

# DORE to DOOR

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

NO. 68 WINTER 2002

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## Dore Oral History

The Oral History group arose from the Millennium Play project and is continuing to collect recorded memories of life in Dore throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Bessie Colley, who was born and bred in Dore, approached several of her lifelong friends and a first round of interviews took place. Others have followed and to date we have recorded the life-stories of 35 residents ranging in age from 68 to 93 years.

To celebrate our first anniversary and to thank those who have kindly contributed to the Oral History collection we held a tea party on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2002 in the Old School. This event (whilst not matching those at Buckingham Palace) was thoroughly enjoyed by both guests and hosts. There was a great deal of reminiscing over old photographs and much sharing of tales of days gone by.

We all listened to excerpts from some of the first recordings which described childhood in a very different pre-war village and these sparked off even more memories and stories. The chatter and laughter rang round the Old School which most of the guests had attended long before in their youth.

The second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was a period of great change for Dore with the expansion of housing and influx of newcomers. A significant number of these have made lasting contributions to the community life of our village and their recollections are now being recorded.

We also want to interview members of the younger generation recognizing the fact that it is just as important to record their life-stories and differing attitudes and ambitions.

We have plans to organize an exhibition of our collection during Festival 2003 which we hope will be supported by the Local Heritage Initiative. If you are interested in oral history and would like to find out more about the project contact me, Maureen Cope on tel: 235 0392. If you are a technical or computer expert and could help with audio copying or transcribing we would like to hear from you. Above all if you are willing to be interviewed please let us know.

*Maureen Cope*

## Open Dore

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



### DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

Winter Meeting

7.30pm Wednesday

27 November

Methodist Church Hall

Talk by David Webb on

**'Natural History  
through the seasons'**

Admission Free

*This wonderful old Dore photo has been sent in by Donna Barber from Australia and comes out of her grandfather's (Henry Neil Fretwell's) collection.*

*In the back row from the left is William Edward Fretwell; Mary Agnes Taylor; Unknown; Unknown; George Guest; Emma Guest (nee Taylor); Unknown.*

*The middle row from the left, Vicar William Gibson; Emma Elliot (nee Lowe); Unknown; Unknown.*

*Front Row, Unknown, Unknown, Sallie Taylor.*

*Can anyone identify the unknown people?*

## Ivy Bank

Mary Agnes Taylor was left an orphan in 1887 when her mother Jane [nee Lowe] died of TB. Mary and her four sisters went to live with their aunt, Emma Elliot, at Ivy Bank - the 2 brick cottages at the top of Dore Road. Four years later the 1891 Census shows the nieces still living at Ivy Bank, but the eldest, Emma, was now next door working as a servant to a Hancock family.

The photograph on this page is possibly Mary Agnes' wedding picture, as the Vicar the Rev William Gibson is also shown, and the people are surely wearing their best clothes. Mary Agnes married William Edward Fretwell on the first of June 1901.

If you would like to see a better representation of this photograph and one or two others of this family, come to the DVS Room open morning on the first Saturday of December.



*Bessie Colley celebrating the first anniversary of the oral history project in the Old School.*

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## A blot on the landscape

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Many of the problems and frustrations we experience about planning applications and inappropriate development are shared with other areas of the City.

A recent letter published in the Sheffield Telegraph was from a Ranmoor resident concerned about a proposed block of flats for a site on Carsick View Road, Ranmoor. This is one of a growing number of planning application proposals in and around the Ranmoor area that would seem to be totally out of scale and character with their surroundings and the landscape.

The writer asked: "When will developers start taking the 'character' of the local area into consideration when drawing up their plans? When will they start talking to and involving the local residents so that we can arrive at better solutions that utilise the spaces that we have in and around Sheffield in a more effective way, that can meet the needs and requirements of the community and the objectives of the Government without ruining the landscape and destroying the character of the locality in the process?"

Good question. Without doubt the planning process and inappropriate development are the most common cause of concern locally, yet politicians at all levels fail to listen or act. We urgently need a planning system based on community requirements within a wider city and national framework!

### **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)**

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## Christmas wishes

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This is a special bumper Christmas edition of Dore to Door, which we hope you enjoy.

We would like to take this opportunity to send seasons greeting to all members of the society, a record 895 in 2002, and to readers of DORE to DOOR, wherever you may be. And a particular thank you, to all those volunteers who deliver the magazine each quarter.

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## The Wassail Walk

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Following the definite success of last year's inaugural event, the second Dore Wassail Walk will take place on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> December starting at 10.00am at the Old School.

Organised by the Dore Village Society, the Walk will be about five miles, just enough to get rid of the Christmas lethargy but still leaving enough energy to face the New Year celebrations. A glass of punch (or soft drink) and mince pies will be offered to all participants at the end of the walk. Put the date in your diaries now and make it a family occasion. Walking boots should be worn.

Last year, the walkers were able to take in the panoramic views from (nearly) the top of Wimble Holme Hill, that excellent vantage point to the west of the village. Where will this year's Walk take us to? There's only one way to find out! Talk to your friends and bring along a party. Just turn up on the day. There will still be enough wassail, however many come. Watch the Dore Village Society notice board for more details.

*Roger Millican*

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## Flower Tubs in Dore

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The Village was once again decorated with flower tubs throughout the summer months, enlivening the scenery and giving pleasure to all who pass by. The flowers are supplied and managed by the City Council Horticultural Department, with the money to pay for these services raised by donations from individuals, local shops, businesses, churches, and associations within Dore.

Sadly despite our hopes not enough money was raised to keep the tubs for the full year.

If we are to continue with the tubs we will need to raise more money next year. If you can make a donation or would like to help in the fundraising please contact John Giles on 236 1009.

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## Cards for good causes

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

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## Grave mistake

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Council workmen have lowered 47 headstones in Dore Churchyard on safety grounds, following the death of a child under a falling headstone elsewhere in the country. Two headstones were broken in the process. Responsibility for the maintenance of closed churchyards rests with the Parks and Woodlands section of the Council. It seems no specific notice was given for families to correct the problems beforehand.

One of the charms of old graveyards around the country has always been the leaning gravestones, which in many cases have been that way for centuries. Now it seems we can look forward to flattened headstones in graveyards everywhere.

Presumably councils fear being sued if something happens. Sadly this is the price we must pay in a society where whenever something goes wrong we must find someone else to blame and sue?

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## Golden triangle

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Dore featured as a sought-after suburb in a Times article during August, being described as part of a golden triangle in south west Sheffield, where land and houses are at a premium. Prices quoted include one new house at £650,000.

Nice as it is to live in a desirable area, such publicity, also reflected in television coverage, has its down side as Doremouse suggested in our last issue. Sadly his forewarning about the inevitable invitation to burglars came all too true at the end of the first week in November when the retired owner of one Dore Road property was attacked after answering a knock on his door. He was faced by a gang of 3 or 4 youths demanding money. The pensioner suffered a bruised hip and suspected broken rib while being pushed around by the gang.

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## Editorial & Advertising

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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;  
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[ Email editor@dorevillage.co.uk ]

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## What's in a road name?

Looking for a topical Christmas present? For people with links to Dore, then the recently published *A to W of DORE* would make an ideal present. Produced by the Dore Village Society, this book describes the background to the naming of every road and street in Dore, and records the history of many of the roads' historic features and buildings. It contains much information that has not been widely published before. Its 74 pages are amply illustrated with maps and drawings and it is deliberately priced at an economical £4.95 ISBN 0 9534267-6-9. It is available from Green's on Causeway Head Road, most Sheffield bookshops or via any committee member.

## Cottage Sale

On Tuesday October 1st, three of the Devonshire Terrace cottages, nos 5, 7 & 9 Causeway Head Road, were sold by auction for £100,000 to £110,000. They were sold by receivers winding up the business of Mr SL Hinchliffe.

The Terrace was last sold in 1984 when Mr Hinchliffe bought nos 3, 5, 7 & 9 for £9,500 in total, from a Birmingham property owner. In 18 years they have appreciated in value 50 times. If they continue to appreciate at the same rate for the next 18 years, then in 2020 they will be worth £4 million each!

The searches revealed that they are built over a seam of coal 40 metres deep, last worked in 1850. Coal is believed to exist at or near the surface and which may have been worked at some period unknown.

## Winter Meeting

"Natural History through the seasons" is the title of the talk by David Webb to this year's winter meeting of the Dore Village Society. The meeting starts at 7.30 pm in the Methodist Church Hall on Wednesday 27th November. Everyone is welcome and admission is free.

## Quark Express

If this heading means anything to you, then maybe you could help us. The editor has just purchased an Apple Mac with the aim of putting the magazine together on the computer, rather than by a mixture of hard and PC copy as in the past. But moving from PC to Mac is a real culture change and Quark Express takes time to master. A little tuition or the offer of a help line would be much appreciated.

## Book competition

The winner of our book competition in the autumn edition was Mrs Maureen Gray of Woodland Place. She won both volumes of the two part book *The Derbyshire Country House* worth £39.00

## Dore Male Voice Choir

The Autumn Gala Concert on the 12th October at Ecclesall Church was again a great success. The Choir was joined by Tipton Brass, as guests, to present a rousing concert to a full house.

It was the last concert that Liza Crossland accompanied the Choir. Sadly she is moving to Nottingham and her performances in accompanying the Choir and solo work will be greatly missed.

The Choir is delighted that Adrian Jordan has been appointed as the new Accompanist. Adrian is from Bromsgrove. He plays both the piano and violin and when at Sheffield University was Co-Leader of the Sheffield University Orchestra. He is music teacher at High Storrs School.

Paul Birtwisle is welcomed by the Choir to the appointment of Deputy Accompanist. In addition to playing the piano, Paul has played the church organ for 48 years, and is a grade 7 oboe player. Living in Dore, he came to Sheffield with the Midland Bank.

The next big local event is the annual Christmas Concert, to be held at the Parish Church on Saturday 14th December. On that occasion James Powell (Bass) will be the guest performer. Tickets will be available from the Concert Secretary, Tom Ogley on 236 4367 or me on 236 5043. An early order is advisable as this popular event will surely be a sell out!

*David Heslop*

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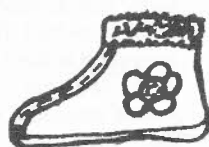
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## Letters

Dear Sir,

In his interesting article in the autumn issue of "Dore to Door" Mick Savage is quite correct in saying that the origins of the Upper Mill on the Old Hay Brook are 'obscure', although the foundations of some of the old mill buildings became obvious in the very dry summers of 1975 and 1976.

I was able to trace the outlines of several rectangular structures (presumably below the present surface foundations of demolished walls) in the different coloured grass. They lie in the meadow (named as Dam Field on 19th century maps) towards the Old Hay Brook side, and away from the line of trees which as Mick says mark the edge of the dam on the Totley Grove side.

Perhaps the marks will appear again when and if we ever have a real drought.

**Roy Bullen**

Dear Sir,

Having just moved to the delightful suburb of Totley (Rise). I must take issue with the comments by Doremouse ('Did you know' Autumn issue) regarding the mention of the Hallam Constituency (Dore, Totley, Ecclesall South, Ranmoor, Fulwood...) and to the fact that the area was featured in the national media (Daily Mail/ITV News...), as being one of the most sought after areas in Britain, to live.

Being recognised alongside Richmond, Surrey, Wilmslow and Aldesley Edge (long regarded as the Stockbroker Belt of the North) in Cheshire, would I thought have been the subject of immense pride, not just for the area, but for Sheffield in general....

