

# DORE to DOOR

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

No. 65 SPRING 2002

ISSN 0965-8912

## Long Line initiative

As the year 2001 drew to a close, special new road signs and road markings were installed to tackle speeding on Long Line.

Long Line thanks careful drivers is one of the messages conveyed by the new signs. They have been erected on wooden gates at strategic points on the road to alert drivers to the 30 mph speed limit, sadly previously ignored by many. The signs portray horses and pedestrians and there are speed indications at intervals on the road surface.

People going to work as well as children on their way to school, often walk down this narrow road with no pavements to get to the bus stop on Hathersage Road. Horse riders, cyclists and hikers are also frequent users.

Whilst it may not be an accident blackspot, residents have justified fears about drivers who whizz past them at high speeds. It is to be hoped that drivers will appreciate the reason for the 30 mph limit and drive safely in future.

## New rights of way

It is council policy to look at possible new footpath routes as tenancies are terminated and council land is offered for sale. Now following its sale last year, new paths have been created on Barberfields Farm. These link with the round walk in the Limb Valley and with new paths made last year on Moorside Farm.

The paths fill gaps in the local footpath network and allow a variety of new routes in the area without having to walk for long stretches on the roadside. No doubt the Dore Village Society will be using these in the near future for its guided walks.

At a time when the health and amenity values of walking are increasingly recognised, any new footpaths must be welcomed. Sadly the Rights of way unit at the council is forced to spend much of its time fighting to keep paths open rather than looking for possible new ones. Understandably most land owners are reluctant to see the creation of new paths on their land, and no mechanism seems to exist to review the possibilities, negotiate with them and compensate them for potential disturbance etc.

The Dore Village Society would be interested to hear from readers if they feel there is a case for any new footpaths in the Dore area. Recently the Society has approached Whirlow Hall Farm Trust with a view to creating a new stile between Whirlow Woods and open access land on the farm.



*Councillors Ann Smith (left) and Colin Ross (standing centre) with DVS chairman John Baker (kneeling) and local residents welcoming the new road signs on Long Line.*

## DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

Spring Meeting

7.30pm Thursday

28 February

Methodist Church Hall

Talk by Irene Brierton  
from the Mid Derbyshire

Badger Group

Admission Free

## Membership Subscriptions

Enclosed with this issue is a subscription renewal form for 2002. If you have not already paid your subscription for this year, please complete the form and hand it in at Green's shop on Causeway Head Road, or send it to the society - address on page 2.

As a registered charity the Dore Village Society relies heavily on subscriptions to carry out its objectives on behalf of members and Dore residents generally. Also the more members we have, the more clout we carry with the council and other public bodies.

Fortunately we can now reclaim tax paid (22%) on subscriptions and donations made by taxpayers. On £10 we can reclaim £2.82 (22% of the original pre tax figure) making your contribution worth £12.82. If you are a higher rate tax payer you can also claim back the difference between basic and higher rates on your tax return.



## Daffodils on show

Already the fruits of last years labour are beginning to show as the daffodil bulbs planted last autumn begin to shoot. Look out for the first signs on Limb Lane (on the steep slope and at the entrance to the Picnic Area), Cross Lane (from the corner by Causeway Head Road towards Hathersage Road) and the verge in front of Limpits Cottage (at the corner of Causeway Head Road and Rushley Road).

## Firework nuisance

For the past few years fireworks have been going off in the weeks running up to, and then following, Bonfire Night. Sadly (if more appropriately) fireworks have also now become an increasing feature of New Year celebrations.

David Crausby, MP for Bolton North West, is so concerned about the misuse of fireworks that he is planning a private member's bill to ban the sale of fireworks and restrict the use of them to public displays.

He has long been concerned about the misuse of fireworks in the run up to and the period after November 5. "Fireworks are a real problem for many, particularly domestic pets and wildlife. I am not a killjoy, but I'm concerned at the number of firework injuries and the public nuisance that the illegal use of them can cause. The problem can be dealt with by limiting fireworks to organised displays."

A petition has been organised to help bring the Bill before Parliament, or to force the Government to introduce its own legislation to effect a ban. Contact tel. (01204) 705951 or email fireworksban@aol.com for more information

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The next Open Morning at the Dore Village Society room will be Saturday 2 March.

### 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 236 9025  
(Dore Show & FEW)

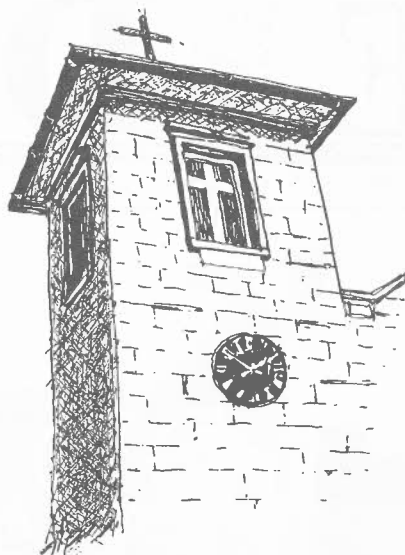
Mr D Crosby 262 1127

Mr G R Elsdon 236 0002  
(Subscriptions & Notice Board)

Mr D Heslop 236 5043  
(Planning)

Mrs V Malthouse 236 3632

Mr P Pryor 236 9831



Methodist Clock Tower David Heslop

## A Soft Touch?

It is fairly apparent that the Sheffield criminal fraternity regard Dore car-owning residents as not only well off but a soft touch. The basis for this statement? Anybody who regularly sees the police crime statistics for this area will know that a high proportion of crimes in Dore involve theft of property from parked cars, usually outside the owner's house. Take the months of November and December 2001 as an example. Of the 27 reported crimes in Dore, 15 (55%) involved theft of property from residents' cars.

You would hardly believe the type of stuff taken. In the two months, the stolen property included cassettes, clothing, car jack, power tools, wallet, credit cards, digital camera, more clothing, two rucksacks, radio, CD player, another CD player, yet more clothing, another radio, cheque book, another radio, another CD player, suitcase, sports kit, computer, mobile phone, yet another CD player, yet another radio and (yes) yet another CD player.

You have got to wonder at a person that leaves his or her computer, wallet, credit cards and digital camera in the car overnight, often on view to passers-by? Somebody who is well off perhaps, or just didn't think about the risks and thoughtless. Point proved?

You cannot help wondering who actually owns all this stuff that is left in cars. Is it the car owner, the "keeper" of the car or is it their employer. A "Doesn't matter, the company will pay" sort of attitude might explain some things. Also, what effect is this preventable theft, both of cars and of property from cars, having on car insurance premiums in S17?

Come on, folks, surely we can do better than this? Let us all make a simple assumption. Assume that, every night (and during the day, if the car is left unattended), the car will be examined by a potential thief, ready to break in and take anything on view. Well off, perhaps? Lazy, we'll see.

Roger Millican

## Halfway there..!

In view of the King Ecgbert Site relocation and the projected housing development on the Mercia 'footprint', D.V.S. has been pressing the Council for a proper throughpath between King's Croft and Wyvern Gardens.

This would avoid much of the dangerously narrow footpath by the former Nab Farm opposite the Village Green and be a big boost to the Walk-to-School Campaign for First Steps Nursery, Hopscotch Nursery, Dore Primary and King Ecgbert Secondary Schools.

Principal Engineer of the Council's Highways Division, Mr. J. Facade, tells us that before the end of March 2002 the public footpath running by the side of the field between the King's Croft cul-de-sac and the Bushey Wood-Furniss footpath, will be upgraded to a tarmac surface and lit. As for the other half - "Only an outline application has been made for the development of the Mercia site, but I will forward your suggestions to the Highway Development Control Section for possible incorporation in any detailed proposal for the site ....."

"Possible incorporation"....?

Please watch this space to learn of any help we may need to ensure the other half of an excellent walk, away from traffic, to schools, shops, transport, surgeries and post office. It will also preserve that timeless and priceless heritage for local residents - the enjoyment of peace, fresh air and the changing light on the glorious Meadowhead, Bradway, Totley, Holmesfield, Owlbar, Totley Moss, Blackamoor panorama.

Pat Pryor

Keep in contact with what's on, join in debate, check back issues, or find out about the society on our own web site at [www.dorevillage.co.uk](http://www.dorevillage.co.uk)

## 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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## South West Area Panel

Seventy-two people attended the meeting at Dore Primary School on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January, although sadly not by members of the Dore Village Society Committee, as it clashed with their annual dinner. It was no surprise that Planning and Transport dominated the proceedings.

People generally seem to feel that Dore is under siege from speculative developers and that its remaining public open spaces and green belt are constantly under threat. Ben Bennest from planning outlined the process and policy on issues like building in the Green Belt, - Kennels on Newfield Lane; infill on brownfield sites - Blue Ridge and Mercia site of King Ecgbert School; and extra traffic from the flats into Newfield Lane - lane is too small and rural. Totley Residents raised some specific issues to Totley. The Chair reminded everyone that a specific meeting about the review of the Unitary Development Plan is to be held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm at Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall.

Lack of progress on refilling the Mill Pond at Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet and concerns about policing issues, eg. whether there are enough resources in community policing were raised. PC Rebecca Hunt-Brown has recently been appointed as Community Police Officer for Dore, based at Woodseats, and it was agreed to ask if we could have a specific meeting with the

police on Crime and Community Safety.

Richard Day (Transport and Highways) and Kevin Platt (Road Safety) outlined the Councils newly adopted policy on Priority Corridors and Gold Routes together with a list of schemes identified in the Dore Ward. A new system of scoring the schemes by assessment criteria has been introduced. For the first time schemes can be tracked through the process to see where they are and if they are to proceed.

Specific questions from the floor centred on Bradway Road - installation of two zebra crossings at final design stage and will go ahead soon; Twentywell Lane/Abbeydale Road junction - traffic surveys completed with a view to traffic lights; Glover Road/Mickly Lane; Dore Road; Causeway Head Road; accidents on Hathersage Road; to name a few of the more contentious ones.

Discussions around parking on Dore Road opened the debate about the future of rail services, park and ride with CCTV cover and the perceived view of residents at the bottom of Dore Road about the ineffectiveness of the double yellow lines that have been painted recently. The question of advertising signs on roundabouts, etc. including proposed new signs at Whirlow was also raised.

Over the next few years Dore will see a major investment in its road safety through the Dore Residential Scheme, the details of which were alluded to by Kevin and which will involve a significant level of consultation. South-West Area Coordinator

Dave Aspinall will be working with the Dore community over the next few years to ensure consultation takes place on these issues.

## New Purse For Phones

Love them or hate them, mobile phones have become part of the technical make-up of our world today. Now a charity is aiming to make them a practical blessing by launching a campaign to collect old, broken and redundant mobile phones. The materials used in the manufacturing of these phones are then recycled and the charity receives £3 for every phone collected.

*Samaritan's Purse International* was set up over 30 years ago. In that time the organisation has undertaken projects world wide to assist in areas affected by starvation, malnutrition and preventable diseases. The current initiative is geared to benefit children in Eastern Europe.

It is astounding that although the mobile phone is a relatively new invention, there are thousands already discarded for newer and better models. *Samaritan's Purse* can make the most of that and the revenue from an old phone donated could feed a child in Eastern Europe for one week.

Collection boxes are available for one to a hundred handsets and postage to return the phones is free at the following address: Samaritan's Purse Mobile recycle, Freepost Mid 23462, Burton-on-Trent, DE14 1SR. For more information tel: 0208 559 2044.

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## Letters

Dear Sir,

Someone said to me "Go down Abbeydale Park Rise and Crescent during the twelve days of Christmas". What a lovely surprise when the sight of Christmas lights came into view.

Each house differently decorated, all very tasteful, and the trees looked simply wonderful. It was quite a magical journey, as memorable as the yearly full bloom of the cherry trees.

Thank-you to all those residents in the Rise and the Crescent, who gave us an extra special Christmas treat. We look forward to next year!

