

DORE to DOOR

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

No. 76 WINTER 2004

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Christmas in Dore

This year the Dore Village Society is again providing Christmas trees and lights in the village. Building on the success of last year they have also organised a special evening opening of many of the village shops, complete with seasonal entertainment.

The open evening will be on Thursday 9th December from 6 to 8pm. Celebrations begin at 6pm with carol singing by the Guides, Brownies & Rainbows in the High Street. They will be followed at 7pm by members of Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society. During the evening the Guides will be selling coffee and mince pies on the Dore Service Station forecourt.

Shops Opening late will be:

Country Garden	Hair Plus
Dore Opticians	Gaby
Valerie of Dore	Vivid
Little Mischiefs	Dore Deli

Dore Health & Beauty

Open as usual:

Co-op	Devonshire Arms
Threshers	Hare & Hounds
Dore Video	Tasty Plaice
Almas Indian Restaurant	

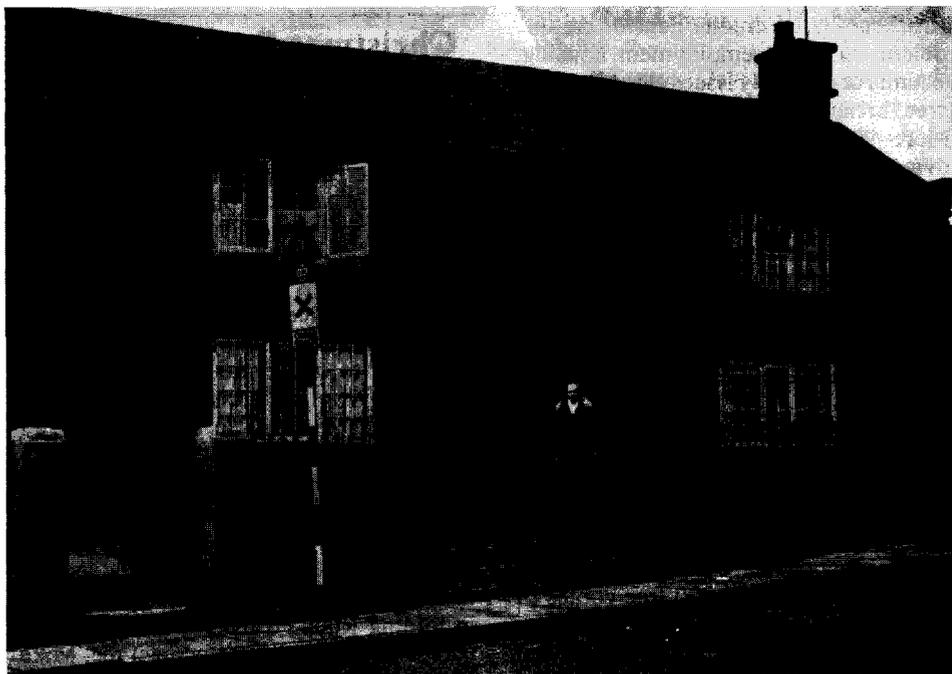
Dore is fortunate to have such an excellent range of local shops and hostelrys. Between them you will find a wide range of ideas for Christmas presents, all the food and drink you need for your Christmas meals and places to celebrate the season with friends and family.

It's Wassail time again

Dore's fourth Wassail Walk will be on Monday, December 27th, starting at 10am (not 9.30am) from the Old School. As before, the Walk of about five miles is designed to despatch the general lethargy after the Christmas celebrations and prepare you for the forthcoming New Year merriment.

The pace, as always, will be gentle and allows breath for chatter and laughs, but just enough to stir up the heart and lungs. A glass of punch (or soft drink) awaits at the finish together with a warm mince pie. We might even extend the Wassail tradition with something a little different.

Last year we had close to 60 walkers – and didn't run out of punch! Make it a family occasion or bring along some friends – everybody is welcome. Please wear walking boots or, if you don't have them, some walking shoes with a good grip on the soles. Put the date in your diaries now. We look forward to seeing you.



Florence Eyre, grandmother of Lorraine Evans in front of Ivy Cottage, High Street circ 1930

Oral History Collection

In conversation with Lorraine Evans.

Lorraine Evans was born on the 22nd August 1922 at Ivy Cottage, High Street, Dore. Her father was Sergeant George Bowes, of the Northumberland Fusiliers who came through World War I with honour and married the beautiful Fanny Eyre in August 1918. Her mother was the eldest daughter of John and Florence Eyre. She had four younger siblings, Walter, Gladys, Mabel and Frank.

George and Fanny lived with the Eyres in Ivy Cottage while George continued his army career and became well respected through his post as first secretary of the Dore and Totley branch of the British Union. When in August 1922 Fanny gave birth to a healthy daughter she was called Lorraine Irene after the region of France where George had won his military medal.

Sadly, the following March, Fanny caught pneumonia and died when Lorraine was just six months old. Therefore, as so often happened in those days, Florence Eyre took over the care of her daughter's baby and Lorraine became the youngest of a large family.

Two years later, when her father wanted to marry again, it was agreed that Lorraine could stay with the Eyres. Lorraine reports that her grandmother said to her father "I don't want to part with her".

Lorraine remembers clearly her early life in Ivy Cottage with her grandmother, who she always called "Mother". The spacious cottage had a front garden bordered by a

Continued on page 14

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

Winter Meeting

7.30pm Wednesday

24 November

Methodist Church Hall

Talk by Jenny Ainsworth
on 'Derbyshire Place Names'

Admission Free

Mince pies & drinks served

Christ Church Dore

All are welcome to attend services, four varied ones each Sunday, (see Church notice board). And over the Christmas period to come to the following candlelit services;

December 19th, 4pm

Scout & Guide service

December 19th, 6.30pm

Choir carol service

December 24th, 4pm & 6pm

Crib services

December 24th, 11.30pm

Midnight Communion & carols

On Christmas Day, there are communion services at 8am (said) & 10am (with music)

On St. Stephen's Day, December 26th, all congregations join for the only service, to be held at 10 am.

New advice sessions

Staff from Woodseats Advice Centre are now offering a new "drop-in" advice service at Totley Rise Methodist Church, Grove Road. These advice sessions are held on Tuesdays from 10am to 12noon.

Help can be provided with filling in forms, benefits, tax credits, pension credits, problems with debt, employment, housing, consumer or disability issues etc. All advice is free, impartial and confidential.

More information from Woodseats Advice Centre, 714 Chesterfield Road, Sheffield S8 OSD Tel: 258 4384. The main centre is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays from 10am to 2pm and Tuesdays from 4 to 6pm.

Food for thought

A new food directory celebrating the best of local produce is to be published by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE). The aim is to demonstrate to shoppers that buying locally grown produce directly supports the countryside and its communities. Up to 50,000 free copies of the new South Yorkshire Food Directory will be printed in the spring. To be included in the guide for free or to obtain a copy contact Jemma Grieve on 01 14 266 5822 or email jemma@cprepeakandysorks.org.uk

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

PUBLISHING DEADLINES

Dore to Door is published quarterly in mid February, May, August and November each year. The copy deadline for each issue is the end of the preceding month.

Please forward items for the Spring (February) issue to the address on this page by Friday 28th January 2005

Christmas Food Collection

Hallamshire Round Table will once again be collecting food parcels in Dore on Sunday the 12th December.

This event has taken place in Dore for the last 40 years, and its thanks to your generosity we have been able to distribute many thousands of food parcels to the homeless and needy in time for Christmas.

We will be dropping off leaflets before the date to those houses we will be collecting from, all we ask is that you leave non perishable items in a carrier bag on your doorstep and we will do the rest.

Round Table is a worldwide service organisation and its values are about getting involved with your local community and building a network of friends whilst serving the less privileged. If any one is interested in joining Round Table, or if you need a parcel collecting, please contact me, Mike Braddock, on 236 6757 Or check out www.roundtable.co.uk

Mike Braddock

Autumn Bulb Planting

Another autumn of bulb planting, and again the weather was so kind. With so many helpers and good support with donations, Dore Village Society planted another 4,000 daffodils and crocus.

Someone said it is a pity that only daffodils are planted, as there is then so much yellow around in spring. But we have been careful to ensure that each year a good number of white daffodils and narcissus have been included. In consequence Cockpit Green (corner of Drury Lane and Townhead Road), the corner of Dore Road and Vicarage Lane and large areas of Cross Lane are in white. This year 800 daffodils have been planted in Dore Road outside the Doctor's Surgery. They will make a brave show in April. We have continued our planting of crocus in Causeway Head Road. It is a pity that the verges get dug up by the service authorities and builders so frequently.

On a sad note, Alan Harrison, who did not miss a single bulb planting session during the past two years, died a few weeks ago. It was always a pleasure to see Allan, well into his 70's, cycling up to our planting venues. We will always remember him with great affection and think of him especially when the spring bulbs come into flower.

Thanks to all our willing volunteers who have so valiantly helped plant over 40,000 bulbs in the past four years.

David Heslop

Dore step crime

At 9.10pm on Sunday 31st October a 64 year old resident of Devonshire close was injured after challenging three white youths who had entered his back garden. Two of the youths ran away, but the resident managed to tackle the third one, only to be hit in the face and receive serious injuries requiring 30 stitches. The cause of the injuries is believed to have been a large sovereign ring worn by the assailant. Detailed descriptions of the three suspects have been given to the police who would welcome any information on the incident that local residents might be able to provide.

Festival of Light

One of St Luke's Hospice's most special and poignant events, the Festival of Light is now in its seventh year. Each light purchased celebrates the life or achievement of someone close to you and their name is entered into a commemorative book and placed in the Hospice Chapel. Any private individual or company can make a dedication. Individuals can pay as little as £5 or make a larger donation if they wish. The minimum cost for a company or organisation is £50. This year forms are available from the Hospice Reception, at St Luke's shops and at the Hospice's two Day Centres.

The lights at Little Common Lane will be switched on at 6pm on Sunday 12th December. If you wish to attend the Festival there is a Park and Ride Scheme running from Tesco Abbeydale Road carpark from 5pm. The Hospice catering staff will be offering soup, mulled wine and mince pies and the maintenance staff will be ensuring the event runs smoothly. There is no admission charge.

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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Letters

Dear Sir,
Beauchief Gardens

After a most enjoyable visit to "Art in the Park" at the Botanical Gardens, (what a delightful outing, so much to see and lovely weather), we stopped to feed the ducks at the Beauchief Gardens on the way home.

It is such a pity that, although the grass had been cut fairly recently, the shrubs and general appearance of the lovely little gardens was so run down. The lone wire refuse basket was more than overflowing with debris, cans, paper etc.

As we left, my daughter noticed the plaque near the gate commemorating the gift of the park and "sheet of water" to the public of Sheffield by that great benefactor, J G Graves. I had not realised the lovely little oasis was his gift, and it would be so good if it could be tidied up. The parts of Sheffield are, or could be, a great asset, much admired by local residents and visitors.

Mrs D Styles

Ed. "Friends of Millhouses Park" have stepped into the breach - see article elsewhere in this issue.

Dear Sir,

Unwanted Squirrels. Residents around the Kerwin Drive area have been somewhat disturbed because someone has been enticing squirrels into a cage with titbits. Once captured, the creatures are drowned.

This has dismayed those people who up to recently derived pleasure from observing their antics and watching them feed.

If people are bothered by squirrels in any great number, the Sheffield City Council have a Pest Control Department - 0114 203 7410 - and they will come to the house to deal with the problem humanely.

Rather than resort to home-made cruel methods such as the above, I would strongly suggest to this person and to any other member of the public bothered in the same way, that they should contact the proper authorities or be in danger of being reported for cruelty

Christine Spencer

Dear Sir,

Stolen. Unfortunately two windows were broken at the front of the Methodist Chapel in the village on the evening of Halloween. A stone cross which was on the window sill inside the Chapel was then taken. This will be of doubtful use to the thieves and may have been discarded in the village. If you find it please ring Geoff Dales on 236 8171.

G.R.Dales

Ed. We are pleased to report that the cross was eventually recovered from the grounds of the Old School.

Dear Sir,

This September my trip to the UK was full of nostalgia, my youngest sister Janet came from Swanland (Hull) and together we went down memory lane.

We wandered around the village and re thought of what was where and what was

still as we remembered it.

Then we headed for the church - finding the door locked we asked a gentleman tending graves, what the possibilities were of looking inside. Richard Farnsworth, he introduced himself as and he and my sister talked of 'their' years at Dore school - he then proceeded to be our excellent guide - showing us through the schools new extensions and the office of Dore to Door (which made my day). He took us into the church and it looked much the same except for no children's corner and no 'cradle roll'. But I must say I loved the kneelers.

