

# DORE to DOOR

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

No. 70 SUMMER 2003

ISSN 0965-8912

## Village Design Statement

On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> of June, the Dore Village Society is organising a Design Day Workshop in the Church Hall, Townhead Road. This will provide an interesting and hopefully fun opportunity to join in the process of preparing 'The Village Design Statement'.

The aim will be to focus on the essential character of Dore, by looking more carefully at different parts of the village and describing their special features and character.

This information will then make a valuable contribution to providing guidance to developers and planners when designing or deciding on future new developments.

In order to get as many people as possible involved, the day has been organised in such a way that you may come for the whole day, or just the morning or afternoon. Be sure to make this a date in your diary.

Outline Village Design Day programme:

- 9.30am Meet at the Church Hall  
– coffee & tea provided.
- 10am Brainstorming session on the village character.
- 11am Small teams make photographic surveys of areas of the village.
- 1 pm Relax with your packed lunch in the Church Hall – tea or coffee.
- 2 pm Discussion within team's of their findings.
- 2.30pm Collate and present conclusions for other teams to see.
- 3.30pm Finish

Everyone in the village can contribute to the Village Design Statement by providing their views on the special character of Dore and their neighbourhood. Enclosed with this copy of 'Dore to Door' is a short questionnaire. If you value your local environment, please complete this and return it by hand or post to the addresses provided.

It would also aid arrangements for the Village Design Day on the 28<sup>th</sup> June if you would indicate your willingness to come to the workshop at some time during the day by calling 262 1127.

*David Crosby*

## Festival changes

This years Dore Festival will spread over two weeks, from Saturday 28th June to Saturday 12 July. This allows for the Well Dressing Service to follow the erection of the wells, rather than a week later. It also allows time for more events overall.

Full details will be posted on the Dore Village Society noticeboard nearer the time.



*Victorian houses on Abbeydale Road South.*

*Brian Edwards*

## DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

Summer Meeting

7.30pm Wednesday

4 June

Methodist Church Hall

AGM and talk on "The making of Whinfell Quarry Gardens"

by Stephen Doncaster

## Causeway Head Road

Despite the scrapping of the Dore Area Road Safety Scheme, the project to provide a crossing on Causeway Head Road remains alive and well. During a recent discussion with an official in the City Council's Road Safety section, we were told that the consultation phase has produced no objections to the scheme. This means that the detailed design can be finalised and sent to Street Force for implementation, which is now expected to take place "either late in the summer or in the autumn".

Although we have yet to see the final drawings, it is believed that the crossing will be located close to the telephone box near the newsagent and will incorporate a refuge in the middle of the road, thus enabling the crossing to be made in two stages. The presence of the refuge should also assist in reducing traffic speed at that point. It is also believed that there will be alterations to the junctions with both High Street and Devonshire Terrace Road. A copy of layout drawing is awaited.

## Buxton Heritage Visit

This year the Society's summer visit is to Buxton on Saturday 14th June.

Buxton is notable for: Festivals, Opera House, Vintage cars, Roman spa, Georgian spa, The Old Hall Hotel, The Crescent, The Slopes, St. Ann's Well, (Bring an empty container!), the Pump Room, The Pavilion Gardens, The Devonshires, the (former) Devonshire Royal Hospital (1881 with the largest domed area in Europe), Retail therapy and its climate!

We have put together what we hope with prove an interesting and enjoyable visit starting with a 2 hour guided tour. This will take in the Spa areas, the Pavilion Gardens, Opera House, plus Higher Buxton St. Anne's church and Museum and Art Gallery, which presents an excellent exhibition of Peak District Archaeology.

Then there is time to experience some of the other sites yourselves or to take refreshments in the Pavilion Gardens or Spring Gardens.

The all-inclusive cost of the visit will be £12, departing 12 noon prompt from Causeway Head Road and returning at 6pm.

Tickets on a first come basis are available from Pat Pryor on 236 9831 or John Baker on 236 9025. Don't miss it!

## Council Elections

Our May local election results were:

M Biram	Green	216
D Crosby	Labour	926
M Waters	Conservative	2,401
K Hill	Lib Dem	3,276

Turnout was up on 2002

## Ashfurlong Road Traffic

One of the conditions attached to the initial granting of planning permission for development on the site of 'Blue Ridge', was that a one-way system be introduced on part of Ashfurlong Road i.e. between the junction with Dore Road and Cavendish Avenue.

Currently traffic moves with some caution on this stretch of road, in anticipation that it might meet vehicles coming in the other direction. The Dore Village Society feels that removal of this disincentive to speed would undoubtedly put pedestrians at an increased risk given the absence of a footpath.

We therefore wrote to the Council in January stressing our view that there should be proper consultation with local residents and the society, outside the planning process, before any decision was reached. We believe issues of safety and the preservation of the very nature of our last historic lane in the area, should be worthy of more than a sideline to a housing development.

Sadly this request was ignored and notice of a proposed traffic order posted on the roadside in April. We have subsequently written again asking for this to be withdrawn pending proper public consultation (many people will be unaware of the proposed traffic order) and evidence as to what alternatives or modifications to the road have been considered.

### DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1017051

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

#### Chairman (Dore to Door)

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

#### Vice Chairman (Environment)

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

#### Treasurer

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

#### Secretary

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

#### Committee

Mrs L E Baker 236 9025  
(Dore Show & FEW)

Mr D Crosby 262 1127

Mr D Heslop 236 5043  
(Planning)

Mrs V Malthouse 236 3632

Mr P Pryor 236 9831

A good few years ago, rights to a strip of land along the side of the road had been retained by the Council, for possible future widening. An approach to get this strip made into a pedestrian footway was rejected and subsequently the land was returned to an adjoining property. At that time, and subsequently, suggestions for making the road one-way have been firmly rejected by council officials on safety grounds, for the very reason that there would be an increased risk to pedestrians.

The whole handling of this matter has been particularly insensitive, given that the Council recently arbitrarily withdrew funding for a Dore Area-Wide Road Safety Scheme, which would have involved community consultation.

## Dore Festival 2003

Dore Festival this year will be spread over two weeks. It will start on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June with a Village Design Workshop organised by Dore Village Society. The hugely popular Village Gardens Open Day is on Sunday June 29<sup>th</sup>, a week earlier than usual, so note it in your diaries. On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July Dore Ladies Group invite everyone to their meeting and talk by Irene Haniewicz on a wartime journey from Poland to England.

Another change to this years programme is the date of the Well Dressing Service on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July, timed to occur as soon as the boards go up and while they are still in pristine condition. The traditional cream teas organised by the Methodist Church ladies will accompany this event.

On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July, there will be an exhibition of Dore Village life throughout the 20th Century, based on the recorded memories collected by the Dore Oral History Group. This promises to be a very exciting event.

Festival fortnight will also include, a family Fun Run and Lord Conyers Morris Men, the ever popular concerts and a return of the Sterndale Singers. On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July we welcome back The Company who will perform their swash-buckling adaptation of the Prisoner of Zenda on the Village Green. Remember the play will go on whatever the weather.

For details of all events see the calendar on the back page.

The Committee look forward to your support throughout Festival Fortnight.

*Maureen Cope, Syd Crowson,  
Anne Elsdon*

## Daffodil show

The daffodils planted around the village by volunteers have given a wonderful show again this year. Sadly they are not always respected by residents, their children and pets.

On Mothering Sunday this year, a woman was seen to stop her car on Cross Lane and cut herself a bunch with a pair of scissors!

## Membership Subscriptions

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

If you have not already paid your subscription for this year, please do so at Green's shop on Causeway Head Road, or at the DVS room in the Old School between 10am & 12 noon on the first Saturday each month. Next Open Morning 7th June.

## Dore Male Voice Choir

The Choir attended the Mexborough and District Music Festival in March. This is a prestigious festival that has been run annually since 1912. The Choir entered the Male Voice Choir section of the Festival and won first prize. The cup was very acceptable, but the barrel of beer was even more so!

On 11th March the Choir was honoured to present a concert for the Lord Mayor at Sheffield Cathedral. The Sheffield Young Person's Choir were our guests and the proceeds went to the Archer Project, the Lord Mayor's charity.

On 7th May the Macmillan Centre at the Northern General were celebrating the first anniversary of the opening, and asked the Choir to provide the entertainment for the event.

The Choir is enjoying a very busy programme of concerts and will next be in Dore at St John's Church on Saturday 21st June, and then again at the Dore Festival when we will be joined by the Dore and Totley Townswomen's Guild Choir on Thursday 10th July (see the Programme of Events for details).

*David Heslop*

## Editorial & Advertising

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

If you are interested in submitting an article or letter, have local news to report, or wish to place an advertisement, please contact the Editor John Baker on 236 9025 or write to:

The Editor; Dore to Door;  
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[ Email editor@dorevillage.co.uk ]

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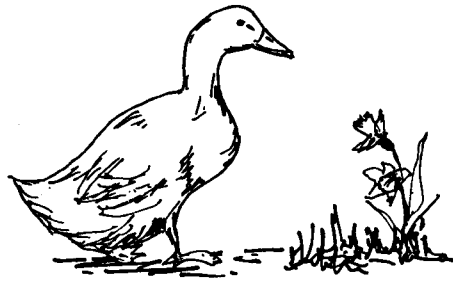
## Jean Recalls

First let me apologise to those who took exception to my remarks in the Spring Dore to Door, when I called to shame Darnall. I thought everyone would realise it was written with "tongue in cheek". A sense of humour seems sadly lacking in some people.

I much enjoyed Richard's article on Joe Rowarth. What a character he was. I remember also the gypsies camping on 'The Parish Piece' as the piece of land on the opposite side of the road from Owlet Farm, was known. It was quite open when I was young but the Corporation blocked the entrance and it became very overgrown. The gypsies used to make wooden pegs with, I believe ash wood and strips of metal cut from old cans to bind the two pieces together. They lasted for years, didn't mark your clothing and never blew off the line.

Children were threatened if they didn't behave that the gypsies would take them, but it was always summer when they came and life as a gypsy seemed quite romantic. They were very unpopular with the grown-ups, poaching and nicking. They never seemed to be here long.

One glorious hot day Miss Davies, our teacher took us to look round Totley Brick Works. Not for us the luxury cruise to the Med., we got half a day to foot it there and back. I don't remember being all that enthusiastic for a look at a brick works, but we did get a drink and a biscuit in their canteen.



*Duck and daffodils.*

*David Heslop*

It was burning hot on the way home, Miss Davies and the pupils who lived at the Totley end left us at the top of Old Hay Lane. We were all dying of thirst and on the way down Old Hay somebody acquired a bottle of pop but it had a crown top and we had no means of removing it efficiently. It was hit on the stone wall, glass and pop everywhere but none to quench us. Can you imagine children of 10 and younger being left their own devices these days.

I eventually arrived, hot, dusty, minus one hair ribbon and the buckle from my sandal. I had further to go than most, living on Newfield Lane. Happy days!

There are still too many dog faeces on the pavements. Fifty poo bags only cost £1.50. But I do think we need more bins, though I'd hate the job of having to empty them, especially in summer. We shall soon be able to dispense with replacing the asphalt too; there is so much chewing gum around.

*Jean Dean*

## Mr Fisher's Ducks

"Mr Fisher's Ducks" is the title of a new story for children set in Dore Village. Written by Marjorie Dunn and illustrated by David Heslop OBE, all profits from sales of the book will go to Pearson's Holiday Fund for deprived children and other local charities.

Copies of the book, price £4.75 will be on sale from the Dore Village Society stall at the Scout Gala on the 12th July.

## Electoral changes

How many people are aware I wonder, that from the Council elections in 2004, the boundaries and possible name of Dore Ward will change radically?

Proposals, put forward by the Boundary Committee for England, aim to equalise the size of Sheffield electoral wards by redrawing their boundaries. In our case the 'ward' will lose Low Edges and Lower Bradway, but gain Whirlow. The name of the ward may also change to reflect that it will be made up of four distinct communities - Dore, Totley, Bradway & Whirlow. The committee's report suggests Totley & Dore but the name Upper Sheaf has been put forward as an alternative by people responding to the proposals.

One important side effect of the changes will be the need to elect new councillors for all the wards in 2004 i.e. three at one go for Dore.

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## Letters

Dear Sir,  
Collective noun for ducks.

