

DORE to DOOR

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

ISSN 0965-8912

Dore Festival 2004

A very big thank you to all those who took part in Festival Fortnight and to the huge number of people who supported the many and varied events. Everything from the walks and gardens to the theatre and concerts was enjoyed despite some unseasonable weather. A special round of applause should go to 'The Company' who performed in a high wind and to the audience who sat on the Village Green on one of the coldest July evenings on record.

We would especially like to thank John Baker and the D.V.S. committee for organising such a good programme of walks, Julie Bearpark and Arroll Winning for lovely open gardens and garden tours and John Dunston for his fascinating history tour. Congratulations to both Well Dressing teams on their splendid efforts and to those who put together and staffed the very successful Petal Pushers exhibition which was visited by hundreds of people of all ages.

We are always delighted with the concerts performed by our own local groups which have become a tradition of Dore Festival and we thank them warmly. Last but not least, we appreciate the support of the two churches in Dore and the Devonshire Arms both in their willingness to organise events and provide venues.

The whole spirit of community and the pleasure of shared interests is what Festival is all about. Next year will be the 50th Anniversary of Gala and the 10th Anniversary of Festival so we shall be planning something special!

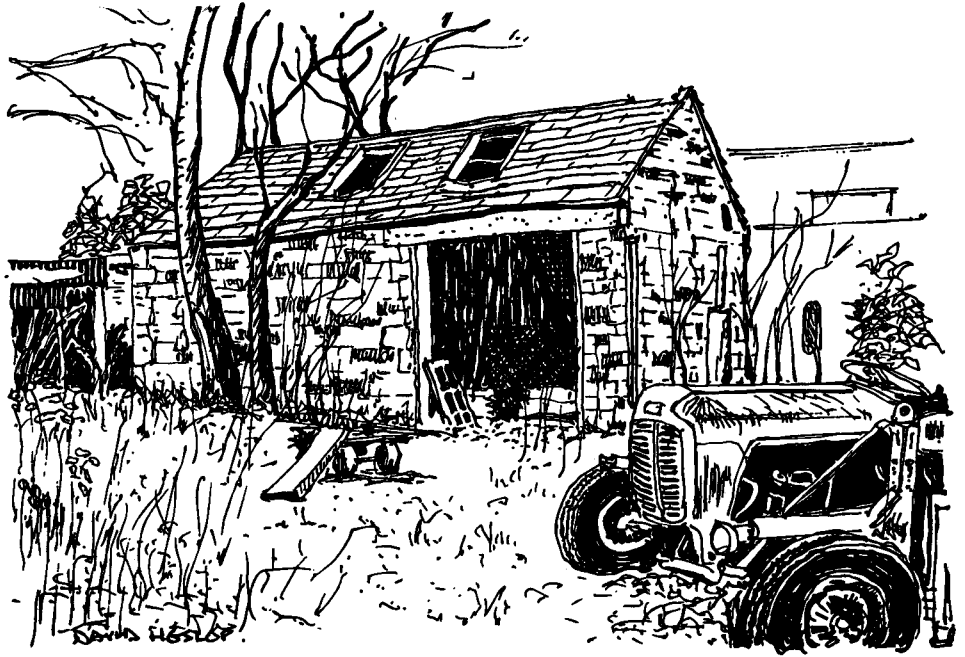
*Maureen Cope and Anne Elsdon,
Dore Festival Committee*

Furniss Avenue Housing

Sheffield City Council is inviting developers to tender for the purchase of 2.84 hectares (7.01 acres) of land for housing development off Furniss Avenue. The land is the site of the buildings and closely surrounding land of King Ecgbert Upper School. It is situated adjacent to; and on the south east side of, Dore Junior School. It does not include the playing field, backing onto the Durvale Court properties, which occupies approximately half the current site.

Clearly this is one of the most important developments to affect Dore for many years. According to government guidelines the site is capable of being developed with a minimum of 85 houses. This will have a considerable impact on the services of the village.

continued on page 3



The Old Blacksmith's Workshop behind the Devonshire Arms. David Heslop

Oral History Collection

In conversation with Sydney Hoffman, founder member of the Dore Village Society and chairman for 20 years.

Sydney Hoffman was born in Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1924. His great-grandfather came to England as an immigrant from middle Europe in the 1870s and worked as a slipper maker in Norwich. His grandfather became a professional comedian and through the stage connection met his grandmother who sang in the chorus of the D'Oyley Carte Opera Company. Although his grandfather's name was Isaac he was always known as Tommy Hoffman and so was his father Haldane. Syd explains "My father was not a studious boy at all, but he was clever, and he was the only boy who'd ever been chosen from his council school, Bath Lane Primary, in the west end of Newcastle, to go to Rutherford College, which was the sort of secondary school of the time."

Syd himself owns up to being "quite a bright lad although rather lazy" according to some of the teachers at High Heaton Grammar School for Boys. He was in the fifth form (Y11) when in 1939 war broke out and recalls "I was dispatched, among the oldest of the evacuees, with the rest of my school to the west coast of England to get us out of harm's way. We went to Whitehaven in West Cumberland and I was billeted on various families for the next three years". Syd remembers enjoying a tremendous amount of freedom and the undivided attention of clever teachers who spotted in him something to cultivate.

Continued on page 8

DORE SHOW 2004

Saturday

11 September

Old School and
Methodist Church Halls

2pm to 4.30pm

40 years on

The Dore village Society was founded 40 years ago in September 1964. Over the years it has grown and evolved with over 900 members last year and a host of activities. (See page 14)

During this anniversary year we will be looking back to 1964, holding a number of special events and undertaking initiatives to commemorate the anniversary. In this issue we feature an interview with the Society's first chairman, Syd Hoffman.

Junction traffic review

Sheffield City Council is being urged to review the traffic management system at the junction of Abbeydale Road South and Abbey Lane. A petition with 36 names will be investigated by highways officers, who will report to city councillors.

Council elections

Our three councillors following the June elections are; Anne Smith, Michael Waters and Keith Hill. All three wish to express their thanks for their election and promise to campaign for improved Council services in the area and to fight vigorously against inappropriate development.

If readers have any concerns or suggestions about local issues or Council services please contact them. Anne and Michael can be reached on 273 4108 or email anne.smith@sheffield.gov.uk or michael.waters@Sheffield.gov.uk.

Keith on 235 2289 or email keith@klhill.go-plus.net

Forum volunteers sought

Sheffield City Council is looking for more volunteers to join the 'Sheffield 100 Form' which expresses views on council services and helps to shape their delivery.

The citizens' panel is a cross-section of local residents who discuss services in the development, environment and leisure directorate. Issues range from roads and footpaths to sports facilities and libraries.

Volunteers should be over 18 and be able to offer three hours on one evening every two to three months. Contact Beth Barker on 273 6600.

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 3NJ.

Secretary

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

Committee

Mrs L E Baker 236 9025
(Dore Show & FEW)
Mr D Bearpark 236 9100
Mr G Cope 235 0392
Mr D Crosby 262 1127
Mrs A Elsdon (Subscriptions) 236 0002
Mr D Heslop (Planning) 236 5043
Mrs V Malthouse 236 3632
Mr P Pryor 236 9831

Dore Shops listing

The Dore Village Society is concerned that we keep as wide a range of shops and services as possible in the village. It is in all our interests to use these facilities on a regular basis. You can save time and money on travel and enjoy the old courtesies of being recognised and given the time of day.

The list on page 25 sets out the main details of businesses in the centre of the village, telephone numbers and times of opening. So why not try them before going further afield.

Oral history group

Dore oral history group was formed in October 2001 as a branch of the Dore Millennium Play committee. The initial aim was to collect and record the memories of elderly residents who had attended Dore School as material for the play. From this small beginning a major oral history project has developed with over forty interviews now recorded.

Recollections of family and village life, childhood and work have given us a surprising insight into an almost forgotten past. The stories and reminiscences of the people of Dore throughout the 20th century were brought together for our exhibition 'The Time of Our Lives' in July 2003. Similarly, memories of well dressing were recorded for the exhibition Petal Pushers.

Apart from recording, editing and transcribing interviews, we collect, copy, and catalogue old photographs and postcards of Dore. We like to keep in contact with our interviewees, especially the very elderly who have such wonderful tales to tell and to whom we are indebted.

We belong to the Oral History Society, take part in local and national meetings and contribute to their journal. In June 2004 two of the group attended the annual conference, 'Oral History on Display' and were pleased to discover that our community project is developing along the right lines. We also write articles for local publications such as Dore to Door and give talks to interested groups.

We are applying for a grant from the Local Heritage Initiative which, if successful, would give us funding for three years. There is still so much to do and to learn. We would like to create our own website, improve our knowledge of audio and transcribing equipment and create a proper and accessible archive in Dore. We would like to produce a publication which combines personal stories, pictures and voices in a new and exciting way.

So, if you are interested in people and the latest technology, if you like talking, typing or web designing or you are just enthusiastic about living history do get in touch. We are a very friendly group and always welcome new members of any age.

You can contact, Maureen Cope Tel: 235 0392 or Barbara Jackson Tel: 236 0332.

What do we do?

During a recent casual conversation with a Dore resident, they remarked on how they had not previously realised just how much the Dore Village Society was trying to do for the community and that perhaps it ought to do more to promote itself. We don't have a Public Relations Officer, but here goes.

Monitoring and commenting on planning applications, especially in the Dore conservation area, takes quite a lot of our time. We cannot hold back progress (nor do we want to) but hopefully we do at least influence decisions.

Dore to Door goes to over 3,200 households, a major logistics operation, then there are the annual Christmas cards, occasional booklets and our own web site to produce. Traffic and local public transport arrangements always provide a case load, as does the condition of our local roads! Then there is collecting, collating and storing information on local history including support to the 'Dore Oral History Project'.

Environmental issues are always on the agenda, including an interest in Ecclesall Woods, the Blackamoor nature reserve and nearer to home our own recreation ground, bulb planting and not to forget overgrown footpaths! And then there are regular public meetings with guest speakers, our Wyvern Walkers group, Christmas illuminations and of course the Dore Show. Not bad for a committee of 11 and a few helpers!

Consider what more could be achieved if just a few more volunteers came forward to help with these activities or some new ones! Experience is not necessary, just a little time and enthusiasm. No remuneration beyond expenses, but guaranteed job satisfaction! Contact me for a chat on 236 9025.

*John Baker, Chairman
Dore Village Society*

Ed. There is a full report on page 14

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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continued from page 1

The only road access to the housing is the strip of land that forms the present drive from Furniss Avenue and the adjoining caretakers house. There will be a separate access to the adjoining playing field land.

There is a public footpath crossing the site, which extends along the back of the Busheywood Road houses into Wessex Gardens. The sale conditions require the developer to bring the latter section of footpath up to the adopted standard as a Highway Maintainable at Public Expense.

The City Council granted itself Planning Permission in outline for housing development on 15th January 2001, subject to subsequent approval of details of siting, design, external appearance, access and landscaping. None of these details were shown on the outline application.

Because no application for approval of these matters was made before January 2004 (three years after the conditional approval) that Planning Consent has lapsed. Quite clearly having once recently obtained Planning Consent for housing on the site, approval will be given for housing development again.

The tenders from developers have to be with the Council by 17th September 2004. A shortlist of bidders will be invited to make their presentations on 29 September, and the successful developer informed on 4 October 2004. An application for planning permission has to be then submitted within 38 days.

Apart from the density and type of

properties, the traffic in Furniss Avenue and the provision of landscaping and layout, consideration must be given to the proposed footpath routes to the village facilities and the open space provision (the previous outline consent stipulated three quarters of an acre within the site, or 'new or enhanced open space elsewhere'!).