We said goodbye to Richard and took ourselves for a very much enjoyed lunch before we headed off for the village green and remembered our own 'battles' played out. I particularly remembered Mavis (Hudson) Hastings getting a very nasty cut head due to a stone being thrown up to get "that huge king conker up there" - What a good year for conkers we though. - hundreds lay at our feet. I suppose kids don't collect and play conkers anymore - I do know for a fact, the adults of Brussels do tho' - once a year for a charity match!

On Savage Lane and past the farm Greaves had - I could almost smell the dairy that Mrs Greaves had just scrubbed out! My sister reminded me that the workmen's cottages used to have a ladder to get to the bedroom(s)? I bet they have Axminster covered stairs now! On we went down Busheydown Road to look at number 15, our birthplace and decided an ice cream from Jimmy Martins would be nice, to



Bethlehem comes to Totley

Do your children like receiving presents or dressing up?

If so, why not bring them to visit Father Christmas and participate in one of the nativity plays we are organising this year?

Those who came last year enjoyed dressing as Mary, Joseph, the angels etc and playing out their role as we narrated the wonderful story of the nativity. We recreated the Bethlehem

stable scene in our barn complete with live animals, cow and calf, ewes and lambs and a 'stubborn' donkey to give it a flavour of real authenticity and atmosphere. The parents joined in the carol singing and photographed the whole performance or their child's part in it.

The after performance refreshments proved very popular, particularly the mulled wine for the adults! Santa's house was the main attraction for the children as they collected their present from him. The whole event lasted approximately 1 1/2 hours, with the narrated play taking about 30 minutes at the beginning. Do visit our website at www.totleychristmasfestivals.co.uk for pictures of last years performances and a list of special options for groups and clubs that start at £2.50 per person. Below is a schedule for this years performances and we would love you to join us for this unique and special start to Christmas.

For further information, or to book your places using our credit card hotline please phone Jenny on **0114 236 4761**.



2004 ticket price and performance schedule

Adults @ £7.50 - includes tea, coffee or mulled wine and mince pies

Children aged 3-16 @ £7.50, Children under 3 @ £3.50 - includes a present, drinks and Christmas biscuits.

Fri 3rd Dec			4.30		Mon 13th Dec			4.30		Mon 20th Dec	*10.30	1.30	4.30	6.30
Fri 4th Dec		*1.30	4.30	6.30	Tues 14th Dec			4.30		Tues 21st Dec		1.30	4.30	6.30
					Wed 15th Dec			4.30	*6.30	Wed 22nd Dec	10.30	1.30	4.30	6.30
Fri 10th Dec			4.30	6.30	Thur 16th Dec			*4.30	*6.30	Thur 23rd Dec	10.30	1.30	4.30	6.30
Sat 11th Dec		1.30	*4.30	6.30	Fri 17th Dec	*10.30	*1.30	4.30	6.30	Fri 24th Dec	10.30	1.30		
					Sat 18th Dec	10.30	1.30	4.30	6.30					

Times marked * are already fully booked

complete our walk. Oh dear! The shop and Bradshaws were all boarded up. It quite upset my sister as her memories were very much centred around her friend Margaret Bradshaw and her family and home. So we walked on up to Totley Rise and got the bus to Sheffield.

Later in my stay I had the pleasure of afternoon tea with Janet Taylor and her husband Noel Hancock. Janet and I were in the same class. During our conversation I realized my memories of chatting to the stonemason were of Mr Gill - not John and Janet's father - but thanks John (Autumn Edition): as he had spoken with pride of his daughter at Oxford University - I've caught up with Mavis Hudson Hastings, and my Dore to Door Mags have come home with me. I've enjoyed them cover to cover and much has been revealed. I phoned my sister and told her of Jimmy Martins' closure and retirement - we wish you well too Jimmy and thank you.

Thank you again Richard Farnsworth. I look forward to that picture if it's still possible and thank you to Dore to Door for making an 'ex pat' have such happy recalls.

Elva Smith
New South Wales, Australia

Please note: All letters addressed to the editor should be, and are assumed to be, intended for publication.

News, views, local information?
Call the editor now on 236 9025

Where on earth are we going?

Do you find road signs helpful or confusing? Do we really need all the signs and street clutter that we have on our roads these days?

We seem to have gone mad with signs and notices. English Heritage have started a campaign to try to reduce unsightly signs and unnecessary dress on our roads. It happens everywhere, even in Dore. I offer four examples of what I mean, which do nothing to help the street scene or the traveller finding his way in Dore.

If you drive up the deep cutting of Old Hay Lane towards the village, in the bank on the left hand side is a sign that tells you there is a bend at the top the hill. You probably won't notice it, stuck in the hedge, when concentrating on the prospect of oncoming traffic before the top of the gradient. And what use is it, when there is a large reflective chevron sign saying the same thing on the bend at the top? Even a stranger to these parts is unlikely to drive straight on into the bank having negotiated this difficult route.

Travelling along Vicarage Lane, just before the church by the gate there are two blue signs, saying exactly the same thing - 'one way street', and even sharing the same hole in the pavement (see the photo in the Summer 2002 edition of Dore to Door). If you notice these two, there is another one,

exactly the same, fifteen yards further along on the left, although this one is twisted around and could only be noticed by someone in the churchyard.

The days are long gone since you could ask a 'bobby' the way to the Recreation Ground. But how many people standing by Country Garden, would really need to be told where the Rec is? And the same notice is repeated again in Townhead Road opposite the Rec entrance. Nearby is my fourth example.

If you are travelling along Townhead Road towards the village centre, just by the entrance to the Rec, there is a sign, which is now barely readable. It indicates that there is a junction ahead, where you can pass on along Townhead Road or go down Drury Lane. Why is it necessary? It is neither essential, useful nor readable.

Not long ago the council proposed putting up signs on all the roads leading into Dore, (complete with the name of the sponsor) to tell you that you were in Dore! Thankfully they were persuaded otherwise. How much better to be welcomed to Dore by a few kind words than a placard from 'ABC Supermarkets' telling you that you are in Dore.

David Heslop

Help with delivery

Dore to Door is delivered by volunteers. If you could spare an hour once a quarter, please give us a call on 236 9025

with Love & Best wishes XXX

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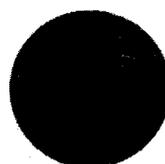
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Did you know

Amazing, another three months gone and winter almost upon us. But before I go into hibernation just time to reflect on autumn.

This year there were far less random firework incidents before the 5th November. Could it be that the new legislation or fear of it worked?! Never mind. The comparative quiet was made up for by the din on the 5th and 6th, with the loudest bang credited to the HSBC finale. I don't want to seem a spoilsport (*Ed - are you sure*) but just how much did their display cost?

Meanwhile the woods have seen a bumper crop of nuts which means we can look forward to a plague of tree rats next year. They may be cute, cuddly, and endearing to some, but grey squirrels are vicious little beasts and a real pest, getting into roof spaces and destroying more bird nests than Magpies or Jays. I guess we are stuck with them, but best to let nature take its course and at least not provide them with extra food in our gardens.

Our local roads have seen their usual spate of accidents and lunatic driving. Speeding and parking on the pavements have become de regle, but it never ceases to amaze me what some drivers get up to. Driving onto the pavement to post a letter! Perhaps we should ask the Post Office to re-site post boxes on stalks next to the road to save drivers getting out of their cars. Mind you some cars are big enough to live in, so getting out must seem strange. It always strikes me as ironic that large four wheel monsters have become the vehicle for the school run, yet at any speed, a child hit by one of these stands far more chance of serious injury than if hit by a standard saloon! See you in the spring.

Doremouse



This year's Christmas cards from the Dore Village Society show a snow scene outside the Devonshire Arms, complete with the obligatory 'Dore Ducks'. In two sizes, the cards are available from Greens shop on Causeway Head Road or Valerie of Dore on the High Street, price £2 and £1.50 for 5.

Plant it Save it !

BBC Radio Sheffield has launched an ambitious and exciting campaign to get its' listeners planting 10,000 trees over the next 12 months in South Yorkshire.

The BBC has teamed up with The South Yorkshire Forest, BTCV, The Wildlife Trust, Heeley City Farm, Tinsley Tree Project, The Woodland Trust and Local Council's in Sheffield, Barnsley, Doncaster and others to make trees available at tree-planting sites & events across the region.

Free trees will be available along with tree related talks, walks and tours. On-air features, interviews and programmes will follow throughout the next 12 months.

Plant it Save it is your chance to plant a tree and do your bit to help save the planet. Many of our trees were planted in Victorian times and earlier and are coming to the end of their natural lives. We need trees to help mop up carbon dioxide and to make our world a cleaner, greener place.

We want you, schools, community or faith groups to register to plant a tree (or dozens of trees) during 2004/05. You can plant a tree to celebrate or commemorate a person, event or milestone, it's up to you.

If you have land on which you'd like to see some trees planted, money and expertise are all available through our partners to help you get trees planted on your land with help from the

South Yorkshire Forest Partnership. We'd need to know it is your land and that it is open to the public.

If you'd like to register for Plant it - Save it call the Actionline on 0114 267 5444 or Email actiondesk.sheffield@bbc.co.uk

Wyvern Walkers

Dore has it's own walking group run by the Dore Village Society. There is a regular programme of walks on different days of the week, usually starting at 9.30 am from the Old School and back in time for lunch. The next walk is on Thursday 9th December, followed by the Christmas Wassail Walk - see front page. For more information on the Wyvern Walkers and the walks call David Bearpark on 236 9100.



Coffee Shop and Deli

CHRISTMAS LUNCH MENU - £16.95

STARTERS

Soup - Choice for the day
Creamed Mushroom or Roasted Parsnip
or
Salmon Pate
Served with Melba Toast

MAIN COURSES

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or
Crown of Turkey Breast
or
Brie & Cranberry Tart
All served with season vegetables

DESSERTS

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Dore Male Voice Choir

The Choir has had a very successful summer programme, culminating in a major concert at the Elsecar Heritage Centre where, with Strata Brass we performed before an audience of 450, in support of the Mexborough Music Festival.

The winter programme includes concerts at Woodseats Methodist Church, in aid of Western Park Hospital, and on 4th December, St James Ranmoor for Abbeydale Rotary's Charity, along with Carol singing at the Northern General, a regular event.

The Choir highlight will be the Christmas Concerts on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th December, at the Parish Church. Why not start your Christmas Festivities by coming along? Order your tickets early though, as there is always a big demand.

Next year will undoubtedly be very busy with ten concerts already booked. For your diaries, the Annual Gala Concert will be on 16th April. Our special guests will be the Kinder Children's Choir. Contact David Heslop, Concert Secretary on 236 5043 for tickets or any information about the Choir.

News in Brief

Dore Show was able to make a donation of £250 to the Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice following a successful auction at the end of the day.

The next **Neighbourhood Watch** co-ordinators meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 1st December in Totley Methodist Church Hall on The Grove.

The **Dore Village Society** has recently purchased a John Speed map of Derbyshire from 1610 which can be viewed in the DVS room at the Old School from 10am to 12 noon on the first Saturday each month.

The **Rowan School**, which works with children who have severe and complex communication difficulties, won a glowing report from a recent inspection, but is ironically earmarked for closure under current shake-up plans.

The recent **fashion show** organised by GABY's shop in support of the Cavendish Cancer Care Centre raised a total of £850.20 from the sale of tickets and the raffle, plus £90 from the sale of calendars and Christmas cards.

Calling budding footballers

Totley Youth Football Club was established 9 years ago with a single team to cater for boys who could not get in to the limited number of teams in the area. Since then we have had teams representing all age groups and have won several league championships as well as sporting trophies every year since the club was formed. They now have junior and practice pitches on what is rated as one of the best playing surfaces in Sheffield.

Currently the club only have sufficient players for Under 13 and Under 16 teams. This means that next season they will have potential opportunities for players to join all age groups from Under 11 to Under 16. As well as players they welcome parental support, like other clubs TYFC relies on parents helping with coaching, refereeing, accounting and administering the clubs affairs etc.

If you have a football keen son who will qualify for any of the age groups on 1st September 2005 please contact the club on the following numbers: Kevin on 235 1862 or David on 235 6937.

