molasses to all sorts of wines to make them drink brisk and sparkling".

There is also evidence that the English deliberately put a sparkle into the imported still wines of Champagne. In 1676 the dramatist Sir George Etherege wrote that "sparkling Champaign...makes us frolic and gay, and drowns all sorrow".

It was at the beginning of the 18 century at the abbey of Hautvillers, that the benedictine monk Dom Thierry Ruinart, became acquainted with the precious secret' of the elaboration of the wine which sparkles'. This secret' was passed to his nephew Nicolas Ruinart who founded the first House of Champagne at Reims in 1729, in direct response to public demand for his wonderful sparkling Champagne that he'd originally produced for private use.

Today, in Britain, the production of sparkling wine (by the champagne method) is enjoying a healthy revival and deserved fame; Nyetimber, in West Sussex, is a gold medal winner, the 1992 vintage being chosen for the Queen's Golden Anniversary.

However, it is the longer established Houses of Champagne (The Grand Marques) that remain the most acclaimed and not least the House of Ruinart which has maintained its fine reputation through to this very day. This high-quality Champagne has never been produced in large quantities even though sales have trebled since its purchase by Moët & Chandon (LVMH) in 1963 and is all too often overlooked and amazing value' [Tom Stevenson]. NB For local historians, the cellars of Ruinart Champagne are a series of Gallo-Roman chalk pits (Crayères), officially classified as an historical monument, and well worth a visit.

Wine Direct UK

[Dom Pçrignon (1639-1715), a monk and cellarer at Hautvillers Abbey, near Reims, is widely thought to have invented sparkling Champagne, but there is little hard evidence to support this, notwithstanding the fact that he was a winemaker par excellence'.]

Ed. A bottle of Ruinart Champagne worth £25 has been donated by Wine Direct UK for our Christmas competition

News in Brief

Supersister girl band, Eleanor Phillips from Dore is a member, released their first single *Coffee* in October.



VISIT BRADWAY CRAFT FAIR SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER

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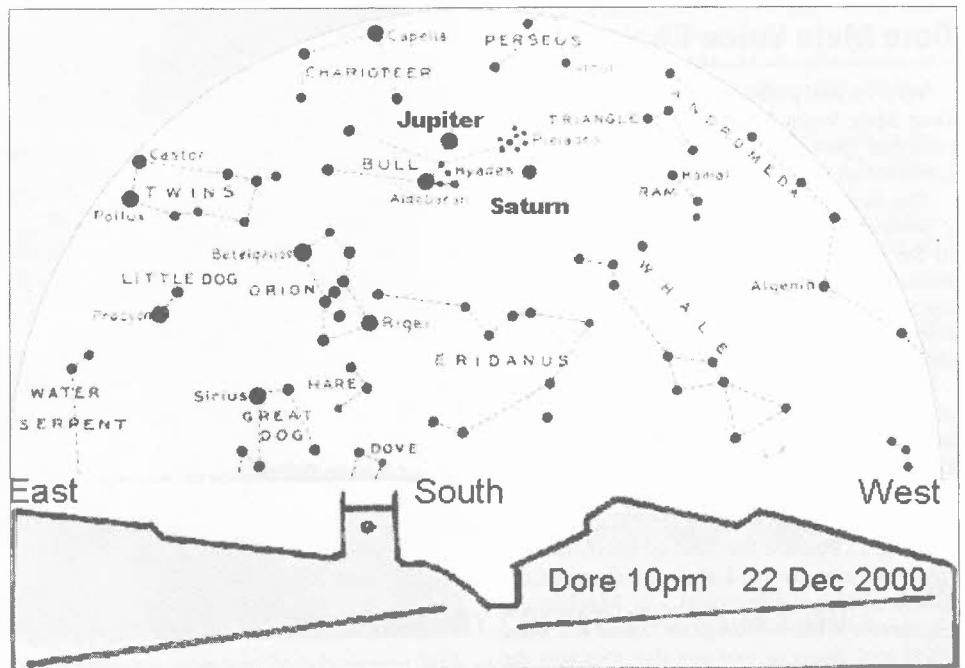
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Stars in Dore

High in the winter sky are the prominent constellations of Orion (the Hunter), Taurus (the Bull), Gemini (the Twins) and Auriga (the Charioteer), and the brightest star in the sky, Sirius, lies low in the southeast. Furthermore, the two greatest planets, Jupiter and Saturn, are visible in Taurus for most of the winter nights. Around Christmas time, Venus, too, may be seen early in the evening (before 7pm), low in the southwest.

Our star chart shows the brighter stars as seen by an observer looking to the south at about 10pm on 22nd December. It is also as the sky will appear at about 8pm on 22nd January or 6pm on 22nd February, roughly two hours earlier each month. The Milky Way passes nearly overhead down to the left of Orion. This faint glow of stars, visible to the naked eye, allows one to 'see' the merged light which set out from stars in the year 1000BC. The most spectacular views of the Milky Way are, however, in the summer months. In a later article we will give examples for which the naked-eye observer can see back 2 million years!

On a crisp clear night see if you can see Orion's sword hanging down from the three stars in his belt. The faint nebulous spot around the sword's central star is a veritable nursery of young stars, and it is an awe-inspiring fact that we are actually seeing this so called Orion nebula as it was in the year 500 AD! The light from Sirius, on the other hand, left the star only 8 years ago. See also the Pleiades cluster considered relatively young' by astronomers with stars born 80 million years ago. We recommend that those



interested in star-gazing walk or drive up to the village seat at the end of Newfield Lane and gaze westwards across Blackamoor and southwards towards Totley, or pause on Whitelaw Lane on their way into Dore from the Hathersage Road.

There is a thriving Sheffield Astronomical Society which meets regularly nearby, at the Old School, David Lane (the Mayfield Education Centre) between Dore and Fulwood (tel: 0114 269-2291). Their meetings are usually on alternate Mondays at 7.30pm. The Society owns a computerised 10-inch Meade telescope through which members and visitors are shown many kinds of celestial objects,

galaxies and nebulae, and the moon and planets, including Saturn's rings, Jupiter's belts and the planets' accompanying moons (Saturdays when skies are clear).

Readers may wish to address questions to us concerning the stars, galaxies and the universe.

Write to the editorial office marking the envelope 'Stars in Dore'. We may be able to reply to some of them in the next issue of Dore to Door, or perhaps on the village magazine's website.

Alternatively, e-mail us directly at enquiries@wheelers-warehouse.co.uk, and visit our website at www.wheelers-warehouse.co.uk.

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(from OFSTED inspection report, December 1999)

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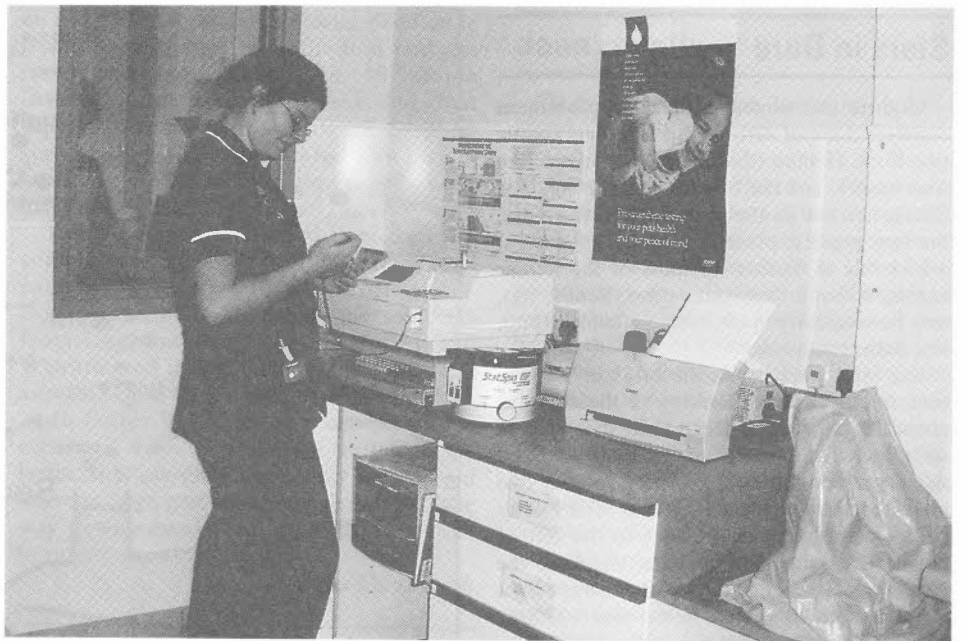
Very recently about half the members of Dore Male Voice Choir and their companions returned from a 7 days singing tour of the Limassol and Paphos regions of Cyprus.