Dore Village Society will be closely monitoring this situation.

David Heslop

Ed. The Council advert in Estates Gazette 19th June is sensitively headed

*"A dream come true...
for Residential Property Developers".*

Bulbs in the Village

Dore Village Society will be continuing the bulb planting project in the autumn. The success of the daffodils, crocus and snowdrops are due to the efforts of a few willing volunteers. It would be greatly appreciated if more people offered their help.

Do you have the odd hour or two available to help with the planting? We will be planting on various mornings throughout October, including Saturdays. Also any contribution towards the cost of buying good quality bulbs would also be most welcome.

For more information please contact Anne Elsdon (tel 236 0002) or David Heslop (tel 236 5043).

News in brief

Dore Moor Inn won this year's Sheffield in Bloom Lord Mayor's Awards for best kept and decorated public house/cafe/bar, with a lovely garden display and hanging baskets and tubs maintained and planted by the landlady Petra Tissington, who has been doing this for some 10 years.

Dr Ruck GP at the Dore/Carterknowle Road surgery since 1972 is retiring in October.

A year after we announced that Jimmy Martin's shop was to close work has started on refurbishing the premises.

More than 60 HSBC employees and their families raised £6,000 for the Children's Heart Foundation, by recently taking part in a five mile sponsored walk around Dore.

Jon Broadhurst, ex general manager of the Sheffield Marriott hotel, has taken over the Dore Delicatessen after 20 years in the hotel business.

Six more new nature reserves in Sheffield have been designated following the agreement of English Nature and the council. These include the Porter Valley, the General Cemetery at Sharrow and Fox Hagg at Redmires.

Mrs Agnes Astin has been presented with a certificate of thanks at a recent Royal Lifeboat Institution luncheon in recognition of her many years of service on the Dore Ladies Charity Committee.

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Letters

Dear Sir,

I would like to send my grateful thanks and appreciation to all 'Valerie of Dore' customers over the past 19 years. In late July/early August 2004 the business changed ownership. Jo Marshall will be the new proprietor, with the continuing help from Melanie, who has been with the company for 5 years. They will continue to supply you with all your floral needs.

I really appreciate all the loyalty of my customers and the support they give to all small businesses within the village. Without yourselves, none of us could survive, and its thanks to local residents of Dore Village, who keep Dore Traders trading. Once again thank-you.

Gillian Earnshaw, Valerie of Dore

Dear Sir,

A message of thanks from Anna Steele.

Dore is a wonderful place for spreading news so by now it may be no surprise to anyone, that I am retiring from this little haven, right in the centre of the village, and going on to a new part time career.

I found the room by chance, having been told about it by Mr Moore, in 1992. We had moved out of the area, and I was looking for suitable premises to carry on my growing practice. I don't think I could have found a more convenient place! My work grew and grew and over the years I have had the privilege to meet some truly delightful people, fascinating, and courageous and a pleasure to know. I will miss such interesting talks especially when it involves reminiscing!

As we all repeat time and again how Dore has changed. I remember when I could assure people of easy parking and access to my room. Now people have to struggle to park close to Drury Lane! I remember the

building work and the fire escape which seemed to go on for ever, while my patient patients came round the post office and across the makeshift pathway!

And now all good things come to an end, and I am going to work at the Cavendish Centre for Cancer Care, back to my nursing roots!

I would like to thank you all for your loyalty, fun and friendship. I will never forget these past 18 years as a chiropodist and will truly miss the wonderful people of Dore. I am sure Jenny Downing, who is taking on the practice, will agree with me - you are special people!

With love Anna

Dear Sir,

It was very nice reading Elva Hogsons letter in the Dore to Door. I remember her well, she was in the same class as my sister Janet. The man she talks about chatting to in the churchyard, as he worked, must have been my father Edgar Taylor. He was a monumental mason and there's a lot of gravestones in there with my dad's name on them. He made all the headstones and lettered them all by hand, no power tools in those days.

I remember Chris Fearnough very well as we lived next door to him at 96 Townhead Road. I also followed Dore football team all over in the 50s they had a first class team in those days. Chris used to run on with his sponge and cold water when anyone was hurt, it worked wonders.

He mentions the fields opposite Townhead cottages but not the bomb that dropped in them one night during the war. We should have been in the Anderson shelter round the back but we were under the table as it whistled down. Luckily it dropped in the field and left a big hole, 30 yards or so nearer and we wouldn't be here now. It shook the houses but didn't even break any windows.

Elva talks about Miss Dobbs, Miss

Palmer, and Miss Davies. There was also Mrs Watts and the headmaster in my days at Dore school was Mr Clark. There was no school rat run, you walked. Some pupils walked from Fox house, Stoney ridge, Ringinglow, Totley Brook, and Totley Rise. You had to leave Dore school at 11. The clever ones passed the 11 plus, others had to go to either Hunters Bar or Totley schools. I was one of those who walked it to Totley. I agree with Chris that Dore isn't Dore any more but I suppose that's what is called progress.

If anyone would like to contact me my e mail is Taylorbuck2@aol.com

J S Taylor

Dear Sir,

The letter from Don & Edna Johnson (Issue No 74) is welcome to our ears, having suffered personally throughout the last five years or so, from today's builders' practices on our doorstep: trade fires (supposedly banned); blocking of access to the outside world on a regular basis; just to name a few of the very great nuisances which have surrounded and frustrated us. Whilst at the same time, we have been forced to fight off further possible neighbouring building developments. Certainly, we are able to sympathise with Mr & Mrs Johnson. It doesn't lead to an easy life, does it?

In fact these developments can equal great distress and disturbance of normal life, on a long and regular basis, to surrounding near-neighbours; when, with a bit of thought and planning, the situation could be vastly improved upon (we refer here specifically with reference to Mr & Mrs Johnson's comments regarding skips and contractors vehicles parked dangerously onto pavements of very busy roads).

Dore has recently become even more spoiled through lack of good planning practices. By that, we mean planning which

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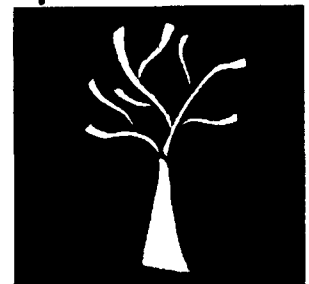
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takes into account not only the applicant, but the applicant's near-neighbours and surrounding locale, as well as how the ongoing development work will affect immediate surroundings and free access. Some people would add further to this. The fact that many, many more road traffic accidents have not occurred due to the practices we write of, we can only say must have been due to good fortune.

If we don't watch it we shall all be awash here with overflowing drains and sewerage, as well as losing our green spaces and wildlife to bricks (of varying hues and finishes) and mortars and woods of contrasting shades of plastic and design. In particular, what a mis-match Dore Road has become aesthetically, along with being hazardous.

When we do have protective legislation (and some does exist), the public is often kept generally unaware, and the powers-that-be are hardly forthcoming regarding imparting this helpful information.

Having suffered much from the above (and more) we have encountered positive support from Richard Allan MP, and Councillor Anne Smith: Thanks! As ever, it's the busy people who are most forthcoming with their assistance.

Kathy & Chris Armes

PUBLISHING DEADLINES

The next edition of DORE to DOOR will be published in mid November, copy deadline Friday 29th October.

Dear Sir,

I read last month, perhaps with more interest than many of your readers, the letter from Dr A. D. Andrews and the article by David Heslop (Planning Matters), both of which covered the proposed development of Long Acres off Newfield lane.

As a resident of Knowle Green I am particularly concerned with the representation from David Heslop that access by any future residents to a developed Long Acres site should be provided through our cul-de-sac. We bought our house almost six years ago because it was on a cul-de-sac. Although the front of the house has a small garden, the street would be safe for our children to play on their bikes or with other children as there would only be a handful of other residents and their visitors using the road with their vehicles. At present this is exactly the case and there are more than twenty children on the Knowle Green development who regularly use the street as a play area.

Bringing access through Knowle Green to a development of a significant number of dwellings on Long Acres would be dangerous to these children. The narrow roads and small open gardens on Knowle Green were not built to protect children from traffic.

Furthermore, there are many who suggest that Newfield Lane should be left untouched. Allow me to point out the part of this road which runs behind our house presently has an unrestricted speed limit

which means cars and trucks can lawfully drive up and down the bottom section of Newfield Lane at 60mph. The road has an adverse camber, no footpath and no street lighting which makes it dangerous for those who walk at any time, especially at night.

I am with the majority of Dore residents who would prefer to see Long Acres left alone as a single luxurious estate for a wealthy owner. However, the government guidelines state that brown field sites such as these should be developed to provide more housing and the planners are under pressure to conform. If it must be developed, then let the access be given through a new entrance on to Newfield Lane and let the developers pay for a safer environment on Newfield Lane with a wider road, footpaths if necessary and a safer and enforced speed limit.

Mike Shenton

Mystery stone. In our last issue we featured a letter from Mr A Crookes of Five Trees Close, who sent in a picture of a giant cog wheel shaped stone, now used as a garden water feature. Nobody has been able to shed any definite light on its original purpose. Our only real clue is that it was dug up in what were once the grounds of Brinkburn Grange which lay between Abbeydale Road South and the river Sheaf. You can still see the original gateposts to the drive, near the beginning of Brinkburn Drive. It could just be that the stone was a feature in the grounds reflecting the earlier history of the site as a mill.

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Conservation areas

Conservation Areas are a Planning designation of a locality that can relate to a group of properties or a larger area such as a village centre. The properties must have some merit, such as of architectural or historic significance. 'Listing' of properties in Grades such as Grade I or Grade II relates to a particular building or a structure, not necessarily a building, which has architectural or historic importance or could be representative of an era. Conservation Areas, on the other hand relate to far more than one property and may, because of their nature, include buildings, which are 'listed' or have very little importance.

The centre of Dore has been designated a Conservation Area for quite some time. The significance of such designations mean that buildings, structures or trees cannot be altered, demolished or cut down without permission of the Planning Authority. This might seem unreasonable when an owner considers some part of his or her property is of no material benefit, or wishes to modernise a property. However, whereas there maybe no problem in doing such work, and it could be beneficial to the street scene, it has to be in keeping with the purpose of the designation of the Area. Thus problems have arisen when residents have tried to change the style of the windows in their house. Recently the demolition of an old stone front wall, in Townhead Road has caused problems.

The centre of Dore Village undoubtedly has one or two unattractive elements, but there are many very pleasant features which help to make up the character of the area and should be retained. Regrettably in the 1960's Dore lost a number of its most attractive features, which would have been

preserved these days. Hopefully we have learned the lessons and are more enlightened now. The Dore Conservation Area designation is one of these protections. Another is our own common sense.

On a brighter note, the Council have acknowledged that the new traffic calming measures merit slightly better treatment and we hear that they intend to replace the black and white poles on the pavement edge on Causeway Head Road with more environmentally sensitive bollards known as Manchester Bollards. We will wait and see. These small things make a difference and contribute to general improvements.

David Heslop

A tale of two trees

We understand County Developments, who built the flats overlooking the rec, have recently cut down a beautiful mature oak tree whose retention was clearly stipulated as part of their original planning consent. The tree department at the Town Hall has asked for a written explanation and the planting of a new sapling in its place. How reassuring that planning controls are so effective and that our children's children's children may yet gaze once more on the majesty of this quintessentially English tree.

