

DORE to DOOR

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

No. 77 SPRING 2005

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Killer Road

There was yet another fatal car smash on Hathersage Road about 9pm on Wednesday 2nd February. A young couple died when two cars collided on a bend outside Fern Glen Farm.

Police sealed off part of the road near to the Dore Moor Inn while firefighters battled to free two seriously hurt casualties in the second car. They had to cut the roof of their car and it took paramedics more than an hour to stabilise the passengers before they could be lifted free. The engine of one of the vehicles had actually been flung to the other side of the road with the force of the impact.

The stretch of road between Whirlow and the Fox House continues to claim lives and cause numerous serious injuries. Yet despite requests from the Dore Village Society to the Council for a traffic safety review, nothing is apparently being done.

Perhaps the time has come for Traffic Blackspot signs to be erected showing the number of a deaths and injuries over the last 5 years. That might make some drivers think!

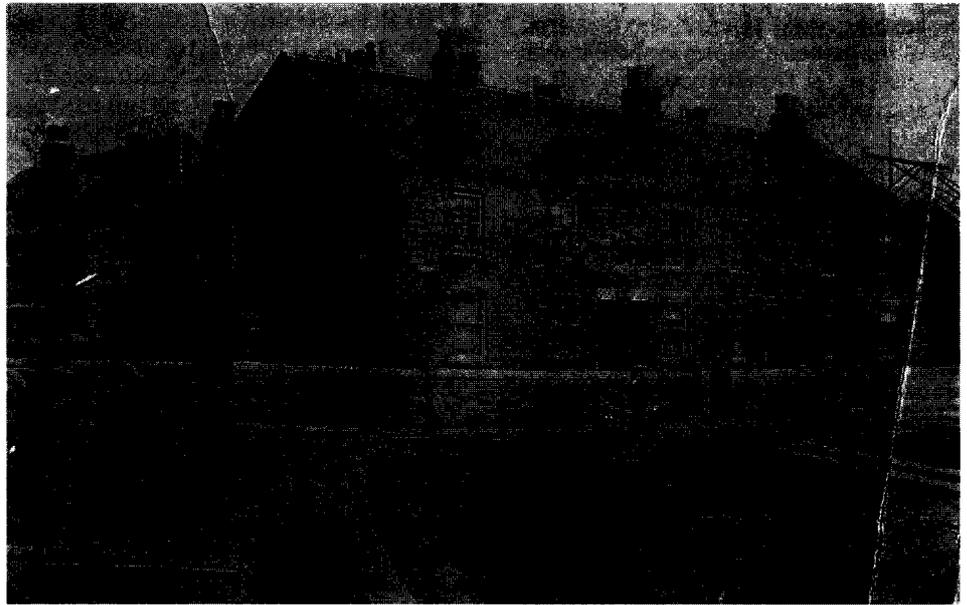
Meanwhile the Society and local councillors are keeping up the pressure. There is now a petition organised by Councillor Anne Smith, asking the Council to take action to stop these accidents. WE need as many people as possible to support this. You will find copies for signature in all the Dore shops and pubs.

Membership Subscriptions

Enclosed with this issue is a membership renewal form for 2005. If you have not already paid your £4 annual subscription to the society for this year, please complete the form and post it to the address indicated, or hand it in at the Society's room in the Old School between 10am & 12 noon on the first Saturday of any month.

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

If you are a tax payer, we are able to reclaim tax already paid (22%) on your subscriptions and donations, making your membership worth even more to the society. If you are a higher rate taxpayer, you can also claim back the difference between basic and higher rates on your tax return.



The houses on Devonshire Terrace Road being built in 1921. They were originally named Brookfield Terrace.

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

Spring Meeting

7.30pm Wednesday

2 March

Methodist Church Hall

Talk by Maureen Cope on

'The Time of Our Lives'

Admission free. Refreshments

Everybody welcome

Oral History Collection

In conversation with Reginald Skelton.

Reginald Skelton was born at 71, Nairn Street, Crookes, Sheffield on the 11th March 1920, the second in a family of two boys and three girls. His father, Charlie Skelton was head gardener at the spacious residence on Shore Lane of Mr. Tozer, partner of Steel, Peech and Tozer, one of Sheffield's most successful steel manufacturers. His mother, Eveline who was also born in Crookes came from a family of seven girls.

Reg was educated at Lydgate Lane School and left at fourteen years of age. His father got him his first job at Brookberry's Nurseries at the top of Greystones Road, where he had worked himself as a young man. Six months later Reg went after a post as assistant gardener at Red House, Sandygate Road, the home of Mr. Wigfull, chairman of Wigfull Flour Mills and Stones Brewery.

Reg recalls "I went up and saw the head gardener, Mr. Atkinson and he gave me the job. I told a little fib and said I was older than I was and he accepted this." Reg remembers Mr. Atkinson as being a remarkable man and an excellent gardener.

Reg left home when he was sixteen as he explains, "My father believed in sending you away to learn yer job. My older brother worked on the Marquis of Bristol's estate at Bury St. Edmunds so I was sent to a bothy

Continued on page 10

All change

As we go to press Green's shop is due to close shortly, although Nick and Sally are moving round the corner to continue in the mower and bicycle servicing business, along with a new venture into picture framing. Meanwhile the business lease to Colin Thomson's butchers shop is for sale. Finally a planning application has been submitted for alterations to the shop front of 34-36 High Street. Rumour has it that Almas is going to become a wine bar.

Councillor Surgeries

Local councillors are available for consultation in the Dore Village Society room on two Saturday's each month.

Future dates are: Conservatives - 26th February; 26th March and 23rd April 10am to 11am. Liberal Democrats 12th March; 9th April and 14th May 10.30 to 12 noon.

Dore Open Gardens

This year the annual 'Open Garden' day will take place on Sunday 26th June from 2pm to 6pm.

This is a popular and successful event. People enjoy looking at different gardens, seeing a variety of plants and getting new ideas. We always welcome and need new gardens. If you think you have an interesting garden then please share it with local people for the afternoon. As well as having appreciative visitors you will raise funds for your favourite charity.

Some gardens have plant sales or offer teas but it is not necessary to do either.

We do not advertise outside of Dore because this is a community event and part of the Dore Festival. Every size and type of garden is welcome - formal, wildlife, vegetable, cottage, etc. If you are interested, or would like to have some more information, then please contact: Julie Bearpark on 236 900.

Autism Support Group

The next meeting of the Sheffield 8 Autism Support Group is on the 23rd February at 1.30pm at Greenhill School. Parents, carers etc all welcome. Friendly chat and support. For more details contact Louise Taylor on 274 6413 or Mandy Wildgoose on 2716191

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 (Planning)

Mr D Heslop 236 5043
41 Church Lane, S17 3GT.

Treasurer

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

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

Mr D Bearpark 236 9100
(Wyvern Walkers)

Mr G Cope 235 0392

Mr D Crosby 262 1127

Mrs A Elsdon (Subscriptions) 236 0002

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 Summer (May) issue to the address on this page by Friday 29th April 2005

Dore Festival 26th June - 8th July

We are already looking forward to Festival fortnight. A full programme of popular and varied events, as well as some new ones, is being planned for our 10th Anniversary.

The Festival will start with the Gardens Open on 26th June and end with the Well Dressing Service on Sunday 3rd July. We are delighted there will be a week - end celebration of flowers in the Methodist Church to coincide with the Well Dressing Service. The Ladies Group will be holding an open evening where the guest speaker will be Brian Edwards and all will be welcome. Other popular events will be the play on The Green, concerts by several local choirs. Our guest choir this year will be the Sterndale Singers.

We are sure every event will be as well supported as in previous years and we hope our 10th Anniversary will be extra special.

*Maureen Cope & Anne Elsdon
Festival Programme Co-ordinators*

Totley presents....

Our 'Nativities' greatly increased in popularity this year with 18 performances for schools and another 20 for the general public, all within the 3 weeks prior to Christmas. Some 1800 children, parents and teachers either watched or dressed up and played a part during this period. By the comments we received from our visitors it would seem a good, enjoyable time was had by all, including those who helped to stage these events.

I must admit that both Jenn, who narrated the story each time, and myself (Father Christmas, shh!) were shattered by Christmas Eve and ready for a good rest. However, it was great to see the children really enjoying themselves as they joined in and also heard the real story of the meaning of Christmas, many for the first time.

Poor old Father Christmas was late arriving on two occasions! He had to assist with two difficult lambings just at the wrong time! When combined with his other role of Christmas tree salesman, he surely was a busy man! Here again we enjoyed a surge in sales, nearly 100% up on last year with a near total clearance of our trees. Perhaps at this point I could say a hearty THANK YOU to all of you who either visited our nativity events or bought a tree from us last year.

*Edwin Pocock
Totley Hall Farm*

Horace returns

Copies of 'Horace Returns to Dore' by local author Marjorie Dunn are still available in the village from Dore Garage, Country Garden, and Little Mischiefs. The story centres on the further adventures of Mr Fisher's Ducks with an introduction covering what happened to the ducks in the first story. The book also features wonderful drawings by David Heslop. It costs £4.95, with profits going to Pearson's Holiday Fund for disadvantaged children.

Dore Chimes

Dore Gilbert & Sullivan's concert party, Dore Chimes, has not been as busy as last year due mainly to the strain of putting on The Grand Duke which took more than a little of our spare time. We still managed, however, to raise about £1000 split between two charities, The Children's Society and SIDS, (Cot Death research) with concerts in Glossop and Holmesfield

respectively as well as putting on other concerts for Ecclesall Historic Society and Crookes Residents Association.

The G & S Society has been invited to put on a concert in the Painted Hall at Chatsworth in October. We intend to share all the proceeds, which should exceed £3500, between St. Lukes and the Helen's Trust. Tickets will be available from about April onwards at £20 each. We intend to hold a raffle on the night with some special prizes and collect donations from any supporters who care to contribute.

In order to mitigate costs and ensure that all the proceeds can go to the charities concerned, we have been lucky enough to attract Waitrose as a major sponsor and we thank them very much for their support.

Derek Habberjam

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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Gala appeal

On behalf of the Gala Committee, I would like to wish you all a very happy New Year. As ever, our preparations for this year's Gala have already begun and we have set ourselves the challenge to bring you an even more enjoyable event this July. So don't forget to put Saturday 9th July in your diaries now to avoid disappointment!

So, why the appeal? Well, as we approach this year's event many of you will be waiting in anticipation of the annual phone call requesting your help either on Gala day or in the weeks leading up to it. So many, familiar faces appear on the day either to help us set up, to help run a stall during the afternoon or to help us pack away after the dust has settled in the early evening. It's a pleasure to see you all and we really appreciate the time you give us even if we don't get the opportunity to express that during the very busy day. Inevitably, the people that we contact for help each year are those familiar faces and, willing as they are, there comes a time when, understandably, they need a break. So our pool of helpers is diminishing.

I am sure that there are many of you in the village who would be more than willing to spend an hour or so helping out during Gala day but we don't know your contact details. This really is an occasion where "many hands make light work", so if you would like to offer your help please give me a call

on 236 7587; we would be delighted to hear from you.

There is one other thing that we would like your help with. On the Friday and Saturday of the Gala weekend we need the use of a 7.5 tonne van with tail lift. Over the last couple of years these have become scarce and we are struggling to find a suitable source. If any of you have such a vehicle that may be available for our use or can put us in touch with someone who has we would appreciate it.

*Mark Prangell, Chairman
Dore Gala Committee*

School centenary

This year is the Centenary of 'King Teds' which became one of the King Edward VII Foundation Schools in October 1905. A number of events are taking place during the year:

March 16 : School Annual Concert,
St Marks Church, Broomhill

March 24 : Old Edwardians Association
Annual Dinner at Baldwins

June 19 : Centenary Cricket Match

October 8 : Centenary Evening,

October 9 : Centenary Lunch,

Anyone wishing to join the Old Edwardians Association and receive details of events should contact : Don Nicolson (Membership Secretary) tel : 01246 436551 or E-Mail : facrecte@oldedwardians.org.uk or visit: www.oldedwardians.org.uk

Dore Male Voice Choir

The Choir have a full season of concerts for this year.

The Annual Gala Concert on the 16th April promises to be a memorable event with the internationally famous Kinder Children's Choir as our guests. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress will be attending again on this occasion.

The Choir have been accepted for Llangollen International Eisteddfod where we will be competing in the Male Voice Choir section. This is a great honour for the Choir where the competition, from other countries as well as the UK is always stiff. The Choir will be there on 9th July, two days after the Dore Festival Concert with Dore Mercia and Totley TG Choir.

From 18th to 23rd September the Choir is going to Belgium where we will be staying in Bruges and singing both there and in Ghent and Antwerp. This will be a big occasion with a full contingent of 100 including 45 singing members.