The idea for the Cyprus tour was conceived 2 years ago when two of the members basked in the evening sunshine on the steps of the Roman Amphitheatre at Curium listening to the an army band and thinking how wonderful it would be to persuade the lads of D.M.V.C. to show their singing skills on that platform.

Their ambition was achieved on the evening of 7th October, 2000 when 20 men from Dore and 20 of their friends from the Wigston and District M.V.C., Leicester, their backs to the setting sun, faced the semicircle of its 1500 audience and sang the Soldiers' Chorus from Gounod's "Faust", the first of their 12 item programme performed with the Band of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. What a marvelous sound the Band made too! Some would say that this was the summit of their enjoyment but with numerous parties (impromptu and planned), sightseeing trips and the, not to be overlooked, 3 other concerts, who can be sure.

One of these concerts was to mark the opening, by the British High Commissioner, of a new Clubhouse in Paphos for the United Kingdom Citizens, Association. Another was sponsored by the Municipality of Paphos at its Markideio Theatre. Finally, between 6 o'clock and 7.30 on the Tuesday evening the choir sang its farewell to Cyprus at Ayia Kyriaki Chrysopolitissa. Those who have visited Paphos and have attended an evening service at this (St. Paul's Pillar) Church will not find it hard to imagine the magical atmosphere which prevailed on that warm evening with some 200 locals and visitors crammed into its ancient walls and spilling out into the archeological site on which it stands.

The returning members were immediately plunged into the final stages of preparing for the Choir's Annual Concert at Ecelesall Church on 21st October at which the delightfully skilled and entertaining boys and girls of the Kinder Choirs of the High Peak were its guests. After what was, perhaps, its most successful concert ever, the Choir has quickly had to commence practicing the music



Fully trained staff and new equipment - Sheffield Animal Hospital.

for its Christmas concerts. In the New Year it will be able to relax only a little as it starts work on the repertoire for its 2001 season of concerts and festivals commencing in March.

T. Ogley, Concert Secretary

I hate hospitals

The word hospital is enough to make anyone turn in the opposite direction, but should this word make our pets go hot-under-the-collar? As an increasing number of veterinary hospitals are opening up to the public, more and more people would like to know what this means to themselves and their pets.

Firstly, most veterinary hospitals, such as the new Sheffield Hospital in Totley, do take pets on a first opinion basis, although many also do referral work. This means that you can use these practices for vaccines, wormers and other routine healthcare matters as well as when your pet is seriously ill. Certain veterinary hospitals are run by charities such as the PDSA but these are a minority as most work in a similar way to your local vets, where income is necessary to maintain high standards

of care.

The term veterinary hospital means that certain standards have been reached as set down by the British Veterinary Hospital Association (BVHA) and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS). These standards are wide ranging, but include 24 hour on-site nursing cover, isolation facilities, and up-to-date diagnostic equipment for clinical examinations. Staff are also encouraged to continue training and development, including veterinary surgeons and nurses, to obtain further professional qualifications and to provide a forever increasing standard of care.

These regulations are intended to assure clients that the highest possible standard of care and treatment are available and that your pet will never be left alone in the building when unwell. As a profession vets often aim to treat their patients in a similar way to how their clients would wish to be treated themselves. However, modern practices do actually offer much more than you can get from your own doctor and hospital. When your pet is ill you can virtually always have an appointment on the same day, if not immediately. If an operation is needed, then frequently that will be performed on the same day - no long waiting lists, which reduces the risk of a condition deteriorating. Results from tests such as x-rays or ultrasound scans can be reported when your pet is collected by the same person who saw your pet in the first place. With in-house blood testing, when necessary, the results can be available to your vet within fifteen minutes, allowing them to advise the most appropriate treatment.

However, in many ways, what is most important is the fact that many people find their vet more approachable than their doctor and hopefully they have a more caring attitude. Most vets don't see you coming through their doors as just another case, but try and understand the fantastic bond between client and their often much-loved pet.

So if you are lucky enough to have a Veterinary Hospital in your area then don't flee at the mention of the word, but appreciate the extra effort taken to achieve this title, and do your pet a favour, be brave and venture inside.

*Jamie Harris
Sheffield Animal Hospital*

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Boom industry

In Britain rubbish is booming - the amount we produce is doubling every 20 years and we currently landfill more waste than any other European Union country. Britain will be forced by an EU directive to eventually reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill sites, but it is going to be hard-pressed to meet this target.

In some parts of the country the situation is particularly critical with all the holes in the ground, quarries, sand & gravel pits etc soon to be filled up. Burning more of our rubbish may be one answer but it is notoriously difficult to get planning permission for new incinerators. After all, would you really want one in your back garden? And then, to make an incinerator economically viable you have to have a guaranteed input bringing in waste from a wide area leading to increased pollution, more traffic and more fumes.

The Government has now decided to get tough on waste. It has come up with a strategy that sets targets for recycling. Every year we produce 28 million tonnes of household waste - that's half a tonne per person. Currently 82% of our household waste goes to landfill sites but by 2010 at least a third of all rubbish must be recycled or turned into compost. The amount of biodegradable waste put into landfill sites must also be halved by 2020.

Incinerators can be used to produce energy which saves burning fossil fuels but they also stifle innovation. By simply burning rubbish we avoid having to find other ways to tackle the problem.

In the long run, waste reduction and recycling will prove to be the only acceptable solutions.

We need to see more effort being put into waste reduction rather than disposal but not enough resources are going into finding ways to do this. We need to look at ways of making things out of materials that can be re-used and reducing the amount of packaging. People should be encouraged to recycle and throw less of their rubbish in the bin.

We could all do more. Consumers have the choice of buying goods which use recycled materials and many products come in concentrated form to save on packaging. Businesses could also design products that can be recycled more easily and inform consumers about the recycled content of their products. Supermarkets could offer loyalty points if shoppers recycle glass, paper and cans and if they re-use plastic carrier bags. Local councils could run doorstep collections of recyclable domestic waste. Essex county council is keen to increase recycling and has supported pilot schemes aimed at recycling up to 60% of household waste.

In some other countries householders are charged according to the weight of rubbish collected or by the size of rubbish bin that is used. Even fines for not recycling are commonplace elsewhere in Europe. If we don't want the countryside filled up with rubbish and incineration plants, then we need to jump on the recycling bandwagon fast.

Ed. Council is keen to encourage recycling of green waste - grass cuttings and soft green garden waste, green kitchen waste including vegetable and fruit peel, tea bags and pets like rabbits, guinea pig droppings. To this end composting bins are available for purchase at

a discounted price. A 220 litre capacity bin is available for £11.75 (including VAT) if collected from the Bernard Road Depot (open Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm), or for home delivery for an additional £3.75. Further information from the Recycling Office on 2735506 or 2735916.

Small Treasure

I wonder how many parents of young children reading this magazine are aware of the small treasure that is hidden in Atkinsons store? Rather forlornly, but still with a cheery expression on its face, there is a mechanical horse/mule at the bottom of the staircase, where one descends from the display of net curtains, that is a real bargain ride.

I first became acquainted with this animal over twenty years ago when I moved to Sheffield. In those days it resided outside the gentlemen's outfitters and was easy to spot as one progressed through the store. It was painted a dull brown and was always an enormous favourite with my children. It was a very cheap ride, and even today it will cost your child a mere two pence to be jogged safely and gently backwards and forwards.

My children used to save their modest pocket money so that they could pay for the ride themselves. Indeed they did very well

with their money, a packet of parma violets from the post office would keep hunger at bay while we waited for the bus to go into town and if eaten slowly enough there would be a few left to chew whilst having a ride. I also occasionally resorted to direct bribery promising a ride if we could go without complaint to such interesting stores as Marks and Spencers or Boots.

Today the brown paint has gone and the horse, which I think is modelled on Muffin the Mule (anyone over fifty will know what I'm talking about), is painted in trendy shades of purple and blue. The gentle cheery expression is still there and so it should be for an animal that has provided so much pleasure for so many children (and me). Do take time to visit it next time you are in town and don't forget a supply of two pence pieces!