Well done on another fine edition of Dore to Door. Hope the following may be of interest:

There are several collective nouns for ducks:

a spring (unfortunately this applies to teal and I don't think our ducks qualify)

a flight (in the air, which they often aren't, even with the best attempts of impatient motorists)

a team (maybe we should get them a new strip?)

a paddling (on water - this seems the best one since they're often dabbling in the well by the deli or their home-made puddle by the greengrocers)

Hope this helps 'the Puppet Lady'!

*Paula Smith*

Dear Sir,  
"Blue Ridge"

The demolition of Blue Ridge and the projected re-development of the site cause me to feel a degree of nostalgic sadness.

The house was built by (or for) my uncle, Herbert Brownhill, in the mid 1930's when I was a small boy. I was very proud of my rich Uncle Bert who ran a very successful oil business from his office in Campo Lane, besides being a figure of some importance in the Scouting Movement. The splendid house which he built was proof of his acumen throughout the years of the Depression.

'Uncle' Bert was in fact the husband of my father's cousin, whom I knew as Auntie Cissie (Isobel). They had a daughter, Doreen, who was much older than I and whom I saw on but rare occasions.

The house was originally known as Ashfurlong House, Cavendish Avenue, and my uncle was at pains to point out that the

roof tiles, which he said were green, were distinctive among the red roofs of the other new houses. You could see his green roof from Tinker's Corner at Bradway.

Several times before the War my uncle would come to collect myself, my brother, father, mother and grandfather from our very modest home at Gleadless and drive us to Dore in his Lagonda for Sunday afternoon tea. Besides the excellent tea, I remember playing ball games on the lawn and retrieving the ball from the new shrubberies. There was also a luxurious padded and canopied swing-seat on the terrace, and a bell to call the Maid to the dining room from the kitchen, a piece of advanced technology operated by a foot switch under the table. I was much impressed.

The war came and I never visited or saw the house again until in recent years when I returned to Sheffield after a long time away. My uncle died in 1946 and my aunt remarried. I last saw her in 1948, but I remember both aunt and uncle as kind, if slightly awe-inspiring people, generous to my brother (who was their Godson) and to me. I am sorry to learn that the green (blue?) tiles will soon be gone and that the site will be crowded and the traffic congested.

*Anthony Fry*

Dear Sir,

I think that most drivers must be aware of the fact that although overall motoring accident statistics have improved in recent years, Britain still has a poor record with regard to accidents to pedestrians, and especially to children. A major factor of course is speeding in urban areas, as recognised by recent television campaigns, and the proliferation of speed humps. How does one get through to the arrogant minority to whom speed limits evidently do not apply?

Blacka Moor Road is a wider than average road, and quite straight for a good proportion of its length, ideal in fact for those so inclined to floor the accelerator pedal and see just what speed they can attain before having to brake.

Other roads in Dore such as Church Lane, Dore Road, and Causeway Head Road will of course be used in this way by the same selfish minority.

I should like to appeal via your columns, to the boy/girl racer brigade, to just think about it, and imagine how they would feel if it was their child who was knocked down by someone who couldn't be bothered to observe speed restrictions.

*Name and address supplied*

Dear Sir,

I wonder if anyone can help me please.

I am researching the history of John Henry Parkes aged 25, married 12.2.1894 in Christ Church Dore to Ada Boucher aged 22, daughter of Thomas Boucher. Her father and mother Thomas & Cecelia Boucher also lived in the village, that name may also jog someones memory.

I have not been able to find records of any children they had, but know that they still lived in the Village, as by 1923 John Henry became known as simply Henry. I have only found details for a John Henry Parkes and Rose/Rosey/Rosie. In 1923 they were living in "MOSTYN" Totley Brook Road, and John Henry, "Henry" as later known, was an accomplished violin player. They were a very well known musical family in Sheffield and had a musical shop.

I would be very grateful if anyone has any information no matter how little about the family or anything they feel would help me in my search. I can be reached by email at Patgeni13@aol.com or via the editor.

*Pat Smith*

Dear Sir,

I am doing some research into the life of Alice May Crossland, who was a piano teacher and also Enid Blyton's aunt. She lived on Meadow Drive from around the late 1940s to the early 1960s. Does anyone remember her please? Maybe you were even one of her pupils and know if she ever composed music herself. I should be so grateful to hear. I can be reached on Tel: 268 3173 at 50 Benty Lane, Sheffield S10 5NF.

*Primrose Lockwood*

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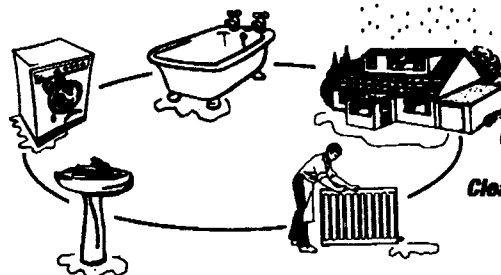
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Dear Sir,

Whatever the arguments about the 'value for money' side of the PFI schemes, (see Doremouse in the spring issue), if this was the only way we were going to replace the King Ecgbert School buildings, surely it was worth doing? The current buildings are, by anyone's standards, an appalling eyesore and a dreadful place for both pupils and staff to work.

The benefit of a new school to a huge number of village residents now and in the future should surely outweigh the views of a few vociferous individuals who stand to be minorly inconvenienced.

*Name & address supplied*

Dear Sir,

Re Dore Churchyard Broken Headstones. I am writing on behalf of my wife's family, many of whom were buried in the village and surrounding area.

The family name was 'Bishop'. Both Alf Willis and their sister, Evelyn were born at High Greave Farm and they ran the farm after their parents died. Many of the family, including the above, are buried in Dore Churchyard in a double space.

The existing family are very upset at this vandalism carried out on the instructions of the City council. The grave was attended to fairly regularly and the headstones appeared to be perfectly stable. No doubt the men involved in this operation considered it to be a safety precaution, but did anyone involved consider the feelings of these relatives before this action was taken.

*Sidney Smith*

Dear Sir,

In response to Marjorie Dunn's request for a collective term for ducks on the ground, I believe the answer she is seeking may be a 'padding of ducks'.

However there appears to be a collection of different terms for specific types of ducks.

Bunch knob or spring of Teal.

A dopping of Sheldrakes.

Sord or sute of Mallards.

Flight, rush, bunch or knob of pochards.

Team of ducks (in flight).

Flock or gaggle of geese.

Gaggle of geese (on the ground)

Bunch, company or knob of widgeon (in water).

Flight of widgeon (in the air).

Herd or bevy of swans.

Hope I haven't ducked the issue.

*Joan Beard*

Dear Sir,

In a couple of years when the new larger King Ecgbert School is built and the old Mercia building (on the other side of the road) is no longer required, will this land be safe from development?

I attended one of the meetings about the new school and I recall someone saying 'builders would only be able to use the same area as the Mercia school uses. Is this true and how can we protect the football fields below?

I suppose I'm dreaming, but it would be nice if local residents could somehow buy the land for safekeeping.

*Ian Colledge*

## News in brief

March was the driest in Sheffield since records began 121 years ago, with no rain between the 13th & 30th and only 38.4mm overall compared to an average 68mm.

The recycling site on Blackstock Road has now reopened following refurbishment.

Dore Male Voice Choir won the Mexborough Music Festival in March.

Developers of land taken from the grounds of King Ecgbert School have appealed against the councils refusal of their planning application to build 19 homes.

Michael Vaughan, whose wedding banns were read in Dore church recently, is Look North's Sportsman of the Year. A more interesting claim to fame is that he will appear on the front of Wisden, the cricketers' bible. Rather like the original Times newspaper, Wisden has only so far carried print on its cover, so Michael's photo is a break with tradition and another feather in his cap. To cap it all he has now been chosen as England's one-day captain.

Foothills shop on Edgedale Road now has a new in-store Rohan shop for performance clothing and travel wear, plus a new larger boot fitting department with children's distractions and free coffee on tap!

Well done to two New Open University graduates in Dore, Mark Brooks from Chatsworth Road who gained an MBA and Dr Philip Seagar (age 76) from Blacka Moor Road who gained a BA (Hons) in humanities.

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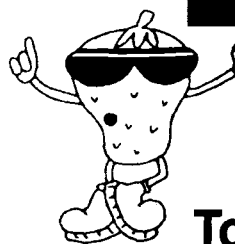
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## Did you know?

Why not demolish all the houses in Dore and start again! Sometimes I think this is what will happen given sufficient time. The latest proposal involves the demolition of the Old Vicarage at the bottom of Water Lane, and which fronts onto Abbeydale Road. This is a beautiful Victorian building, part of our history and part of the character of the area. If this goes, why not all the Victorian houses on Dore Road. Still, after the mess made of Abbeydale Hall, perhaps this so called Golden Route (the Abbeydale Road corridor) is destined to be lined by dormitory flats i.e. a gold mine for developers!

Why is it, that having chosen to live in Dore, people set out to spoil the very place they love? Recently the picnic area on Limb Lane has been graced with a dumped TV, black sacks and piles of garden rubbish. These may have been dumped by a so called garden contractor, but ten to one they come from somewhere in Dore. And it is not as if our wheelie bins aren't large enough.



Another car parked on top of a road junction in the village.

Another form of lack of consideration is the parking in the village.

Time and again you will find 'cruisers' driving round the village centre searching for a parking space. Meanwhile those spaces that do exist are hogged all day by bus travellers and people working in the village. How much business must local shops loose as a result?

The 'cruisers' themselves are a danger with their minds on finding a space rather than on other road users or pedestrians. But then they settle, regardless of double yellow lines, people's driveways, or restricting the field of view at junctions. All this to avoid parking 100 yards away and walking a short distance.

*Doremouse*

## Weight trials

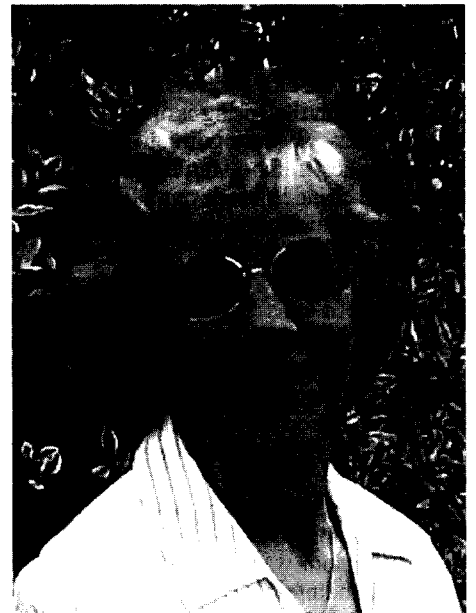
Dore Village Society Treasurer Mary Watson felt she had nothing to lose but her weight, when she applied to enter a recent BBC television series called the Diet Trials. Mary weighed more than 16 stone when she became one of 300 contestants in the spring of last year.

The participants were each given one of four different diet routines. Mary took on Rosemary Connelly's scheme, which along with regular exercise banishes chocolate and all things fatty. Then after a six month period, with regular weighing and check ups, the trial finished in January.

The results were screened nightly over a couple of weeks, culminating in the final programme when the overall winner was announced.

A delighted Mary turned out to have lost four and a half stone, the greatest amount, making her the overall winner. Since then she has gone on to lose five and a half stone in total, which brings her to her target weight.

She is modest about her achievement, which is as much due to her will power as it is to the specific diet. One thing is certain. She won't allow herself to put all that weight back on again!



*Mary Watson, champion weight loser.*

## Ladybower Challenge

Do you enjoy walking in the beautiful Derbyshire countryside? Well, King Egbert School Association, is organising a 26 mile Challenge Walk on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> June.

It will start and end at our Wessex Building on Trolley Brook Road in Dore, going out to Ladybower Reservoir via Burbage Rocks, and returning via Hope and Grindleford Cafe, where the main walk ends and lifts are available back to school.

There will also be a short walk of about 14 miles for those who don't wish to do the full walk. The walk is part of the parent-teacher association fundraising effort and for the entry fee we provide:-

- checkpoints en route with free cold drinks
- free travel from checkpoints back to the finish for walkers wishing to retire
- a certificate if the walk is completed in 12 hours
- a ploughman's platter and tea at the finish point
- First Aid personnel in attendance

For both walks, it is up to you to decide on your route, but you have to check in at the checkpoints. The cost of the walk is £7.00 (£4.00 for under 18's), and £8.00 on the day. Badges and T-shirts will be available at extra cost, please see application form. Under 16's will have to walk with a responsible adult and under 18's need written parental consent. For further information or application form please send a S.A.E. to: Walk Organiser, K.E.S.A., King Egbert School, Furness Avenue, Dore, Sheffield, S17 3QN.