**Steve Davis (Dip A.D.)**

Dear Sir,

Does anyone know of a Sheep Hills Farm that existed in the 1870's? I want to know if it still is there I would love to visit it when in the area in 2003. My family had connections to the Jackson Family who ran the Dore Post Office at the turn of the last century. Anybody know anything of them, other family names are Reeve (the main connection) and also Thorpe. Would love to hear from anyone who could help me.

**Melody Reeves**

*Ed. This request came via the Dore web site. Feedback to me please on 236 9025*



*Peter Belk's class on 1946/47. Centre back is the Headmaster Mr Clark. Peter is kneeling end right with J Wood next to him. Do you recognise anyone else?*

Dear Sir,

On a recent visit to Dore with my wife, to recall old memories of the village, I was kindly given a copy of 'Dore to Door' by staff at Greens Home and Garden Supplies.

I found the magazine very interesting and it brought back many memories for me, particularly as I attended Dore School from 1941 to 1947, (as did both my late sister and brother). To this day I still have several of my school reports signed by Mrs Watts and Miss Palmer.

Mr Clark was Head Teacher during my time at the school. My family lived at Whirlow and each day we travelled by bus to Dore and if the bus did not arrive, I along with other pupils would walk to school. (It was quite safe in those days.) If snow was around we would have great fun with snowball fights etc. but we always arrived at school. I was always quite proud of the fact that I never missed a full day at school and only once did I miss half a day and that was because I was at the Children's Hospital having a broken arm set!

After leaving Dore School I went to Nether Edge Grammar School, but spent virtually the whole of my free time back in Dore playing cricket and football and was involved in the setting up of both a junior football and cricket club. We used to play

on the recreation ground up Townhead Road (in the field above where Sheffield

United had their training ground) and when playing cricket matches it was a case of finding the flattest hump for the pitch! Eventually the football team moved to the field adjacent to Dore Moor Inn and I continued to be involved until I left for National Service.

I attended Dore and Totley Congregational Church, as it was then, and the late Rev. Frank Duckworth who was the minister at the time, officiated at our wedding ceremony in Norwich when I married my wife Kathleen over 41 years ago. We lived for some years at Coal Aston and then with my work as a full-time Youth Worker we moved to Northwich (Cheshire) and then Ashby-de-la-Zouch before arriving at Nottingham 30 years ago.

Obviously Dore has changed a great deal since my time there and of course it is much larger but there is so much I remember, such as the old fish and chip hut, the corner shop and Shentalls Grocery shop.

We both look forward to returning to Dore again before long (particularly as we found the Dore Grill!) but in the meantime, if anybody who reads the magazine does.



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remember me and wishes to contact me for old times sake I can be contacted through the Editor or by E-mail.

**Peter Belk**

PeteAndKath@belkp.freemove.co.uk

Dear Sir,

On a recent visit to Done, I purchased the recent publication by the DVS. My wife and I found it most interesting. The authors are to be congratulated. David Heslop's pen and ink drawings are excellent.

My wife was particularly interested in the reference to Mountford Croft. (E5) Mountford is the family name on her mother's side. George Mountford was her great great grandfather, who owned and ran Totley Forge during the period mentioned in Mr Dunstons book. William Higgins of Abbey Dale Forge (Abbeyle Industrial Hamlet) she believes was also part of the family, being an uncle. She also believes George Mountford was for a time, manager of Abbeyle Forge.

We enclose photocopies of various letters to and from George Mountford to substantiate the above information. They make interesting reading, particularly of the activities at both forges and tricks relating to the manufacture of scythe blades, hay knives etc.

Keep up the good work. It is so much appreciated.

**Joan & Mike Roberts**

PS. The Mountford's originated from Shropshire.

*Ed. The enclosed documents are being studied and efforts made to find any related information in our archives.*



*Dore Junior Cricket Club 1951. Back row from left; G Hepworth, Unknown, G Nassau; Front row: Peter Beck; rest unknown.*

Dear Sir,

Totley Library will be receiving 8 personal computers for public use later this year. These can be used by anyone, adults or children, to learn how to use computers, do word processing, etc and there will also be Internet access. Time on the computers will need to be booked in advance. Usage is free, though there will be a charge for any printouts.

These computers are being provided for all the libraries in Sheffield under the Governments New Opportunities Fund, which is making computers available in

public libraries throughout the country.

This is to enable everyone to have access to a computer and to the Internet.

This is a very exciting development for the Library and we are all looking forward to it. We don't have a date for installation yet, but it should be before the end of the year. The staff are having basic training in how to use them, but we're not experts, so please be patient with us. We expect demand to be high.

**Pauline Rosser**  
Community Librarian

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## Letters

Dear Sir,

I wonder if you can help me, or know anybody else who can.

I'm trying to find out about my father, and have been told that in the 1930's (or around that time) he ran a Potted Meat Factory behind a cottage that was on the corner of Abbey Lane/Beauchief Abbey Lane. Although I live miles from Sheffield I was up there yesterday and think I have found the building (or rather it's foundations). Now all I want is some old photos/information. I feel this is a shot in the dark (but worth a try?)

My father was (John) Marshall Hurst born 1900. He also worked for Clarinco Sweets (apparently rather cheap & nasty liquorice affairs) have you ever heard of them?

Any information, however small would be appreciated! Thanks in advance.

**Liza Hopkinson (nee Hurst)**

*Ed. Can anyone help with this enquiry which came in by e-mail.*

## Planning matters

**How Dense Can We Get?** John Prescott made an announcement very recently, on behalf of the Government, on strategic planning issues. The main thrust of concern related to the use of developable land, particularly in the Home Counties where there are real pressures for housing.

The concern relates to plot densities on housing developments, and the perceived need to build to specific densities, in an endeavour to make the most use of developable sites and reduce pressure on the Green Belt. The minister expects developments in the South East to have a density of at least 30 houses to the hectare (or 12 to the acre in real money!). This policy relates to reasonable sites and not infilling with one or two houses in existing gardens. Where that density is not achieved the minister is threatening to 'call the application in' for his own consideration,

thus overriding the planning authority.

Fortunately this issue is unlikely to generally affect developments in Dore. This is partly because 30 to the hectare is not particularly high, but also other than the King Egbert School development site and the possible Long Acre site at Newfield Lane/Knowle Green, there are very few likely development sites of any size in the village.

The policy does however highlight the problems of balance between developments on land within the envelope of the village, pressure on our Green Belt, and the continual cry of governments to provide housing land. These issues affect us all.

**Blue Ridge.** The latest planning application for this site is still being considered by the Planning Authority. This is of course the second application by the developer on this site. This time the applicant has shown a proposed development of the whole of the site. There are, however, some serious concerns as to the proposals. DVS have objected to the treatment on the Ashfurlong Road frontage, the height of the units, the loss of trees and the mass of the block of five flats at the entrance to the site.

The planning officers have still got some reservations that they have asked the developer to address, before they are prepared to recommend an approval. There are over a hundred objections to the proposals, from the public. The application will not go to a Planning Board meeting before December, at the earliest.

**A Good Effort.** The need to conform to good design and materials, compatible with the character of the Conservation Area is of importance to us all. It is thus good to see the new extensions to the house at the corner of Dore Road and High Street built in natural stone in conformity with the predominant material of the neighbouring properties. Whereas the extension does not sit easily with the brick of the original house, it is commendable to see the walls of that property returned to the vernacular.

The treatment of the stone boundary wall is

also good. Thank you to the owners for this work.

**King Egbert School.** The first significant move in the redevelopment of the school sites has just started, with the recent auction of a parcel of land for housing at the eastern end of the site, between Furniss Avenue and King Egbert Road. There will undoubtedly be a planning application for the land soon. The site is allocated for housing on the Development Plan.

*David Heslop*

## Autumn T.O.A.D.S.

The T.O.A.D.S. production for November is the premiere of Hugh Steadman Williams new play "A Class of Their Own". Hugh was artistic director of the Westminster Theatre in London from 1976-1990 and has been Chairman of Westminster Theatre productions since 1987. Although he and his wife live in Kent he was brought up in Rotherham where his father was Congregational Minister, so he remembers this area well.

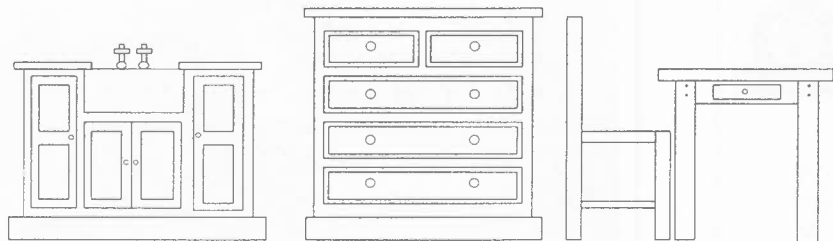
"A Class of Their Own" is set in the kitchen of a Manor House which will be a new challenge for Chairman and set designer Jeff Bagnall as it also requires an Aga!! Well he's always complaining that he and Paul Pratt get bored with building the standard box lounge. The story concerns the widow and daughter of the Manor, and the gardener and his family who live in the grounds. No - don't panic!! It isn't a modern "Lady Chatterly" - far from it!

"A Class of Their Own" can be seen at St. John's Church Hall, Abbeydale Road South, from Wednesday to Saturday, 20th - 23rd November at 7.30pm. £3 a ticket and £2.50 for concessions - still a cheap night out.

Tickets from Kate Reynolds on 236 6891, or by calling with your order at S.E.Fordham Opticians on Totley Rise.

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## Jean recalls

The Fearnough Family is one of the oldest in Dore, going back at least to 1698, when Thomas Fearnough married Rebecca Broadhead.

Several members of the family still live in Dore – Christopher John Fearnough, Hilda Cooke, Kath Marshall and Jean Barber of Hallfield Farm.

The Fearnoughs had a thriving scythe business for many years and also a fine record of Public Service. Thomas Fearnough was 'Overseer of the Poor' in 1763 and 'Surveyor of Highways' from 1770 to 1772. Another Thomas was Churchwarden from 1787 –1796 and 'Overseer of the Poor' 1790 -1792, and 'Surveyor of Highways' in 1798. He was also a Trustee of the Ronsett Trust.

At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Fairbanks states that the Fearnough Freeholds were as follows:

Upper Carr Mill. Tenter Croft.

Lower Carr Mill. Meadow.

Farforth & Lane Croft.

North Croft. 3 Houses and Gardens.

8 Houses and Gardens. 2 Houses.

3 Houses and Croft. House and Garden. Close.

Some of these freeholds probably refer to the Barracks, and the three cottages beside the Rec., which were in the Fearnough Family until bought by a developer in the 1970's.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century a Thomas was mine host of the Devonshire Arms.

In 1841 Thomas, Alfred, and Joseph were all listed as scythe makers or grinders.

In 1615 John Harestaffe quotes: -  
*To Willie Fearnough then he did give,  
To have and holde as long as he should live,  
Of Meadow Ground one acre and to pay,  
A Rose for rent on St John the Baptist's Day.*

It is a great pity that the Jackson Records appear to be misplaced, as they contained notes regarding the building of Dore Church and instructions for the masons, glaziers, carpenters and slaters. The collection also contained information on Bastardy in the area, which was not uncommon in Dore. Sometimes the father paid the Overseer for the upkeep of the child, but it seems that the poor mother if she was not entitled to remain in Dore was removed to the place of her birth.