Anon

(Name & address supplied)

*Ed. There were some impressive lights in Ashfurlong Road as well, but not in the centre of the village. The Dore Village Society plans to talk to shopkeepers and see if together we can brighten up the shopping area next year.*

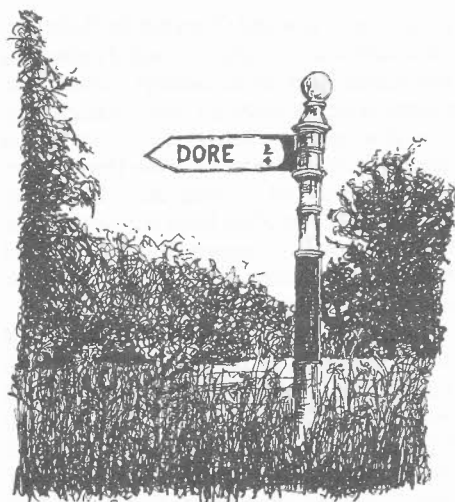
Dear Sir,

*'KING ECBERT'*

Since coming to live in St Quentin View, Bradway in 1968 I have been aware of King Ecgbert's association with the area. This is, of course, commemorated by the black marble stone erected on Dore green; and in the name of the local secondary school which my children attended and where, currently, my twin grandsons are pupils.

Last year I visited the Houses of Parliament with a group of members of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers where we met our MP Richard Allan. A photograph taken at the time subsequently appeared in the Lib Dems Annual Report 2001.

As a souvenir of my visit I bought a small book entitled Britain's Kings and Queens by Michael St John Parker. This booklet acknowledges that Ecgbert was the first king of Britain who ruled from 802 to 839. However, in this booklet, and in other



*Corners of Dore*

*David Heslop*

books, such as Debrett's Kings and Queens of Britain written by David Williamson, the name is always spelt as EGBERT rather than ECBERT.

Could you, or any of your readers, please explain why there is an extra letter "c" in the local spelling of the name? Or should I be writing to the authors of these books pointing out that it is they who have misspelt the name of King Ecgbert?

*R Nash*

*Ed. These renown publications are not alone. Microsoft's Encarta also spells it Egbert as does the Pitkin Guide 'The Royal Line of Succession' and the definitive book on the period 'The Anglo-Saxons' by James Campbell. Strange really when his own coins spell his name as Ecgbert.*

*Maybe the accepted translation of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for 829 should have the last word: "And Ecgbert led an army to Dore against the Northumbrians and they offered him obedience and concord and thereupon they separated." Ecgbert then became "Our Lord of the whole English speaking race from the Channel to the Firth of Forth".*

*But then perhaps not. In the original Anglo-Saxon language of the Chronicle his name is spelt 'Ecgbryht', so everyone could be wrong!*

Dear Sir,

Over the past ten years I have witnessed an increasingly aggressive attack on the "village" status of Dore. The attack is as insidious as it is devastating and will impact every resident of whatever age sooner or later, in one way or another. It will eventually turn our village into yet another nondescript suburbia without character or identity.

I refer, of course, to the plague of in filling and so called "brown field" developments. I am not referring to rebuilding or upgrading of older houses and some derelict plots cry out for good housing in keeping with the area. No, my objection is to high density developments on the plots of large houses with substantial grounds where these are clearly out of character with its surroundings and are designed with one aim in mind, to cram in as many units as possible to maximize profits for the developer.

If this continues for the next 10 - 20 years Dore will have lost its village character, traffic jams at key locations will be the norm, our infrastructure and services will have deteriorated to unacceptable levels (some have already, notably the roads), noise levels will rise everywhere, wild life sanctuaries will disappear, open spaces will be minimal and we will have lost hundreds of mature trees. This process is already underway and, judging by the increasing number of planning applications, is likely to accelerate over the next few years.

By its very nature these developments are piecemeal and, individually, may not appear significant. It is only when a comparison is made of today's village map with that of, say, 20 years ago that the impact can be measured. But that is nothing compared to the impact of developments over the next twenty years at today's rate of desecration.

What can be done about it? Some will shrug their shoulders and point to Government guide lines on "brown field" developments and the interpretation of these by local Planners who claim their hands are tied ....and yet... in a recent case such a proposed development, in Dore, was unanimously rejected by the Planning Committee siting no fewer than seven grounds for refusal. There was also a huge inflow of objections to the Council which reflected local opinion. No doubt new plans for the site will be submitted and the fight will go on since "consultation" and "negotiation" are not to be found in developer's vocabularies! Local opinion is totally ignored and yet with that support many objections could be overcome... but that might slightly reduce profits!

The cumulative impact of these developments puts our village under threat. It is possible to fight and contain this creeping urbanisation but it will need the concerted support of it's residents to succeed. Do we have the stomach for such a sustained fight against each proposal put forward that is clearly out of character with the surrounding area?

*Peter C. Cornick*

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Dear Sir,

I checked your website after finding out my great grandfather was born in Dore. His name was Frank Unwin and his father was William Unwin in the 1881 census he was living at the Old Copperas Work House. I saw it noted on your site that in 1891 it was called Old Copperas Farm. I assume its the same place.

In the same article it stated that the 1891 census can be bought for £2 plus p&p. Is it available for overseas and how would I go about purchasing a copy?

I now live in Canada. I thoroughly enjoyed your site and found it very informative. Hoping to hear from you soon.

*David Unwin,  
Sarnia, Ontario*

Dear Sir,

With regard to last February's article by Oliver Murphy. I think I might be able to throw a little more light on the subject.

In the first weeks of January 1941 I was posted from 303 Polish Sqdrn Northolt to a decrepit building called Clarion Club House at Dore, Sheffield. We were given a bed with damp mattress and two very damp thin blankets and a meal of one sausage and a little mash.

There were I think 5 of us and after 3 or 4 days we decided when next an officer called on us we would complain. Other men living at Longshaw were by comparison in luxury. When our Flt. Lt. Green came and saw our conditions he immediately ordered us to pack and get out, went to see Miss

Christie at Longshaw and said he was bringing five more men in, she didn't like it but had no option.

By now of course we had been told we were part of a decoy unit built to decoy enemy bombers to bomb us instead of towns, factories, etc., our site was on the moors above Fox House and was part of Sheffield town. Other sites at I think Curber and maybe Calver, were marshalling yards, another at Derwent, near rocks 'Old Woman Baking' was a town.

In all we had around 630 sites in the UK. Official figures at the end of the war stated that decoy sites saved at least 2500 lives and 3000 injuries.

In all I spent three very cold winters on your moors, but I had compensation, i.e. my wife of nearly 60 years, Ida Stubbs sister to Gordon.

*R.J.Moon Ex Roy F*

*Ed. A first account by Oliver Murphy of measures to decoy wartime bombers appeared in our Spring 2001 issue under the heading 'A False Sheffield' and was followed by more information from Mick Savage in May. This third letter, which continues the story, is reproduced from the Hathersage Parish Magazine.*

Dear Sir,

I was interested by the article in the autumn issue regarding Mr Aubrey Crookes. I was born in 1929 and went to Nether Edge Grammar School and sat next to an Aubrey Crookes in 1A and 2A. I then

left the school for Technical College.

I remember Mr Crookes as a well built young man with very dark hair who was extremely good at mathematics which was a godsend to me! I did not live in Dore at that time and was not aware of his family connections in this area.

*Geoff Dales*

Dear Sir,

We are trying to trace members of our family and currently the object of our interest is an Olive Hayes whose last known address was 317, Abbeydale Road South, Dore.

This was in 1938/ early 1939 when she was a housekeeper at this address. We are not sure where her home was, although we know that around this time she had given another address of The Crest, Donisthorpe, Burton on Trent Rural District.

Her mother, believed to be Ann Hayes, was thought to also reside in Donisthorpe.

We would be very keen to receive any information on Olive including whether she had any siblings and whether she married or any forwarding address.

*Julie Goldsmith, Worksop*

## Neighbourhood Watch

The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Watch representatives will be on Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm at Totley Rise Methodist Church. A good turn-out please.



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## A Working Woodland

Those of you who visit Ecclesall Woods frequently will probably have noticed more than the usual amount of activity during October and November. Within the woodland to the east of Abbey Lane (affectionately known as Wood 2 by those in the know!), the first major felling and thinning work within Ecclesall Woods for a good century was taking place.

As part of the current management plan for the woodland, around 3.5ha (8.5acres) was thinned, to give the mature canopy trees with the most long-term potential, the room to grow properly, and, to allow the dense understorey of up and coming Birch and Oak to thrive. At the same time, extra light has been allowed onto the woodland floor, which should encourage wildflowers like Bluebell and Wood Anemone. The "finished product" may look a bit stark at the moment, but the woodland vegetation will quickly respond to the extra light levels, and recover rapidly. Overall, the aim of achieving a more varied woodland structure for wildlife has been achieved.

Over 100 tons of felled timber was removed. This helps in reducing the cost of the work, and supports local woodland industries. Some of the better Oak will go towards quality house restoration projects, whilst much of the low-grade material (most of the timber unfortunately) has gone to a wood-fuel energy plant at Selby.

The thinning work has been well-received by the local community (let me know if you feel otherwise!), which hopefully, is a reflection on the good consultation to date, and the way the work was undertaken. Other thinning and felling work will take place in the woodland next year. For more information, contact Nick Sellwood (Asst Trees and Woodlands Manager) on 273 6387.

## PARK VETERINARY HOSPITAL

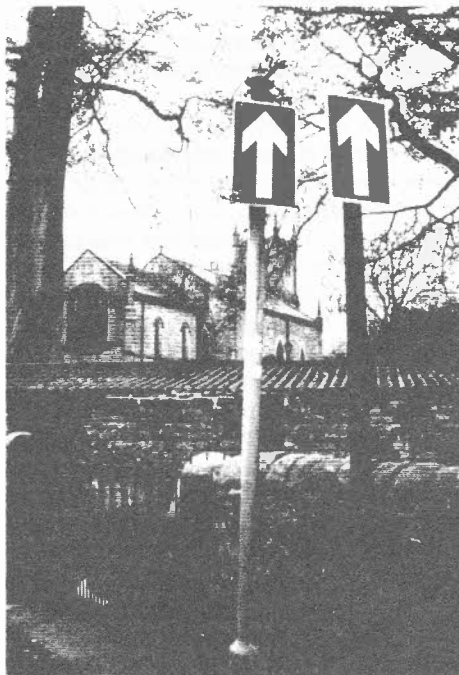
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*Caption competition* - This photograph was taken on Vicarage Lane in November 2001, just about the time the vicar David Williams was about to leave Dore.

A bottle of wine to the best suggested caption for publication in our next issue. Ideas to the editor please by end March. Address on page 2.

## Unitary Development Plan

As foreshadowed in our last issue, you can now read the full UDP Review Issues Report, or a summary of it, at your nearest library, local area housing office, or on the City Council's website at [www.sheffield.gov.uk](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk)

The Council wants to hear the views of local people, organisations and businesses about the issues which the new Plan should address. You can write in, e-mail or fill in the comment sheet on the UDP leaflet. A series of public meeting have also been arranged, including one locally at 7.30pm Wednesday 6 March in Totley rise Methodist Church, Grove Road.

## Dore Millennium Play

Meet the playwright, the directors and organisers at Dore Old School on Tuesday 12 March at 7:45-9:00pm.

We need actors, singers, musicians, and backstage people. Anyone interested please come along or contact Dore Old School tel 235 2801.

There will be three different performances of the play on 6<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> July 2002.

## Dore Male Voice Choir

The Choir presented its annual Christmas Concert to a 'full house' at the Parish Church on 15th December. Tickets were sold out two weeks in advance. The Choir were delighted to be joined by Mitzi Matlock (Mezzo Soprano) and Neil Dunn (Tenor). Neil very kindly filled in at the last minute for Joanna Shacklock, who was unable to attend. It was a rousing evening's singing, with mince pies and mulled wine adding to the festive occasion.