Meanwhile a new property is being built with access on the bend of Savage Lane despite widespread safety concerns. Access has been made across the highways verge, including the removal of a substantial tree which was once part of Bushey Wood. No problem with tree preservation here, no doubt because it was on Council land! How different things might have been if a neighbour's wish, several years ago, to incorporate this patch of woodland verge in their garden had been granted!

Rubbish skips

Builders skips regularly grace our roads and verges. Sometimes dangerous, often unsightly, they are inevitable when extensions are being built or new driveways laid. There are however rules associated with their use.

To place a rubbish skip on the public highway or verge, it is necessary to apply by phone to the Highways Dept at Sheffield Council for a permit. Broadly speaking, if a car could be parked on the spot, then a licence will be issued at a cost of £2 for up to 2 weeks, renewable.


Certain safety rules must be followed including reflective plates on the corners of the skip. Skips must also have a company name and telephone number on their sides.

Fox House toilets

The public toilets at Fox House were closed recently by Sheffield Council because of concerns about hygiene. The toilets normally use natural spring water, but this was cut off last year by work to the Fox House pub's drainage system.


So far the Council has failed to persuade the owners of the Fox House to reinstate the natural spring. Consequently the Council has been manually taking water there, but when this service was not provided over Easter the toilets deteriorated terribly.

This is a popular starting and finishing point for walkers especially those using buses from Sheffield, and most use these toilets at some time. Street Force is attempting to deal with the problem, but the owners of Fox House seem unconcerned. It is believed that some walkers are boycotting the pub until the issue is sorted out.



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Gala afternoon 2004

Well, another July and another Gala has passed us by. I'm not sure where the time goes! Once again, the weather was kind to us and thanks to your support and generosity our takings on the day were not far adrift from the exceptional year we had in 2003. The recipients of these funds, the local Scout and Guide movements and local charities, will be very grateful.

Of course, we couldn't contemplate staging the Gala without the dedication and enthusiasm of our helpers, stall holders, Scout and Guide leaders and members, sponsors and, last but not least, that merry band that is the Gala committee. My thanks

to all of you, many of whom toiled from 6.00 in the morning till 9.00 at night, for creating such a wonderful event once again.

On the topic of help on the day, we do have many loyal helpers who turn out each year; indeed many of those have been helping for over 20 years and are now asking for a well deserved rest! Although we contact a number of you during the period prior to the Gala I am certain that there are many of you that we don't know, who would be willing to spare an hour or so either during the morning helping to set up the event or during the afternoon helping to run a stall.

If this is the case please give me a call on 236 7587 so that we can contact you at the appropriate time next year; my hands

make light work!

Believe it or not, we will soon start to turn our attention to Gala 2005! As usual, if you liked what you saw at the Gala and wish to take part in the planning of next year's event as a member of the Gala committee we would be delighted to hear from you.

Equally, if you have any views on the Gala afternoon which you would like to pass on to me and the committee please do not hesitate to contact me. We are always keen to hear new ideas and constructive feedback.

It only remains for me, on behalf of the Gala committee, to wish you all, weather permitting, a warm and relaxing summer.

Mark Prangell,

Gala Committee Chairman

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ISUZU

continued from page 1

After Higher School Certificate (A Levels) Syd was awarded a State Scholarship and £100 per year which helped him to study English at Christ Church College, Oxford. Syd modestly remarks "The college was very empty, you know; lots of people had been called up into the services. There was plenty of room so they were only too glad to have me."

So, what was it like at Oxford during the war? Syd replies with a laugh "Oh, it was wonderful for me; lots of girls and not very many men." Thus, he met and fell "madly in love" with a vivacious History undergraduate called Hazel Gill. He sighs wistfully. "It was all idyllically beautiful; sometimes the war seemed a long time away." And he adds "I was actually punting one day up the Cherwell when the news sped along the bank that the war was over."

A year later Syd took his finals and the university appointments board suggested that he might like to be a teacher. He had posts at Cheltenham College and Netherthorpe Grammar, Staveley and then at Bradford Grammar School to be near Hazel who was teaching at West Leeds. They married in 1948 and when Hazel inherited her parent's house, Newfield, Brickhouse Lane, they decided to come and live in Dore. So, by 1954 they had a small child and Syd was teaching at High Storrs School where he became Head of English for many years.

Syd reflects "By this time I knew quite a lot of people in Dore and I was fascinated by it, because I'd never lived in a village before or anything remotely like a village. I had grown up in entirely urban surroundings, the kind of places that had no sense of community." Syd was amazed to find that Hazel had an astonishing number of relations in the village whereas his own family was small. He explains "I felt that, having no roots of my own, I discovered



Syd Hoffman...

some by coming to this house and living here. And that was one of the reasons that I was attracted to the idea of a Dore Village Society". Syd then recounts how this all came about. "The original germ was sown by Michael Bassey, a lecturer at Totley College, who lived on Rushley Road. The idea arose in discussion of forming some sort of society with - it's still branded on my memory- the aim of protecting and enhancing the amenities of Dore."

Thus, at a public meeting in September 1964 the Dore Village Society was founded with an elected committee of eight. Michael Bassey became the first Secretary and Sydney Hoffman the Chairman, a post he held for 20 years! There was much to do and a large number of local issues were examined, from the redevelopment of the

centre of the village (several gritstone cottages had been demolished) to the preservation of the village green, the repair of pavements and footpaths and the possibility of creating a community centre in the recently vacated Old School. Many of the proposals made by the early committee were quite visionary for their time and included a one-way traffic system with a leafy pedestrian precinct in the village centre. Contact with the growing membership was maintained through regular newsletters and, reading old copies of these, there is a realisation that many concerns of 2004 were already being voiced by the people of Dore in 1964.

The Village Society also wanted Dore to be placed firmly on the historical map of England and commissioned the Stone commemorating the Treaty of Dore of 829 A.D. It was unveiled on Sunday 7th July 1968 by the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Alderman Patience Sheard at the annual Well Dressing Service. Thereafter, the Wyvern of Wessex was adopted as the insignia of the Dore Village Society. The following year the first of their publications appeared - King Ecgbert and the Treaty of Dore written by Hazel Hoffman, then Head of History at King Ecgbert School.

However, a real battle was looming, one that would make local and national headlines throughout 1970s. Sheffield City Council wanted to build a huge housing estate on 100 acres of Ryecroft Farm. Syd remembers well "We launched a campaign to raise money and we hired the services of a distinguished barrister who was skilled in planning law and we went to battle about it - the siege of Ryecroft Farm - anyway, we presented our case before the Minister's inspector and we won, amid great rejoicing."

Another clash with the Council was fought over a proposed Dore by-pass which was going to leave the Baslow Road and

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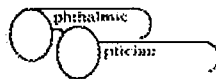
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come sweeping down around the village, cutting across Ryecroft land and out into a redeveloped Limb Lane. Once again D.V.S. took on the planners and won. Syd concludes "Winning the Ryecroft battle was very important, our most important achievement. The world is full of greedy developers who lie in wait for every opportunity to nibble away at the edge of the Green Belt where land values are highest."

Dore owes a great debt to Sydney Hoffman and the founders of the Village Society for their visionary aims, which 40 years on, are still firmly upheld by the present members. Let us hope that we can fend off today's greedy planners and win the battle to save the character of Newfield Lane!

*Maureen Cope,
Dore Oral History Group.*

New Countryside Code

A new Countryside Code, the first for 50 years, has been published, welcoming people to the countryside under the banner "respect, protect, enjoy". It simplifies walkers' responsibilities in the countryside to five key issues. The code calls on people to:

- * Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs.
- * Leave gates and property as you find them.
- * Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home.
- * Keep dogs under close control.
- * Consider other people.

The new code is timed to coincide with new freedom to roam legislation that comes into force from September. This will give walkers unprecedented rights to walk on moorland, mountain, downland and heath. However we need to respect the working life of the countryside, as our actions can affect people's livelihoods, our heritage, and the safety and welfare of animals and ourselves.

The Countryside Agency launched the new Code alongside a new website (www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk) that has been developed to help walkers. The website will include information about access land, and will report when land is 'closed'.

Significantly, there is also a section of the new code for land managers, advising them of their rights, responsibilities and liabilities, and offering them information. Areas covered include landowners' legal duties to keep rights of way clear and unobstructed, and advice on how to manage access to newly opened land by keeping paths, waymarks, gates and siles in good condition.

To obtain a copy of the code call 0845 100 3298 or visit the website.

**Why not visit our website at:
www.dorevillage.co.uk**

T.O.A.D.S Autumn Play

To cheer up a November evening, T.O.A.D.S. have chosen a classic comedy by Philip King - "Pool's Paradise". Penelope Toop, wife of the staid Rev. Toop, is anxiously trying to work out how to explain to her husband that she may have come up on the football pools - she didn't even realise that she had entered the wretched thing. A second coupon and another Vicar, not to mention a Bishop, also turn up to make an hilarious evening's entertainment.

"Pool's Paradise" can be seen at St. John's Church Hall, Abbeydale Road South, Totley, from Wednesday 17th November to Saturday 20th November at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £3, or £2.50 for concessions from Kate Reynolds, on 236 6891, or from any member.

Folk Trains

Monthly 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.

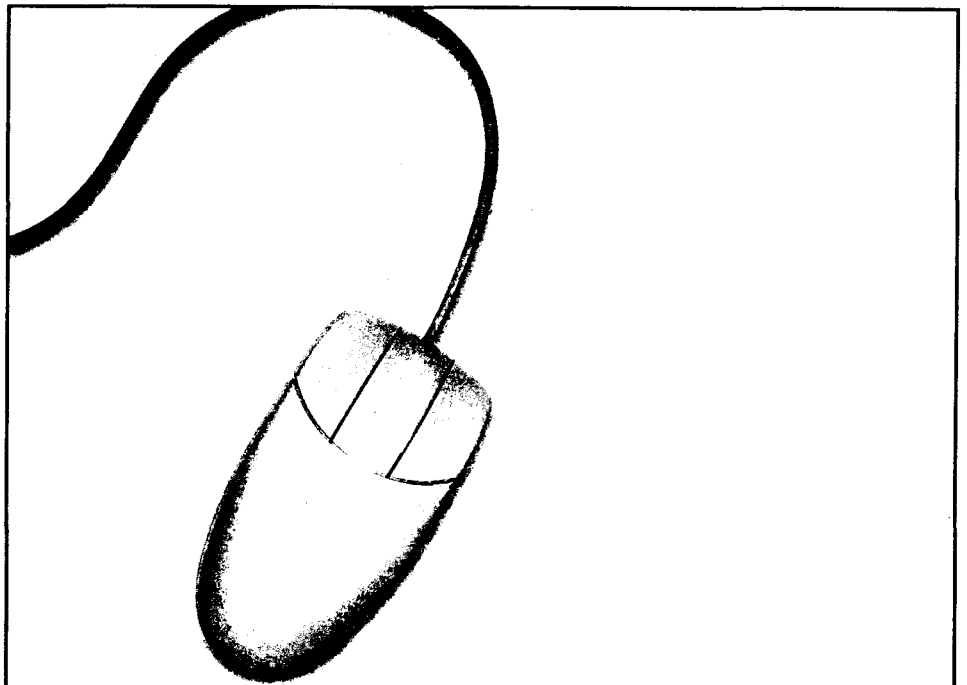
31 August. Treebeard

28 September. Minnie Moosika

For up-to-date information ring 266 9532 or visit www.folktrain.f9.co.uk

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Home Farm Trust

It's a new beginning for HFT - The Home Farm Trust and the residents and staff at HFT Sheffield.