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I do not agree with Peter Wragg's letter in the last issue saying that the school air-raid shelters were never used. I well remember my cousin Rita who was 4 years older than me getting into trouble for leaving her place to come and protect me and cousin Louie. My aunts Ada and Hilda also used to speak of the time they stood in the Churchyard whilst we were in the shelter in case we were bombed. They had to keep out of sight of the Air Raid Warden who was a real little Hitler.

Well do I remember the Tin Box of Australian chocolate, which we waited years to sample. What a disappointment? It was dreadful. The poor Aussies, having to eat that! My niece who married an Australian tells me that it's just as bad now. You cannot beat Cadburys.

Also I do not believe that Farewell Taylor ever married. There were two Alice Taylors about this time. Mrs Millet was the mother of one. Her first husband being a Taylor. The other Alice was the mother of Jean Wade.

Jean Dean

## Dore Ladies Group

New members and visitors welcome.

Are you a sociable, female interested in other people and the world around you? Do you enjoy meeting others, and being involved in a local community group? Then why not come along to Christ Church Dore Ladies Group, on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in the month, (except Dec, meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues) at 7:45pm at the Church Hall, Townhead Road.

We welcome women of all ages and we can offer you a varied programme of meetings with speakers and local visits out. For more information check the diary on the back page, look out for posters in the Village or ring Lesley Vernon (tel 236 8185)

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# THRESHER

# WINE SHOP

## Christmas cards

This years Dore Village Society Christmas card features a 1960s period drawing of Dore High Street on the front cover. Inside are a selection of drawing from the Society's new book the 'A to W of Dore' and on the back cover a new drawing of Dore ducks! You will find these on sale at Greens and Valerie of Dore.

## AD 1100

The word on the village green at the turn of the century would have been of a new delicacy introduced from France: the rabbit. Special 'warrens' sprang up across the country and for several hundred years the rabbit was farmed to meet domestic needs and to sell at the local market. Small wild colonies existed, but it was not until the 18th century - when patterns of farming changed and predator populations were drastically reduces as field sports increased - that the warren system declined, the rabbits escaped and numbers grew rapidly.

The importance of the rabbit in shaping the structure and composition of so much of our vegetation today was demonstrated when the myxoma virus was introduced 50 years ago, decimating the rabbit population. Open-country and heathland species, such as stone curlew and the large blue butterfly declined and buzzards and foxes were forced to turn to alternative prey. Surprisingly a less obvious impact was on the population of green woodpeckers because, as short, dense turf was lost, the number of ants dwindled - and green woodpeckers like ants.

Over recent years the wild rabbit population seems to have alternately thrived or crashed, but judging by sightings locally it is currently on the up. Domestic rabbits are now one of the most popular pets having been bred in all shapes and sizes. What our medieval ancestors would make of our attitude towards the rabbit today is anybody's guess.



## Christmas Lights

Last year a buzz went round the village about the whereabouts of some excellent Christmas illuminations individuals and groups of householders had set up.

Abbeydale Park Rise and Crescent were the most popular areas to visit, but there were many others, such as parts of Ashfurlong Road and Ashfurlong Park. If last year was anything to go by, these locations will be work an after dark detour again.

Sadly the centre of the village does not really sparkle at Christmas time. Perhaps the village shops could be persuaded to put up a few more lights.

The suggestion has also been made that the village should have a communal Christmas Tree. Perhaps the idea is too late for this year, unless there are some enterprising individuals prepared to take up the challenge. No doubt the Dore Village Society could be persuaded to pick up the cost.

## News in Brief

**The Priorgate Consortium**, led by King Sturge Financial Services, has been selected to work with the Council on the King Egbert School PFI contract.

**Bus Lane** restrictions are due to change on Abbeydale Road to 7.30am to 9.30am.

**The recent sale** by the Council of residential land, part of the King Egbert, site raised £1.5 million.

**Castleton Christmas Lights** will be turned on daily from 23 November until 6 January - 3.30pm to midnight.

**Hopscotch Children's Centre** has received a prestigious 'seal of quality' from the British Standards Institution.

**Congratulations** to Chris Polick of Busheywood Road, who has landed a role in the Channel 5 series "20 Things to do Before you're 30" to be screened early next year. You may have seen him recently in his first professional role. He played one of the Spirits in "The Tempest" at the Crucible Theatre.

**Michael Vaughan** who hails from Dore has been named Professional Cricketer's Association player of the year for his Test heroics this summer.

**Wendy Carlton** our local freelance floral artist is holding an exhibition at the Archipelago Gallery, 742 Ecclesall Road between 10am & 4pm on the 7th and 8th December

**Well done** to Alan Jeeves, head groundsman at HSBC Sports Club, Hathersage Road who has received the FA's Groundsman of the Year Award. The site is used by 2,800 club members, schools community groups and on occasion England representative sides. His management of the 22 acre site, along with his dedicated team, won him a trophy and a weekend for two in any European city of his choice.

**The next Open Morning** at the Dore Village Society room will be Saturday 7 December. Why not come along and buy your Christmas cards.

## The Peacock

Owler Bar

JOHN & MAUREEN RUSH  
Landlord and Landlady

A warm welcome awaits you at this 15th century style traditional pub restaurant, with oak beams and log fires. Serving fresh fish and game, ethnic specialities and good quality home cooked English fayre.

Open Monday - Saturday 11am - 11pm. Sunday 12 noon - 10.30pm. Last food orders 10pm. No booking required.

Baslow Road, Owler Bar, Sheffield S17 3BQ. Tel: 0114 236 1789





## Birthday celebrations

The local Sheffield group of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds celebrates its 21st this month. The highlight of the ongoing celebrations will be a bird identification workshop, entitled "What's that bird?", led by the well-known ornithologist, lecturer and raconteur, John Wyatt. The day will be based around slides and sound recordings and is aimed at all categories of birdwatchers from beginners to the experienced birder. It will be light-hearted with some audience participation.

The workshop will be held on Saturday 29 March 2003 at St John's Church Hall, Abbeydale, from 10.30am to 4pm. Tickets

at £10 include admission, a buffet lunch and tea and coffee during the day. Call John Badger 247 6622 or Hilary Sills 235 6598.

Sheffield local group, which has a membership of 470 throughout Sheffield, has a strong representation in Dore. There is a programme of monthly midweek local birdwatching walks from September to June and these cater for all ages and experience. Everyone is welcome to join us and share the pleasure of not only our local birds but also our varied natural history. The walks are usually followed by a sociable lunch at a local hostelry when we reminisce about what we have seen or might have seen! It is all very friendly and informal.

For our more intrepid travellers, the group organises monthly field trips by coach to

bird reserves or locations further afield. Again the atmosphere is relaxed with the emphasis on seeing birds well, rather than seeing vast numbers, although the more serious birdwatchers have the chance to do their own thing.

By far the most popular of the group's activities is the monthly indoor meeting when we are entertained by a guest speaker with slides. Many times we have been transported to far flung parts of the world to enjoy and marvel at the flora and fauna of places we can only dream of.

A copy of the group's full programme of activities, newsletter and other information may be obtained from me the Group leader, John Badger 247 6622, or [www.rspb-sheffield.org.uk](http://www.rspb-sheffield.org.uk)

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## Farewell to Ken & John

I spoke to Ken Cooney the day after their 5th leaving party, a grand occasion hosted by our local Dad's Army – more of that later.

Not since the days of the Clark family, have we had such well loved landlords at the Hare and Hounds, so it is with great concern that villagers have greeted Ken and John's retirement, and the pubs temporary closure for refurbishment - likely now to be March 2003. (Another month of parties?)

The move to the Dore Moor Inn after 18 years at The Big Gun on the Wicker was a great change. Probably 25% of the trade was local, using the old tap room, with many travellers arriving at night in the front bars. When after 6 years it was due to be changed to a restaurant, John stayed as licensee, whilst Ken took over at the Hare, effectively running both for two months. A large loyal group followed them in 1992 as the Dore Moor closed.

Before their arrival, the reputation of the Hare had slid. Women felt unsafe; drug raids had taken place, the pavement was often strewn with broken glass, and once 50 police were called out on Gala night. With their firm stance, law and order soon prevailed. Their pride in cleanliness and friendliness has been greatly appreciated. Car thefts went down, flowers blossomed everywhere and the cold anonymity of previous staff was forgotten.

On the principle of "keep them entertained

then they don't look for trouble" the first band was booked for Gala night. To quote from this years music reporter after the 'Academy of Sound' concert, "I've never been to such a well run outdoor event like this before. 5 hours non stop entertainment all for free."

Because of his length of service (34 years) and reputation, Ken's had more of a free hand than many managers. I asked if they had a spare room lined up at Rushleigh Court to store the famous Christmas decorations - mentioned in The Yorkshire Post no less! Thinking they would be gone before Christmas, some of the collection has been given away. You may be able to find your friends now, as well as being bewitched and bedazzled.

Living in an old building "above the shop" gives little escape from the noise. The floors are so thin that you can hear conversations from upstairs. The bedrooms are above the juke box. It may be that with future changes the pub becomes a lock up i.e. rooms above are used for storage only. The other definite change is new kitchens along the back to the church side of the back door taking up the pool room area, and better lighting throughout. The Golden Ball at Whiston is a model the brewery are considering. With £400,000 at their disposal more than a lick of paint is likely.

Interested future landlords were Ken's own daughter, and the new Fox House couple, but these have fallen through causing Ken and John to extend their stay. They hope to travel more and see family more, but their

relief coverage for Ember Breweries will actually cover nearly half a year. Three 2 week periods at The Rising Sun Abbey Lane, The Hammer and Pincers Bents Green and at The Hare and Hounds Dore.

The gift to the couple from their morning regulars, (Dads Army), is a large photo album- which has this wonderful inscription, which I hope they won't mind me quoting:- "For the service and conversation you have provided to a set of cantankerous old men over recent years. Our daily meetings cover a multitude of topics with the only consistency being garrulousness and poor knowledge of the topic under discussion. This can obviously lead to disagreements. There are however 2 topics there has always been unanimity on; that of the quality of the beer and the running of the pub".

Gillian Farnsworth

## Mobile losses

Lost your mobile? You are not alone, according to a Mori poll about 2.4 million have been stolen. Hopefully the new initiative to prevent stolen phone being re-used on other networks will dramatically cut these numbers.

Not sadly the same hope for the estimated 2 million dropped into water, the 700,000 lost or broken by being thrown at someone else or the million left on car roofs! And what about the 450,000 eaten by their owners dogs!

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## Did you know

Now that the firework season is over perhaps we can return to some relative peace and quiet. I for one enjoy fireworks, from the small family display in the back garden, to the large public displays. But there is a time and place for everything.

Each year the November 5th celebrations seem to stretch over a longer period. Fireworks are also increasingly heard at parties and celebrations at other times in the year, to the disturbance of neighbours and the terror of pets. Also the noise level seems to increase each year with explosions

to almost World War II proportions. Surely it is time to limit the period over which domestic displays can be held and to ban the larger fireworks from them.

Further roadworks on Causeway Head Road seem to be the latest excuse for delaying the much needed crossing outside the shops. What next I wonder?

Is there really no way to improve the working relationship between the Council and residents. Usually it is not much we ask for. Take parking restrictions. In common with Totley Rise and the top of Twentywell Lane, the local shops we badly need to keep, are handicapped by a lack of local parking. The limited space there is, is often

taken all day by local residents, people using buses into town or even in some cases by shop workers themselves. Difficulty in parking leads to dangerous situations with cars hanging around for a space or still worse customers driving elsewhere.