## 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)

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## Planning matters

**Got the blues.** There has recently been a new application for the 'Blue Ridge' site. This time the developer has applied for consent for proposals that are a variation on the plans that recently received Planning Consent for development with five flats and ten detached houses. This time there is a proposal to vary the approved development by providing six flats and nine houses. The changes would be achieved, firstly by providing two flats in the space occupied by one flat on the second floor of the approved block of flats. There would be no change in the envelope or mass of this building, the flats would just be smaller.

Secondly the number of houses on the site is proposed to be reduced by removing one house, adjusting the boundaries on the plots and building a larger house on the resultant larger plot. Thirdly, the developer proposes to build conservatories attached to some of the houses.

As reported in the Spring issue of *Dore to Door* one condition that was placed on the recent Consent was the intention to make Ashfurlong Road into a 'one way street' between Dore Road and Cavendish Avenue. Maybe the planners will have second thoughts when they deal with this new application (see the comments elsewhere in this issue).

**Feeling full.** A Planning Application has been made by the owners of the former vicarage, 234 Abbeydale Road South, for the demolition of the existing building and

the erection of 30 two bedroom flats. The property is nearly opposite the bottom of Twentywell Lane.

Apart from being four and partly five storeys in height, the development is on a site which is only 0.23 hectares (0.57 acres in real money) in size. Normal development expectations are for about 30 units to the hectare, and thus the application here is for a density four times as great. Are there no limits to an applicant's aspirations?

The Society has objected on the grounds of over development of the site in respect of the number of flats, the height of the buildings, and the consequent excess of traffic generated at the already difficult junction of Abbeydale Road South and Twentywell Lane.

**Sounds bad.** The developers of the new King Egbert School have applied for an amendment to one of the conditions on the recent Planning Consent. The existing condition prevented any activity within the property that causes a noise outside the buildings. The particular concern, and the reason for the condition, is the nuisance that would be caused to neighbours. There is already a history of concerns in the locality about excessive noise from discos at the present school buildings. The application is for the condition to be waived on occasions when permitted by the Planning Authority.

**Feeling better.** You may recall our concerns, expressed in this column in the Spring Issue, about the planning application to build a bungalow in the back garden of 122 Busheywood Road. We objected strongly as the plot (fronting Gilleyfield

Avenue) was far too small for an additional property. We were pleased that the application was recently refused by the Council on the grounds of over development of the site.

*David Heslop*

## Road Signs

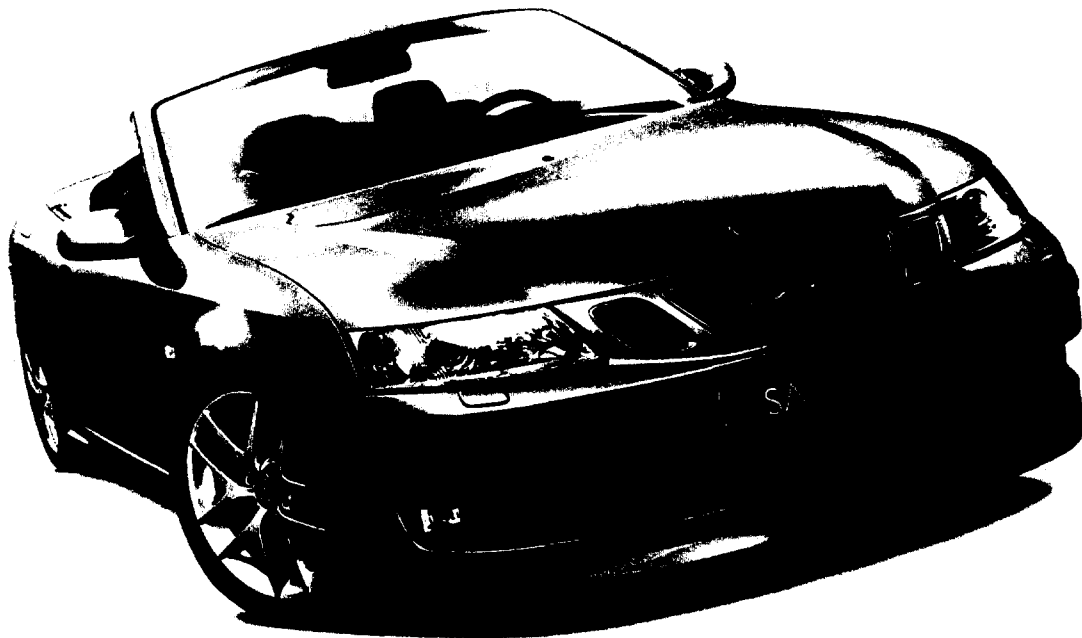
Good news! Almost all of my list in the last issue of D to D, have been erected in the last month. They are more compact in appearance, having a more vertical typeface. The 15 are:

Ashfurlong Road (Dore Road end), Ash House Lane (top), Brickhouse Lane (bottom left), Cross Lane (by bus stop), Devonshire Road (lower), Kerwin Drive (Kerwin Rd end), King Egbert Road, Limb Lane, Old Hay Lane (by Avenue Farm), Penny Lane, Topley Brook Croft, Topley Brook Road (near school), Twentywell Lane (at lower junction), Vicarage Lane (by church), Victor Road (Dore Rd end).

Was it following the bad storms that both Causeway Gardens signs were damaged in early April? I'd say yes to the right and no to the left. Even a bad storm doesn't take off a non rusted sign from a sound support and fold it at right angles! The top of Heather Lea Avenue is now bereft of any sign. The neighbours couldn't cast any light on when the last vanished. However, at the crossroads below there seems to be an overload-- 4 identical signs for a wide visible junction. The obvious solution is to move one up the road.

*Gillian Farnsworth*

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## George Elsdon 1935 – 2003

*We are sad to announce the death on 2nd April of George Elsdon a highly regarded member of the Dore Village Society committee. Derek Habberjam pays a personal tribute.*

George joined the Dore Village Society committee in 1996 and was responsible for membership and assisting with monitoring traffic issues. He was instrumental in substantially increasing the membership and many people will have seen him in all weathers working on the DVS notice board in Devonshire Terrace. He was also a driving force in getting the floral tubs established in the village and worked as hard as anyone planting the first tranche of daffodils in 2001 which have been further enhanced this year with such a show. He was on the 267<sup>th</sup> Scout Group committee for 13 years (chair for 8 years) and always gave his all during the Scout Gala, working on any number of stalls.

George was an ex - Royal Naval CPO stoker before joining the Civil Service. The job eventually brought him from his Newcastle home, via Dorrige to Sheffield, having picked up innumerable friends along the way. He was one of those people who loved to be active and was never happier than when he was helping others. He helped out at the local luncheon club, flirting with the ladies and chatting to the old soldiers as if he had served with them all.

Members of the Dore Gilbert and Sullivan Society will remember him with fondness. His walk on parts were done with such aplomb. He had one of those personalities that exuded fun. If George was going to be there you knew you were going to enjoy yourself.

He loved walking. One of the reasons he was pleased to stay in Sheffield was the Peak District and the walks that were

available on his doorstep.

Whilst we will all miss him dreadfully, we cannot be sad at having known him. Those he touched will only have the happiest of memories. Everyone reacts in the same way saying that they cannot help but smile when they think of him. It's not a bad epitaph to have. He will leave behind happy memories for those of us who were privileged to have been his friends. We have all had better lives through knowing him. We loved him dearly. His legacy will last for years as we reminisce saying "Do you remember the time when George ....."!

*With great affection, Derek Habberjam*

## Flowers in the Village

Steve Bott and his team of gardeners at Norton Nurseries have their plans well in hand for the flower tubs, which will be placed around the village in June. The cost of the 15 tubs will be £1,058 including VAT.

Last year some people expressed doubt that the cannas (which are propagated at Norton) would stand up to the strong winds, but they did and made striking centrepieces to the fine displays. Steve and his team worked extremely hard on their entry to the 'Yorkshire in Bloom' competition, and thoroughly deserved their win.

In 2002 we just broke even in our collection of donations towards the cost of the tubs, which includes watering and maintenance throughout the season. Thank you to all those who gave so generously.

If you would like to contribute towards the cost of this years display, please send your donation to John Giles: - 10, Rushley Avenue, (tel. 236 1009), Angela Kingdon: - 19 The Meadway, (tel. 235 6122), or any member of the Dore Village Society committee. There will also be a collection box at Green's. Thank-you

## Daffodils again

No apologies for mentioning bulb planting yet again. Last autumn's efforts provided a colourful display of daffodils, crocus and snowdrops on various sites in the village.

We will be planting again in September, although possibly not quite the seven thousand bulbs that we managed last year. From reports the pilot scheme of crocus planting on the verges in Causeway Head Road was a success. We propose to extend this scheme again this year and continue in forthcoming years. However we will be also continuing with the daffodils.

Needless to say, the purchase of bulbs is expensive. We thank those who have donated in the past two years. If anyone feels they could contribute towards the cost it would be very much appreciated. Help in planting would also be warmly welcomed. Please contact me on 236 5043, or any other Committee Member.

*David Heslop*

## TV seeks good talkers!

Yorkshire Television is looking for people with strong opinions for a new discussion show. The Kay Mellor Show will be looking at subjects on which family and friends have very divided opinions!!

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If this - or anything else - is getting your goat - they want you and your family / friends for a lively debate! Just email [jo.maris@granadamedia.com](mailto:jo.maris@granadamedia.com), or ring her on 0113 222 8781.

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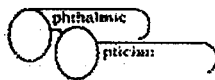
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(from OFSTED inspection report, December 1999)

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## Warning! Pick your strawberries while you can

*Roger Davis finds that all is not sunshine in the strawberry fields.*

Strawberries and cream for tea in the garden on a sunny afternoon. We must all have enjoyed such an idyllic experience at some time, perhaps just a few hours after picking the strawberries on a PYO basis at a nearby fruit farm. But be warned. Time is running out if you wish to repeat the experience on many more occasions and one local farmer is already planning to go right out of soft fruit growing after next year's crop has been gathered.

"Everything is going against us for this type of farming," said 54-year-old Edwin Pocock, of 100 acre Totle Hall Farm. "We have been here for 21 years, and started in the soft fruit business 20 years ago. "Strawberries have been very good to us, producing a major part of the farm's income, but many things have been building up to change the position.

"There have been years when we have sold more than 20 tons of strawberries from just ten acres of land, as well as raspberries, blackcurrants, redcurrants, gooseberries, tayberries and blackberries, but the figure is now down by 75 per cent. "The weather has been getting worse, with warm wet winters and wet summers, not the best of conditions for strawberries, and encouraging disease. The soil around Totle is clay, while strawberries do best in lighter loam.

"People no longer have the leisure time to go and pick strawberries, or to make strawberry jam at home, and the supermarkets can have cheap strawberries on sale throughout the year. "All these factors mean that the English tradition of going to pick strawberries is dying away in many places."

Before arriving in Totle, Edwin and his wife Jenny were farming at Bulkington, between Coventry and Nuneaton after leaving Chilton on the Lamborne Downs. Edwin comes from a farming family at Bampton, midway between Oxford and Swindon. His father was a threshing contractor, and travelled round the countryside with giant steam engines to help with threshing at harvest time.

Forty acres of land at Totle Hall are given over to wheat and barley, with the barley going for malt to the brewing industry, while a further 40 acres provide grass for a flock of 120 Texel ewes, a continental breed which originated from an island off the coast of Holland.

Of the ten acres devoted to soft fruit, there are five acres for strawberries, with Hapil, Symphony, Rhapsody and Pandora varieties supplying fruit from early to late midseason, mid June and July onwards. An earlier variety, Honeoye, was previously grown as well, but this has since been ploughed up, and Edwin says he is now expecting the Hapil to be producing a crop from early July.



*Edwin and Jenny Pocock: Next year will be our last season for strawberries.*

At one time strawberries and the rest of the fruit were the main core of the business at Totle Hall Farm, but this trend peaked about five years ago, when 20 acres were devoted to fruit.

"We have found that over the last five years our customer base has fallen off, and we are now probably only getting 25-30 per cent of the customers we formerly had. "Next year will be our last season for strawberries and the other soft fruits. "Because of the economic situation, it is not worthwhile for us to continue. We were having to spend capital to maintain the standard of the fruit.

"There are some regrets, but we will have a lot more free time in the summer. For around ten weeks in the season, we have started work at 6am, and gone through to 10pm at night. "We are now looking at another diversification which we think will work, but we do not want to tell people what it is at this stage.

