

# DORE to DOOR

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

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## Tilting at windmills

Readers of 'The Star' will have been blown over by the recent provocative front page story and picture showing giant wind turbines near Fox house.

The story hinged on a hunt for land in Sheffield on which to build a wind farm, and the Council's plan to take the initiative by developing its own wind farm using its land on the western outskirts of the city.

Fortunately wind farms are not allowed in national parks. The boundary of the Peak Park runs comfortably below the highest ground from Ringinglow, along Sheephill Road, down Whitelow Lane to Shorts Lane and then up to Bolehill Lodge. The Fox House site is therefore not at risk.

## Calling all Wassailers!

Dore's third Wassail Walk will be on Saturday, December 27th, starting at 10am from the Old School. As before, the Walk of about five miles is designed to despatch the general lethargy after the Christmas celebrations and prepare you for the forthcoming New Year merriment. The pace will be gentle but just enough to stir up the heart and lungs. A glass of punch (or soft drink) awaits at the finish together with a warm mince pie.

Make it a family occasion or bring along some friends – everybody is welcome. You don't have to be a member of the Village Society which, once again, will be organising the Walk. Please wear walking boots or, if you don't have them, some walking shoes with a good grip on the soles. Put the date in your diaries now. We look forward to seeing you.

*Roger Millican*

## Christmas Lights

In recent years there have been some excellent Christmas illuminations in Dore, set up by individuals or groups of householders. Abbeydale Park Rise and Crescent were the most popular areas to visit, but there were many others, such as parts of Ashfurlong Road and Ashfurlong Park. If last year was anything to go by, these locations will be worth an after dark detour again.

Sadly in the past the centre of the village has not really sparkled at Christmas time. This year the Dore Village Society is trying to arrange a communal Christmas Tree and to illuminate some central gardens. Perhaps the village shops could also be persuaded to put up a few more lights.



*Townhead Road, circa 1914 with the postmaster Harold Jackson outside what was then the Dore Post Office.*

*On the left the wall and high trees of Mr Bottomley's plantation. On the right near the mother with pram is the entrance to a gennel which led to the land behind Rose Cottage. Barkers Row is set back from the road behind Lavender cottage.*

*Does anyone know who the mothers and babies are?*

*[please see Hilda's story on page 14. This is part of the Dore Oral History Collection]*

## Dore Old School

Following the successful production of *The A to W of Dore*, plans are going ahead to publish the story of Dore Old School, from its origins in the 18th century until its closure in 1965.

For the early years all sorts of archives will be used. 20th-century source materials will include the historical notes of Irvin Wright, the last headmaster, and the excellent articles in *Dore to Door* by Hazel Hoffman, with the postscript by Glen Fallows.

When we come to the schooldays of people still living in Dore, we want to draw on their memories too. Some of these were written for the 1999 exhibition on the history of the Old School, an event in the Millennium project to extend and refurbish it. Many others have since been added through the recordings with the Oral History Group. So this book should be a real people's history.

We should like to use a selection of photographs of the Old School and its activities. Although several people have kindly supplied photos to us already, we feel we could do with some more to choose from, particularly from the last 25 years of the school up to 1965. We will copy and return them. So if you have any suitable photos that are not already in the DVS Collection, please contact Maureen Cope (235 0392), the picture editor, or me John Dunstan (236 5720), as I will be writing the book.

Maureen would also be delighted to hear from you if you have memories for the Oral History Group to record, of the Old School or indeed any other Dore subject.

*John Dunstan*

### DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

Winter Meeting

7.30pm Wednesday

3 December

Methodist Church Hall

Talk by Derrick Briggs

on 'Haddon Hall

- Behind closed doors'

Admission Free

Mince pies & drinks served

## Seasons Greetings

This is another bumper edition of *Dore to Door*, which we hope you will enjoy.

We would like to take this opportunity to send seasons greeting to all the members of the society, which reached a record 911 in 2003, and to readers of *DORE to DOOR*, wherever you might be. And a special thankyou to all those volunteers who deliver the magazine every quarter.

## Supertram to Dore?

Proposals have been published for extending Supertram, with one line terminating near Dore railway station. The proposed route from here to the city centre is on-road along Abbeydale Road South as far as Millhouses, then on track alongside the existing rail lines as far as Heeley. Two possible city termini are being considered; one at Midland Station and the other in the High Street area. Details of the route to the latter are not yet available. The Supertram consultation team is asking for comments on these proposals before the end of November.

The Village Society has responded by saying that, in principle, it favours an improvement in the public transport service between Dore and the city centre. However, the proposals raise some concerns, mainly because they lack detail. The main question relates to the means of access to the proposed terminus. Already, users of Dore railway station have a problem finding places to park cars. If Supertram is to come to Dore, sufficient secure and convenient parking will be needed. The proposals do not show how this might be achieved. The viability of "feeder" bus services, as an alternative means of access, must also be questioned.

The proposal documents say that a further extension to Totley has been considered but

insufficient additional passenger traffic would result to justify the extra cost. We have asked that the figures supporting this conclusion be re-examined.

The effects on the 97 and 97A bus services have not been explained. Should Supertram provide an attractive and well-used route as far as Dore station, bus operators may find it less attractive to maintain the existing service frequencies on both these bus routes, meaning the Totley residents and those in the Totley Brook and Furniss Avenue areas of Dore will suffer. We have asked for an explanation of the strategy covering the bus and Supertram services.

We have also commented on the idea of a city terminus at the Midland Station. This location seems to be less attractive than one closer to the centre of the city and would probably result in lower passenger numbers. Such a location also raises a much more important point, in that the Supertram route would then closely follow the existing rail route from one end to the other. We question whether the huge capital cost of a Supertram line can be justified. Could not the same or less money be spent on providing an alternative "light rail" approach using the Network Rail land and lines to a greater extent? Not easy, we know but, given that Network Rail recently announced that it now intends to spend less on rail improvements in South Yorkshire than it had planned, the question has to be asked again.

Even if the Supertram extensions can find political support and funding, it's going to be a long haul, with completion no earlier than 2010. Residents wishing to make comment can do so to the Supertram Extensions Team at SYPTE, Exchange Street, Sheffield S2 5YT.

*Roger Millican*

## Behind closed doors

Haddon Hall is steeped in history dating back to William the Conqueror. Derrick Briggs will be throwing some light on this history and a glimpse behind the scenes in a talk, *Haddon Hall - Behind Closed Doors*, on Wednesday 3rd December at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall. Entry free.

The talk starts with a potted history of this great medieval house from its listing in the Domesday Book to the present time including its Royal connections. Slides will follow showing not only what the visiting public see but also what happens 'behind closed doors' during both the open and closed season.

It is a fact that most work is done during the winter months both in the house, out-buildings and of course in the gardens, the latter being famous for its roses and delphiniums and referred to as the most romantic garden in England

Because Haddon Hall is still privately owned its upkeep is helped by the paying visitors through the summer season but it must also earn its keep through the closed winter season. During this period various fee paying functions are held.

Haddon Hall is also the ideal setting for period costume drama for both the cinema screen and TV productions. So what happens when the film crews move in? Jane Eyre, Moll Flanders, The Prince and the Pauper and more recently Elizabeth 1 were filmed, along with documentaries for TV, including great 'Houses and Gardens'.

**Blue bins spread.** Some two-thirds of Sheffield households are now recycling paper and card in their new blue bins, according to latest figures from waste management operators Onyx. More than 180,000 bins have been distributed around most of the city.

## Editorial & Advertising

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

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

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

[ Email editor@dorevillage.co.uk ]

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### 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.

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## Bulb Planting

Many of you will have noticed that a team of volunteers, organised by the Society, have been planting crocus corms on the verges of Causeway Head Road. 20,000 blue, striped and white crocus' have been planted over the past few weeks and DVS thank all those volunteers who have helped. There should be a real sparkle on Causeway Head Road in the Spring.

We are most grateful to those people who have made donations towards the corms.

The Society are also planting more daffodils on Townhead Road by High Trees, and 1000 more Snowdrops have been planted on the Village Green.

*David Heslop*

## Open mornings

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

## Long distance calls

With the apparent speed that post offices are closing, I wonder how long it will be before the post box's red partner, the telephone box, will remain. Everywhere I go, out in the street, in cafes, in trains despite warnings, whilst driving a car and in the middle of meetings, that magic, miniature mobile phone appears. I wonder how many young people are rushed into casualty departments with a request to remove the shattered remains of a 'mobile' from ears after collisions with lamp posts (or even telephone boxes).

Have you tried ringing any one of the short-lived directory enquiry numbers? I asked for the number of a person who lived in a village near Aylesbury and received a difficult to translate reply, "What is Aylesbury?" There followed a ridiculous conversation - perhaps I should have spoken in Urdu for it was obvious that I was connected with a call centre in the India region - ending up with "I'm sorry I can't find your number".