Dore Service Station

*Best Wishes for
Christmas and the New Year*

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customers from Mike, Sandra and Maureen*

John Purcell

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Ladies Spring Court
Seasons Greeting to all our customers

VALERIE OF DORE

Send Christmas and New Year
Greeting to all our customers

Country Garden

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

DORE OPTICIANS

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

JOHN CLARK DAIRYMAN

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

Colin Thompson

Proprietor: R. W. Akitt
Seasons Greetings from your Family Butcher

THRESHER WINE SHOP

Merry Christmas to all our Customers
from Rachel and Staff

DORE DENTAL CARE

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

Jean recalls

I cannot say that I am impressed by the so called improvements which the Council claim to have made to the roads here. It looks a complete eyesore to me. The white lines make me dizzy and I am continually tripping on the knobbly bits. One consolation is that being Council work the white paint will soon wear off. The money could surely have been better spent on trying to improve safety on the Hathersage Road where serious accidents seem to be the norm at the moment.

It seems pointless, the Village Society trying to brighten up the grass verges when they seem to be continually covered in skips, bags of sand, bricks and cars. They looked really nice last spring. I wonder how many will have survived the crushing they are getting.

If the pundits are correct we are in for a hard winter this year. I for one hope not. We have had some really bad ones in the past but not so much recently. I remember the winter of 47. We lived on Newfield Lane at the time. This was blocked from the gates to Dore Moor House to the Whitelaw Junction for weeks and there was snow under the walls until early May. The novelty of not being able to get to school soon wore off. Sledging and snowballing soon pall when your fingers are covered in chilblains and your feet are constantly dead. Gills Fields was an ideal place for sledging, the run down was a doddle but the pull up

was a bit of a bind. The posh folks with their skis didn't like us churning up their piste either.

I regret to say that we all were followers of the hunt in those days. Seeing a stream of horses and hounds galloping across the fields and moors was a sight to behold. If only Mr. Tod wasn't involved. The hunt used to turn out from the Crown Inn at Totley. I suppose following them as far as was possible on foot was good exercise and it certainly gave you a good appetite. Since Sheffield banned the hunt from their land we haven't seen so much of them here. Judging by the number of foxes that we now see I suppose that the hunting fraternity have a point when they say they keep a check on the numbers, but it seems a pretty barbaric thing to take part in to me. However if those that do take part can live with themselves and sleep easy in their beds who am I to judge.

Who keeps hanging bags of dog poo on the outside of the top bin in the Rec.? It makes me feel quite sick, especially as it is contained in a clear bag. Surely not too much trouble to lift the lid. Someone has to!

Litter round the HSBC seems to get worse. I think that if the flat top wall wasn't there, it wouldn't encourage teenagers to sit on it and drop their rubbish. I am thinking of asking the council for rubber gloves and a dustpan and brush. I seem to spend time every morning picking the stuff up.

Jean Dean

Ed. Dore Village Society can provide litter picking kits to anyone wanting them.

Stag rescue

For some time there has been a small herd of red deer roaming below the gritstone ramparts of Froggatt Edge. I guess they have strayed from Chatsworth and have found cover amongst the burgeoning trees which threaten to hide the Edges and which are causing concern to locals. I understand that the Peak Park Authority are planting yet more trees and the views of the Edges are fast disappearing, as are other spectacular views of the Derwent Valley.

Anyway, towards the end of October, one stag fell down a crevice and had to be lassoed and gingerly extracted after a shot of tranquilliser. A specialist animal rescue unit from Matlock Fire Station performed this delicate operation and the deer trotted off perhaps looking forward to rejoining it's mate after feeling DOESY! Sheffield Star headed off a description of this daring rescue with 'The Buck Stops Here'.

Brian Edwards

Musical Evening

The John Wade Singers invite you to a Musical Evening at 7.30pm on Saturday 20th November, at All Saints Church, Totley featuring Gounod: Messe Solennelle (St. Cecilia) and contrasting items.

Tickets from J Parker on 236 0798 or any choir member. Price £5 incl refreshments.

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Speeding through Dore

Particular concern has recently been expressed by residents about speeding on Causeway Head Road and Dore Road. Although both of these are through routes between Abbeydale Road and Hathersage Road, there is plenty of evidence that many of the vehicles travelling above the speed limit belong to Dore residents themselves.

One resident on Dore Road has addressed councilors about the problem and the risk to children living adjacent to the road. Sadly, as this area of the city is low on the current council's priority list, little is likely to happen quickly. For some reason there seems to be a reluctance to install speed reminders such as rumble strips or 30 mile signs painted on the road surface. Given that the main problems occur during the morning and evening rush hours, a timely visit by a police speed trap might help!

Art on your Dorestep

A brand-new addition to Dore and Totley's shopping scene opens in a few weeks time on Abbeydale Road South. Seasons Gallery will offer visitors ideas for gifts, including ceramics, art, glassware and jewellery with the added bonus of being able to enjoy a relaxing coffee and snack in the new conservatory coffee shop.

Situated near the bottom of Bushey Wood

Road in Jim Martin's old newsagent's shop, the enterprise will, as its name suggests, essentially have a seasonal theme. Changing accents of colour within the gallery will mark the changing seasons and the coffee shop will serve seasonal snacks and beverages.

One of the first artists to be featured at Seasons will be David Humphries, whose work has previously been exhibited in galleries in York, Hull and Leeds. Local artists Michael Claxton, Pat Horscroft and jeweller Naomi Cam will also display work.

Jane and Howard Clay are the driving forces behind this new venture being joined by their son Adam, a graphic designer and illustrator, who will manage the gallery. Adam's brother Robin, a graphic designer in London, has also been involved in the design work including the shop frontage, making this a true family venture.

Mystery Map

A recent request from the internet for a street location map of Dore, shows what we all know as Drury Lane, as Cockley Hill Lane. Information on the source of the map has not yet been forthcoming from its publishers "Multimap". It may be that the name is connected with the open space at the top of Drury Lane, which in the nineteenth century was known as Cock Pit Green. If anyone can throw further light on the name please let us know.

Dore Recreation Ground

The Council's Parks, Woodlands and Countryside Service has received a request from Brunsmead Athletic AFC to have the use of a pitch on the top field of the Recreation Ground for junior football. The football pitch will be used for organised matches at weekends between September and April, and some training sessions during the week. Players will be 10 years old and under, and the teams that will be involved in matches are under 10s and 8s boys' teams playing on Sundays, and under 10s girls' teams playing on Saturdays.

Following concerns expressed by local residents about this area being used for organised football activities, use has been temporarily suspended. A letter has been sent by the council to residents living adjacent to the area and to local councillors, in order to gauge local opinion on the use and location of the football pitch. Council contacts are Mark Lowe (District Parks Officer) on 273 5068 or Andrew Mumford, (Parks Officer), on 273 4599.

Although it is difficult to argue against the use of the top field in this way, it is deplorable that consultation with residents and other interested parties did not take place before the pitch was marked out and in use. It also seems wrong to arbitrarily award exclusive use to one club without first inviting other more local teams to make use of the facilities.

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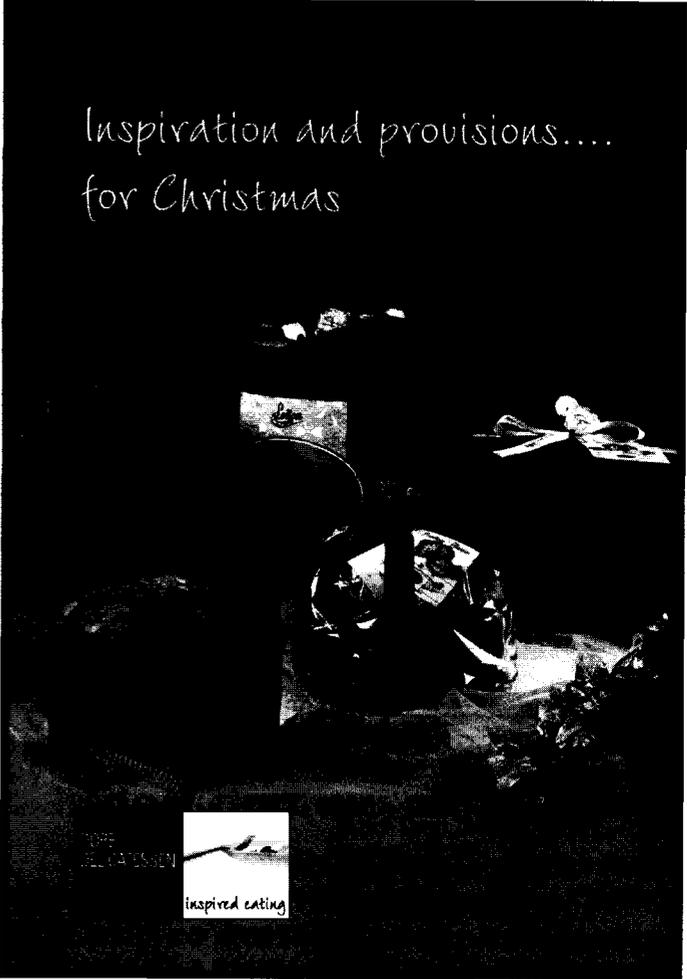
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Planning matters

'Long Acre' Newfield Lane. Following the refusal of planning consent for the development of this site with 38 properties having an access onto Newfield Lane and a paved footpath across the Recreation Ground, the developers have appealed against the decision to the Secretary of State. We understand that the date for the Public Inquiry is to be in September 2005. DVS will be attending the Inquiry with professional representation. In the meantime we are pleased to report that Westbury Homes have made a fresh planning application showing the access to the site for both vehicles and pedestrians, along the service road and into Newfield Lane much closer to Newfield Crescent.

This is a great improvement, in that there will no longer be a new access into Newfield Lane, the cutting into the bank and the removal of trees. There will also be no paved footpath across the middle of the Recreation Ground. The house numbers have been reduced to 36, still a lot, but regrettably still well within the government guidelines for developments of this type. If consent is achieved we understand that the appeal will be withdrawn, and we will be assured of a far better arrangement than might have been the case.

291 Topley Brook Road. You will recall that we reported (summer 2004 issue) the application by a developer for flats on the Caretaker's House site near Furniss Avenue. The original application was for 14 flats, this was amended to 12 flats and went to the Planning Board in September. Fortunately the application was refused by the Board. However the developer has now applied for 10 flats on the site. There is very little difference in appearance from the large slab of a block that is proposed and none of the reasons for refusal have been properly addressed in the new application. There is very strong local objection to the application and it is hoped that it will again be refused. All this is a far cry from the

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original proposal for four bungalows as proposed by the Council planning brief when the developer bought the property a few months ago.

114 Topley Brook Road. Another proposal for over development. Another try. It was about 18 months ago that the owner of 114 Topley Brook Road applied for four houses in the garden of that property. The application was rightly refused on the grounds of over development. The situation would have been dire for the neighbours. A new application has now been submitted for 3 properties in the back garden. This sort of development destroys the character of the locality and the reasonable amenities of the residents. The Society has lodged a strong objection in this case.

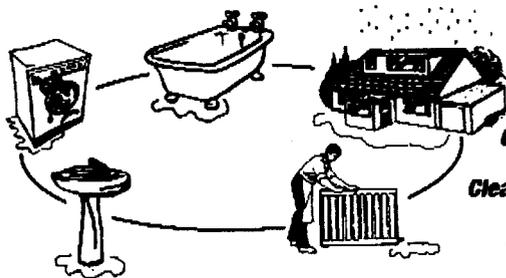
Topley Bridge Garage, Abbeydale Road South. You may recall a planning application was made some time ago for the demolition of the Service Station at the bottom of Devonshire Road, the erection of a three storey block of flats. There is now an application for demolition and the provision of a retail store and car parking.

22 Townhead Road. Serious concern has been expressed about the demolition of a wall in front of cottages in Townhead Road and the construction of a car parking area in the garden. The work was done without Conservation Area Consent for the demolition or Planning Consent for the car park. The Dore Conservation Area, which covers the whole of the centre of Dore, has been in place since the early 1970's. It was introduced to protect the centre of the village, although it came too late to stop some of the destructive activities of the 1960's. There are no architectural gems or fine listed buildings in the centre of Dore, but there are buildings and structures that make up the character of the village. One of the special features of the village centre is the stone walling which unifies the street scene within the Conservation Area.

Because of all of this, it is not possible to demolish or alter buildings or structures within the Conservation Area without first obtaining Conservation Area Consent to do so. That includes changing windows, lopping trees, taking down walls or doing other such things. Failure to obtain Consent is an offence liable to prosecution. The owner of 22 Townhead Road was told that Consent was required but the work still progressed. In the end the Council, on 20th September resolved to serve an Enforcement Notice to secure the rebuilding of the wall in the same materials and dimensions as existed previously. It is a pity, that even after the meeting, the building work continued. It is no answer to say that the work has been tastefully done, anymore than one could claim that if a house is well designed it could be built anywhere in the Green Belt. As the owner has said, there are others in the Conservation Area who have indicated that they wish to demolish their front walls. There would be little point in having a Conservation Area if the features that make it valuable were removed on that basis. It is hoped that the wall will soon be reinstated and made good for the sake of all.