After thirty two years primarily based at Fairthorn, the nine remaining people with learning disabilities currently living there, will be moving into houses in South-West Sheffield and the Matlock area of Derbyshire by the end of the year. This is the final relocation of residents from the Fairthorn site, to community based housing in and around Sheffield and Derbyshire. These changes will give the people using HFT services the chance to live where they have easy access to local amenities & work opportunities.

HFT will continue to have a presence in Dore at its other house, closer to the village centre and is grateful for the support it receives from the community in Dore. A new office and 'drop-in centre' is currently being sought in the SW area of Sheffield.

HFT is a national charity established in 1962 by parents of people with learning disabilities, including Down's syndrome and autism. It's key purpose is to meet the needs and hopes of adults with learning disabilities. This is achieved by supporting people to develop their potential and live independently in their local community, no matter how complex or profound their disability.

Today, HFT offers a wide range of services including; supported living and registered care homes, advocacy, supported employment, short breaks and day services. They also provide a national support service for carers of people with learning disabilities

HFT has recently launched a £77,000 appeal to expand and improve its services in Sheffield & Derbyshire. One forthcoming fund raising event will be a sponsored walk, 5 or 15 miles in length around the Chatsworth House Estates and beyond on Sunday 3rd October 2004.

If you would like to know more about working for HFT or would like to help fundraise for their local appeal please contact Anne-Marie Wilson - tel 236 9105 or email annemarie.wilson@hft.org.uk

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

Autumn Meeting

7.30pm Wednesday

6th October

Methodist Church Hall

"Antiques Roadshow"

Talk and valuations by

Andrew Jameson

of ELR Auctions

Sewerage improvements

Since the end of June, Yorkshire Water have been carrying out essential work on the sewerage system in Totley Brook Road, to help alleviate flooding of the highway and properties on the road.

This involves constructing a new sewer within the road, which means working in sections, moving from the junction of King Egbert Road towards the police station. In order to carry out the work, sections of the road are closed to traffic and diversions in operation. Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times. The work, part of a £3.5 million upgrade in the surrounding area, should be finished by November.

Women's Fellowship

The Methodist Women's Fellowship group meets fortnightly on Mondays between September and July, from 2.30pm to about 3.45pm, in the Methodist Church Hall, and is open to any women in the village, who would like to come along.

A short devotional opening session is followed by speakers on a variety of topics, (some with slides) ending with tea and biscuits and time for friendly conversation.

The autumn programme starts on September 6th. Why not give it a try? A warm welcome awaits you. For any further information, contact Doris Simpson, President (Tel. 236 6668) or Doreen Cobain, secretary (Tel. 235 1754).

Did you know?

Much to the relief of many local residents who have been unreasonably disturbed by loud firework displays late in the evenings, new curfew restrictions have come into force banning them from 11pm to 7am, with exceptions for New Year and November 5th celebrations. Mind you, who will police this I wonder?

Talking of policing, it seems that the Dore Village Society's wish to commemorate its 40th birthday by placing a new seat in the village has been thwarted. Apparently nobody wants a new seat near to where they live for fear of it attracting an unruly element in the evenings.

Firstly Cockpit Green at the junction of Drury Lane and Townhead Road was rejected, and now the Village Green ruled out because of hooligans gathering there. It seems a set of stocks would be more appropriate!

The battle for a sensible redevelopment of Hinchcliffe's old property at Long Acres is well underway, with the threat to Newfield Lane and the recreation ground causing most concern. The pressure seems to be to cram in as many properties as possible. Surely it is an immoral waste of resources to demolish existing perfectly sound and relatively modern buildings.

The site could be redeveloped around and including the existing property. But then that would require more imagination than using a computer program to squeeze pre-designed boxes into the space available. Maybe the fact that any new build is VAT free, while renovation is not, might be something to do with it! It seems to me things should be the other way around to encourage renovations rather than demolition and rebuilds.

Driving around Dore becomes more and more challenging and dangerous, with a constant need to be watching out for the potholes and subsidence, rather than other cars and pedestrians. Heavens forbid that we should get any resurfacing of the worst spots. Not even when new white lines are added as with Causeway Head Road.

Talking of which, I thought the main point of requesting improvements was to slow traffic coming down Causeway Head Road, in order to make crossing the road easier and to reduce the risk to cars backing out of parking spaces in front of the shops. This need seems to have been lost somewhere in the process, no doubt due to cost cutting! And will we ever get a 2 hour limit on parking in front of the shops?

Doremouse

Carriages goes Brown

Carriages restaurant, near Dore and Totley station, has been re-named Brown's with chef Cary Brown still in charge.

As well as the name, other changes have included new wooden flooring, a black-board menu and bottled beers, all helping to create a more laid-back atmosphere.

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Jean recalls

Today's postal deliveries may leave much to be desired, but during my childhood they could, always be relied on. I remember my mother telling me that the day I was born, at 3 in the afternoon my father sent a postcard to mother's eldest sister who worked at Smedleys Hydro, this she received the following morning.

Mr Stan Mace and his wife Hilda ran the post Office here in Dore. This was then part of the Hare and Hounds building. I remember it always smelt most odd. Mr Pybus was the mail man. He did his round on foot twice a day. Mrs Mace used to fly round the village morning and evening delivering the morning papers and the Star.

Mr Mace had been a footballer, for Sheffield Wednesday I think. I remember that when the Birtles had the paper shop they had a clock in the back which had been presented to Mr Mace when he retired from the game.

At this time milk was delivered twice a day round the village, mostly by horse and cart. We got ours from Mr Barber at Roundseats farm. The milk was in a churn with a brass tap and was measured into your own jugs. The milk did not seem to keep very long, especially in summer. Today's Super Market stuff seems to have a sell by date way ahead. Most cart horses in this area seemed to go by the name of Dick.

I will reserve judgement on the mess the Council are making of the pavements here. But I think the planning department must be

blind. Don't they ever look at the monstrosities they allow to happen. The dwelling below the lamplighter's Cottage sticks up like a Tower and dwarfs the surrounding area. I don't think half the planners ever visit the sites they approve of. I very much regret that Dore can no longer term itself a village. It's becoming an eyesore.

Can't anything be done about the hedges which overlap the pavements. I've nearly had my eye poked out on more than one occasion. Dodging branches and speeding especially on Rushley is making life very difficult for an old bird like me.

Are builders entitled to have their building materials and skips on the pavements and grass verges. They seem to commandeer the whole area when they start their work. Is there no legislation to cover them. Who is responsible if there is an accident.

I wonder if some parents have a death wish for their children. They seem to allow them to ride motorised scooters and bikes without head gear. Who is liable if they knock you for six. I don't suppose any of them have insurance.

Jean Dean

Ed. Residents have a responsibility to cut back hedges and branches overlapping pavements. The Dore Village Society will write to property owners asking for cooperation in particularly bad cases. In the final resort the Council can undertake the work themselves and then charge the resident. There is an item elsewhere in this issue on skips.

Sheep dog trials

The Longshaw Sheep Dog Trials will take place as normal this year from 2nd to 4th September, on Longshaw Pastures in front of Longshaw Lodge. On the 2nd and 3rd there will be open class sheep dog trials when many of the "One Man and His Dog" competitors will be taking part and at approximately 3pm on 2nd there will be a hound trail run over the moors facing Longshaw, courtesy of the Yorkshire Hound Trail Association.

On Saturday 4th the day starts at 7.30am with a local class sheep dog trial and then the second Longshaw Fell Race, open to all comers (entry on the field), will start at 11am. This will be followed by a display by the Search and Rescue Dogs and the local mountain rescue team at lunchtime before the trials culminate in a double gather championship, which consists of the 8 highest pointed runs from both Thursday and Friday, starting at approximately 12 noon on Saturday 4th, when the winner will take home the prestigious Longshaw Championship silver coffee pot.

Entrance charges are just £3 per person, each day finishing at approximately 5.30pm. Hot and cold food will be available on the field. The magnificent array of trophies will be on display each day. For further information contact the Secretary, Mrs Sheila Humphreys on 01433 651852.

This will be the 106th year of the Association. Join us for a day on the moors to see some of the wisest dogs in the world.

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Entries should be made between **9am and 10.30am** to the Old School (classes 1-48) and the Methodist Hall (classes 49-74).

Entry forms for Floral Classes (46-48) are available from Greens shop on Causeway Head Road or the show secretary on (0114) 236 9025 and should be submitted by 5.30pm on Friday the 10th September. Kit for class 71 available from Greens from Sept 6th.

Show opens to the public at 2pm and closes at 4.30pm. Exhibits may be collected from 5pm.

Vegetable and Fruit Section

- 1 6 pods of runner beans
- 2 3 onions, dressed
- 3 3 onions 8oz or less
- 4 3 leeks
- 5 1 vegetable marrow
- 6 4 potatoes - same variety
- 7 4 beetroot
- 8 6 tomatoes on a plate - same variety
- 9 1 cucumber
- 10 Any other vegetable
- 11 A plate of blackberries
- 12 4 dessert apples
- 13 4 cooking apples
- 14 A tray of mixed vegetables including salad
- 15 The heaviest marrow
- 16 Humorous or strange vegetable
- 17 A bunch of mixed herbs in a jam jar
- 18 A pumpkin or squash
- 19 Novice class. Any vegetable - for competitors who have never won a prize in a vegetable class.

Flower Section

- 20 5 dahlias, cactus variety
- 21 5 dahlias, decorative variety
- 22 A vase of mixed dahlias arranged to effect
- 23 3 gladioli
- 24 A vase of spray chrysanthemums
- 25 3 roses, any container
- 26 1 foliage plant in a pot (max pot size 12")
- 27 1 flowering plant in a pot (max pot size 12")
- 28 A vase of any other flowers
- 29 A vase of sweet peas

Domestic Section * denotes recipes and additional notes

- 30 4 fruit scones (white flour)
- 31 A Dundee Cake *
- 32 A Victoria Sandwich *
- 33 4 jam tarts
- 34 A plate of 4 biscuits (any)
- 35 A loaf of white bread (not machine made and should be cool)
- 36 A jar of chutney
- 37 A jar of lemon curd
- 38 A jar of soft fruit jam *
- 39 A jar of marmalade *
- 40 A Chocolate cake with filling (any recipe)

* Classes 38 - 39 Jars to be labelled with type of fruit and waxed with cellophane cover. Class 38 jam not jelly.

Wine Section

(Home made wine in clear corked bottles with plain labels)

- 41 A bottle of dry red wine
- 42 A bottle of sweet red wine
- 43 A bottle of dry white wine
- 44 A bottle of sweet white wine
- 45 Any other home made wine - any colour

Floral Art Section (No artificial plant material allowed)

- 46 "In a Jug" Novice Class. For competitors who have never won a 1st prize in a floral art competition. An exhibit featuring garden plant material. No size restriction.
- 47 "Candlelight" An exhibit for the centre of a table to include a candle or candles. No size restriction.
- 48 "September Garden" An exhibit. Space allowed: Width 70cm, Depth 60cm, Height 90cm. Background light blue.

Textile & Hand Craft Section

- 49 A handmade decorative cushion
- 50 Tapestry or embroidery or cross-stitch from a kit or chart
- 51 A personally designed embroidery or tapestry or cross-stitch
- 52 A handmade knitted garment
- 53 Any soft toy
- 54 A craft exhibit in wood
- 55 A craft exhibit in any other material
- 56 A découpage (framed)
- 57 Item in crochet

Visual Arts Section (minimum age 15 years)

- 58 A piece of calligraphy
- 59 A water colour painting - landscape
- 60 A water colour painting - any other subject
- 61 A painting in any other medium or mixed media
- 62 A monochrome drawing - any medium

Photography Section

- 63 A Black & White photograph 7"x5"min. size
- 64 Colour photo - "Child's Play" of min. size 7"x5"
- 65 Colour photo - "Summertime" - standard or panoramic size only. Unframed snapshots.