This took some time and some money. Imagine if you were speaking from the telephone box I have sketched on the corner of Totley Brook Road and Baslow Road. Follow the Boy Scout motto and Be Prepared with a bagful of coins unless, of course, our European friends (?) have condemned them as being dangerous health and safety hazards to people walking along pavements with phones to their ears .....!



*The phone box at the bottom of Totley Brook Road which has recently been vandalised.*

*Brian Edwards*

However, the post and telephone boxes may soon have disappeared because it now seems to be the fashion to blow them up using powerful fireworks. Ah well, at least our bright red friends will go out with a bang!

*Brian Edwards*

## Youth Nuisance

*A plea from local Councillor Keith Hill and the police.*

Recently, there seems to have been a tide of antisocial behaviour and vandalism sweeping both Totley and Dore. A postbox and a phone booth have been blown up. Most of our bus shelters have been damaged - some more than once. Fences have been kicked in - repeatedly. Graffiti is rife; noise & disorder are commonplace etc.

Given that:-

- most parents know where their children are and who they're with,
- Most of us would find it hard claim perfection in our adolescent years,
- the vast majority of our young people are a credit to themselves and their families. ....we are talking only of the lunatic few.
- Remember also we are not talking about "hard cases" - despite the instances above there have been no reports of violence.

So how to stop them....?

Not by the police directly - they are ludicrously overstretched (A working shift of 7 officers covers 109,000 of us in the south and west)... but they can make good use of intelligence.

Please report what you see to the police call line 2 20 20 20

Give clear and accurate descriptions:- age? gender? size? build? dress?.... time?.... location?..... date?

This can be stopped, but the community itself is the first line of defence.

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In dogs it is routine to vaccinate against Leptospirosis, Canine Distemper, Canine Infectious Hepatitis, and Canine Parvo virus.

Cats are routinely vaccinated against Feline Panleucopenia, Cat Flu and Feline Leukaemia virus.

Provided their mother was regularly vaccinated, puppies and kittens are usually protected in the first few weeks of life by antibodies from their mother's milk. However this immunity falls with time leaving them very susceptible to infectious diseases and this is where vaccination comes in.

Two or more vaccinations are usually given as a primary course, giving your pet immunity for the first year of life. However the immunity provided by vaccination is not indefinite and will gradually fall, leaving your pet at risk. Regular annual booster injections are vital to maintain your Pet's

protection. This also provides an opportunity to give your pet an annual health exam, in effect a head-to-toe MOT! Don't take the risk! Make sure your pet's annual booster vaccinations are kept up to date!

*Park Veterinary Hospital*

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Ecclesall Woods), the Church Council of the Abbey, ASWAT (Abbeydale and Shepherd Wheel Action Trust), and others, have joined to form a new body, Beauchief Abbey Barns Association (BABA), to resist these plans of the Council and come up with a plan to use the buildings appropriately – to provide meeting rooms for local groups, accommodation for school parties, and a small museum and information room. This gives local facilities for local people, instead of profit for a few at the expense of the environment and heritage.

We call on the Council to abandon the plans to convert the barns to houses, and give full and vigorous support to the local groups who have formed BABA.

**Professor Francis Evans**  
Chairman of BABA

Ed. You can contact BABA on 0114 258 5346

Dear Sir,

I was utterly horrified and astounded to hear that the plans to improve our local rail network, as outlined in the Unitary Development Plan, has been scrapped. These days, not one of us is unaware of the urgent need to tackle climate change, congestion and protect what is left of our natural environment. Yet all we seem to get from the politicians in power is saying one thing whilst their actions are still doing just the opposite.

Instead of the proposed rail changes for the south west of the city i.e. new stations at

Heeley, Millhouses and Totley Brook, we now have the hair brained scheme to build an expensive and ugly tram system running alongside this existing railway line. In principle I am very much in favour of the tram network but not this particular route at the expense of the far more environmentally acceptable and cost effective plans along this green corridor into the city.

Presumably the intention of this new scheme would be to put a Park and Ride on Abbeydale Road so commuters from the Peak District and up in the suburbs of Dore and Totley will drive to this point, then take the tram into town. Short car journeys are to be avoided if at all possible because a car engine is far more polluting during the first few miles. The buses have the advantage that they go into Totley and Dore, so pick people up close to their homes.

The existing train has the advantage that it continues across the Peak District, enabling commuters from here to get on more locally and the trains also have a major advantage in that they allow bicycles to be carried, enabling some people to complete their journey at either end in an environmentally friendly way. The train also already links into the tram system at Sheffield station.

It seems to me that the tram will bring no new benefit to this part of the city but it will have a large financial cost, aesthetic impact, disruption and it will prevent money being invested in far simpler and more advantageous solutions. The two new tram routes are estimated to cost £400 million at current prices with one quarter of this

coming from local government and 3/4 from central government.

The problem that needs addressing is that the trains are currently unreliable and infrequent. We also need more stops as was already proposed along this line. This would be far more beneficial than a whole new tramline with associated car parks being built. I urge the Council to honour their original proposals and to improve our local rail and bus services. If others feel that the plans to improve our local rail services should not have been scrapped, please tell the Council what you think.

**Dawn Biram**

Dear Sir,

I write in support of the letter from Jackie McCarney in the autumn Dore to Door. Horses should be banned from built-up areas. The dirt they leave is just as offensive as dog dirt and may contain lockjaw germs.

If the riders cannot clean up they might at least keep their animals off the pavements where local blind people may step in it. A particularly revolting recent case was on the pavement outside the Co-op food store and this has happened twice!

**R B Close**

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## Syd Crowson M.B.E. 1928-2003

Syd Crowson, the long-time Group Scout Leader of the 267<sup>th</sup> (Dore) Scout Group died on 30<sup>th</sup> September. His funeral service took place at Christ Church Dore on 8<sup>th</sup> October with full scouting honours. A troop of scouts, with flags flying and more than 50 scouters and guiders in uniform drawn from the Group, District and Headquarters followed the hearse from the scout hut and formed a guard of honour as his coffin was carried into the church overflowing with relatives and his friends.

Syd joined the 201<sup>st</sup> Christ Church Dore Wolf Cubs in 1936 and maintained close contact with the Group for the rest of his life. He took out his first leader's warrant at the age of 17 and in 1949 was a scout leader when the Group, led at that time by Jim Wainwright disbanded and reformed at the 267<sup>th</sup> Sheffield (Dore) Scout Group (unattached) largely as a result of disagreements with the vicar of the time.

By 1955 the Group had moved to its present location and Syd had become Group Scout Leader, somewhat against the wishes of the District Commissioner who felt that, as a young and energetic leader, he would be wasted in that role. What he could not have predicted, however was that Syd was to become one of the most enthusiastic and charismatic leaders of his generation.

Syd never sought high office within the

Scout Movement. When asked as a child what he wanted to become he replied "A tramp" and later on it was "A full-time scout leader". He was content to serve the Group and the Village he loved so much and to fully integrate scouting into the life of the community.

During his tenure the Group grew from strength to strength. The Gala, Gang Show, Well Dressing, Festival Fortnight, Flowers in the Village, Guy Fawkes Night celebrations and Remembrance Day Parade are all scout initiatives introduced during his stewardship.

His knack of recruiting leaders and his encouragement of his leader teams are legendary. "Together we are a great team" was his favourite saying. The position of the Group now, as one of the biggest and most active in South Yorkshire is in great measure due to his constant endeavours.

He involved himself too in many other aspects of Village life, particularly those to do with the Church which he joined as a choirboy on the day World War II was declared.

In 1991 Syd was awarded his Silver Acorn and in 1993, an MBE for his Services to Scouting, an award that was justly deserved and of which he was immensely proud. In the same year, he retired as GSL and became President of the Group. Nonetheless he continued to be actively involved, sitting on the Group Executive, Gala and Festival Committees, representing the Group at District level and regularly attending the meetings of his beloved Sheaf and Dore Scout Band, standing in as

drummer or parade leader as the need arose.

Syd was a very kindly man who was loved and respected by all who met him. For many years he suffered from ill health but his strong faith, cheerful disposition and positive attitude to life were an inspiration to all around him. At his funeral he asked that an extract from Baden Powell's last message to scouts be read out. "Try to leave this world a little better than you found it and when your time comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time but have done your best."

He will be long remembered and sorely missed.

*Geoff Cope*

## Quality Mark

A new quality mark has been introduced for businesses who actively support the best environmental practices in the Peak District National Park.

Buying a product or service awarded this mark means you are supporting the high quality management of this special environment.

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For a list of outlets and services contact Victoria Coates at the Park authority on 01629 816321.

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## Did you know....