David Heslop

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Charlie at The Castle

As many regulars of The Castle Inn, Bradway will know, Danielle and Simon Humphreys have recently introduced regular music entertainment on the 1st Sunday of every month. The music starts at 9pm, with singer/songwriter and guitarist Charlie Barker and special guests. On the night you will hear a wide variety of acoustic music from American folk, country and traditional folk to pop music and also original material.

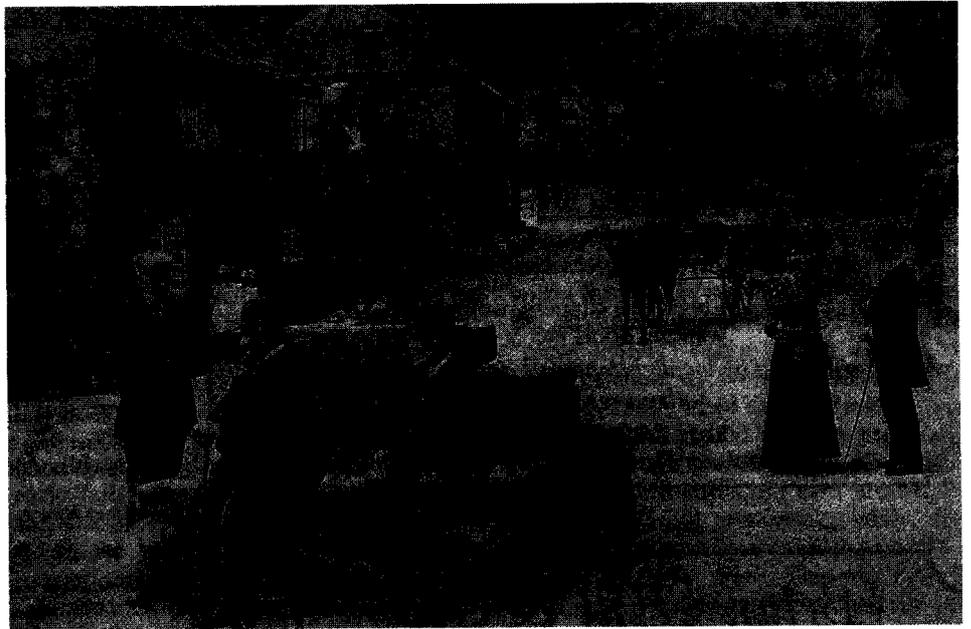
Local musician, Charlie Barker, recently turned professional and is currently managed by The Partnership - Promotion & Management, based in Bradway. Charlie is a classically trained multi instrumentalist who plays cello and guitar and has taken a career decision to pursue her first love of American folk, country and acoustic music.

Already she has broad experience beyond her 18 years, which includes a solo performance on the BBC showcase 'The Next Big Thing' and she has appeared at the Royal Festival Hall, London, as a lead vocalist during the National Festival of Music for Youth 2002. More recently, Charlie has begun to promote folk venues and acoustic music during her appearances on the Peak 107 stage at various events in Yorkshire and Derbyshire, as well as performing on BBC Radio Sheffield and Sheffield Live.

Charlie's residency at The Castle Inn started in June 2004 and has received a great reception from local people and others much further a field. It is an enjoyable and varied evening's entertainment in a friendly atmosphere.

Rubbish Days

The local 'Bring out your rubbish days' organised by Street Force in June proved a great success. Residents in the Ashfurlong Road area produced 6.9 Tonnes of rubbish, in the Furniss Avenue area 14.4 Tonnes and in the Devonshire Road area 21 Tonnes! And these were only the amounts left over after some zealous picking over and recycling by other residents.



Calver village in 1898, from the cover of Brian Edwards's latest book.

Flower show trip

Totley Gardeners are planning to organise a coach trip to one of the RHS shows next year - Chelsea, Hampton Court or Tatton Park. This would be open to anyone and everyone on a first-come-first served basis.

I have been given the task of finding out if there is enough interest among local people, their families, relatives and friends to do this. All I need to know at once is, which one would be the most popular?

Please can you let me know by emailing me, phoning me, or putting the slip through my door to let me know of your interest and preference, together with your contact details. Please indicate 1st, 2nd, and 3rd under each event to indicate your choice. I will then see which is the most popular choice, and make a provisional coach booking for the event, and call for bookings. If it's Chelsea, tickets for Chelsea should be booked in January or February, so there is no time to delay!

Chelsea 24-28 May; Hampton Court 5-10 July; Tatton Park 20-24 July

Jennie Street

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Calver, Curbar & Froggatt

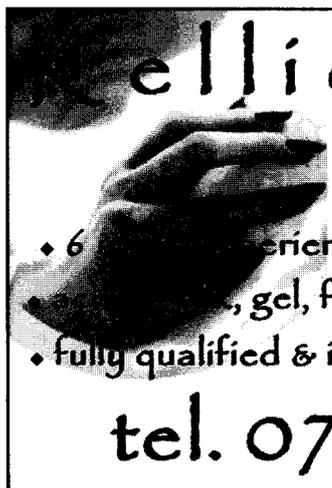
Brian Edwards has done it again, a new book just in time for Christmas! Following on from the successful book on Totley & District, he was persuaded to produce one on three popular Peak District Villages; Calver, Curbar and Froggatt. The chief snag was that Brian knew absolutely nothing about the locality apart from driving through it for several years.

Local residents were firmly behind him, lending old photographs, passing on contacts and soon some three hundred illustrations arrived on his drawing board. That was the easy bit; then came the hard work, interviewing the old'uns, researching in local libraries and uncovering long forgotten details. The superb cover photograph dating from 1898 was one of those staged pictures by a professional; sadly the participants are not known to date. Perhaps you will recognise one or two of the Calver villagers, if so Brian is offering a free book to the first response (telephone him on 01629 640752) but you will have to wait until publication date in late November!

The book will be available from local shops, the Country Bookstore at Hassop, Bakewell Bookshop, Derbyshire Craft Centre at Calver and so on. In the meantime, copies can be reserved through Brian and the price is £9.99 in softback with a limited number in hardback at £14.99.

Cards for good causes

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



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continued from page 1.....

stone wall and iron railings and, of course, ivy growing over the entrance. One of her earliest memories is of the tingle-airy man who used to come round and play his barrel organ in the middle of High Street. "I would look through the window and watch him. Mother used to say "If you don't behave yourself he'll take you with him!" Lorraine laughs.

Behind Ivy Cottage was a yard with a coal house and a midden and beyond that a small croft where Oliver Gill kept his geese and poultry (now the Devonshire Arms car park). Lorraine admits to being rather afraid of them especially after an incident with a cockerel. "I'll never forget...I'd gone to Oliver Gill's croft and a cockerel chased me and I ran up this tree." The family could not find her and she had to be rescued. "That tree's still there today!" exclaims Lorraine.

In order to earn some money Florence Eyre took in washing. She washed for the household of Colonel Clifford of Clifford House, Whirlow. Lorraine recalls, "She used to do the maids' aprons, tablecloths, sheets and things and Mr. Shipstone would call with a big hamper." Mr. Shipstone was the Dore carrier and his horse and cart were a familiar sight in the village.

Lorraine describes in detail how her grandmother did the washing in the 1920s. "They hadn't the facilities they've got now. We'd an old set pot in the corner. She used to lay the fire on Sunday night and light it on the Monday morning. There was a dolly tub and an old wringer for the linen. She washed it, boiled it, and then she would blue it and starch it." The washing was hung up outside, if fine, or on big pulley racks in the kitchen. When it was dry, all the delicate linen had to be ironed.

"We'd no electricity in Ivy Cottage, we'd gas. Mother had a gas iron and ooh it was dangerous! It was a big thing and flames



Sergeant George Bowes and Fanny Eyre (Parents of Lorraine Evans) on their Wedding Day in August 1918.

came out at the side. But she'd other fire irons, you know, little irons that she put in front of the fire. She used to soap them and rub them and then spit on them to see if they were hot enough." Each item was done to perfection, put back in the hamper and duly returned to Clifford House by Mr. Shipstone.

In 1927 Lorraine started at Dore School. She recounts "I had one year with Miss Dobbs, two with Miss Hopkin, Standard 1 & 2; Standard 3 & 4 with Miss Reynolds and the rest with Mr. Speight until I left school in 1936." She was obviously a bright pupil who should have gone to grammar school but her grandmother could not afford to buy the uniform and books. Lorraine explains "I know that Mr. Speight went up to see my mother. He said "It is a shame; you ought to let her go, you know." But, that was that."

She remained at Dore School where her ability was put to good use by helping out when staff were absent. One memory of schooldays is hearing the pigs squealing at the back of Ken Moseley's shop which stood at the present entrance to the Hare and Hounds car park. "When we came up we ventured to look round the back and we saw this pig being killed, hung upside down and all the blood running into a bowl. My grandmother told me that was what they made the black pudding from. I've never touched black pudding from that day!"

In 1931 the family moved out of Ivy Cottage and into Devonshire Terrace, High Street. Their new home had "proper water toilets" and electricity so Florence Eyre could have an electric iron for the first time. Lorraine recalls "We were at number 10.

At number 11, the first one past the Devonshire Arms, was Johnny Stones, the blacksmith. I spent many an hour watching him shoe horses in the blacksmith's shop at the back of the houses." Next door stood the bake-house kept by a Mr. Turvey who passed it on to Mr. Watchhorn. Further

along lived Nellie Flint who was immortalised as a child aged 11 in the well-known postcard of Dore in 1906. It is not generally known that the older girl in the photograph is Fanny Eyre, Lorraine's mother then aged 12.

On leaving school at fourteen Lorraine started work at Firth Browns as a office girl in the accounts department on Saville Street, Sheffield. Thomas Firth and John Brown Limited were one of the biggest steel firms in England and at that time Mark Firth lived at Kings Croft, Savage Lane. Lorraine travelled to work by public transport catching a bus from Dore to Ecclesall (then every 20 minutes!), a tram to Fitzalan Square, and then the Brightside and Carbrook tram to Norfolk Bridge. The whole journey took about 45 minutes and only cost fourpence (10 new pence)! She was paid 10 shillings a week with annual rises of half a crown a week for four years, then five shillings a week until the age of 21 years.

"After you were twenty-one it went on your merit. If you were a good worker you got a raise if you weren't a good worker you didn't get one." Lorraine admits to receiving "quite a few" promotions and became supervisor in the accounts department before she left nearly twenty years later in 1955.

Meantime, war had broken out in 1939 so Firth Browns evacuated the office out to Bamford where they stayed for two years. The employees were collected daily by Beauchief Coaches from all parts of Sheffield and taken to their jobs in the safety of Derbyshire. The works remained at Saville Street and Carlisle Street and carried on producing steel throughout the war despite the terrible Sheffield Blitz of 1941.

After the war Lorraine was married to Howard Evans of Drury Lane, "he was a Dore boy" and they were together for 47 years. Their first home was near Hunters Bar, Sheffield but they soon returned to the village which they loved and where both their families remained. Lorraine has lived for many years in High Street just opposite the site of the cottage where she was born and from her front window now she must surely sometimes wonder at the bustle of modern life where the tingle-airy man once played.

Lorraine Evans was the very first Dore resident to be recorded for the Oral History project and her story and recollections inspired us to find out more about the people and events that were part of the time of her life in our village.