The answer is simple, in the form of a limited waiting period during shop opening hours. But in the greater scheme of things: golden routes and high profile roadworks, nobody on the council's highways team seems to have thought of this. Perhaps we could get it included in the proposed Dore Traffic Scheme. But then on past form will this ever come to pass?

Doremouse

### DORE OPTICIANS

*Merry Christmas and a New Year  
from Peter and Lynne*

### Dore Service Station

*Best Wishes for  
Christmas and the New Year*

### Seasons Greetings

*from all the staff at  
Dore to Door Catering*

### John Purcell

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

### Country Garden

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

### JOHN CLARK DAIRYMAN

*John and Sandra wish all their customers  
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

### THRESHER WINE SHOP

*Merry Christmas to all our Customers  
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**ANNA STEELE  
WISHES EVERYONE  
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND  
A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR**

### THE TASTY PLACE

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

### Dore Classics

**Gillian sends Seasons Greetings  
to all her customers.**



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

### Colin Thompson

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### DORE DENTAL CARE

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

## Bulbs galore

The season is over for the planting of spring bulbs on the waysides and verges of our village. Over 7,000 bulbs have been planted this October by teams of volunteers.

We are particularly grateful to those who have given donations. Whereas we would not usually mention names, we would like to record the generous contribution given in memory of Geoffrey Webb, with which 1,000 snowdrops have been planted round the Egbert Stone on the Village Green. In addition to donations, this year the City Council have given us bulbs to plant, and this has been most appreciated.

More daffodils and narcissus' have been planted, by the picnic area entrance on Limb Lane and along Cross Lane. The grassy bank at the corner of Newfield Lane and Whitelaw Lane has been planted, as has part of Cockpit Green (at the end of Drury Lane). At the other end of Drury Lane, where Church Lane meets Furniss Avenue the verge has been planted with mixed shades of daffodil, and at the end of Old Hay Lane, before the deep cutting, more work has been done. Finally white daffodils have been planted in the sloping verge where Vicarage Lane meets Dore Rd.

Thank you to the Cubs for the areas of 3,000 crocus in the verges on Causeway Head Road. We intend this be a pilot here for future years. And thank you to the Brownies for planting the snowdrops on the Village Green.

We now look forward to Spring and hope the toil is well rewarded. Please try not to park on the grass verges of the village. The spring bulbs really will not like it.

Finally, thank you to all our volunteers for the efforts both when raining and fine. I really do have a feeling that they all enjoyed it!

David Heslop



Taking a welcome break from planting at Cockpit Green



At least one person is getting down to it on Newfield Lane

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## COHORS I AQUITANORUM EQUITATA

*We know little about the area around Dore in Roman times, but there was a Roman Road just to our north and a Roman Fort at Brough in the Hope Valley.*

The Roman invasion of Britain was made in A.D.43 and around A.D.60 Roman occupation at Derby brought the army within striking distance of the Peak District.

The fort at Brough on Noe (Navio) was initially constructed of timber in the second half of the 1st century before being abandoned around A.D.120 as the conquest moved further north. Re-occupation of Navio in A.D.155 in a new 2 acre fort built on the deserted site could hardly have held the whole regiment. Re-building in stone was done towards the end of the 3rd century with further rebuilding in A.D.305-306. On the basis of pottery evidence and a single coin, occupation is believed to have ended before A.D.360.

COHORS I AQUITANORUM EQUITATA, an auxiliary regiment, was the only known garrison to serve at Navio and consisted of 500 men, some of them mounted. It is referred to on Roman Inscriptions of Britain (RIB 1550), engaged in building work at Carrawburgh on Hadrian's Wall between A.D.122 and A.D.125.

Two inscriptions record the presence in Derbyshire of the regiment, RIB 283 when it was at Navio about A.D.155 and RIB 278, an altar found at Haddon Hall. The altar was dedicated to the romanoceltic god Mars Braciaca by the unit's commander, Quintus Sittius Caecilianus. It has been speculated that he originated from North Africa on the basis of his unusual name.

Early in the third century the regiment moved to the new fort at Brancaster (Norfolk) where two stamped tiles have been found reading CH I AQ which has been expanded to C(O)H(ORS) I AQ(VITANORVM). A further inscription on a lead seal was found at Leicester reading C(OHORS) I AQ(VITANORVM) and may have been sent by the regiment whilst it was stationed at Navio.

The regiment is recorded on the 3rd century tombstone of M. Valerius Speratus from Viminacium in Nosier Superior (on the lower Danube). He was a veteran legionary and a town councilor called out of retirement to command the regiment in Britain where he died aged 55. He was commemorated in his native Viminacium by his wife Afrodisia.

96 milestones are recorded from Roman Britain but only 9 mention a place name and few give a distance, but a milestone in Buxton museum reads A NAVIONE M P Xi which translates as 11 miles from Navio. A censor Brittonum Anavion (ensium) held office around A.D. 112. He would have been in control of the local area administration and also lead production and was obviously based at Navio.

Workings for lead were originally in the hands of lessees (conductores) and is

known to have been taken as early as A.D.49 from the Mendips, only 6 years after the invasion. The lead production of the Societatus Lutudarensis of Derbyshire was probably 1st century. The Derbyshire ore field was one of the largest and most productive in Britain and nearly 30 of the 80 known pigs of lead are believed to have originated in Derbyshire with 21 from Somerset. These lost or hidden pigs must represent a very small percentage of the total production of lead in Romano-British times.

Under Hadrian, a tightening-up of state monopoly resulted in no further reference to lessees and it appears that lead production was under military control. Exceptionally high demand for lead may have been caused by the military building requirements on the new northern frontier around Hadrian's Wall. A large proportion of Derbyshire lead production was sent to Petuaria (Brough on Humber). This would be more convenient for coastal shipment in preference to overland transport to Hadrian's Wall.

*Frank Smith*

*Ed. This article originally appeared in the magazine 'Under the Edge' covering the Great Longstone area.*

## Arsenic health warning

Council officers have issued a health warning after arsenic levels in some Sheffield residential areas were found to be more than four times the recommended safety level.

Nearly 70% of 569 soil city samples taken at 500 metre intervals across the city and analysed by the British Geological Survey, contained more of the deadly poison than the Government guidelines. Now people are being advised to take extra care when cooking and preparing vegetables, removing all soil and thoroughly washing them.

Not all soil arsenic can be absorbed by humans but scientists warn that long-term exposure to low levels of the toxin can cause a wide range of illnesses, including cancer.

The city council is currently conducting a four-year programme to identify contaminated sites, such as high lead levels in Totley. But officers were, unaware of the abnormal arsenic concentrations throughout the city until alerted by the British Geological Survey's report.



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## HSBC Competition

To mark the refurbishment and extension of its branch in Dore, the bank held a competition for customers. The challenge was to answer two simple questions and then in 25 words to say in what way the improved branch is an important part of the community at Dore. There were generous prizes in Capital One vouchers.

There was a good response to the competition which set quite a challenge to the judges. In the end Patricia Spick was adjudged the winner with:

*Dore village life is bustling and fun,  
our new hi-tech banking is number one  
Old and young, duck's galore?  
All are welcome at HSBC Dore.*

Runners up were June Montgomery and Martin Evans who reflected the services in a more conventional way. One other entry from Ben Paxman caught our eye:

*The HSBC branch in Dore  
Is miles better than before,  
Its spacious & clean,  
Has a paying in machine  
And an amazing security door.*

## Women's RVS

WRVS has been providing services to local communities across England, Scotland and Wales for 63 years and has over 100,000 active volunteers.

Its volunteers were at the scene of the recent Selby train disaster, 18 hours a day, for eight consecutive days; who else would have responded in this way to support the emergency services? Without its volunteers families devastated by the recent floods would not have received the same reassurance and support given to them at WRVS rest centres up and down the country. Without WRVS volunteers, thousands of vulnerable and elderly people would have missed out on the social contact and care given by our Meals on Wheels

teams. Without WRVS volunteers vulnerable children and families would have been deprived of the many community projects run in their locality by WRVS.

Locally the WRVS are expanding their services in the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Northern General Hospital, Weston Park Hospital and Sheffield Children's Hospital, and are recruiting volunteers to assist in the day to day running of it's tea bars, shops, and trolley services. Currently they have vacancies for retail/catering assistants, cashiers, a rota organiser, recruitment officer, and stock assistant, to help in the running of these units. Training will be provided. All goods sold will be pre-packed so catering experience is not essential.

Volunteer work 4hr shifts to cover the day from 8am - 8pm Monday to Friday. 10am-4pm Weekends. Travel expenses will be paid. Ladies, Gents and Couples are most welcome, aged between 14 to 75. To find out more contact: 0845 601 4670 (local rate number). So, go on why not Volunteer for a change?

## Sheffield in print

Living in Sheffield, we ought already to be aware how interesting the city and its surrounding area can be. Yet it is all too easy in our busy lives to miss out on some of this rich heritage, that is, until someone stops to bring it to our attention. The history of Sheffield is one of its people, buildings and industry, and the more you delve the more interesting it becomes, a fascination which draws many authors to explore the past of the city or particular areas within it. Four new books, published by Pickards Publishing reflect this interest in our past.

A new book by Ann Beedham, who works for Sheffield Star, is appropriately called *Peeks at the Past*. Her own fascination with Sheffield buildings in particular has led to her putting together a compendium of photographs and illustrations introducing some familiar favourites and some other sites and stories we might have missed.

Its 116 A4 size pages span 38 locations, from the well known sites like the Town

Hall and Conisborough Castle, to lesser known locations and people such as Wilson Snuff Mill and the poet Ebenezer Elliott who has a monument in Weston Park. Each location is illustrated in colour with details of the main features plus snippets of history. Thus we learn that Carbrook Hall, an old pub by the busy Attercliffe common, was once owned by Colonel Bright an officer in Cromwell's army and one time Governor of Sheffield Castle. One of its wood panelled rooms is illustrated with an ornate mantelpiece you must see for yourself, and yes it is haunted!

Complete with bibliography and a useful index for more research, this is a book for your own stocking, or that of friends in or out of the city. *Peeks at the Past* is price £11.99 ISBN 0-9544045-05.

If a single picture is worth a thousand words, then another new book *Remember Sheffield, in the fifties, sixties and seventies* will provide hours of interest. Author David Richardson has pulled together nearly 200 black and white pictures from the three decades, capturing the recent history and changes in Sheffield. Together they provide a fascinating glimpse of the changes many of us experienced yet often hardly noticed. Trams in their heyday, the building of 'the hole in the road', wartime dereliction and reconstruction from the extension to Sheffield Cathedral to the creation of Moorfoot. This book will be of interest to anyone who has lived in Sheffield during the period and fills a gap in the record of the city's development. *Remember Sheffield, in the fifties, sixties and seventies* is published in A4 format price £11.99 ISBN 0-9534267-7-7.