Other concerts at Dronfield, Ranmoor, Ecclesall, Abbeydale, and Edensor for the Summer Event, all go to make for a busy and enjoyable year.

Anyone with a male voice and an interest in singing is most welcome to come and join us. Contact me, David Heslop on 236 5043- it's as easy as that!

David Heslop

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- Even though we all know that a will is the most important financial document we will ever create, the pace of modern living always seems to work against us taking that first, vital step.
- Please, don't put it off any longer. Now it couldn't be easier to protect your family, your home, and everything else you have worked so hard for.
- Call us here at Classic. Your phone calls to us, the information we will send you, and your estate planning visits, are all free.
- There is only one fixed fee of £27.50 for writing your Will, but virtually all family arrangements can be accommodated with a comprehensive range of options.
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(Members of The Society of Will Writers)

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Letters (Memories stirred)

Dear Sir,

I started at Dore School in 1950 traveling to the village by bus from Whirlow. The fare cost 1d. and all the bus conductors knew our names. I only ever remember being taken by my mother once and after that I just went up to the bus stop by myself and got on the bus with several other children. It is hard to believe that I ever did it all by myself but we were always quite safe.

When I started at the school Mr. Clark was the headmaster and he had a desk in the corner of Miss Palmer's classroom with a screen around it. The infant teachers were Mrs Crawshaw and Mrs Wilkes. Mrs Crawshaw lived beside the green and the children used to go down to her house to call for her. She never seemed to mind but I am sure it must have been very frustrating for her. Once I was in the junior school I was taught by Miss Palmer for two years and by Miss Davies for the next two years. Many pupils were frightened of Miss Palmer because she had a loud voice and was strict but I always got on very well with her. (My first encounter with her was in Woolworths in Belfast just before I started school would you believe.)

I think I was probably in junior 2 of junior 3 when Mr Clark retired and Mr Wright came as Head. He lived at the bottom of Long Lane and when he arrived the office upstairs was created for him. I remember often helping him at lunchtime to do jobs and I also remember going up to the shop at lunchtime to fetch a loaf of bread for Miss Palmer.

The school must have grown because when I was in Junior 4 the older pupils moved up to the church hall with Miss Davies. We all had large cardboard boxes,

which we covered with wallpaper, because there were no desks, only tables. The boxes were stored under the stage and every morning we would get out our box and have it beside our chair. I also remember that when I took the 11+ the rest of the school had a holiday.

I hated school dinners, but they were served to us by Mrs Cook and Mrs Green who knew us all by name. They operated out of the cloakroom and everywhere smelt of mashed potato.

This autumn I returned to Dore from Alcester, Warwickshire to a reunion of Girl Guides and met many of the girls I was at school with. This set us all reminiscing. People had traveled from as far away as Germany, North Yorkshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Gloucestershire and I think there was as much talk about school as about Girl Guides. They were happy days.

Margaret Moore (nee Coppock)

Dear Sir,

Re your article you published Winter copy, ie. Mr Glen Walker, Teacher, Greenhill Village school circa 1950.

I have many happy and painful memories of Mr Walker. I was in his class 1953/54. I sat next to Tony Ridgeway, in class and we still keep in touch.

I lived at Rose Cottage in the village in the 50's. Memories of village life in the 50's are still very clear. School friends, Ian Aldus, Roy Kilner, Thorpe, Fisher, Shaw, Adlington, Crassick, Poole and many more. The village shops, ie chemist, butcher, the chippy, paper shop on the corner, the grocer.

School memories. Waiting for the bus to take us to Bradway for football, praying that it didn't rain. Football matches in the playground between estaters v. commoners. Happy Days. Too many memories to write about, but all happy ones.

Michael Burnell

Dear Sir,

During World War II, I can well remember, my two brothers and I slept in a Morrison shelter, a cage-like metal box in the centre of the living room. Beside the shelter was a cupboard containing, amongst other things, the week's ration of sugar for the family. Being sugar lumps these were irresistible. That packet of sugar grew smaller every night, almost imperceptibly diminishing until it was no longer possible to take more without it became glaringly obvious that something was happening. It is just possible that this is happening in Newfield Lane and other parts of Dore under our very noses!

A straight line started to appear on the bank-side of the Lane on Monday 10th January but one could dismiss it as accidental. During that week the line grew in width to half a metre, and in some places a full metre beyond the tarmac, and the bank started to show a distinct edge. Tyre marks from one or more lorries were obvious but what heavy lorry would choose to drive 40 or 50 metres in a straight line with the risk of hitting overhanging branches? By the beginning of the next

week (17th January) lorry or tractor tyres had cut further into the bank, as well as digging 'accidental' deep trenches on the other side of the road in the leafy verge.

Within 10 or so days the Lane has been transformed. Trees could disappear overnight, too. Developers would only have to pay a fine. It is as though someone interested in the development of Long Acres and the transformation of the Lane into a busy highway (which would include cutting through the bank to access the new development) has been eating Mum's sugar lumps!

Neither traffic cones nor warnings of dangerous new soft verges have appeared. Nevertheless, it looks horrendously like someone is interested in widening and straightening the Lane before the Planning Inspectorate gets to see it, and also ensuring that the Lane needs re-surfacing and re-planning!

It is not a coincidence that a For Sale sign appeared for Plot 6 in Long Acres around 19th January. We hope that other local residents, walkers and drivers will report to Sheffield Council anything they see that is unusual and that might be illegal. Vehicle registration numbers could clinch it. Meanwhile, Sheffield Council should consider a clear unambiguous conservation order which might protect the Lane until its future is definitely decided. This notice would need to be posted in Newfield Lane without delay.

David Andrews

Dear Sir,

My interest is in tracing my family tree, a hobby that has grown in interest thanks to recent television programmes. I too am a recent convert, although I have to say that it was due to a request from my uncle and not the aforementioned programme, although it did help.

I have only just started on this particular line of my family, which eventually took me to your village of Dore. As I was browsing around on the internet I came across your website and thought it would be a good place to get a feel for the place and possibly some historical items too.

You can only imagine my joy at almost immediately coming across the family name I was searching for on your time line for the village. A joy that was just as quickly wiped from my face as I realised that my family ancestor was mentioned not for some great deed that she had done but rather a mis-deed. I am speaking of Eliza Flint who as you will know was expelled from the local school for breaking windows, swearing, breaking into school, lying and stealing in 1883 at the grand age of 10 years old. A deed then made even worse when her Mother (Sarah) tried to defend her daughters actions instead of punishing her. I don't know why but I have this feeling that I should apologise for my ancestors behaviour, which of course I do unreservedly.

My direct ancestor was Eliza's older brother by four years a Joseph Walter Flint who went on to become a grinder living at Heeley where he was married in January


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1892. In a pathetic attempt to try and restore the balance of the Flint families good name I have found on the 1871 census Eliza's older brother by 18 years a person called "John Flint". On the 1871 census he is 16 years of age and is down as a pastor by occupation, I presume in your local church. Although by the time of Eliza's misdemeanour he had left home, perhaps she missed his calming influence.

In the article the Flint family is quoted as living on School Green Road in the 1891 census, I have found that they were living at the same address in the 1881 census although in 1871 they were all living on Townhead Road with Eliza's Grandfather a "John Flint". No doubt his Grandson the Pastor was named after his Grandfather.

I would just like to finish by thanking you for the information about my family from your website and hope you have a successful future. Any information all adds to the overall picture of the family even if it's news you'd rather not have heard. I can only say that the Flint family as I know it would be totally horrified to hear the news and I have not yet decided that I should tell them. Sometime during the Spring I shall be making a little trip up to your village so if anybody notices a stranger wondering, apparently aimlessly, around taking photographs of nothing in particular it may well be me.

If anybody has any more information that they think I may find useful then they could contact me by e-mail on stephen@cox-wroe.fsnet.co.uk. (lower case

letters). Any information would be a great help and thank you all once again, see you in the Spring maybe.

Stephen Cox

Ed. We have been able to provide the information published in the Society's "A to W" of Dore, but perhaps other readers can add to this. If you don't have access to the internet we would be happy to pass on any written response

DORE ORAL HISTORY GROUP OPEN DAY

Memories of the war and post-war years

DORE OLD SCHOOL

SATURDAY 12TH MARCH

10am - 5pm

Everyone welcome.

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Refreshments available.

Get rid of old batteries

Residents in Sheffield can now take household batteries to the city's five Household Waste Recycling Centres, which will then be sent on for recycling. The scheme was been launched by waste collection and disposal company Onyx in partnership with the city council to coincide with the festive period when a lot of batteries were likely to be used. Sheffield is one of few city's in the UK to introduce the facility. Call 228 3630 or www.onyxsheffield.co.uk.

Speeding on Dore Road

A petition from local residents requesting traffic calming measures on Dore Road was rejected by the Council on the grounds that there are other streets in Sheffield experiencing speed related injury accidents and these locations will be given priority. The Highways report makes interesting reading however.

Dore Road is classified as a bronze route in the Sheffield Speed Management Plan, whatever that implies. A 48 hr speed survey was carried out in November, but conveniently just above Victor Road, which meant traffic entering or leaving that road could only register as slow thus distorting the averages. Never-the-less the average speed uphill was 33 mph and downhill 35mph. More significantly 35% of divers exceeded 35mph uphill and 15% exceeded 39mph. While downhill 52% exceeded 35mph and 15% exceeded 42mph. No evidence was provided on the highest speeds recorded.

It seems we must wait for a serious accident before action might be taken. In the meantime it is worth remembering that independent research shows that half of pedestrians hit at 30mph will survive, but nine out of ten hit at 40 mph will die! It takes 75ft to stop at 30mph and 120ft at 40mph. Sadly it is also those 4x4s, which instill a feeling of safety in their drivers, which are most lethal due to their higher weight and momentum.

with Love & Best wishes XXX

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Planning Matters

'Long Acres' Newfield Lane. The planning application by Westbury Homes went to the Planning Board on 10th January with a recommendation by the Planning Officer for conditional approval. Regrettably the revised planning application, reported in the last Dore to Door was amended before it went to the Board.

The amendment related primarily to traffic calming measures in Newfield Lane and Townhead Road. These were apparently requested by the Highways Department and included on Newfield Lane four bands of a different road surface across the road, but more significantly the provision of oak posts on each side of the two bands, which appeared obtrusive, particularly in respect of one near the seat at the bottom of the Lane. The Society objected to this.

The proposals included the movement of the proposed footpath between the service road and Newfield Crescent from the Wag Wood side of the road to the Newfield Crescent side. This is an undoubted improvement. The proposals also included the removal of ten trees, because of the particular siting at the service road entrance and the replacement by ten trees of standard size. Regrettably the site still shows 36 units, which significantly exceeds the density in the locality but is less than Government guidelines. The Society objected to this density.

The Planning Board approved the application. It is hoped that the traffic proposals can be scaled down before the work commences. It should be borne in mind that, there is still an appeal, by the developers, against the refusal to take the access road into the site straight into the



A topical cartoon from The Times

middle of Newfield Lane and the footpath across the Recreation Ground. If that appeal were successful the results would be devastating to the village.

291 Totley Brook Road. The planning consideration on this long ongoing saga have probably now come to an end, with an approval by the Planning Board for flats on the old Caretakers house site at the corner of Furniss Avenue. Having obtained planning consent for four houses on the site, the Council then sold the property and a developer slapped in an application for a three-storey block of 12 flats. The consternation locally was understandable. The proposed slab of a building did not relate to anything in the neighbourhood. Following pressure by local Councillors and residents the application was refused on the grounds that the development was too large and out of keeping with the locality. The developer reapplied for a 3-storey block of 10 flats showing precious little difference from the previous application in mass and height.

The application went to the Planning Board on 22nd November and because of an uproar at the meeting and serious complaints and 'allegations' at the meeting in respect of the way the matter had been handled, the Board deferred a decision. An internal enquiry was undertaken by the Council's Chief Executive into the allegation. The report states that "there is no evidence of deliberate inappropriate action on the part of Officers, nor was there any evidence that there had been any improper influence by the developer. (It was) acknowledged that whilst there had been a degree of mishap (for example the misunderstanding over the date of the meeting and the confusion over the returned plans), and miscommunication, for example the timing of the work to the trees, there was no evidence to support any allegation

of deliberate inappropriate action".

The application went to the Planning Board Meeting on 10th January showing no appreciable visual difference from the previously refused plans and, on Officers recommendation, was approved. It is not surprising that the public sometimes lose faith in the planning process.

22 Townhead Road. You will recall the problem of the demolition of a stonewall in the Dore Conservation Area, without any consent. The owner was served with an Enforcement Notice by the Council requiring that the wall be reinstated. The owner has appealed against the Enforcement Notice, and a decision is awaited. The Dore Village Society has made representations against the appeal, submitting that the stone boundary walls are an attractive and important architectural feature of the Conservation Area and are integral to both the character of the houses and the Dore Conservation Area.