Caroline Veal

Dore recreation ground

The project to install new playground equipment seems to run and run. The equipment damaged during the Gala has been replaced but we are still waiting for the fencing and more work on the basketball area. Only when this is finished can we move on to look at landscaping the surrounding area in keeping with the overall plan for the recreation ground, as drawn up earlier.



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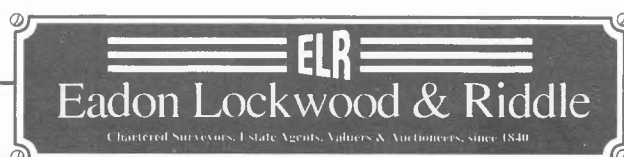
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Arthur Whitehead 1910 -2000

Arthur Whitehead was born in January 1910 in Paradise Square, Sheffield.

In 1916 his family moved to Fern Glen farm on Hathersage Road where Mr. Whitehead senior, though lacking an agricultural background, took up farming augmenting his income with a milk round. These were the middle years of the Great War and, since many of the established milkmen had been called up or volunteered for war service, there was surplus milk in the Dore area which helped to establish an extensive milkround extending as far as Ecclesall and Nether Edge.

Initially deliveries were made by pony and trap but, with increasing prosperity; a Model T Ford van was purchased from Brook Shaws at a cost of £259.

From the age of 6 Arthur attended Dore Church School where the Headmaster was Mr. F.C.Bone. Two other teachers of the day were Miss Jane Eyre, from Hathersage, and Miss Hodgekinson of Totley. Arthur's contemporaries at school included Willis Bishop and his brother Colin from Owllet farm, Bill Haslam, Claud Wragg and Garnet Fisher.

One day during the closing stages of the war, the funeral took place at Dore Church of an aviator shot down in the Channel. The burial was accompanied by a volley of rifle fire, which caused considerable alarm amongst the pupils who thought that Dore was at the forefront of invasion.

In due course Arthur joined the Dore Church Choir under choirmaster Farnsworth, the main attraction of membership being the choir suppers held at the Hare & Hounds prepared by the landlady Mrs. Eyre.

One night, after choir practice, Arthur arrived home to find that his father, more inebriated than usual had been brought home from the Devonshire Arms leaving his pony and trap tethered outside. Arthur was instructed to walk down and bring them home. A few nights later, walking past the Devonshire Arms, he noticed the pony tethered outside and, thinking it had been forgotten again drove it home only to find that the old man was still in the pub and had to walk home. Arthur was chased round the house with a whip!

Soon after purchase of the Model T, and

with no previous instruction on driving techniques, father was proceeding down Dore Road and, wishing to arrest his progress, but knowing nothing about brakes, being used only to horse transport, he shouted "Whoa, Whoa!" without much effect and sped straight across the main road and through the railings around the station yard.

In the early post war years Fern Glen House was occupied by Major Hugh McArthur Joel who had a file cutting business in West Street. Arthur helped to build the Clarion Hut from war surplus Kitchener huts, on adjoining land. Apart from the Round House at Ringinglow the Clarion Hut was the only place he could buy chocolate, but his father stopped him going there when he heard that the rambles were wont to sing The Red Flag.

At the end of the war a street party was held in the village and all the children from Dore School had a good meal, greatly enjoyed after the privation of the war years.

Favourite occupations of the time were nude bathing in a pond on land adjoining Dore Moor House known as Cliff Side, sucking lemons whilst listening to the brass band playing on the recreation ground and playing cricket in the field next to Ash House cottage. The occupier of Ash House at the time was Reg. Webster, a solicitor of some wealth whose father had been Lord Mayor of Sheffield and who bought a new Sunbeam car every year! His chauffeur, Mr. Stoddard, took Arthur and his friend John Robson to various trials and hill climbs run by the Sheffield & Hallamshire Motor Club. These experiences fostered a life long interest in motor sport in general and motorcycling in particular.

At the age of 15 Arthur bought his first motor cycle, a Cotton, which was to prove the forerunner of a multitude of motor cycles and cars. Bikes however were the overriding passion, a devotion which was to last until the end of his life.

In 1921 the family moved from Dore to Nether Edge where Arthur established a motor repair business. In January of this year he celebrated his 90th. Birthday but, sadly, he passed away a month or two later. His memories of Dore however, remained fresh in his mind to the end of his days.

Jim Trotter

Ed. Based on an interview shortly before Arthur's death.

Did you know

All us country lovers were delighted when the government announced that instead of plundering 'Green Belts', more new building would be encouraged on so called 'Brown Land'. Reclaimed industrial and waste sites, derelict areas, redevelopment of run down areas etc. It all sounded very laudable until it turned out 'Brown Land' included your neighbours garden!

Why build on reclaimed land, or demolish and redevelop derelict areas, when you can build on virgin land in somebody's garden, with ready access to existing utility services. Better still, you can squeeze houses into popular residential districts with only the neighbours protesting, and without the attention of the CPRE etc. And judging by recent land prices in Dore, for 'Brown Land' read 'Golden Land'!

Never mind that the sewers and drains date back to the Victorian era, the schools are full, the local roads crowded and collapsing. Existing residents can pay for these through their rates or utility bills. Or the water can run-off down stream to swamp someone else's home on a flood plain.

The truth is, willy nilly development without a coherent strategy, as we are witnessing in Dore, is a disaster for us and society as a whole. You only have to see the floodwater flowing down Savage Lane to witness how development anywhere increases the speed of run-off. Or remember the storm drain collapse at the bottom of Dore Road and the flooding of Carriages Restaurant.

And all this when we are supposed to accept the fact of global warming and increasing extremes in our climate.

When will somebody in the political spectrum have the courage to say stop and to think again about the needs of communities like Dore and the impact on us all of the developments we have sanctioned in the past. Why aren't planning issues looked at locally first - now that would be appropriate to the Councils area initiatives wouldn't it. Or is there just too much self interest at stake in today's society and nobody with any vision?

But then I'm one of a dying breed. Thank heavens for hibernation.

Doremouse

Ed. Dormice are rarely seen by day. Their natural habitat is deciduous woodland, where they build a nest in dense vegetation near ground level and spend the winter sleeping, tightly curled up in a ball to reduce heat loss. In Victorian times children kept them as pets.

News in Brief

Sadly there will be no Victorian Market in Dore this year.

Overdale Pottery at 129 Prospect Road is holding its seasonal open days on the weekend of 24th to 26th November, starting at 5pm on the Friday.

The proceeds from the auction at this years Dore Show went to The St Luke's Hospice.

Abbeydale Hamlet Museum may be closed for the winter, but the craftsmen based there are still available for business during the week so please call in if you are looking for Christmas ideas.

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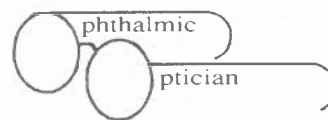
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Jean recalls

With regard to this photograph of Beauchief Post Office previously published in the Summer Edition. Frank Evans tells us that his great grandfather had the property and that the single storey building at the side was a blacksmith's shop. Frank's father had a taxi business which he ran from behind the post office. He also had a charabanc.

Frank's father moved his family to Napperton, where I believe, he ran a pub, but unfortunately he died and his family returned to this area. Frank remembers that the post office had a cellar kitchen which was very dark. Part of the premises was a greengrocers. Incidentally the dog on the photo with Frank's Uncle Harry was called Bim.

Jean Dean



Junction of Abbey Lane and Abbeydale Road with Beauchief Post Office on the corner.

Planning

Since the autumn edition of Dore to Door there have been surprisingly few planning applications for developments in Dore. However some that have been made are of real significance to the locality.

Rear of 120 & 122 Causeway Head Road. The application to build a dwelling house at the end of the gardens of two houses (fronting onto Parkers Lane), has been a matter of concern for many residents for some time. Whereas previous applications had been refused, as had an appeal, the latest application being a modification of previous attempts, was granted planning permission on 18th August.

The main concerns were overdevelopment of the site, and a proposed two storey dwelling facing Green Belt. In respect of the first issue the new planning consent has restricted any future extension of the dwelling, but even so this consent could be the forerunner of other applications of this type in sensitive areas of the village.