For those living in Ecclesfield, *An Ecclesfield Camera*, which pulls together pictures over the last forty to fifty years, provides another nostalgia trip. Author Jack Wrigley, a retired schoolmaster, has lived in the area since 1950 and it is his camera which has captured scenes from long lost buildings to a heavy snowfall, from village events to the effergy of Sir Richard Scott in Ecclesfield Church. It contains 80 mainly black and white photographs with brief captions, *An Ecclesfield Camera* is priced at £7.99. ISBN 09534267-7-7

*A Portrait of the Manor in the 1930s* has been written by Malcolm Mercer, author and contributor of a number of education and local history books. Having lived most of his life in and around the Manor, he has pulled together a social history of the 1930s and the evolution of the council estate using the collective memories of an oral history group. The personal experiences of residents and pictures are woven together, and will stir the memories and interests of those who have lived on the estate or shared the poverty of those years. *A Portrait of the Manor in the 1930s* is priced at £9.99. 09534267-7-7

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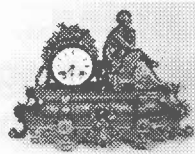
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## Woodland tree thinning

If you go down to the woods in the near future, you're in for a big surprise...no, not teddy bears sadly, but the sound of a working woodland! As those of you who frequent Ecclesall Woods will know, the area of mixed mature Beech woodland adjoining Abbey Lane, but close to the bird sanctuary has been marked up for thinning since the summer. In total the area involved covers around 3 hectares (10 acres). The woodland extends to 140 hectares in all.

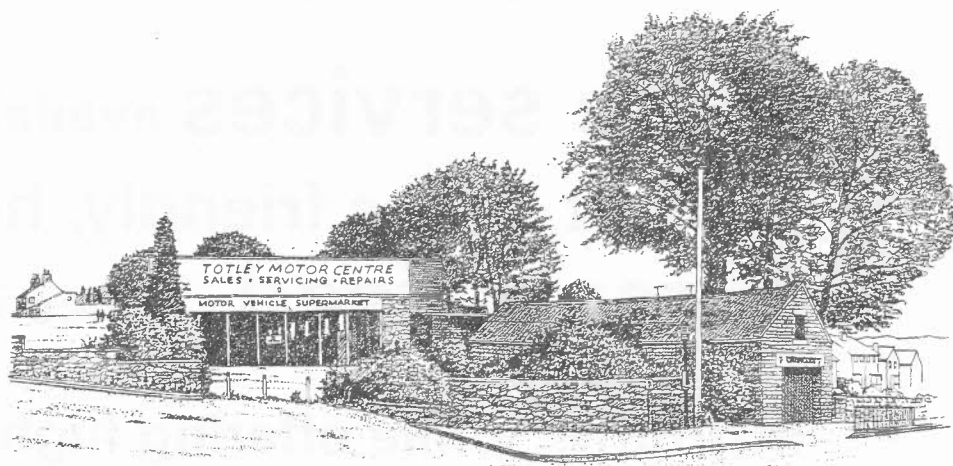
Work will start from mid November and involves the felling of 106 mainly mature trees, particularly Beech and Sycamore. Because this part of the woodland has not been actively managed for many decades, it has produced a very dense and shady canopy. Over time, wildflowers like Bluebell have slowly disappeared and been replaced by bare earth. Shrubs are rare and young trees for the future absent in many places. Local wildlife like Song Thrush and Bats, and woodland plants like Bluebell and Wood Anemone prefer areas with a mix of trees of all ages, and where there are open sunny glades, and young woodland as well as mature trees.

The thinning work will let more light into the area, encouraging wildflowers to return, which in turn provide food for insects and other animals. These in turn, feed local birds and so on. Oak, Birch and Rowan, the dominant species found naturally in local woodlands like Ecclesall Woods will gradually seed in the areas thinned, giving the area a good "structure" in time.

The majority of the felled timber will be removed, help support local woodland industries whilst recouping some of the costs of the work, which is partly funded by the Forestry Commission and European Objective One monies (via the South Yorkshire Forest Partnership), as well as the City Council. Some tree lengths will be retained either standing or fallen, to provide deadwood habitat for wildlife like woodpeckers and bats. All the brash (the lop and top) will be chipped and most of it removed. The bridleway will be cleared of any mud, etc once work is completed. This should be by the end of December 2002.

Although kept to a minimum, work of this kind always brings a certain amount of disturbance to the ground, but experience shows that the woodland will quickly recover. Indeed, some disturbance is useful in encouraging long-buried tree and plant seed to germinate. In all cases warning signs will be in place during working hours. For your own safety, please avoid the working area wherever possible. All the work being undertaken to improve this important woodland forms part of the Ecclesall Woods five year management plan, finalised in 2000.

In the New Year it is planned to re-surface the main bridleways through this area, and some of the smaller paths leading from the car parking on Abbey Lane. Further consultation will take place nearer the time. Sheffield's woodland management



*The old Totley car showroom below the Cross Scythes on Baslow Road, as drawn by Brian Edwards.*

approach was independently assessed in June 2002, and was certified as meeting the Forestry Stewardship's Council's internationally recognized standards of sustainable forestry management. This means that products produced from SCC woodlands can bear the FSC logo (visit your local DIY store if your interested) indicating they come from sustainably managed woodlands.

For more information call Nick Sellwood, Woodlands Manager on (0114) 2736387.

## Japanese Knotweed

Since the article in the last Dore To Door seven people have contacted me to inform me of Japanese Knotweed growing in the area. I have been told there are stands:

- at the bottom of Old Hay Lane,
- on the left of the track at Ryecroft Farm,
- by the stream down from Shorts Lane,
- on land adjoining Totley Hall Lane,
- on the corner at the end of Church Lane.
- in a garden adjoining the village green,
- on Long Line on land belonging to Sheffield Tigers.

Methods of control need to be persistent and carried out over a long period. All the methods have drawbacks and are labour intensive.

Herbicide can be sprayed onto the foliage in late summer/early autumn regularly for several years. A more precise approach is to cut the stem and apply a measured dose directly into the hollow stem.

Cutting needs to be carried out over at least five years. Cut stems should be composted on a layer of polythene (to prevent regrowth) or burnt within the confines of your own garden. Crowns should be burnt.

If the weed is coming onto your property from adjoining property, the best solution seems to be to co-operate with the neighbouring landowner in co-ordinating control efforts. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 does provide some protection. Contact addresses:

The Environment Agency, Victoria Square, Bodmin, Cornwall. PL31 1EB.

The Countryside Group, Planning, Transportation & Estates Dept. New County Hall, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 3AY. [www.cornwall.gov.uk/Environment/knotweed/jap4.htm](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/Environment/knotweed/jap4.htm)

*Stella Wood*

## Cross Scythes changes

Planning permission has been granted for the demolition of the long disused car showroom below the Cross Scythes pub on Baslow Road in Totley.

I remember as a young man working on the plans of the present structure and I guess that was in the early 1960s.

The new development will consist of two blocks of flats each with four apartments and permission has also been granted for the old barn on the roadside to be demolished and replaced by a two story office building.

Back in the first half of the twentieth century the site was occupied by a blacksmiths shop which was in it's heyday during the nineteenth century.

## Bottle banks

Onyx representatives have recently carried out a review of possible bottle bank sites in Dore and Totley. Two new banks will be installed shortly at Totley Rise shops and at the Shepley Spitfire.

Glass is the easiest and best material to recycle. Recycling jars and bottles greatly benefits the environment by saving energy and reducing the quarrying of raw materials.

Do not worry about removing labels, but it would help if lids or caps are removed. Please rinse jars and bottles and put them in the right colour bank, with blue bottles in the right colour bank, with blue bottles in the green bank.

If you cannot get to the new sites in Totley please continue to use the sites at Tesco on Abbeydale Road and Sainsbury's at Archer Road. These two sites account for 20% of all glass collected in Sheffield.

*You can keep up to date with what is happening in Dore on our village web site at:*

*[www.dorevillage.co.uk](http://www.dorevillage.co.uk)*





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## DORE OLD SCHOOL 1938

### - a postscript

We may have been tested in English and Arithmetic, but the exciting examinations were in History and Geography, as they were so lively: more like a children's party. Our names were written on the blackboard. Then Miss would shout out a question: Which king built Westminster Abbey? Can you name two counties where the Pennines are? We didn't just put our hands up. Examinations are competitive! We waved our arms like semaphore and screamed, Miss! MISS! Everyone was sitting forward, clenching the chair, eyes alight. Some (boys usually) leapt up and waving one or two arms took a few steps forward, imploring, screaming. If you were lucky Miss chose you and a tick went beside your name. The boys usually collected more ticks than the girls. Girls then were not only less assertive but probably believed that the boys were cleverer. Perhaps miss thought so too.

Another method of exam involved chalking a number on a desk. If you were chosen and got it right you moved to a higher number. This often meant pushing someone else aside. Not surprisingly the girls fared even worse as they advanced daintily to a more noble heap of bodies in the aisle.

In contrast to these frolics, arithmetic lessons were serious. 'Sit up straight!' Seven and six! plus three! Divide by two! Hands up! A daily lesson was not only good for the eleven-plus, but makes you feel pleased with yourself sixty years later when the till has gone wrong and the teenager doesn't know what the change should be. Of course we learned long multiplication and division using that frightening blue-squared paper, and a pound being worth 240 pence was fine by us. At five we first grasped the thick brown cardboard pennies and ha'pennies and the pretend florins,

silver and dark grey, bearing the head of the Queen's grandfather.

Except for the Head, the staff was female. The five-year olds were with Miss Dobbs, fair-haired and fair-faced, with a patchwork of red lines on each cheek. Every day began for her with compulsory trumpeting, a blowing of noses sometimes lasting for two minutes. Miss Hodkin, the sternest of the staff was given to rulering knuckles and arbitrary confiscation of whatever you had: wooden pencil-box, clay marbles, blood-alleys, liquorice- root, conkers, chewing-gum (a ha'penny bought a cube of sweet rubbery stuff). All vanished into her desk with no guarantee of return.

Miss Wynne, Welsh and winning, was unusual in her reliance on smiles and charms. The fashionable one was Miss Talbot. She had lisle stockings, fingernails deeply lacquered, brows plucked into thin hummocks of surprise, and throughout my acquaintance with her, an engagement ring, which once fell from her elegant finger. "Boys sit still", she bellowed. "Girls! Take off your shoes and find my ring!" So all the girls crept about, giggling under their breath, raking the dirt from between the floorboards with old nibs or broken pencils.

Two headmasters coincided with my time at Dore School. Mr Speight was a smiling, friendly man, pleasantly fragrant in those often malodorous times. Springy of step, suited and watch-chained, he was possessed of an enviable free, bold, legible, copperplate hand which linked the words together. He comforted me once when I was worried about what lay ahead after the eleven-plus. "Rumour is a lying jade", he said. His cheerful optimism set the happy mood of his school. He is buried in what is arguably the best plot in Dore churchyard, beside the main door. Mr Clinton succeeded him. He was black of hair and eye, gave you a straight look and did not smile easily. A few months later he joined the Services, I think the navy, and may not have survived the war.

The curriculum stressed two subjects, English and Arithmetic. Reading and spelling were ground into us. The apostrophe 's', the rules for which are now as secret as the Pyramids, we handled easily. Subjects for composition were predictable: I wrote "My Life by a Penny" four times for four different mistresses. History and Geography, and of course, Scripture, were Cinderella subjects. We speculated privately about the strange scanty skirts of Roman Soldiers on the Wall and publicly drew Celtic shields, flint axes and long barrows. For Geography, boxes of dates were brought to school (to copy the camels) and recited our Yorkshire rivers (Swale, Ure, Nidd...). we did the same for the Potteries towns. Learning by heart mattered. Every day we heard Miss Dobbs' infants as they wailed their multiplication tables, and fought back with our pints and quarts, poles and perches, chanting our mantras in unison as though in a rally for the Nazi Party.

The thirties were at the tail-end of the Arts and Craft Movement and Friday afternoon,

if not silent reading, was Craft Work. There were several 'creative' things to do. We might sew canvas with woollen stitches to make kettle holders, useful in our house where the kettle sat night and day by the fire on its own cast-iron tray. A variant of this utilized the cardboard discs which then served as milk-bottle tops. These, oversewn with wool and stitched together, made place-mats. Threading your needle with wet wool was not easy.