'Fairthorn'. It is understood that 'Fairthorn' on Whitelaw Lane is coming up for sale. Clearly there is concern that developers will be interested in building on the site. The property is in Green Belt and the Society will be totally against any development of the site outside the footprint of the existing building or any change of use that would be inappropriate in such a sensitive situation. We must wait and see!

David Heslop

Gilbert & Sullivan Society

In April, Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society will present *The Gondoliers*. This will be the first production under our new musical director, Paul White. We have never been worked so hard in rehearsal as we have recently and the results are beginning to show. We have always thought that we have had both a good chorus and principals but we will be better than ever for this next show.

The current committee has set out to try and improve all aspects of the Society's work and we feel confident that the results will speak (sing and play!) for themselves. Paul will bring a professional orchestra with him for the show and with the work being done on our intonation, we expect the audience to be able to hear and understand every word, not always easy with

G & S operettas with the patter songs and fast moving libretti. We hope you will come and enjoy this, one of the most musical of the operettas with favourites such as "Take a Pair of Sparkling Eyes", "Regular Royal Queen" and "Dance the Cachuca".

The show will run from 4th April to 9th April including a matinee on the 9th, at the University Drama Studio on Glossop Road; evenings at 7:30pm and the matinee at 2:30pm. Tickets (£8.50 and £7.50 concessions) are available now from Rita Drew, telephone 0114 248 7766.

Monday's performance will be in aid of The Cavendish Centre.

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• Experience less pain and fatigue, depression and anxiety

• Have better communication with their health team

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A testimonial from one participant says that "Being able to talk through my problems has made things easier to bear. It's helped me to learn to relax, has slowed down my depression and panic attacks - it's been very beneficial."

The courses are designed to be friendly, informative and free of charge and they currently running in locations across Sheffield. The content is structured to cover a range of subjects including: fatigue management; medication usage; dealing with emotions; living wills; and

communication with those caring for us. The session runs for 2½ hours each week for 6 weeks.

If you are interested in EPP, contact Helen Rodgers by e-mailing Helen.Rodgers@sheffieldsw-pct.nhs.uk or call her on 0114 226 3691.

Visual Support Group

The Totley & Dore support group for the visually impaired meet regularly each month for talks and discussion. The dates of forthcoming meetings are: February - Wednesday 23rd; March - Thursday 24th; and April - Tuesday 26th. All meetings commence at 11:30am and newcomers are most welcome. Please ring John or Pat on 255 0758.

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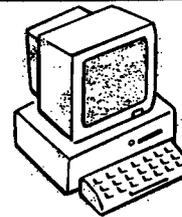
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Letters (Current issues)

Dear Sir,

Recently there have been many complaints from local residents about heavy earth carrying vehicles from the new King Egbert School site taking illegal short cuts through Dore Village in breach of the 7.5 tonne weight restriction. The roads affected have been the upper part of Furniss Avenue, Church Lane, Drury Lane and Townhead Road.

Along with the Dore Village Society I have been in contact with the Highways Department enforcement officer and he has been quick to take action and warn the developer and the site manager. Many different sub contractors provide lorries for this work. All have been warned, but the problem seems to start again as soon as a new sub contractor appears. These lorries are not permitted to use the Village roads.

The Highways enforcement officer will take action as soon as he receives a complaint. Any local residents who notice this happening again in future can telephone Dennis Wyatt on 273 6677, preferably with the vehicle registration number, so that he can identify the culprit and take immediate action.

Councillor Michael Waters

Dear Sir,

Cod - The Real Story

Cod is still very much on UK menus; while fishermen help cod stocks recover in the North Sea, over 95% of the cod we eat comes from further afield.

Claims that cod is an endangered species are misinformed. Cod as a species lives right across the North Atlantic Ocean. Separate cod stocks are fished in the waters of north-east America, Canada, Greenland, Iceland, the Faroe Islands, to the west of Scotland, Irish Sea, Celtic Sea, and in the Barents Sea, the Skagerrak, and the Baltic Sea.

With a total world cod quota of 890,000

tonnes, less than 5% comes from the North Sea, the majority coming from the Barents Sea and Norwegian waters.

In the meantime, UK fishermen have been taking steps for a number of years to ensure that North Sea stocks recover, including changes to net design, closed fishing areas, restrictions on time at sea, and a major reduction in the size of the fishing fleet. Locally caught cod is landed within this strict management regime, agreed by Government, fishermen, and scientists.

You can continue to enjoy cod in your fish supper, from your fishmonger, or while eating out. Nearly all of the cod we eat is traded on an international market, and UK suppliers import fresh fish daily from seas which are fished responsibly to agreed international guidelines.

All the above facts are taken from "The Sea Fish Industry Authority", 18 Logie Mill, Logie Green Road, Edinburgh, EU7 4HG. Tel: 0131 558 8331; e-mail: seafish@seafish.co.uk.

**Mike Claxton,
The Tasty Plaice**

Dear Sir,

I was wondering if you could help me please. I work for Sheffield Mencap on a scheme called the out and about befriending scheme. The aim of our scheme is to increase the independence, choice, quality of life and community participation of people with a learning disability in Sheffield, through one-to-one or group support to take part in leisure and social activities.

We are currently trying to find more volunteers to come and help us on our scheme. I was hoping that it maybe a possibility to try and recruit more volunteers through your magazine to.

Ruth Parrott

Ed. To find out more please call Ruth on 276 7757, or write to her at Mencap c/o Norfolk Lodge, Park Grange Road, Sheffield S2 3QF. Email - john.outandabout@btconnect.com.

Dear Sir,

We tend to subconsciously accept that we must have a certain number of "eyesores" in the modern world, simply to make it work; eg. clumps of ugly tv aerials on the top of beautiful houses.

I have drawn the attention of the local authority to many rotting lamp posts and badly repaired holes which blight our roads. I have also pointed out that other authorities do not have similar problems because they have found some simple ways to ameliorate these difficulties.

With regard to lamp posts, we in Sheffield all know the problems caused by water on metal, etc. (Tinsley Viaduct, Sheaf Baths etc)? Once the paint covering is even slightly broken, water quickly rots the poor quality metal beneath it. An extra coat of paint 'red lead' on the thicker part at the base of the posts, and on the cast iron covers which protect the internal connections would delay the rot. And if traffic signs etc. could be clamped to posts without breaking the paint, the replacement of these expensive posts could be delayed considerably.

With regard to holes in the road it seems that when repairs are made they remain black eyesores because the tarmac does not have the grey gritstone which used to eventually lighten the patches to almost match the rest of the road surface. Holes also were first treated with liquid tar which seemed to key in the new tarmac fillings to help to prevent it coming out.

I realise that these are just a layman's idea, and of course the answer I received from the local authority was they couldn't afford it anyway! At least I know we can be assured that the designers of the Winter Gardens knew that warm, damp air, rises!

**Another Grumpy Old Man
Name and address provided**

Dear Sir,

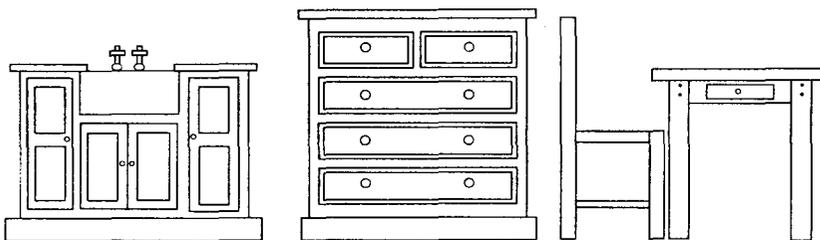
I opposed the proposed expensive Supertram scheme running between Dore railway station and the city centre for a whole host of reasons, most of which I outlined in Dore to Door. But what next after the demise of this inappropriate scheme?

We do know that traffic is indeed bad on Abbeydale Road and that there is a weekday car parking problem at Dore railway station. I read in the Sheffield Telegraph that the Liberal Democrats are now campaigning for a bigger car park at Dore, bigger platforms and more carriages. I'm not sure where this proposed car park would go? Perhaps on top of our garden centre? Would it be floodlit for security? I feel these proposals are still not the best way of really tackling these problems and providing a solution that will provide us with greater services but with minimum urbanisation.

Firstly what we need is for more people to be able to access trains as locally as possible. Dore station is a long way from a centre of population and being the only station between Dore and Sheffield, it is no wonder that people need to drive to it.

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We know there is support from residents in Heeley for the old railway station here to be reopened. Land was also earmarked in the Unitary Development Plan for another station at Millhouses, sensibly placed, in between Sainsbury and Tesco, where there is already extensive car parking due to the existing bus park and ride. Another small platform was earmarked at Totley Brook.

Despite our objections to the density, we are to have as many as ten new households on the site of the old caretakers bungalow on Totley Brook Road. Who knows how many more after the

development of the King Egbert School site. All this means more cars on our roads. Additional stations would give more people living along this south-west corridor the opportunity to walk/cycle to the trains, leaving their cars behind. But for those still living too far away and needing to take a car, it would allow them to use the existing car parking provision at Millhouses and board the train here.

It is absolutely essential in order to be able to run more frequent trains, for more track to be laid on the railbed between Dore and Sheffield. This would be the only way to enable fast trains and slow local trains to travel reliably and very frequently together. Space for more rail lines must be available, because one of the Supertram proposals was to lay its tracks on the railbed and some years ago their used to be four train lines. There is currently only two. This would still cost less than Supertram would have done but is less urbanising, has far more advantages and is a real step towards

cutting car use and tackling climate change. In short, I would prefer to see money spent on opening a new platform at Millhouses and an additional rail track from Dore into Sheffield than on a bigger car park and bigger platforms at Dore.

Dawn Biram

Transport 17

The year 2005 is the 21st year that Transport 17 has been transporting passengers in the community. It started in the S17 areas of Totley, Dore and Bradway, hence the name. Nowadays, we cover many areas of Sheffield and, indeed, our staff come from all over.

We have 3 blue buses which take passengers to Lunch and Social clubs and on various outings. Our Constitution states that passengers must be frail or elderly. If you run a club or Nursing home we can also do "ad hoc" trips to various places.

All of this, of course, relies on drivers and escorts being available. We have a paid Manager, Michael Finn and a part-time Treasurer, John Savournin. They work in our office at 172 Baslow Road, Totley. The rest of us are volunteers.

Because, like most people, we have many demands on us, there are times when staffing is very low and all of us have to do extras. None of us is getting any younger and we desperately need more helpers.

Could you drive a minibus or escort our passengers from their homes and on and off the buses? All our buses have sliding doors,

tail-lifts and safety belts. Two of them are Volkswagens and this year will see the Renault replaced by another Volkswagen.

Dore Village Society recently gave us £250 for wheelchair webbing restraints and towards a priority start battery cut-out device in the new bus. We are very grateful to them and to all our donors.

Please ring 236 2962 if you would like to come and see what we do and, perhaps, join us. It is interesting, to say the least.

Margaret Barlow

LINK Magazine

LINK is a magazine for parents of young children in this part of the city, available FREE in doctor's surgeries and post offices.

The magazine, which celebrated its 25th anniversary this year, is full of local information such as What's On, local playgroups and mother and toddler groups. It has a "For Sale and Wanted" section where goods can be advertised free of charge. It is also a great read for its articles on healthy issues, recipes, shared experiences and news. The magazine is funded by loyal local advertisers and a Togswap sale twice a year. Details can be found inside the magazine.

If you would like a copy of the LINK magazine each quarter, why not take out an annual subscription? Send a cheque/postal order made payable to LINK for £2.50 to: LINK, 74, Hunter Hill Road, Sheffield. S11 8UE You will then receive the next 4 issues as they are published.

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continued from page 1.....

at Coldicote, Hertfordshire as a kitchen garden journeyman".

Bothies were lodging houses for young gardeners on big estates which were overseen by a foreman who organised the workers, depending on age and experience, to tasks in the kitchen garden, pleasure garden or glass-houses. On his return to Sheffield, Reg was employed as "second man" at Lady Mappin's residence on Fullwood Road. He was there in April 1939, when, at the age of nineteen, he was called up into the Territorial Army.

Reg tells the story. "We went down to Edmund Road. We all queued up outside; a beautiful morning it were, I remember. There were all the sweethearts there and mothers crying and such like; a sad time. We passed through the doctors and we received our bounty money which was £5 and came out. We thought we were going a long way; they put us in coaches and we finished up at Parkhead House!"

From there Reg was sent on an advance party to Knowle Green House, Dore. He relives that moment. "It was a gorgeous house standing at the end of Newfield Lane. The thing that I saw that struck me more than anything was a beautiful fireplace just inside the door. There were lovely parquet floors and the whole place was spotless. The lady was handing it over to the military, you see." The name of the lady cannot be recalled.