*Maureen Cope
Dore Oral History Group*

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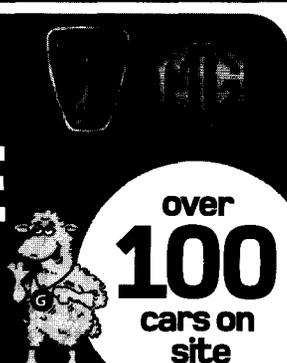
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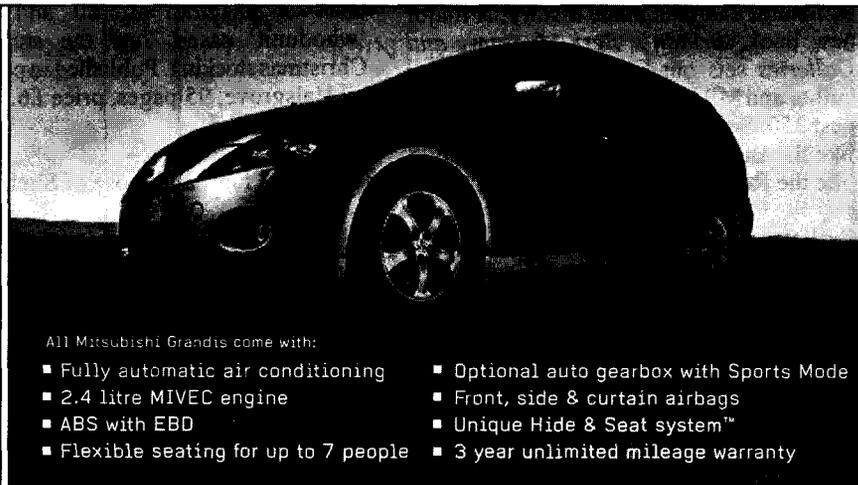
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Book Reviews

More than 70 percent of Britain's 16 million gardeners believe wildlife should be considered when gardening. This awareness of the importance of gardens, no matter how small, as havens for wildlife has prompted English Nature to produce a CD-Rom called *Gardening with Wildlife in Mind*. This is designed to help gardeners plant their plots with maximum benefit to wildlife. More than 500 plants and 300 creatures are profiled and linked, allowing the user to search for plants which will encourage particular wildlife species, and explore relationships between them. The disk is available from Plant Press for £9.99 (plus £1.50 postage & packing). Tel: 01273 476151.

If you love travelling in England, chances are you are drawn to our stately homes and other architectural treasures. *England's Thousand Best Houses* by Simon Jenkins is a must have companion for the traveller, detailing as it does, county by county the amazing range of houses that make up our architectural heritage and are open to the public. From Medieval gems like Athelhampton House in Dorset, through stately homes like Chatsworth, to humble cottages and even a prison, each carefully described according to its merit. The book is soundly researched and intelligently written. Thumbing through the 950 pages is guaranteed to set you planning, there is so much to see. Now published by Penguin Books in paperback price £18.99 ISBN 0-141-00625-0

As a child museums seemed dry and boring places, but not any more. Together with galleries, museums can provide an illuminating picture of Britain, embracing its natural and man made history. A major new book, *Britain's Best Museums and Galleries* sets out help us discover what author and MP Mark Fisher believes are the best 350. Some are internationally famous, like the British Museum, others specialise like the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds

and others are small and little known gems, like the Treasure House in York. In fact, Yorkshire is well blessed as is clear from the lists provided for each county, with star ratings against entries. For each site there are succinctly written details of the history, context and contents. Given the number of museums available near at hand, this book ought to help make us aware of their value and interest to anyone who wants to know what makes us and our country tick. 848 pages, published in hardback by Allen Lane, price £30 ISBN 0-149-05573-0

Over the centuries Yorkshire, has helped shape the history of the nation. *Discovering Yorkshire's History* is an unconventional guide to the people and the places that played their part. In his book author Len Markham details 165 sites providing a national lexicon of war, insurrection, invention, industrial expansion, political and social development and pioneering achievements in literature, art and science. This is a fascinating book with subjects often unusual but never boring. We learn that in West Witton they each year they burn an effigy of Old Bartle a sheep rustler, about miracle cures in Harpham and yes about Egbert 'Bright Sword' in Dore. The county is divided into five sections with maps for each showing locations written about. Published in paperback by Wharncliffe books in 184 pages. Price £10.99 ISBN 1-903425-73-5

Judging by the number of television programmes and book output, it seems we have a never ending fascination with crime and murder. Well known author Roly Smith is also fascinated by murders brought together in his new book *Murder and Mystery in the Peak*. Roly enjoys retelling stories from deep in local history, to murder and revenge, skulduggery or more ghostly tales of phantom aircraft and modern 'whodunit' cases. Just the stuff for a Christmas stocking. Published in paperback by Halsgrove, 95 pages, price £6.95 ISBN 1-84114-369-3

Football fans, and those of Sheffield

Wednesday in particular, will welcome a new book *The Jackie Robinson story*. The book covers both his personal life and footballing career including his time as a Sheffield Wednesday and England player. Jackie lived from 1917 to 1972 with a career embracing what many will think was the heyday of true English Football before excessive professionalism set in. The book by Alan Troilett (family) and Eric Brodiei (fan) is full of old photographs, and drawings and provides a real nostalgia trip. Published by pickard communication price £11.99 ISBN 0-9547264-2-1

It is easy today to forget Sheffield's early industrial history in favour of its steel image. *The Forgotten Mines of Sheffield* looks the rise and decline of Gannister and Pot Clay mining and processing, and its impact on the settlements and the landscape of western Sheffield. Parts of this area are littered with the remnants of this 18th, 19th and early 20th century extractive industry, including Ecclesall Woods, Dore and Totley. The impact of the industry is still evident in the area for those who know where to look! This book, which includes many maps, diagrams, documents and photographs, can be purchased direct from the author, Ray Battye, tel 286 4418 price £9.99 + £2.01 postage & packing. ISBN 190158740-1

There seems to be a growing fascination with old photographs and pictorial records of communities. This is probably because photographic records now stretch further back than living memory. Sheffield resident J R Wrigley has tapped into this interest with a number of books looking at different areas of the city. His two latest publications *A Walkley Camera* and *An Owlerton Camera* follow the same format with collections of historic, and 20th century photographs of their respective areas. I particularly enjoy the Victorian examples of building long lost and those capturing the areas in the 1950s, often still recognisable today but illustrating how much our streets have changed in the meantime. Both books are published by pickard communication price £ 7.99

There are plenty of holiday guides to choose from when travelling abroad, but undoubtedly one of the best series available are CADOGAN guides. The latest addition to the range is *Flying visits to Scandinavia* which as you would expect offers a comprehensive introduction to the three countries, Sweden, Norway and Denmark. Travel, when to go, the main areas of interest, places to visit, what to eat, and where to stay are all detailed in an easy to read format. Scandinavia is a little different to many other holiday destinations. It is clean, offers wide open spaces and dramatic scenery, attractive cities and friendly people, so what are we waiting for! This guide contains everything you need to plan and enjoy a holiday there. Published by Cadogan Guides price £ 12.99 ISBN 1-86011-137-8

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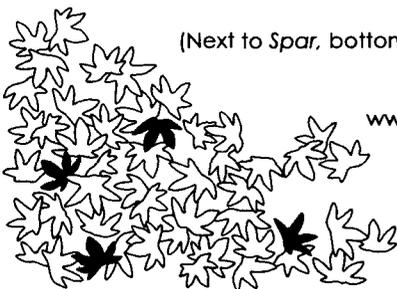
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The railway navvies

Part 1 Pick-and-shovel men

At 3 pm on 23 May 1823 a unique ceremony took place at Stockton-on-Tees in County Durham. With everyone enjoying a half-day holiday and much of Stockton bedecked with flags and bunting, a reported 300 "navvies" pulled a decorated carriage into St John's Well, accompanied by the Stockton town band. Inside the carriage sat Thomas Meynell whose duty that day, as company chairman, was to lay the very first section of rail for his Stockton and Darlington Railway at Cottage Row. After the ceremony - where Meynell disappointed onlookers by refusing to make a speech - the dignitaries adjourned to the town hall for a feast, whilst the navvies were rewarded with free bread, cheese and ale at the Black Lion Inn. The great age of British railway track building had begun.

Massive undertakings

Slow to start - the first really successful passenger/freight railway between Liverpool and Manchester did not open until 1825 - railway line construction really took off in the 1830s, and by 1840 just on 1,500 miles of track had edged across the countryside. During the 1840s - the great decade of railway line building - this rose to almost 2,000 miles by 1843, 3,000 miles by 1845 and to over 5,000 miles in 1848. By 1855 almost 8,000 miles of rail track had been laid and by the mid-1860s nearly all the main British railway lines had been built. Branch and extension line building in the final third of the 19th century saw the total British rail mileage soar to nearly 22,000 miles by the time Queen Victoria's long reign came to an end early in 1901.

These figures hide the enormous difficulties that had to be faced in constructing mile after mile of British

railway lines. The early steam locomotives were only at their most efficient on level ground and experiments proved that even faced by a gentle 1 in 100 gradient a locomotive could haul less than a quarter of the tonnage it could manage on the level.

Unable to go up hills, the early rolling stock could also only negotiate the gentlest of curved lines without derailment. All this meant that millions of tons of earth and rock had to be shifted to level and straighten the rail beds in cuttings or raise them up onto embankments. There were major problems when railway tunnels had to be blasted through rock-solid mountains and bridges or viaducts constructed over rivers or across valleys. These were some of the most massive engineering tasks ever undertaken and were a feat of construction never previously equalled, and only recently surpassed by the Channel Tunnel.

The work was terribly challenging and the risks taken by the men involved, always against frantic timescales, were frightening. It must be remembered, too, that the steam shovel - or mechanical digger - although around since the 1840s, did not come into use with railway track construction until the 1880s, as men were cheaper than machines. Almost all of the early earth-moving work and line construction during the first 50 years was completed by the sheer muscle power of railway labourers with their pickaxes, shovels and wheelbarrows.

Where were they from?

The railways brought cheap and fast travel and did much to create national and international prosperity for the Victorians. Most of the praise for these achievements went to the financiers, engineers, surveyors, contractors and sub-contractors. But they did not do it alone and the majority of men who built the railways, from the 1820s, were manual labourers called "navvies". They took their name from an abbreviation of the term "navigators", adopted by the men who began building the British inland canals and waterways almost a century before. When disaster struck, as it did with sickening regularity, navvies may euphemistically appear in local burial registers under an assortment of different trades from "railway labourer" to "excavator".

Although most railway contractors briefly employed a number of casual labourers for the less skilled manual jobs, the genuine navvies were a breed apart and were largely groups of highly specialised itinerant workers. Some came from the fenlands in south Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire where their prodigious earth-moving skills had been directed into the construction of the embankments, or sea walls that keep the sea at bay. As a consequence, these men were often nicknamed "bankers". A few others brought mining skills from working in the coalmines of the north-east.

Around a third of all navvies were Irish, a third Scottish and a third English, with a sprinkling of Welshmen. This mixture of different backgrounds was itself often a tinderbox of trouble, ready to ignite. The Irish were frequently wrongly singled out as

responsible, but more often troubles were started by the English taunting the Scots, or men from different English counties fighting amongst themselves.

Navvies dressed distinctively in velveteen coats, canvas shirts, moleskin trousers, hobnailed boots, rainbow waistcoats and colourful neckerchiefs, all topped off with felt hats with upturned brims. Most wore this navyies' uniform day and night; large numbers were only known to the contractors who employed them by nicknames. Very few navvies were older than 40, and most were unmarried. Without family ties, many built up a reputation of intemperance often leading to "unseemly, lewd or riotous" behaviour. These unattractive characteristics, linked also to the poaching of game and petty theft, enraged local populaces and made railway navvies unwelcome and feared in most districts.

In general they "tramped" on foot from job to job in search of work and could cover scores of miles, usually accompanied by the tools of their trade - the pickaxe, the shovel and sometimes even a wheelbarrow - strapped to their backs. They were most numerous at the height of railway line building in the late 1840s when around a quarter of a million navvies were employed on different sites. Later, their numbers fell, but it has been estimated that from 1830-1870 the average number of navvies engaged on railway building was 50,000 men per year.

Pick-and-shovel men

On the sites the navvies worked alongside other tradesmen like the carpenters, the masons, the bricklayers and the blacksmiths. They were basically "muck shifters" doing by far the biggest share of physical work. Even though they were largely pick-and-shovel men, they had a set of hard-learned talents and skills, the most basic of which would have taken an ordinary agricultural labourer at least a year to master.

The navvies worked in gangs under the orders of "gangsters". A gang could consist of up to 40 or 50 men working in pairs, each allocated a high-sided wagon on the temporary rails to cart away the "spoil" or excavated soil, sand and clay. On major railway construction sites there could be anything up to 50 gangs, all working on nearby sections of the track. The navvies' work was invariably a series of back-breaking earth-moving feats from levelling to embarking and cutting to tunnelling - all done with pickaxes, spades and wheelbarrows, with the, very occasional help of horses, pulleys and windlasses, a form of winch.