"When we were at peak production, with 10,000 customers in the season, we were employing three people full time, as well as casuals on the check-outs, but now there is not so much work, and my wife Jenny and myself do it all ourselves."

When I asked Edwin about the traditional behaviour of PYO fruit pickers, he laughed and said it just had to be accepted that there was a crop wastage, with many pickers tasting the fruit as they worked their way down the rows. "After all, there is a limit to the number of strawberries anyone can eat when bending over the rows on a hot summer's day to fill their baskets. But I can get annoyed when a large family party arrive in the strawberry fields and deliberately sit down to have a full sized picnic at my expense! They will then try to leave without picking any strawberries that they are charged for at the check-out point".

*Just a few miles away from Totle Hall Farm is another Pick Your Own strawberry and soft fruit enterprise at Birchin Lee Nurseries, Holmesfield, with a history going back over 80 years, and now run by 55-year-old Mr Howard Pearson.*

The early days of the venture have been recorded in a family history compiled by Howard Pearson's uncle, Tom Pearson, born in 1900, and who went to live at Alford, Lincs, before his death in 1985. Mention is made of the one-time ownership of the nearby Guild of St George farm property on Mickley Lane, with its strong association with Victorian social reformer and visionary John Ruskin.

Cherries were once described as the main fruit crop for the Pearsons, "with Black Eagle cherries being the finest we ever saw, although the birds took a heavy toll".



*Howard Pearson checks over the PYO signs for the new season.*

The history notes that in the years of the Depression in the 1920s, long hours were put in for little return in the fruit, flowers and vegetable trade. "The minimum agricultural wage went down to about thirty shillings, while our reward for a seven day week was about double that amount. Potatoes were at £3-£5 a ton delivered in Sheffield."

In 1936 two more glasshouses were built at St. Georges to support the large retail trade that was building up in bedding out plants around Sheffield and the Hope Valley. It is recorded that 1,000 boxes of antirrhinums were sold, each with 60 plants, for 2s.6d.

With the outbreak of war the ornamental side of the business was abandoned to concentrate on tomato growing in the glasshouses. Three tons were produced one year, and up to 25,000 young plants raised for local trade.

Recalling the Sheffield Blitz in 1940, the history notes that a lot of incendiary bombs fired a haystack and there were dozens of fires started in the city.

"Some of the big shops were completely burnt out and before midnight there was a big red glow over the area. We could see the tracer bullets from the bombers' machineguns firing at the barrage balloons which were supposed to be the city's defence, and which were lit up from the fires below. "The nearest bomb to Totley was one that hit the middle of the road at Beauchief about two miles away and made a hole nine feet across and five feet deep. A baby Austin car stood on all four wheels in the bottom of the hole with a sizable piece of tarmac on the bonnet. "Throughout the war there was a great demand for all the fruit and vegetables Pearsons could produce and in 1942 we sold 26 tons of gooseberries."

Howard Pearson has been working the 40-acre holding at Birchin Lee Nurseries since 1965, and has the help of one full time worker and three part-timers. Security is efficiently looked after by Howard's two magnificent Alsatis, Oscar and Sasha. There is little risk of anyone trying to do a snatch with the takings when the dogs are on site.

There are five acres of strawberry plants with Hapli, Florence and Symphony all mid season to late varieties. The Hapli plants will be in fruit from the second week in July until mid August, and the straws are the principal fruit cash crop, producing about four tons a season.

There are also about two and a half acres of raspberries, with Malling Delight, Malling Jewel, Malling Leo, Glen Clova, Glen Moy and Glen Alple.

"We do lettuce and pick your own peas, runner beans and French beans, as well as beetroot, parsnips, cabbages, cauliflowers, leeks and onions" said Howard, who estimates that Pick Your Own customers damage at least a third of the total fruit and vegetable crop.

"The Pick Your Own idea began in 1976 when there was that long dry summer.



*Members of the Pearson family, complete with clogs, braces and high waisted trousers, take a breather in 1915 at St George's Farm. From left: Charlie Pearson, Fred Pearson, grandfather George Pearson, Frank Pearson, and Arthur Pearson (Howard's father).*

Everything ripened up together and we just could not cope. "We started off with a cash till on the back of a tractor and a pair of old balance scales. Now we have electric scales and can operate under cover. We have tents so that we can move the sales points around as the strawberries ripen."

Among the many customers who drive up to Birchin Lee, Howard particularly remembers Sheffield football personality Derek Dooley.



*Quarrying stone for building work at Birchin Lee are Arthur Pearson (left rear) and Tom Pearson (right) the family historian, with Leslie Smith,*

"But you can now get strawberries all the year round and they are no longer a novelty" said Howard. "The business has been dropping off for four or five years, although we have a pretty good soil on the top of the hill at Birchin Lee. It is well drained and is officially classed as sandy clay loam.

Howard says that natural pests do not cause much bother to the strawberries, but badgers have developed a taste for the bulbs he grows and they also like picking peas! "They actually shell the pods," he said. "They open the pods and take the peas out. You can tell the badgers have been at the peas because of the quarter inch long scratch marks across the pods, but I think I have sorted them out now by putting an electric fence round the crop. I would love to be on the scene when a badger came along and touched the fence with its nose."

*Also competing for the Sheffield area strawberry trade is Whirlow Hall Farm Trust, where for the past two years Edwin Pocock has been a director as well as managing the charity's fruit farm enterprise.*

"We give them technical advice on planting and associated tasks, and actually do the planting, straw laying, and weed control" said Edwin. "The Trust looks after the pruning, fruit picking, and selling."

Two years ago, the Trust just had an acre of land given over to soft fruit, but this season there will be three acres available, and Edwin says they will probably be aiming to eventually take over many of the customers who have previously visited Totley Hall Farm.

**Roger Davis**

## Gala Day 2003

Well, Gala day fast approaches once again. This year's Gala will be held on July 12<sup>th</sup>. The organising for this year began back in October with that happy band known as the Gala committee meeting once a month to discuss and plan the event. From May the preparations become more frenzied with Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows making side shows, stalls, bottle collecting and selling raffle tickets along with their leaders and 130 volunteers of the community.

Last year was a great success with some 4,000 people attending and perfect weather. What a wonderful family atmosphere the Gala generates, meeting old friends and making new ones. Last year the combined profit from Gala day and the Sheffield Scout and Guide raffle succeeded in raising £11,400. All of this was distributed to children's charities, the majority of which is used to assist the running of the local Scout and Guide groups.

Last year we were able to make donations to The Rowan School (special needs) situated on Durvale Court, Woolley Wood School (special needs) situated in Shiregreen and the Sheffield Children's Hospital. In addition to the above, other Scout and Guide groups outside Dore that sell raffle tickets retain 50% of their sales.

With the success of last year in mind, the committee has decided to keep the same formula for this year. The Gala will run continuously from 2pm through to 7pm with the old favourite stalls and arena events including Dog of Dore, Fancy Dress and It's a knockout. There will also be fairground rides, our usual stalls and games not forgetting the traditional sheep roast which this year we have decided to return to the Gala field.

As in the past the success of some of our stalls is dependent on you, the community. Not least of these is the Tea Tent which has been run so successfully for many years by Christine Holmes and her team. Unfortunately for us, Christine and the team had asked to relinquish this responsibility after Gala 2002; on behalf of the Gala committee I would like to express my sincere thanks for all their hard work over

the years. I would also like to thank Maureen Hayes for agreeing to take on the responsibility of the Tea Tent in future.

May we once again prevail upon you and seek your contributions for the following:

*Donations for the White Elephant Stall:-* Contact: Rachel Kelly Tel: 2367251

*Plants for the Plant Stall:-* Contact: Joanne Price Tel: 2362488

*Programme Advertising :-* Contact: Ken Hartley Tel: 2361654

*Bottles & Tinned Groceries for the Bottle Stall -* Please note the dates for collection of these this year will be week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> June and made by the Scouts, Cubs, Guides & Brownies. Your generous support is always very much appreciated. If we fail to visit your home please could you donate in the evenings of the collection week at the Scout Headquarters. (Please, no out of date or damaged products, thankyou). If you require collection please telephone Mark Prangell (Chairman) 236 7587.

If you would like to join us on the committee and be involved in the organisation of the Gala, please give me a call. We get together once a month and you can be involved as much as you would like. Fresh ideas are always welcome.

The success of Gala day is dependent on the community, whether you are on the committee, help on the day, advertise in the programme, or just turn up. Without your support the Gala would not take place. Please continue to support your local Scouts and Guides and other children's charities. Full details of the programme will appear in the Gala Magazine to be distributed shortly.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in the past and look forward to your continued support this year. See you on the 12<sup>th</sup> July.

**Mark Prangell**  
*Gala Committee Chairman*

This year the Leonard Cheshire Services Summer Fete at Mickley Hall, will be opened by the Duchess of Devonshire on 28<sup>th</sup> June. There will be lots to do including a barbecue, childrens games, side stalls, teas and Loxley Silver Band. Admission 50p, children free. 2pm - 5pm. Details from 236 7491

## Sheffield Folk Choral

Our choir was formed in 2001 to put on a Christmas concert of some arrangements I'd made of "uncommon" winter songs and carols. Audience enthusiasm and the choir's own enjoyment of public performance made it certain that more would follow! The choir boasts 70 members and has recently issued its first CD "SpiteWinter!" featuring the songs performed at that debut concert in Sheffield Cathedral.

The choir is proud of the folk element in its repertoire. While not focusing exclusively on traditional song, much of the material is inspired or influenced by folk music from Britain and beyond. Recent concerts have featured melodies from France, the USA, Poland, and the Czech and Slovak Republics - with new English lyrics where relevant.

I research, write and arrange the material as well as conduct the choir. My wife, Eileen, is featured as a soloist on several songs. Eileen and I are established performers on the traditional music circuit.

Sheffield Folk Choral is keen to present material which is distinctive - yet very accessible. Although standards are high, the atmosphere is relaxed, with informal background introductions to each song. Our summer concert series - *Bach to Barleycorn* - includes the following local venues. (All tickets available from (0114) 236 1213 at £4 - or £5 on the day; profits go to local charities and to cover choir expenses.) Concerts start at 7.30 pm

*Beauchief Abbey Church - Sat 31 May*  
*St Andrews, Psalter Lane - Sat 28 June*  
*Ecclesall Church - Sat 27 Sept*

We are also available for annual, commemorative or other special events - including weddings (choir size can be tailored to circumstances - from 25 to 60). Our fee is reasonable and negotiable depending on event, venue and distance. Profits go towards the further development of the choir, with a significant percentage donated to local and national charities.

**Graham Pratt**

*Ed. If you need more information, you can contact Graham on 236 1213 or by email on: g\_pratt2001@yahoo.co.uk (web site: www.sheffield-folk-chorale.org.uk)*



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## Book Reviews

Judging by the number of related programmes on the television and the book shelves in our public libraries, as a nation we have a fascination with crime, and murder in particular. *Foul Deeds and Suspicious Deaths In and Around Rotherham* by Kevin Turton, brings this interest nearer to home with an examination the cruellest of deeds from Victorian Street Crime to 1940 and murders where passion, jealousy or social deprivation have brought unexpected violence.

Seventeen cases each receive a chapter, from mysterious death to murder and manslaughter. True stories providing an insight to people and their motivation and into the society that moulded and shaped their lives. 160 pages for the crime enthusiast or anyone with an interest in our social or local history.

'*Foul Deeds...*' is published in paperback by Wharnccliffe Books price £9.99 ISBN 1-903425-27-1 and is available direct from the publisher on 01226 734 241.

The campaigns of 1460/61 proved decisive ones in the medieval Wars of the Roses, and appropriately as England's largest county, Yorkshire was scene to decisive engagements, culminating in the Battle Of Towton, in which more men died than in any other battle on English soil.

*From Wakefield to Towton* by Philip Haigh, sets out to cover the military aspects of the conflict against the background to its political origins. Each of the major engagements are covered in detail with maps, drawings and photographs of arms etc. Courage, foolishness, intrigue and treachery all play their part, in an age we mistakenly associate with chivalry rather than bloody reality. Helpfully the book also provides detail on exploring each battlefield today and lists appropriate museums and re-enactment societies.

Whether for those interested in military history or simply wishing for an insight into the realities of the age, this is a worthwhile read. *From Wakefield to Towton* is published in paperback by Pen & Sword Books Ltd price £9.95 ISBN 0-85052-825-9 and available direct from 01226 734 241.