Junior Section (up to age 14)

Entries must be children's own work and show their age. A3 is max size for classes 68 and 69

- 66 A vegetable animal
- 67 An arrangement of flowers in an egg cup
- 68 A painting or drawing of any subject (age 5 and under)
- 69 A painting or drawing of any subject (age 6 to 11)
- 70 A miniature garden on a dinner plate (age up to 11)
- 71 'Take it and Make It Kit' model (age 8 & under) *see above
- 72 A 'kit' model (age 9 to 11)
- 73 Art exhibit in any medium (age 12 to 14)
- 74 An art exhibit (age 12 to 14)

Recipes and notes

Class 31 Dundee Cake recipe:

Approx 7" tin, ½lb plain flour, 1 tsp baking powder, pinch of salt, 3 hens eggs, 6oz butter or margarine, 6oz soft brown sugar, 6oz each of sultanas and currants, 2oz peel, 1oz red or dark cherries, pinch of spice, 1 tbsp milk and 1oz almonds for the top.

Class 32 Victoria Sandwich Cake recipe:

Weight of two hens eggs in margarine or butter, sugar and white self-raising flour. Pinch of salt and a little water, baked in two 6-7" tins, sandwiched with jam and sprinkled with caster sugar.

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Chairman's Report for 2003

(Presented to the Dore Village Society AGM on Wednesday 9th June)

This was another satisfactory and busy year for the Society which continued to maintain a healthy overall financial position and achieved a record membership. The Society was able to balance income from membership subscriptions with that of our normal running costs, leaving money from Dore to Door and donations to go towards village projects and contributions to local good causes. During the year we have been actively involved with many issues, and the following is of necessity a brief summary:

Planning: Planning issues and proposed developments as usual absorb a great deal of the Society's time. Of particular concern have been the re-building King Ecgbert School; redevelopment of the 'Blue Ridge' site on Ashfurlong Road; high density proposals for the Old Vicarage and Totley Bridge Garage sites on Abbeydale Road; more mobile phone masts; and a constant flow of planning applications for flats, in-fill housing and extensions. Finally the possible Supertram extension to Dore. A questionnaire insert in Dore to Door and a 'village workshop' have helped the Society in its preparation of a Village Design Statement to form the basis of supplementary planning guidance.

Publications: The last three issues of Dore to Door reached 28 pages, a burden for long suffering deliverers, but a positive reflection on advertising demand and the healthy flow of letters, local news, and articles. The 2003 Christmas cards featured a view of the village green in the snow and a smaller card with new illustrations of 'Dore Ducks', drawn by David Heslop. Our web site, www.dorevillage.co.uk continues to attract viewers from around the country and overseas.

Traffic&Transport: The deterioration of roads in the area still causes concern, as do speeding and parking problems. The promised creation of a safer pedestrian crossing on Causeway Head Road has still not come to fruition, despite continued pressure being exerted on the Council. The campaign over missing and damaged road signs has had some success, but further road safety improvements seem unlikely following policy changes introduced by the current council.

Dore Collection: The Society's two rooms at the Old School contain a collection of information, pictures, maps and items associated with the history of the village. Contributions to this are always welcome. An exhibition by members of the 'Dore Oral History Project', which is supported by the Society, has brought lots more information and picture to light during the year. Members of the committee are available in the rooms from 10 - 12 noon on the first Saturday of every month, to discuss local issues with members or talk about the work of the Society and local history.

Environment: The Society discusses local environmental issues at each committee meeting. Contributions to the years Sheffield Environment Weeks included organising a metal collection point, a history walk around the village led by John Dunstan and refurbishing the grounds of the war memorial. Of concern has been the Council's damage to gravestones in the churchyard and acts of local vandalism, including the blowing up of the letter box on Cross Lane. Further plantings of daffodils and crocus on approaches to the village have been carried out while local contributions continue to support the flower tubs around the village centre. The basketball area has finally been completed in the Recreation Ground, with more tree planting and other improvements

planned. The Society is active in support of Friends of Ecclesall Woods (a nature reserve) and in Sheffield Wildlife Trust's management of the Blacka Moor nature reserve.

Events: The Society arranged three public events featuring invited speakers during the year. These included well attended talks on 'The Brontes', 'Whinfall Quarry Gardens' and 'Haddon Hall'. Members also took part in a summer trip to Buxton with a guided tour of the town and its history. Dore Show is the biggest annual event organised by the Society and continues to attract considerable support. The society's 'Wyvern Walkers' group offers a regular programme of local guided walks on different days of the week, including an annual 'Wassail Walk' supported this year by some 70+ people. The Society also funded and installed the village's first Christmas trees and lights along the house fronts on the High Street.

People: With a record 915 members in 2003, it is evident that the Society has widespread support from within the community, from both current and past residents. New ideas for local initiatives are always welcome as is anyone with time to contribute. This does not require joining the committee and you can put in just as much time as you wish.

I wish to place on record my particular appreciation for their help to: former committee member George Elsdon who sadly passed away in April; helpers on the Dore Collection and at the Dore Show; deliverers of Dore to Door; advertisers; Green's shop for collecting subscriptions and selling DVS publications; fellow committee members and all those active supporters and members - wherever they may live.

*John Baker, Chairman,
Dore Village Society*

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Ancient Trees

Britain's population of ancient trees may be at risk unless they are recorded and given statutory protection. This is the concern of the Woodland Trust and Ancient Tree Forum, which are calling for volunteers to help establish an inventory of venerable trees.

The two organisations are also asking the Government to change the Tree Preservation Order Legislation, so that dead and dying ancient trees could become eligible for protection, and requesting a new designation of "historic tree" to protect ancient survivors from development pressures.

It is estimated that the UK has about 80 percent of northern Europe's ancient trees. One of England's most famous trees, the Major Oak, in Sherwood Forest, is thought to be more than 800 years old, and recent estimates suggest that some *Taxus baccata* (yew) trees are several thousand years old.

For more information, contact the Woodland Trust, tel: 01476 581 111, (www.woodland-trust.org.uk).

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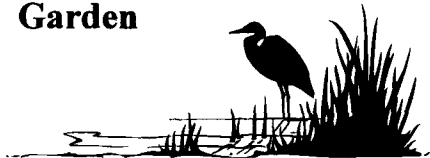
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The Wildlife Garden



Selling a house is one of the most traumatic events we face in our lives, its right up there along with the death of a relation and getting married or divorced.

Once upon a time emotional draining events like these might have cost us mentally, but at least the expense wasn't crippling. Unfortunately, as house prices seem to spiral ever upwards, so does all the expenditure involved. Soon you will have to take out a second mortgage just to be able to afford the estate agent's fees.

Of course money isn't the only thing you have to worry about when you put your house up for sale, it is always difficult to know just how much you should spruce up your property to make it look more appealing to potential customers. For advice on how to do this, you can turn to any number of home-improvement magazines or television programmes and it would appear that simple is best - plain walls and a minimum amount of furniture cluttering up your rooms.

The reason for this is, however highly you regard your house, most buyers will want to alter it to make it 'theirs', so with a simple colour-scheme and sparsely furnished rooms, it is easier for them to envisage their grand design. But sometimes you can't help wondering if this is change for its own sake. If the interior walls had murals painted by Michaelangelo, no doubt some new owner would come along and make it their first priority to slap on the current fashionable shade of emulsion paint over the priceless artwork.

Gardens also play an important part in selling houses. According to the experts, the front should be paved-over and turned into a car-park with a few strategically placed pots - blue for preference - of geraniums and the occasional clump of wispy grasses dotted around the edge, while ideally, the back garden would have a large expanse of lawn with hedges so minuscule a mouse could leap over them.

Unlike the inside of a house, these features are not there to simply act as a blank canvas for potential buyers to plan their own little Garden of Eden, they reflect more the garden design busy people are likely to favour nowadays.

So, where does this leave the wildlife gardener and those of us who have plants to attract bees instead of paving at the front; tall hedges and native trees for the birds and a large amphibian-friendly pond at the back? If the garden is large enough for these features to be discretely tucked away somewhere, then according to the estate agent I spoke to, 'No problem'. But what about a small garden? The comment from the estate agent was 'Tidy it up'.

However, a wildlife friendly plot doesn't have to look like an over-grown allotment, for inspiration we can turn to the show gardens at the big flower shows.

For instance make sure your meadow is full of striking annuals - preferably all in flower when you put your house on the market - or have a display of mixed red and white clovers in the centre of your lawn. Avoid growing the more invasive plants such as comfrey, lemon balm, tansy or yarrow in the wild flower area.

All right they might well be excellent plants for bees, but they would simply give the impression of 'untidiness'. Also, if you keep the grass around your wild flower patch cut and the edge clearly defined, it will look more like a feature than an after-thought.

Why not fill your pots with some of the smaller California poppies, phacelias and trailing nasturtiums? As well as being attractive to bees, they should minimise the need for watering, slugs leave them alone and yet they are still dramatic and eye-catching. Try mixing your wild flowers in great swathes with more conventional annuals and perennials to ensure that your borders have a continuity of flowers, both colourful and attractive to bees.

Sadly, the biggest headache when moving is the pond. If you are selling your house to a young couple with children, then a pond is potentially dangerous and may well be seen as a negative feature. You can of course cover it over with a strong mesh to make it child-friendly, but you may have to fill it in. According to the wildlife experts I spoke to, ponds are best filled in early in the autumn to give the frogs a chance to disperse and find new homes. They also suggested you don't take any frogs or spawn with you when you move, as this could help spread viruses around the country.

I suppose selling a house is always going to be a bit of a lottery and a garden, whether it is full of wildlife-friendly features or just a mass of couch-grass, might be completely unimportant to potential buyers. Instead, the school catchment area may be the be-all and end-all. But wouldn't it be nice if estate agents, together with the wider house-buying public, would see a wildlife-friendly garden as a positive feature and not something that should simply be 'tidied up' to encourage a sale.

Jack Daw

The Traditional Heritage Museum at 605 Ecclesall Road, S11 8PR, (300 yds below Hunters Bar) will be open on: Bank Holiday Monday 30 August; Saturday 25 September; and Saturday 30th October.

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Barn rescue team

In 1935 Frank Crawshaw gave the people and city of Sheffield the amazing gift of Beauchief Abbey and its surrounding buildings. At the same time he sold them the land which is now Beauchief golf course. The Abbey has been well looked after by the City, and is still in weekly use for services, but some of the surrounding buildings have not fared so well.

About 100 yards south of the Abbey is a group of stone barns which have had little maintenance and are used to store golf course equipment. Yet as they are Grade Two Listed Buildings, the Council has a duty to maintain them. Recently the Council applied for planning permission to convert these barns into 2 houses. After planning permission was granted, the barns and land would be sold to a developer.

This seemed wrong and regrettable to a number of people and organisations connected with the area, and in October 2003 the Beauchief Abbey Barns Association BABA was set up to look for an alternative future for the barns. This involves making a second planning application with a view to restoring the barns and converting them for the benefit of the community.

This alternative plan proposes to repair the barns with minimal alteration. An experienced stone mason has advised us that the barns are not in such a bad state as they look; they need repairing, but not

wholesale pulling down and rebuilding. From its roof timbers, the largest barn (south end) seems to have been a cruck barn and it could be used for lectures, parties, and exhibitions. Other bays are smaller and lend themselves to a variety of purposes.