I recently made the mistake of trying to go down Furniss Avenue one afternoon, just as the children were leaving the primary school. Chaos was too polite a word for the traffic situation. Yet I found out later that it was International Walk to School Day (Wednesday 8th October), in which children from 106 Sheffield primary schools were supposed to be taking part. What must other days be like?

Meanwhile another petrol station bites the dust with planning permission granted to demolish Totley Bridge station at the corner of Abbeydale Road South and Devonshire Road, in order to make way for a three-storey block of 10 flats with 13 car parking spaces. This follows closure of the Esso station in Millhouses and new flats on the site of the petrol station at the junction of Abbey Lane and Abbeydale Road South. So now we will have the petrol run to add to the school run!

Another explosive issue is the increasing miss use of fireworks, especially the large Chinese made ones. This year the weeks around November 5th have been punctuated by extra large explosions, often late into the night. Two of these were particularly damaging, involving the complete demolition of the post box at the junction of Cross Lane and Brick house Lane, and the blowing up of Totley telephone box on Baslow Road. How long before someone is seriously injured? How long before the Government gets its act



The brick mounted post box which used to stand at the junction of Cross Lane and Brickhouse Lane. David Heslop

together and bans all but organised displays? Don't hold your breath!

And don't hold your breath about a Supertram link with Dore either. Not only does this seem an excessively expensive and long winded way of improving public transport from the south west of the city, but will our existing council countenance spending money to the benefit of this part of Sheffield - I doubt it. And anyway, who

wants the eyesore of a Supertram terminus at the bottom of Dore Road, with all the traffic and parking chaos it would inevitably generate, on top of the parking problems that already exist there.

*Doremouse*

## Christmas at Beauchief Abbey

In addition to our normal services, Holy communion at 11am on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month and Evensong at 3 pm on all other Sundays, the Abbey Carol Service will be held on Christmas Eve, starting at 7pm. You are advised to arrive early as we often have a full house. On Christmas Day there will be Holy communion at 10.30am, the slightly earlier starting time is to allow you to get back home for the turkey and Christmas pud.

This year, instead of the more traditional carol concert, the Abbey is presenting 'The Salvation of Mad Tom'. This is a *Pantomorality Play* written by Graham Pratt and will be performed in the Abbey on Friday 9th January and Saturday 10th January 2004. The production will start at 7.30 each evening and tickets, priced at an amazingly low £2, can be obtained by ringing 0114 274 5000 - advanced booking is advised as seating capacity is limited. All profits will go to the upkeep of the Abbey. Merry Christmas and a joyous New year from the congregation of Beauchief Abbey.

*Eddie Greenwood*

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03	Colt Attivo II 1.3 3dr Silver Air Con., Alloys, C. Locking, Airbag, PAS, RDS, Spoiler	£7,999
00X	Carisma Equippe 1.8 5dr Boisena Blue ABS, Air Con., C. Locking, Elec. Win., 20,150 miles	£5,999
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## Planning Matters

**Those Masts Again!** Telecommunications masts feature regularly these days as planning issues. The proliferation of these masts, particularly the mobile 'phone masts is causing real concern in some quarters. Even the Peak National Park is wrestling with the problem. Whereas the door was firmly closed to such developments, the necessity for police communication masts to give them 100% emergency cover, has broken down the resistance with a chain of such masts for the purpose.

An application by Vodaphone to build a 30 foot high mast at Hagg Dyke above Ladybower Reservoir was turned down, but has now been overturned on appeal. These sort of decisions could open the flood gates, particularly as companies refuse to share masts. An appeal against refusal for a second mast a little further up the Snake Pass has gone for a second appeal and a decision is expected at anytime. No doubt there will be more applications in the coming months.

**On similar lines**, Network Rail have a programme for erecting their own telecommunications masts. I understand these can be up to 30 metres (98 feet) high and will be significantly more intrusive than mobile 'phone masts. Tragically these masts are exempt from planning controls under section 11 and 17 of the town and country planning (General Permitted Development) order 1995 and there is thus,

no local democratic control over either the siting or design of this equipment. The CPRE are actively urging action to change the planning law on these matters.

Dore does not escape these development proposals. Within the past few weeks Network Rail have indicated that they propose to erect one of these telecommunications masts on land off Twentywell Lane, close to Abbeydale Road South. There is no opportunity for the public to have any say about this proposal either in respect of siting or appearance.

On the same issue, it will not surprise you to know that there is yet another planning application for a mobile 'phone mast at Abbeydale Sports Club, this time by Vodaphone for an 18 metre (60 foot) mast by the bowling club.

**Totley Bridge Service Station.** Planning consent has now been granted for 10 flats in a three storey block on the site of the Totley Bridge Service Station on Abbeydale Road South. This is a reduced and modified proposal, compared to the first application reported in the last issue of Dore To Door.

**2 Glen Head Cottage.** An application has been made for an extension to 2 Glen Head Cottage at Limb Lane. This is the third of the three cottages in the dip by the Picnic area. The proposal for this semi detached property is to both enlarge it at each floor level and to provide a full three storeys in height, together with a detached double garage. The property is in a vulnerable area of the Green Belt and it is the DVS view that the proposals are excessive, out of

scale and would severely dwarf the attached property. An objection to the proposal has been made.

**Green Belt Land Sales.** Concern has been expressed that in some areas, particularly in the South East, agricultural land is being marketed in small plots in the Green Belt, as having potential for development. The CPRE are campaigning against such actions particularly where the sales are accompanied by fencing or stakes. Such fencing is generally viewed as permitted development under the planning acts. However the Planning Authority can impose an Article 4 Direction removing the permitted development rights in respect of such apportionment of land. So far it has not been a problem in Dore's Green Belt, but to protect the Green Belt against such sales needs vigilance.

*David Heslop*

## Dore Show success

This years show in September was blessed with good weather, encouraging an excellent turnout of entries and visitors.

Attractions included a brass band, dancers and side stalls, along with exhibits in 74 classes filling both the Old School and the Methodist Church hall.

The charity auction at the end of the afternoon raised just over £208 for St Lukes Hospice.

Next years show will be on Saturday the 11th September.



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## Bridging the generations

Dore Oral History project continues to expand and reach out into our local community.

In the autumn term we were very pleased to accept an invitation from Dore Primary School for an afternoon with Mr. Scoley's Y6 class who had been finding out what life was like during the war years. A group of senior residents were warmly and courteously received by the pupils who had lots of questions to ask.

After a short presentation by ex R.A.F. officer Geoff Woodcock, helped by ex Army corporal Reg. Skelton, we broke into small groups and the children heard first hand from village people who were young themselves at that period of history. An airman's uniform, a model of a Spitfire, a war medal and many photographs of that time were poured over with intense interest. We had also taken along the War in Dore section of our summer exhibition 'The Time of Our Lives' and displayed it in the classroom which reinforced what the pupils were finding out through their oral history investigations.

The older generation went away having thoroughly enjoyed themselves in the company of such pleasant and interested young people and the pupils went out for a well deserved break having shared in the memories of their elders.

*Maureen Cope  
Dore Oral History Group*



*Geoff Woodcock talking about life in the war years to pupils at Dore Primary School.*

## Totley Library

Library opening hours:  
Monday: 10am - 12.30pm, 1.30pm - 7pm  
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday:  
9.30am - 12.30pm, 1.30pm - 5.30pm  
Saturday: 9.30am - 12.30pm  
Thursday, Sunday: closed  
Library telephone no. 293 0406

## Hitting the buffers

Hopes of creating new suburban train stations at Bradway and Totley during the next 10 years have reached the end of the line with transport managers admitting they do not have the money to go ahead.

Hopes linger of improvements to Dore station, linked to a park-and-ride service.

## Dore Festival 2004

We are already making plans for next year's Dore Festival when we hope to offer, once again, a fortnight of events. We intend to keep to the format of 2003 starting with the Open Gardens on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June. The Well Dressing Service will take place on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July and the Scout & Guide Gala on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July. Please put these dates in your diaries now and keep them free!

Arroll Winning is planning another one of his famous village tree trails with an emphasis on unusual or rare species of trees, shrubs or plants. If you have a tree or bush that would be of special interest please contact Arroll Winning on 236 7708.

We are always on the look out for new or different events as well as repeating the most popular ones. If you are already planning an event or would like to do something which we could include in the programme please contact Anne Elsdon: 236 0002 or Maureen Cope: 235 0392.

*Dore Festival Committee*



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## Jean recalls

Posters up and down the country tell us that 59% of the population are in favour of hunting. Whilst admitting that the hunt in full cry is a spectacular sight, my heart lies with the poor fox. Years ago we all used to flock to the Crown Inn to witness the hunt turn out and flew around the district on foot like maniacs. The late comedian Jimmy Edwards, a keen huntsman in his day, turned out with the hunt from the Crown and there used to be a photograph of the event in the pub. Boxing Day was another occasion when we turned out to watch, the frosty air giving everyone an appetite for cold turkey.