More exciting was clay modelling. In a dark corner stood a bin containing soft clay. You gouged out a handful and made animals or little men, perhaps rolling out your clay on a board. There was no firing, your creation hardened in the air, and at the end (home time) it was packed together and flung back into the bin, to emerge next Friday, hard as bullets. Of course the clay worked its way up your arms and elbows into your hair, and had to be wiped off on your trousers. Handkerchiefs were rare.

Paper modelling involved measurement and was more controlled. Miss uttered the sacred slogan; "Fold your paper into sixteen squares!" snipping, or rather tearing and hacking followed, for the round-nosed scissors were old and blunt so your thumb ached. Finally a tottering cottage emerged, dripping with Bonfix and (later) Gloy.

The aristocrat of all these, because it was the most expensive, was Lino Cutting, which needed thick cork mounted on canvas. This was too clever for most of us, but we enjoyed ploughing into the soft cork with gouges in boxwood handles. Even the smell was intoxicating. The subsequent prints, patches of smeary black, would not have pleased their originator, William Morris.

A cheap substitute for lino was raw potato, cut into a pater and dipped into blue or pink poster paint before printing. The result was less funereal than a lino-cut and the juice could be pleasingly worked into your hair. In all these pursuits the product, the clay man, the tottering cottage, didn't matter to us. What we cared about was the tearing, or delving for clay, hacking the potato, the final anointing.

Dore School excelled in singing. "Songs of the British Isles" fell open at No. 50, "The British Grenadiers", the boys favourite. But most of the songs were less masculine. Certainly there was "Hearts of Oak", but also "A North Country Maid" and "Hope the Hermit", even "Drink to Me Only". What impresses me now - and I grieve that we have lost it - was the committal to British not English. So we sang loyally about the Minstrel Boy with his wild harp slung behind him, or bellowed Men of Harlech, or even pleaded with Bonnie Prince Charlie to come back again. Next to Bobby Shafto in Northumbria, with silver buttons at his knee. We cared for Britain, even though like the rest of Europe we might lazily call it England. The singing, and the Britain, were lively, involving, real. Although we did not know it, we were among the very last British (not Scots or Welsh or English) in these islands.

*Glen Fallows*

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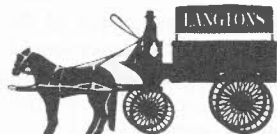
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## Hidden reserve

It will probably come as a surprise to many readers that we have a local wildlife reserve under the care of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

The 0.8 hectare reserve lies between Twentywells Lane and the Midland railway cutting, accessed through a narrow gap in the stone wall. If you decide to visit it, please keep to the upper dirt path from which most of the reserve can be adequately seen.

Twentywellsick Wood is a typical but small example of oak/birch woodland mostly on steeply sloping ground. It features a number of associated woodland bird species such as nuthatch, treecreeper, wren, robin and two species of woodpecker.

Other species can often be seen passing through; for example, long-tailed tits flit from tree to tree as they move through the valley. The occasional hooting of a tawny owl can be heard in the autumn months as territories are set up in the area.

The steep bank of the reserve is covered by thin acid soils giving rise to a ground layer dominated by bilberry and wavy hair-grass, with occasional bracken. The high rainfall levels support a number of typical mosses such as *Hypnum cupressiforme* and *Dicranella heteromalla*. Other higher plant species of note include the delightful golden rod and hard fern.

At the bottom of the slope nearer the railway, the soils become deeper, more clayey and less acid allowing a wider range of higher plants such as bluebell, red campion and wood stitchwort to grow. Here the canopy contains a number of large ash trees as well as an understory of hazel.

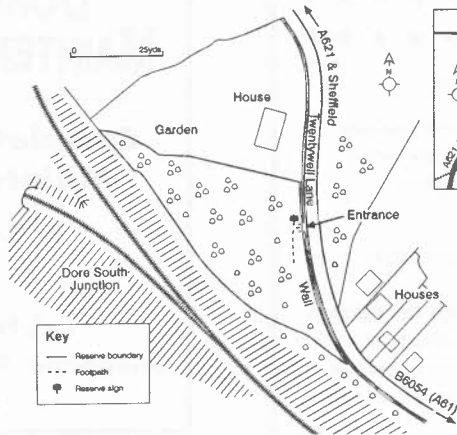
The oak woodland requires little day to day management. Work consists of repairs to boundaries and removal of species such as rhododendron and sycamore. A problem for this reserve is the irresponsible dropping of litter over the wall, which constantly needs clearing.

The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust has worked since 1946 to protect, conserve and promote the diversity of Yorkshire wildlife and habitats for the benefit and well-being of both wildlife and people.

Why not become a member and mark your support for their work to conserve Yorkshire's precious wildlife. Members receive the magazines Yorkshire Wildlife and Natural World, three times a year; opportunities to enjoy many different events throughout the year; and quality publications available only to members such as the Trust's superb Nature Reserves Guide.

If you want to be more active you can also volunteer to work on your local nature reserve or on one of the Trust's many and varied projects.

For information or queries on membership contact: Dawn Wallis - Membership Secretary, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, 10 Toft Green, YORK, YO1 6JT. Tel: 01904 659570 E-mail: yorkshirewt@cix.co.uk Registered Charity No. 210807



Map showing the site of Twentywellsick Wood wildlife reserve.

## Adopt an owl box

Owl lovers are being asked to adopt nest boxes and help boost the population of these endangered birds. The Hawk and Owl Trust, which has spearheaded barn owl conservation since 1988, says the nesting boxes help to make up for the loss of natural nesting sites in barns and hollow trees.

Adopting a nest box costs £12.50 a year. At the end of every year adopters are told what kind of birds have roosted or nested in their box, how many eggs were laid, and how many young owls reared. You can adopt a box in one of seven regions of Britain but, because it is essential the birds are not disturbed, the Trust cannot say exactly where the nesting box is.

Adoption forms are available from Adopt A Box, Hawk and Owl Trust, 11 St Mary's Close, Abbotskerswell, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 5QF. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

## Hedgehogs under threat

Evidence is that hedgehog numbers are declining at an alarming rate. The most adverse effect on hedgehogs is the increasing intensification of farming.

A nationwide survey, funded by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and the Mammals Trust UK, suggests that hedgehog numbers in East Anglia have fallen 50 percent since 1991. Other areas such as Yorkshire and the South East of England have shown a 40 percent drop. The data was collected last year by a team of volunteers who recorded the number of hedgehogs, badgers, rabbits and foxes killed on the roads.

Adult hedgehogs are useful to gardeners as they can eat almost half their body weight (1.8kg/41b) of slugs, snails and caterpillars in a day. Factsheets on making gardens more hedgehog-friendly are available from the British Hedgehog Preservation Society ([www.softwaretechnics.co.uk/bhps](http://www.softwaretechnics.co.uk/bhps)) 01584 890801 : and ([www.stiggywinkles.org.uk](http://www.stiggywinkles.org.uk)).

## John Ruskin & Mickley Lane

John Ruskin (1819-1900) art critic, author and idealist, used his inherited wealth for the education of the "deserving poor" and in non-profit making enterprises.

In 1871, he founded the Guild of St George for "the purchase of land in healthy districts" and to teach and employ working men, and to try to "permanently better the material condition of the poor". Sheffield attracted his attention because of its religious dissent and Chartism, and he admired the skill and craftsmanship of the scythe, scissor, knife and cutlery workers.

In pursuit of his philanthropy, in 1875 he bought a house high on the hill in Walkley, for £600 using funds from the Guild of St George where he established the George Museum. This was pioneering work for it was not until 1875 that Sheffield opened its first public museum (in Western Park) and 1887 before the first public art gallery - The Mappin. Visitors to the Walkley St Georges Museum included William Morris, artist and designer and Prince Leopold, the youngest son of Queen Victoria.

The Walkley site proved to be inadequate and the collection was moved to Meersbrook Hall which was purposely bought by Sheffield Corporation for the Ruskin Museum in 1890 and here it attracted 60,000 visitors a year.

Our connection with John Ruskin is even closer to home - Mickley Lane. In 1876 Ruskin's man of affairs in Sheffield, Henry Swann, wrote to Ruskin as he wintered in Venice, that a farm off Mickley Lane, Totley, was for sale. Swann was told to pay the £2,200 to secure it. William Riley was to take control of St George's Farm, Mickley Lane, but things did not go well and Ruskin found that Riley "liked smoking better than he liked digging". Ruskin then sent his trusted gardener, Downes, to Sheffield and by concentrating on fruit managed to sell £60 worth of produce, though the outlay to achieve that was £135!

Downes allowed George Pearson, a quarryman and miner, to take over. Pearson was successful and in 1920 bought the land from St. George's Guild. In 1938 the farm, which I have always known as 'Pearson's Nursery', was sold and passed into private hands - but today it continues to be known as St George's Farm, Mickley Lane.

In spite of Ruskin's impracticalities and his misguided view that Art can solve all the great problems of the world, I believe he should be remembered as someone who tried to get people to think for themselves and to look at life, particularly natural life, with both eye and mind. One can only wonder how he would have reacted to the telecommunications mast now gracing St. George's Farm!

After several years in the Hoys Building on Norfolk Street, the Ruskin Collection is now to be found in the Millennium Galleries which run between Arundel Gate and the Crucible Theatre, open:- Mon - Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 11am-5pm.

Pat Pryor

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## Supertram expansion

A big consultation exercise is planned over the next few months to determine the exact routes for proposed extensions to the existing network. One potential extension would run through Fargate, down Pinstone Street, along The Moor then to Bramall Lane before heading for Abbeydale Road towards Millhouses and eventually alongside the existing rail line to Totley. A branch would leave Nether Edge for Meadowhead and Lowedges.

## Free surfing

BT is offering customers in Sheffield a week's unlimited free Internet access, e-mail and text messaging from its 27 high street Internet kiosks to mark the introduction of high speed BT Broadband to the new blue boxes. The services are free in Sheffield from November 18 to 24. The new kiosks enable customers to surf websites at speeds up to 10 times faster than a standard connection.

## Recycling Sites

Work has commenced to refurbish the city's household waste recycling sites. Major work will commence at Blackstock Road Recycling site at Gleadless, S14 on Monday 11 November and the site will be closed until March 2003.

All of the sites will be refurbished to increase the potential for recycling as well as to improve access and movement of traffic through the sites. In addition to the separation presently carried out on the sites, there will be plastic and can banks as well as facilities for timber. It is also hoped to increase the amount of green waste that is

collected through the sites.

Details of available sites can be obtained from the customer help line number 273 4567. If residents need any further advice on how to recycle or dispose of any other items of Household Waste they can telephone 228 3550

Over the next 30 Years the integrated waste management contract with Sheffield City Council specifies that Onyx will deliver a range of services to help the Council to meet its waste management obligations. In the short term Onyx will:

\* Develop a Materials Recycling Facility at Beighton to sort paper and card before it goes to paper manufacturers.

\* Roll out kerbside collections of paper and card to approximately 200,000 households in the City.

\* Assist in the development of recycling facilities (Bring Banks, Recycling Sites and work with community groups).

\* Develop a new Energy Recovery Facility at Bernard Road to continue electricity and heat generation.

\* Develop the District Heating network to allow more buildings to connect to the award-winning scheme.

\* Ensure safe disposal.