Another booklet concentrating on the area we now know as Yorkshire is *Four Anglian Kings of Northumbria* by Raymond Ella, who shares a surname with some of the Anglo-Saxon kings covered. This is a confusing period of our history, branded the Dark Ages, more from a lack of written records than real evidence. Indeed as more information comes to light it may well turn out to have been an age of technical innovation, achievement and political/religious change. This little 30 page booklet, price £2.95, sets out some of the facts we do have on the period and is available direct from Amazon.co.uk or via local bookshops. ISBN 0-9533762-3-0

Cycling is becoming more and more popular as a healthy form of exercise, for beating the traffic jams and as a leisure pursuit. *On your Bike - Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire* is aimed at those cyclists wanting to get out and explore the countryside enjoying the sights and scenery along the way.

Produced in a handy ring bound format, the book contains details of 20 circular routes of from 9 to 31 miles in length. Each has a description of the route and terrain, with notes on refreshment stops, local maps and even short cuts for the less energetic. Some of our most beautiful areas are included, providing plenty to enjoy for leisure cyclists, family groups and even seasoned riders. *On your Bike - Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire* is published by Countryside Books price £8.95 ISBN 1-85306-732-6

If you are setting out to trace your family tree, the surnames of your parents and grandparents are the prime starting point. But what about surnames. How did they evolve in the first place and have they changed with time, especially in the melting pot of immigration and conquest. *Searching for Surnames* by John Titford sets out to provide a working guide to surname identification, covering their history, and the languages and circumstances they derive from. After all it was not until the 19th century that surnames became more formalised, while before then the spelling and pronunciation of names was liable to change over the generations.

Chapters in the book cover useful resources including CD-Roms and the Internet, along with surname surgeries and even surnames which are not what they seem, such as Spong which is not Chinese but refers to 'a dweller by the narrow strip of land'. In all 250 detailed pages, a must for anyone interested in or intrigued by our surnames. *Searching for Surnames* is published by Countryside Books price £11.95 ISBN 1-85306-765-2

Most of us may live in towns today, but many will still hanker for the idyll of life in a quintessential English village. *Derbyshire Villages* contains descriptions of over 100 Derbyshire villages written by local members of the Women's Institutes across the County. History, architecture, anecdotes, people and events of their own village, those things which give each one its own identity. Nearly 100 pages with over 50 colour photographs capturing the spirit of Derbyshire.

This is a fascinating gazette to dip into at random. Take Earl Sterndale with its 400 year old Quiet Woman Inn, seen in the Peak Practice TV programme, and said to derive its name from the too talkative wife of the landlord who was decapitated as a in consequence! Or did you know there has been no new building in Tissington since 1900?

*Derbyshire Villages* is published by Countryside Books price £8.95 ISBN 1-85306-748-2

## Annual General Meeting

This years Annual General Meeting of the Dore Village Society will take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4th June in the Methodist Church Hall on the High Street.

After the traditionally very short formal business, Stephen Doncaster, grandson of the gardens founder, will give an illustrated talk about the making of Whinfall Quarry Garden.

Details of people offering themselves for election will have been posted on the Society's Notice Board in advance of the meeting. If you are interested in joining the committee please contact the Secretary on 236 6710.

## Archeology wins

The Yorkshire Internet Award has been won by [www.idigsheffield.org.uk](http://www.idigsheffield.org.uk) which gives an insight into the lives of the earliest people in South Yorkshire and the Derbyshire Peak District. Visitors to the website can explore archaeological excavation sites and search a database of more than 400 objects, ranging from the earliest traces of human activity to relatively recent times. The objects include the first Anglo-Saxon helmet found in the country and important finds from Sheffield Manor in the 1970s and 80s. The site also contains news of fresh finds and the opportunity to tap into regional experts.

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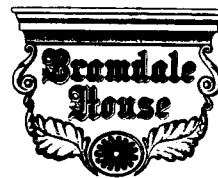
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## Beauchief Ladies Group

The Beauchief Ladies Group was formed by ladies from Beauchief and Totley in 1983 who quickly realised the valued assistance of their menfolk!

Over the years the group has raised £77,000 for Weston Park Hospital. This has been achieved by holding Coffee Mornings and Afternoon Markets, and donations have been received in lieu of funeral flowers etc. St. Gabriel's Dance Class and many individuals support the group.

Last year they bought for the hospital a Volumetric Pump, special cushions for use in wheel chairs and the new Tympanic thermometers at a total cost of £3,379. Funding has always been given to purchase items of equipment which will benefit cancer patients - nine Clinirest Electronic Bed Systems for gravely ill patients have been purchased, Syringe Drivers etc.

Their next fund raising event will be a Coffee Morning at the Beauchief Hotel from 9.30am to 11.30am on Wednesday 11th June 2003. Admission 80p includes coffee and biscuits and there will be stalls of cakes, bric-a-brac, craft goods, jewellery and a raffle. The group is indebted to the Beauchief Hotel for their help with this.

## Volunteer for Transport 17?

Why not? Possibly you know little or nothing about this local charity, which provides a wonderful service for the elderly or infirm (often both), taking them to lunch clubs and other social activities which otherwise they could not reach.

This article will not be a history of Transport 17, which has been written about elsewhere; my aim is to tell you how we operate and hopefully persuade you that joining us as a volunteer would be a good idea!

Having spent my working life in banking, I took early retirement on health grounds and it was not long before I was looking around for something not too strenuous to do. I felt it was time to give something back to the local community.

I volunteered because the organisation is locally based, which means I can walk to work, and enjoy the occasional breaks during the working day at home, catching up on chores, or just sitting in the sun. Like many of you, I walked past the office opposite Mickley Lane frequently, and often wondered exactly what went on inside. I asked friends and neighbours what they thought of T17 and, without exception, they recommended them as a great local service and told me that I would enjoy the experience. They were right.

Volunteers do one of two jobs - driving or escorting. There is no status distinction between these, you do the one that suits you, and obviously, not everyone feels able to drive our minibuses. I started by escorting, to get the feel of the job, and enjoyed that experience, but there was a need for extra drivers, and I fancied the

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July 6th, 20th

August 3rd, 24th, 25th (Bank Holiday)

You can find us in Ecclesall Woods, along Abbeydale Road South between the Hamlet & Dore Station

The Society warmly welcomes new members - if you are interested in model engineering of any kind please enquire tel 236 9002.

[www.sheffieldsmee.co.uk](http://www.sheffieldsmee.co.uk)

challenge. Training was given by Michael, our Project manager, and after a few lessons I overcame the feeling that "I'd never do this", and started out as a driver. Later I took an accreditation test at Sheffield Community Transport - not unlike a driving test, but without the theory part. You do not need any special licence to drive the minibus, but you do need a clean licence.

There are men and women volunteers, and we work together as a team. Typically each bus goes out with a driver and escort, though sometimes the driver does all the work, as there are not always enough escorts (your arrival would help here!).

There are three buses, and each one can take trips to up to three clubs or groups on each weekday. There are other occasional visits, e.g. to the panto, or trips into Derbyshire in the summer.

Volunteers work one to three days per week according to the time they can spare. Although we obviously also do the usual things that retired folk do, (like take frequent holidays!) it is important to provide reliable support, otherwise the group could not provide the continuity that the clubs who rely on us need. Incidentally, not every volunteer is retired.

The preferred age range for drivers is 25-65, escorts can be from age 18 upwards.

A typical day for me involves leaving home about 9.30 am to walk to the Cheshire Home on Mickley Lane, where the buses are parked. I drive the bus to the office to collect that day's log-sheet and learn of any new people to pick up, or any cancellations - most days there are at least one or two passengers who are ill or away. We start the runs about 10 am, taking up to 12 people per run. Some busloads include the occasional wheelchair-bound passenger, and each bus is well equipped with a lift to take them aboard easily. For such people our service is often a lifeline, as they tell us they could not get about without our help.

Our destinations are usually local church halls or community centres, and we go out as far as Jordanthorpe, Meadowhead, Broomhill, and Bramall Lane. Once our first job is finished, we often have time for a coffee, then take our second group to their destination. After that, back to the office or home for a lunch break, though some groups, particularly the further-out ones, offer us a lunch there.

Then the process is reversed, returning to the first group and taking them home, and so on, until the day finishes about 3.30 or 4.00 pm. Compared with a typical working day in salaried employment, not too taxing! You soon make friends with your passengers, and the sense of doing a rewarding job is immense, such is their continuing gratitude. They look forward to our arrival, and we take pride in being reliable and punctual.

Escorting often has even greater contact with the people we support, as the escort calls at their door, frequently helps them to the bus, and secures their seat belt when aboard. There is usually time for a chat on the bus, and we catch up with local news and gossip - a two-way process! Drivers and escorts should be reasonably fit, but the exercise in doing this job is healthy, and some of our volunteers have now been with us for many years. However, this carries its own problem since, as they age, replacements are needed. Furthermore, the larger the pool from which volunteers are drawn, the less reliance is placed on any individual, though generally we like to have a steady pattern of working around which we organise our other activities

I am sure there are others who would enjoy this work as much as we do, and I hope that this insight will encourage you to consider joining us. If you have any questions, why not give Michael a ring on 236 2962 or call in at the office, preferably in the mornings, when it is more likely to be manned. Your call will be welcomed and you could be opening a rewarding new chapter to your life. Come on down!

*Colin Price*

## Midsummer Night's Dream

The Heartbreak Shakespeare Company, Britain's premier open-air touring company, will be coming to the Sheffield Botanical Gardens again for a fourth year with "A Midsummer Night's Dream" from June 4th - 7th. Advance tickets adults £7, concessions £5, or pay on the door £10 & £7.50. Covered seating £2 extra. Clarkehouse Road entrance. Box office Tel: 201 1011.

## 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.

27 May. Robin Garside and Fiddle Society  
24 June. Sheffield City Morris  
22 July. Handsworth Sword Dancers  
26 August. Bernard Cromarty

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



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## Who is the mystery scouter?

Roger Davis recalls a caravan trek in County Cork.

Down through the centuries, the good folk of Bradway and Dore have looked out at each other every morning across the Vale of Totley and then made their separate ways to work in the anonymity of the big city.

In recent years grim lengths of motor racing surfaces on Abbeydale Road South and Baslow Road have almost resembled the one time Berlin Wall in preventing many people from even passing the time of day with "them over there".

There have been some notable exceptions, particularly with some of the churches attracting members from both sides of the division, and cross border shopping has taken place in some areas.

One person who has played a major part in breaking down the barriers is my colleague and editor of Bradway Bugle and Dore to Door, John Baker, and there has also been some interflow between the local scout groups, in which I have been slightly involved.

I know to my cost however that all is not necessarily tranquil, even though the scouts share a common law and promise. Recently I was given a copy of a photographic history of Dore Scouts, 1936 - 2002 compiled by the former group leader Syd Crowson, MBE.

Syd had the clever idea of printing an activity photograph for each year of the history and I was told that my picture was included in a shot for 1951 showing a group of stalwarts climbing on Froggatt Edge. The caption certainly named me but with an incorrect spelling. However I was nearly 2,000 miles away when the picture was taken, doing national service in Malta, and the figure shown was certainly not me.

I first came to Sheffield and joined up with Dore Scouts as an assistant leader with the late Peter Jackson in 1967 and in 1968 I was responsible for much of the organisation of a memorable horse drawn



Roger Davis in scouting days, doing his Genghis Khan impression.

caravan trek by a party of 32 Dore scouts and leaders in County Cork, Southern Ireland. It was a trek with many incidents, some of which became part of the folklore of the group.

I presented a large album of photographs to the group showing the way in which we covered 68 miles in a week's hard trekking, with the horses being coaxed on their way with liberal quantities of sugar lump.

But where were the photographs in Syd's book? He told me "They must have gone missing", so I rummaged around in the archives and came up with some copies seen here.

\* Does anyone know the whereabouts of the old album. I would love to see it again.

Roger Davis

Totley and Dore Support Group for the Visually Impaired are holding regular coffee mornings with visiting speakers including on 28th May and 19th June, at 11am at 4 Grove Road.

## Armchair Action

The Experience Corps is calling for people over 50 to pick up their knitting needles and make a difference in their community. There are hundreds of organisations, charities and local initiatives that need knitters and The Experience Corps, through its new scheme Armchair Action, has some suggestions of how you can help.

If you are too busy to spend time helping at a local organisation or maybe you are not as active as you once were, this is your chance to help from the comfort of your own armchair.