Forthcoming concerts include charity events for the Samaritans (16th March at Ecclesall Church), Edensor Parish Church at Chatsworth (July), and Macmillan Horizons Appeal (June- Ranmoor Church). The Choir will be participating in the Wharfedale Festival on Saturday 18th May.

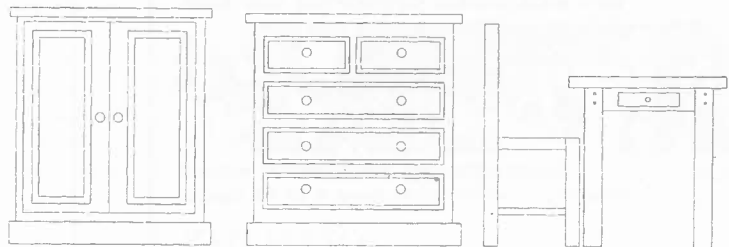
Perhaps the highlight of this year will be a Concert Tour of Cyprus at the end of May, when the Choir will be giving four concerts. Two of these, in aid of Cyprus Charities and sponsored by the Hellenic Bank, will be in the Odeion, the ancient Roman amphitheatre in Paphos. This is the Choir's second visit to Cyprus, and they will again be joined by members of the Wigston (Leicester) M.V.C., who with friends make up a party of nearly one hundred.

The Choir meets every Thursday at 7.15 in the Village Hall. Anyone who is interested in joining only needs to come along to a rehearsal. Give it a try. You will be made most welcome.

David Heslop

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## Book Reviews

We tend to take street names for granted in our everyday lives, but if you have ever stopped to wonder how a given street got its name then *Street Names of Sheffield* by veteran Sheffield journalist Peter Harvey will become your indispensable reference source.

Years of research have pulled together details on every street in the city from Abbey Crescent to Zion Place. Some are named after individuals from a Roman soldier (Albanus Croft) to a Chippawa Indian chief (Muskoka Ave). Some reflect influential families such as the Howards who as Dukes of Norfolk and major land owners have more than 300 street names connected with them. Other streets have changed their names over time and some such as Chesterfield Road have an obvious origin.

Amplly illustrated with old photographs, this book is literally a mine of information, to be used or dipped into when curiosity dictates. It also presents a challenge to those choosing street names today in making sure they will also stand the test of time. Equally at home on the coffee table or in your reference library, *Street Names of Sheffield* is published by Sheaf Publishing price £17.95 ISBN 1-85048-025-7

Once the industrial powerhouse of Sheffield and today home to the Arena and Don Valley Stadium, Attercliffe has a special place in the hearts of many Sheffielders. Michael Liversage "came from down Attercliffe" and has drawn on his personal experiences and a lifelong interest in old photographs to produce *a wander up the 'cliffe - Attercliffe*.

Following a trail along Attercliffe Common and Attercliffe Road the book weaves together personal recollections and a host of old photographs to capture the spirit and last 50 years of history of the area. There are colour paintings by local artists, some excellent sketches by Brian Smith and even a 1957 street directory of businesses.

If you have lived in Attercliffe or are interested in the Sheffield of the last half century you will find this book irresistible. *a wander up the 'cliffe - Attercliffe* is published by Pickard Publishing price £9.99 ISBN 0-9534267-5-0

The south can keep its Senlac Hill and Battle of Hastings, arguably the most significant event of 1066 was the Battle of Stamford Bridge ( east of York). It was here that King Harold decisively defeated the Viking host led by King Harald of Norway and Harolds' treacherous brother Tostig. This concluded centuries of conflict between the Anglo Saxons and the Vikings, but the outcome allowed an opportunistic Norman to seize his chance!

No other county of England has seen so many large scale combats as Yorkshire and for the first time accounts of these are brought together in *Yorkshire Battlefields*, a new book by Graham Bell. From the Saxon battle at Brunanburh (Catcliffe) in 937 AD to the Wars of the Roses battle of Towton ( south of York ) in 1461, which saw the greatest slaughter of any battle on English soil.

Each battle is set in its historical context with an appraisal of why it took place, details of the opponents, the lie of the land and the authors own conclusions on aspects of the events. There is also a travellers guide to the sites today. In all 144 pages, illustrated with a host of black and white photographs and period drawings, this is an informative and easy to read introduction to some of the decisive military events in our county's history.

*Yorkshire Battlefields* is published by Wharncliffe Books price £ 9.99 ISBN 1-903425-12- 3

To many people South Yorkshire is synonymous with the peak of industrialisation, with coal mining at its very heart. A new book *South Yorkshire Pits* by Warwick Taylor provides an insight into the industry's turbulent history from child labour in the 1800s through the wartime Bevan Boys to nationalisation and closure.

There are sections on some of the big companies, wealthy owners like Earl Fitzwilliam and the pits themselves grouped into areas around Barnsley, Doncaster & South Yorkshire.

If you want to know about a particular pit this is the place to find out who owned it, when it was worked, which coal seams were used, even accidents and disasters. Complete with a useful glossary, *South Yorkshire Pits* is published by Wharncliffe Books price £ 9.99 ISBN 1-871647-84-3

## Family History

Interested in tracing your family tree?

- Ask relatives of the generation above if they can remember any details about their grandparents, such as where they lived or were born. If they can, that might put you into the 1800s, which means you can look up details on the Census Returns for that area. The 1901 census was published at the beginning of 2002 and will be held in local record offices along with earlier ones.

- A visit to the Family Records Centre at 1 Myddelton Street, London, will give you access to copies of the Census Returns from 1841 onwards, plus details of births, marriages and deaths since 1837. It houses a wealth of other information too. Visit their website: ([www.pro.gov.uk](http://www.pro.gov.uk)).

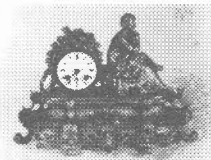
- Details of births, marriages and deaths before 1837 are generally kept at the local county record office.

- Visit the website: ([www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)) for a list of genealogical sites.

- Get in touch with the family history society of the area you are interested in. website: ([www.ffhs.org.uk](http://www.ffhs.org.uk)).

- The Guild of One Name Studies may have a group dedicated to your name. Write to the guild at Box G, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA. website: ([www.one-name.org](http://www.one-name.org)).

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## Planning

In the run up to Christmas there was a flurry of Planning Applications for developments in and around the village. Whereas, as always, some were perfectly acceptable proposals, there were a clutch of applications which threaten the Green Belt, or were unacceptable for other reasons.

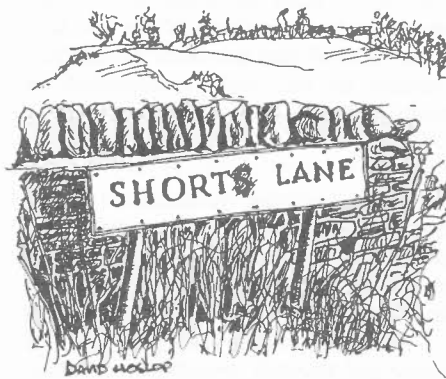
'Blue Ridge', Ashfurlong Road (9B/0908P). As probably most residents of Dore will now know, the Planning Board turned down the application to build flats, on the lines proposed in the plans submitted. This was a great relief, for as reported in the Winter edition of Dore to Door, the proposals were for a massive overdevelopment of the site, with the prospect of buildings out of scale and character with the locality.

The reasons for rejection were extensive and included those concerns already mentioned, together with loss of trees, constraints on the treatment of Ashfurlong Road and proximity to boundaries, to name but a few. Development with dwellings will certainly go ahead in some form on the site, but the developer will have to seriously rethink his proposals in the light of the refusal.

**Newfield Farm, Newfield Lane** (98/0814P). There was a massive public response to this application, with very many objections to the proposal to develop this property as a Kennels and Cattery. However, the developer has been undeterred and, at the request of the Planning Authority, has submitted revised proposals and a noise impact study, but generally with very little variation to the original plans.

At the time of writing no decision has been made, but there is serious concern at any prospect of such development, not least because of the incursion into a very vulnerable part of the Green Belt, quite apart from the noise issue. The Society and the C.P.R.E. have both objected strongly to any such development here.

**Green Belt again.** A recent Planning Application has been made (01/10573/FUL) for the conversion of the farm buildings into an additional dwellinghouse at Moor View Farm. The



*Corners of Dore*

*David Heslop*

farm is situated between Whirlow Park, Hathersage Road and Long Line, with access by the side of Whirlow Park.

This property is well within the Green Belt and as such the development is contrary to the Council's Planning Policies. In addition the loss of all the agricultural buildings at this property would preclude future use as a working farm, unless more buildings were provided.

**The Moss, Limb Lane** (01/10200/FUL) This house, at present a Residential Care Home, is the subject of a Planning Application to turn the building into 16 flats. The concern is that in addition the applicant proposes to build a bungalow on the site. Whereas the residential use is established in the existing building, this property is in the Green Belt, and thus the new bungalow should not be approved. We are also concerned about the inevitable increase in traffic to and from the site onto Limb Lane.

Apart from the planning issues, with the recent closure of Netherby Grange (also the subject of an application for conversion into flats) on Dore Road, and now the prospect of closure of this Home, the locality can ill afford to lose such facilities for the elderly.

**Signs of things to come!** The Highway Department of the Council has made a Planning Application (01/10384/ADV) to place three advertising boards on the wide grassed area at the side of Hathersage Road, by the entrance to Whirlow Park. This sweep of grass, with the back cloth of trees, has been enjoyed by Dore residents

for many years as an informal 'green entrance' to the city.

Recently the Society's chairman persuaded the Highways Department not to put two large directional signs on this grassed area. One was to point the way to the city centre and the other to show the way to Sheffield Airport! You may have seen the large supporting posts which were erected and subsequently removed.

The three new proposed advertising boards (including one which is double sided) are over one metre high and just as wide, and are intended to give the names of sponsor companies. Surely any benefits from 'managing' the grass will be lost by the proliferation of all these signs. By the way, this is one Application out of 46 such Planning Applications made by the Highway Department in the same week for sponsor boards across the city!

**H.S.B.C. Bank Causeway Head Road.** A Planning Application has been made by the Bank to refurbish the premises. This we applaud. Dore needs a local Bank. We are not too thrilled by the separate application for a temporary bank building on the highway in front of the shops (where the cars park). Parking here is a hazard at the best of times. Whereas the application is for a period of 8 weeks, it is hoped that the refurbishment will be completed as quickly as possible.

**Tipping.** No, this is nothing to do with Dore's restaurants. There is a speculative application to tip commercial and industrial waste on two fields on the side of Baslow Road below Owlbar, to the Totley side of Pickford Holland's property.

Whereas the site is in Totley and not Dore, it can be clearly seen from many parts of Dore and the Peak District National Park, and is adjacent to the main tourist route in and out of the city. The fields are as good as any in the area and have a gentle slope away from the road. The tipping as proposed would be between 3ft and 15ft deep and there would be service buildings on the site during the 2 years estimated tipping period. Strong objections have been lodged and we would be surprised if these proposals were approved.

*David Heslop*

*Sally and Mark would like to welcome you to the*

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## Planning Matters

**Infill or overfill?** A Dore resident called into the 'Rooms' one Saturday morning recently and said he was a newcomer to the village and was living in 'one of those infill properties', and commented "I suppose I am persona non grata in consequence". Far from it. Any new residents are welcome to Dore, and the society is not against all infill developments.

There is pressure for new housing and the Local Planning Authority have to ensure that land is available for housing in accordance with a ten year programme, as set down by Government. There is also a policy of preferred development on 'brownfield sites' (that is, land that has been previously developed and is not open agricultural land).

In Dore we are rightly very protective of our encircling Green Belt. Without it Dore would lose its special identity and much fine countryside would be lost. The downside is that, to reinforce the Green Belt against development, infill housing must inevitably be accepted where appropriate.