Barberfields Farm. Long Line. Outline planning consent has been granted for the conversion of the outbuildings (which includes

the original farmhouse) into a dwelling house. The property is in the Green Belt and any development should be tightly controlled and will have to be carefully monitored. The buildings, together with just over 20 acres of land, are being sold by the City Council at the present time. The remainder of this farm is also being sold in lots without prospect of development.

Old Dore Nursery. Newfield Lane. This bungalow, which is also in Green Belt, is the subject of a planning application to enlarge. Because of the size of the proposed extensions and the sensitivity of the situation, it is likely that the application will be refused unless plans are modified. The property is for sale at the present time.

Land to the rear of 65-69 Newfield Lane. Planning consent was granted in September 1999 for two substantial houses on the back gardens of 67 and 69 Lane. The plans at that time tentatively showed three dwellings on the same plot.

Two separate applications were made in respect of two of these plots on 25 August. For Plot 2 a large house is shown (application No.9A/6067P). On Plot 4 a three storey block of flats is proposed (application No.9A/6066P).

This block of flats faces the Recreation Ground and is within 10 metres (33 ft) of the fence, presenting a massive uninspiring elevation to the Recreation Ground, in a situation where properties can otherwise hardly be seen. It is considered this is a severe intrusion into the rural informality of the Recreation Ground, and strong objections have been made to the siting and overdevelopment of this land. The application is due to be considered by the Planning Committee at the end of November.

Telecommunication Towers. To the concern of people living close by, there have been a proliferation of applications for the erection of mobile phone telecommunication towers. In one week in September the Council received no less than 17 applications for sites in the city.

There are three applications outstanding at the present time in this area. One is on Baslow Road in Totley, one at Abbeydale Sports Club (there are already two there), and one on the H.S.B.C.sports ground at the corner of Limb Lane and Hathersage Road. These towers,

twice the height of a house at 17 metres, are not a pretty sight.

The planning legislation in respect of such towers holds that if they are less than 15 metres (excluding the 2 metres of antennae), unless the Planning Authority refuse the application within 42 days on the grounds of siting or design, the proposals are deemed to be permitted development and the equipment can be erected without any further control.

Whereas it might be preferable to have service providers sharing one tower, because of interference between signals it is understood that it would be necessary to have towers about 25 metres high! The balance, therefore, in minimising this visually intrusive technology is difficult.

The concern is that towers will proliferate.

The proposal for the tower at Limb Lane states that it will be masked by the surrounding trees at 13 metres height. The trees are far less than that and the tower will rise far above the treetops.

We have asked that a more appropriate siting is sought, particularly as some of the trees would have to be felled if the tower is erected as shown on the plans.

The Knowle Green Wall. The case of the massive wall at the side of 73 Newfield Lane, which was erected without planning permission, has moved on. Having applied for consent to regularise the situation, and had a refusal, the owner has appealed to the Secretary of State against the refusal. Anyone wishing to submit any comments concerning the matter, should forward them to The Planning Inspectorate, Room 1006, Tollgate House, Houlton Street, Bristol, BS2 9DJ, and quote the reference APP/J4423/A/0011050780. The representations should be received as soon as possible. The appeal is being decided on the basis of written submissions and a site visit by the Inspector.

Blue Ridge Ashfurlong Lane. This site has been sold at a reputedly high figure suggesting considerable development will be necessary to justify the price. A brief note has been circulated to local residents by the society. As we go to press a planning application has not yet been received.

David Heslop

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Church programme

Winter weather getting you down? Don't despair! There's lots to do at Our Lady of Beauchief and St. Thomas of Canterbury (OLST), Meadowhead and English Martyrs Totley.

Saturday 2 December (revised date). Coffee, Cakes and Crackers. 10am - 12noon in the Parish Rooms. Many craft items and suitable Christmas presents on sale. Entrance free.

Season of Advent: As part of our preparation for Christmas we pray and collect gifts for the sick, housebound, and disadvantaged of our community.

Tuesday 5 December. Outreach Mass OLST 7.30pm celebrating the work of our Parish

Outreach programme, and prayer for the projects and charities we support.

Monday 11 December. SVP Mass OLST 7.30pm celebrating the work of the St. Vincent de Paul society, with blessing and distribution of gift collection.

Sunday 17 December. Carol Service by children and staff from St. Thomas of Canterbury school.

OLST. Time to be announced.

Tuesday 19 December. Penitential Service OLST 7.30pm With humble and contrite hearts we prepare to celebrate the Birth of our Saviour.

We wish you a holy and happy Christmas!

Sunday 24 December - Christmas Eve. OLST 5.30pm Vigil Mass of Christmas. Children especially welcome. Why not come

dressed as a shepherd, king, or angel. One year we even welcomed a camel!

OLST 12 Midnight. Midnight Mass of Christmas, preceded by readings and carols at 11.30 pm.

This is one of the liturgical highlights of the year and a fitting way to begin our Christmas celebrations.

Monday 25 December - Christmas Day. English Martyrs, Totley. 9.15am Mass of Christmas

OLST 11.15 Mass of Christmas.

Friday 29 December - Feast of St. Thomas of Canterbury. OLST 7.00pm. Mass to celebrate the feast of our patron saint, followed by our annual parish party in the Parish Rooms. Shared table and BYOB.

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Farming Notes

Anyone reading the property pages of the local papers will notice that there is a reversal of the Enclosure Acts going on. The City Council are selling Barberfields Farm up Long Line, but not as a farm. It's 96 acres are broken up into 6 lots. At the same time, land that was part of Fisher's farm up Whitelaw is being offered for sale in small lots. This is because although the returns from farming are at an all time low, against all logic the value of farmland is still high.

As a result it is passing out of the ownership of people who want to farm the land and becoming a commodity for people who fancy owning a few acres of English countryside and at the same time hope they'll make a quid or two when they sell it again. Although looking at the ridiculous prices being asked for some of this land some people are very optimistic. Of course land sales around Dore are different from sales deeper in the country. Traditionally when farms are broken up, surrounding farmers buy parcels of land and add it on to their farms, so one farm disappears and the neighbours' get bigger, but here we've got odd parcels owned by all and sundry.

So many milk producers have gone out of business over the last 18 months that at last it may be having an effect on the milk price. We are being offered an extra 1.2 pence per litre for milk in October, which will bring it up to a princely 17 p/litre. When times are hard, farmers tighten their belts and work on the principle that when every one else's gone bust things will get better, and that's just what happens. This is when the stick in the mud's come to the fore because they've not gone out and borrowed money for expansion. If you've got a big overdraft you've got to get the bank to tighten its belt as well. Tricky!

The recent petrol scare showed up the folly of allowing our High Street shops to go.

Supermarkets are OK as long as you've got transport to get to them and they've got fuel to get their supplies in. If the government was serious in its claim to get traffic down, they'd

do something about the obstacles piled up in front of small shops in the form of business rates and regulations. An 18 month investigation has just concluded that supermarkets aren't ripping us off. Surprise, surprise. But it did say they shouldn't try to maximise profits by squeezing suppliers. So that's alright then.

The last edition of Dore to Door carried a complaint about lorry traffic on Dore road carrying material to Ryecroft Farm. Doremouse should note that all this soil came from large building sites at Totley and Whirlow, and if a suitable site had not been available close by it would have had to travel much farther. If it's the environment you're concerned about the closer the destination the better. It is the same every time a grand old house in large grounds is demolished to make way for an estate of executive houses, a lot of lorry movements are created.

Richard Farnsworth

St John's Abbeydale

Advent and Christmas at St John's Abbeydale.

Sunday 3rd. Dec 2000 - 6.30pm. Advent Carol Service. A special service of hymns, carols, readings and prayers, as an introduction to the season of Advent - a time of spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

Sunday 17th. Dec. - 6.30pm. A traditional service of nine lessons and carols by candlelight.

Sunday 24th. Dec. - 5.30pm. Christingle service for the whole family during which the oranges of Christingle will be distributed and lit.

Midnight Communion commencing at 11.30pm, the first communion of Christmas - by candlelight.

We welcome everyone to join us for these special services.