The woods and open spaces near the barns are already an important resource for schools and university departments. There would be good use for a seminar room and a utility room for work on archaeological finds. Beauchief Environment Group (BEG) and the Golf Course both need space to store machinery and tools. BEG contributes a substantial effort in maintaining and improving the environment (repairing walls, hedging, interpretation) and deserves the support of the wider community. There are many other possibilities, not least the provision of a toilet for golfers and people undertaking the Round Walk.

Preliminary enquiries suggest that the project fits the requirements of a number of grants, such as the Heritage Lottery Fund. It would therefore be BABA's task to raise guarantees for matching funding to qualify for such grants. Detailed costings are in progress, but in round numbers it may be that BABA might need to raise £25,000.

If you care for this remarkable unspoiled and beautiful area please join BABA. It is historically important - there is the whole mediaeval landscape of the Abbey lying beneath our feet, stretching across to the Abbeyle Hamlet. A cynic might add that

turning the barns into housing would be the thin end of the wedge: the area round the Barns becoming a developers paradise. But, more positively, BABA sees a way of turning the Barns into a great community resource without spoiling them or cutting them out of the common heritage.

If you would like more information or wish to join BABA now (£5 pa), please contact Francis Evans on 258 5346.

Well Dressing Diary

These are just some of the remaining dates for 2004. You can find out more details, by ringing 01246 345 777/8.

August

21-28 Taddington
26-3 Holymoorside
28-4 Eyam
28-5 Foolow
28-5 Wormhill

September

4-12 Wardlow
11-18 Hartington

Cub appeal

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Schools are often seen as 'easy targets' for burglars as the buildings are often quite remote and access to the school is easily gained. In addition, many schools now have expensive items of equipment (particularly computer equipment) that are attractive and easily sold to unscrupulous buyers. As a result increased security measures have to be taken to make them less attractive to the thief.

Over the years, many steps have been taken to increase security at King Egbert School and this continues to be the case. Our latest step has been the introduction of 'SmartWater', a product capable of marking property to such a degree that it has been likened in concept 'to DNA profiling'.

Each bottle of the 'SmartWater' is produced with a unique blend of components giving it a 'forensic fingerprint'. The Forensic Science Service maintains a national database, which makes it easy for the police to identify the legal owner of any property they recover that has been marked in this way.

It is a harmless, water based chemical which, when applied to an item of equipment, leaves a permanent mark on it. It is virtually invisible to the naked eye but, under ultra-violet light, the mark becomes visible. It is said that the scientists only need a 'SmartWater' mark the size of one quarter of a full stop, to be able to identify the property's legal owner!

Obviously, 'SmartWater' in itself, will not deter thieves from breaking into the property so we also have a supply of window and equipment stickers that are displayed prominently in an attempt to prevent any theft from our premises.

Even with all the technology available to us, there is still no substitute for vigilance in deterring crime. Staff, pupils and our neighbours can all play a part by reporting to the police, any suspicious activity on and around the school premises at whatever time of the day or night, so if you see anything suspicious - REPORT IT!

Eric Robinson, School Administrator



The Dore ducks are back in print in the latest childrens' book from Marjorie Dunn. Horace returns to Dore is a sequel to the best selling Mr Fisher's Ducks and finds our feathered friends enjoying new adventures. Rebellious young drake Horace gets to visit Abbeydale Hamlet, upset Mr Fusspot and cause a stir at the Scout Gala. Complete with amusing drawings by David Heslop, Horace returns to Dore is on sale in the village, price £4.95, at Dore Garage and Green's Hardware shop.

Public Health Forum

Patient & public health forums have been set up to enable people to have a say in what's happening in healthcare in their local areas. The forums are supported by the national Commission for Patient & Public Involvement in Health. The forums are independent, but have the roles of working with a particular local NHS Trust.

Each forum has members who are volunteers, concerned about the provision of healthcare in their community. The

members have a variety of experiences as users of the health service. The forum for the S.W. Primary Care Trust currently has 10 members and has administrative support from the Carers' Federation, based in offices at the Blades Enterprise Centre in Bramall Lane. Informal meetings take place once a month and public meetings will be advertised and held regularly in different venues throughout the south west of the city.

The forum members will help monitor and review not only health, but also environmental issues. They will look at the services from the perspective of patients and of the public. Members are empowered to inspect services - in the case of the primary care trusts GPs' surgeries, dental practices, pharmacists' & opticians' premises. They may also refer matters of concern to national bodies.

What relevance do the forums have to people using local health services?

Forum members are determined to make a difference in our local communities. We are committed to finding out what the health issues are locally - whether there are special issues affecting an area, whether there are particular health problems, whether there are communities whose opinions are being ignored. We aim to improve the communication between ourselves as patients and members of the public and those who provide the services which are so important to us. We will listen to what local people have to say and we will require answers from the people who run the health services.

As you live in the south west of Sheffield, if you have comments or concerns about the local health services, we would like to hear from you. The S.W. PCT forum members can be contacted through the Carers' Federation at the Edgedale Suite, Blades Enterprise Centre, John Street, Sheffield, S2 4SW. The phone numbers are 292 2450 and 292 2451.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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Book Reviews

Peeks at the Past volume 2 is exactly what it says on the cover, a look at curiosities, places and people from the past, drawing on clues and remains still visible today. Author Ann Beedham has managed again to produce a fascinating 114 page collection of fact and stories, illustrated with colour photographs, maps and drawings. Some of the tales and anecdotes come from outlying districts, but that only makes the book more likely to get one exploring new places. Ecclesall Church, Abbeydale House, features around Kelham Island and the Botanical gardens are just some of the 32 places included. Creswell Craggs, Wingfield Manor and Wirksworth take us further out of the city. Both volumes of *Peeks at the Past* are available from city bookshops, published by Pickard Communication, priced £11.99. Vol 2 - ISBN 0-9547264-1-3

Given Sheffield's industrial decline in the last 50 years, it is difficult to imagine that in the first half of the last century Sheffield supplied Britain and her Empire with vast amounts of armaments and the military hardware. The demands for armour at the start of World War 1 prompted massive investment and productivity gains. Again as Britain re-armed in 1938 it was declared that a half square mile of Sheffield was more vital to the war effort than anywhere else in the country. *Sheffield armourer to the British Empire* explores in 140 pages, the industrial and human consequences of this outstanding period of Sheffield's history. Published by Wharncliffe Books price £9.99 ISBN 1903425-13-1

Nearer to today, and already slipping into history, is the story of the 1984-85 miners strike. *Yorkshire's Flying Pickets* is based on the diary of one miner Bruce Wilson who as a young man, and with his mates, was in the thick of the action. This is an insight into the 'Coal not Dole' battle from a miners point of view, with action, humour and ultimate sadness. Published by Wharncliffe Books price £9.99 ISBN 1903425-51-4

It might seem impossible to enjoy a gentle walk without steep climbs in the Peak District, but prolific author Norman Buckley set out to do just this in producing *Peak District Walking on the level*. By finding good footpaths, well-surfaced bridleways and quiet lanes, he has been able to put together 28 walks along attractive routes between the hills and down the valleys. Ranging from 2 to 6 miles, each with a clear map, photographs and detailed instructions, these are within the capability of nearly all of us. Most are circular and have details of the height gained, parking and refreshments. Whether you are setting out on the process of getting fit, or find your hard walking days are past, this is a book for you! Published by Sigma Leisure price £7.95 ISBN 1-85058-811-2.

There is no better way to see other parts of the country than on foot, and wherever you go someone will have published a

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useful walking guide. Better still if you find yourself staying with an author and can draw directly on their knowledge. Anna and Graham Francis made their escape to Wales several years ago and set out to explore the walking potential of the countryside around them. *Family walks to discover North Wales* is the result of their labours, detailing 21 walks across the area. Each is illustrated with landscape sketches and clear maps and unique 3-D overviews. Descriptions of the terrain, ascent and time needed are all included, but it is the details about the routes and potted histories which bring the areas walked to life. This book 195 page book is a bargain at £4.95 available from the publisher Gwasg Carreg Gwalch on 01492 642031 or by order from all good bookshops ISBN 0-86381-679-7

Everyone has their favourite walking area, but surely one of the most popular must be the West Midlands and Welsh border counties. Specialist published Meridian Books has recently produced two new titles to add to its growing catalogue. *Walks in Severn Country* by Roy Woodcock provides an absorbing account of the geography and history of the river, accompanied by twenty walks that follow the river on its journey to the sea, while exploring some of the fine towns and countryside that it passes through. Walks range from two to twelve miles and there are illustrations, maps and black and white pictures for each in 128 pages. Price £ 7.95 ISBN 1-869922-49-2

Walks in Warwickshire and Worcestershire by Des Wright is a third collection exploring further, some of the attractive countryside in two West Midlands counties. The 21 walks are all circular and can be reached easily by car or public transport and range between 2 and 9.5 miles. Most are flat but with one more strenuous walk of 14 miles. There are some black and white photographs, maps and clear instructions. 112 pages price £6.95. ISBN 1-869922-44-1.

Peak District Treasure Hunts is the first of its kind, a book for puzzle fanatics who are fond of the great outdoors. The book contains 16 hunts taking from 2 to 5 hours of short car journeys and walks, with all the clues based on fixed items such as pub names, plaques and headstones. There are

no prizes to claim but you can be sure of a mystery tour in beautiful countryside and familiar Derbyshire villages. And in case you get lost, the solutions, with maps and photographs, are provided at the back of the book, so no cheating! Ex Dore resident Ian Almond has enjoyed himself, and so will you. Published by Sigma Leisure at £7.95 ISBN 1-85058-810-4

Finally as autumn comes the temptation to settle down with a good novel can prove irresistible. Well known local children's author Berlie Doherty, twice winner of the prestigious Carnegie Medal, has crafted her most recent book *Deep Secret* to meet this need. As usual, utilising familiar local territory, the story evolves around the lives of families living in the valley destined to be flooded by Ladybower Reservoir and a surviving twin who must learn to live without half herself. The book traces the emotions of the village families, and the secrets that emerge as the community rebuilds itself. The book is absorbing and well written, readable at all levels from 11 upwards. Settle down for a good read! A Penguin book priced at £12.99 in hardback. ISBN 0-141-38039-X

New city map for cyclists

An updated version of the Sheffield cycle map has been produced by the city council. It includes official cycle routes, those recommended by cyclists that avoid some of the more difficult traffic spots, cycle lanes, train routes, 20 mph zones, cycle shops and public toilets.

For a free map, call 273 4286 or email andy-wild@sheffield.gov.uk

The whistling cyclist

All credit to an anonymous mountain biker in Ecclesall Woods, who announces his impending arrival to walkers by whistling loudly. People and dogs sharing space with cyclists on bridlepaths will be only too aware of the dangers when mountain bikes suddenly appear without warning. By law all new bicycles sold in the UK must be fitted with bells, but this does not apply retrospectively.

Poets Corner.....

Time has Come

It happens sometimes, all at once,
when autumn comes too soon
Summer burns out suddenly and lights
the harvest moon
And at twilight winter frosts
will chill the dying days
To leave an imprint in the snow
of used up earthly ways.

Christine Spencer

Ed. If you would like to submit a short poem, please forward to the address on page 2.

with Love & Best wishes XXX

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Countryside threat

A recent Government-commissioned review on future housing supply is just one of the threats to the countryside that has caused serious public concern recently.

This controversial report on housing supply by the Government adviser Kate Barker has come as a shock to everyone who loves the English countryside. She suggests that as many as 120,000 new houses should be built every year, over and above the current rate of construction. This would place more than 30 square miles of countryside at risk over a five year period.