It is where infill development is not appropriate that the Society objects to, and resists planning applications. By way of example such cases would be:

(a) where the proposed new dwellings are incompatible with existing development and the locality (e.g. the mass of the Blue Ridge flat proposals);

(b) where development would entail the loss of, or affect valuable trees or other natural features (e.g. the four house proposed at 18 Gilleyfield Avenue and the flats overlooking the Recreation Ground);

(c) where there is the loss of, or adverse effect on existing buildings of historic or architectural merit to the village (not just 'listed buildings'). (e.g. the so called bungalow at Nab Farm), or;

(d) where the site would be over developed under the new proposals, (e.g. the 18 Gilleyfield Avenue site again, and the original proposals for the site at the corner of Devonshire Road and Brinkburn Vale Road).

There are developments which are perfectly acceptable, such as the housing recently erected by Beauchief Homes at the top of Busheywood Road. Here three houses replaced a bungalow, without removing any major trees, overcrowding the site or devaluing the street scene. How could anyone reasonably object?

**Petitions & circulars.** Some development proposals, for which Planning Permission is sought, understandably create serious concern and objection by neighbours and interested parties. When this occurs it is right that circulars are sent out urging residents to write in to the planning authority and object or sign a petition. On occasions these circulars give no name or contact point on (or with) the document. This is unhelpful and can be unproductive, as some people who would support the circular often need more advice or

assistance before they are prepared to take action.

The Society has been contacted on many occasions when such circulars are unattributed. We would point out that any circular sent out by the Society bears the Society's imprint. A document without it is not from the Society, and indeed we may not support all or any of its content. We would ask that all circulars on planning issues give an author or point of contact.

*David Heslop*

## News in brief

**Contrary** to some recent rumours going round the village, we are pleased to say that there is no truth in suggestions that Dore Grill will be changing hands or closing!

**The next meeting** of the Totley & Dore support group for the visually impaired will be at 4 Grove Road on 21 February at 11am. Then on the 21 March and 18 April.

**Can you believe it** - someone has been seen exercising their two dogs inside the fenced area of the childrens playground at the rec!

**All Saints C of E School** will be holding a reunion for people who left around 1942-46 from 7pm Monday 15 April at the Old Mother Redcap pub Bradway.

**Ash House Playing Fields** have been offered on a 25 year lease by Sheffield Council with the suggestion that they would make an ideal permanent home for a sports club.

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## Jean Recalls

The photo of Rose and Ivy cottages on the front of the winter issue must have been taken before 1931. There are two reasons for my saying this.

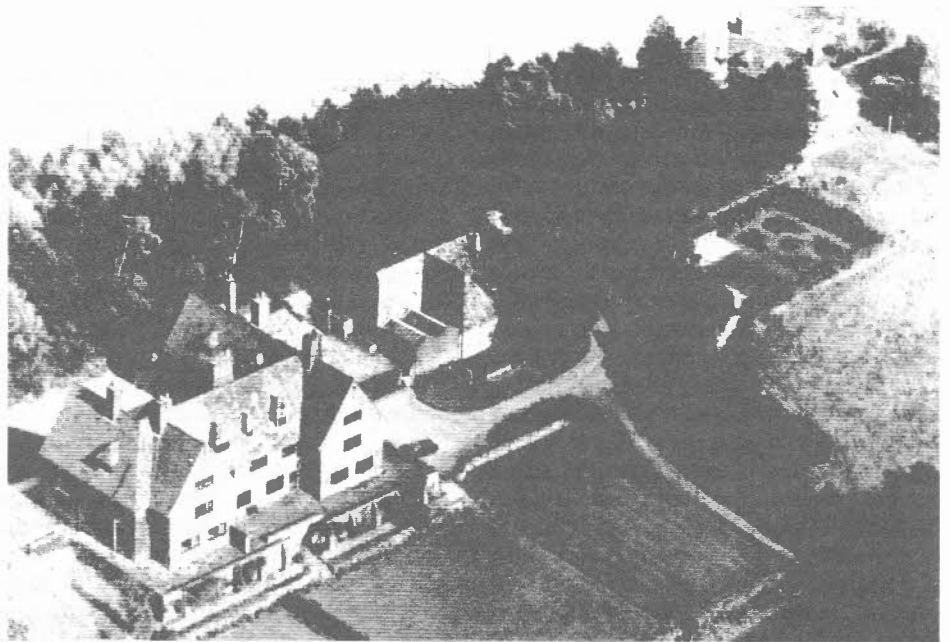
Firstly the lady on the photo is Mrs Eyre, Grandmother of Mrs Lorraine Evans, and she tells me that they moved from Ivy Cottage in 1931. Also the railings on the top of the wall can be clearly seen. These were taken away at the start of World War 2 for the war effort. I remember my grandmother being rather upset when they took the gate. She was afraid that I would get onto the road. I used to stand at the gate waiting for my cousin Rita coming from school. I know I used to get excited when I saw her coming up Wilson Hill. I really adored her.

The photograph of Dore Moor House on this page was taken sometime in the 50's. The Lodges are just visible in the top right hand corner. The little building and garden just below them has been converted into a summer house for the Lowe family, who lived in what was then known as Dore Moor Court. When the Grants lived in the big house this was their hen hut and run.

We were really lucky as children to live here. We had all the grounds, the woods and the stream to play in. Not to mention the Wendy House which used to be down by the stream but was moved much later up near the house.

The squash courts were an adventure in themselves. They had electric light, chemical toilets and bunks. The Grant family and servants used them as an air raid shelter in the war. Sledging in winter down the Big Bank was another thrill, especially if there was ice on the bank and the sledge looked as if it might reach the water.

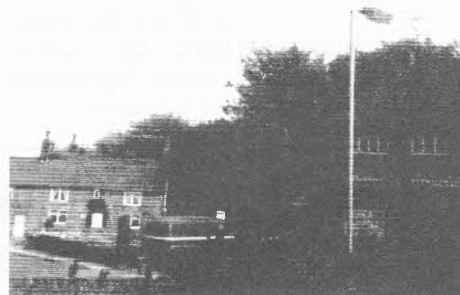
The stream was dammed in 2 places. There was a boat house and rowing boat. Dad



*Ariel view of Dore Moor House*

used to take us on the water which was really deep. One of Lady Grants relatives nearly drowned himself when he tried to punt across.

Richard Farnsworth very kindly lent me a copy of the local 1891 Census. I found it



*View down Townhead Road towards the Hare & Hounds*

fascinating and was thrilled to find several relatives on it, including my great Grandfather and Mother, my Grandparents and several Great Aunts and Uncles. At least it proves that the Farnsworths, Fearnoughs, Taylors and Fishers have been here a long time.

I see they are still referring to BLACKA as Blacka Moor. The Moor does not start till you cross the Hathersage Road.

The other photo was taken shortly after the cottages on Church Lane were demolished. The blue van was used by Jean Sceats for her deliveries. The photo was taken before her new premises were built. What is now the Halifax, still has the electrical sign. Mr Anderson was the owner. Primrose salon was what is now Hair Plus. The buildings still belong, I believe, to Mr Anderson's daughter, Caroline Jones.

*Jean Dean*

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## Are you 50 + ?

You may have seen publicity around Sheffield being one of 28 councils that have been given approval to run a scheme to give 50+ 'citizens' a particular say in local government issues.

As far as we can ascertain there has been little interest amongst people in the South West of the city, which could be unfortunate, as it looks like being run on a 'first come first included' basis rather than being representative of different areas of the city.

Anyone in this age group can fill in a membership form to become a member of the Sheffield Elders Congress (SEC). Becoming a member does not mean you have to commit to getting involved, attending meetings etc. All it does is makes sure you are kept informed and gives you a single point of contact where you can raise issues and or get advice on policies that affect you in your area.

Any SEC member will be eligible to put himself or herself forward for election to an Elders Congress Council. There will be 89 Elders Councillors and they will have the authority to attend council and sub committee meetings to make sure older people are represented. Additionally, although they will not take any authority from Councillors they will have the power to challenge and question decisions that are being made and that may affect older citizens.

Membership forms are available from the Library or from the SEC office in the Old Townhall, Room 133, Sheffield S1 2HH or phone 273 5426.

## Local Heritage Initiative

Friends of Ecclesall Woods (FEW) are pleased to announce that their application for a LHI grant was accepted in mid-December. As the grant requires members of the local community to get involved, it's a great opportunity to do some hands-on practical work, and at the same time learn new skills!

The 4 items covered by the grant are:

1. A professional survey of the hill-top enclosure to shed more light on this area, which is potentially the most interesting archaeological feature in the woods. Please contact Geoffrey Hartland with offers of help (236 8569).

2. Measurement of the Q-pits in the woods so that they can be categorised. From the data one pit will be selected and sectioned. If Q-pits have been used for producing coke the temperature of up to 1000°C will have baked the earth walls of the pit. Measuring and sectioning will be carried out by several volunteers (training given) and supervised by an archaeologist. Please contact Geoffrey Hartland as above.

3. Construction of a path suitable for wheelchairs from the bridleway in wood 2 near Whirlowdale Road to the Woodcolliers grave. Volunteers are

required to liaise with the contractors. Offers of help to Geoff Chapman (296 2311).

3. Production of a leaflet on aspects of general interest in the woods to be similar in format to the recent one on archaeology. Anyone wishing to help please contact Susan Jones (255 0946). Any general queries or questions please contact Bill Smyllie (236 5126).

**Did you know that** - Ecclesall Woods are so called because in the middle ages they were split into many small separately named areas. These are ancient woodlands containing traces of past history and early settlement. They are also home to many species of small mammals, birds and plants, some of them rare.

Since 1993 'FEW' has helped to improve footpaths and signposts, including bridleways with wheelchair access, carried out plant surveys, produced leaflets on the woods and much more.

If you are interested in any aspect of the woods, why not support FEW by joining. Subscription rates are: Individuals £4; two or more from the same address £6. More details from the Membership Secretary, Mrs Lorna Baker, 8 Thornsett Gardens, S17 3PP. Tel: 236 9025

## Motoring Tips.....

Tips for motorists when commuting through - or driving in - Dore.

1. Your car can be a danger to others. Ensure therefore, that other road users are made aware of your approach by driving as fast and as noisily as possible. This also has the advantage of showing how busy and important you are.

2. Be positive. Too much namby-pamby consideration for others and the environment must be avoided.

3. Remember that your children need education. And on the school run you can help them by parking in a place and manner highly inconvenient to others.

4. Remember that people the world over are dying of starvation. Thus, when you are shopping in Dore, you are competing for the world's failing resources. Your survival, then, may depend on parking as close to the shop as possible.

5. Help others. Though frowned on in some quarters, pavement parking takes advantage of otherwise wasted space, and puts pedestrians in their proper place, i.e. in a car!

*A pedestrian*



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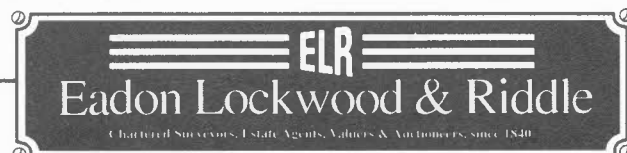
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## Carriers of old

I was delighted to provide a few illustrations for the updated edition of *Packmen, Carriers and Packhorse Roads* by David Hey which is particularly relevant to our area which is so rich in ancient trackways, bridges and guide stoops.

As the economy of the nation rapidly improved during the reign of Elizabeth 1, there was considerable development of trade and the resulting need to provide the roads necessary to carry goods. The book examines the evidence on the ground with maps and illustrations giving the local road network. One map clearly details the large number of packhorse and cart ways that crisscrossed Big Moor south and west of Owl Bar.