When I was a child the older generation in Dore were really superstitious, even the noble snowdrop being taboo. You never replanted a Christmas tree in your garden. That spelt disaster. You didn't pick blackberries after November 5<sup>th</sup> as they then had the mark of the devil on them. This year, though you'd be lucky to find any as late as that, as they seem to have had a very short life, what with the lack of rain and the warmth. Likewise sprouts were marked with the sign of the cross because Old Nick may have touched them. In the rest of the country you cut the bottom of the sprout to enable them to cook better, but not in Dore. Until the 50's women who had given birth were barred from visiting houses until they had been churched. They were considered

unclean. No such charge regarding men! How barbaric. I can't imagine where that thinking came from.

**And a grouse:** Did the paper collection bins have to be such a conspicuous colour? They look ghastly to me. And what has happened to the postbox which used to be at the corner of Cross Lane and Brickhouse Row. How long has it been gone?

Cars and vans continue to park in the entrances to the back of the shops on Causeway Head Road. Maybe they are only there whilst the owners call for a paper or into the bank, but it is very annoying if you are waiting to enter or exit the back. I wonder how the thoughtless people would feel if we parked in their driveways. Not too happy, I'm sure.

*Jean Dean*

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## Round Table Collection

Hallamshire Round Table will be carrying out their annual Xmas food collection in the Dore area on Sunday the 14th December.

Leaflets will be distributed the week before to houses where we will be collecting from. Then on the Sunday, Round Tablers and their families will be driving around the streets of Dore collecting tins, bottles and non perishable food items.

All food collected is distributed to local needy charities in time for Xmas.

Hallamshire Round Table has been in existence for 50 Years and has been carrying out the Dore Food Collection for the last 40 Years. Anyone interested in helping out or joining the Round Table should contact Mike Braddock on 0114 2366757.

Further details on our organisation can be found at [www.roundtable.co.uk](http://www.roundtable.co.uk) or [www.hallamshire-round-table.co.uk](http://www.hallamshire-round-table.co.uk)

## Back Pain at Christmas

Christmas can be a major cause for back pain. This might sound like a surprising statement, but it is actually caused by writing Christmas Cards for hours on end.

Neck and back pain can be caused by mechanical stress on the soft tissues in the back (discs and ligaments) through prolonged postural strain. sitting at a table, bending over to write Christmas cards puts

the ligaments and discs in the upper back into an overstretched position. If this position is maintained for a prolonged period of time, some of the fibres start to develop tears.

Unfortunately the pain is not necessarily felt immediately. This is probably due to the fact that the tears in the weakened structures will worsen gradually and the pain will start one or two days later.

If the soft tissue is damaged to such an extent that the swelling becomes excessive, then stiffness and pain in the neck might be felt. Pain can also be referred via nerves to the lower back and/or leg (without necessarily feeling pain in the actually damaged area).

To prevent such damaging strains it is advisable to pull the chair close to the table and lean back against the back rest.

Keep elbows close to body (not spread out on table) and look down with a "nodding" action, tilting the head on the spine (as if wanting to put the chin on the collar bone). Take frequent breaks.

*Happy Christmas  
Dore Physiotherapy Practice*

## Cards for good causes

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

## Christmas at St. John's Church

*November 30th.* Advent Sunday. 6.30pm Advent Carol Service. A special service of readings & carols with music led by St. John's church choir,

*December 21st.* 6.30pm Service of Nine Lessons & Carols by Candlelight. Join in with some well loved carols, and listen to some new ones ( including some by John Rutter ) sung by the Church Choir. The readings tell the Christmas story in the well loved words from the bible. All welcome.

*December 24th.* Christmas Eve. The Christingle Service will take place at 5pm. This popular service for the whole family will include the lighting of the Christmas tree and the Christingles and popular carols. All welcome.

Midnight Communion. 11.30pm. The first Communion of Christmas and The Blessing of the Crib, with music led by the Choir.

*December 25th.* Christmas day. A Family Service with Carols at 10am.

**Early warning to all singers!** April 4th.

Following the pattern of the last few years, the choir of St. John's & Alan our organist/choirmaster invite singers from S17 to join us to sing the shortened version of Bach's St. Matthew's Passion on Palm Sunday.

Rehearsals will start on January 9th at St. John's at 8pm.

*Phyllis Glossop*

with Love & Best wishes XXX

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## Festival of Light

The sixth Festival of Light at St Luke's Hospice begins this year with an illumination ceremony at 6pm on Sunday 14th December. From then until Twelfth Night the tall trees in the Hospice's grounds will twinkle with thousands of tiny lights, each celebrating the life of someone precious. The whole event, which is free to visitors, will last about one hour and include seasonal music and refreshments. The cost of dedication a light is £5 - call 236 9911 for more details.

## Journey to Bethlehem

This holiday season Totley Rise Methodist invites on a journey back in time... the year AD1, the place Bethlehem. In parties of 10, you'll be taken on a 30-minute tour led by

a Roman Centurion. You'll experience the sights, smells and sounds of the time of Jesus' birth. You'll visit the Market Place with Bible-time baking & sweets to taste and Bible-time crafts for the children to make. Hebrew dancers, a crowded inn and finally the baby Jesus all go in to make this a memorable tour.

This special programme for the whole family is free. To book your place and tour-time call Gill on 236 1635. Tours run from 5:30pm to 7pm Dec 6th and 7th. Further details from Rev Chris Kirk 236 3157.

## Annual exhibition

Internationally acclaimed wildlife artist, Pollyanna Pickering, will be unveiling over 40 brand new originals at her annual Christmas exhibition, all inspired by her sketching trips in the Scottish Highlands. Visitors will be welcomed at her private

gallery at Brookvale House, Oker, near Matlock between 10am and 9pm every day from November 22nd to 30th. More details from 01629 55851.

Earlier this year Pollyanna was recognised in the 2003 European Women of Achievement awards for both her outstanding artwork and her dedication to the conservation of endangered wildlife.

## Flower Tubs in Dore

The Village was once again decorated with flower tubs throughout the summer months. The flowers are supplied and managed by the City Council Horticultural Department, with the money to pay for these services raised by donations from individuals, local shops, businesses, churches, & associations within Dore. If you can make a donation or would like to help in the fundraising please contact John Giles on 236 1009.

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*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
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### ANNA STEELE

**WISHES EVERYONE  
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND  
A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR**

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*Compliments of the Season to all our  
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## Hilda's story

*From the Dore Oral History Collection  
In conversation with Hilda Warnes (née Taylor)*

Hilda was born at Rose Cottage, High Street, Dore, on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1910. Her parents were Harry Taylor and Mary Fisher. The youngest of seven children she had four sisters Doris, Ivy, Ada and Jane and two brothers Godfrey and Harry. Her father worked as a scythe back maker in Rockingham Street, Sheffield and then as a gardener in Cavendish Avenue. Hilda and her sister Ada will be remembered by generations of pupils and teachers at Dore School where for thirty-four years they were dinner ladies.

Now aged 93 years, Hilda can recall characters and events that were part of her childhood in Dore. She remembers when fairs were held at the back of Rose Cottage (now the Devonshire Arms car park) where the local lads were offered five shillings to fight a burley boxer in an open-air booth. There were horse shows in the village and horse racing on the recreation ground.

Hilda remembers the gymnasium on Townhead Road "a great big wooden place" where all the lads used to go. This was before the Choral Hall, later the Church Hall, was built. A magic lantern concert was held once a week at the British Legion (now Dore Club) presented by George Bowes (Lorraine Evans' father) and it was a good night for the whole family.

Many travelling salesmen frequented Dore Village in Hilda's younger days. One such character was Mr Baggy from whom Hilda bought a bowler hat for tuppence for her father. During the Great War Mr O'Neil from Hunters Bar would arrive to mend umbrellas and brought with him song and hymn sheets. A man used to come with 'pots' from Sheffield, as there was no hardware shop in the village and Mr Shipstone would collect parcels with his horse and cart.

Hilda has vivid memories of Shrove Tuesday when Mrs Farnsworth, Mrs Gill, Mrs Fletcher and many other ladies "used to make a lovely tea" for the children. Following this would be a concert where Johnny Stones, the blacksmith, Edwin Parker and Nellie Flint would sing as Tilly Farnsworth played the piano.

A sadder memory is of contracting scarlet fever and together with Fred Swift and Hattie Taylor spending seven weeks in Dronfield Fever Hospital. Hilda recalls, "In those days they used to come on a horse and coach and the nurse used to come out of the coach, pop us in with the red blanket and away we went."

Schooldays were mainly happy with Miss Dobbs and Miss Hopkin although Hilda admits that Miss Palmer "could be nasty" and Mr Bones used to "hit us terrible". Some of the lads once cut the pedals on the headmaster's harmonium and Hilda laughs "we nearly all got stick through that." But the children had lots of fun especially when it snowed, sledging from the Devonshire

Arms straight down Bushy Wood.