CPRE have now commissioned their own independent study of Kate Barker's analysis from the respected consultants Europe Economics. Their report challenges the very idea that there is an overall housing shortage. It found that there is a significant surplus of dwellings over households in every region of England. What's more, this surplus has actually grown from 638,000 to 997,000 dwellings between 1991 and 2001.

This doesn't mean that there is enough affordable housing, as for example the big increase in house prices has made it very difficult for first-time buyers to get into the market. But Europe Economics concluded that the Barker proposals would do very little to solve this problem. At most it might slow down the rate of increase in house prices, at the cost of inflicting terrible damage on the countryside.

The report also found that the housing

market, left to its own devices, "will tend not to provide affordable housing, even though that is the social need". It concluded that "one way to address this is to make more use of the planning system to provide additional affordable housing within the current framework of land release."

In other words, the Europe Economics report backs up CPRE's view that we should solve the lack of affordable housing by strengthening planning policies - not relaxing them to release more greenfield sites for development.

The CPRE have a website giving more details of their current campaigns at - www.cpre.org.uk

Cards for good causes

Early notice this year that the Sheffield Charity Christmas Card Shop at the Cathedral will be open from Friday 8th October. Cards from both national and local Charities will be on sale from 10am to 4pm, Monday to Saturday. For information call Mary Watson on 236 5666.

The Totley & Dore support group for the visually impaired will be meeting on the following dates: Wednesday 2nd September; Thursday 28th October, & Tuesday 23rd November. Meetings start at 11.3 am and newcomers are most welcome. For details and venues call John or Pat on 255 0758.

Sickness absence from work


Did you know that help is available to help people currently off sick, return to work?

WorkCare, based in Sheffield City Centre, has been challenged to tackle issues around sickness absence. There are real benefits from offering a boosted service to working people who are off sick from six to 26 weeks? And people can be prevented from losing their job through ill health?

Sickness absence has a detrimental affect on mental health, with two in three people developing depression after just six months off work; being at work is actually good for your health. Early intervention and a prompt diagnosis is a significant factor in helping people return to the workplace. WorkCare can provide your first appointment within a week.

Are you, or do you know someone who has been; off work sick from between six and 26 weeks; lives within any 'S' postcode and; normally works 16 hours or more a week?

If so, taking part in WorkCare is simple. All you need to do is call 0800 0526528. For those who are eligible there's a three in four chance of receiving a free and immediate access to a boosted service. Alternatively log onto www.workcare.org.uk for more information. These are just some of the remaining dates for 2004. You can find out more details, by ringing 01246 345 7777/8.



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(from OFSTED inspection report, December 1999)

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Huntsman Ter-Centenary

One man laid the foundations for the industrial city of Sheffield. Without him the cutlery and edge tool industries would have stayed cottage-based and Sheffield might have remained an industrial backwater.

Benjamin Huntsman was born on 4th June 1704 at Epworth in North Lincolnshire, to Quaker parents and Quaker principles were to underpin his life and business practices. Very little is known about his early life and indeed little is known of the man himself.

At the age of 14 he was apprenticed to a clockmaker in Epworth and seven years later he was working in his own right as a clockmaker in Doncaster. By 1741 he had purchased a house there for £210. He gained a reputation as someone able to fix machinery but he found that the steel he needed to make tools was of inferior quality. He pondered over the problem and came to a startling conclusion. If he could melt raw steel in a crucible rather than just cooking the outside layers at red heat, he could produce steel of more uniform quality. This was already done with brass and as a clockmaker he was familiar with the process.

He moved to Handsworth on the outskirts of Sheffield, where he started to experiment in steel making. The work was carried out in great secrecy. By 1751 he had perfected his 'crucible steel' process and built his first factory at Worksop Road, Attercliffe. The problems he faced in trying to master the

process were great. To melt steel meant using a very high temperature, which in turn meant using crucibles that could withstand such heat.

Huntsman's process relied on keeping the crucible and its contents at a very high temperature for several hours. The secret of doing this was simplicity itself. Huntsman designed a furnace consisting of a hearth, known as a hole with a special flue leading out to a tall chimney. This required no powered blowing aids such as bellows or fans. The crucible was covered with a lid and sat on a bed of coke. The lid was to prevent contamination of the steel. The fire was lit and more coke was placed around the crucible. The chimney provided enough natural draught to keep the coke incandescent whilst the melt took place.

His steel making prospered, yet Huntsman did little to make his fortune. He sought no personal recognition for his invention, nor did he patent it. The cutlers of Sheffield initially rejected crucible steel as it was hard to forge but with increasing competition from the continent they were forced to adapt to new methods.

The process had one limitation, the weight of the crucible plus its steel content had to be lifted by manpower alone. The total weight was anything up to 601b of metal plus 25lb of crucible plus the lifting tongs weighing about 20lb, yet even this was overcome and the steel ingots produced in crucible steel gradually increased in size until ingots of 25 tons could be poured - requiring around 670 crucibles of molten

steel being poured into the same mould, one after another, over a period of an hour.

Crucible steel making was gradually adopted by most manufacturers in the city and became the principal method until Bessemer introduced his converter in the 1850s. At that time there were about 3,000 individual crucible 'holes' in the city. Even then it took 12 years before the output of Bessemer steel exceeded the output of crucible steel, and for certain applications crucible steel was still preferred.

Crucible steel manufacture continued to decline throughout the earlier part of the twentieth century, but some crucible plants were reinstated during World War II to cope with demand for special tool steels in small quantities, the previously abandoned Abbeydale Works was pressed into service and produced around 500 tons of steel before being mothballed once again and finally becoming a museum (Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet).

Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet is the best preserved example of a crucible furnace. Benjamin Huntsman died in 1776 and is buried in the Graveyard of Attercliffe Hilltop chapel.

Ed. This article first appeared in the Sheffield History Reporter and is reproduced with the permission of Sheffield City Libraries Local Studies section.

Further reading:

Barraclough, Kenneth C *Benjamin Huntsman 1704-1776*. Sheffield City Libraries, Local Studies Leaflet: Available for reference only.

David and Angela welcome you to the

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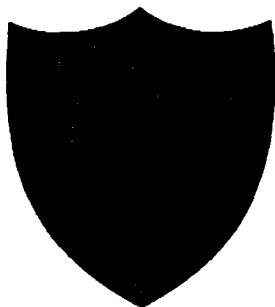
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Planning Matters

'Longacres' Newfield Lane. The original planning application made by Westbury Homes for 37 units on the 'Longacres' site was changed by an amended application which showed 38 units, and in addition to the vehicular access through the high bank in Newfield Lane, a footpath access was proposed crossing the Recreation Ground, complete with Street lighting. Fortunately the Planning Officers recommended refusal of the application on the grounds that the access into Newfield Lane was unacceptable and that the illuminated footpath across the recreation ground was detrimental to that area both visually and on the grounds of safety. Incredibly, it is understood that it is the Planning Officers who put the prospect of a footpath across the Rec into the minds of the developers! The Planning Board refused the application unanimously.

Undoubtedly the objections lodged by local residents and the signed petitions had a significant impact on the planning decision. However that is probably not the end of the matter as the developers are likely to appeal to the Secretary of State, or alternatively make a modified application that has a better chance of approval. If the matter does go to appeal and a Public Inquiry, it is important that local residents again make strong objections to the proposals. The DVS will also be fighting the case on your behalf.

291 Tottle Brook Road. There is another development proposal, causing real consternation in the village. The Council recently sold the School Caretaker's house and garden, having first obtained outline planning permission for four houses. The Society and many local residents thought that was an excessive number. However, the purchaser made a planning application for fourteen flats on the site, an incredible increase and the Planning Officers intimated that the application would be



View down the High Street in the 1950s with the Hare & Hounds on the right.

refused if it were not withdrawn. The developer has submitted a fresh application for twelve flats reducing the building by one storey. This, however, is again far too much for this site and the Society are strongly against the proposal. Another example of developers' excessive Proposals that does nothing for the benefit of the locality.

David Heslop

Archeology dig

Two trial archeology trenches have recently been dug along an old trackway in Ecclesall Woods by the University of Sheffield's Archeology Consultancy team. The aim was to determine the condition of the trackway and its original purpose prior to resurfacing. A report will be submitted to the Tree and Woodland team at Sheffield Council

Green Lane Challenge

Nationally there is growing concern about the damage being done to the rights of way network by 4x4s and motorcycles being used for recreation and sport. Green lanes and ancient pathways, such as the Ridgeway which goes from Buckinghamshire to Wiltshire, are being made unpleasant to walk or impassable.

In Sheffield, the Moss Road is an ancient green lane heading out from Tottle to the National Trust's Longshaw Estate and passing through an area of special scientific interest. 4x4s have now reduced the green lane to a massive deep gash of churned up mud.

The legal situation is made more complicated as the Moss Road crosses the border from Sheffield into Derbyshire. Derbyshire Council has made an order banning traffic from its section. Despite pressure from the Ramblers Association, Sheffield Council has refused to do the same, on the grounds of the difficulty of enforcing a ban.

113 MPs, including local representative Richard Allen, have signed an Early Day Motion (no. 380) urging the Government to take action so that these abuses can be stopped. A consultation Paper has been issued by DEFRA, but no one expects early action by the Government!

Farm Fayre

Whirlow Hall Farm Trust are holding their autumn farm fayre on Sunday, 19th September 10am - 4pm.

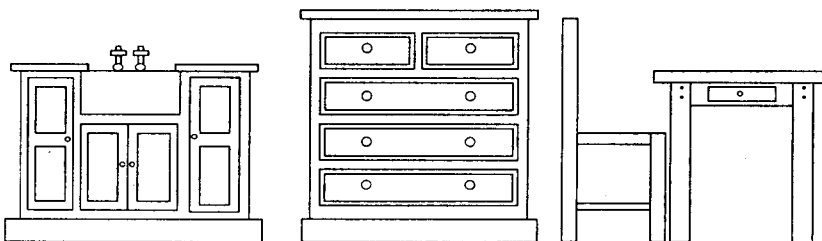
Why not bring the family and support this local Children's charity. There will be plenty to do, enough to stay all day!

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ANNA STEELE Behind Pharmacy	236 2048	Chiropodist	Mon to Fri: 9 - 5 Jenny Downing taking over in October
E L R 33 Townhead Rd	236 2420	Chartered Surveyors & Estate Agents	Mon to Fri: 9 - 5.30, Sat: 9 - 12.30
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HARE & HOUNDS Church Lane	235 5060	Public House Food: Mon to Fri:	Weekdays: 11am - 11pm Sun: 12 - 2, 12 - 2 & 5 - 8 Sat 12 - 3 & 5 - 8 Sun: 12 - 3
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Dore Male Voice Choir

It was a pleasure to be singing at the Dore Festival, in concert with the Dore Mercia and Totley Towswomen's Guild Choir. With some poor weather that week we were thankful to be holding the concert in the church Hall.

The Choir was pleased to have raised £1,100 at the concert in May, given in aid of the lord Mayor's Charities. Of the twelve or so concerts the Choir gives during a year, over 75% are in support of local or national charities and over the years we have raised tens of thousands of pounds.

On Saturday 17th July the Choir sang at Chatsworth. We were on at 7pm and Donny Osmand was on at 7.30pm. However, we were singing at Endors Church and Donny Osmand's concert was in the Park in the open air. Ours was a most enjoyable occasion and seems to be becoming an annual summer event.

The Christmas Concert in the Parish Church will be on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th December. Please order your tickets early for this event. Lastly the Choir are most grateful for the generosity of Richard Farnsworth in providing the updated Choir Festival Competition Honours Board in the Devonshire Arms. We have now moved right into the 21st Century.