On Passion Sunday 2000, choirs and other singers from Churches Together in S17' came together for a very moving performance of Faures Requiem and afterwards many said "let's do it again". So here goes! The choir of St. John's Church Abbeydale invite the choirs and other singers in Churches Together in S17' to join with them to sing Salieri's Requiem in C Minor on Passion Sunday 2001 (April 1st) at 6.30pm. (This is not an April Fool!!!)

Rehearsals will start at 8.30pm on the 9th January at St. John's - side entrance. Copies will be available for hire at 50p each. Conductor - Alan East, Organ - Paul Green.

For more information ring Phyllis Glossop on 2362597

Choir Girl of the Year

Congratulations to Susie Mercer (aged 16) of Dore, who was one of the four finalists of this years 'Choir girl of the Year' competition. There was stiff competition with more than a hundred entries from all over the country. For her Radio 2 broadcast on 15th October, she sang with great clarity and confidence, a hymn and an aria from "Messiah". She will be singing solos again at the Dore and Totley Music Festival on 11th November and regularly with the choristers of Sheffield Cathedral.

Jean recalls

Dore has in the past, had a fair share of eccentrics. Jack Slack was one such. He lived at the beginning of the 1900's. He was supposed to have suffered a broken heart, being disappointed in love. (Haven't we all?)

Though a well educated man, reputedly from a good family, he chose to live a life of poverty and lost all sense of self regard. He was a kind cheerful man and was well loved by the children of Dore. He was a great lover of nature and the beauty of the world, which he appears to have seen in all things. He seems to have spent much of his life day-dreaming. The story goes that he was once asked to do a job on a roof on Bushey Wood, but so entranced did he become whilst up there he completely forgot what he had gone up there for in the first place.

He was buried in Dore Churchyard, and so much did the children of Dore admire him and his stories, that for years they continued to place the flowers he so loved on his grave, in his memory.

Another such, but of an entirely different mein was Frankie Fisher. Frankie was the son of a local farmer and spent the later years of his life in the barn amongst the cattle at Dore Church Lane Farm. As can be imagined he did not smell of Channel No5, and was known to clear the Taproom at the Hare on more than one occasion, because of the aroma. As children we used to be sent by my Aunt Ada with cups of Bovril for him. I was a bit scared of him, but I guess he was harmless enough.

Before going into the Hare he used to drink a basin of cold water. This he said meant he didn't need to drink so much ale. When he died Mr. and Mrs Clark from the Hare paid for his funeral.

There was a rumour that he had a fortune buried somewhere in the neighbourhood, but had forgotten where. If anyone finds it, I shall expect a share, being an 'O so distant relative'!

Albert Coates lived in a trailer at the back of Causewayhead Farm, which his family had tenanted for many years. He was a short stocky man with a head of bright red hair. When he got excited his face went as red as his hair. Albert kept a cart horse and cart and did odd jobs on many of the farms round here. Summer or winter, every morning he stripped down to his trousers and washed himself in cold water in the open air. He was quite particular about cleanliness. He suffered a stroke in the mid-fifties from which he never recovered. He never married and had a very poor opinion of women.

At about the same time as Albert lived in Dore, there was Gudie Brusher who also lived in a trailer, this time at the back of the Barracks on Townhead Road. I have no idea what his real name was. His family lived down Abbeydale. If he worked, I couldn't tell you what at. Rumour had it that he was a deserter from the 14/18 war and perhaps he was. I don't know. I know he was always willing to look after the village children if their had other things to do. They knew the children were safe with Gudie. Today I suppose the poor man would have been suspect. He was never married. How strange that most of the eccentrics were single men.

Jean Dean

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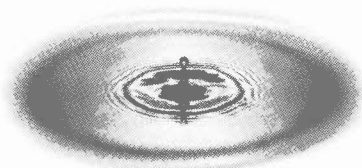
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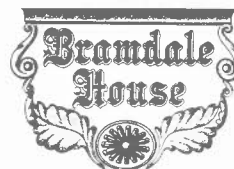
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And so this was Christmas

The old Heathens' Feasting Day, in honour of Saturn their Idol-God, the Papist's Massing Day, the Profane Man's Ranting Day, the Superstitious Man's Idol Day, the Multitudes Idle Day, Satan's - that Adversary's - Working Day, the True Christian Man's Fasting Day..." Such was a Puritan's miserable view of Christmas day as described in 1656 by a certain Hezekiah Woodward.

Without doubt, Hezekiah would have been a staunch supporter of the Christmas Day fast imposed twelve years earlier, and, better still, the abolition of Christmas ordered by Cromwell in 1647.

In isolated areas like the Peak this ban was widely ignored. Immediately the monarch was restored, though, the festive season was enjoyed with all the old good humour throughout the land; by the 1660's celebrations were back in full swing at the big houses, nowhere more so in the Peak than at Haddon Hall which offered generous hospitality to all-comers during the twelve days of Christmas,

Haddon Christmases were legendary and one story has been handed down from the days when the grandson of John Manners and Dorothy Vernon was Earl of Rutland. It is said that a butcher who supplied meat to the Hall, one John Taylor of Darley Dale, delivered an order during the traditional 'open house' period and at the same time stole two pounds of butter.

For some time butter had been going missing every week, so the butler of the small-beer cellar and the butler of the strong beer were keeping watch. They saw butcher Taylor pick up the butter, putting one pound inside the left side of his coat and the other to his right.

The strong beer cellar butler came out of hiding and insisted that the 18 stone butcher accept a flagon of strong beer, sitting him right beside the fire. Soon the butter on one side of his body began to melt and trickle right down into his shoes.

"Why Jack", said the butler, "you seem a great deal fatter on one side than the other.

Turn yourself round and warm the other side". The uncomfortable man could hardly argue and the butler would not hear of him leaving the fireside until he was well-greased on both sides. As the butcher squelched through the Hall the melted butter was still running onto the tops of his shoes, and the Earl enjoyed the joke as much as anything else that Christmas.

As big as the king

Even at Christmas the luxury of butter was unknown to the parish apprentices at Litton and Cressbrook Mills in the first quarter of the 19th century. The memoirs of one, known only as John, tell of his journey from London to Litton in a December snowstorm, huddled on top of a coach in thin clothing and barely alive. But soon it would be Christmas, with the promise of roast beef and Plum pudding.

The only beef the apprentices ever saw was given to them to be roasted over a fire during the night. Alas, the girls who took on the task were frightened by a ghostly 'boggard' and they fled; by morning the precious joint was burnt to a cinder.

Once a year, on Christmas Eve, dry flour cake was handed out - without butter - and the apprentices were allowed a pint of ale. In later life John recalled: "To have seen us walking up and down flourishing the flour cake in one hand, and the can of ale in the other, would have made anyone think we were the happiest mortals in the world. We felt ourselves, for once, as big as a king. The spice pudding, of which we were told so many tales, never came but once a year and then consisted of cold, sad, suetty pudding, with two or three currants and raisins in it".

White Christmas

For the more fortunate country child, with a comfortably-off family and a happy home, Christmas usually lived up to excited expectations. In our village - the village being Cromford of a hundred years ago - Alison Uttley described the thrill of visiting Mr.

Green's newspaper shop opposite the junction with Water Lane.

At Christmastime the seasonal stock included cards, showy spangles and baubles to decorate homemade kissing bunches. An upstairs parlour was converted into a toy shop and the odours of cardboard and tin wafted down the steep dark staircase, promising brand new dolls, shiny animals for the model farmyard, clockwork toys and trains.

On Christmas Day everyone walked briskly to church; peals of bells from neighbouring churches carried through the still air, but where the road ran beside the Derwent even the summons of their own single bell was drowned by the roar of the water. Only the squire from Willersly Castle was driven to church, in his fine carriage with coachman and groom, and high-stepping horses.

The white Christmases were loved best, when snow had to be stamped from dozens of pairs of pairs of boots in the church porch. Inside the church had been transformed into a woodland.

Alison Uttley recalled how "with senses alert and eyes wide we stared at the flowers and berries, we breathed the fragrance of the evergreens, mingled with the scent of the ladies, and the smell of pomatum on the hair of men and boys, and the paraffin in the lamps. We saw branches of scarlet berried holly on the pulpit and in the long narrow windows... Boughs of yew and trails of ivy were wound round the brass spiral lamp stands at the ends of each pew".