When Hilda was young there were very few shops in Dore Village. She remembers particularly Sam Thorpe's butchers shop, Woody Turver's grocery and Mr Watchhorne's bakery where bread was baked for her mother for tuppence a loaf.

Mr and Mrs Wildeman kept the Hare and Hounds and sent apples and oranges to the children in the Fever Hospital. They were followed by Mr Hirst and then the legendary Frank and Margaret Clarke. Old Mr Bill Thorpe and his wife kept the Devonshire Arms.

Hilda married in 1929 when she was nineteen years old and came to live at Barkers Row, Townhead Road where she has been for nearly seventy-three years. She and her husband Frank celebrated sixty-one years together.

Looking out of her cottage window Hilda describes the lovely plantation owned by Mr Bottomley that used to be across the road. She remembers other residents of Barkers Row like the Taylor family whose eleven children all played in Dore Brass Band. From chapel she recalls Miss Constantine who was very religious, "She frightened us to death; she used to say the world was coming to an end and we're still here" Hilda chuckles. And through the autumn twilight the ghost of Mr Bingham, the lamplighter, reaches towards the gas lamps on Townhead Road.

*Maureen Cope*

*Ed. Please see the front page picture.*



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## Beauchief Gardens

*A small piece of Beauchief Gardens is actually in Beauchief.*

The plaque in the wall near to Abbeydale Road reads "This garden and the adjoining sheet of water were presented to the city of Sheffield by the J.G.Graves Charitable Trust April 1935".

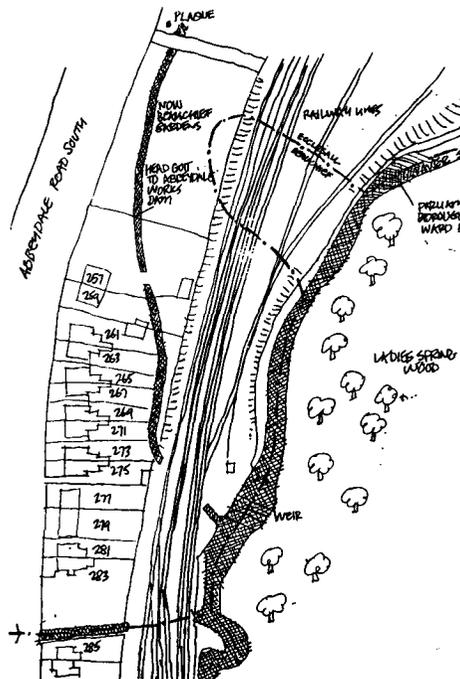
This is just one of the many 'gifts' given to the City of Sheffield, by the founder of this early mail order company, and which included Graves Art Gallery, Graves Park, the Round Walk etc. This particular gift was awarded at the time of the annexation of Dore, Totley and Norton from Derbyshire to Sheffield.

Close by the plaque a small stream runs between the flowerbeds; this is the head goit or feeder of water into the dam at Abbeydale Works. On the railway side of the park is the River Sheaf which had its level raised to feed the goit, as shown on the plan. It would appear that the bed of the River Sheaf was straightened (possibly for the railway line) and the dotted line shows that the parliamentary borough and ward boundary looks as though it is faithful to the old route.

If you look over the wall between nos. 283 and 285 you will see the final section of the River Limb emerging from under the road before it joins the Sheaf. The Limb, of course, was the boundary between Derbyshire and Yorkshire. It was also the boundary between the religious provinces of York and Canterbury.

**Brian Edwards**

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



*An old postcard of Beauchief Gardens in the 1950s, before it became overgrown and neglected.*

*Ed. The forthcoming revision of local ward boundaries will follow the railway line at this point, losing us another snippet of history. Oddly Beauchief Gardens and Abbeydale Hamlet will be in Ecclesall, on a narrow strip of land between Ecclesall Wood 3 (Dore & Totley) and Beauchief Golf Course (Beauchief & Greenhill).*

*In the meantime Beauchief Gardens remain sadly neglected by our Council. Would anyone be interested in forming a friends group to restore it? After all, it is nearer to Dore than anywhere else.*

**The Traditional Heritage Museum** 605 Ecclesall Road, S11 8PR, (300 yds below Hunters Bar) will be open on Saturday 31st January and Saturday 28th February.

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## Councillor surgeries

Local councillors from both parties will in future be holding regular surgeries in Dore, using the Dore Village Society rooms at the Old School.

A Liberal Democrat councillor will be available to discuss local problems and issues on the second Saturday of each month between 10.30 am and 12 noon. Future dates are: 13th December; 10th January and 14th February.

A Conservative councillor will be available to discuss local problems and issues on the last Monday each month between 6pm and 7pm. Future dates are: 24th November; 26th January and 23rd February.

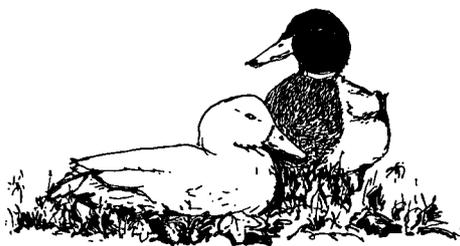
## News in brief

**Pat Held** has retired, after running the Crescent Coffee Shop in Greenhill for a number of years.

**Well done** to Eleanor Smith from Dore, who has won a £2,000 Undergraduate Scholarship Award from the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and is now studying mechanical engineering at Cambridge University.

**Still no news** about the fate of Ashfurlong Lane after the council gave notice in March of a proposed traffic order introducing a one way system.

**Computer courses** for beginners are being run at Totley Library, ring 293 0406



## Alice May Crossland

*Following her request for information in our summer issue, Primrose Lockwood has now been able to pull together more information on Alice Crossland Nee Blyton.*

Alice May Crossland, known as May, lived at 10 Meadway Drive, Dore, from the 1940s to her death in 1962.

She was a music teacher and rented a studio at Wilson Peck, during the 40s, 50s and 60s. A neighbour described her as friendly and having a whimsical sense of humour. May had a piano at home, even though she did not teach from there, and apologised to neighbours after playing scales, saying she hoped she had not disturbed them.

Alice May Crossland was born Alice May Blyton on 14th April, 1878, at Asline Road, Sheffield. She was the youngest child of Mary Ann (nee Hanly) and Thomas Carey Blyton, who came to Sheffield, from Kent, sometime during the 1870s. Thomas worked as a draper's buyer. Later the family moved from Asline Road to Aizelwood Road, and finally to Machon

Bank. In the 1895 White's Directory, there is a listing for Miss M. Blyton at Machon Bank as a pianoforte teacher.

May's older brother, Thomas Carey Blyton junior, born 1870, worked as a mercantile clerk. In 1896 he married Theresa Harrison of Sheffield. They went to live in Kent and later had three children, Enid, Hanly and Carey. Enid became the children's writer, Enid Blyton.

According to Enid's biographer, Barbara Stoney, Thomas Carey junior believed his daughter resembled her aunt May and possessed a similar musical talent. He hoped she would become a musician. However Enid preferred writing.

Hanly's son, Carey, became a composer, arranger, music editor and lecturer. Carey wrote in a letter to me, "... after I had taken up piano at the age of 16, she [May] gave me several volumes of music - the complete Beethoven piano sonatas, the complete Chopin mazurkas, etc." Many years later Carey's book of nonsense songs for children, "Bananas in Pyjamas" made his name widely known.

Alice May married Charles Needham Crossland, a steel works' representative. There were no children.

*I became interested in May Crossland while researching Enid Blyton. During this time I had several letters from Carey Blyton who shared things about his great aunt. A neighbour and former neighbour of May, from Meadway Drive, have also been very helpful.*

*Primrose Lockwood*

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## View from KES

Life is never dull in a secondary school and we have had a number of highlights which I would like to share with you.

**The Sponsored Walk.** Even though I only joined the school in January, I quickly realised what a great community event our sponsored walk is. I had the task of organising the event this year and would like to thank the many parents who helped out, either by marshalling or accompanying the youngsters on the walk. We were very fortunate with the weather and the last pupil back to school came in at 5pm. Thanks to everyone we managed to raise nearly 10K and this money will be spent on the students of the school. Year councils are already providing the management with lots of ideas as to how the money ought to be spent.

At present the walk involves all our students (Year 7-13) and covers 13 miles. We are at present reviewing how we manage the walk and some changes to what we have done in the past should be expected.

**The New Building.** In my last article, I wrote that the work on the new school should have started in June. This did not happen. We were then told mid-July, and started to prepare ourselves and the pupils for this event - we even got Chris Adams (Gleasons on site manager) to talk to the pupils about Health and Safety issues and write to parents.