David Heslop

Stars in Dore

Our lifetime is easily measured in years or, in fact, in terms of the number of times our Earth has revolved around our Sun. The stars and our Sun also have a lifetime easily reckoned in terms of a different year, the Cosmic Year. This is simply the time for our Galaxy to revolve once. The Sun is known to have an age of 21 cosmic years, about that, say, of an average, lucky cosmic mammal, if they existed! Most of the brightest blue stars we see in the skies above Dore are very young indeed, only 8 cosmic hours. The Big Bang probably occurred less than 90 cosmic years ago. Sounds simple enough!

Many of our more meditative moments are probably spent musing amidst leafy woodland, beside river banks or along country lanes. Walkers, joggers, girls on horses, families with children and folk in wheelchairs, all enjoy our country lanes. The writer likes to think of those bold motorised wheelchairers as Dore's charioteers! The village of Dore is fortunate in having such country lanes and a few remaining beautiful houses and walls which reflect our history and remind us of our rural heritage. Nevertheless, there are rebellious forces in such villages, as there are in the Universe at large, which threaten to tear apart the fabric of rural communities.

For the writer, Stephen Hawking comes to mind (surely everybody has heard of him) in any philosophical thinking about the forces of nature, Black Holes, the stars up there above the Dore sky and the meaning of it all. From the early 1970s the writer cherishes the memory of carrying this eminent man, even then only a mere bundle of childlike bones, down the steps of the Dublin Institute to his wheel-chair; not so with another celebrity, Sir Patrick Moore,

for whom we all have the highest regard but scarcely a story like the one from Dublin! The writer borrowed a bicycle from him in the 1960s. Both men have given us lucid accounts of the Universe in their different ways.

We are told that the forces of nature control our Universe precisely even if the gravitational force defies basic explanation. On the other hand, inexplicable stupidity seems to pervade much human behaviour and decision-making. It is clear that not all the thinking that goes on whilst on a summer stroll down, say, our Newfield Lane, is astronomical but the writer firmly believes that perturbed minds are put at rest and important decisions are frequently made whilst in a countryside environment. How, then, could anyone wish to destroy our delightful (and presently conserved) Newfield Lane with concrete curbing, tarmac and pollution from petrol fumes and artificial lighting? Thankfully, it seems that good sense might be prevailing (20 July 04) but the Dore Village Society has only won the first round. We have been temporarily spared the conversion of Dore's wooded western periphery to a miniature M25.

Venus has crossed the face of the Sun and emerged as a brilliant morning object brighter than magnitude -4. As the nights grow longer in the early autumn this beautiful planet will remain the most obvious morning object other than the Moon until the end of October. We must await the winter evenings for the reappearance of the other bright planets, Saturn and Jupiter. So let us turn to some of the other celestial objects in the late summer and early autumn skies.

Prominently poised practically overhead is the constellation Cygnus, the Swan. Although shaped somewhat like a flying swan this constellation is also known as the Northern Cross. The star at the top of the cross is Deneb (distance 1827 light years) and that at the bottom is Albireo (391 light years). If one imagines a parallelogram (a squashed rectangular box-shape) formed by lines from Deneb to the central star of the cross, over to the left star in the cross and then upwards, that top left hand corner is occupied by a very faint red star named 61 Cygni. It is just visible to the naked eye at magnitude 5.2. This is a very close star at only 11 light years. On some nights it is best seen by averted vision (by looking a little to the left or right of its position). It is a double star and the two components move together through space but do not form an orbiting binary system. They share a long journey as our Galaxy revolves about its axis (once in 220 million years).

It is well worth also looking out for the Milky Way in this whole region of the sky on the best of nights and without Moon. Running along the left edge of the Northern Cross can be seen a dark lane where the Milky Way's glow is apparently extinguished by dark obscuring clouds of cosmic dust.

The first black hole was discovered in Cygnus, known as Cygnus X-1. This strong X-ray emitter lies at about 8000 light years.

One cannot see the black hole directly but one can certainly see its affect on its companion object, the 9th magnitude blue supergiant, HDE 226868. A small telescope and a starchart or a Go-To computer-driven telescope would easily find it but, of course, you and I will not 'see' the X-rays. Take a look at Albireo with a telescope, too, a most beautiful orange and blue-green double star in Cygnus. It consists of a cool giant star (mag. 3.1) and a hot dwarf star (mag. 5.1).

From the recreation park in Dore one would gain an excellent view of the Milky Way, Cygnus and the nearby star, 61 Cygni, apart from the glorious sunset skies. Let us hope that the Sheffield Council planners will not spoil the natural beauty of the area with access roads or footpaths with lighting! Fortunately, the Dore Village Society and others are fighting hard to preserve the unique features of our village. If City developers have their way Dore could very quickly become unrecognisably transformed with institutional-like blocks of flats, with bungalows replaced by enclaves of crowded and stereotyped mansions, destroying the Dore skyline of gently rolling hills and gradually encroaching into every available green area. The Universe may not be what everybody is thinking of each day (and night) but the environment in which we live out our short lives should be foremost in our thoughts.

David Andrews

Village Notice Board

The Dore Village Society has a smart new notice board on Devonshire Terrace Road.

If you have a public notice about events in or of concern to the village, please contact Anne Elsdon on 236 0002 or John Baker on 236 9025.

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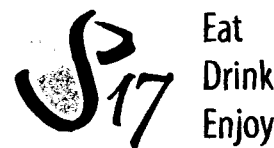
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Diary - Autumn 2004

AUGUST

- 21 **Grindleford Horticultural Show** Bridge Playing Field, from 2pm - 4.30pm
- 22 **Open Day** Sheffield Manor 11am - 4pm incl guided tours. Free admission
- 24 **Strawberry Tea & 'Bring & Buy'** Sheffield Cheshire Home, Mickley Lane 2pm-4pm
- 28 **Froggatt Show** Stoke Lane 2pm-5.15pm
- 30 **Hope Show & Sheepdog Trials** 01433 620 905

SEPTEMBER

- 2 - 4 **Longshaw Sheepdog Trials** 7.30am - 5.30pm - see article
- 4-5 **Arts & Craft Show** at the Botanical Gardens with 700 pieces of art, photography marquee, art & craft market, displays, live music & children's activities.
- 4 - 5 **Chatsworth Country Fair**
- 6 **Atkinsons of Sheffield** talk at Dore Methodist Women's Fellowship, 2.30pm
- 7 **AGM** Dore Methodist Church Tuesday Group, Church Hall 7.45pm
- 8 **Edale Mountain Rescue Team** a talk for Dore (A) Townswomen's Guild, Old School, 2pm
- 11 **Dore Show**, Old School & Methodist Church Halls, 2-4.30pm see schedule page 12
- 12 **Autumn Plant Sale** Sheffield Botanical Gardens 2-4pm. Hardy plants for autumn planting + cards, crafts, garden sundries, pictures etc. Demonstration centre, Thompson Road entrance. Free admission
- 14 **Criminal Court Artist** talk by Mr John Gilbert, Dore Mercia Townswomen's Guild, 10am, Dore Church Hall
- 14-16 **Bill Smart's Circus** at Endcliffe Park
- 19 **Farm Fayre** Whirlow Hall Farm Trust, Whirlow Lane 10am to 4pm. Details from 235 2678
- 20 **AGM & talk** by Rev C Kirk at Dore Methodist Women's Fellowship, 2.30pm
- 21 **Mount Blanc** talk by Cynthia Ramsden Dore Mercia Townswomen's Guild (Social studies), 10am, Dore Church Hall
- 21 **Nutritional Therapy** talk by Keith Belbin for Dore Methodist Church Tuesday Group, Church Hall 7.45pm
- 26 **Open Day** Sheffield Manor 11am - 4pm incl guided tours. Free admission
- 28 **Sheffield Ind Museums Trust** talk by John Hamshere for Sheffield Ramblers, 7.30pm Friends Meeting House, 10 St James Street

OCTOBER

- 3 **Sponsored Walk** 5 or 15 miles around the Chatsworth House Estates and beyond in aid of the Home Farm Trust tel 0114 255 6302.
- 4 **The work of the Gideons** talk at Dore Methodist Women's Fellowship, 2.30pm

- 5 **Rags to Riches** talk by Judy Colby for Dore Methodist Church Tuesday Group, Church Hall 7.45pm
- 6 **Antiques Roadshow** Talk and valuations by Andrew Jameson of ELR Auctions, for the Dore Village Society. 7.30pm Dore Methodist Church Hall. Bring items for valuation. Everybody welcome. Free entry
- 12 **Introduction to Bonsai** talk by Mr D Smith for Dore Mercia Townswomen's Guild, 10am, Dore Church Hall
- 12 **Rights Of Way** - An anecdotal approach, talk by Richard Pett for Sheffield Ramblers, 7.30pm Friends Meeting House, 10 St James Street
- 13 **To Romania with love** a talk for Dore (A) Townswomen's Guild, Old School, 2pm
- 15 **Craft Fair** in aid of Leonard Cheshire Services at Tupton Masonic Hall, Shore Lane 10am-3pm Details 236 7491
- 18 **Bonny Kirkcubrightshire** talk by J Headridge for Dore Methodist Women's Fellowship, 2.30pm
- 19 **Botanical Gardens** talk by Avril Critchley for Dore Mercia Townswomen's Guild (Social studies), 10am, Dore Church Hall
- 19 **Antiques Road Show** talk by Roy Young for Dore Methodist Church Tuesday Group, Church Hall 7.45pm
- 22 **Night at the Theatre** 'The City Players' at the Corner Playhouse, Eckington in aid of Leonard Cheshire Services. 7.30pm Details 236 7491
- 26 **The Sheffield Flood** talk by Malcolm Nunn for Sheffield Ramblers, 7.30pm Friends Meeting House, 10 St James St
- 27 to 30 **'Heatstroke'**, a farce by Eric Chappell. Dore & Totley UR Amateur Dramatic Society. 7.30 pm at Dore & Totley UR Church Hall. Tickets from 233 1543

NOVEMBER

- 1 **Birthdays** talk by Rev C Kirk at Dore Methodist Women's Fellowship, 2.30pm
- 2 **L for Leather** talk by Pam Morris for Dore Methodist Church Tuesday Group, Church Hall 7.45pm
- 3 & 4 **Autumn Fair** St Luke's Hospice. Details from 236 9911
- 8 **Gardening with Wildlife**, Robert Marnock Lecture by Professor Chris Baines, King Edward VII Upper School Hall 7.15pm off Newbold Lane. Tickets £5 - 230 5556
- 9 **The Canals of England** talk by Mr Peter Wild for Dore Mercia Townswomen's Guild, 10am, Dore Church Hall
- 10 **Eye-Eye & Ear-Ear** talk by Mrs Sheila Rodman for Dore (A) Townswomen's Guild, Old School, 2pm
- 15 **The Eye of the Camera** slideshow by Fred Cocking for Dore Methodist Women's Fellowship, 2.30pm
- 16 **Sand & Sea** talk by Mike Tolsen 10am, for Dore Mercia Townswomen's Guild (Social studies), Dore Church Hall
- 16 **Switzerland** talk by Bob Warburton for Dore Methodist Church Tuesday Group, Church Hall 7.45pm
- 19 **Annual Dinner & Jazz**, Leonard Cheshire Services, Whirlow Brook Hall, 7.30pm Details 236 7491
- 24 **Derbyshire Place Names** Talk by Jenny Ainsworth for the Dore Village Society. 7.30pm Dore Methodist Church Hall. Free entry. Everybody welcome



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