Levelling the permanent way

Even when only "levelling" on relatively flat ground, a good navvy could shift up to 30 tons of earth in a day, which had to be shovelled above his own head into the wagons. Full wagons were hauled away by horses, the "spoil" usually being taken further on and tipped for the next embankment. Each pair was most at risk when carving out railway cuttings or when

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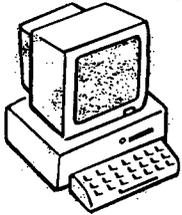
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tunnelling. The more highly paid "getters" or "pickmen" would undercut the sides of the cutting with pick and shovel until the unsupported weight of rock or earth above it - the so-called "lift" - came crashing down and could be shovelled into the wagons. It was usual to pay a look-out to stand at the top and shout a warning when the earth or rock began to crack and move immediately before it collapsed into the cutting.

Many navvies, not quick enough to beat a hasty retreat, were crushed or suffocated to death by falling "lifts". In urban areas levelling often had a different meaning. To reduce claims for compensation, most railway lines were purposely driven through the areas of the poorest urban housing. The navvies were, in part, responsible for clearing away some of the worst of the early Victorian slums. Sadly, in some areas even worse slums were erected in their wake. In London alone, 4,000 houses were demolished to provide access to central London for the Midland Railway Company in the 1860s.

Danger below

But tunnelling presented the navvies with the most dangerous work of all. For long tunnels access shafts were sunk vertically through hillsides or mountains at regular intervals along the path of the proposed railway. Before the advent of steam-powered drilling engines the shafts - each ten or twelve feet in diameter - were bored by a combination of horses attached to a huge wheel and pulleys called a "horse-gin"

and gunpowder.

Some shafts were over 500 feet in depth and when they were completed, two teams of navvies were lowered down in buckets to begin tunnelling in opposite directions at the bottom. There they worked 12-hour shifts, day and night, in badly lit or otherwise miserable conditions. They were often short of air, frequently soaked to the skin, forced to work in knee-deep mud or breathe the fumes of the gunpowder used to blast away at any major rock faces they encountered. Because they usually had no proper sanitation there was also a constant threat from disease.

To add to these abysmal working conditions, accidents were frequent - from rock falls, encounters with quicksands, suffocation, exhaustion and mishaps to men riding the buckets in the shafts. On one major tunnelling project alone, the first and infamous Woodhead Tunnel on the Manchester to Sheffield line - begun in 1839 and completed in 1845 - the navvies faced the awesome problems of miles of iron-hard millstone grit as well as treacherous shale and seemingly benign sandstone. The Woodhead casualty list included 32 deaths, almost 100 fractures and 140 cases of more serious injuries. Amongst the worst was a navvy who lost both eyes. Some contractors even kept supplies of coffins handy, but when cholera threatened the ranks of navvies during work on the second Woodhead Tunnel in 1849, there was a mass walk-out by around 650 men. Additional supplies of coffins had

been unthinkingly brought to the works by the contractors as the death-toll mounted.

Hard work for good pay

So it was dangerous and miserable work at the best of times, and carried out around the clock. However, the navvies were well paid, though usually infrequently. Often the contractors did not have the capital to make weekly payments and the navvies had to endure systems of so-called "long pay", with a fortnight or month's interval between the payment of wages. They were paid "piece money" based on the amount of earth, or spoil, each man shifted daily. In the mid- 1840s when railway building was at its peak and good navvies, especially tunnellers, were becoming scarce, "getters" (the pickaxe men) could earn around 24 shillings (£1.20) per week, whilst the "fitters" (the shovellers) could expect 22/6d (£1.12 1/2) per week. This was indeed good money - and sometimes there was the bonus of free beer to boot - at a time when many agricultural labourers were earning less than 10 shillings (50p) per week.

Tom Wood

Ed. This article first appeared in the Family Tree Magazine June 2003 and is reproduced with their kind permission.

In our next issue we will look at where and how the navvies lived, their relations with local communities, missions to navvies, the "navvies' newspaper" and where to find records of the men who built the railways.

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Beauchief Gardens

The Friends of Millhouses Park have stepped into the breach in an attempt to rescue Beauchief Gardens from years of neglect. A working session has already weeded and cleaned a lawned area, cleared the path leading to the dam so that people can now feed the ducks more easily. More sessions are planned.

Risky drivers

Beware of Natasha, a likely crasher, and avoid Lloyd unless you want to end up on an insurance claim.

The insurers esure claim that first names and the colour of car that drivers choose can make a big difference to how likely they are to make a claim on their car insurance.

Almost a third of men called Lloyd are likely to make a claim over the course of a year, and the record is even worse for women called Natasha. Over a third of them

(35 per cent) emerge as claimants. Though it may not seem the riskiest of colour choice, brown scores the highest proportion of claims, supplanting pink, which headed the table last year.

The riskiest men's names, with percentage making claims last year

Lloyd 30.0% Sam 28.2% Leon 28.0% Phil 28.0% Rob 26.0%

Highest-risk women's names

Natasha 35.0% Shelley 31.0% Juliet 30.0% Natalie 28.0% Justine 27.8%

The car colours with the worst claims record were

Brown 22.6% Pink 21.3% Black 20.9% Yellow 20.8%

Heritage Museum

The Traditional Heritage Magazine at 605 Ecclesall Road contains fascinating exhibits on local trades, crafts, occupations and traditional lifestyles. It is next open to the public on Saturday 27 November from 10.30am to 4.30pm. Admission £1.50, concessions £1.

Time for a laugh

An 80 year old couple were having problems remembering things, so they decided to go to their Doctor to get checked out. The Doctor tells them that they are physically OK, but might want to start writing things down and make notes, to help them remember.

Later that night while watching TV, the old man got up from his chair, and his wife asks "Where are you going?" "To the kitchen" he replies. "Will you get me a bowl of Ice -Cream" she says. "Sure" he replies. "Don't you think you should write it down?" she says. "No, I can remember that" he replies. "And I think I'll have some Strawberries and Whipped Cream on Top please. I know you'll forget that so write it down. With irritation in his voice, he says, "I don't need to write that down, I can remember it fine", and stormed out. After about 20 minutes, he returns from the kitchen and hands her a plate of Bacon and Eggs. She stares at the plate for a moment and says, "You forgot my Toast".

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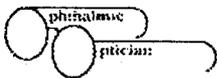
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Words from the post

The following article is an extract from a newspaper cutting of 6th October 1917 as filed in the Dore Village Society archives.

Clock Making The Dore of the past, so tradition tells us, was a thriving commercial centre, "although the business pursuits were more various than extensive". There were button makers, saw anvil manufacturers, boot and shoe makers and clock makers, those latter "gaining no small amount of notoriety by their handwork".

Clock-making seems to have been a very thriving trade, and at the present time there are many specimens of the workmanship of those old clockmakers. The Vicar of Dore, the Rev. W. R. Gibson, has had quite a collection of old grandfather clocks which were made in this quaintly interesting little village. One of these old time pieces once stood in the home of the Vernons, and perhaps ticked out an accompaniment to the dainty steps of the Lady Dorothy on the night she tripped down the dark oak stairs to elope with her true love. Another of these old "daddies" was over 200 years old, the beautiful work of "Pearson of Dore".

Many are the tales these old clocks could tell were they able to talk. They would tell of the days of long ago, when their humble little birthplace, together with the neighbouring village of Topley, could boast of no less than 18 tailors, chiefly engaged in the making of quilted petticoats for the ladies in the district.

Beauchief Abbey They could not, however, tell of the days of Roger Busli, the old Norman baron, who held the Manor of Dore, for their memory could not go back so far. Not even to 1175 when the inhabitants of this famous manor paid tithe to the good old monks in the neighbouring Abbey of Beauchief. Perhaps many of the

humbler tithe-payers when they took their journeys abroad, sought a night's lodging within the monastery walls, rather than face the dangers of the night, were they to return to their village home. Perhaps too, they often attended a Sabbath service made beautiful and inspiring by the by the sweet chanting of the Monks.

But often they would attend their own little church, and one wonders what it was like. Certainly nothing is left of it at the present time for the Dore Church of today is comparatively new, when we speak in centuries, being erected in 1828.

Old Church of Dore This church of today stands on the site once occupied by an old chapel, which was dependent upon the Mother Church of Dronfield, and which at the time of its demolition in 1828 was over 200 years old.

Some very interesting names are among the list of the early curates of this old sanctuary. We get Mr Glossop from 1760-1773, Mr Webb from 1773-1809, and Mr Francis Parker from 1800 to when it was pulled down.

Many amusing stories are told about Mr Parker, and one of the funniest tells of a certain Sunday afternoon. The service was in full swing when the hounds passed the chapel, and instantly the whole congregation rose, *en masse*, preparatory to following the sport, when the voice of the minister arrested them. Rushing down from the pulpit, he cried "No, my friends, we will all start together". He was what the schoolboy of today would call "An awfully good old sport".

Seeking a green image

A photography competition has been launched by regeneration trust 'Groundwork Sheffield', to coincide with the opening of its headquarters in Sheffield city centre. Titled 'Green City to Green Capital', they are looking for photos showing people and places in Sheffield that make you want to smile or cry. It might be snapshot of your favourite place, or an image of something you think could be improved to help make Sheffield greener. The competition is free to enter, with an adult and a junior category. The best will win a digital camera. Closing date for entries is November 26: tel 0114 263 6420.

Christmas ideas

Finding suitable presents for friends and relatives isn't always easy. However you can always turn to the printed word, with books to cater for every interest and hobby.

Publishers tend to produce more new books at this time of the year than any other. This issue contains plenty of reviews on some you might like to consider, along with the wide number of books already covered during the year. You can find full details on the Dore web site www.dorevillage.co.uk

Fearnehoughs trees ?

We have received a request from David Fearnehough of Derby, to get put in touch with any other Fearnehoughs especially those who have created family trees, in order to 'swap notes'. He has traced their 'line' back to Thomas & Rebecca (married 1698). He can be contacted on 07929 770573.

Helpers - Dore Show

We have been lucky with helpers on the day each year. Many hands make light work.

There are also essential jobs of different kinds to be done in the week and fortnight before, some taking just an hour each. These need to be allocated now for next year's Show. As do some specific jobs on the day. You're reading this, so you must be community minded! So I'd be glad to hear from newcomers or oldcomers who would consider helping towards a successful 2005 Show and could give some time in early September. Please ring me, Gillian Farnsworth (235 0609) and I'll explain more

Popular Pollyanna

This year Pollyanna Pickering is presenting an exhibition titled "My Derbyshire" from 27th November to 5th December at her private gallery. This coincides with the launch of her new book 'A Brush With Wildlife'. The gallery at Brookvale House Oker, Matlock will be open from 10am - 8.30pm. Details from 01629 558 51.

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View from KES

We have been back 7 weeks now. Our new Y7 pupils are quickly finding their way around school and seem to have fitted in well. Buses, however, do seem to be a cause of concern as they always seem to be at the start of the year. At the end of the day we have more students than usual wanting to go home by bus, the buses are not arriving at the terminus when they should and as a result are struggling to cope with the numbers.

Equally in the mornings we have pupils standing at bus stops at 7.30am and still unable to get into school on time due to buses being so full at this time in the morning. We, as well as many parents have informed the bus company of this situation, which I hope will improve soon.

Sponsored Walk. This year was the 20th anniversary of our King Egbert School 'Sponsored Walk'. The walk took place on Friday 1st October and covered 13 miles. The walk itself extends across the Longshaw estate, goes down to Grindleford and then ends up back at school.

Sponsored walk day is looked forward to by the whole school community, and we certainly would not be able to continue with the walk if it wasn't for the support of our parents and members of the local community who walk with our students or who agree to marshal along the route. The money raised (the figure is around £7,000 at the moment) is spent by the student council on what they consider to be good causes.

The New School Building. The new building is still on schedule to be opened for April 2005. We shall be closing a few of days before the Easter holiday officially start and extend the break by a few days to allow staff time to pack up and then

unpack. Our top priority is our exam groups and whatever we do we shall ensure that the move does not impact negatively on their education.

We are also at the early stages of discussing how we want to open the new school, we have some initial ideas, but certainly it will be something which should involve not just the school community, but the wider community of which we are a part.

Adult Education Classes. I am very pleased to report that after enrolment a few weeks ago we now have a number of classes running from this term in school. At the moment we have; Italian, Greek, Spanish and ICT. Unfortunately the demand for Asian cooking classes dropped off, this was strange as this course was free and all we asked people to do was to bring the ingredients they needed. I hope we can kick-start this course again, maybe after Easter.

When we move into the new school building this is an area we really want to develop further and Sheffield College are keen to use us. I shall keep you informed of any further developments in this area.

Community links. As you will be aware, I visit the mosque on a regular basis to talk to members of the mosque and to try and promote greater understanding. To this end, some school governors and elders from the mosque held a meeting with myself at school during the first week in October to discuss what the school and the Asian community can do to work more closely together.