Suddenly everything was put on further hold so building did not start. During the summer break further progress was made and the workmen finally started at the end of September. We are all delighted with this. The back of the Wessex building has all been fenced off and students can now only enter or exit the site through the main

gates on Wessex drive. This drive has been partitioned to separate construction traffic from pedestrians.

**Sporting achievements.** Our students continue to succeed in sport at a local, county, national and international level. In cricket the Year 7 team won the City Schools Final while the Year 8 team were South Yorkshire champions and went on to represent the county at Headingley. The Year 10 team, reached the semi-finals of the Sheffield Schools cup.

In athletics we had 30 athletes represent the school at the City Finals at Don Valley stadium. Unfortunately, for the first time in six years we did not have an athlete on the South Yorkshire Team at the English Schools Championships, although the school was represented by Mr Eccles, who was once again a team manager. This was not due to underperformance by our students but quite the opposite. Jessica Ennis was unable to defend her English Schools High Jump title as she was competing in the U20 World Athletics Championships in Canada. Jessica was competing in the heptathlon, which she led for 5 of the 7 events, and eventually finished 5<sup>th</sup>. This was an outstanding achievement and the school is extremely proud of her.

We continue to be successful in badminton with the U13 Boys winning the County Schools Badminton title.

**Junior School Visits.** During the last few weeks the Senior Staff at KES, that is, Bob Evans - the Headteacher, Tim Eldridge, Jo Higgins and myself - the Deputies and Tom Smiles - Head of Lower School, have been visiting our Junior schools of Totley All Saints, Totley County and Dore, to meet parents and tell them a little about what makes KES so special. It is also an opportunity for parents to be re-assured and ask any questions which they may have.

I hope reading this gives you a flavour of some of the exciting things that happen at KES. We have so many talented and gifted youngsters and are very proud of their achievements, as I hope you are.

If you have any questions to put to me or any comments to make, could you write to me at King Egbert School, Furniss Avenue, Dore, S17 3QN. Thank you.

*Sean McClafferty*

## Outdoor specials

Foothills, the walking specialists, will be hosting a special 'Paramo event' on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th November (10am to 4pm). They will also be open for the same times on following Sundays up to Christmas.

## Sheffield Country Walk

The project to update and re-waymark the 54 mile route is finally complete! There are now 2,000 copies of a new booklet - the third edition - setting out the route, which was officially launched by the Lord Mayor in September.

Sheffield Country Walk, edition 3, 2003 is available by post price £3.95 (plus 55p p&p) from Roy Bullen, 33 Durvale Court, Sheffield S17 3PT or at local bookshops and outdoor shops.

## Wyvern Walkers

The Dore Village Society has its own walking group which circulates details of activities by post to anyone interested. Everyone is welcome to join. For more details or to be added to our mailing list call 236 9025 or 236 9831.

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## Book reviews

Travel through Attercliffe today and you could be forgiven for underestimating its industrial past and the rich diversity of life there in the last century. The generous local response to his first book on the area, prompted author Michael Liversage to produce *Another Wander up the 'Cliffe*. Packed with mainly black and white photographs of streets, places and people along with associated stories, this book provides another invaluable glimpse back in time to a vibrant area of old Sheffield. There are some wonderful old photos of Attercliffe Windmill, blitz damage, smoky factories and even of inside the areas Alhambra music hall. There is also a list of the numerous pubs once in the area, including my favourite name, the Stumble Inn. *Another Wander up the 'Cliffe* is published by Pickard Communication, price £10.99 ISBN 09544045-5-6

One picture is said to be worth a thousand words, and certainly old photographs are an invaluable source of information and interest. Two new books by local photographer J R Wrigley provide interesting snapshots of the history of Sheffield. *A Sheffield Camera* is devoted to the city centre using some 70 pictures taken by the author since the 1960s. It is surprising how much has changed and how many landmark buildings and corners have been lost such as 'The Hole in the Road'. These are everyday shots in black and white, capturing people and traffic going about their daily business and all the warmer for that. Its sister book *A Hillsborough Camera* is slightly more ambitious, bringing together a collection of 80 old photographs of the area from a variety of sources combined with black & white and colour photographs taken by the author. The old shops are fascinating as are the old street scenes and the inevitable Hillsborough football crowds. Both books are published by Pickard Communication, price £7.99 each ISBN 09544045-6-4 and -3-X respectively.

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Sixty years on, the Second World War continues to fascinate researchers and authors alike, in many cases drawing on the fading memories of participants or the release of government documents. *Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Airfields in the Second World War* looks at the role of these 21 airfields, both in active operations and for training. Author Robin Brooks describes the history of each airfield, and covers the major operations carried out from them and the impact on local people and their lives. Pictures of buildings, planes and air crew illustrate this carefully researched and well written book. 256 pages in paperback, price £12.95, published by Countryside Books, ISBN 1-85306-799-7

## Sewerage upgrade

A £13m project to upgrade Sheffield's sewerage systems has begun. The aim is to improve river water quality by tackling overflows which discharge diluted sewage and rainwater when the system is overloaded.

Parts of the work are expected to cause major disruption on key city highways such as Abbeydale Road South.

## Chatsworth survey

An archaeological survey of a large part of the Chatsworth estate has thrown new light on the people who lived in the area and worked the land more than 6,000 years ago.

Covering around 50 sq km of the central part of the estate, it charts 3,500 archaeological and landscape features. Early examples include burial mounds, stone circles and cairns, while signs of industry include 800-year-old millstone quarries, possibly the best surviving examples in the UK, and evidence of coal mining dating back hundreds of years.

The survey, which has taken five years to complete, has been compiled by archaeologists from the Peak District National Park Authority.

## Neglected assets

Did you know that more than 500 million walking trips are made each year to the English countryside by residents of the UK alone? Also, just over £6 billion is spent by visitors - supporting between 185,000 and 245,000 full-time jobs.

The figures come from a report commissioned by the Ramblers to highlight the value of walking to the rural economy, and the benefits to rural businesses of an open and easily useable footpath network.

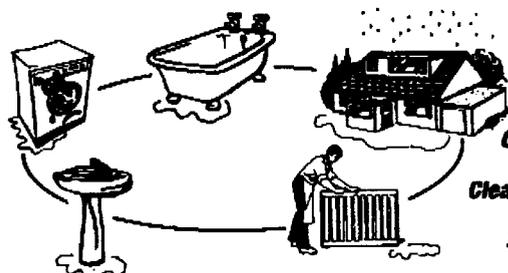
Yet almost a third of all footpaths are difficult or impossible to use in England, while it would take as little as £1.79 for every adult in England to have the entire footpath network open, useable and easily navigable - a tiny amount for councils to invest in a public amenity that brings so much money into local economies.

## Publishing deadline

The deadline for entries in the Spring edition of DORE to DOOR, to be published mid February, is **Friday 30th January**. Please send details of events, articles, or your letters to the address on page 2. You can also ring the editor on 0114 236 9025 or email to: [editor@dorevillage.co.uk](mailto:editor@dorevillage.co.uk)

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## A Peak District book feast

More books are bought over the Christmas period than at any other time of the year, and this is reflected in the flood of new releases from publishers. Despite the attractions of other media, a well chosen book can still make an excellent present to be enjoyed in one's own time and pace.

The following six books are published by Halsgrove and available from local bookshops or direct from the publisher on 01884 243242.

Few authors are better equipped to introduce readers to the delights of the Peak District than Roly Smith, former head of Information services for the Peak Park. His new book *Enjoying the Peak District* outlines the main geographical areas, the culture and customs, potential activities, some outstanding places to see or visit, as well as providing a historic time line and Gazetteer. Illustrated with colour, photographs this is a good starting point for exploring the Peak. Price £6.95 80 pages in paperback ISDN 1-84114-276-X

If you are interested in local wildlife, *Wild Peak* by wildlife photographer Martin Hamblin will prove irresistible. This book is a joy to browse, being full of superb photographs capturing the natural history of the Peak District. Everything from native white-clawed crayfish to birds of prey in flight are frozen in time, along with evocative landscape shots capturing the four seasons. Shots of badgers outside their sett, alone took more than 80 evenings to capture and a 100 rolls of film. The text includes descriptions of the changes with each of the seasons, added to by details of some of the authors face-to-face encounters. But it is the photographs that make this 144 page hardback book. Published in association with English Nature, it is real value at £12.95 ISDN 1-84114-288-3

The Peak District is renowned for its many moods, tempered by the weather and time of year. Landscape photographer Jerry Rawson sets out to capture these changes, through some 140 colour photographs in his new book entitled *Peak District Moods*. From bleak winter scene to autumn woodland, from craggy outcrop to tumbling streams every changing mood of the Peak District countryside is captured. The photographer's efforts in the "chasing of the light across this precious landscape" are rewarded by this collection of photographs. 144 pages, each with a locational caption. Price £12.95 ISDN 1-84114-270-0