The territorials soon settled in and when heavy snowfalls prevented the ration lorry from getting up Townhead Road Farmer Greaves and Jo Andrews tried to force a way through with a horse plough. The whole army group were commandeered to help the Yorks and Lancs dig out a train that had got stuck in a snow drift at the Woodhead Tunnel.

In a gesture of friendship the people of Dore laid on a hot sausage and mash supper



Reg Skelton today

for the soldiers which was held at the British Legion, now the Dore Club premises. Reg laughs at the memory of this. "The beer was poured straight from the barrel into enamel jugs and they were ladling this beer out from jugs into pots. The officer was called Hall, only a young lad in his twenties, and the sergeant was drunk; they'd been putting whisky into him!"

It would seem that while the men were staggering back to Knowle Green, Reg slipped away to meet his new sweetheart Winnie Wallis outside the corner shop and just managed to get back before roll-call. "I remember running across this field in the bloomin' snow and sludge and jumping through this window, getting into bed and covering meself up with all the uniform, hobnail boots and all lot on, when roll-call came."

Life was fun for the handsome, young Gunner Skelton, especially on off-duty Friday nights. In the Hare and Hounds Mrs Clarke, the landlady used to entertain the lads by playing the piano and in The Devonshire Arms Ted Thorpe always gave them a good welcome. Reg declares "The people of Dore were absolutely marvellous, you know!" And at the end of the evening "We all finished up in the little wooden chip shop. The blackout was on and when you went in it was like hell's kitchen with all the steam coming out."

In May 1940 Reg's battery was moved from Knowle Green to a disused cotton mill in Edale to prepare them for active service in France. However, events took a different turn and on the 29th May 1940 began the evacuation of thousands of British and French troops from the French port of Dunkirk. Reg remembers vividly. "Two or three hundred came to us, straight off the beaches. There was every regiment under the sun. When I first saw them my heart nearly dropped. I'd never seen such ragamuffin people in all my life! Some of them were still wet from coming off the beaches!" From then on "Things began to get serious. We were ready for invasion."

Reg had several postings along the east coast and then was sent to India to prepare for fighting in Burma. Before he left, Reg and Winnie were married in Christchurch

Dore on the 30th April 1942. They were not to see each other again for nearly four years! Winnie joined the Land Army working hard at Moorside Farm, Long Line to help feed the nation.

After the war Reg and Winnie, like many young couples, had to live with Winnie's parents at 3 Wilson Hill (top of Savage Lane) until a house came up on Devonshire Terrace Road, where Reg still lives. He resumed his horticultural career at Wagwood House, Newfield Lane where he became head gardener and remained for over thirty years.

He was responsible for planting the rhododendrons and azaleas along with the thousands of bulbs which produced such a wonderful display when Wagwood House held its annual Spring Open Day. Reg reports that Gillian, the daughter of the owners Mr and Mrs Taudevin used to say "It's not a house with a garden, it's a garden with a house!"

Reg's expertise soon got him involved with the Fellowship of the Services Shows at Ringinglow and ploughing match shows at Topley. When Dore Show was starting up he was asked to organise the schedule and judge the vegetable entries. He served on the committee for many years and donated the Skelton Cup for the best overall winner. He is a highly respected show judge throughout the South Yorkshire area.

Besides Winnie and gardening the other love in Reg's life has been singing. He is a founder member of the Dore Male Voice Choir and still sings as a second tenor. Reg explains "About six or eight of us got together in the Fellowship. We used to practice and pay seven shillings a week for a back room at the church hall. Reg Monks was a tenor, John Walker a bass and Roy Green played the piano." By the time the group had grown to over fourteen members Brian Jarvis had found a conductor from Felling and the Dore Male Voice Choir was born in 1964.

Throughout the 65 years that he has lived in the village Reg has known many of its legendary characters, such as Frankie Fisher, herdsman at Frith's Croft House Farm who slept over the cows and drank halves in the Hare and Hounds. He remembers with affection Sammy and Billy Thorpe, Oliver Gill coalman, Mr. Mace postmaster, Mrs Mace's brother, little Stanley Unwin and, of course, Frank Clarke, landlord and benefactor and has tales to tell about them all. He can entertain the ladies of the lunch club with his warm and humorous reminiscences of people they all knew well or he can captivate a group of youngsters at Dore Primary School with his vivid memories of war.

Reg can cheer us up on a dull day with the sight of the bright yellow stars of his winter jasmine and colourful pansies grown from his own seed or surprise us in the summer with the vibrant display of his hanging baskets and window boxes. But then, he does know a bit about gardening!!

*Maureen Cope
Dore Oral History Group*

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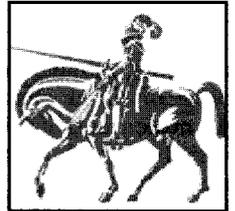
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A parson's puzzle

While delving among local archives recently I came across a puzzling plan of Dore. The puzzle: what part of Dore does it represent?

Here's the background. In 1923 the secretary of the Queen Anne's Bounty (QAB) Office sent to the vicar, Revd W.R. Gibson, a checklist of church lands together with this plan. Originally set up in 1704 to redistribute, through taxation, part of the income of richer clergy to poorer ones, QAB made grants of £200 to parishes, to be invested in land. The rent would then increase the incumbent's stipend.

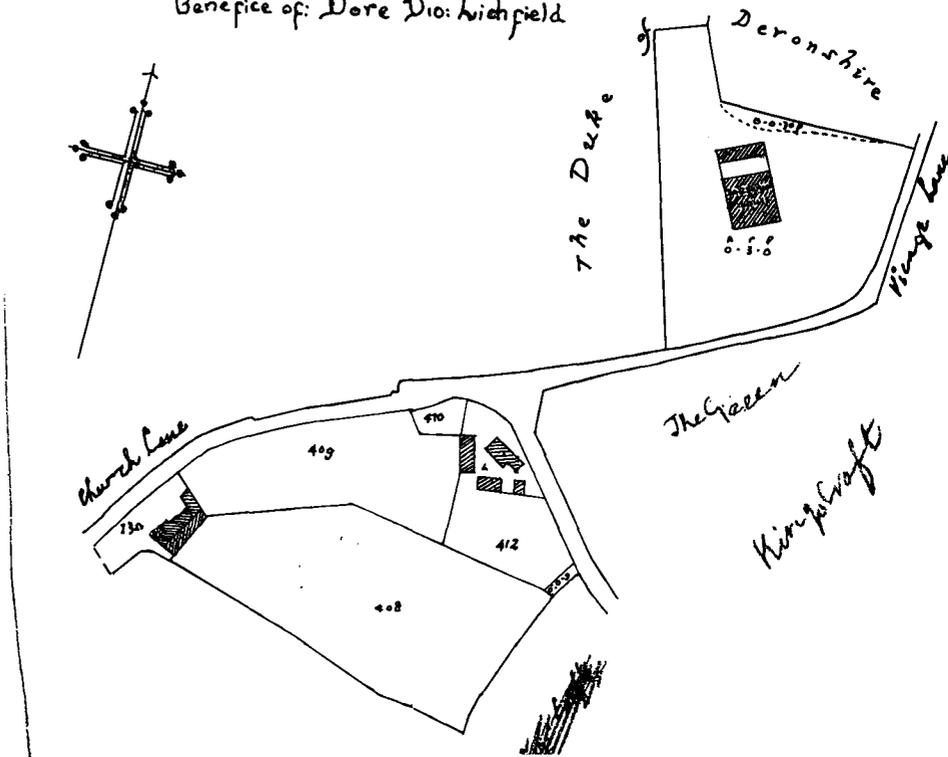
We take up the story locally in the 1840s. This was a time of sweeping reforms in the Church of England, including the creation of new parishes and building of parsonages. Dore's new church had been built in 1829. Now Dore would have a new parish and a new parsonage to go with it.

In 1840 Revd John Parker, Revd Frank Parker's curate, reported to the Bounty Office that a public subscription to erect a parsonage had raised £425. The estimate was £600, the local working people were unable to give more, and so he asked for assistance. In 1841 the Governors of QAB made a grant of £200. Much as nowadays, the estimate turned out to be too low, though only by one third.

William Spencer, Duke of Devonshire, donated the site. Subsequently Earl Fitzwilliam, the patron, gave him £200 for land at Knowle Green to augment the benefice income, thus facilitating a matching grant from QAB for a further £200. Meanwhile Frank Parker had died, so John never occupied the parsonage. Richard Martin, Dore's first resident incumbent, installed his family there in 1841.

These transactions were formally rounded off by a conveyance of the lands from the Duke to the QAB Governors on 3 June 1843, and we are told that the plan reproduced here was on the deed in 1923. The copy is on linen, 23 x 19cm. On the building at top right, in tiny letters, are the words *Parsonage House*. But poor old Vicar Gibson was obviously confused, and

Copy of Plan on deed of Benefaction dated 3rd June 1843
Benefice of: Dore Dio: highfield



probably had to have two goes at making sense of it.

On the left-hand side of the plan, along the road, Gibson has written in ink *Church Lane* and on the right *Vicarage Lane*. At the bottom he originally wrote *Kings Croft* but this is heavily crossed out in pencil. On the lower right quarter of the plan he (or possibly someone else) has faintly pencilled in *The Green*, and below it *Kings Croft*.

Can you do any better? I assure you that I have not doctored the plan in any way except by reducing it. I ought to add, though, that "Where in Dore is this?" is a bit of a trick question. You may well smell a rat, or perhaps a red herring. If you want a clue, consider where and what the buildings in the centre are.

John Dunstan

Ed. Solution in our next issue.

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

T.O.A.D.S

Our next production won the Laurence Olivier award for Best Comedy when it was first produced on the London Stage in 1998, so it should make you laugh. Written by Michael Frayn, it is "Alarms and Excursions", more plays than one as he says. In fact it is a series of short plays, two of them connected, but all having the same theme - examining the difficulties modern technology has added to life. Who has not come across a so-called "must-have" labour saving device that they cannot operate, or, when it goes wrong, cannot find the all-important instructions? The results are hilarious for the audience, so do come along for a good evening out. It will be a headache for the stage construction team, but they are always moaning about wanting a challenge, so here it is.

Hopefully we shall have red and white wine on offer as well as coffee, as the trial run in November went well and was much appreciated. Which reminds me:- a big thank you to all the people who put an their anoraks and big boots to walk to the show on the Thursday and Friday evenings in the snow and ice, and a thank you for the £58.50 raised in the bucket for Children in Need on the Friday evening too. It was in the Halifax the next morning. Hopefully the weather in May will be much better!!

So the dates for your diary are Wednesday to Saturday, May 11th to 14th, at St John's Church Hall, Abbeydale Rd. South at 7.30.p.m. Tickets from me, Kate Reynolds on 236 6891 or any other member you know. Still £3 or £2.50 concessions.

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Farming notes

This winter's got to be one of the wettest for years. You don't need a rain gauge to know that, just a pair of wellies, by the time you've walked across a few fields you've got half of them stuck to your boots. The chief problem for the livestock farmer is getting the cow muck out of the yard, the tractor makes huge great ruts all over the place, and any stock outside turn the whole field into mud. The other feature this winter has been the gales, with several big branches coming off. There's a fine old oak in the field at the bottom of Old Hay Lane come down.

Whether all this is an indication of climate change due to human activity I'm personally very doubtful, there's a lot of very iffy science being put out as if it's hard fact, but governments are never slow to grab an excuse to put up taxes. The only thing that's the same about our weather is that every year's, different though it's true we've not had any snow to speak of for several years.

30 years ago we had a contract with the council for snow clearing. They supplied a snowplough that fitted on the front of the tractor and then rang us up when a snowfall was forecast and told us to stand by, then a few hours later we'd be off out. In the old days we had a little David Brown Cropmaster without a cab and it wasn't much fun driving around in thick snow, but it brought in a bit of useful cash.

There weren't many years when we didn't have at least a fortnight's snowploughing. Now even when it does snow it's got to be knee deep before they call you out, I guess they're economising. It'd be interesting to know how much the council's saved over the last five years on snowploughing.

We're still getting the frosts but they seem to be earlier. When we used to keep turkeys for Christmas we wanted cold weather in the weeks before Christmas to keep them cool, but it was amazing how often we got a mild spell at just the wrong time, but for

the last few years we've had frosty Christmas's. And of course this year was a proper white Christmas.

We always used to reckon that February was the worst month, but of late, hard frosts have been over by the end of January. If this trend continues I for one am not complaining. Farmers on this side of Sheffield have had to compete with farmers in the lowland areas who have a growing season that starts a month earlier.