It was a fascinating meeting which covered a number of areas including why our Asian parents are not engaging in the numbers we would wish. A number of reasons such as language and distance were given, however it was the people from the mosque who disagreed and put forward the

idea of it being cultural. They acknowledged the school was doing much and felt frustrated by the lack of response from their community.

We are planning a couple of events which will take place in the heart of the Asian community but organised by KES - by doing this we hope that we can start to attract those parents who for whatever reason are not engaging with us.

Before the summer holidays Bob Evans, our headteacher accompanied myself and some of our school council members to the Mosque to present a cheque to go towards a community room in their new Mosque. This money was raised by the students, who decided where it should go.

As well as this, on the last Wednesday of every month, I with Mazher Baig, our Urdu teacher and Gavin Walker, our Inclusion coordinator go to Highfield Library from 4.00-5.30pm to make ourselves available to local residents of this area. We call it a 'Drop-in surgery,' where anyone can walk in off the street and speak to us around any issue concerning the school.

And finally exam results. I could not write to you without briefly mentioning our excellent exam results this year. This was thanks to the hard work and dedication of the teachers and the students of the school with the support of their parents.

We are now one of the highest performing schools in Sheffield and the first LEA school in Sheffield ever to score 100% for it's 'A' level results.

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

*Sean McClafferty,
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Dore Youth Worker

Joel Toombs arrived in Dore in February following the churches in Dore sharing a vision to see youth work in the village flourish. Jointly they are seeking to present the Christian faith as a relevant and realistic alternative for life, believing that each young person should be given an opportunity to hear the Christian message in a way that is accessible to them.

Joel has been actively involved in 'The Ark' which runs on a Tuesday evening (next to the Church Hall), 7.30 - 9pm aimed at Y6 (10 years) upwards. This group is very popular with the youngsters. 'The Goldmine', a youth worship event also takes place at The Ark, and is aimed at drawing young Christians from around

S17 to worship God using their own gifts. Next Goldmines are 6.30 - 8 pm on 5th & 26th November and 17th December.

Joel has been welcomed at King Egbert's and is actively involved with lessons, assemblies and prayer groups including 'JaM' a Christian Union lunchtime meeting. He is also linked with various church based activities. These include 'Pathfinders Breakfast Club' on Sunday 8.30am - 9.30am, and 'fish.com' on Saturday in the Ark, from 7.30pm and Dore & Totley Youth Fellowship Group, Wednesday evenings.

If you'd like to help support this project in Dore, why not come along to our fundraising events for refurbishment of The Ark: Quiz Night at The Hare & Hounds - Thursday 25th November - open

to everyone, the more the better! Live music (maybe) and quiz with prizes. Quiz starts at 9.00 pm, £1 to enter. Christmas Ball - Saturday 11th December. It's likely there'll be a jazz band accompanied by some good food, so look out for posters.

For further details contact Joel, tel: 236 2515 or any of the local churches involved with this project. Jim Scott (Dore & Totley Christian Fellowship): 235 1087. Bridget Ball (Methodist Church): 236 6765 or Graham Thorpe: 262 0601. Michael Hunter (Parish Church): 236 3335

The funding of the project is from members of Dore Methodist Church, Dore & Totley Christian Fellowship and Dore Parish Church, with further support from some Trusts and other friends in Dore. We are very grateful to all supporters.

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Of all our garden birds, my favourite has to be the robin, although I'm sure I am not alone in this. In fact many of us are so possessive about these birds, we think of them as 'ours'.

Take for example 'my' robin. He was one of last year's brood, a small brown speckled bundle I saw for the first time in late summer. Whenever I started digging or weeding, he would suddenly appear from the depths of the shrubbery and if I stood perfectly still, would fly down, land delicately on the freshly turned soil and with a tilt of his head, search for any small insects that had been disturbed. But if I made the slightest movement he was off, scolding me from the safety of his favourite bush.

As summer turned to autumn, the robin's orange waistcoat started to appear and it was as if his bright new feathers signified a change in character, because the bird lost all vestiges of shyness. When I was having a rest from weeding, he would land on my shoe and look for insects between my feet, an act I found quite endearing. Nevertheless, it was most unnerving as I had no idea which direction the bird would hop next and where I could safely put my size 10 feet.

To be honest, I didn't go out of my way to tame the robin, as all too often, whenever I get attached to any of my garden birds, they seem to become nothing more than a snack for the neighbour's cat or a sparrowhawk. However, I succumbed to this robin's trusting nature and couldn't resist leaving a few scraps of food for him every day on a stone in the garden, delicacies like small pieces of cheese or mealworms. Of course you can't expect to put out food without

attracting other birds as well. Although robins are notorious bullies and will hound small birds like hedge sparrows relentlessly. As soon as I left a saucer of mealworms at the back of my garden, the resident blackbirds would fly down and my robin could only stand and stare as the larger birds consumed all 'his' food with great alacrity.

In an effort to restrict which birds ate at my exclusive 'robin restaurant', I decided to encourage the bird to come closer to the house. This worked so well that the moment he saw me open the kitchen door, he would abandon his song perch and swoop down to a nearby bush, before making the final hop to the dish of mealworms I had put out.

Early one morning in spring, unable to sleep, I went downstairs to make a warm drink, but I wasn't the only one awake, my robin was singing away on the lamp post opposite. I decided to go outside and listen to his nocturnal concert, but as soon as he saw me open the door, he flew down and perched a few feet away from the door-step, fixing me with a hopeful stare. It was obvious what he wanted, so I went to the garage for a few mealworms and left them on the ground in front of him. Sure enough, the little songster flew down and tucked into his impromptu meal. With a full crop, he retired to the bushes to await the dawn, no doubt well satisfied with the outcome of his efforts.

It soon became apparent that there wasn't just one robin in the garden but two, as my robin would collect food for his less trusting mate. She was never as bold as he was, by now he would quite happily feed out of my daughter's hand - although somewhat to my chagrin, never out of mine.

Knowing what the inevitable conclusion of this union would be, I bought a top-of-the-line concrete nest box specifically designed for birds like robins. It had a large open front and I fastened it to my pergola where it would be nicely hidden from view by a climbing plant, but as the old proverb goes: 'You can take a horse to water, but you can't make it drink'. Each day I looked

for signs that the robins were using my state-of-the-art nest box, but no, they decided to nest in a neighbour's bush instead. How could they desert me, after all, they were *my* robins!

The male would still (rather cheekily considering his choice of new family abode) come back for food and always returned to the nest by a rather circuitous route, no doubt trying to hide its whereabouts from the prying eyes of predators, but sadly, to no avail. A few days after the female had started to sit on her eggs, a cat found the nest and I never saw the bird again.

For a while, the male kept singing from his favourite perch in my garden, but didn't manage to attract another mate. Eventually, he extended his search to other gardens and each day, I would hear him singing further and further away. His visits became far less frequent and then stopped altogether.

What I find puzzling is why robins like 'mine' are so tame in this country, whereas in the rest of Europe they are shy, skulking birds. The reason might simply be that, unlike many of our continental neighbours, we do not regard these songbirds as a gastronomic delicacy, perhaps because traditionally it was thought to bring bad luck if you killed a robin.

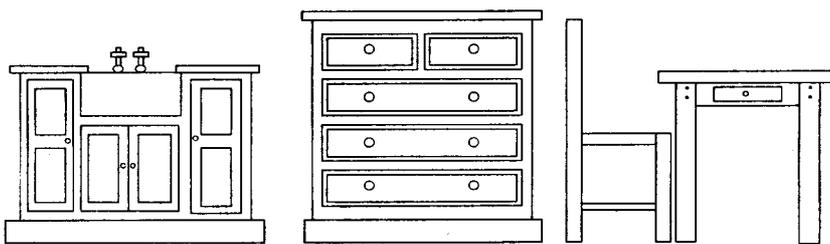
Maybe it has nothing to do with this, but more to do with our long gardening heritage and the network of hedges that criss-cross our island. This type of environment, absent from much of mainland Europe, favours robins. Even so, that still doesn't explain why they are so tame.

What about 'my' robin? A few weeks ago, while I was tidying away the twigs and leaves that had blown down in the recent strong winds, a robin flew out of the bushes and came to feed on the disturbed insects. Was it 'my' robin returning after the summer? I don't think so, but to be honest, that doesn't really matter, because once again there is a robin in my garden and it is *mine*.

Jack Daw

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Spanish Bluebells

Friends of Ecclesall Woods (FEW) are concerned about the spread of Spanish - or Garden Bluebells into Ecclesall Woods. Spanish Bluebell has an upright habit with pale-blue, bell like flowers (sometimes pink or white) arranged around a central stem. The native English Bluebell has deep-blue-violet, tubular flowers drooping to one side of the nodding stem. Its leaves are slimmer and more delicate than those of Spanish Bluebell. Unfortunately the two species hybridize.

In order to preserve the native English Bluebell it is important not to plant Spanish or Garden Bluebells (sometimes marketed as "Woodland Hyacinths", into the woods, or dump garden rubbish, which may contain bulbs. It would also be best not to plant Spanish Bluebells into our gardens near the woods.

Photographic competition

Sheffield Wildlife Trust has announced an exciting new environment & wildlife Photographic Competition. The competition aims to get more people outdoors to enjoy Sheffield's wildlife, open countryside and urban green spaces. The deadline for entries is January 31st 2005, giving people plenty of time to get out and about with their cameras.

The winning photographs will be displayed on supertrams and tram stops across the city. A selection from all photographs entered will be made into a short visual projection to be shown in the studio space at the Site Gallery, Sheffield's leading contemporary art gallery. Other prizes include free use of facilities at Site Gallery, a camera bag donated by Sheffield Photographic Centre and various wildlife & photography books. The main sponsor for the competition is JW Northend Printers Ltd

The categories are:

1. Wild spaces, smiling faces (families enjoying their local parks & woodlands, people exploring the nature reserves, children playing games etc.)
2. Landscape views, seasonal hues (views across Sheffield & the Peak District showing the seasons, sunset/sunrise, your favourite country walk, etc.)
3. Wildlife creatures, animal features (birds, bats, badgers etc. either close up - featured on an eye or tail, or the whole animal.)
4. Plants and flowers, at all hours (Plants & flowers in all weathers & seasons, day or night)

The competition is open to amateur photographers of all ages. Entry is free to Sheffield Wildlife Trust members and £1 per photo for non-members (suggested

donation).

To receive a competition entry pack, email your name, address and phone number to a.nowell@wildsheffield.com with the subject 'photo mailing list'.

Or you can write to Amy Nowell, Publications and Media Officer, Sheffield Wildlife Trust HQ, Victoria Hall, 37 Stafford Road, S2 2SF. (0114 279 2656) Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Indoor bowling club

There is now an indoor bowling club meeting in St. John's Church Hall on Thursday afternoons, from 2pm, which is currently looking for a few new members. They have 2 "short" mats and use carpet bowls. All members are novices with no experience of outside or indoor bowling. For more information ring John Putsey on 236 3554 or Ken Jay on 236 8612.

Green Flag Award

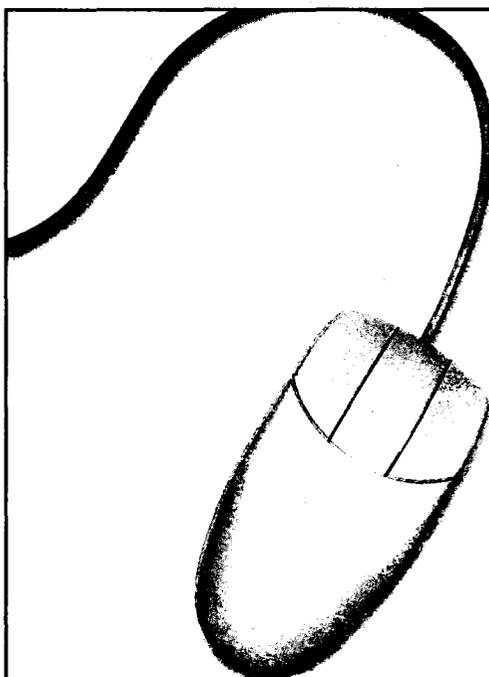
Ecclesall Woods was one of 253 parks, gardens, nature reserves and woodlands across the Country to recently be given a Green Flag award in recognition of the welcoming and attractive havens they offer the whole community. At 350 acres and dating back to the 14th century, with native oak, birch and rowan, the woods are estimated to receive 300,000 to 400,000 visits a year. The judges from the urban environment charity The Civic Trust and Government parks' champion CABA Space, visited last June.