Once the squire, his wife and children were seated at the front of the church, and their servants in their own two rows of pews, the choir led the congregation in "Christians awake, salute this happy morn". The singing of the boys and voices of blacksmith, carpenter, wheelwright, bank clerk and farm workers drowned out the very organ, but it was the resounding bass notes of stout, scarlet faced Mr. Ball that were admired above all.

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"A wind like an axe"

Another Christmas Day, that of 1918, was described in a letter from D.H. Lawrence, writing to thank Katherine Mansfield for a parcel delivered by the postman - on foot through the snow - to his cottage at Middleton by Wirksworth on Christmas Day. In spite of his deep longing to move to warmer climates now that the war was finally over. Lawrence was reluctantly captivated by a white Christmas in the Peak.

He and his wife set out to walk to Cromford on Christmas morning - "all white and snowy and sunny, with a wind like an axe... I wish you could have been there on the hill summit - the valley all white and hairy with trees below us... the grey stone fences drawn in a network over the snow, all very clear in the sun. We ate sweets, and slithered downhill, very steep and tottering".

From Cromford the Lawrences continued on foot to Ambergate to be met by motor car and taken to share Christmas with relations - "My God", wrote Lawrence, "what masses of food here, turkey, large tongues, long wall of roast loin of pork, pork-pies, sausages, mince-pies, dark cakes covered with almonds, cheese-cakes, lemon-tarts, jellies, endless masses of food, with whisky, gin, port wine, burgundy, muscatel. We played charades - the old people of 67 playing away harder than the young ones - and lit the Christmas tree, and drank healths, and sang, and roared - Lord above".

And so, whatever Hezekiah Woodward would have thought, that is our kind of Christmas - a Christian Man's Feasting Day.

Julie Bunting

Derbyshire discovered

Julie Bunting is a regular contributor to Dore to Door. She has published a number of books on Derbyshire and writes articles for Derbyshire newspapers and magazines. Below are details of two of her current publications, the first of which was serialised in earlier editions of Dore to Door.

The Earls & Dukes of Devonshire (with foreword by His Grace the Duke of Devonshire)

The Devonshire title has now been handed down through fourteen generations of the House of Cavendish, firstly to Earls and then to Dukes. The shrewd talents of their ancestress, Bess of Hardwick, are an equally important part of their inheritance and have often been called upon in full measure, especially in recent, literally taxing, times.

For more than four centuries, Cavendishes have remained close to national events, the Devonshire dukedom being one of their early rewards. In private they have awarded themselves rather more passing pleasures: gambling, drinking, collecting, spending - and love. Their paramours, countesses and duchesses have themselves shaped the course of events on occasion, sharing in scandals and schemings, financial turbulence and, ultimately, rescue.

Such stories are revealed behind these portraits of men of their times, a few of whom have squandered much of their once massive birthright but the majority intent on keeping it secure for the future. It is that streak of determination which has saved their

magnificent family seat, Chatsworth, to become one of the nation's greatest treasures.

Published in The Derbyshire Heritage Series, ISBN 1 874754 70 5 price £6.50, pp 35p.

A Peakland Chronology

The development of the Peak District has been built on a scenic landscape well suited first to the needs of its earliest settlers, right up to those of today's tourists who come to the still unspoilt hills and dales for pleasure.

Throughout the ages in between, this same landscape has given up its natural wealth of useful stone, lead, copper and beautiful rare minerals.

There have been times when the Peak appeared to outside eyes as inaccessible and its inhabitants as wild. Yet royal battles have been fought on Peakland soil and monarchs have hunted its forests and had castles built to protect this once-remote part of their realm.

From time to time, Peaklanders and their possessions have played roles in the wider scheme of things, not only in national events but worldwide. The area somewhat vaguely referred to as the Peak District is rich in evidence and in answers for the historian, the geologist, the archaeologist and the naturalist.

A Peakland Chronology offers such answers on an illustrated exploration of man's presence in the Peak from prehistoric times right through to the 20th century.

Published in the Derbyshire Heritage Series, ISBN 0 946404 58 5, price £4.50 pp 35p.

Both titles are available from good bookshops or direct from Mrs Julie Bunting, Goss Hall, Ashover, Chesterfield, S45 0JN.

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The Wildlife Garden

The snow had been falling thick and fast all night long. By the wan, early morning light, the flakes had grown to the size of old half-crowns, muffling the everyday sounds of a waking town, smothering everything in an unnatural silence. Through the frosty patterns etched on the kitchen window, I could see a blackbird had come down onto the windowsill looking for food - a place where I usually left a few scraps of bread. The covering of snow on the sill made it impossible for the bird to find any remaining crumbs, so I went outside, cleared away the snow and put out some fresh food.

As I trudged back through the accumulating snow, blackbirds, starlings and thrushes started arriving from all directions; it was just as though someone had emptied a cage full of birds into the blizzard. It was a terrible sight. Starving birds descended onto the windowsill until it became thick with dark bodies pressed against the window, each one trying to snatch a piece of bread before it had all disappeared. Almost immediately the food was gone and I went to put some more out; the desperate birds scarcely moving.

All day I kept repeating the process of clearing the sill and replenishing the food; whilst more and more birds kept arriving. It was only as night fell that the feeding frenzy stopped. That winter, countless birds died nation-wide and it took almost a decade for the numbers of some species to recover. Did I, or for that matter, any of the other bird lovers who braved the awful weather that day to feed them, actually make a real difference to their survival? I sometimes wonder.

Back in the 1960's, feeding wild birds seemed a simple proposition. You strung together some peanuts and hung them off a convenient tree branch for the blue tits and put a bowl of water, together with any kitchen scraps, on the lawn for the blackbirds, robins and thrushes. But today things have changed. Supplying food for birds is such a big business that gardeners are now faced with a barrage of feeders which come in all colours, shapes and sizes and there is such a wide variety of foods available, they could easily fill the shelves in a small supermarket. But what has prompted this shift in ideas?

Over the last few years, there has been a sea change in attitudes of ecologists. It was really only quite recently they started looking seriously at the role the garden plays as a habitat for birds. Part of this research has been directed towards supplementary feeding - the food gardeners put out for birds, and much of their latest work has focused on small birds, such as the great tit, greenfinch and house sparrow. Scientists have found that these birds need to eat an extraordinary amount of food daily - up to a third of their body weight. Not only that, their foods have to be energy-rich and high in fats, oils and protein for them to survive.

In the past, small birds like these would have relied on the countryside to provide their food - mainly insects and weed seeds. However, due to current farming practices such as the removal of hedges and the widespread use of pesticides, there has been a huge decline in the availability of these natural foods. One ornithologist I spoke to, who regularly drives long distances across Britain, told me that this summer he noticed his car windscreen remained strangely clean. All the insect splats which he would have normally expected to mark his windscreen just didn't appear.

Although the improved screen visibility was welcome, the lack of dead insects serves as a crude estimate of their declining numbers. This fall in the rural insect population has meant that birds such as blackbirds, starlings and even sparrows, which for part of the year rely on these invertebrates for their food, have also been effected.

As a result of their natural foods disappearing, birds have become more and more dependent on gardens to fill this gap. Even birds such as great spotted woodpeckers and nuthatches are now visiting our gardens more frequently, perhaps also as a consequence of changes in the availability of their natural foods. All this means that there is a far greater onus on gardeners, not only to feed the birds, but to provide them with high energy foods, such as peanuts, sunflower hearts and black sunflower seeds.

What small birds should not do is fill up on cereal grains, which give them only relatively small amounts of energy, but perversely can often be found dominating the contents of certain bird seed mixes. Sadly, that is not all



Mr A Atherton, winner of the Founders Cup for best overall exhibit at Dore Show.

you can find in these products. Some of the seed mixtures I have purchased in the past have contained just about everything bar the kitchen sink - floor sweepings, luridly dyed hamster-food, squashed peas, rabbit pellets and even the occasional dried chilli. I suppose it can be argued that apart from desiccated coconut and salted products, such as peanuts and bacon, - all of which should never be fed to birds, very few foods will actually harm them.

But with seed mixes like these, all you are encouraging into your garden are wood pigeons and mice, and then a visit from the environmental health officer.