## Folk Trains

Once a month Folk Trains with guest bands run from Sheffield [7.14pm but collecting at Dore & Totley 7.22pm] to Edale. Refreshments (special beer prices) & more music is available at The Rambler Inn, Edale, then 9.28pm return journey arriving at Dore & Totley for 9.52pm.

26 November: Brewer's Troop

17 December: Sheffield Folk Choir

28 January: Jim MacDonald

25 February: Roger the Badger

For up-to-date information ring 266 9532 or visit [www.folktrain.f9.co.uk](http://www.folktrain.f9.co.uk)

## Botanical Gardens

Restoration of the 19th century glasshouses at Sheffield Botanical Gardens is nearing completion, thanks to a £5 million award from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Last year the main gatehouse and Curator's House were restored.

The Grade II listed Paxton style pavilions were built in 1836 and are some of the earliest surviving curvilinear glasshouses in the British Isles. They were designed by Benjamin Taylor and opened in 1836 - the same year as Sir Joseph Paxton's Great Conservatory at Chatsworth.

The original building consisted of three stone pavilions with curved domes, constructed with cylinder glass and wrought-iron glazing bars. The pavilions were originally connected by simple ridge and furrow glasshouses, but these were demolished towards the end of the 19th century when they became unsafe.

Sheffield City Council took over the management of the gardens in 1951, by which time the three pavilions were in a poor state of repair, with trees growing out of the walls. The Council made several repairs to the structure including the application of a protective layer of mortar to the stonework. While this was carried out in good faith, it caused further deterioration to the original stone.

The pavilions will be planted up next spring and the central dome will house Australasian plants arranged around a fountain. More details from: 267 6496. ([www.sbg.org.uk](http://www.sbg.org.uk))

## Open mornings

The next Open Morning at the Dore Village Society room is on Saturday 7 December from 10am to 12noon.

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## The Wildlife Garden



Over the next few months, The University of Sheffield's BUGS project (Biodiversity in Urban Gardens in Sheffield) will be finishing. The results of this three year project, which has been looking at many aspects of wildlife gardening, will be released; first to the scientific press, but later no doubt there will be features in just about every magazine in the country, from gardening and wildlife ones to the Sunday supplements. So what will the scientists' verdict on wildlife gardening be?

Unfortunately, I do not have a special 'access all areas pass' giving me privileged information, nor do I have a crystal ball to magically conjure up the results. However, there have been some early findings published on the BUGS' web-site, for example the ones on artificial bumble-bee 'houses' and it would seem that, at least in the first two years of the project, there has been very little success in enticing bees to use these man-made homes.

This spring, although perhaps a little too late to catch the first emerging queens, I put an artificial bumble-bee house in my garden, as well as one designed to be used by red mason bees. The bumble-bee house consists of a shoe box-sized container divided in two, with a small entrance hole leading into the front 'parlour' where you

place a small, shallow dish of dilute honey or syrup-rich water, which supposedly acts as a lure to any passing queen bumble-bee. Then there is a separate chamber in the rear section which contains a small amount of fibrous material for nest making.

The red mason bee house is very different in design, it is simply a tube crammed full of long, narrow paper straws in which the small bees will hopefully make a series of mud-enclosed cells, each one containing an egg and pollen store. It is also different in that you have to hang it in a sunny position, whereas the bumble-bee house should be placed in a secluded, shady corner.

So, what happened? Not a great deal. I sited my bumble-bee nesting box in the darkest recess of my garden, beneath a shrub next to the compost bin and whilst a bumble-bee queen happily made her nest in my compost heap, none showed any interest in my artificial hive. The only animal that visited it was a snail which feasted on the syrup, ate through the cardboard liner and left glistening sticky trails all over it.

On the other hand, I did have a success of sorts with my red mason bee tubes. I hung the container on a sunny wall in my back garden and by late summer, one straw was filled and neatly capped with a plug of mud. It seems somewhat ironic that despite this house being designed to appeal to solitary bees, they only showed a muted interest,

whilst at the front of my house, every small hole in the mortar between the house

bricks was filled to overflowing with developing bees. In fact there was such a demand for suitable nesting sites, even the small hole running the length of my 'wheely bin' handle was regularly investigated as a potential, if somewhat mobile, home.

All right, you might say that my failure with artificial bee homes and those used by the BUGS gardeners go some way to prove that these devices are a waste of time. Indeed, the scientists of the BUGS project may well report that very little of what their gardeners did - from nettle patches to piles of logs, positively encouraged wildlife. I am sure this will not be the case, but even if it is, surely we can learn from what doesn't work and try to improve on what does?

Perhaps the most important outcome will be that a new generation of scientists no longer look upon the ecology of urban gardens as a Mickey Mouse topic and will start to investigate the subject in earnest. Only with their insight can our gardens become true wildlife havens. As for me, next year I will have the bumble-bee box in place well before the first queens come out of hibernation and site my red mason bee tubes at the *front* of my house. With a bit of luck, the bees will take to their designer homes and leave my compost heap and wheely bin alone. But as the old saying goes: 'You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink'. BUGS web site:

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/uni/projects/bugs/>

Jack Daw

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## Ryecroft Mill

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I was very interested to see the piece on Ryecroft Mill in the last issue of Dore to Door and the painting by Stuart Thorpe.

My interest stems from my relationship to the Thorpe family. My great great grandfather, George Thorpe, was the publican at the Rising Sun until he died in 1870. In the 1861 census, he describes himself as 'scythe grinder and publican', and he may well have worked at Ryecroft Mill. Subsequently, his widow, Hannah, my great great grandmother, kept the inn until she died early in 1891. Judith Thorpe was innkeeper there at the time of the census in April 1891.

My great grandfather, Thomas Thorpe, and Stuart were brothers. Stuart was born about 1854. I would guess your dating of the 1870s is about right - in 1871 Stuart was 17 and a copper plate engraver living with his parents at the Rising Sun. By 1881 he was married, living at Ratcliff Road near Hunters Bar, and was a 'draughtsman designer and art student'. Clearly the quality of the painting of the wheel is consistent with Stuart's skills indicated by his occupations.

It is interesting to note that Thomas my great grandfather was a scythe grinder like his father. After his marriage in 1866 he lived in Dore until his death in 1899. His wife was Elizabeth Biggin, niece of John Revill, the publican of the Whirlow Bridge Inn in 1861.

*Brian Hockley*

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## Making scythes

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*This article, written by the late W.J.Hughes, originally appeared in the New Model Engineer on 22/9/1955.*

In spite of the modern trend to mechanise farming there are many cases where it has been found virtually impossible to improve on tools invented a thousand years ago. The scythe is probably the best-known farming tool, and Messrs. W. Tyzack, Sons and Turner of Sheffield, who make Crown scythes, forge them by hand in exactly the same way as they did 138 years ago. The motive power for the tilt-hammers in the works is supplied by a water wheel.

**Scythe production:** The process comprises several operations. Two pieces of iron and one of steel are cut off, the length and cross-section varying according to the size of scythe to be made. Put together in the form of a sandwich, these are heated in the fire (at this stage it is called a "mood" and is sufficient to make two scythes).

**Welding the blade:** The iron and steel are welded together under a broad-faced hammer, and drawn out into the rough shape of a scythe at each end. This operation is known as "steeling", and all the skill of the forger is used in shaping the material and keeping the steel in the cutting-edge. After the pieces have been cut in two (they are now known as "strings") they are re-heated and plated. During this

operation the blade is properly shaped, and the forming of the strengthening back or "whale", commenced during the steeling, is now completed.

The plating is done under a hammer with a narrower face. The blade itself is thinned down, but the strengthening rib on the back is left standing up, and the blade passed backwards and forwards under the hammer-the forger meanwhile also moving back and forth on his scat, which is suspended from an overhead beam. As the blade cools under the hammer, the assistant takes a re-heated one from the hearth, and passes it to the forger's right hand. Then, as the hammer rises, the forger in one motion lays the nearly black-hot blade down on his left-hand side and places the white-hot blade on the anvil with his right hand, to receive the descending hammer. As he does so, the assistant moves behind him and picks up the cooling blade, either for re-heating, or, if forging is finished, to lay it aside.

**The advantages of tilt hammers:** In making Crown scythes, the tilt-hammer possesses many advantages over other types of powered hammer. In steeling, it is desirable to vary the rate of blows per minute considerably, with a minimum of time for acceleration and deceleration. It is also a considerable advantage if the weight of the blows remains constant. This is easily possible with a water-wheel, but experiments with other types of hammer have not been completely successful as there is a tendency for the weight of blow to increase with the speed of the hammer.

**Preventing movement:** In the plating process, it is necessary to cut a sharp bevel, as well as thinning out the plate and working the blade to its final shape. For this, a tilt-hammer is ideal, in that the blow is dead and the head is momentarily at rest, at the end of its stroke, and thus it grips the scythe between strokes and prevents it moving about. Experiments with a pneumatic hammer have been tried in this work, but it has been found that there is a tendency for the blade to bounce on the anvil, making it much more difficult to cut a clear bevel on the back.

In both steeling and plating there are two operations, known as pointing and back ending. The forger steels and plates approximately five dozen scythes every working day.

Twenty-five years ago Crown scythes were made up to 60 in. in length, but today the longest made are 40 in. At that time, too, there were about 30 different patterns of Crown scythe, but these have now been reduced to six.

**Family history:** It should be mentioned that the Tyzack family are still in active control of the works, and the present forger, Bernard Wolstenholme, is the fourth of his line in their service. He has worked a total of 39 years for the firm; his father for 58 years, his grandfather all his life, and his great grandfather was No.1 on the books at the firm's Rockingham Street works!

**Details of the machining:** The water wheel at the works is a return overshot, or ten o'clock wheel - the water pouring on to it at

that position so that it turns counter clockwise. The shuttle controlling the flow of water (and therefore the speed of the hammers) is connected to the long wooden levers seen to the left of the forger at the hammer heads. The wheel is 15ft. in diameter, and 5ft. 9 in. wide, with a head of water of 13ft. 6 in.

On the water-wheel shaft is a cast iron spur wheel of 9ft. pitch diameter, meshing, with a pinion 5ft. 4" p.c.d. on the beam, giving a ratio of approximately 11 to one. The fly-wheel on the beam is 11 ft. in diameter, and is actually a cast-iron bevel wheel from some long forgotten mechanism.

**Wooden brake:** The beam or cogwheel shaft is octagonal, being 2ft. a/f., and the cogwheel driving the steeling hammer is 5ft. 2" in diameter with 19 cogs, that for plating being 5ft. 4" with 13 cogs. Working speeds for the hammers are 250 blows per minute for steeling, and 150 blows per minute for plating. Both hammer shafts are pivoted at 2ft. 6" from the tail end; the steeling head weighs 3 cwt.

While one hammer is being worked, the other is propped up so that the cogs do not catch its tail, the forger slipping the wooden prop under the head at the top of its stroke. If the hammer is only temporarily out of use, a piece of wood is slipped in place to cushion the blows.

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## Letters

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Dear Sir,

Who lifted the Verger's bollards?

During Wedding services on the 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of August, 7 traffic bollards were stolen during the services, from outside the Parish Church.

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*Paul R Cobbold  
Parish Church Verger*

Dear Sir,

I wish to draw readers' attention to a planning application for a four-storey block of flats which has been lodged for the Abbeydale Garden Centre site adjacent to Dore station.

Apart from the fact that four storey flats would be totally out of place, the site is desperately required for a car park for Dore station. Dore station car park is totally inadequate, holding around 18 cars. Upwards of 80 cars park in the vicinity every day, on spare land across the road, in the area of the adjacent flats and on Dore Road. Both major political parties in the city are committed to increasing the use of Dore station. The chance to create a proper park-and-ride site at Dore station must not be missed.