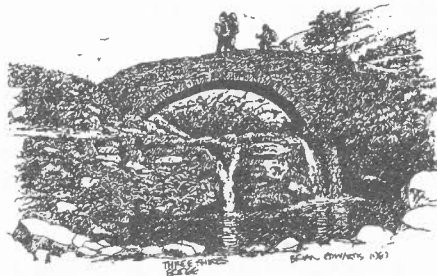
David discusses the carriage of goods and the carriers, with details of the packhorse trains, wagons and coaches. Our own Old Hay (Olda) gets a brief mention and we also learn that local strings of packhorses carrying lead were in the charge of a man known as a Jagger. One such man Thomas le Jager was alive in Little Longstone in 1316, and of course there is Jaggers' Lane in Hathersage.

The local lead industry is described in graphic terms "Long trains of packhorses were standing in the village street (at Chelmorton), and stretching back to the mine, waiting to take their panniers full of ore to the smelters". During the 16th century, lead was brought over by this method from Ashford and Castleton to the lead smelting mill at Oldhay, Totley, and then subsequently on to Bawtry for onward shipment by boat.

David Hey also describes the other trades, such as agriculture, coal, salt etc., using these old roads and it is not surprising when we read of traffic jams even then!

*Packmen, Carriers and Packhorse Roads*, published in hardback price £19.95 by Landmark, is fascinating reading and impinges on many aspects of local history.

*Brian Edwards*



Three Shires Head. Packhorse bridge over the River Dane at Panniers Pool, near Flash where Derbyshire meets Cheshire and Staffordshire. The bridge has been widened upstream. Four packhorse routes converged on this bridge.

## Oral history project

The Friends of the General Cemetery are currently working on an oral history project for which they would like people's memories and reflections on the General Cemetery on Cemetery Road, Sharrow.

They would like to talk to you if you have: Attended a funeral or cared for a grave; Worked in the cemetery; Played as a child in the cemetery; Used the cemetery recreationally; Have family buried in the cemetery; Remember the clearances of gravestones in the 1970's, or the damage caused by the Blitz; Lived near the cemetery and have any connection with, or recollection of, the cemetery; Have strong reasons for not visiting the cemetery!

Please contact Helen on 0114 279 8402. Interviews can be arranged to suit you and travel expenses will be paid.

## Spring Meeting

Our February meeting of the Dore Village Society plays host to Irene Brierton from the Mid Derbyshire Badger Group. Come along and enjoy an evening learning about this well loved piebald mammal, a survivor from the time of British wolves.

The meeting starts at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall on Thursday 28th February. Everyone is welcome and admission is free.

## Parking on Abbey Lane

Over the next few months (February and March), proposals to formalise and improve parking along Abbey Lane for visitors to Ecclesall Woods should be implemented.

The Highways Dept, SCC will be overseeing the installation of a number of surfaced parking bays on the western edge of Abbey lane, replacing the currently badly eroded and muddy areas used by visitors at present. Links from these parking areas into the woodland will subsequently be improved to reduce erosion and provide a better surface.

For more information, please contact Nick Sellwood (Asst Trees and Woodlands Manager) on 273 6387.

## Charitable donations?

According to a survey published by the Social Market Foundation, their research into the donors of 10 of Britain's biggest charities shows that the poor give a greater slice of their income to charity than the rich.

Those with incomes under £5,000 donated on average £108 a year, or 4.3 per cent. Those with incomes of £20,000-£25,000 donated £503, or 2.3 per cent, while those on incomes of £40,000 or more gave £784, just 1.9 per cent. The "regressive giving" pattern is roughly the same regardless of the age, sex, education and religious affiliation of the donors.

What the survey did not address was the proportion of people by income not giving to charity at all!

**Highways helpline.** To report dangerous potholes, defective street lighting or for street cleaning services, ring the Council's helpline on 273 4567 from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday.



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## Blue John stone

Peter Harrison from Castleton gave a fascinating talk on the history and use of Blue John at the Society's winter meeting in December. This article is drawn from the talk, supplemented by reference to Trevor D. Ford's book "Derbyshire Blue John" reviewed in our last issue.

Blue John was described by Peter Harrison as "a geological freak unique to Castleton." Early use in French clock making is said to give us 'bleu jaune' (blue-yellow) and hence Blue John.

Three hundred and ten million years ago, a sea, then near the Equator, deposited the shells of marine creatures. A great depth of these was overlaid later by different sandy deposits from a river delta system. These second deposits became the Peak Districts familiar Millstone Grit to a depth, originally, of two miles, compressing the first deposits into the Peak Districts familiar Limestone.

Huge volcanic pressures later created the Derbyshire Dome and impregnated the limestone with minerals, some of which metamorphosed into the common mineral, Fluor Spar, of which Blue John is a unique type. Fluor Spar has been used since the 15th Century as a flux in smelting but the semi-precious Blue John is found only in and around Treak Cliff Castleton, where it formed in unique circumstances, amongst a boulder field at the base of a limestone cliff.

## Deadline for Summer

Diary Events

Tuesday

30 April 2002

Ring 236 9025 or

write to the editor

In more recent geological times, the two mile thickness of the Millstone Grit deposit was worn away from the top of the Derbyshire Dome, leaving the well-known Gritstone-Limestone Gritstone sequence of scenery as we travel west from Sheffield over the Peak. Treak Cliff is at the most northerly point of the exposed limestone.

Before it can be worked Blue John must dry out naturally and then be treated with resin - formerly pine, now man made. Putty powder gives the stone a high shine and currently (2001) an average lady's hand-sized prepared piece would be worth about £1,000.

The first ornaments were made about 1740 when Blue John was called Derbyshire Spar, not taking its present name until about 1760. Blue John occurs only in small amounts. Each piece is extracted by hand using wooden plugs which are caused to expand once in position, by wetting. Iron wedges can also be used but only when the operator is happy about the stability of the piece of mineral.

Matthew Boulton (1728 - 1809),

industrialist and partner of James Watt, incorporated Blue John into some of his Ormolu production and in 1768, tried to buy the whole of Treak Cliff, though the profit from the ormolu seems have been insignificant, compared to the sales of 'Sheffield Plate' from his Birmingham works, which employed 600-700 men. However in 1769 Boulton purchased 14 tons of the best quality Blue John at £5. 15s. 6d. per ton.

Today it is used in jewellery and can be purchased in Castleton.

*Where Blue John can now be seen.*

Sheffield City Museum.  
The Cavendish Museum, Castleton.  
Castleton Gift Shop.  
Chatsworth House.  
Kedleston Hall.  
Buxton Museum.  
Derby Museum.  
St. Helen's Church, Darley Dale.  
All Saints Church, Mackworth, Derby.  
Windsor Castle.  
Buckingham Palace.  
Stockport Museum.  
Manchester Museum.  
Birmingham Museum.  
Exeter Museum.  
Leicester City Museum.  
The Natural History Museum.  
Lauriston Castle, Edinburgh (a large collection).

*Pat Pryor*

"Derbyshire Blue John" by Trevor D. Ford is published by Landmark Publications Ltd, Ashbourne. ISBN 1-873775-19-9. £5.95

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## Stepping Out

The Dore Village Society offers an occasional programme of guided walks mainly in the area around Dore, for both members and visitors.

The inaugural Dore Wassail Walk on 27th December was enjoyed by a happy gang, especially after the hot punch and mince pies at the end. Certainly this will become an annual event. 16 people also enjoyed a walk in the Limb Valley on 6 February, despite the wind and rain.

Forthcoming morning walks are scheduled for Sunday 31st March (Easter Day) and Wednesday 24th April. Start 10am from the Old School. See you there!

## Did you know

It is easy to be taken over by more recent events, but thinking back to 2001, I started remembering the stories we had been reading in the Press before September 11th. Stories about the dire economic plight of many rural areas in Britain, due to restrictions on walking imposed after foot-and-mouth broke out in February. Is there any hope that the government will learn from the experience? It needs to begin to realise both the importance of the countryside to tourism, and of walkers to the rural economy.

We know that in financial terms tourism is far more important to the welfare of the countryside than agriculture. And not so long ago a survey in the Highlands of Scotland showed that the economic importance of walkers outstripped the combined economic importance of fishermen, stalkers, shooters and skiers by a factor of at least four.

Is it time to strike a new partnership with farmers as the guardians of the countryside and to pay them to cultivate and preserve it



Gilleyfield Farm Gate David Heslop

in the way wider society wants? Why not start by paying them to maintain existing or new footpaths? Then they might value rather than resent walkers. Sorry too simple an idea for the 21st century!

Nearer to home, how long has it taken to get the new double yellow lines at the bottom of Dore Road! And at the end of this wait what difference will it make? The lines have been painted around the corners of the junction on both sides and on parts of Abbeydale Road. Very pretty, but who in their right mind would have parked there anyway: not even the laziest commuter.

The problem is parking on the left near the bottom of the road, stopping two lanes of traffic forming - it takes a long while in the rush hour to turn right, while people heading into town are forced to wait behind. Further up the road parking on both sides still creates a dangerous single lane pinch.

*Doremouse*

## Folk Trains

Once a month Folk Trains with guest bands run from Sheffield [7.15pm but collecting at Dore & Totley 7.23pm] to Edale.

Refreshments (special beer prices) & more music is available at The Rambler Inn, Edale, then 9.30pm return journey arriving at Dore & Totley for 9.54pm.

26 February: Ken Atkinson & Pete Garratt

26 March: Treebeard

23 April: Crucible

28 May: The SRFN All-stars

For up-to-date information ring 266 8055 or visit [www.folktrain.f9.co.uk](http://www.folktrain.f9.co.uk)

## 50 years of drama

For many years a shield painted on our proscenium arch proclaimed that TOADS was founded in 1959. During the mid 1980s, one of our members (the late Adrian Schofield) undertook some diligent research and determined that the society was at least ten years older. Moreover, its formation sprung from a public meeting as early as 1946.

In those days of austere post-war gloom, interest in 'Community Centres' was actively encouraged by the authorities. Many of the 'Centres' were sponsored by

the Education Authority and the availability of Abbeydale Hall for a 'dramatic society' was the only catalyst needed by our founder, the late S Gethin Robinson.

In its early days the society made its own stage and produced many plays and sketches but soon out-stripped the facilities available at Abbeydale Hall. In 1949 a public meeting saw the formation of the joint Totley Operatic and Dramatic Society - TOADS. By 1950 it was clear that the disparate interests of the two disciplines would mix as well as chalk and cheese and the inevitable split occurred. Fortunately for us, 'Geth' had the foresight to retain the TOADS title for the dramatic section although it was not until the 1960s that the split was completed when the Grand Opera Society was formed.

More recent research has now shown us that after the formation of a pure drama society the first recorded play presented was called a "Young Wives Tale" by Ronald Jeans. That play was staged at the Union Church Hall on Totley Brook Road in June 1952. Thus it is clear that the year 2002 is the time to celebrate our Golden Anniversary and we are pleased to announce that we will be presenting the same play in May this year. Whilst the play is dated in today's context, we are sure that you will find our period offering well in keeping with TOADS traditions. Moreover, this production will serve as a tribute to Geth and to his late wife Lil, remembered by many of you for her fine performances even when in her eighties, although few of you will recall her as Nurse Gallop in "Young Wives Tale"

As befits a Golden Anniversary we are planning to make the week of the production special and we will be hoping to invite many former members of TOADS to attend the play. If you are aware of any 'Old TOADS' with whom we may have lost contact, please help us to reach them. All information to either myself, Jeff Bagnall on 235 1206 or to our secretary, Kate Reynolds (formerly Walker) on 236 6891.

*Jeff Bagnall*

"Young Wives Tale" can be seen at St John's Church Hall, Abbeydale Road South from Wednesday 15th May to Saturday 18th at 7.30pm. It is a witty comedy to be enjoyed by all. Ronald Jean was a well loved playwright and this particular play was made into a film with Audrey Hepburn taking the part of Eve. Tickets will be available in April from Kate Reynolds or by leaving your name and request at S.E.Fordham Opticians on Totley Rise.

## Sheffield Marathon

This years marathon takes place on Sunday 28th April, closing date for entries the 18th April.

Starting at the Don Valley Stadium, the marathon fill follow a similar route to last year. There will also be a half marathon, family fun run and schools relay. You can find out more details from the marathon office on 230 8429.