If you do feed birds, there are a number of essential rules to follow. Only buy certified food from suppliers approved by organisations such as the British Trust for Ornithology, so that you know it won't be contaminated and your money will have been spent on food which is actually beneficial to the birds. Regularly clean your bird-tables, feeders and water-baths and remove any old or mouldy food. If you put food on the lawn, regularly change the patch you use to avoid the spread of disease and prevent any contamination with droppings. Also, make sure you wash your hands after cleaning bird-tables and feeders. Try to only put out the amount of food the birds are likely to consume in a day, so that food isn't left lying around overnight to attract less welcome visitors. Lastly, and most importantly, put food out on a daily basis throughout the year, especially during spring and early summer when the birds are breeding, as this period is as stressful for them as the coldest days of winter.

What I do find sad is that nowadays birds should have to rely so heavily on food provided for them in gardens. It graphically shows the problems more and more of our native wildlife is facing in this over-crowded and intensively-used island of ours. But I suppose one positive thing has come out of all this: scientists have finally realised that Britain's patchwork of gardens are important havens for our native wildlife, something most wildlife gardeners have known for years.

Jack Daw

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You may be able to help

Three facts to set the scene. Were you aware that, of all the metropolitan districts in the country, Sheffield has the highest proportion of over 65s? In Sheffield, the highest proportion of over 65s is in our own area of the city, the south west. Finally, this area has the lowest proportion of carers involved in the Adult Family Placement Service (AFPS). This mismatch of persons in need of care and the availability of carers is something that the AFPS urgently wants to rectify.

Volunteers are needed to help in a variety of ways. In the simplest case, an older person, who no longer has the confidence to venture out alone, might be accompanied to go shopping. A few hours of assistance from a carer would allow that person to get out of their home for a while and keep in touch with the outside world. As another example, a carer may visit an person in need for a few hours each week to build up and maintain an understanding or to allow the primary carer eg. husband, wife, son or daughter, to have a much needed break.

Those in need include not only the elderly but those with stroke or head injury problems and persons with physical disabilities, mental health problems or learning difficulties. The AFPS provides full training for volunteer carers and covers their expenses as well as paying allowances dependent on the type of care activity.

Due to the increased vulnerability of people in need, the AFPS follows a stringent vetting procedure which includes police and health checks on volunteers. Whilst this may sound

excessive, clients and their families can be assured that their family member will be well looked after.

The AFPS in Sheffield is one of the largest in the country with around 170 volunteer carers but still needs many more to meet the demand. Mike Soar at the AFPS (273 4601 or 273 4997) will be pleased to discuss the scheme, without any obligation, with anybody interested in volunteering. The greatest need is for male volunteers. Please contact him if you feel that you want to help and have time to do so regularly.

Fiddle or Cello?

New resident Iona Sherwood-Jones, who is Head of Strings at Birkdale School, would like to know. She and cellist Rachel Moore run a project called 'Fiddle Fingers', based at Birkdale School but open to any child aged 5-7 years in the area who would like to try a string instrument.

Iona came to Sheffield from Oundle, via Chetham's School of Music; Rachel Moore is a tutor at the Royal Northern College of Music on their Junior String project.

Classes for 'Fiddle Fingers' run after school for an hour and tuition is in groups. A parent is expected to watch the class and then help with the daily practice at home..no musical experience necessary! Apart from the instrumental tuition the pupils do some singing and then kick off their shoes and socks to do the 'eurythmics', a fun way to learn about rhythm using play equipment.

Every term there is a concert followed by a party. There are currently 27 children on the project and they were chosen to play at the

Royal Festival Hall in July in the National Music for Youth competition.

Tuition costs now are £4. per class, which includes the loan of an instrument and all music.

The aim of the project is to teach good basic playing to young children, some of whom may wish to carry on later with individual lessons."String players ideally should start young and if a child has a flair for the violin or cello, the earlier the better. Above all we want to foster a love of music in children, even if they decide to change instrument if not suited to a string one. They are the future concert-goers and CD buyers and who one day might encourage their children to take up an instrument."

Anyone interested should contact Iona on 266 8408.

28% more

NEARLY 70% of the population gives to charity but, despite the fact that there have been a number of schemes available, only 10% have given in a tax-effective way. From April this year it has become possible for charities to reclaim tax on most donations by taxpayers, making them worth 28% more.

All that is necessary is for the person making a donation, of in the case of the Dore Village Society paying annual membership, to sign to say they are a taxpayer and that they wish any donations made to count towards the scheme, until further notice. To make it straightforward the society will be producing a slip for people to sign with their membership renewal. As a registered charity we will then be able to reclaim the equivalent tax paid from the exchequer.

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Book Reviews

What is it about pubs that proves so interesting? Interesting enough to prompt Douglas Lamb, author of *A Pub on Every Corner* to set out again reviewing and expanding on his original work to produce *Last Orders*.

This new book makes fascinating reading, with 200 pages of pubs, new ones converted from old buildings, old pubs with new names, pubs in different suburbs including Dore, not forgetting old Northern pub games and details on some of the Sheffield breweries. No doubt this will prove another successful stocking filler, where you can let your fingers take you on a pub crawl delving into the history of buildings and their names. So we find out that 'The Crown' on Hillfoot Road Totley was converted from three workmen's cottages in the early 18th century, run from 1813 by the Dalton family and known locally as "Dorothy Dalton's". Or that modern 'The Old Mother Redcap' on Prospect Road, Bradway is perhaps named after an elderly buffer girl, as these women would wear red scarfs around their heads.

There are plenty of photographs, some old others new and snippets of history on each of the areas covered. Not everything about Dore & Totley is correct, but then some room must be left for a third publication. I wonder if Douglas needs any help. Hic. *Last Orders* is published by Pickards Publishing, price £11.99 and available at bookshops or from the publisher on 275 7222.

The old Parish of Norton was far more extensive than the area known as Norton today, stretching from Hemsworth in the East, to Bradway in the West and parts of Heeley in the North.

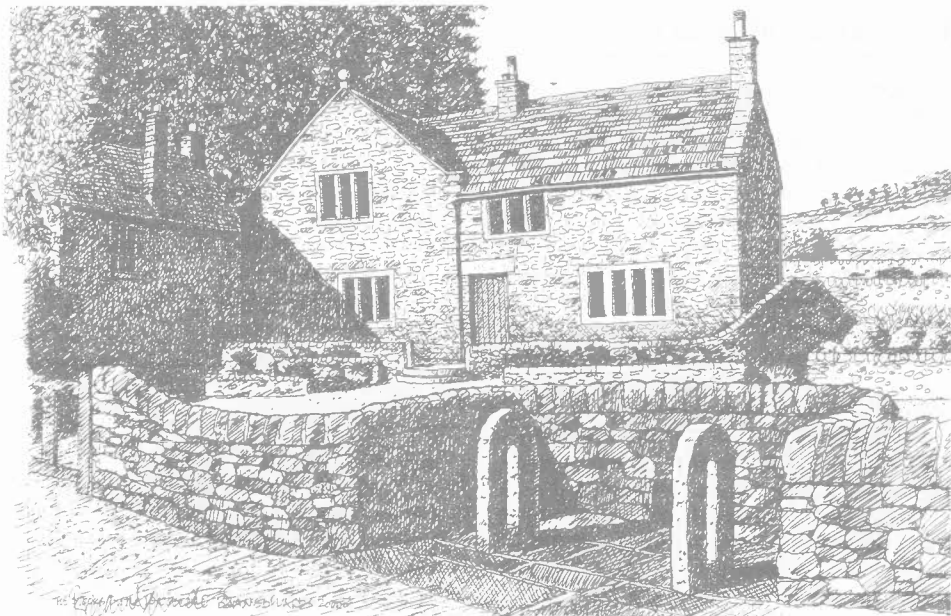
Sometimes referred to as Chantryland after the famous sculptor, the original mediaeval parish has seen dramatic changes with the expansion of Sheffield and moves from a rural past to an urban future.

Over 200 old photographs have now been brought together and published in the latest book in the popular *'Images of England'* series - *Norton*, which has been compiled by the Norton History Group. Together these capture daily life and the homes people lived in, from humble to grand. Somehow pictures tell a story far more potently than the written word and it is often what the pictures show, beyond the captions, which is most interesting.

If you know Norton this book is a must, if not it will make you pick up a map and perhaps see for yourself how time has changed the area.

'Images of England' - Norton is published by Tempus Publishing price £9.99 and available through the usual bookshops.