*Peter Fox, Chairman,  
Hope Valley Railway Users' Group*



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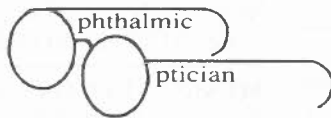
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## Book Reviews

Everyone uses them, driving to work or taking the dog for a walk, but how many of us stop to wonder why a road or footpath is there in the first place and what it can tell us about the past?

Ever since man began travelling between places routes developed, possibly taking the easiest ground or simply linking a series of settlements. The need to move livestock, the advent of pack animals and horse riding, all created different needs, as did the passage of armies or wagons. Old routeways fell into disuse, new routes had to be diverted around man made obstacles or sometimes unsympathetic land owners.

*Peakland Roads and Trackways*, originally written by A & E Dodd and now in its third edition, has become the definitive guide to the history of routes in The Peak. Generously illustrated with pictures and maps, it takes a chronological approach from the evidence of Prehistoric Trackways, through the Roman, Dark and Middle Ages, to the beginning of modern roads in the Tudor and Stuart times. There are also chapters on Packhorse Ways and Drovers Roads as well as the Turnpike Era. This is a fascinating story, finding ancient routes and solving the links between them is still going on, as new clues are discovered.

Salt for instance was a vital commodity for preserving meat and traded over long distances. It formed part of a Roman soldiers pay as his 'salarium' hence our word salary. Salt routes to the west of Sheffield can still be traced through names such as Psalter Lane and Saltersford. Guide stones, old coaching inns, toll bars and milestones can still be found all giving clues to the past. *Peakland Roads and Trackways*, is published in a 190 page hardback by Landmark Publishing, price £19.95 ISBN 1-901522-91-1.

Another interesting Peak Land book is *Crosses of the Peak District* written by Neville Sharpe author of several local history books. Over the years he has gathered information on nearly two hundred crosses ancient and modern to be found in churchyards, along old tracks or at parish boundaries. These vary from richly carved Saxon Crosses to comparatively plain ones or even a remaining base or stump.

After an introduction to the history of crosses and their sad destruction by royal edict, vandalism and acid rain, the crosses are categorised and detailed in seven chapters. Details on each cross are supplemented by numerous photographs plus illustrations and positional maps. The result is a book which opens up a whole new fascinating world and which provides many a location to seek out when travelling around the Peak. *Crosses of the Peak District* is published in a 130 page hardback by Landmark Publishing, price £14.95 ISBN 1-84306-044-2.

Chances are that, if you ask anyone what they know about the Peak District, after the scenery they will mention lead mining. It seems almost a contradiction that such a beautiful area should have been the scene of an extensive metal industry from pre-Roman times almost up to the present day. The evidence is all around us, from hummocks and pits in fields to ruined buildings and waterworks.

Lathkill Dale is now a renowned beauty spot and favourite walking location. A new book *Lathkill Dale Derbyshire its Mines and Miners* will put a whole new slant on its beauty. Written by J Rieuwerts the book sets out to explain the history of mining in the area, illustrated by maps and pictures including many underground. The location of mine shafts, the purposes of remaining buildings and the machinery used are all explained. I happened to walk the dale a

week before the book arrived and had many questions to be answered which it did. *Lathkill Dale Derbyshire its Mines and Miners* is published in a 110 page hardback by Landmark Publishing, price £16.95 ISBN 1-901522-80-6

*Peak District Mining and Quarrying* is a more general guide to the history of these activities in the area. Full of photographs capturing the buildings, action and mood of the two related industries, the book has 14 chapters covering early mining, mining law, the techniques used, and caring for our mining heritage. The pictures taken underground of tools and artifacts left behind are particularly interesting. Together the chapters outline the history of the mining industry and its decline and help to explain what remains for us to see today. Published in paperback by Tempus publishing *Peak District Mining and Quarrying* runs to 128 pages in paperback price £9.99 ISBN 0-7524-1710-x

Some time ago Don Allott, of Fred and Gingers hairdressers on Baslow Road, set out to put together a collection of his poetry in a small book in aid of charity. You can buy the book, *Voices & Verses*, at his shop or that of Transport 17, with the proceeds of sales divided equally between the Children's Hospital and Transport 17. At £2 it must be a bargain with 55 poems in its A4 pages. Something here to please, tempt or tease and all for charity.

**Stepping Out** The Dore Village Society offers an occasional programme of walks, mainly in the area around Dore. Forthcoming walks include a visit to Chatsworth Park on 16th November, starting at 9am from the Old School and our annual Wassail Walk for all the family on 27th December starting at 10am from the Old School, followed by hot drinks and mince pies. Everyone welcome.

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## Diary - Winter 2002

### NOVEMBER

- 15 **Quiz Night**, King Egbert School, 8pm start, £3. Bring your own refreshments.
- 16 **Morning walk** with Wyvern Walkers. Meet 9.30am at the Old School.
- 16 **Concert** Coronation Anthems - Handel. Mass in G & B flat - Schubert. Sheffield Bach Society. 7.30pm Sheffield Cathedral. Tickets £9, concessions £7 from 266 8257.
- 19 **The Garage Project**, talk by Kris Woods for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, Church Hall, 7.45pm Contact 236 3171
- 20-23 **A Class of Their Own** T.O.A.D.S. autumn play by Hugh Steadman Williams at St John's Church Hall, 7.30pm. Tickets 236 6891
- 21 **Coffee Morning** Totley & Dore support group for the visually impaired, social meeting 11am at 4 Grove Road.
- 23 **Table Top Sale**, Egbert School, 10am - 12 noon. £6 per table, 50p admission. Details from 236 0787
- 27 **Natural History through the Seasons** Illustrated talk by David Webb for the Dore Village Society, Methodist Church Hall 7.30pm. Admission free, everyone welcome
- 27 **Sir Edward Lutyens** Talk on his work by Margaret Richardson for the Sheffield Society for Encouragement of Art, Ranmoor Parish Centre 2.30pm free admission. Information from 236 0941
- 30 **Open Day** Traditional Heritage Museum, 605 Ecclesall Road 10.30 - 4.30pm
- 30 **Christmas Fair**, St John's Abbeydale, Church Hall, 2pm

### DECEMBER

- 3 **Woodhead - The lost Railway**, illustrated talk by Kris Woods for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, Church Hall, 7.45pm Contact 236 3171
- 4 **Victorian Christmas Fayre** Sheffield Cheshire Home, Mickley Hall 10am-12 noon
- 5 **Victorian Productions Concert** Sheffield Cheshire Home, Mickley Hall 7pm Tickets 236 7491
- 6 **Christmas Market** Dore Mothers' Union, The Old School, 10am - 12 noon. Plant stall, Flower arrangements, Bring & Buy, Bric-a-brac. £1 incl coffee & mince pies.
- 6-7 **Great Christmas Sale** at Work Ltd on Ringinglow Road from 10am to 4pm
- 6-9 **Christmas Street Fayre**, Bakewell, with stalls, markets & entertainment.
- 7-6 Jan **Xmas Lights** Great Hucklow every evening from dusk
- 8 **Santa Special**, miniature railway in Ecclesall Woods off Abbeydale Road. 11am-3pm with Santa in Grotto from 12 noon. Admission £3 incl coffee & mince pies - soft drink and wrapped present for children. Details from 236 9002
- 8 **Christmas Show** - Hamster Society with classes for hamsters and other guinea pig or smaller mammals. Bradway Scout Hall, Bradway Drive . Entries 11.30am.
- 9 **Handel's MESSIAH**, Sheffield Bach Society, 7pm Sheffield Cathedral. Sheffield Bach Players. Conductor Peter Collis. Tickets £10, concessions £8 from 266 8257.
- 10 **Christmas Concert** Escafeld Chorale, Woodseats Methodist Church
- 10 **Sheffield Manor Castle** - after the Park .Talk by George Jones for Hunter Archaeological Society, 7.30pm lecture theatre 9, Arts Tower, University of Sheffield. Details: 236 1471
- 10 **Christmas Party**, Dore Ladies Group, 7.45pm Church Hall, Townhead Road.
- 11 **Christmas Luncheon**, Dore 'A' Townswomens Guild, Old School, 1.30pm.
- 11 **Concert** Loxley Silver Band, Sheffield Cheshire Home, Mickley Hall 7pm Tickets 236 7491
- 13 **Protecting our Heritage & Christmas Social** An illustrated history by Hilary Roos & Elsa Greaves for the Hallamshire Historic Building Society, 7.30pm, Houlden

Hall, St Mary's Cathedral, Norfolk Row. Tel 274 8046 Visitors £2

- 14 **Christmas Concert** Dore Male Voice Choir at Dore Parish Church. Tickets 236 4367
- 15 **Santa Special**, miniature railway - see 8th Dec for details.
- 16 **MESSIAH**, come and sing with the Sheffield Bach Society, 7.30pm Dore Parish Church. Tickets £6 includes mulled wine & mince pies. Details from 230 3541.
- 17 **Christmas Celebrations** at Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, Church Hall, 7.45pm Contact 236 3171
- 18 **Carol Service** with children from Totley Primary School, 10.15am at Totley Library. Everyone welcome.
- 24 **Christmas Carols** Sheffield Cheshire Home, Mickley Hall 11am-12 noon
- 27 **Wassail Walk** with the Dore Village Society. Start 10am at the Old School. Approx 5 miles. Mince pies and punch (or soft drinks) on return. Everyone welcome.

### JANUARY

- 7 **Healthy Eating**, Sainsburys demonstration & sampling, Dore Ladies Group, 7.45pm Church Hall, Townhead Road.
- 8 **Tales out of School** Talk by Mr Don Bullock for Dore 'A' Townswomens Guild, Old School, 2pm
- 14 **Caves and Bones** Talk by Andrew Chamberlain for Hunter Archaeological Society, 7.30pm lecture theatre 9, Arts Tower, University of Sheffield. Details: 236 1471
- 27 **Joseph Locke** - leading railway builder. Talk by Graham Hague for South Yorkshire Industrial History Society, Kelham Island Museum, 7.30pm visitors welcome - for small donation

### FEBRUARY

- 3 **The Attercliffe Story** Illustrated talk by John Salt for the Hallamshire Historic Building Society, 7.30pm, Quaker Meeting House, St James Street. 274 8046 Visitors £2
- 4 **Greentop Circus**, talk and demonstration by Mrs Caroline Veal for Dore Ladies Group, 7.45pm Church Hall, Townhead Road.
- 5 **The Pottery Industry in South Yorkshire** Talk by John Griffin for the Sheffield Society for Encouragement of Art, Ranmoor Parish Centre 2.30pm free admission. Information from 236 0941
- 11 **Wicker Viaduct and Victoria Station** Talk by Graham Hague for Hunter Archaeological Society, 7.30pm lecture theatre 9, Arts Tower, University of Sheffield. Details: 236 1471
- 12 **The Isle of Man** Talk by Mrs Catherine Mackay for Dore 'A' Townswomens Guild, Old School, 2pm
- 15 **Clean Up** Join the Rangers in Ecclesall Woods. Meet in lay-by near woodyard on Abbey Lane 1pm-3pm Tel: 203 7206
- 22 **Concert**, Vespers of 1610 Monteverdi, Sheffield Bach Society. 7.30pm Sheffield Cathedral. Tickets £9, concessions £7 from 266 8257.



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