The Experience Corps has put together an information pack, complete with knitting patterns, with details of where your knitting skills can make a difference. Wool manufacturers, Sirdar, have donated 24 kilos of assorted wool to the Armchair Action scheme, which will be distributed to the volunteer knitters.

There are hundreds of outlets for knitting skills for example: local hospitals around the country need bed jackets and socks for elderly patients; premature baby units in all areas are also looking for cardigans, hats, booties and ventilator bonnets for tiny premature babies; the Canine Defence League and the Battersea Dogs Home also need dog jackets and blankets their homeless hounds, and a number of children's charities that would like hats, gloves and scarves.

For your free Armchair Action knitting pack and ideas of how you can help, call The Experience Corps on 01422 207 183. Once you have received your pack a local advisor will contact you to let you know where the knitted garments could be used in your area and to arrange collection and delivery.

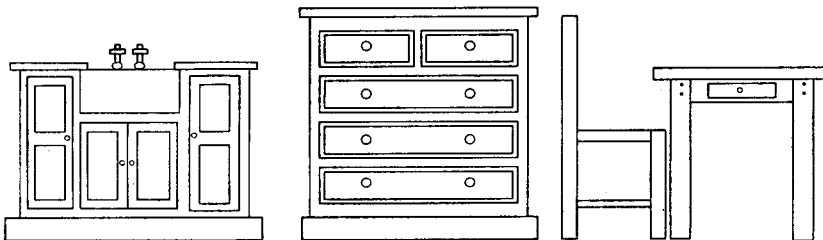
Knitting is just the start of the Armchair Action scheme and it is hoped to role out more projects that can be done from home throughout the year. Other ideas started include taking part in the world's largest climate change survey - run by the Woodland Trust, doing bird surveys in your gardens and teaming up with Plantlife who would like people to record where/when bluebells grow.

Everyone who undertakes something through the Experience Corps and has registered their details has access to our online shopping mall offering various discounts. These include Boots, Majestic Wines, Dixons, Argos, Linguaphone, John Lewis. People can either take the discount or donate it to charity. Majestic Wines usually proves very popular!

Ed. The Experience Corps fully recognises the fantastic voluntary work that many people already do from home but wants to encourage even more people over 50 to offer their skills, experience and some of their time to actively benefit their local communities. Currently they have over 400,000 exciting volunteer opportunities to suit all kinds of skills and experience. To join The Experience Corps ring 0800 10 60 80 or log on to [www.experiencecorps.co.uk](http://www.experiencecorps.co.uk)

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## Lost and found

Every year the RSPCA and Dog Wardens pick up thousands of lost pets. However reuniting these pets with their owners can prove very difficult, since many of them cannot be reliably identified. This is obviously very distressing for both pets and their owners, so what can be done to improve the situation?

In addition to the traditional collar and engraved tag (which can unfortunately become detached and lost), there is now a far more reliable form of pet identification - the microchip implant. A tiny microchip (about the size of a grain of rice) is quickly and easily injected under the skin, permanently identifying your pet. Each microchip contains a unique I.D. code. This code, together with details about your pet, are held on a central computer.

Veterinary practices, the police and pet rescue organisations have special hand scanners that can detect and "read" the information on the microchip - identifying your pet so that you can be reunited without delay. So don't take the chance - microchip your pet!

Pets are part of the family, so if they have an accident or illness it is a worrying time for all concerned. We naturally think of traumatic surgical events - such as accidents involving broken bones - as the main reason for pet insurance. However, many medical conditions such as heart disease, skin disease and arthritis (to name just three!) can be equally costly to treat.

Whatever the condition, when your pet is unwell the last thing you want to be worrying about is the cost of veterinary treatment. The good news is that with pet insurance you can have the peace of mind that should your much loved pet become ill, they can have the treatment they require without you - their owner - worrying about the Bills.

*Park Veterinary Hospital*

## Living history Sundays

On the first Sunday of every month you can meet characters from 1851 at the Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet and explore different themes from their life and times. Programmes run from 11.30am to 4.15pm.

*1 June* "Excuse me, but why did you do that?" Dramatic stories from yesteryear.

*6 July* "From Smoky to Shiny" Art, industry and working life at Abbeydale

*3 August* "They don't make 'em like they used to" Try your hand at some old-fashioned country crafts

*7 September* "What's all' song and dance about?" Join in a day of song, dance and music making

*5 October* "Steam, Fire and Water" Steam Traction Engines and Storytelling

The Hamlet is open from 10am to 4pm Mondays to Thursdays and from 11am to 4.45pm on Sundays (closed Fridays and Saturdays).

Admission £3 Adults, £2 Concessions, Accompanied children FREE. Free access to visit Hamlet Cafe and Gift Shop.

## Dore Show 2003

This years Dore Show will take place on Saturday 13 September in the Old School and Methodist Church Hall - be sure to note the date in your diary. Brass band, entertainment and side displays of interest to everyone as usual.

There will be over 70 classes for you to enter for or come and see, ranging from vegetables to paintings, flower arranging to childrens exhibits.

The full schedule will be available from Greens on Causeway Head Road shortly. For those keen photographers wishing to plan ahead, the photography classes will be: Colour - My Holiday - standard or panoramic size only & unmounted please; Colour - Face(s) - min 7" x 5; and Black & White - Open - min 7" x 5.

The Show has become an established part of village life, largely thanks to the exhibitors and those who plan and run the event on the day. As always many hands make light work!

If you can offer a little help on the day please contact the Show Chairman on 236 4257 or Secretary on 236 9025.

**Wyvern Walkers** The Dore Village Society has its own walking group which circulates details of activities by post. The next two local walks of around 5 or 6 miles, will be on Saturday 7 June and Wednesday 23 July. Everyone is welcome. For more details or to be added to our mailing list call 236 9025 or 236 9831.



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## The Wildlife Garden

Bird-watching is a curious hobby. Just a few years ago you would probably have been derided if you admitted you were a keen bird-watcher, but nowadays, with the ever growing interest in all things avian, you are suddenly elevated to the heady realm of 'expert'. But when does a hobby become an obsession?

I have met bird-watchers who travel the world looking for rare birds, but not to photograph or study them, they simply tick them off their must see list. To these 'listers' - often wealthy, retired American doctors and dentists - the country they were visiting was irrelevant; they were not even remotely interested in the culture and the only local people they would talk to were their guides. Generally, these elderly men would be accompanied by their much younger wives - 'Bird-watching-widows' - who didn't have the slightest interest in birds. As far as they were concerned, even the rarest of birds were simply known as LBJ - 'Little Brown Jobby'.

In Britain we have our own LBJ - the sparrow, so well known that non-birders will habitually call just about any small bird a 'sparrow'. But perhaps not for much longer though. Sparrows, particularly those in the urban areas of southeast England, have been in sharp decline: 75% have disappeared between 1994 and 2001. It seems somewhat ironic that sparrow numbers are falling so dramatically, whilst at the same time, more of us are feeding birds and encouraging wildlife into our gardens.

The question is, are the two linked? One theory is that sparrows are being unintentionally poisoned by mouldy food left out in dirty seed-holders and on bird-tables, whilst another is that increasing numbers of predators - cats, magpies, squirrels and sparrowhawks - are to blame. In fact there is a plethora of hypotheses: everything from a lack of suitable nest sites to gardeners no longer feeding birds with bread. There is even a theory that the ever increasing numbers of mobile phone masts are the reason for their decline.

As gardeners we cannot do anything to prevent the spread of these masts, other than not owning a mobile phone, but what about the other ideas? If we do feed birds, we must make sure that our bird-feeders, tables and baths are kept scrupulously clean and also, if possible, position them near dense cover so that sparrows can hide from any marauding cat or sparrowhawk.

Of course their decline could have nothing at all to do with predators, or how much or what we feed them, it may simply be something as basic as the lack of potential nest sites. Nowadays we are such enthusiastic home-improvers and roof-space developers, I am sure many of the holes where sparrows used to nest have all but disappeared under a sea of plastic cladding. If you are having your roof repaired or a loft converted, please check first to see if any birds are nesting under the

eaves.

With so many conflicting theories, the British Trust for Ornithology is attempting to try and find the real reason for the sparrow's decline. Over the next few years, it will be studying the problem along with the help of a small army of volunteer bird-watchers. Hopefully, this will enable us to understand the real cause of the bird's decline and more importantly, we will perhaps be able to reverse the trend before it is too late. It would be a sad day for all of us if the once common British sparrow was to become merely a tick on an American bird-watchers list; just another rarity to boast about to their friends back at home.

*Jack Daw*

## Well Dressing Diary 2003

Throughout the spring and summer, a succession of old Derbyshire villages put on well dressings, often associated with a week of village festivities.

These are just some of the dates. You can find out more details, or opportunities to see well dressing in progress, by ringing the Chesterfield Tourist Information Centre on 01246 345 7777/8.

<b>May</b>	
24-28	Wirksworth
24-30	Middleton-by-Youlgrave
24-31	Monyash
29-4	Tissington
<b>June</b>	
14-20	Mayfield (nr Ashbourne)
14-22	Ashford in the Water
15-22	Cressbrook
21-26	Youlgrave
21-26	Kniveton (nr Ashbourne)
22-27	Chelmorton
21-29	Tideswell & Litton
21-29	Hope
28-4	Old Whittington (Chesterfield)
28-5	Rowsley
28-7	Bakewell
<b>July</b>	
5-9	Coal Aston
5-12	Hathersage
5-13	Dore
6-13	Buxton
7-13	Harthill
10-23	Pilsley Village (nr Bakewell)
11-18	Dronfield Woodhouse
12-19	Whitwell (nr Worksop)
12-20	Holmesfield Children's Well
12-20	Little Longstone
13-20	Great Longstone
13-21	Bamford
18-27	Cutthorpe
19-26	Heath (nr Chesterfield)
19-27	Millthorpe
19-28	Stoney Middleton
<b>August</b>	
2-10	Bradwell
13-19	Barlow
14-17	Great Hucklow
16-23	Taddington
21-29	Holymoorside
23-30	Wormhill
23-31	Foolow
24-1	Eyam
30-7	Wardlow (nr Tideswell)

## Whinfell quarry garden

This local garden was created at the turn of the 19/20 centuries by my grandfather Samuel Doncaster - always known as 'Mr Sam'. He was a Sheffield steel maker and chairman of Daniel Doncaster & Sons in Penistone Road. He was a great gardener, knew many influential gardeners of the time and followed the precepts of Gertrude Jekyll and William Robinson.

The Quarry Garden was started in 1898 and was fully flourishing by the 1920s, when Mr Sam commissioned a number of water colours of the garden by Frank Saltfleet, a Sheffield artist and pupil of John Ruskin who ran an educational settlement in Walkley for working men.

I have some contemporary photographs of the Quarry Garden to show, also three of Saltfleet's paintings. It is always a pleasure to talk about my favourite garden, and I look forward to this event on June 4th in Dore.

*Stephen Doncaster*

*Ed. This promises to be an interesting evening for both gardeners and people interested in local history.*

## New free herb recipe book

Pot-grown herb plants have become popular additions to kitchen windowsills. Favoured over dried herbs for their fresh and fragrant qualities, they can grow from strength to strength with a little care and attention and will continue to produce aromatic leaves for many meals to come. A new book by house plant favourite, Baby Bio, provides essential advice for keeping herbs at their best and includes a selection of mouth-watering recipe ideas based on seven of the most popular fresh herb varieties.

With a foreword by herb expert Jekka McVicar, "The Baby Bio Book of Windowsill Herbs" is an ideal pocket reference for anyone with a passion for herbs and their culinary uses. Essential care advice from the Baby Bio experts covers everything from when to water plants, how to feed them and where best to position them on the windowsill. The book goes on to provide a selection of eight specially developed recipes, including chive and cheese muffins, basil scented raspberries and sage pork pockets, which all feature herbs as their signature ingredient.

Anyone with an interest in the medicinal qualities of herbs will also be interested in the historical herb facts that accompany each recipe. For those who have yet to discover the benefits of Baby Bio, a money-off voucher for use against any purchase from the Baby Bio houseplant care range is also included.

"The Baby Bio Book of Windowsill Herbs" is normally priced at £2 but readers can obtain a free copy by sending an A5 (160mm x 230mm) stamped addressed envelope to: Baby Bio Herb Book Offer, PO Box 513, Derby DE1 9NW.