I never cease to be intrigued by the rural and urban landscapes I see around us, and cannot help wondering why and how they evolved. Now a new book *The Making of the South Yorkshire Landscape* has come to my aid. This easy to read volume sets out to introduce the physical characteristics of the area and how man has exploited and shaped it from the first hunter gatherers to today. Chapters look at the origins and meaning of place names, the impact of farming from Saxons to subsidies, forts and castles, buildings, churches, parks and gardens, the impact of industry and today's townscapes. Full of drawings and



The stocks at Longstone. Brian Edwards

illustrations in its 130 pages and packed with information, this book goes a long way to help explain why South Yorkshire is as it is today.

Written by Melvyn Jones, visiting professor at Sheffield Hallam University and illustrated by teacher Bob Warburton, this is a book to be enjoyed on its own or as a prelude to more detailed study. *The Making of the South Yorkshire Landscape* is published by Wharncliffe Books, price £9.95 from local bookshops.

Local author Marjorie Dunn is already well known for her historical novels which draw on her careful research of the periods she writes about. New from her pen is *The Maggie Kelly* which is set along the canals and rivers of South Yorkshire and Humber side, and gives us an insight into the history of the old Humber sailing keels which came right into the Sheffield Basin.

Set in 1851, when canals were facing fierce competition from the railways, the story tells of Michael who struggles to keep the keel after the death of his father, with the help of his sister Maggy. Their future looks bleak until help comes from an unusual man and his family, and this has far reaching consequences for them all. *The Maggie Kelly* takes us back to a time when life was hard and through the trials, tribulations, loves and adventures its characters give us a glimpse of what life must have been like.

Published by The Hallamshire Press Ltd, price £7.95 you will find the book in local bookshops, or it can be ordered direct from the Publishers on 266 3789.

Ed. Marjorie Dunn will be giving her talk 'History Afloat', which was prepared in conjunction with the book, at the Dore Village Society's winter meeting on 30th November.

New sketchbook

You would think that I knew better. Some twenty-three years after a small group of us started up the Totley Independent, I found myself a year ago doing the same thing for the Great Longstone area of Derbyshire and launching "Under the Edge". Although I have now handed over to an enthusiastic couple that are improving on the basic foundation, during

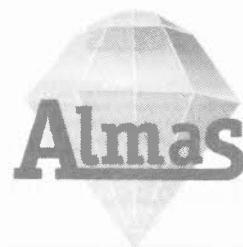
my time I had continued to sketch around the area.

Then I was asked to put together a second collection of the local drawings and so my latest book took shape. *Longstone & Hassop Sketchbook* contains seventy-eight pen and ink drawings in its 52 pages. Some are quick on the hoof' examples, whilst others are more detailed, having been worked from photographs and illustrated notes.

To launch the book I am holding an exhibition of prints in Longstone Village Hall from 10am-6pm on Saturday 18th November. There will be a wide range on display, from Derbyshire, Dore & Totley and elsewhere. Signed copies of the book will be for sale, together with several previous publications and cards.

Copies are also available from local bookshops or by mail order from me at The Coach House, Main Street, Great Longstone, DE45 1TZ. Cheques made out to me please price £6.50 incl p&p.

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Sang 66 years

From The Star, December 4th 1943:-

In 1877 two village boys sang together in Dore Church, near Sheffield, for the first time, and except for occasional absence through illness, the pair have sung together there every Sunday morning for 66 years.

They are Mr. J. W. Farnsworth, of Dore Ryecroft Farm and Mr. John Joseph Stones, the village blacksmith. They went to school together, joined the old St. Cecilia Choral Society, which met in the Albert Hall, Sheffield, and both were members of Dore Parish Council.

Mr Farnsworth told 'The Star' that a member of his family had sung in Dore choir ever since the church was built in 1828.

Mr Stones was captain and stalwart of Dore Cricket club for 30 years with which he has been connected for over 50 years. He played his last match for the club when he was 64 and was top scorer with 20 not out.

Mr Farnsworth was time-keeper for Longshaw Sheep Dog Trials for nearly 40 years and afterwards referee. He is still the oldest member in years, of the trials.

Mr Stones has been the village blacksmith for 50 years and though he now has few horses to shoe, he welcomes a visit from his pal when he needs some of the farm horses attended to, like he used to when Mr Farnsworth was preparing for ploughing matches in connection with Dore Flower Show, which he started years ago.

One thing Mr Stones is proud of - he still has the best attendance at the church choir.

Diary - Winter 2000

NOVEMBER

- 20 **Restoration at Wortley Top Forge.** Talk by Ken Hawley for South Yorkshire Industrial History Society, Kelham Island Museum, 7.30pm.
- 22-25 **T.O.A.D.S. Autumn Production** of 'The Importance of Being Ernest' by Oscar Wilde. St John's Church Hall, Abbeydale Road South, 7.30pm. Tickets priced £2.50 from 236 6891.
- 25 **Table Top Sale** King Egbert School, 10am-1pm Tel 236 9931 for details or to book a table.
- 28 **Turkey Thanksgiving** Talk by Rev C Kirk for Women's Fellowship, Totley Rise Methodist Church, in the schoolroom at 2.30pm.
- 29 **Public Meeting** on general planning issues, South West Area Panel, Holy Trinity Church, Grove Road, Millhouses 7.30pm.
- 30 **History Afloat** Talk by Marjorie Dunn for the Dore Village Society and brief Special General Meeting. 7.30 Methodist Church Hall. Everyone welcome

DECEMBER

- 2 **Open Day** Dore Village Society Room. Old School, 10am - 12 noon.
- 4 **Concert** Handel's Messiah, Sheffield Bach Society, Sheffield Cathedral 7pm. Tickets £9 (concessions £7) from Sheffield Music shop on 266 1000
- 6 **Christmas Fayre** Sheffield Cheshire Home, Mickley Lane, 10am - 12 noon
- 6 **Loxley Silver Band** Sheffield Cheshire Home, Mickley Lane, 7pm - 9pm
- 8-9 **Verdi Requiem** performance by The John Wade Singers and trumpeters from Stannington Brass Band, at St John's Church Hall, Abbeydale Road South at 7.30pm Tickets £5 in aid of Arthritic Research Campaign from 236 0820.
- 11 **Concert** Come & sing the Messiah with the Sheffield Bach Society in Dore Parish Church, 7.30pm. Admission £6 including wine & mince pies. Tickets at the door or from 266
- 12 **W.O.R.K. Centre** Talk by Mrs G Phillstriak for Women's Fellowship, Totley Rise Methodist Church, in the schoolroom at 2.30pm.
- 12 **Scarborough** - the archeology of the Town & Castle. Talk by Trevor Pearson for the Hunter Archeological Society, Arts Tower, University of Sheffield, 7.30pm.
- 13 **Christmas Party** Townswomen's Guild
- 16 **Farmers Market** Whirlow Hall Farm, Whirlow Lane, 10am - 4pm
- 16&20 **Christmas Concert** Dore Male Voice Choir at Christ Church

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JANUARY

- 9 **Daughters of Welbeck** - Religious Houses or Industrial centres? Talk by Colin Merony for the Hunter Archeological Society, Arts Tower, University of Sheffield, 7.30pm. Non-Members welcome.
- 9 **Sheffield Theatres** Talk by Graham Morris for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, Church Hall, 7.45pm
- 10 **Cornish Miscellany** Talk by Catherine Mac Kay for Dore Townswomen's Guild, Dore Old School, 2pm.
- 23 **National Schizophrenia Fellowship** Talk by Mr Aubrey Emerson for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, Church Hall, 7.45pm

FEBRUARY

- 3 **Bridge & Supper** in aid of Sheffield Cheshire Home, 6 Ashfurlong Drive, tel 236 7491
- 6 **Cycling adventures in South America** Talk by Mr Augustine Egorola for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, Church Hall, 7.45pm
- 13 **My Year as Mayoress** Talk by Mrs C Heslop for Women's Fellowship, Totley Rise Methodist Church, in the schoolroom at 2.30pm.
- 13 **Climate or Human Impact** - examples from Greenland & Egypt. Talk by Dr Paul Buckland for the Hunter Archeological Society, Arts Tower, University of Sheffield, 7.30pm. Non-Members welcome.
- 14 **The Silver Toast Rack** Talk by Jean Henshaw for Dore Townswomen's Guild, Dore Old School, 2pm.

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