

DORE to DOOR

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

No. 81 SPRING 2006

ISSN 0965-8912

New Year Honours

Dore residents did exceptionally well in the New Year Honours list. Michael Vaughan, captain of the Ashes winning cricket team last summer, has been appointed OBE. Local councillor Anne Smith, leader of the Conservative Group on Sheffield Council, receives an MBE, Judith Jackson receives an MBE for services to young people and Beryl Seaman a CBE for services to the National Probation Service.

Membership Subs

Enclosed with this issue is a membership renewal form for 2006. 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.

Oral History Collection

In conversation with Peter Bradley

Peter Bradley was born on the 31st October 1930 at what used to be the Beauchief Nursing Home on Abbey Lane. He was the only child of Thomas Bradley and Florence Marshall and was brought up in Lavender Cottage on Townhead Road, which is possibly one of the oldest cottages in Dore. His father was born and brought up on Summer Lane, just off Hillfoot Road in Totley and his mother was born at Farm Cottage, next door to Lavender Cottage, where her parents Fred and Sara lived. She was one of six children. In those days it was known as The Farm, Townhead Road and Peter has many fond memories of being in and out of both houses when he was a child.

His grandfather and great grandfather before him used to farm the land between

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Guy Mitchell's 'Brook House Railway'. Picture supplied by Simon Townsend.

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and lots, lots more	

Ringinglow Fire Station is to be closed, following a decision by the South Yorkshire Fire Authority, and despite a 6,900 name protest petition.

Furniss Avenue development. A planning application has been lodged by Westbury Homes (now Persimmon Homes) to build 89 dwellings, including 9 affordable units, on the site of King Ecgbert Upper School, Furniss Avenue.

Blue Ridge. Local residents are up in arms about proposed changes to the plans for the 'Blue Ridge' site on Ashfurlong Road and to the damage done to what was once a wildlife rich public verge, both by contractors laying new drainage pipes and the developer County Developments.

Cross Lane one-way. In response to overwhelming public opposition, the proposed one-way scheme for Cross Lane/Brickhouse Lane has been deferred by the Planning Board.

Sheffield's 'secret' railway

If you go down to the woods: A brief history of Sheffield's 'secret' railway.

Who could have predicted that in the 21st Century the Rev. Wilbur Awdry's stories about a little blue steam locomotive and his friends would still be all the rage, and that as a result many of Britain's traditional miniature railways would experience a resurgence? The Abbeydale Miniature Railway is no exception. If you already know the 'secret hiding place' of this little gem, then hopefully you'll find the following bit of history interesting. If your family hasn't yet discovered it, instructions are forthcoming!

Model steam locomotives have been made from the time of the invention of the full size ones in the 1840's, often by railway apprentices. Examples can be seen in the National Railway Museum at York, but complete *passenger carrying* miniature railways did not appear in Britain until the early 1900's.

Remarkably, three of the very first were in Sheffield and in particular, one of them was in Dore. It belonged to Guy Mitchell of Brook House, Grove Road - coincidentally only about a mile from the present Abbeydale Miniature Railway and a stone's throw from what was then the Midland Railway's main line from Sheffield to Manchester. Mitchell's 'Brook House Miniature Railway' was built in his back garden and his house was extended to accommodate his coal fired

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Dragons beware!

Dore Village Society will be holding a family dragon hunt around the village on St. George's Day 23rd April, commencing at 2pm.

The event will start and finish at the Old School, be suitable for all ages in family groups, take about an hour, and be supported by refreshments and a small prize for successfully completed entries.

More details will appear nearer the time, but in the meantime put a note in your diary today to come and enjoy the community spirit of our beautiful village.

Tough year ahead

According to the Peak District National Park Authority it is facing a difficult year after "the toughest Government funding settlement in recent years".

Although it needs to save £323,000 to balance its books, it says it can maintain key services and inject extra funding into some priorities. But the authority will not be able to carry out as much conservation and enhancement in the National Park as it would like. There will also be a freeze on recruitment of paid part-time patrol rangers, although volunteer rangers will still be recruited and trained.

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1017051

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

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8 Thornsett Gardens, S17 3PP.

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PUBLISHING DEADLINES:-

Dore to Door is published quarterly in mid February, May, August & 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 page 2 by **Friday 28th April 2006**

Closing the stable door

According to the local press we are being promised greater protection against housing developments on our doorstep.