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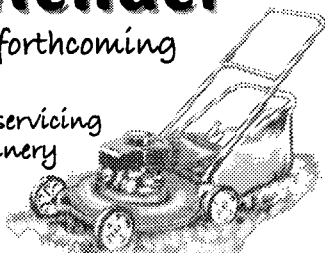
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## Art 'Opened Up'

Being new to the area I was eager to see the local artwork being produced on my doorstep. The 'Open Up Sheffield' event at the bank holiday weekend allowed me to do this.

Over 120 artists, from all over Sheffield Opened Up their workplaces and invited us (the public) to meet them and have a good look at their creative work. I was not disappointed! With free entry to all studios, workplaces and venues I spent the weekend browsing at my leisure. I spoke to a variety of artists including four artists from the S17 area - Ray Gridley, Ann Bates, Steve Elliott and Hazel Lale.

My first visit was to Ray Gridley and Ann Bates (Prospect Road). Ray is a potter. Producing his work for over 14 years he is prolific! A whole range of stoneware pots, bowls, vases, cups even chimineas. Ray hand-builds and throws his pots then glazes using traditional recipes for gas kiln firing. "To see, to hold, to use." This quote is so true - you just want to pick up and feel these wonderful ceramic pieces.

My favourites were the mugs. Exceptional value and ergonomically designed for both hands to wrap around and sooth you with its hot drink or hot toadie. Look out, too, for the dome shaped doorstops - fun and functional! Ann is enchanted by ancient standing stones and I found her work thought-provoking. Her ceramic vessel forms hold beautiful colour, yet, all pieces so fragile, perhaps a comment on our relationship with the earth.

Steve Elliott's work (Meadow Grove) was atmospheric. Each semi-abstract painting was inspired by our very own locality. I found different information each time I looked at his dramatic, moody landscapes. Steve's work was inspiring!

My final visit was to Hazel Lale's Tedbar

studio (Back Lane). Hazel's use of colour and line works beautifully in her absorbing watercolour paintings. Interested by light falling onto pattern, Hazel explores ideas through shape and form with enormous success!

Thankyou to all the artists whose welcome was warm. Imagine opening up your own home to the public in order for them to view your artwork!

*A.Reed*

*Ed. For information about "Open Up" e-mail [openupsheffield@yahoo.com](mailto:openupsheffield@yahoo.com)*



## A silver celebration in Buxton

*Enjoy a visit to Buxton Festival for a feast of opera, music and literature.*

Buxton celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> Festival in 2003 (July 5-20) with an extended programme of opera, music and literary speakers, based in the magnificently refurbished Opera House (celebrating its own centenary this year). Many artists appearing grace the best stages in the world.

Buxton is a delightful festival town, with all venues in easy reach, and just a pleasant forty minute drive from south Sheffield.

Highlights include:  
5 operas including 2 Festival productions  
A royal gala opening on July 5 with the Duke of Gloucester

A stunning series of morning Literary Events with 15 distinguished writers and personalities

All the operas are sung in English. They include Donizetti's *Maria Padilla*, a powerful and emotional drama, Handel's comedy of lust and infidelity among the Gods, *Semele*, a comedy by Bernstein, *Candide*, and two family operas - *Hansel and Gretel* by Humperdinck and a new opera called *Gwyneth and the Green Knight* by Lynne Plowman

A truly outstanding morning Literary Series, hosted by Roy Hattersley, features Germaine Greer, Tom Stoppard, Bishop David Sheppard, Matthew Parris, Robert Winston, Ben Okri, Michael Holroyd, Margaret Drabble, Sue MacGregor, Michael Frayn, Claire Tomalin, Fiona MacCarthy, Dr Raj Persaud, Kate Adie and Sandi Toksvig.

There is a host of concerts, many in the afternoon. Try and catch a celebrity recital by Ann Murray and Yvonne Kenny, an Opera Gala featuring Donald Maxwell and festival artists, concerts by Rebecca Evans & Katarina Karnéus, Tom Randle, Lynda Russell and Freddy Kempf. There's an oddity with four bassoons on July 12 featuring Totley resident Glyn Foley, the Festival's General Manager.

Call 01298 70395 for the full brochure or 0845 12 72190 for tickets. See [www.buxtonfestival.co.uk](http://www.buxtonfestival.co.uk) for the full programme.

## Derwent Heritage Way

The new Derwent Valley Heritage Way has now opened in Derbyshire. Starting from Ladybower Reservoir this 55 mile long distance walk passes Chatsworth into the Derbyshire Dales, then the Derwent Valley Mills National Heritage Corridor and ends at the River Trent near Shardlow.

Leaflets on the walk are available from available from local tourist information centres.

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## Sad and good news

On Monday, 7th April, Stuart Fordham retired from his business, S.E. Fordham opticians, on Totley Rise. Unbelievably, he had been in those premises for just over twenty-five years, since 1st, December, 1977. He took over the shop from Mr. Damms, the Shoe Repairer and a Ladies Hairdresser in the back rooms.

Coincidentally, he had opened his first business also on 1st December, but in 1971, in Mr. Gent, Opticians, old shop on Spital Hill. He ran this, along with the Baslow Road shop for many years until he sold the Spital Hill shop and concentrated on the business in Totley.

Stuart also, singlehandedly, ran the Low Visual Aid clinics at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital two afternoons a week for twelve years. In August 1996, the hospital, in their wisdom, decided to do it themselves. They trained several people to do Stuart's job, and now have a nine month waiting list. Stuart's waiting list was four weeks at the most. That's progress for you!

In 1994, Stuart had the flat above the shop completely renovated and moved into it himself. He has recently had his rural views at the rear somewhat altered with the arrival of 19 detached houses on the late Mr. Thompson's wet cow pasture! At least his view has got to be better than that of the new residents whose outlook is the back of the Totley Rise shops and food outlets!

In May 1997, Stuart was suddenly struck down by the very rare Guillain - Barre Syndrome. Within twentyfour hours he was totally paralysed and spent a day short of a year in hospital. He had to learn how to walk again and spent six months convalescing at his parents' bungalow before returning home in November 1998 and coming back to work on a part-time basis. His courage at that time was

something to be admired. The Staff on his Ward at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital were in tears when he finally left them.

It needed a lot of determination after that to get himself back to work, but he made it in the end. His own patients were delighted to see him back. Many had been coming to him for years, and some even travelled across from the Spital Hill area when he closed that shop.

Stuart certainly deserves to enjoy a long and happy retirement, and sure we all wish him well and thank him for his twenty five years of excellent service.

### *Now the good news*

Fortunately, 63 Baslow Road, Totley, will not become a Building Society, Offices, or a Take-away. It will remain an Opticians in the very capable hands of Martyn Kemp, who has nine other practices in the Sheffield and Rotherham area. Martyn and Alan Forster will be sharing the job of Optometrist at Tattle. I have worked with them both for two weeks and can highly recommend them. And apart from a lovely selection of frames, you will also be able to purchase contact lenses and the cleaning solutions that go with them. Diabetic screenings will continue and there will also be a Domiciliary Service to provide sight

tests in the home for those who are housebound.

If you were a patient of Stuart Fordham, your records are still there safe and sound. If you weren't, why not give Martyn Kemp a try.

*Kate Reynolds*

## Abbey archeology

Excavations by Sheffield University archeologists on part of the adjacent golf course, have revealed remains suggesting that Beauchief Abbey was much larger than thought or suggested by the surviving tower and chapel.

Two medieval walls and foundations have been discovered which are believed to be remains of the Abbey's outer courtyard and boundary of the Abbey precinct. The large complex of buildings are believed to have been dismantled in the 17th and 18th Centuries, providing stone used to build Beauchief Hall.

Local residents, Caroline Hill and Ann Grey will be fundraising for the Children's Appeal by walking part of the Great Wall of China this October.



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## Local blues legend

I have been living here for 35 years, and never cease to be amazed at the way my notebook/tape recorder constantly bulges with previously unknown facts about the area. Just recently for example, I discovered that our quiet suburb is the home of one of Britain's best known blues musicians.

To the casual passer by, Prospect Place, is just a delightfully secluded corner of the Bradway area, but local resident Bob Hall has played with most of the post-war blues legends.

From the North Sea Jazz Festival to the San Francisco Blues Festival, Bob has taken his unique brand of blues and boogie woogie all over the world for more than 40 years and he is acknowledged as Britain's finest blues and boogie pianist.

Credit for much of Bob's success goes to his long-time partner Hillary Blythe, whose crystal clear vocals and rock steady bass playing underpin all his performances. Hillary's treatment of the blues and gospel classics are highlights of their show.

A composer of distinction, Bob has a catalogue of finely crafted songs to his credit, each song delivered in a disarming, understated vocal style accompanied by his electrifying keyboard skills. Anecdotes are a special feature of the Bob Hall Show, for a lifetime of music and a passion for blues history has left Bob with a host of yarns.

Born in London in 1942 into a musical family Bob's powerful left hand gave him a natural aptitude for boogie woogie and by his early teens he was leading his first band. Bob partnered the late Alexis Korner and performed regularly with slide guitarist and singer Jo Ann Kelly.

He was a founder member of several British blues bands including Tramp, the Sunflower Blues Band and the De-luxe Blues Band. He also worked with artists



Bob Hall and Hillary Blythe

such as Peter Green and Mick Fleetwood of super group Fleetwood Mac. Away from the blues-rock field Bob has worked as a sideman with such blues originals as John Lee Hooker, Jimmy Witherspoon, Chuck Berry, Homesick James and Eddie Clearwater.

Bob's own boogie woogie big band, which later became Rocket 88, included Hal Singer, Don Weller, and Dick Morrissey among many leading jazzmen, together with Charlie Watts and Ian Stewart of the Rolling Stone and Jack Bruce from Cream. He has recorded over 100 albums, with a high proportion of them still in catalogue, and is the sleeve note writer for Yazoo records piano blues series, and is now working on the piano sections of the Routledge Encyclopaedia of the Blues.

Behind Bob's homely appearance is the man who was chairman of Sheffield's National Centre for Popular Music and enjoys a double career as blues pianist and industrial patent and trademark attorney.

A lawyer and metallurgist, he accepted a post with Sheffield legal firm Dibb Lupton Alsop and is now a partner with Harrison Goddard Foote.

The critics write:

"This is a piano player who knows his music through and through and can hold his

own with the best in the world". *New Orleans Review*.

"Bob Hall has worked with the best simply because he is one of the best" *Jazz Times*.

"The finest blues and boogie woogie piano player this side of the Atlantic" *Folk Roots*.

"Bob Hall plays piano in the flowing style of pre-war masters, meaning that he plays with often understated grace and style, and – when called upon – with power". *Living Blues*. "One of the blues world's most respected musicians". *Red Lick*.

*Roger Davis*

## Ladies of Dore

Abbeylea park bowling club is a crown green bowling club, situated at the top end of the Abbeylea Sports Club ground. It now has open membership to include lady and junior members.

The ethos of the club is to create sportsmanship and friendship whilst at the same time encouraging the skill of members.

During the season which runs from April to October, friendly matches are played against other clubs such as Worksop, Chatsworth, Darley Dale, Hallam Grange and Fulwood, and run in conjunction with the annual singles, doubles and handicap events of the club.

The green and pavilion are well maintained and offer the normal facilities. They are open every day in the mornings from 10am and in the afternoons from 2pm extending into the evening.

New members are most welcome, no previous experience is required, existing members are ready to advise and where needed the club has woods available to allow prospective members the chance to get the feel of the game.

The point of contact is the secretary David Reeves on telephone 0114 236 2368

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## Supertram doubts

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Ambitious proposals to extent the  
Supertram network are being cut back by  
transport officials, leaving only those routes  
likely to be most viable. These include  
routes to Dore, Ranmoor and Rotherham.  
Possible extensions to Low Edges and  
Northern General Hospital will be put on  
ice indefinitely.

Even if a financial case put to the  
government is supported, it could be up to  
10 years before work starts on the new  
routes.

## Stars in Dore

This summer the planet Mars comes closer to us than it has since Neanderthal man roamed across Europe 73 thousand years ago. Although at a distance of 54 million miles at the end of June 2003, Mars will draw in to within less than 35 million miles by the end of August. It will outshine all other planets (save Venus at -3.8 magnitude) and every star throughout July to September. Mars becomes brighter than -2 magnitude. It will be unmistakable, too, on account of its distinctive red colour. In telescopes, during these three months, the Martian disk will appear three times larger (25 arcseconds) than it did in April, so clearly it is an excellent time to view the planet.