In the past this handicap has been recognised in the Hill Farm Compensatory Payments and Less Favoured Areas schemes, but now all these have come to an end with the reform of the CAP. What long term effect this will have remains to be seen, but in essence, farmers in future will be paid a subsidy based on previous subsidy payments that have nothing to do with what they are producing now.

The new word is decoupling, payment is decoupled from production. I don't know whether that word is in the dictionary yet but Microsoft Word puts a squiggly red line under it. The new system is called the single payment scheme. In it the word farmer has been replaced with land manager and the word farm has disappeared altogether. The immediate effect it has had is to knock £100 off the price of bull calves in Bakewell Market.

The idea now is that the land manager is supposed to draw up a scheme to keep the countryside looking nice in order to get his CAP payment and Defra have taken on another 3000 staff to implement it. The time honoured feature of a bit rusting machinery in a hedge bottom where it gave up the ghost could be a thing of the past, although maybe a broken a broken down old tractor can be reclassified as a collection of spare parts awaiting use. Joe Rowarth used to say of his pile of old tyres at the bottom of his orchard, "they're not dumped, they're stored". He was ahead of his time.

*Richard Farnsworth
Ryecroft Farm*

Fossil Find

An unusual fossil was unearthed by contractors working on Totley's sewers in January.

Initially they were baffled when their spades struck something solid and cylindrical in the soil beneath Aldam Road. Further investigation revealed a number of giant "tentacles" in the site where a new detention tank is being installed to reduce the risk of flooding in the area. A section of what the crew christened Ollie The Octopus was subsequently removed and the British Geological Survey consulted.

Once experts had examined the evidence, it was established that, rather than a sea-going mollusc, Ollie was a section of root from a plant which grew in the prehistoric equivalent of the mangrove swamps found today around the Amazon or Northern Australia. The plant may have been as high as 150ft as the root still extends 60m underground - and probably remains in the same shape in which it grew millions of years ago before the plant died and was covered by mud.

The fossilised evidence suggests that during the Carboniferous period around 280 to 300 million years ago, Totley was at the heart of a tropical, swampy delta with soft ground ideal for giant ferns - one of the earliest forms of tree to evolve on the planet. Most will have been crushed and carbonised over the millennia to become the coal so important to Yorkshire's heritage. However, examples are found occasionally where the land was once much sandier - such as on the banks of a fast-flowing river or on a beach - and are therefore less likely to alter their composition under the pressure of overlying rock strata.

The contractors team have won a coveted Five-Star Award for the work in Totley and made many friends among the community while improving the local sewerage network. It was a bonus for each of them to be left with a section of Ollie, a unique example of Yorkshire's natural history.

St John's Choir

The Choir, augmented by our singing friends from the area, are to sing a special service of anthems, hymns and readings for Passiontide at 6.30pm on Passion Sunday, March 13th. The anthems will include old favourites. All are invited to join us at St. John's on that evening.

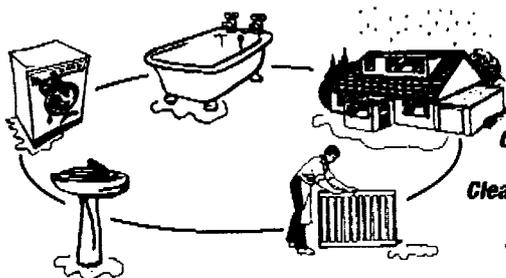
Following this, on May 8th, Ascensiontide, the same singers are to sing Verdi Gloria (in its entirety) and Blest Pair of Sirens by Parry.

If you would like to join us to sing these works then come along to St. John's on a Friday Evening at 8pm to Rehearsals. We have already started these so come as soon as possible. We would especially appreciate some more Tenors!

If you don't sing then come and hear them on May 8th at 6.30pm.

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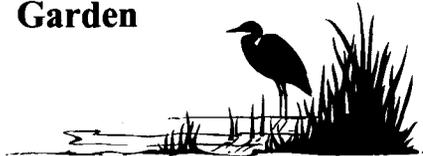
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The Wildlife Garden



When we were at school, I wonder just how many of us could envisage our teachers leading normal lives: they went to football matches; liked to go out for a drink and had children of their own? Even when I was at college, it was difficult to shake off the idea that somehow my lecturers were 'different'. However, I started thinking that I might have been right after all, when one day my botany professor described what he did for his summer holidays. He told us in a tutorial that he had spent every August in his long academic career visiting a particular road-side grass verge and armed with a note-book and quadrat, he would record (with the help of his dotting wife) all the plants that were growing there.

It seemed a decidedly eccentric thing to do and no doubt many of his colleagues thought so too, but how the times have changed. Suddenly, all his carefully collected data and that of countless amateur naturalists who have been recording the date of the first snowdrop poking its head out of the soil, when the frogs start to get amorous in their garden pond or the arrival of the first swallow, is worth its weight in gold. No longer are such phenological records derided as simply being a vestige of 'old-fashioned Victorian science', they are now seen as an important tool in helping us understand how global warming has been affecting our lives and also that of our plants and animals.

However, there are of course some schools of thought, notably American, which consider global warming may not be occurring and even if it is, it might actually

be advantageous for us. The suggestion is that over here in Britain, we could be basking in a Mediterranean climate. Some gardeners would no doubt relish the idea of being able to over-winter bananas and passion flowers outdoors or have geraniums (pelargoniums) dangling from their hanging baskets all year round. But I wonder just how many of us would be quite so enthusiastic about the idea of mosquitoes laying their eggs in our water feature?

These might not be the only pests affected. Mild winters will also favour slugs and snails, and we have always relied on cold temperatures to control the numbers of over-wintering pests, such as aphids. Without 'killing frosts', we can expect aphids to be much more of a problem earlier in the year. From the point of view of our garden birds, this might not be a bad thing as many species feed their fledglings on these insects, but how would such plagues affect our beans and roses?

Even the simplest things in the wildlife garden may have to change. If winters become wetter, then bird food in peanut- and seed-holders will spoil much more rapidly, so to ensure the food doesn't deteriorate, we may have to only put out a little each day and change it more often. Also, how would many of our birds adapt to long, hot summers? You can imagine that martins, swallows and swifts would love this type of weather for the flying insects it ought to encourage, but there again, the birds might not be able to find any mud to build their nests. Other birds which rely on foraging for insects in the soil could struggle if the ground was baked hard for months on end, so would supplementary feeding in summer then become the norm?

Whether or not these and any other changes will actually take place is of course in the lap of the gods (or more likely the American consumer), but what I can guarantee is that there are bound to be some amateur naturalists and even the occasional eccentric scientist who will be recording it all.

You can find more Information on the UK Phenology Network at its website www.phenology.org.uk

Jack Daw

Seventy per cent of car owners have garages, but only 41 per cent of them park their cars there, most using them as a storage space or a utility room instead.

We are sorry to report the death in a speed boat accident in Thailand of Maria Andrea Cerpa, who used to work in ELR estate agents on Townhead Road.

A scheme to display colour coded "energy labels" on new cars has been announced by the Government, as part of a drive to combat the growth in costly to run gas-guzzling 4x4s and luxury cars.

Carriages begat Simply Carriages, begat Browns, begat Supper Club, the latest name for the restaurant next to the garden centre on Abbeydale Road South.

English Heritage says the trend towards gutting pubs, and the "bland branded" look of the big chains, has left fewer than 4% with any pretension to historic value.

Sheffield councillors have been awarded an increase of 5% plus inflation for the next three years by the ruling Labour group, while staff can expect just 2.9% this year.

Friends of Quarry Garden

The Friends of quarry garden at Whirlow will be holding a number of working days in 2005. Forthcoming dates are: Wednesday January 19th; Saturday March 12th; Wednesday May 18th. All at 9.30 am until 12.30 pm.

Work includes path clearing, pruning and general tidying under the supervision of Sheffield Rangers, with all tools provided. No expertise in gardening is necessary. Even an hour or so will help. For further information about the Friends please contact the Secretary Malcolm Jones. Tel 0114 2361113 or e-mail temaljon@tiscali.co.uk.

Folk Trains

Monthly Folk Trains with guest bands run from Sheffield [19.14 but collecting at Dore & Totley 19.22] to Edale.

Refreshments (special beer prices) & more music is available at The Rambler Inn, Edale, then 21.28 return journey arriving at Dore & Totley for 21.52.

22 February. Deepcar Folk

22 March. Robin Garside & The Fiddle People

For up-to-date information ring 266 9532.

Local History Fair

The biennial Sheffield History Fair is taking place this year on Saturday 7th May at the Town Hall, Pinstone Street. Organised by Sheffield Archives & Sheffield local Studies Library, there will be displays by around 40 of the history societies and groups in Sheffield, including Sheffield Galleries & Museums Trust and Sheffield Industrial Museums Trust. Open 10am to 4pm, admission free.

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News in Brief

Redevelopment of the Norfolk Arms at Ringinglow is proposed, with plans to add 17 bedrooms, without which it is argued that the pub will eventually need to close.

The cost of a FirstDay all-day bus pass across the city has gone up to £3 peak time and £2.50 off peak.

The Chatsworth International Horse Trials are on May 14th and 15th this year.

Craig Dent, who retired from the force last year after 41 years as a constable, sergeant and inspector at West Bar, was nominated at the end of the year for a 'Lifetime Achievement in Policing' accolade, at the Police Review Gala Awards 2004 in London.

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The railway navvies

Ed. Unfortunately we do not have space to run the second part of our article on railway navvies in this issue. We will try and fit it in next time. In the meantime it did generate the following interesting correspondence:

Dear Sir,

Your article in the winter issue about railway navvies brought to my mind a little ditty which my Grandma used to sing to my brother and myself when we were small. She was born in 1881, so railway building would be obviously happening in her young lifetime. The song went:-

I'm a little navy, working on the line,
Four and twenty hours, I've been doing overtime,
Roast beef, roast pork, pudding made of egg,
Yes, I'm a little navy with a wooden leg!"

It seems to sum up the basics of their working lives quite succinctly.

Pauline Bell

Dear Sir,

With reference to your interesting article about memories, you may be interested in the following.

My maternal grandfather William Nicholson Liaithwaite, started out as a miner in a pit in Whitehaven, Cumberland, which ran under the sea - his job dealing with inflows of water into the galleries. Apparently around 1895 word went out that they were having trouble from water running into the working of the future Totley tunnel. So he and some of his mates did as you mentioned - tools on their backs walked down to Grindleford. (I still have his stubbing axe).

Now he needed lodgings - my grandmother with 3 teenagers, and a widow

to boot - needed someone to help pay the bills. So they married, walking to Sheffield (Old) Town Hall to do the job. All the three were put to service, but there were 4 girls of this marriage, Frances, Margaret, Mabel and Gladys. How they managed, God only knows.

They lived in a little cottage near the top of the village, opposite a large store. It was Hancocks, then Peak Chemists. The cottage is now demolished. It had 2 small bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen and a coalhouse. My mother Frances used to say that the first up got a matching set of clothes. Incidentally, though my mother assures me that I was named after her step-brother Frank, I soon learned to fight those who jeered at me for being called after my mother.

When William had finished his work on the railway he went to work on the Derwent Dams and on the quarries just through the Surprise View. Of course, by the time I was old enough to appreciate Bill as he was

called by everyone, he was a local odd job man and as I got old enough I used to help him. You'll notice that the road verges from Toads Mouth to the Surprise are bounded by a line of stones. We laid the originals. It was my job to scour the area for stones for him to shape and lay. There isn't a dry stone wall in the Stanage Burbage area that I haven't worked on with him.

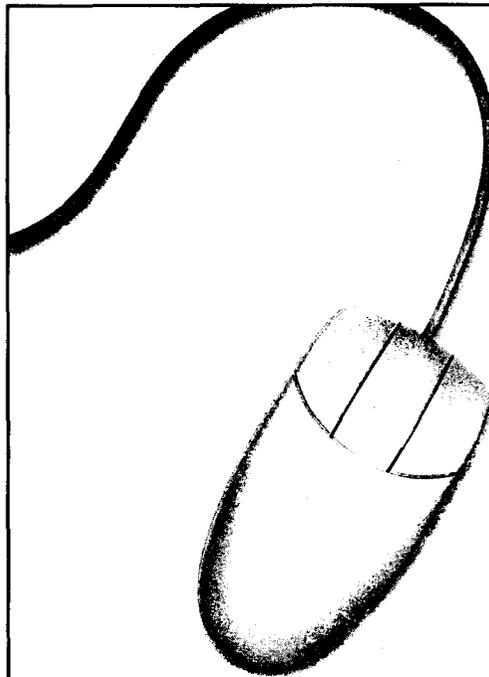
They were extremely poor - so poor that when they couldn't afford meat they had to make do with rabbit, grouse, pheasant, or trout. I learned at a very early age how to knock down a rabbit with a catapult or to tickle the wild trout. He also taught me a misc of country lore. I became the "edicated" one, but his teaching was more valuable to me than any college learning when I became a brickier, and invaluable when I was conscripted into the army. Now, whilst I wait for my 88th birthday to come up and curse my arthritis, I can't help but think of old Bill.