Inspired by the beauty of the countryside, landscape artist Rex Preston has been sketching and painting for more than 30 years. His new book *Peak District and Pennines* brings together 130 of his more recent works, along with an interview on his development as an artist and the creative processes he uses. Most of the scenes are of out of way places, many in the Peak District, capturing the light and textures of all the seasons. Each painting has a little of its history and inspiration that created it, sometimes with the formulative sketch. The pictures are beautifully reproduced in 144 pages, hardback, Price £24.95 ISDN 1-84114-286-7

Edale nestles in the heart of the Peak Park, nowadays a popular mecca to day trippers from Sheffield and hill walkers heading for Kinder Scout. Although mentioned in the Domesday Book this was an isolated valley until the railway arrived in the late 1800s, while the creation of the Peak Park generated a new tourist industry alongside the traditional farming heritage. The Edale Society, founded in 1978, has now put together a portrait of the vale covering its history, industries, events and the lives of its people past and present. Packed with old black and white photographs, local details and histories, this large 160 page hardback

in A4 format will prove fascinating to anyone with links to Edale or an interest in the history of peak villages. *The book of Edale* is priced at £19.95 ISDN 1-84114-245-X

The Peak is full of places with interesting or unusual names reflecting a long and interesting heritage. *Peak Place-Names* by Louis McMeeken, looks at the origins of these names often drawn from the landscape and practices of the past. Thus 'cop' can be defined as the top of a hill as in Wardlow Cop and 'limb' as in Limb Brook from *limbus* the Latin for edge or border. 96 pages in paper back and packed with information, price £6.95 ISDN 1-84114-271-X

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## The Wildlife Garden

The squirrels in my garden are racing around burying the peanuts they have just prized out of my 'squirrel-proof' nut holder; the swifts and martins have long since gone and my garden robin and blackbirds have all returned after months of skulking in the undergrowth, resplendent in their new feathers. It can only mean one thing, winter is on its way. With the approach of winter comes one of the most hated of all gardening tasks, clearing up fallen leaves. It always seems that no sooner have you removed one pile of leaves, the moment you turn your back, yet more are blown back into the exact same spot. However, to my way of thinking, all these leaves are a free bonus rather than a problem.

There is nothing better than leaf mould for the garden, but it takes a long time for the leaves to break down. The traditional method is to put a mixture of leaves - preferably dry ones, into a wire enclosure and forget about them. After around 5 years, the fungal hyphae have done their magic and the rotted leaves will have

changed into a fine crumbly compost.

Nowadays accelerators are available to speed up this process, which means that the leaves are broken down and ready to use after just one year. Another method is to pack them into black plastic bin liners, but this time they need to be slightly moist or alternately, simply mix any dead leaves together with the rest of your garden waste in the compost heap, but they should total no more than 25% of the heap's mass.

If you do have to burn leaves or other garden waste, please remember that hedgehogs and other animals are likely to be hibernating in your bonfire pile, so please check it carefully *before* burning.

The only place leaves are not welcome in my garden is in the pond (all right on the lawn as well, but there they are not such a problem). Leaves can form a thick layer at the bottom of your pond and as they decompose, use up its oxygen supply. The simplest way to prevent this is to cover the pond with a net which will stop the leaves blowing in, but I prefer to raise it a little higher, so that birds and frogs can still have easy access.

Winter is a good time to thin out your pond plants if they have become overgrown. The

recommended method is to leave the plants you remove by the edge of the pond, so that any wildlife living amongst them can make their way back into the water. However I think a much better, albeit more painstaking way, is to wash the roots of your surplus plants in a bucket of water and when you have finished, slowly pour it back into the pond. These plants can then go straight onto the compost heap, although I check mine first for dragonfly larvae, which are often still clinging to the roots.

So, what happens when your pond freezes? If you have a very shallow pond or water in a pot, make sure you drain it completely because if it does freeze, the ice will expand and may crack your container. In a deeper pond this is generally not a problem and unless we are subject to a prolonged arctic winter, it shouldn't freeze completely, which means that any animals living in the mud at the bottom are usually able to survive. When my pond freezes over, I simply place a pan of hot water on the surface and this will slowly melt its way through all but the thickest ice. An old camping kettle is even better, but either way, take care when walking around on potentially icy paths with a container of hot water.

You can always put night lights under a metal bird bath in an attempt to keep it free of ice, but I think a far easier way is to empty it at night and refill it with cold water the following morning. Remember though, whether you are outside topping up seed holders or filling the bird bath, be careful and dress up warmly.

Every year, people die in their gardens during the winter months having slipped on ice or died from the shock of venturing out of a warm house into the cold air, when all they were going to do was feed the birds. Our wildlife needs all the sympathetic gardeners it can get, not winter casualties.

The other killer in winter gardens is thick snow, not so much because it causes accidents, but due to the physical exertion involved in moving the stuff which can bring on heart attacks. Snow clearing is possibly the hardest, most back breaking job we ever do in our gardens, easily the equivalent of chopping a tree down with an axe, so always remember to warm up first and don't over do it.

Although thick layers of snow insulate plants and the soil from extreme winter temperatures, a sudden heavy fall will damage hedges, trees and shrubs by weighing down their branches and snapping them off.

I go out and reduce the weight by knocking snow off these branches with a long-handled brush, but if you do this, make sure it doesn't fall on your neighbour's plot. There is nothing more annoying than having just cleared your drive, only to find your neighbour has come along a few hours later and knocked all the snow off his tree or hedge onto your side. I know, it has happened to me!

Happy and safe gardening.

Jack Daw



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## Dore Primary School

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In our last issue we reported that the library at Dore Primary School has received a much needed revamp, with the help of donations by Dore Parents Association.

The amount provided towards refurbishing and restocking of the library was £7,000. £3,000 was also raised by the school's annual sponsored walk. This money enabled parent volunteers to redecorate, refurbish and restock the library and to install a child-friendly computer system to help manage this exciting new resource.

## Stars in Dore

Mars has lost some of its glory by the end of December but can still be seen low in the southwest in the evening. We shall come back to the red planet and what was seen of it from Dore at the end of the article.

On 30<sup>th</sup> December the Moon at 1st Quarter will pass just to the left of Mars in Cetus, the Sea Monster. If one takes mental note of this region of the sky and the brighter stars nearby one could easily return to it when the Moon has moved on, and find the intriguing constellation of Pisces the Fishes. Pisces, can be found just below the Square of Pegasus. Its stars are rather faint, at visual magnitudes 3.6 to 5.5, but just above where Mars lies there is a distinctive circle of stars belonging to Pisces. Leftwards of this circle (eastwards) this constellation extends as far as one of its brightest members, Alpha Piscium, and then turns upwards beside Pegasus towards Andromeda.

The two fishes are supposedly tied together at their tails by long ribbons. Although only traceable by its several faint stars, Pisces is so famous from its frequent astrological references that it should be seen. Try to find it as early as possible before it is lost at the western horizon. The Pisces stars may appear linked by the human eye but they are vastly separated in space and bear no relationship to each other, certainly with no common influence on humankind or their horoscopes, except it is Springtime when the Sun shines from Pisces! Their real astronomical significance is that this zodiacal constellation has contained the equinoctial point since the first century BC.

It is not so widely known that there are other celestial fishes, that called Piscis Austrinus. Aquarius, the Water Carrier, is pouring water into the mouth of this Southern Fish. This rarely seen constellation contains the bright star, Fomalhaut (the mouth of the fish), used by old time maritime navigators, and RAF navigators during WW2.

Venus may be seen shining very brightly low in the southwest in the evenings as we get into the New Year of 2004. She will set later each succeeding evening until she may be seen extremely bright (visual magnitude -4.0 at the end of February), fairly high in the southwest, and in our constellation of Pisces. Venus will outshine Mars as we saw it in August! The crisp cold nights in Dore will set off this beautiful planet well.

Saturn is in Gemini and appears early in the winter evenings in the east. It is then visible all night long, with visual magnitude 0.1, setting in the west after the Sun rises. Saturn's rings are at their widest so that even in quite small telescopes they present a spectacular view.

Jupiter sits just beneath Leo, the Lion, and rises much later than Saturn. The giant planet is best seen during the second part of the night. Jupiter and Saturn will later appear together with many of the brightest stars in the sky, that is, those in Orion, Taurus, Gemini, Auriga, Leo and Canis Major. This should be an impressive sight

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through to the Spring. Look for Rigel, Betelgeuse, Sirius, Aldebaran, Castor, Pollux, Regulus, Capella, and the two giant planets, shining in a dark sky all together! Readers were pre-warned of the approach of Mars in past issues. No doubt many will have seen it during the summer, although 2003 will be best remembered perhaps for its wonderful sunshine.