After numerous cases in which residents have complained about the character of South West Sheffield being eroded, the city council is preparing to tighten planning guidelines. In particular, the authority wants to avoid distinctive large detached houses being demolished to make way for blocks of flats! It would seem that if the properties are not listed for their architectural merit, the council has felt its hands have been tied to a large extent by Government policy that encourages higher density housing development on brownfield, or previously developed, land.

Now a new city-wide development strategy aims to make clear that high density housing will be resisted in the south west of the city to protect the suburbs' character and to reduce road congestion.

It is hoped that this will give councillors more muscle in resisting planning applications, and the authority believes it will get the appropriate support from the Government if developers lodge an appeal.

Whether the objectives stated in the Dore Village Design Statement will be included in the new guidelines remains to be seen. Meanwhile the development of the old King Ecgbert school site looks like going ahead at high density levels. How the village will cope with the extra traffic on Furniss Avenue remains to be seen, as does the question as to whether local schools can absorb the inevitable influx of extra children.

Awareness Month

March is national awareness month for the University of the Third Age (U3A), a campaign to make more people aware of the organisation with 571 U3As and 153,000-plus members in the UK.

One of the best ways to find out more about the U3A is through their national website: www.u3a.org.uk. Click on "U3A Awareness" and you will find an excellent article that tells all about U3A: how they are organised, why they are unique, what to expect, who to contact if you are interested, and even how to start your own U3A. After that check out the information pack that gives some history of the organisation's 24 years of existence, or go to the international links around the world.

Alternatively you can ring the initial enquires officer for Sheffield U3A on 0114 289 1351.

Who was St George?

St George was first regarded as an icon in England in the time of Bede (late 7th century). However, King Richard 1 adopted St George as his own troops' patron during his leadership of the Third Crusade (1189-92).

It was really only in the early 15th century that St George was accepted as more than champion of the soldiery, after Henry V cited George's patronage of all England in his address before the Battle of Agincourt. Until that time, from the late 9th century, the patron saint of England had been St Edmund, King of the East Angles.

The saint in question is now generally accepted to have been a Roman soldier martyred at Lydda in Palestine c AD300, during the persecutions of the Roman Emperor Diocletian.

Archaeology group

Are you interested in archaeology? We are thinking of setting up a group for local people, initially to share enthusiasm, information, ideas but eventually to research, develop and pull together a record of what we know about the surrounding area. Would you, or anyone living locally who you know be interested? If so please contact John Baker on 236 9025 or Stuart Barnes on 236 2661 to find out more.

A Dore Calendar

The Dore Village Society would like to produce a calendar for 2007, featuring pictures of Dore through the seasons.

We would like to use photographs taken by local people. So please get those cameras working and send in your efforts to the Society. In addition to the fame of having your picture selected and acknowledged, there will be free calendars for those submitting the best photographs. Contributions please to any member of the committee on this page.

Editorial & Advertising

Dore to Door is published quarterly by the Dore Village Society and delivered free to over 3,250 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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Burbage's Band of Brothers

Peak District National Park Authority archaeologists are looking for help in tracking down a US army division that trained in the Peak District area during World War 2.

Archaeologist Bill Bevan is surveying Burbage Edge to record all archaeological remains to inform future conservation. One of the important aspects of this is evidence of past military exercises. Boulders scarred by bullets and mortar shells, and foxholes survive below Burbage Edge, near to the Fox House Inn, between Hathersage and Sheffield. They were used during target practice in World War 2. But Bill would like to know who was training here.

Bill said: "From the survey we can tell that the soldiers were practising attacking uphill and assaulting positions on Burbage Edge. We believe that the American army trained on Burbage for a while before the Normandy D-Day landings.

But we're not sure exactly who it was. It may have been one of the Airborne Divisions who landed behind Utah Beach or one of the Infantry Divisions." The 1st Infantry Division landed at Omaha beach, which was flanked by similar cliffs to Burbage Edge and had rising ground behind it.

If anyone has any records or information about the American army in the Peak District during World War 2, or of any other earlier military activity in the area, please write to Bill Bevan at the Peak

District National Park Authority, Aldern House, Baslow Rd, Bakewell, DE45 1AE.

The archaeological survey is being funded by the Moors for the Future Partnership, which is restoring the internationally-important Peak District moors that have been damaged by fires, pollution and erosion. Their website is www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk

Dore Festival

24th June - 9th July 2006

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

The Festival will begin with a local walk following the boundaries of Dore organised by Dore Village Society who will also be arranging a number of walks during the fortnight. The Well Dressing Service is on Sunday 2nd July.