Francis Smith

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Annual Art Exhibition

After a long cold winter of floods and disasters in the world, we can count our blessings and be thankful that we are fortunate to live here in a part of the country where we don't get the sort of extreme conditions that we can't cope with, but our hearts go out to the people who have been left with so little. We, however can all look forward to the coming of spring and sunshine.

With spring comes the Annual Dore Art Show, a lovely thought to brighten up the end of winter and to herald the start the season of events to look forward to in our village in the coming months. This year the show will be held as usual in the Old School on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th April 2005.

Admission is free and as many of you will know refreshments with home made cakes, tea and coffee will be served in nice comfortable surroundings - at reasonable prices. A high standard of paintings in all mediums will be on display to be admired

and purchased at affordable prices.

We very much look forward to seeing old and new friends on either or both days - a treat in store, so do come along and bring your friends.

Connie Bedford, Exhibition Organiser

Refreshing news

Seasons Gallery opened for business just in time for Christmas selling a range of art, jewellery, cards and an extensive range of giftware. Lots of local visitors popped in to see what had happened to the old newsagent's shop near the bottom of Bushey Wood Road, many of them having watched the conversion with great interest over the previous months. Most seemed genuinely surprised and delighted by the transformation. The first artist featured in the gallery was David Humphries from near Beverley, with further displays planned for the Spring range which will be launched in late February.

With new café manager Debbie Bennett in charge, the conservatory café at the rear

of the gallery opened during the last week of January and proved to be an immediate attraction serving a selection of sandwiches, soups, savouries, cakes and pastries.

Charity events

Gaby of Dore is hosting two charity events to help boost the funds of the Cavendish Cancer Centre.

On Thursday 24th February Margaret Watson, Colour and Image Consultant, will host a workshop on what colours, shapes and images we should each be going for as we 'mature'. At the end of the workshop, to be held at Gaby, 32 High Street Dore, there will be an auction of winter clothes.

After the success of the fashion show held by Gaby to raise funds for the Cavendish Centre, another show is being held in March. Due to the demand for tickets last year, this event will be held at Esporta. Come and see the new Spring and Summer range, sip some bubbly and support the Cavendish. Tickets are available at Gaby, Phone 0114 235-6819.



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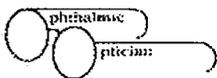
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The red squirrel is extinct!

The red squirrel is extinct! Well not quite, but it might not be very long before this is true in Great Britain. I was asked the other day why we control grey squirrels at Chatsworth. This is the answer.

The red squirrel is the only native tree squirrel in Europe. There are subtle genetic differences between the British and Irish race and those found in the rest of Europe. It is, therefore, very important to conserve our diminishing stock of native red squirrels.

Why is the red squirrel declining in numbers? The answer is because of the alien grey squirrel. The grey squirrel is a small 'game' mammal that occurs naturally in the eastern hardwood forests of North America and was introduced into England just over 100 years ago. However, it is only in the last 30-50 years that its spread has become explosive.

It was 50 years after the first introduction before the connection was made between the expansion of the grey and the diminishing numbers of reds. It is estimated that there are now only 30,000 reds left in England, mainly in Northumberland, but 2,000,000 greys! Why then has the grey been so successful?

Well, firstly, it has no natural predators in Great Britain, although goshawks do take a few. They are much bigger than the native red. They breed twice a year (reds only once), have bigger litters and live twice as long as the red. They are also far less fussy eaters and will capitalise on almost any food source. Crucially, they carry a form of parapox virus which is deadly to reds but does not seem to affect the greys.

As well as replacing our native red, the grey squirrel is the greatest predator of small songbirds, exceeding the damage done by raptors, magpies, crows and even the domestic cat. They also damage trees by bark stripping, sometimes at the base, sometimes in the crown and sometimes from floor to tip. If the damage is not too great the tree can callous over the stripped area. However, rot invariably sets in and degrades the timber. The tree is weakened and can snap off in a wind.

The damage occurs to trees between five and 40 years of age. Sycamore, beech, oak and sweet chestnut are the favoured trees but damage can also be severe on other species such as pine. Spruce, which is native in North America, is seldom touched. Grey squirrels also enter roof spaces and cause considerable damage by gnawing whatever is in the loft, including electric cables.

The threat was recognised as long ago as the 1930s. The Grey Squirrel (Prohibition of Importation and Keeping) Order of 1937 makes it an offence to import grey squirrels into Great Britain, to keep grey squirrels in Great Britain and to turn loose any grey squirrel.

Because of the long growing cycle, it is easy to think that the woods and forests will always be there. However, the mature trees

Battle of the squirrels

A letter from Christine Spencer published in our last issue has stirred up a heated debate amongst readers, with letters and articles sent in, both in defence of and against grey squirrel.

It would seem that entertaining as their antics can be, the damage they cause is largely unseen. We leave readers to reach their own conclusions.

that you see today grew up without grey squirrels. The younger trees that should be the mature trees of the future are being damaged and killed in ever increasing numbers.

Anybody who walks in Stand Wood cannot fail to see the trees that have had bark stripped, and this is in spite of our management control programme. Ten years ago we were taking out 200 greys each year. Now we are taking out 500 each year and the damage to trees, young birds and the woodland biodiversity is still increasing.

In any part of England, you only have to look across a valley at a wooded hillside during June to August to see brown leaves in the tree crowns amidst all the greenery. That is grey squirrel damage. The Forest Commission's research department has stated that the grey squirrel is the biggest threat to Europe's future woodlands.

The future of beech in the Chilterns is now seriously in doubt. Woodland owners are not planting any more beech and the naturally seeded trees are being destroyed as fast as they appear. In the Forest of Dean, oak is being damaged to such an extent, and the young trees that should be the future timber crop are so few, that the experts predict the species demise within the next 100 years. Many foresters have welcomed the National and Community Forest initiatives but are equally concerned about the almost certain devastation which grey squirrels will produce as the trees become teenagers.

Many people enjoy the grey squirrel's presence in parks, gardens and woods. However, the furry little animal's innocent looking profile belies a vicious and destructive nature. It is an environmental catastrophe that the Government is just not taking seriously. We are in danger of being remembered as the generation who sat back and watched our natural heritage destroyed and did nothing about it. If the fragile existence of the red squirrel and the accompanying woodland biodiversity are to survive and thrive, eradication of the grey squirrel is the only option. That is why we, and many other private estates, have a grey squirrel control programme.

Geoff Machin, Head Forester

Ed. This article first appeared in the annual newsletter for the Chatsworth Estate and is reproduced with their kind permission.

In defence of the grey squirrel

Dear Sir,

Unwanted humans. I feel I have to write in response to Christine Spencer's letter regarding the shocking activities of some residents of Dore against squirrels. A friend of mine told me the other day of a lady in Millhouses who also traps squirrels in a cage, drowns them and then dumps their bodies in Derbyshire. All this cruelty in response to the apparent event of squirrels nesting in her roof some time ago and eating her electricity cables.

To be so cruel is unnecessary. Firstly, it is unlikely that squirrels will nest in a house roof where there is the choice of nesting in a tree instead. If you are worried about squirrels nesting in your roof, perhaps you should plant a tree! Secondly, squirrels don't eat cables. Have you noticed how they chew the wood on a bird feeder to get to the food and not the wire mesh? If you have something nesting in your roof that eats cables, perhaps you should consider that it could be rats. This brings me to my third point. Squirrels are rodents, but are not more related to rats than hamsters, gerbils, guinea-pigs, etc. They do not mate with rats, and they do not carry diseases like rats. They do not eat household waste, or live in sewers.

The other burning issue is red squirrels. It is popularly believed that grey squirrels caused the demise of the red in much of Britain. Grey squirrels carry a virus that is fatal to reds. However, it is worth realising that grey squirrels do not know this and do not go around deliberately infecting red squirrel populations. It is also worth noting that the red squirrel was under threat before the grey squirrel was introduced. The reduction in their numbers has been for a variety of reasons: red squirrels cannot digest acorns easily, and therefore do not thrive in deciduous forest that contains no coniferous trees. Therefore, in deciduous forest reds are weaker than grey squirrels in terms of immunity.

Unlike grey squirrels, red squirrels do not like strong light and therefore try to avoid as much as possible clearings and roads. They thus tend to stay in one area of woodland. Increasing deforestation has meant that woodland they might inhabit has become less in area, causing them to run out of food. In addition, red squirrels are tree dwellers more than their grey cousins and therefore have failed to adapt to the increasing sporadic forested area man has created for them. There are areas in the US, and the Lake District where grey and red squirrels cohabit harmoniously, seemingly without interbreeding. It is not surprising to note that these areas are vast forests, largely untouched by man.

It would be lovely to suggest re-introducing the red squirrel to much of Britain, but is also worth noting that much of Britain has lost its vast forests. A small woodland like Ecclesall Woods divided by busy roads would soon run out of food to support a red squirrel population. Evidence

of this is that the grey squirrels from the woods have to search gardens for food - and get murdered for their trouble. Red squirrels would be unlikely to emerge from the woods for food and would therefore perish once more.

It is amazing any animal survives human interference. So, the next time you see a grey squirrel in your garden, admire its strength to adapt and consider that because of us it is the only squirrel we have left; and were it not for its introduction, we would have no squirrels at all.

Jennifer Henderson

NHS Foundation Trust

Would you like to be a member of the new Foundation Trust? No thanks, if I need to go to hospital, I'll see my GP and he'll advise me

Well, it's not quite like that. Let me explain. The Government has brought in a different system of running hospitals - don't say, What, again? - and a number of NHS Trusts in the country have been given this new Foundation status.

One of these is Sheffield Teaching Hospitals Trust covering The Northern General, Royal Hallamshire, Jessop Wing, Western Park and Dental Hospitals. Instead of being directly responsible to the Department of Health, a Foundation Trust is run by a local Governors Council, responsible for overseeing and advising on

the strategic direction of the Trust and on priorities. It will hold the Board of Directors to account and seek to ensure the continued success of the Trust through effective management, partnership working and maintaining NHS values and principles.

There are three types of Governor - Staff, Patient and Public Governors and it is the third of these who are of specific interest to local residents. They are elected from people who enrol as Members of the new Trust, with membership available to adults who live in Sheffield. Patient Members are those who have been a patient in one of the hospitals in the past five years.

Membership involves taking an interest in one's local hospitals, receiving regular information of their activities by News Letters, being kept up to date on the changes which are taking place locally and participating in various Health Information activities which are arranged.

An important role of Public Governors is to act as an information link between members of the public and staff of the Trust, passing on comments, suggestions or problems where appropriate, or indicating how best these can be brought to the attention of the relevant Department. I therefore urge all readers to become Members of the Foundation Trust, and I also offer my availability for any of the points made above which I can pass forward from local residents.

I was elected a Public Governor last April and propose to stand again this year, being

in the fortunate position of having worked in the local Sheffield Hospitals since 1965 as a medical teacher and thus having a working knowledge of the NHS and University of Sheffield.

Philip Seager

Ed. If you would like an application form for membership you can contact Philip on 0114 236 1925 or by E-mail at pseager@btinternet.com

Graves Art Gallery

The Graves Art Gallery houses the city's collection of 20th century European art including Picasso, Cezanne and Stanley Spencer. In addition the gallery hosts a first class programme of exhibitions from artists both contemporary and internationally renowned. There is also a family gallery, where both adults and children can discover more about art through a selection of books and magazines on display.

The gallery shop boasts an extensive range of quality greeting cards as well as artists materials if you would prefer to make your own! Whether you want to just relax and refresh in the cafe or find out about the paintings by using the free audio guide, there are plenty of reasons to visit and return to the Graves Art Gallery on Surrey Street.

Admission is free. Opening times are: Monday - Saturday 10am - 5pm. Tel: 0114 278 2600

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(from OFSTED inspection report, December 1999)

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Book Reviews

Sheffield Wednesday, illustrating the Greats is a must for all Owls fans and followers of the beautiful game. Over the years the team have had some wonderfully talented players, the careers of which are detailed, covering the period from the 30s to the 1990s. Each of 36 player descriptions is illustrated where appropriate with cigarette cards. But it is the outstanding drawings, each with facsimile signatures of the player, that make the book stand out. There are also details of 5 managers and some players who nearly made the list. Author Michael Liversage and artist Gary Mackender are true 'Wednesdayites', and this book is a testament to their love of the beautiful game. Published by Pickard Communication in a 96 page A4 colour format, price £12.99 ISBN 0-9547264-5-6

It is hard to imagine today, but for most of its history the Derbyshire village of Dore lay on a route from Totley to Whirlow and hence to Ecclesall, at one time part of the larger Manor of Hallamshire. Although over the county and ecclesiastical boundaries marked by the Limb Brook, Whirlow shared much of its historical evolution with Dore making the reprint of Shirley Frost's *Whirlow - the story of an ancient Sheffield Hamlet* an interesting adjunct to more local historical studies. Written around six locations within Whirlow, the book charts the history of the areas development illustrated by some sixty fascinating black and white photographs and reproduction maps. There are interesting stories about personalities as well as the history of past houses such as Whinfell. Published by Northend Ltd in A5 format, available from local bookshops.