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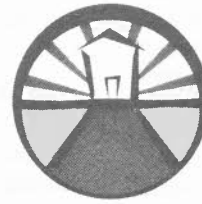
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## Dore Chimes

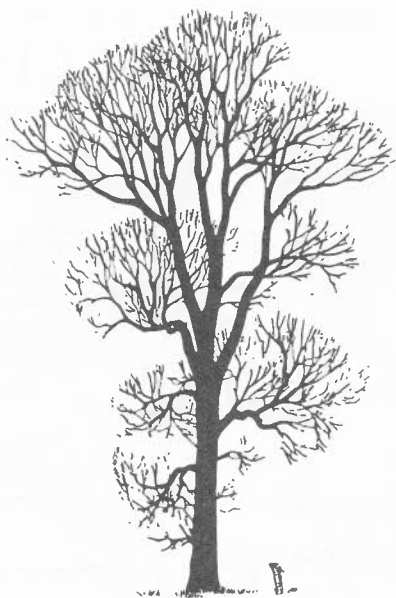
The Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society has formed a small concert party called 'Dore Chimes', a collection of the best singers, musicians and raconteurs that the society possesses. Since its formation in September, Dore Chimes has provided excellent entertainment (or so we have been told!) for a wide variety of occasions, from luncheon clubs (Lodgemoor, Totley All Saints, Edale); the Dore Ladies Group; the TWG and at national conferences.

We had a great deal of fun providing help to a group of G & S buffs in Nottingham who put on 'Trial by Jury' as after dinner entertainment for a lawyer's conference in the Nottingham Courtroom. It must rate as the most irreverent use ever made of the Courtroom with the "jury" climbing over the seats to try to get at the jilted bride and the "Judge" fancying the plaintiff so much that he married her himself! Dore Chimes put on 'Trial by Jury', again, as after dinner entertainment for the Society of Expert Witnesses at a conference held in Sheffield.

The reasons the group was started were threefold: firstly, the people in it like singing and wanted to do more of it; secondly, the Society has more good singers than can have leading roles in our annual show so we wanted a vehicle to allow the talent to shine forth and thirdly, we have often been asked to put on a concert at short notice and can not always do so. Now we have a committed group of people from whose ranks we can more or less guarantee to provide entertainment on a variety of themes from G&S (of course) through songs from shows, World War songs to Victorian/Edwardian programs and Old Tyme Music Hall concerts. The smallest group we have provided was a quintet and the largest consisted of more than two dozen performers.

The group is available for weddings, birthdays, conferences, parties of any sort and anything in between! A negotiable charge is made to raise money for charities and cover any costs. If anyone is interested in finding out more please contact Jenny Bland on Sheffield 236 7032.

*Derek Habberjam*



*The elm in winter.*

## Loss of the elm

The recent Foot and Mouth outbreaks, following closely on B.S.E., remind us how much impact outbreaks of diseases can have on our way of life and the countryside around us. Back in the late 60s and early 70s, the Dutch elm disease epidemic is estimated to have killed some twenty million elms in England. Carried by a beetle, it was fungus spores that did the damage, by blocking the flow of sap.

Today just a few pockets of mature elms survive, but elsewhere all was devastation, including Bedfordshire where I lived at the time. The English elm was typically a hedgerow tree spreading by suckers in the protection of the hedge. As is all too often the case, it was not until they had gone that it became obvious how important they had been in creating a particular kind of English lowland pastoral landscape of sunny fields and shady trees as immortalised by the painter Constable.

The elm was never as highly regarded as the oak and beech are, its wood being very tough and hard to split, but for centuries it played an intimate role in people's working lives. Elm provided the wood for mallet heads, floorboards, wood for the baker's

dough-trough, timber for cow stalls and mangers, the weather boarding of barns. Furniture was made of it and traditionally it was used for chair seats. Threshing floors were laid with elm boards, carts and wagons had elm shafts. When you died, elm would provide your coffin. Because it doesn't rot under water, elm was used for bridges, piles and groynes, the blocks and tackle of sailing ships, and for guttering and downpipes on houses.

Recent press reports have heralded the breeding of varieties of elm that can resist attack by the fungus and other attempts to modify and weaken the fungus itself through genetic engineering. Whatever their success, it is likely to be at least two or more generations before mature elms grace the countryside again, and then never in the casual way they once did.

*John Baker*

## Conservatory regulations

Poorly built, badly insulated conservatories and ramshackle porches, could become illegal under a proposal to subject them to building regulations. Typical construction problems identified include poor foundations, and interference with drains.

Conservatories with a floor area of less than 98 sq ft have been exempt from building regulations since 1985, together with porches, covered ways and covered yards. Industry and the public are being asked by the Government whether there is a need for the exceptions to remain or be removed.

**St John's Passion.** The choir of St John's and other singers will be singing Handels St John's Passion in the church on this Palm Sunday 24th March, at 6.30pm.

Everyone is invited to join in this preparation for Easter.

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## Water, Water, Everywhere

*Continuing the series of articles on local water power by Mick Savage.*

### The Sheaf.

The River Sheaf begins at the junction of the Old Hay and Totley Brooks near Mill Lane, Totley Rise. It runs six miles into Sheffield, emerging from a culvert to join the River Don at the junction of Blonk Street and Castle Street - their confluence being the site of Sheffield Castle.

**Abbeyle Works:** Everyone in Dore will be familiar with the 'Hamlet', or Abbeyle Works, but few may know its history. Its origins remain open to conjecture, but John Bright probably had a cutler's wheel built here in 1677. Subsequent tenants were Hugh Stephenson, Robert Savage and Samuel Biggin, a scythe maker, whose family were recorded as tenants of the 'New Wheel' near Ecclesall Woods in 1730. Thomas Goddard took possession in 1740 and the Goddards enlarged the dam, built the tilt forge and three houses. Interestingly, the history of Sheffield's mills throws up some familiar names: the writer of this article is a Savage, his wife an Unwin and his uncle a Biggin!

Various partnerships leased Abbeyle, adding workshops and a warehouse, rebuilding a grinding wheel, building steel furnaces, a new manager's house, a coach house and stables. John Dyson took sole tenancy from the Fitzwilliam Estate in

1842, having previously been a joint tenant, but his occupancy was not a happy one. The wheel was 'rattened' (i.e. blown up) by members of the grinders' union during the 'Sheffield Outrages' and Dyson was ruined.

The lease was then taken up by Tyzacks who installed a steam engine in 1855, but still relied heavily on water power. In 1935, Abbeyle Works was bought by the philanthropist J. G. Graves who presented it to the people of Sheffield. The works were briefly reopened during the second world war when the crucible melting shop was brought back into use, but closed down again at the end of hostilities.

In the opinion of many Sheffielders, their elected representatives have squandered Graves' precious legacy by wilfully neglecting this unique example of our industrial heritage. Work has recently begun on refurbishment of the neglected wheels and repairing a leak in the dam, but why was it ever allowed to get into such a state?

**Walk Mill:** Walk Mill was situated behind the present day sorting office and St. John's church. Built circa 1280 by the Canons of Beauchief Abbey on land donated by Sir Ralf de Ecclesall, it was originally used for fulling cloth. Robert Mylneward, a cutler, took over Walk Mill following the dissolution of the abbey. In the 18th century the ubiquitous Tyzacks were grinding scythes here; in the 19th century it was a paper mill; finally it was used for grinding sickles and saw making.

Walk Mill survived the building of the

Midland Railway's new line to London in 1870 and the construction of Dore Station two years later on land bought from the Duke of Devonshire. However, the mill succumbed in 1890 when the new line to Manchester cut through it and the River Sheaf was realigned.

*Mick Savage*

*to be continued in our next issue.....*

## Ploughing Ban

Farmers and landowners planning to plough up or alter moor and heathland in the Peak District National Park will now need permission following a government order made under Section 42 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. It was made following a request from the National Park Authority after 40 hectares of environmentally important land was lost. This new order means that no moor or heathland can be ploughed or altered without obtaining prior permission.

All the land affected appears on the draft maps of the CRoW (Countryside and Rights of Way) Act, recently published by the Countryside Agency, and some people have suggested the ploughing may be designed to prevent the eventual extension of public access.

Anyone wishing to check if land is covered by the new order should contact the Authority's Farm & Countryside Service on 01629 816396/816270.

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## The Wildlife Garden



In this age of globalisation, e-mail and 100 channel digital TV, you could be forgiven for thinking that our old traditions are nothing more than quaint anachronisms, re-enacted solely for tourists or exiled to the pages of history books. Fortunately, here and there some of these ancient traditions still survive.

The roots of many are obvious: they celebrate the changing seasons such as the arrival of spring, the longest day or the autumn harvest and originated hundreds of years ago when most Britons were peasant farmers and much closer to nature. On the other hand, some just seem to defy a logical explanation.

Take for example that most singular of sports - Royal football, an event which takes place in Ashbourne each year at Shrovetide. Football though it is not. True, it is a ball game and there are two goals, albeit three miles apart, through which the ball is meant to pass, but despite these similarities, it is about as comparable to football as tiddlywinks is to chess.

Royal football dates back to the 1400's and is basically a rugby-type scrum where the ball is passed (or attempted to be passed) along the streets and brooks of the town, by players hoping to score a goal. Other than this, the rules are so scant you could write them on the back of a matchbox and just about anything goes. So what on earth could have inspired such ancestral madness? A surfeit of medieval mead; ergot infested crops or in my view, a pond in early spring full of mating frogs?

All right the competitors in Royal football don't jump up and down showing off their white throats or croak for all they are worth, but nevertheless, when you see male frogs trying to grab an unfortunate female in a frenzied scrum, hanging on to just about anything that moves and making as much noise as they can, then perhaps the inspiration for Royal football isn't so obscure.

However, ponds are not just a place where amphibians can boisterously mate, they are an essential part of any wildlife garden: a haven where birds can bathe, hedgehogs take a drink, dragonflies hunt for food and whirligig beetles skate around the surface in ever changing directions. But what makes a good wildlife pond?

It really depends on the wildlife you wish to attract, for instance a pond suitable for ducks or fish is very different to one where frogs and newts would choose to make their home. But, even if you only have a limited space, you can't go far wrong with a two-part pond design. Shape doesn't matter, but it really needs to have two distinct areas: a shallow, sloping shelf and a much deeper

section. Birds can bathe in the shallow end and any animal that inadvertently falls into the pond can scramble out, while mating frogs find it attractive as the water will soon warm up in spring, enabling their eggs to develop quickly.

The other part should be ideally 24in/60cm deep in the middle to ensure the water doesn't freeze, thereby providing a safe haven for over-wintering wildlife. You can either make this area gently sloping and put plants directly into a covering layer of soil or break the slope up in a series of shelves and grow your plants on these, using special baskets. The pond should be as far away from trees as possible to ensure it gets the full sun and also to help prevent it collecting falling leaves in autumn.

As to size, just like a hard-drive in a computer, the bigger the better.

Ideally, your water plants should cover about a third of the surface area, leaving the rest open water, but they will inevitably try to take over the whole pond. Each autumn, I pull out encroaching plants and rather than just leaving them at the edge of the pond to allow any creatures living amongst them to crawl back into the water, I think a better method, if somewhat more time consuming, is to wash the plants in a bucket of pond water which is then returned to the pond, while the plants go straight on the compost heap. It is up to you what plants you grow, but large numbers of oxygenating plants are vital in the initial stages of the pond's development and should be anchored down with stones, not lead weights.

Occasionally the pond will over-flow, usually during a summer thunderstorm when it is crowded with tadpoles. If you are able to, you should design your pond so that any excess water will overflow into a separate boggy area. Otherwise, to prevent your tadpoles becoming a wriggling fertiliser, it is simply a matter of removing a few buckets of water before the storm, which is definitely preferable to doing so in the middle of a deluge. The surplus water, minus tadpoles and other large beasties, can be stored in a water butt and used to top up the pond during hot weather. Rainwater should also be collected for this purpose in summer, but if all else fails, tap water can be used.