This award is as much a tribute to the work of the Friends of Ecclesall Woods as to the city council's woodlands officers and park rangers. Their volunteers have worked with the authority, helping to survey local opinion, produce a management plan, undertaken footpath work and produced leaflets on the woods.

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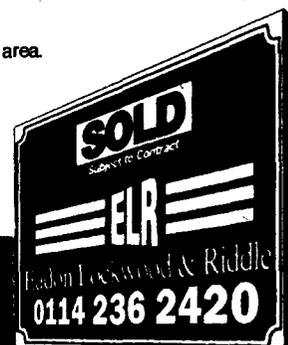
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*Source: rightmove.co.uk 11/2003 Figure



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Stars in Dore

The number of stars seen on an average clear night in Dore may not exceed two hundred or so. These stars are mostly those that delineate the constellations, and, of course, are limited to those that are not too low in the sky and not hidden by houses. Light pollution from Sheffield and the local street lighting easily brings this figure of a couple of hundred, down to a few tens.

In the last issue of Dore to Door we suggested looking on the best of nights for 61A Cygni, a faint nearby star in the Swan, which is near the limit of human vision. In the beautiful skies in Greece, the ancient astronomers, Hipparchus (2nd century BC) and Ptolemy (2nd century AD), charted the naked-eye stars and found just over 1000. Naturally, they did not see the extreme southerly stars that never rise in Greece, about another third.

The star, 61A Cygni, was easily visible to the writer whilst on holiday in Denmark. With the unpolluted, cool sea air coming off the Kattegat, the September night sky was extremely impressive as the so-called 'winter constellations', Orion, Taurus, Canis Major and Gemini, rose in the early morning silence, together with Saturn and Venus. The writer has not often seen such clear skies in Europe. It is difficult, however, to compare with the skies as seen at, say, the European Southern Observatory at 7600 feet in the Chilean Andes at a southern latitude of minus 29 degrees. There one stands in awe at our Galaxy, the Milky Way, in all its glory studded with bright stars and clusters, and smudged with galactic dust, as never seen in the northern hemisphere. Remember, then, our Galaxy is only 'one grain of sand on the beach' in the known Universe!

One of the most beautiful northern clusters of stars worthy of attention this winter is the Pleiades in Taurus. This is another good test of one's eyesight, popularly known as the Seven Sisters. Actually, on a clear night one could count twelve stars or more in the cluster, even without a telescope. Look in the south-east in mid-December or mid-January when there is no Moon. The Pleiades is about 410 light years distant, and is a moderately young cluster, about 80 million years old. Most of the other brighter stars in Taurus, including the large Hyades cluster, are twice as distant, and considerably older, about 660 million years. This is still only a fraction of the Sun's age, 4600 million years.

The planets are not so obvious in Dore this winter. Venus is very close to Mars in Libra on 5 December, rising just before dawn in the south-east. Saturn lies just beneath Gemini, below the stars, Castor and Pollux. It is not very bright although its illustrious rings may still be seen in a small telescope in the evening. The rings are closing over the next years, and at present the body of the planet may be clearly seen above and below the rings.

Titan, Saturn's largest moon, is going to get a surprise on January 14, 2005, when the Huygens space-probe crashes down. At magnitude 8, Titan can be picked up in a small telescope. It appears about two ring diameters away from Saturn in a north-easterly direction on 14 January. Its actual distance from Saturn is about 8 astronomical units which is 744 million miles. NASA has announced the exact time of entry of Huygens into Titan's atmosphere, so one can participate in the excitement of this momentous event even from Dore! At 12.00hrs GMT (mid-day) the descent commences and will last about two and a half hours. The many procedures involved in the descent ensure that the probe has the maximum chance of survival and that each instrument wakes up at the right moment. All the same, many unexpected things can happen even apart from parachutes not opening.

Titan is about the size of our Moon but, unlike our Moon, has an atmosphere. NASA and ESA are pinning a lot of hopes on finding the simplest of organic molecules necessary to intimate the possible presence of the building blocks of life. Unlike the living planet Earth, Titan is uncomfortably far from the Sun and relatively close to its parent, Saturn. With all the care that NASA takes not to contaminate the planets they visit, we hope there will indeed be no earthly viruses cosily settling down to their rehabilitation!

Saturn is certainly the planet of the year 2005. After the Titan venture there are five encounters, sadly only fly-bys, of other Saturnian moons. The Cassini orbiter has appointments with Mimas (1 August 2005), Tethys (23 September), Hyperion (25 September), Dione (10 October) and Rhea (25 November 2005). Then, there is a last look at Epimetheus (3 December 2007).

The giant planet, Jupiter, will be visible in Dore in the winter, but must be looked for much later than Saturn. It has moved well into Virgo and does not rise till early morning. Jupiter is bright and may be picked up before dawn. It can be easily seen in the south-east from about 3a.m. on 15 January 2005, and two hours earlier each succeeding month. The bright star upper left from Jupiter is Arcturus.

The Moon will dominate the sky for much of the Christmas period with a Full Moon on Boxing Day. One can easily see the lunar craters in the smallest of telescopes, and with a lunar map, one can take imaginary walks across the rugged landscape. Even without a telescope the lunar maria can be seen. Mare Humorum and Oceanus Procellarum and Sinus Roris run down the eastern (left) side, with Mare Nubium somewhat towards the bottom centre. Mare Imbrium and Mare Serenitatis run across the north, and Mare Tranquillitatis appears beneath (on the west, right) with Mare Fecunditatis and Mare Nectaris hanging like two ears of a hare southwards. A distinctly oval sea, Mare Crisium, appears near the western limb (top right). Of course, the mare will only all be seen together at or near Full

Moon. Tycho's bright ray system emanating radially from a crater is very noticeable in the south. Being only 50 miles in diameter, the crater Tycho, itself, cannot be actually seen with the unaided eye. Some of these names are familiar to those interested in Man's exploration of the Solar System. Other readers might just like to put names to the familiar face of the Moon.

The Sheffield Astronomical Society meets throughout the year at the Mayfield Education Centre, David Lane, Fulwood (Darren, tel. 0114 2692291). Beginners are especially welcome and there are talks and chats and telescopes to look through. Before the Christmas Party there are meetings on 6, 11 and 13 December 2004.

David Andrews

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Diary - Winter 2004

NOVEMBER

- 20 **Concert** by John Wade Singers at All Saints Church, Totley, for St Wilfreds Centre. Gounod St Cecilia Mass and contrasting items. 7.30pm. Tickets £5 from 236 0798
- 20 **Concert** Mass in D - Dvorak, Jesu Meine Freude., Sheffield Bach Society 7.30pm at Ecclesall Parish Church. Tickets £10 (concessions £8)
- 24 **Local Lad Makes Good** - William Flockton, Sheffield's Leading Victorian Architect. Talk by Dr. Nyra Wilson for the Sheffield Society for the Encouragement of Art, Tapton Hall, Shore Lane, 2.30pm. Free adm Tel 236 0941
- 24 **Derbyshire Place Names** Talk by Jenny Ainsworth for the Dore Village Society. 7.30pm Dore Methodist Church Hall. Free entry. Everybody welcome
- 27 **Open Day** The Traditional Heritage Museum at 605 Ecclesall Road 10.30am to 4.30pm. Admission £1.50.
- 27 **Concert** by John Wade Singers at Millhouses Methodist Church, Millhouses Lane for St Wilfreds Centre. Gounod St Cecilia Mass and contrasting items. 7.30pm. Tickets £5 from 236 0798
- 30 **Knickers** talk by Janet Stain for Dore Methodist Church Tuesday Group, Church Hall 7.45pm

DECEMBER

- 1 **Christmas Market** Dore Parents' Association at Dore Primary School between 8pm and 10pm.
- 3 to 24 **Totley Christmas Festivals** Live Nativity plays animals and Father Christmas at Totley Hall Farm Call 236 4761
- 3 to 5 **Exhibition**, demonstrations and kiln firing at Overdale Pottery. Friday 5-8pm, Saturday 11am - 8pm, Sunday 11am - 6pm. 129 Prospect Road. Details from 236 4670.
- 5 **Children's Activities** - meet Santa, make gifts see the animals etc. Whirlow Hall Farm Trust Children free adults £3. Booking essential on 236 0096
- 6 **Concert** Handel's Messiah, Sheffield Bach Society, 7pm at Sheffield Cathedral Tickets £11 (concessions £9)
- 7 **Christmas Event**, Friends of the Botanical Gardens. Details from 236 1568
- 8 **Victorian Christmas Fayre** 10am - 12noon at Cheshire Home, Mickley Lane
- 8 **Christmas Party** at Dore Grill, 12noon for 12.30pm for Dore (A) Townswomen's Guild.
- 9 **Christmas open evening** Dore shops open late from 6pm to 8pm. Celebrations begin at 6pm with carol singing by the Guides, Brownies & Rainbows, followed at 7pm by members of Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society. During the evening the Guides will be selling coffee and mince pies on the Dore Service Station forecourt.
- 11 **4 mile walk** from Lowedges to Dronfield via Bowshaw with Sheffield Rangers Meet 10.15am at the Post Office Lowedges Road. Details: 283 9195
- 12 **Festival of Light** St Luke's Hospice. 6pm switch on.

- 13 **The Story of Droving** talk by Howard Smith for South Yorkshire Industrial History Society, Kelham Island Museum 7.30pm Tel 230 7693
- 30 **Christmas celebrations**, Dore Methodist Church Tuesday Group, Church Hall 7.45pm
- 14 **Abbeylea I and Abbeylea II** talk by Professor Francis Evans for Hunter Archaeological Soc, Lecture Theatre 9 Arts Tower Univ of Sheffield, 7.30pm. Tel 01246 413496
- 24 **Christmas Carols** 11am - 12noon at Cheshire Home, Mickley Lane
- 27 **Wassail Walk** 10am from the Old School. A gentle walk of about five miles followed by a glass of punch (or soft drink) with a warm mince pie.
- 28 **4 mile walk** from Whirlow Brook Park to Graves Park with Sheffield Rangers. Meet 1pm outside Whirlow Brook Park Café.

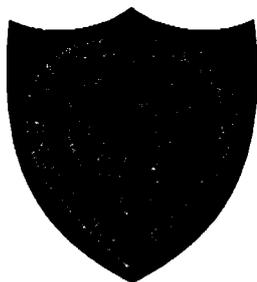
JANUARY

- 11 **Greek & Roman Cities of Libyan Coast** talk by Dr. Ffiona Gilmore Eaves for Hunter Archaeological Society, Lecture Theatre 9 Arts Tower, University of Sheffield, 7.30pm. Tel 01246 413496
- 17 **Bacon, Beer and Blanco:** the story of Neepsend by Eddy Munnely and Albert Jackson for South Yorkshire Industrial History Society, Kelham 7.30pm Tel 230 7693
- 18 **Volcanology** - talk by Gill Norton for Dore Methodist Church Tuesday Group, 7.45 pm Methodist Church Hall
- 20 **200 years of Ladies' Hats** a talk by Mr R Young for Dore (A) Townswomen's Guild, Old School, 2pm
- 30 **2 mile stroll** around Dore with Sheffield Rangers. Meet 1pm at the shops, High Street.

FEBRUARY

- 1 **Leonard Cheshire Homes** - talk by Jackie Short for Dore Methodist Church Tuesday Group, 7.45 pm Methodist Church Hall
- 6 **Ranger Roadshow** with Sheffield Rangers at Millhouses Park 1-3pm.
- 8 **Landscape History in the Langdales** talk by Dr. Mark Edmunds for Hunter Archaeological Society, Lecture Theatre 9 Arts Tower, University of Sheffield, at 7.30pm. Tel 01246 413496
- 9 **Chatsworth and Spain** a talk by Trevor Mills for Dore (A) Townswomen's Guild, Old School, 2pm
- 12 **Concert** Petite Messe Solennelle by Rossini + other works, Sheffield Bach Society. 7.30pm Ecclesall Parish Church. Tickets £10 & £8 conc from 266 1000.
- 15 **Music & Movement** with Jean Clarke, Dore Methodist Church Tuesday Group 7.45 pm Methodist Church Hall
- 16 **Britannia Metal** Talk by Richard Abdy for the Sheffield Society for the Encouragement of Art, Tapton Hall, Shore Lane, at 2.30pm. Free admission Tel 236 0941
- 21 **The restoration of Cromford Mill** talk by Darrell Clark for South Yorkshire Industrial History Society, Kelham Island Museum 7.30pm Tel 230 7693

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