The building of the Derwent valley dams in the early part of the last century were major engineering works in their own right, destined to dominate the landscape and provide their own contribution to local history. *Howden and Derwent, the building of the upper dams*, details the history to

their development and illustrates the construction with a host of old black and white photographs and diagrams. Its sister publication *Memories of Tin Town*, looks at some of the social implications, with the housing of almost 1,000 navvies and their families in Birchinlee, the ghost town of its title. Again illustrated with fascinating black and white photographs capturing a way of life now hard to imagine. Both 43 page books are published by Northend Ltd, each priced at £3.99 and are available from local bookshops or by phoning 0800 834920.

There are plenty of walking guides to the Peak District, but a new book *Brill Walks in the Peak*, sets out to be a little different. Twelve circular walks of 3 to 14km are centred on four locations, Eyam, Grindleford, Ashford on the Water and Hathersage. Each of the four sections starts with a carefully researched story from a fictional character, telling their tale as set in an interesting time in their village's history. Each walk has a map and clear instructions with essential information on starting point, maps, refreshments and the terrain. There are notes on items of interest along the way and colour photographs. Written by Freda Bowman and volunteer park ranger Bob Brill this weather resistant publication runs to 72 pages, price £7.99 and is published by Northend Ltd ISBN 0-901100-55-2.

There can be few readers who will not have visited York and enjoyed the experience, despite the tourist crowds in summer. The city is steeped in history which, two new books can help us explore. *Roman York* by Patrick Ottaway draws on the extensive archeological excavations of recent years to explain and illustrate the development of the Roman settlement, from fortress to capital of northern Britain. So important was Eboracum that two Roman emperors died there, but eventually this importance faded and by the fifth century we are left with a heritage of Romans street patterns lasting through the medieval period up to today. The book is amply illustrated showing excavations, many finds and

reconstructions. Published by Tempus Publishing in paperback, 158 pages, price £17.99 ISBN 0-7524-2916-7

Treasures of York follows a more populist format, written by authors working for the York Archeological Trust. So many remarkable finds from pre-Roman to the post Medieval period have been discovered, that the problem is how to present them. This book takes the novel approach of grouping find by use, from Hearth and Home, through craft, weapons, to death and ritual. Full of colour photographs, drawings, descriptions and explanations, the book succeeds in capturing the sheer scale and wealth of artifacts and the key they provide to life in the past. Published by Landmark Publishing in hardback, 176 pages, price £19.95 ISBN 1-84306-144-9

HFT update

The new beginnings for HFT (formally known as the Home Farm Trust) - residents and staff at Sheffield, are progressing well. Two houses are being converted; one in South-West Sheffield, and the other on the outskirts of Chesterfield. When these are ready, hopefully in late spring, the remaining people with learning disabilities currently living at Fairthorn will be moving into their new homes.

The people who have moved already are thoroughly enjoying their new surroundings, living in a home they can call their own, with easy access to local amenities is making a big difference to their quality of life.

The new HFT office base, will be in central Sheffield, and day services will continue to be organised from community venues across Sheffield and North Derbyshire. Raising funds continues to be a high priority, and the charitable support received from community groups in Dore and further a field helps to ensure that HFT provides the best quality of life for the people who use our services. We are delighted to have the support of The Rotary Club of Hallam, their members are busy organising a concert with The Dore Male Voice Choir, in aid of HFT Sheffield. The date is Saturday 10th September, and the venue is Ranmoor Church. It's a great opportunity to support HFT and your local choir. We are hoping for a sell out performance.

Sue Cooke - Regional Fund Development Manager
Tel 01904 789131
email sue.cooke@hft.org.uk

Lost a cat?

If you have lost a cat and think it may have been run over, you can check with Streetforce who keep a record of road traffic victims collected by its staff or the police. Just call 273 4567 during normal office hours. It is also worth contacting local Vets and the RSPCA.

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Little John's Grave

On an excellent walk, led by David Heslop in October, we were passing through Hathersage Churchyard when the sexton saw us pause at 'Little John's Grave'. His story of Robin Hood's right-hand man beguiled many of the group so I thought that the oldest reference to Little John's connection with Hathersage known to me would be of interest.

William Wood, gent of Eyam, published his "Tales and Traditions of the High Peak of Derbyshire" in 1883 and says that in 1652, Little John's bow and cap were seen to be hanging in Hathersage Church, by Mr Ashmore and mentioned in a paper in the Oxford Museum. I offer no comment to avoid the risk of offending the residents of this historic village.

Ashmore wrote that Little John was said to have fought under Simon De Montfort and his rebellious barons at the Battle of Evesham 1265. After their defeat by Edward I great slaughter of the rebels took place and those who escaped found refuge in the vast tracts of dense forest that covered England at that time.

Little John, having arrived in our locality, struck up a friendship with Robin Hood, a native of Loxely, who had also been at Evesham under De Montfort. Their exploits have entertained us all for years in story, film and even pantomime.

When Robin Hood died, Little John buried him in Kirklees, Yorkshire, and made his way into Derbyshire where he was born. On approaching Hathersage and its valley setting, he decided that here was the place he would die. Entering the cottage nearest to the Hathersage Church he died forthwith and his cap and bow were later hung in the church. One would suppose that the local people of those days would have no love for their lords and masters and



would favour the rebels.

Two stones, 4 yards apart mark the grave of Little John. In 1784 it was examined at a greater depth than it had been before and a thigh bone of 30 inches long disinterred and carried away by the same person who took the cap from the church.

Such are the facts and the legend. They do not invalidate the belief in the outlaw being buried at Hathersage. Certainly successive generations of villagers have believed it!

Pat Pryor

Apex Players

The next Apex Players play will be "Three Times A Day After Meals" a comedy by Paul Cambell and Stephen Doyle. It runs from 26-28 May, 7.30pm at the Library Theatre.

Tickets £5 and £4. Box office: 0114 269 3329 or visit the website for details: www.apexplayers.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk

Day of Prayer

The Women's World Day of Prayer will be held on Friday 4th March at Totley Rise Methodist Chapel commencing 10am. The Speaker will be Dr. Marion Jepson. This year's theme is from Poland: "Let Our Light Shine". Refreshments will follow.

Mrs Gillian Moore

Wyvern Walkers

Some 89 people joined the Wassail Walk on Monday 27th December. An enjoyable walk up Blackamoor was followed by hot mince pies and a glass of punch at the Old School.

The Dore Village Society offers a regular programme of guided local walks through its 'Wyvern Walkers' group. Walks are usually between 5 and 6 miles long. Forthcoming walks are:

Sunday 20th February. Meet 9.30am at Dore Old School for a walk around Calver, Curbar & Baslow.

Friday 11th March. Meet 9.30am at Dore Old School for a walk taking in Padley Gorge and the edge of Hathersage.

Saturday 2nd April. A longer 7 mile walk - bring a packed lunch and train fare. Meet 9am at Dore Old School, then by train to Edale, walking back to Hope & train home.

Thursday 21st April. Meet 9.30am at Dore Old School for a walk From Millthorpe including Shillito Wood, Big Moor & Ramsey Moor.

Challenge walk

John Merrill, one of the world's most prolific walkers and author, has created a new trail in Derbyshire in memory of his long-time partner, Jennifer, who died in June last year. The 23-mile challenge walk follows part of the beautiful High Peak Trail from Longcliffe and explores several limestone villages. The challenge is to walk it in 12 hours, but there is no objection to you taking a weekend over it! The guidebook costs £6. £1 goes to The National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society, the disease that Jennifer suffered from for many years. Call 01629 540991.

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View from KES

New school building and the move

The building work is progressing well and on schedule. It is anticipated that most of the work on the building (construction, services, decorating and fitted furniture) will be completed by the beginning of March. The new building will be ready to move into over the Easter holiday. When we return in April, there will still be a lot of work to do. The two old buildings (Wessex and Mercia) will be demolished, and the work on the new site will be completed – pitches and courts, play areas, car parking and landscaping. This should all be complete by the end of 2005.

We are often asked what will happen to the Mercia site. The building will be demolished and the land will be sold for housing development. This has always been part of the City Council's long-term planning arrangements. Building will only take place on the existing 'footprint' of the Mercia site. The playing fields will remain for school use and will not be developed.

We have been getting to know the new building through numerous site visits, and we will continue to do this during the coming term so we are familiar with it when we move in. Pupils will be shown pictures and plans in assemblies to help familiarise them with the layout of the new school, and they will have an induction session as part of the 'phased return' in April.

The whole PFI (Private Finance Initiative) process has taken enormous amounts of time, particularly on the part of the Headteacher and Senior Staff. Governors have also been closely involved in the development, with a sub-committee working on financial and facilities management aspects. When we move in, the buildings will be managed and maintained by a facilities management company called

the 'Mitie PFI'. They will be responsible for the day to day caretaking, maintenance and cleaning of the buildings, together with operating the dining facilities. They will also have the use of the facilities for private lettings out of school hours. We have already begun to meet with Mitie to plan how we will work together. It is important to note that Mitie's proposals for things such as catering and lettings must be approved by the Headteacher and Governors.

We have managed to secure considerable funding to provide additional equipment for the new school that would not ordinarily be included in a PFI school. Governors have authorised the expenditure of around £400k on new ICT equipment (computers, scanners, plasma screens, inter-active whiteboards, software, etc). This is additional to our existing provision, some of which will transfer to the new school. Around £200k is being spent on the infrastructure including an IP based telephone system. The ICT network will be a wireless system with fast broadband internet access.

Most classrooms will have an interactive whiteboard and most departments will have a computer room of their own (smaller departments will share one). This is in addition to four dedicated ICT rooms. There will be a full-sized sports hall in addition to a large gym with excellent provision for outside sports, including an all-weather surface. There will be a well-equipped drama studio, and the music rooms will include a recording studio. We truly believe that the new school will be one of the best equipped schools in the country.

We have set up two working groups to deal with the planning and preparation required for the move. One, headed by myself, is dealing with issues to do with physically moving from the existing buildings to the new school. All furniture and fittings will be new, but teaching resources (books, stationery, equipment etc.) has to be transferred. This involves inventorying and packing everything, moving it to the new building and then unpacking. If you think about all the hassles involved in moving house, think about what a massive undertaking moving a whole school will be!

Once we have moved in we will have to get used to new routines. The move will be an opportunity to look at many of our policies and procedures. Mr Eldridge is heading a group looking into all aspects of our operations in the new building. This will include such matters as lunchtime arrangements, timings of the day, lesson change-overs, how pupils circulate, as well as wider issues such as the aims, objectives and ethos of the school. This group will involve governors, parents and pupils.

When we are settled into the new school we intend to have open evenings where we can show the new facilities to parents and the wider community. We also intend to have an official opening when the whole project is completed – this event is likely to be around February 2006.

Christmas charities

During the last few weeks of term we raised money for a local charity – HARC (Homeless and Rootless at Christmas). HARC provides shelter, food and friendship for people in Sheffield who have no home over the Christmas and New Year period (this help is also extended throughout the year). The Christmas Concert was held early in December, following a weekend residential for the orchestra, which provided intensive tuition and rehearsals for many of our musicians (and some from our local primary schools). The concert was without doubt the best that we have had, with the range and standard of music being excellent. If you weren't there, you missed a real treat – so look out for tickets for the summer concerts in July!

On the last Tuesday of term pupils from Y7-Y9 ran a variety of stalls at the 'Christmas Cracker'. The idea of this event is to allow pupils to take responsibility for organising fundraising stalls (sideshows, games, sales of homemade food etc.) and to have fun at the same time.

Staff also raised money through a raffle and a 'Colleagues' Christmas Card' – instead of sending individual cards, staff made a donation and gave one card for a staffroom display of seasonal greetings.

As a result of these events we raised over £700 which we have presented to a representative of HARC in a Y7 assembly.

Adult education classes

Following enrolment at the start of September we now have a number of Adult Education classes running in school. These classes take place every Thursday evening. At the moment we have; Italian, Greek, Spanish, First Aid and ICT classes running. Unfortunately the demand for Asian cooking classes dropped off, although it is hoped we can kick-start this course again, maybe after Easter.