What about fish? Fish and amphibians just do not go together in a small pond; all that happens is your fish will eat the tadpoles. Another problem is large diving beetles which may appear in the water: they are voracious predators and are quite capable of denuding the pond of all its tadpoles. But if, like me, you have around a hundred frogs invading your pond each spring, even this creature will make little impact.

In the initial stages of the pond's development, my advice is to do all you can to protect your burgeoning amphibian progeny, particularly if you have newts, but as their numbers increase, you will probably be quite happy to offer buckets of frog-spawn to your friends. Birds will take a few tadpoles, but otherwise should not really effect your pond-life, that is unless

you have a certain crow in your garden that is particularly fond of ramshorn snails. A number of years ago I introduced a few of these algae-devouring snails into my pond, but found that every last one was winkled out by a very persistent and no doubt hungry crow - which was a rather expensive way to feed such a large bird.

Finally, remember that ponds can be dangerous places, especially for youngsters and the elderly. Edging stones around ponds may become very slippery and if you have young children or even the occasional child visiting, you must cover the pond with a strong mesh to prevent toddlers falling in and drowning. Better still, just have a bird bath when they are at this vulnerable age.

As children get older, a pond in the garden is no less dangerous, but it offers the best opportunity to teach them about the potential hazards of water *and* the wildlife it attracts. Perhaps this will encourage the next generation to build their own ponds; now that is a tradition I would like to see passed on.

*Jack Daw*

## Dangerous waste

Christmas is the busiest time of the year for shopping, and top of many people's Christmas list will be a new food mixer, television, or some other electronic gadget. Each year, in Britain alone, we buy 18 million audio-visual products, 17 million small household appliances, 12 million electronic toys, eight million large kitchen appliances and growing numbers of computers and telephones.

But what happens to the old stuff? It's collectively called, 'waste electrical and electronic equipment', WEEE for short and it is packed with deadly chemicals! Lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium and brominated flame retardants called PBB and PBDE. An ordinary household computer contains lead, cadmium and mercury, which can cause brain and kidney damage, while burning the plastic cases would release carcinogenic dioxins.

Many people, reluctant to throw these items out, stick them in the loft. But they will all get thrown away eventually ending up in landfill sites. We throw away more than six million tonnes every year and that looks set to double in the next 12 years.

The European Commission is very worried about this, so next year, two new European directives will be launched to tackle the problem. The idea behind the first is to put the burden for dealing with old equipment on manufacturers, so that they build it to last and to be recycled. The second, on hazardous substances, is to phase them out unless it can be proven that they are essential.

This could mean price rises of around 3% on electronic equipment, but there are benefits to the consumers. Planned obsolescence could become a thing of the past and we will end up with a safer environment!

*John Baker*

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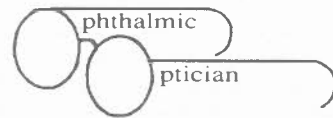
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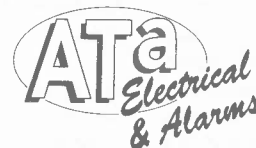
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## In touch with the past

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In April 2001, those doughty champions of local Public Footpaths - Terry Howard and John Harker - took nine local people for a walk on Blacka Moor. Concern had been expressed about the lease to be taken by Sheffield Wildlife Trust, for the proper protection of several specialised habitats on Blacka Moor which merit the status of designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Would this work interfere with 'Rights of Way' and the 'Access'? These must be available in perpetuity since Alderman J.G.Graves gave Blacka Moor to the people of Sheffield in 1933, because it was then threatened by housing?

*Please come back, Alderman Graves!*

The sun shone during the walk and high on Blacka Moor, on a Public Footpath crossing an area of heather moor, Terry Howard stooped to release from the drying mud, embedded in the surface, a flint scraper. These beautifully crafted artefacts are differentiated from unworked pieces of flint by the percussion marks where flakes have been removed to form an edge.

Most of us were in awe whilst it passed from hand to hand, as it must have passed through many other hands in Neolithic Times. Flint does not occur locally: the nearest naturally occurring flint is found in North Yorkshire and Norfolk.

It fitted the crooked forefinger and gripping thumb so perfectly that I longed for an animal skin (only a very small one!) to work on. I tried to say something profound - and failed - but Terry heard, and some months later at a Blacka Moor meeting, said: "I've found so many flints on the moors above Sheffield and Weston Park Museum must have almost a hundred of them by now. Would you like this one?"

I hope Terry understood my gratitude. It lies on the table before me now, evoking the kind of thoughts we rarely have the words to express - as well as How? Why? Where? Who? "When?" maybe answerable (give or take a few millennia) as between 8000 - 5000 B.C.

The family will be given ample opportunity to touch and wonder also, then this ancient thumb-sized tool containing so much that is human will be offered to the Dore Village Society Collection.

Life has changed since Neolithic Times, but we still work hard to live with as much comfort as possible and that still means getting the best from our Environment. You will remember that in 1991 the body of a Neolithic shepherd / hunter was found in a glacier in the Alps. Some of the items in his possession are listed below.

A flint dagger with an ash handle; A flint tool sharpener made of staghorn; A copper axe with a yew haft; A rucksack with a hazel frame; A birch bark container for carrying live embers of elm and willow charcoal wrapped in maple leaves; A bow of yew; A piece of dried fungus for tinder. Some other fungus which archaeologists believe was part of a medical kit.

There was found with him material made from 12 types of tree or shrub.

*Anonymous*

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## The Developer's Dream

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*or A Dirge on the imminent death of democracy in Dore.*

There is an ancient heritage  
Birthright, to you and me,  
Of village streets and village life  
And good community.

But now it's commonly said in Dore,  
And you'll hear it more and more:  
While planners moan over the phone  
The developers do what they like.

There is a verdant Village Green,  
We pray is safe from pillage,  
But we stand by and helpless cry  
And so lose our green village.

Now it's commonly said in Dore,  
And you'll hear it more and more:  
Planners protest, they do their best,  
But developers do what they like.

There is the beauty of tall trees  
That dapple, sway and dance,  
But staying mum or acting dumb  
We leave their fate to chance.

Now it's commonly said in Dore,  
And you'll hear it more and more:  
Planners plan as much as they can  
But developers do what they like.

That majesty of moorland true  
Uplifting to the spirit,  
We'll watch it disappear from view  
Behind some housing unit.

Now it's commonly said in Dore,  
And you'll hear it more and more:  
Planners twiddle on Nero's fiddle  
So developers do what they like.

Will those who come hereafter  
All curse our impotence?  
What did we do? How did we act?  
To fight for Dore's defence?

Did we bestir ourselves enough  
To get the worst plans blocked?  
Or did we bleat like helpless sheep  
And watch our democracy mocked?

*Anon*

*Ed. Someone has put in words how many of us feel. The Dore Village Society is continually frustrated by the greed of developers and the presumption in favour of development inherent in our national planning regulations.*

*We are not against progress but surely more should be done to take into account the needs of, and effect on, the community as a whole, when new development is being considered. We will go on fighting. The best way people can help is by becoming members of the society and adding weight to our arguments.*

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## Book Review

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The market for books published specifically for the railway enthusiast seems endless. Most concentrate on a single theme, be that a type of locomotive, a particular country's railway system, or some highly esoteric subject such as railway wagons, carriages or signalling. The majority rely on photographs and drawings to complement the writing - indeed in many cases the writing takes second place to the illustrations. However, in his new book *Locomotion: Two Centuries of Train Travel*, the well known transport writer P.J.G. Ransom takes a somewhat different approach.

This is an unashamed anthology, a personal potpourri of the author's favourite extracts from other books, official reports and letters complemented by the author's own observations and covering the entire history of railway travel from its beginnings to present day preservation societies. With the exception of the dust cover there are no photographs to distract the reader - just a few nineteenth century engravings.

As one might expect from the title, *Locomotion* is heavy on nostalgia - there are no references here to Railtrack, missing and late trains, or the problems caused by leaves on the line or the wrong type of snow. *Locomotion* deals with the lost world of railways inhabited by Thomas The Tank Engine and his Friends, so whilst we read occasionally about accidents - even a disaster or two - Ransom's railway traveller rides through a rose tinted world.

In a wide ranging selection taken from around the world, the author presents subjects as diverse as a letter written by a young lady besotted with George Stephenson; a Royal Commission's interrogation of Brunel in 1845 concerning his broad gauge railway; a supernatural piece of fiction; and the historic meeting of the Central and Union Pacific Railways at Promontory in the United States.

This book succeeds in being interesting, entertaining and informative. It will appeal to the general reader as well as the railway enthusiast.

*Locomotion: Two Centuries of Train Travel*, is published by Sutton Publishing ISBN 0-7509-2590-6, price £20.

*Mick Savage*

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## Stars in Dore

Several people have seen a dragon-like creature in Dore which appears on clear nights and moves silently over the roof tops. Before describing its antics in detail we shall keep readers up to date on what else may be seen in the night sky.

The planets Jupiter and Saturn are easily visible in Gemini and Taurus, respectively, much as they were this time last Spring. Saturn and the bright star Aldebaran could now be mistaken for Gemini's heavenly twins, Castor and Pollux! Jupiter is so bright that it dominates over even Sirius, the brightest star in the whole sky. Sirius is not very high but shines brilliantly with its steely-white light. It is in the south at about 7.30pm on 15th March, below and to the left of Orion.

Early evening, the red planet Mars is in Aries, rather inconspicuous in the southwest, well below and to the right of Saturn. Mars sets at about 10.30pm in mid-March. Another bright planet, Venus may briefly be glimpsed for a short time after sunset near the western horizon and just to the right of the thin crescent Moon on 15th March.

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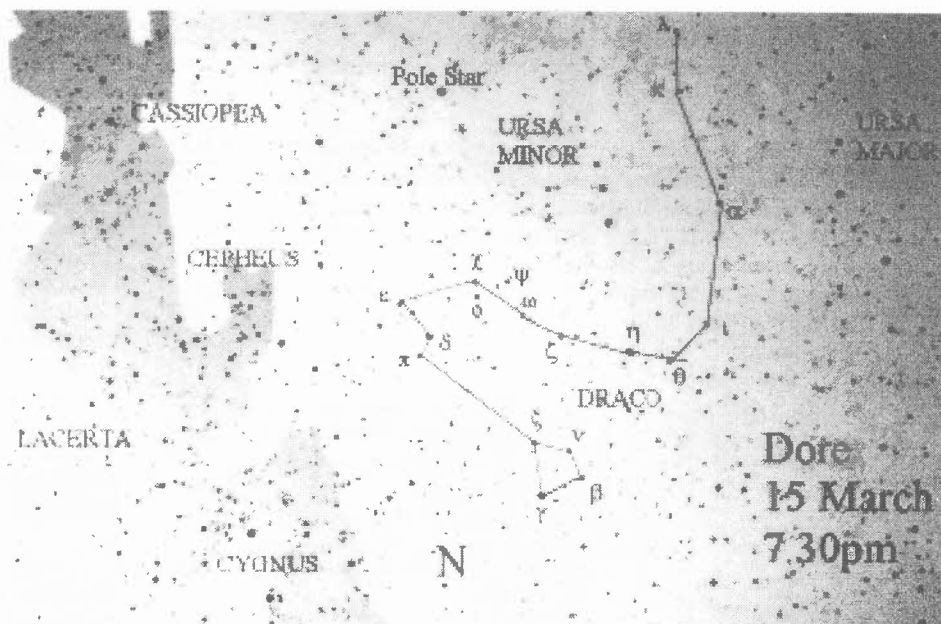
In the remaining part of this article we concentrate, however, on the northern sky roughly opposite Sirius.