The time to see Mars this year is early morning (in June/July), and progressively earlier (through August/September) when it becomes an evening object. It will, however, be very low in the SE to SW, as seen from Dore, first in Capricorn and then in Aquarius, never more than 21 degrees above the horizon. The red planet is actually closest on 27/28 August. Those people who go south for their summer holidays will enjoy an even more spectacular view.

From Dore, one can also get a rare glimpse of the star, Fomalhaut, in the constellation, Piscis Austrinus, the Southern Fish. Fomalhaut lies near the horizon below Mars in June and July. With appropriate starcharts one could also find the two distant planets, Uranus in Aquarius and Neptune in Capricorn, not far from the position of Mars.

Taking advantage of this close approach of Mars in 2003, more probes are being sent to examine the Martian surface and search for fossilized micro-organisms. In June, Open University's Beagle 2 will hopefully

start its journey and arrive two days after Christmas. Others are planned by NASA at about the same time.

This once again raises the great question of whether life exists elsewhere in our Solar System, or, indeed, in the Universe. We are frequently asked this question. Not everyone is enthralled by the prospect of intelligent life anything like ours existing on another planet. It could be said that traditional religious thought is confusing when it comes to this question. Prophets have not offered information on this matter to humankind over the last few thousand years, presumably because the question never arose. Science, however, does not make valid comments about religious belief.

Humankind stands today apparently midway in stature between the largest known objects (clusters of galaxies) and the smallest (the physical microcosm of particles and forces). However, the writer believes that we will probably never be satisfied with scientific evidence alone. Furthermore, there is every indication that science will always need to probe deeper and deeper. Alongside the scientists, philosophers and theologians will continue their searches also forever. It only seems a shame that modern scientific knowledge is not embraced universally in all religions. In May on the morning of the 7th the planet Mercury passed in front of the Sun. This small planet, with about three-eighths of the Earth's diameter, was visible in Dore as a tiny dot traversing the northern tip of the Sun between 6.15 and 11.30am. Venus is the only other planet with an interior orbit like Mercury's, placing it also nearer to the Sun than us; this similarly causes Venus to exhibit solar transits.

These slow traverses across the Sun impress upon us that the planets in the solar system are rather cold dark bodies; they only reflect sunlight. They are not always seen shining brightly like stars as we might imagine! Moreover, they invariably tend to be extremely hostile to life as we know it. Elsewhere in the Universe there are other planets, undoubtedly, that do offer more hospitable climates. However, it is the writer's opinion that humankind will not survive long enough to discover life elsewhere. Major wars and political turmoil do not favour expenditure on this scientific research. My belief is that other beings may have a better chance of discovering human fossils on Earth! And this will include people of all religions and denominations!

Another favourite question is what is the origin of life? 'Seeds' of life may arrive on Earth from another spot in the Universe, perhaps carried by comets. There is sadly a flaw in this idea. It only transfers the question to a 'primeval seed' elsewhere. Perhaps, words are inadequate tools with which to understand all these matters today, at least words without accompanying, imagery and very advanced mathematics. That is probably one reason why every civilisation has replaced or has carried over acquired knowledge with a belief in the supernatural.

There is every indication today that there is a growing diversity in beliefs and this does not presently allow much hope for a future unified understanding of the Universe. The primeval 'soup' from which life probably evolved already contained the formula which could lead to the noble beings that we aspire to. Therein lies the mystery of life. Our pursuit of science stems from natural curiosity, and it does not take much imagination to associate primitive curiosity with an urge for survival. It seems clear that only beliefs which ride the storm of repeated enquiry and examination should be retained since we prefer that only one truth exists.

Now consider the following story. Three people want to go to the wooden bench in Newfield Lane overlooking Blacka Moor. One is blind, one is both deaf and blind and one is like you and me with all faculties. Instructions could be given to each, possibly including an introductory guided tour. Each could arrive at the seat, but by very different means.

Now, try to instruct the same three to find the planet Mars. Impossible except for number three! Instead, try helping them to visualize galaxies at the edge of the Universe. The difficulty is surmountable at this conceptual level. But, there is no way to be sure that all parties have the same concept. To arrive at a truth, or even to conceive the truth, is almost impossible jointly on a global scale.

Regrettably, the conclusion is not favourable for a common understanding of the Universe except through the common language of imagery and mathematics. Possibly, it is because we can all sit on that bench on equal terms, and be aware either visually, sensually or mentally of those Derbyshire hills, that we may feel we have the truth. The daffodils in front of the bench this Spring were true and beautiful enough.

David Andrews

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## Diary - Summer 2003

### MAY

- 1-31 **Sheffield Environment Weeks**  
 17 **Archaeology Walk**. 10 -12pm. Meet at Entrance on Whirlowdale Crescent.Organised by FEW  
 17 **Spring Fair**, Dore & Totley URC, 10am to 12 noon  
 20 **The Samaritans** - Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, Methodist Church Hall, 7.45pm Contact 236 7639  
 21 **Development of the Arts & Crafts Movement** talk by Frank Johnson, Sheffield Society for the Encouragement of Art, Ranmoor Parish Centre 2.30pm free admission  
 21 **Tree Trail** Sheffield Botanical Gardens, 7.15 - 9pm Thompson Road entrance. Free no booking necessary.  
 22 **S.W.Area Panel** public meeting at Holy Trinity Church Millhouses at 7.30pm  
 25-26 **Annual Show** by Sheffield & District Orchid Society, Cavendish Hall, Edensor, Chatsworth Park. From 11am.  
 26 **Model Boat & Yacht Regatta** Millhouses Park 9am-5pm Tel: 236 7169  
 26 **Chesterfield Holiday Market** from 9am. Entertainment 10am - 4pm  
 26 **Bamford Sheep Dog Trials** Water Lane 8am-6pm  
 29 **Garland Ceremony** Castleton gathering at the Hogs Head pub at 5.30pm  
 31 **Tracking the Dore Story** walk led by John Dunstan looking at the village's history. Meet 2.30pm on the village green See posters for details.  
 31 **Bach to Barleycorn** concert by Sheffield Folk Chorale at Beauchief Abbey Church, 7.30pm. Tickets 236 1213

### JUNE

- 1 **Millhouses Park Festival**  
 3 **Fashion Show** Dore Ladies Group, 7.45pm Church Hall Townhead Rd. Visitors welcome Tickets from 236 5890  
 3 **A Cup of Tea** - Dr Ivy Oates. Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, Methodist Church Hall, 7.45pm Contact 236 7639  
 4 **Summer Meeting & AGM** of the Dore Village Society, 7.30pm Methodist Church Hall. Illustrated talk by Stephen Doncaster on the making of Whinfell Quarry Garden. Admission free, everyone welcome.  
 4 - 7 **A Midsummer Night's Dream** Heartbreak Shakespeare Company at the Botanical Gardens Tickets £10 & £7.50 conc from tel:201 1011 - Clarkehouse Road entrance.  
 6 **Magical Moths** event on Blacka Moor with Sheffield Wildlife Trust & Sorby Natural History Society. 9pm to midnight. Meet SK 296 803. Details from 263 4335  
 8 **Model Boat & Yacht Regatta** Millhouses Park 9am-5pm  
 11 **Coffee Morning**, by Beauchief Ladies Group for charity Beauchief Hotel 9.30-11.30. Stalls & raffle. Adm 80p  
 11 **History of Kite Flying** talk by Mr & Mrs Reaney for Dore (A) Townswomen's Guild, Dore Old School 2pm.  
 13 **Charity Golf Day** at Abbeydale Golf Club in aid of St Luke's Tel 236 9911  
 13 **Very Superstitious** 3 mile evening stroll through eerie Ecclesall Woods 6.30pm-9pm. Meet junction of Abbey Lane & Abbeydale Rd South. Tel 268 6196  
 14 **Buxton visit** by society members - see article  
 14 **Summer Fair** at St Luke's 1pm free entry  
 14 **Classic Car Rally** Greenhill and Bradway Scouts at Sir Harold Jackson School, Bradway from 1.30pm.  
 14 **Broomhill Festival** Childrens Fun Day at the Botanical Gardens 2 - 4.30pm. Thompson Road entrance.  
 17 **150 Years of Ladies Hats** - Mr R Young. Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, Methodist Church Hall, 7.45pm 236 7639  
 20 **Concert Music** fof a summer evening by Dore Townswomen's Guild Choir, Dore & Totley URC 7.30pm tickets £4 from 235 0696  
 21 **Concert** Dore Male Voice Choir at St John's Church.  
 25 **Flowers of William Morris** talk by Kate Garton for the Sheffield Society for the Encouragement of Art, Ranmoor Parish Centre 2.30pm free admission

- 25 **Feathered Friends** Evening walk on Blacka Moor with Sheffield Wildlife Trust. 7pm to 9pm. Meet SK 296 803. Details from 263 4335 No dogs  
 28 **Summer Fete** at Mickley Hall, Leonard Cheshire Home opened by the Duchess of Devonshire. 2 - 5pm. 236 7491  
 28 **Bach to Barleycorn** concert by Sheffield Folk Chorale at St Andrews, Psalter Lane, 7.30pm. Tickets 236 1213  
 28 **Night Hike**, Christian Aid Sheffield walks, approx 17 miles from St Lukes Church Lodge Moor via Hathersage Start 9pm. Register via 246 5064  
 29 **Matron's Chatsworth Walk** - six or ten mile sponsored walks in aid of St Luke's Hospice. Register at 236 9911  
 29 **Festival of Transport**, Sheffield's largest classic car & transport festival at Graves Park. free entry

### DORE FESTIVAL 2003

28th June to 12th July

- Sat 28 June Village Design Workshop, Dore Church Hall 9.30 - 4pm  
 Sun 29 June Village Gardens Open Day; 2 - 6 pm  
 Tue 1 July Ladies Group Open Meeting Speaker: Cherry Tree "Journey from Poland to England" Dore Church Hall 7.45pm  
 Sat 5 July Oral History Exhibition, Old School 10 - 4pm  
 Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Summer Concert, Dore Church Hall 7.30pm  
 Sun 6 July Oral History Exhibition, Old School 11-5pm  
 Well Dressing Service, Village Green 3pm  
 Cream Teas, Methodist Hall 3p.m - 5pm  
 Mon 7 July Family Fun Run, Dore Primary School 7pm  
 Lord Conyers Morris Men, Dev Arms 8pm  
 Wed 9 July Open Air Theatre with The Company, "Prisoner of Zenda" Dore Village Green 7.30pm  
 Thur 10 July Dore Male Voice Choir and Dore Mercia & Totley Townswomen's Guild Choir, Dore Church Hall 7.15pm  
 Fri 11 July Sterndale Singers Concert, Parish Church 7.30pm  
 Sat 12 July Scout & Guide Gala 2pm

Full details of all of these events will be publicised locally nearer the time.

### JULY

- 5-6 **UK Ballooning Grand Prix** at Graves Park. Giant Fun Fair, entertainment and hot air ballooning. Free entry  
 Buxton Festival See article  
 5-20 **Model Boat & Yacht Regatta** Millhouses Park 9am-5pm  
 6 **Plant Fair** with specialist nurseries at Sheffield Botanical Gardens, 10.30am - 3pm Tel 267 0544  
 8-10 **Great Yorkshire Show**, Harrogate. Tel: 01423 541 000  
 9 **BirthdayParty** - Dore (A) Townswomen's Guild, Dore Grill, 12noon for 12.30pm.  
 13 **Model Boat & Yacht Regatta** Millhouses Park 9am-5pm  
 15 **Visit to Fanshaw Hall** with supper. Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, Methodist Church Hall, 7.45pm Contact 236 7639  
 20 **Ranger Roadshow** in Ecclesall Woods with Graves Park animals 1.30pm-3.30pm. Follow signs from Abbey Lane  
 22 **Medieval Market** Chesterfield 9.30am-5pm

### AUGUST

- 2 **Norton Show and Sheep Dog Trials**, Bochum Parkway, Norton, S8. Trials from 7.30am, main show from 10am.  
 6-7 **Bakewell Show**  
 7 **Raft Races** Millhouses Park with the Rangers. 12noon-3pm Meet at new playground  
 13 **Afternoon Tea** charity fund raising event by Dore (A) Townswomen's Guild, Dore Old School 2pm  
 16 **Grindleford Horticultural Show**, Bridge playing field from 2pm. Hathersage Band, stalls, cream teas  
 23 **Froggatt Show** Stoke Lane 2pm-5.30pm  
 24-25 **Sheffield Show** Graves Park. Fun Fair, entertainment, music, craft & trade stalls. Adults £3 children £2