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

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The school was recently awarded 'Investor in People' status. At King Egbert School we have always recognised the importance of having highly skilled and well trained staff (teaching and support) and have invested a great deal of time, effort and money to ensure that this is the case. This belief in the importance of staff development is essential if we are to ensure that the quality of Teaching and Learning remains of the highest standard. The Investors in People award is external recognition of the good work that we do in this area.

If you have any questions to put to me or any comments to make, could you write to me at King Egbert School, Totley Brook Road, Dore, S17 3QU

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Stars in Dore

Astronomers are sometimes concerned with down-to-Earth problems, too. Space is cluttered with debris from deteriorating satellites, rockets and probes. Even the gutters outside our houses are strewn with bacteriological waste and potato peelings washed out from hundreds of dustbins in many villages and towns. Strange, isn't it, that across the country amateurish cleansing services are allowed to wash our dustbins? Almost medieval! This brings us to dirty snowballs.

Comets can be spectacular and several have turned events in history. Yet they are little more than dirty snowballs visiting Earth from Oort's Cloud, several thousand million miles away. We refrain from using billions today although they are common in everyday life with inflation well under way, even if it is well concealed by our politicians. Did you notice the two bloomers recently made by both Colin Powell and Tony Blair? America was pledging 15 bill..... millions straight away to the Tsunami fund. Blair was probably saving taxpayers 50 bill..... millions when he fumbled charmingly, much like Bush, as usual.

Comets contain not only the watery version of ice but also hydrogen sulphide, carbon dioxide, ammonia, hydrogen cyanide and several other unpalatable-ides in solid form. Not an altogether pleasant mixture of chemicals! Just in the last few months a new comet appeared in the Dore skies. Comet Machholz passed almost overhead over Christmas and can still be seen with the naked eye as we write. In early March it passes close by the Pole Star. In April it enters Draco, the constellation that winds around our celestial pole, and then in May it skims across the top of The Big Dipper (The Plough) and plunges below the Plough in June. Binoculars or telescopes are required to see comet Machholz during this chance circumpolar journey. There are many more comets yet to be discovered arriving from the frozen outskirts of the solar system. Don Machholz discovered his comet (he has 10 now to his credit) with only a small homemade 6-inch telescope, but it was from the beautiful summer skies of California.

The two giant planets, Saturn and Jupiter, dominate the skies of Dore throughout the Spring. Venus is so close to the Sun that it is scarcely seen, and will reappear in late summer as an evening star. The ringed planet is still in Gemini and forms an obvious triangle with the two bright stars, Castor and Pollux. With Saturn high (altitude 58 degrees) in the south at around 8pm, Jupiter is just rising almost due east. With a fairly southerly declination Jupiter will not rise higher than 33 degrees at any time during the night, but it out-shines Saturn.

Before we talk about some distant galaxies, we would just point out that Mars is not well placed for observation from Dore. The red planet moves into

Capricornus (April) and into Aquarius (May) and may only be glimpsed as a morning object in late-March to early April. So with Venus and Mars out of the limelight what has Jupiter to offer? These articles have to be written without diagrams and pictures, for a reason best known to the publishers, although Dore's ducks seem to escape the net! Fortunately, Jupiter and Arcturus (the bright star to the planet's left) can help us to find the greatest clustering of galaxies in the entire sky.

Above the line joining Jupiter and Arcturus lies the Virgo Cluster and further up, the Coma Cluster. These vast conglomerations of galaxies and warped space extend in width to tens of millions of light years, and even the nearer of the two Clusters is at a distance of about 50 million light years. The Virgo Cluster has a total mass of about 500 million million solar masses. Little wonder that space is bent! Should the Reader possess a largish telescope and a chart, take a look at the four brightest galaxies, M49, M60, M86 and M87 (the one with the remarkable jet). These are all so-called elliptical galaxies. The more spectacular spiral galaxies are somewhat fainter. With only binoculars we advise readers to look for the beautiful star cluster nearby in the constellation Coma Berenice (the hair of Queen Berenice). She was the consort of Ptolemy III until 221BC. This is worthy of attention, too, consisting of about fifty faintish stars (mag. 4 to 5) loosely scattered across the region. The star cluster is at 260 light years. Even without a telescope, ponder on this spectacular region of the sky. The immense Virgo Cluster, itself, is at the centre of what is called the Local Supercluster, and beyond this lie other superclusters of galaxies.

We must mention the Cassini-Huygens mission to Saturn. On the night after the landing of Huygens on Titan, the sky was clear in Dore early on, so some readers may have been peering up at Saturn. Then it rained. Temperatures are so low on Titan (-180 degrees) that many familiar gases become liquids. At the Earth's arctic extremities temperatures may reach below -50 degrees but this would feel like a summer's day. In fact when Huygens plunged into Titan's atmosphere on 14th January 2005, that strange world had probably not experienced the temperatures reached by the burning heat shield (2000 degrees) since the birth of Saturn's mini-solar system. Heat has been mainly available out there from collisions, and very little from the Sun itself. Some answers about Titan's chemistry should be filtering out from ESA Headquarters nearer the end of the year.

It was uncanny the way the first Titan pictures looked like the view from a plane approaching holiday islands at night, a coastline to a methane sea, roads crossing the hinterland, villa-like blocks by the coast, snow on mountains! Straight lines on a celestial body always surprise us and inspire images of extraterrestrial life. That reminds the writer of those straight lines made by lorry tyres along the bank in

Newfield Lane. The Newfield lines appeared miraculously on Monday 10th January 2005 and have been worked over several times. Preparations for the deruralisation of Dore's beautiful lane? Was it the Developer, the Council or little green men from Titan?

David Andrews

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Diary - Spring 2005

FEBRUARY

- 21 **The restoration of Cromford Mill** talk by Darrell Clark for South Yorkshire Industrial History Society, Kelham Island Museum 7.30pm Tel 230 7693
- 27 **Limb Valley Walk** 3 miles with Sheffield Rangers. Meet 1pm by Whirlow Brook gates. Tel: 283 9195
- 28 **Charity Lunch & Fashion Show** at Baldwins Omega for St.Luke's Hospice Details: 236 9911

MARCH

- 1 **Tear Fund** talk for Christ Church Ladies Group Church Hall, 7.45pm visitors welcome
- 2 **The Time of Our Lives** Talk by Maureen Cope, Dore Oral History Project, 7.30pm Dore Methodist Church Hall. Free entry. Refreshments. Everybody welcome
- 6 **Spring Clean** in Ecclesall Woods with Sheffield Rangers. Meet 1pm in Abbey Lane lay-by. Tel: 283 9195
- 7 **Oscars then and now** Women's Fellowship talk by Rev Chris Kirk 2.30pm Methodist Church Hall
- 8 **AGM** Dore Mercia Townswomen's Guild, 9.30am
- 8 **AGM + Sticks & Stones** talk by Jonathan Wallis on the work of Major Hayman Rooke, Hunter Archaeological Society, Lecture Theatre 9 Arts Tower, University of Sheffield, at 7.30pm. Tel 01246 413496
- 9 **AGM** Dore (A) Townswomen's Guild, at 2pm.
- 12 **Open Day** - Dore oral history group exhibition. Memories of the war and post-war years in Dore, Dore Old School 10am -5pm. Everyone welcome. Admission free. Refreshments available.
- 12 **Health Walk** 6 miles circular from Totlely Library. Assemble 10.15am Details: 283 9195
- 12 **Not Curry Again!** - illustrated talk for Beauchief Environment Group by Peggy Robinson on further travels in India, 7.30 pm, St Peter's Parish Centre, Reney Avenue, Greenhill £2 including refreshments. Tel: 237 7601
- 15 **Well Dressing** talk by Keith & Shirley Thomas for Dore Mercia Townswomen's Guild social studies programme, 9.30am Methodist Church Hall £1 incl coffee
- 15 **Easter Talk** by Rev Chris Kirk for Dore Methodist Church Tuesday Group, Church Hall 7.45pm
- 16 **Ferens Art Gallery, Hull** talk by Kirsten Simister, Sheffield Society for the Encouragement of Art, Tapton Hall, Shore Lane, at 2.30pm. Free admission
- 19 **Chatsworth Dinner** in aid of St.Luke's Details: 236 9911
- 19 **Mass in B Minor** - Sheffield Bach Society, Sheffield Cathedral 7.30pm tickets from 266 1000
- 21 **The final week of Jesus** Women's Fellowship talk by Rev Chris Kirk 2.30pm Methodist Church Hall
- 22 **Reflections on BISRA** - the British Iron & Steel Research Assn . talk by Don Spenceley for South Yorkshire Industrial History Society, Holiday Inn Royal Victoria Hotel, 6pm. Tel 230 7693 8
- 23 **Spring Fair** Lots of stalls 10am - 12noon at Cheshire Home, Mickley Lane
- 27 **Café to Café** 4 mile walk with Rangers to Graves Park. Meet 11am at Whirlow Park café. Tel: 283 9195

APRIL

- 4 **Bring and Buy & Spring Anthology**, Women's Fellowship 2.30pm Methodist Church Hall
- 5 **Whale Watching in Mexico** talk & slides by Rod Amos for Christ Church Ladies Group Church Hall 7.45pm visitors welcome £3
- 8 - 9 **Annual Art Show**, Dore Art Group, Old School, Friday - 2-6pm Saturday - 9.30-5pm 29
- 9 **Health Walk** 5 miles circular around Beauchief. Assemble 10.15am at entrance to Morrison's supermarket car park. Details 283 9195
- 12 **Charity Speaker** at Dore Mercia Townswomen's Guild, 9.30am Dore Church Hall Tel: 235 3275

- 12 **Arab-Israeli Conflict** talk by Linda Hunter for Dore Methodist Church Tuesday Group, Church Hall 7.45pm
- 13 **Weston Park Museum** talk by Miss Jennie Beard for Dore (A) Townswomen's Guild, Dore Old School at 2pm.
- 14 **Let's Charleston** musical entertainment by 'Partytime Productions' 11am - 12noon at Cheshire Home.
- 14 **Luncheon & Talk** at Riber Hall, Matlock. Darrell Clark on the cotton spinning industry and the Arkwrights, Sheffield Society for the Encouragement of Art. For details contact Hedley Oldfield Tel: 236 0941
- 16 **Spring Morning Walk** and bird spotting in Ecclesall Woods for Beauchief Environment Group. Meet 10am in lay-bys on Abbey Lane adjacent to the woods. Approx 2 hrs followed by pub lunch Tel:237 7601
- 16 **Yorkshire Walk for Leonard Cheshire** Tel: 236 7491
- 18 **Radio Fun** Women's Fellowship talk by Mr Kirk from Leicester 2.30pm Methodist Church Hall Open meeting for both men and women
- 18 **Cleveland iron and steel** talk by John Harrison for South Yorkshire Industrial History Society, Kelham Island Museum 7.30pm Tel 230 7693
- 19 **Textiles, Fabric & Thread** talk by Norah Rogerson for Dore Mercia Townswomen's Guild social studies programme, 9.30am Methodist Church Hall £1 incl coffee
- 20 **Lady Butler & Other Battle Artists.** Talk by Paul Usherwood, Sheffield Society for the Encouragement of Art, Tapton Hall, Shore Lane, at 2.30pm. Free admission
- 26 **Glass** talk by Danny Barlow for Dore Methodist Church Tuesday Group, Church Hall 7.45pm

MAY

- 3 **Fashion Show & Sale** Fundraising Evening, Church Ladies Group Church Hall 8pm Tickets £3 tel 236 9743 or 236 0002
- 7 **Sheffield Local History Fair**, Town Hall, Pinstone Street 10am to 4pm. Admission free.
- 9 **Argentina** Women's Fellowship talk with slides by Jean Hodgkinson 2.30pm Methodist Church Hall - all welcome
- 10 **Dynamics of colour** talk by Alison Down for Dore Methodist Church Tuesday Group, Church Hall 7.45pm
- 10 **History Of Holidays** from Roman Times talk by Mrs Patricia Flinders for Dore Mercia Townswomen's Guild, 9.30am Dore Church Hall Tel: 235 3275
- 12 **Highlights of Beauchief** - Guided walk by Beauchief Environment Group incl Beauchief Abbey, Beauchief Hall and gardens and surrounding ancient woodland looking its best in May. Meet 6.30pm by Beauchief Abbey - approx 2 hours, stout footwear recommended. Tel:237 7601
- 16 **Wisewood Forge** - recent investigations. Talk by Richard O'Neill for South Yorkshire Industrial History Society, Kelham Island Museum 7.30pm Tel 230 7693
- 18 **Horatio Nelson; Life & Loves** talk by James Taylor Sheffield Society for the Encouragement of Art, Tapton Hall, Shore Lane at 2.30pm. Free admission to lecture. Light luncheon available 1pm. Tel: 236 0941

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