The warm clear evenings in Dore, however, provided a superb opportunity for trying out all sorts of astronomical equipment and those marvelously cheap web cameras that one should be using on personal computers to talk to your girlfriends. For £70 one can capture colour images of the major planets such as were hardly exceeded in quality with professional cameras and telescopes fifty years ago. Most amateur astronomers are now using the Phillips ToUcam Pro which is far superior to other cheap webcams.

Any small telescope can then be utilized to record the clouds of Jupiter and perhaps the rings of Saturn. Certain tricks are worth knowing about. Certainly a visit to the Sheffield Astronomical Society would help (Tel: Darren 0114 269 2291). The Society meets on most Mondays at 7.30pm at the Old School, Mayfield, near Fulwood off David Lane, and occasionally for special practical Space Nights with telescopes.

The writer was able to capture Mars from Dore. The planet rotates in a little over 24 hours so that each succeeding night one sees a slightly different aspect of the planet's surface. Dark markings on the surface indicate different types of terrain,

and although Mars' atmosphere is extremely tenuous there are climatic changes and dust storms clearly visible. The South Polar Cap shrunk over two or three months as Mars' southern summer approached. On one occasion we glimpsed bluish white clouds over three of Mars' giant volcanoes, Ascraeus, Pavonis and Arsia Montes as they caught the Martian morning twilight. It is tantalising to imagine that an asteroid impact during Mars' past three billion years may have excavated a crater revealing a Kimberley diamond mine. It already seems that semi-precious stones have been detected in Mars' Nili Fossae region. The writer collected about eighty CD's worth of data on Mars, plus several of the Moon, during this summer and autumn, equivalent to over ninety hours of recorded music, estimated at a total of about 48 gigabytes of astronomical data or a quarter of a million frames. All this from Dore!

The writer is often asked why look at the planets and stars and why gather so much data? There are, no doubt, many answers to this. Some seem more satisfactory than others. Why climb a mountain and possibly kill yourself 'because it is there'? Why sit in the cold exposed to an open night sky in mid-winter? Is it akin to the reason as to why one would like to compose a piano concerto like Tchaikovsky or paint a picture like Van Gogh? Shelves of astronomical data have something of the fascination and purpose that nuts must have for squirrels.

Strangely, many people wanted to 'see' Mars but only a trickle of enthusiasm remained when it came to the effort required to do so. For simplicity the writer would go for the squirrel theory! But, in reality, there is great importance to be attached to recording observations of planetary weather and climatic changes. Large professional instruments cannot watch everything, and a single observation, a single frame in a video, becomes an element in a much larger jigsaw.

Best wishes to everyone for a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. When you switch on all those bright security lights on winter evenings, wasting kilowatts of electricity skyward, think of those intrepid astronomers, please!

David Andrews

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## Diary - Winter 2003

### NOVEMBER

- 15 **South Yorkshire Archeology Day** at Sheffield University. Details from 222 7000
- 18 **Christmas Flowers** talk by Valerie of Dore, for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, Church Hall, 7.45pm 236 7639
- 19-22 **Absent Friends** Alan Ayckbourn play by T.O.A.D.S. St John's Church Hall, 7.30pm. Tickets from 236 68921
- 21 **Dinner & Jazz** at Whirlowbrook Hall in aid of Leonard Cheshire Home 7.15pm for 7.45 Details from 236 7491
- 22 **Mince Pie & Coffee morning**, Transport 17 office, Baslow Road. 10am-12noon
- 25 **WORK** goods for sale from Ringinglow & talk by Mrs G Phillstriak for Totley Rise Methodist Women's Fellowship, 2.30pm in the schoolroom.
- 29 **Barn Dance** St John's Hall, 7.30pm incl supper. Tickets from 236 2597

### DECEMBER

- 2 **Christmas Past & Present** talk by Jean Henshaw, Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, Church Hall, 7.45pm 236 7639
- 3 **Victorian Christmas Fayre**, Sheffield Cheshire Home, Mickley Hall, 10am - 12 noon. Details from 236 7491
- 3 **Winter Meeting**. Talk on Haddon Hall by guide Derrick Briggs for the Dore Village Society 7.30pm Methodist Church Hall. Free admission and everyone welcome. Mince pies & drinks served.
- 5 **Crystal Singers**, Sheffield Cheshire Home, Mickley Hall, 7pm. Details from 236 7491
- 6 **Table Top Sale** in St John's Church Hall, Abbeydale Rd South - 10am to 1pm. Adm 25p Details from 236 2551
- 8 **Messiah**, Sheffield Bach Society, Sheffield Cathedral
- 9 **Christmas Music** Talk by Rev C Kirk for Totley Rise Methodist Women's Fellowship, 2.30pm in schoolroom.
- 9 **From sand to civilisation** - the archeology of Libyan Sahara, talk by Professor David Mattingly for Hunter Archeology Society, Lecture Theatre 9, Arts Tower, University of Sheffield at 7.30pm
- 10 **Christmas Party** for Dore (A) Townswomen's Guild in the Old School 1.30pm
- 10 **Loxley Silver Band**, Sheffield Cheshire Home, Mickley Hall, 7pm. Details from 236 7491
- 12 & 13 **Christmas Concerts** with Dore Male Voice Choir in Dore Parish Church. Tickets 236 5043
- 12 **Christmas Social & Antiques Evening** with Mr Michael Dowse. Hallamshire Historic Buildings society, St Marie's Cathedral, Norfolk Row 7.30pm Tel: 255 0172
- 14 **Festival of Light** - illumination ceremony at St Luke's Hospice 6pm. Free entrance
- 15 **Pleasley Colliery** Talk by Bob Metcalfe for South Yorkshire Industrial History Society, Kelham Island Industrial Museum, at 7.30pm. Visitors £1
- 16 **Christmas Celebrations** at Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, Church Hall, 7.45pm 236 7639
- 18 **Dick Whittington & His Cat**. Pantomime by Partytime Productions Sheffield Cheshire Home, Mickley Hall, 11am - 12 noon. Details from 236 7491
- 24 **Carols at Mickley** Sheffield Cheshire Home, Mickley Hall 11am - 12 noon. Details from 236 7491
- 26-1 **Festival of Winter Walks** with Sheffield Ramblers. Details from 230 1295
- 27 **Wassail Walk** with the Dore Village Society. Start 10am at the Old School. Approx 5 miles. Mince pies and punch (or soft drinks) on return. Everyone welcome.

### JANUARY

- 6 **Choir** Townswomen's Guild Choir at Totley Rise Methodist Women's Fellowship, 2.30pm in schoolroom.
- 6 **A tribute to Flora** talk by John Doornkamp for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, Church Hall, 7.45pm 236 7639

- 13 **50,000 years** of foraging and farming in S.E. Asia talk by Professor Graeme Barker for Hunter Archeology Society, Lecture Theatre 9, Arts Tower, Univ of Sheffield 7.30pm
- 14 **Tales of an Exporter** Talk by Mr A Winter for Dore (A) Townswomen's Guild in Dore Old School 2 pm
- 17 **Bridge & Supper Evening** at 6 Ashfurlong Drive, in aid Sheffield Cheshire Home 7pm. Details from 236 7491
- 19 **Sheffield Assay Office** Talk by David Jarvis for South Yorkshire Industrial History Society, Kelham Island Industrial Museum, at 7.30pm. Visitors £1
- 20 **Unparalleled Parable** Talk by Rev C Kirk for Totley Rise Methodist Women's Fellowship, 2.30pm in schoolroom.
- 20 **Quiz** by David Bramah for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, Church Hall, 7.45pm 236 7639

### FEBRUARY

- 2 **Pevsner's Architectural Guide to Sheffield** talk by Miss Ruth Harman for Hallamshire Historic Buildings society, Quaker Meeting House, St James Street, 7.30pm Tel: 255 0172
- 3 **The Land of the Eagle** Talk by Mr F Cocking for Totley Rise Methodist Women's Fellowship, 2.30 in schoolroom.
- 3 **Honey** talk by Gillian Havenhand for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, Church Hall, 7.45pm 236 7639
- 8 **Spring Clean** join the Rangers in Ecclesall Woods for a general clean up. Meet Abbey Lane lay-bys 1pm to 3pm
- 10 **Anglo Saxon sculpture** and the English Reformation talk for Hunter Archeology Society, Lecture Theatre 9, Arts Tower, University of Sheffield at 7.30pm
- 11 **Eye - Eye and Ear - Ear** Talk by Mrs R Rodman for Dore (A) Townswomen's Guild in Dore old School 2pm
- 16 **History under the arches** the Don and its crossings in Sheffield. Talk by Simon Ogden for South Yorkshire Industrial History Society, Kelham Island Industrial Museum, at 7.30pm. Visitors £1
- 17 **Green Top Circus centre** talk by Caroline Veal for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, Church Hall, 7.45pm 236 7639

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