Most people know how to find the Pole or North Star, but, for the sake of new readers, we shall briefly recap. Firstly, find the Great Bear which is climbing upwards at this time of year with its tail downwards. The body of the Great Bear is box-shaped and the tail is just three brightish stars. The top two stars of the 'box' are known as the Pointers. They point leftwards almost directly to the North Star. Now back to the Dragon!

Recently, we were asked about the lesser known constellations and how to find them. From amongst the more interesting ones to be seen from Dore in the Spring we have selected the Dragon (Draco) which winds itself around the north celestial pole. According to Greek legend, Cadmus had sent servants to fetch water at the Spring of Ares, where, unfortunately, a dragon kept watch over the golden apples of the Garden of the Hesperides. The servants were killed but Cadmus ran down and slew the dragon. Upon the advice of Athene, Cadmus planted the dragon's teeth in a furrow whereupon there suddenly sprung up a group of warriors, the Sparti. All ended well with the warriors fighting amongst themselves, and the few remaining helping Cadmus found the city of Thebes on the Nile. The dragon was compensated by being placed amongst the stars.

Equally fanciful stories from the Orient tell of a great winged monster which encircled the dome of the sky around the Northern Pole of the Heavens. The Chinese noticed that one star of the Dragon seemed to remain still in the sky. That was 3000 years ago. The star known in Egypt as Thuban (otherwise alpha Draconis) was actually the Pole Star at that time. Interestingly, Thuban is connected with the Great Pyramid of Cheops (c.2700 BC) at El Giza in Egypt. There is a long sloping passage in the Pyramid, 380 feet long, which leads into a deep chamber, and upwards it pointed directly at Thuban 3700 years ago when that star was the ever-visible, 'constant' Pole Star of the time. The Pharaohs did not know that the Earth wobbled on its axis and that the Pole Star would have to be swapped for another star as time went on. Astronomers give the name 'precession' to this wobble or gyroscopic spinning about the Earth's axis, and also know that one complete spin takes 25,800 years.

To find this fearsome Dragon in Dore, first go to the Great Bear which will serve us as a 'clock' for the sky and its constellations. Turn facing north and imagine the Pole Star is the centre of a large clock with just an hour hand. The Great Bear is then sitting at '3 o'clock' (to the right). Cassiopea (the W-shaped constellation) is on the other side of the Pole Star at about '9.30' according to our sky clock. Incidentally, our sky clock turns the wrong way, sadly anti-clockwise! Now the Dragon hangs down by its tail between the Great Bear and the Little Bear. Its head



nestles down under the Pole Star. But as the night proceeds the Dragon's head moves upwards and to the right. When Cassiopea lies at '7 o'clock' later in the evening and the Great Bear is practically overhead at '1 o'clock' according to our sky clock, the head of the Dragon is well up at about '4 o'clock'. You should see the two stars in the head, Alwaid and Eltamin (beta and gamma) and two fainter stars forming a nearly square (rhombic) shape. If you are lucky you might count altogether about 18 stars belonging to the Dragon on a dark moonless night.

The accompanying star map will help in identifying each of the brighter stars in the Dragon between the familiar constellations of Cassiopea and Ursa Major. The map also shows the fainter stars that one may see through binoculars or a small telescope. Notice how the patterns that are delineating the constellations represent such a small proportion of the fainter stars in the sky.

It should be borne in mind that neither the Dragon nor any of the other lesser constellations enjoy the arrays of security lights and street lamps that flood the sky at night. Sadly, we are living at a time when we cannot entrust our village streets with rural silence and darkness anymore. Light pollution is here to stay.

David Andrews

## Community care

(SCCCC) Sheffield Churches Council for Community Care, is a local charity that co-ordinates a broad range of services largely provided by its city-wide team of volunteers, giving older - often very vulnerable - people a helping hand when they need it most.

You can contact them at 8 Backfields, Sheffield, S1 4HJ tel: 279 7929 or visit their web site at [www.scccc.co.uk](http://www.scccc.co.uk)

Creating opportunities with disabled people

**LEONARD CHESHIRE**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Leonard Cheshire Services in Sheffield offers choice and opportunity to people with disabilities

A Specialist Unit for the Younger Disabled  
Residential & Respite Care - Single Rooms

Day resources - Aromatherapy - Reflexology  
Physiotherapy - Toning Tables

Activities include:-

Arts and Crafts - Computers - Cookery  
Shopping Expeditions - Theatre Outings -  
Church

Further details can be obtained from:-  
The Service Manager, Mickley Hall,  
Mickley Lane, Totley, Sheffield, S17 4HE  
Tel: 0114 236 9952 Fax: 0114 262 0234

The Care at Home Service supports disabled people who wish to remain in their own homes

We provide flexible care packages from 1 hour to 24 hours meeting individual needs. The Service operates throughout Sheffield

Our services include:-

Help with getting up and going to bed  
dressing - washing - bathing  
shopping - cooking - light household duties

Further details can be obtained from:-  
The Care at Home Manager  
Tel: 0114 235 1400 Fax: 0114 235 1499

Registered Charity No 218186

## Diary - Spring 2002

### FEBRUARY

- 19 **History & Mystery** Illustrated talk by Dave Carney for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, Church Hall, 7.45pm
- 23 **Family event** join Sheffield Rangers spring cleaning Ecclesall Woods - equipment provided. Meet at Wood Yard entrance on Abbey Lane. 10am-12noon.
- 23 **Concert**, St John Passion, Sheffield Bach Society, 7.30pm St Mark's Church Broomhill, in memory of Eileen Denman MBE. tickets 266 1000
- 23-24 **Exhibition**, by Sheffield Photographic Society, Botanical Gardens demonstration centre, 10am-4pm both days.
- 26 **Alpine Plants** in the wild & in cultivation. Talk by John Chaplain for Friends of the Botanical Gardens. 10am Demonstration Centre Visitors £2
- 28 **Badgers** Talk by Irene Brierton of the Mid Derbyshire Badger Group, at the Spring Meeting of the Dore Village Society, 7.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall, admission free, everyone welcome

### MARCH

- 2 **Woodland Management** with Sheffield Rangers in Ecclesall Woods. Meet opposite saw mill on Abbey Lane. 10.30am-3pm.
- 5 **Experiences of a contestant** Talk by Michael Gildersleve for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, Church Hall, 7.45pm Contact 236 3171
- 10 **Great Sheffield Flood** Exhibition in Low Bradfield Village Hall, 10am-5pm
- 11 **Consumer Assn** Horticultural Research. Talk by Ian Brownhill, head of 'Gardening Which'. Demonstration Centre 7.15pm. for FOBS Visitors £2
- 12 **"Daughters of Welbeck;** Religious Houses or Industrial Centres. AGM 7pm then talk by Colin Merrony for Hunter Archeological Society, 7.30pm Arts Tower, University of Sheffield. Non-Members welcome
- 16 **Table Top Sale** by KESA Wessex Hall, King Egbert School 10am-12noon. 50p entry. Booking of sites at £6 each via 236 2302
- 16 **Farm & Craft Market** incl spring & Easter attractions, Whirlow Hall Farm Trust, 10am-4pm
- 16 **Antique Fair** St John's Church Hall, Abbeydale Rd South, 10am - 4.30pm
- 19 **Grilling the Pastor** - Chris Kirk. Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, Church Hall, 7.45pm Contact 236 3171
- 23 **Concert**, Bach's Mass in B Minor, Sheffield Bach Soc 7.30pm St Mark's Church Broomhill, tickets 266 1000
- 24 **Spring Plant Sale**. FOBS Botanical Gardens 2-4pm.
- 26 **Plants & Places in Iran** Talk by Jeff Irons for Friends of the Botanical Gardens. 10am Demonstration Centre
- 31 **Stepping Out** local morning walk with the Dore Village Society. Start 10am Old School. Details 236 9025

### APRIL

- 1 **Easter Market** Chesterfield from 9am. Entertainment from 11am incl street organ festival
- 2 **Memorial Lecture** by Andy Lines on recent excavations into industrial history of Sheffield for South Yorkshire Industrial History Society, Royal Victoria Hotel 6pm
- 5-6 **Exhibition** Dore Art Group, the Old School 2pm-6pm Friday, 9.30am - 5pm Saturday. Admission free
- 8 **Introduction of Rhododendrons** into UK gardens. Talk by David Fames for Friends of the Botanical Gardens. 7.30pm. Demonstration Centre Visitors £2
- 9-13 **Trial by Jury & HMS Pinafore**, double bill by Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society, University Drama Studio, Glossop Road. Tickets from 235 0534 or 236 2299
- 12 **Quiz Night** organised by KESA, 7.30pm Wessex Hall, King Egbert. Bring your own refreshments. Form a team of 8 or join in on the night. Adults £3.00 Senior Students £2.00 and Junior Students £1.00 Tickets on the door.

- 16 **Aldine House** Talk by John Banwell for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, Church Hall, 7.45pm Contact 236 3171
- 20 **Jumble Sale** organised by KESA, Wessex Hall, King Egbert School. Dealers 10am-11am £5, public 11am-1pm 50p. Any jumble to Wessex Hall on Friday evening.
- 21 **Raft Races** make & race them with Sheffield Rangers, Millhouses Park 12pm - 3pm details 203 7206
- 23 **St George's Day** and the birthday of William Shakespeare
- 23 **A Garden in my Life**. Talk by Cynthia Ramsden of Fanshawe Gate Hall for Friends of the Botanical Gardens. 10am Demonstration Centre Visitors £2
- 24 **Stepping Out** local morning walk with the Dore Village Society. Start 10am Old School. Details 236 9025
- 29 **Tunnels and Tunnelling** Talk by Paul Sowan for South Yorkshire Industrial History Society, Kelham Island Museum, 7.30pm visitors welcome - for small donation
- 30 **Music to the ear** Talk by Paul Whittaker 7.45pm for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, Church Hall, Contact 236 3171

### MAY

- 1 - 31 **Sheffield Environment Month**
- 5 **Archeology Walk**. Guided introduction to Ecclesall Woods (south) by Friends of Ecclesall Woods as part of environment month. Meet 10am in Ryecroft Glen Road (Off Dore Road)
- 5 **Brass Band Festival** Buxton pavilion Gardens, 10am-7pm
- 9-15 **Well Dressing** 6 decorated wells in Tissington village
- 11-12 **International Horse Trials** Chatsworth
- 12 **Main Plant Sale** Friends of the Botanical Gardens 10.30am-2.30pm.
- 12 **Open Day** Manor Castle, 11am - 4pm Tel 269 0615
- 14 **Rockingham Pottery** Illustrated talk by Paul Whittaker for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, Church Hall, 7.45pm Contact 236 3171
- 18-20 **Well Dressing** 8 decorated wells in Etwell village
- 29 **Dore Village Society AGM**, & talk by John Dunstan on the origins of Dore road names, 7.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall, admission free, everyone welcome

## First Steps ★★★★★★★★ Nursery School ★★★★★★★★

*Dore Old School, Savage Lane, Dore S17 3GW*

*Registered provider of nursery education for 3 and 4 year-olds  
Links with schools in both the maintained and private sectors  
Transition arrangements with Dore Infant School  
Excellent OFSTED report*

"There is an **excellent range of resources** to support all areas of learning..."

"...the staff are able to motivate the children to achieve **high standards in their learning**, particularly in language and literacy and mathematics."

"The staff are very sensitive to individual children's needs and the **high staffing level** enables them to spend time working with each child at a level appropriate to their needs."

"There are clear policies to identify and assess children with special educational needs and the staff offer **excellent support** to these children."

"...**excellent opportunities** to explore sound and music, participate in imaginative play and experience a variety of media and techniques for drawing, painting, collage work and model making."

"**Excellent experiences** are included to encourage the children to use their senses and feelings to respond to a range of stimuli."

"...**a stimulating learning environment...**"

(from OFSTED inspection report, December 1999)

**MONDAY TO FRIDAY 8.30am TO 4.30pm**

**NEW FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR PARENTS FROM SEPTEMBER 2000**

For more information and to arrange a visit please telephone

**0114 235 3801**