Other popular events will be the play on The Green and a variety of concerts. On Friday 7th July there will be a Jazz Concert, with well known local jazz musician Chris Walker, in the Parish Church.

This years Festival Songs of Praise is in the Methodist Church.

We are sure every event will be as well supported as in previous years and more details will be published during the next few months.

Maureen Cope & Anne Elsdon
Festival Programme
Co-ordinators

Dore Male Voice Choir

The Christmas Concerts in the parish church were again a success with big audiences. £650 was raised towards the improvement work to the Church Hall. As quite a change, solo items were performed by a violinist, Tini Boswell. He played, amongst other items, part of the Vivaldi 'Four Seasons' accompanied by his own orchestra (on CD) with all the orchestra parts played by himself - quite a feat.

The Choir is rehearsing a new repertoire for the Annual Gala Concert on 1st April at Ecclesall Church. The Lord Mayor will again be our special guest. The Choir has a full programme for the 2006 season with concerts in Dore, Fulwood and Derbyshire. In June we will be singing in Rugby School; and in September 20 Choir members will be joining Wigston Male Voice Choir for a weeks tour to Jersey.

In recent months we have had a number of new members. We are always looking for new voices. So if you enjoy singing, and most people do, why not come along to one of our rehearsals and see if you could take to it. You can just come along and listen if you wish. The choir meet on Thursdays at 7.15pm at the Church Hall. It's well worth a visit. If you are at all interested I suggest you contact me on 236 5043, to hear more about it. Or just turn up on a Thursday. You will be most welcome.

David Heslop

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www.dorevillage.co.uk

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Sewer renewal

In January contractors for Yorkshire Water undertook renewal work to the sewer line which runs underneath the bridleway from Limb Lane to Ryecroft Bridge, within Ecclesall Woods. This involved re-lining the pipeline - no excavation was necessary. It proved quite a crafty process.

First they clean out the pipe. They sent a huge tanker down the footpath driven by a young lad who they'd told he could turn round at the bottom of the path. Of course he couldn't and got stuck. He came round to the farm for a tow out. By this time it was dark so we told him to wait till morning. He said he'd have to sleep in the cab because he was from Halifax. In the end I think he stayed overnight at Critchley's. We got him out next morning.

Then this team arrived a couple of days later, different firm from the tanker, to line the pipe.

The sleeve starts off as a soft resin impregnated felt tube. They put one end in the sewer down a manhole and then blow it down with compressed air turning it inside out as it goes, so that it fits tight inside the sewer pipe.

Then they blow steam down the tube to harden the resin, you can smell the resin quite strongly while they're doing it. This takes several hours. While this is going on they put another pipe in the top manhole and pump out the flow of sewage and pump it overground down to the bottom manhole. These are the pipes you can see in the photo. Then they put a cutter down the pipe to open any laterals that have been sealed off. The company is called Insituform Technologies Ltd.

Richard Farnsworth

Sheffield still lags behind most of the country by only recycling 17.14 % of household waste compared with 22.9 % for England as a whole.



Dore Geothermal project? Steam venting from a manhole in Ecclesall Woods during the re-lining of sewers. Picture provided by Richard Farnsworth..

Whinfell Quarry Garden

During 2005 regular visitors to the Whinfell Quarry Garden will have seen a huge improvement to the surface of all the paths, thus making walking around much easier and especially for wheelchair users and those with mobility problems.

Friends of Whinfell Quarry Garden had two sessions, one in the spring and another in the autumn when with the assistance of BTCV and the Sheffield City Council Rangers we laid approx. 40 tons of crushed sandstone which was then impacted to make it solid and secure.

We are very grateful to Dore Village Society for their generous contribution to the funding for this project, made possible by the South West Area Panel and other private donations.

In October in conjunction with 'Make a Difference Day' members and supporters planted around 2000 bulbs donated by Sheffield City Council.

At our November working day we had our best 'turn-out' to date including support from the local scouts and students from Sheffield University.

Please do come and support us and help to restore the gardens. Tools are provided, but if you have strong industrial gloves please bring them with you. The dates are:

Saturday 11th March 9.30 to 12.30

Monday 8th May 1.30 to 4.30

Saturday 8th July 9.30 to 12.30

Monday 4th Sept. 1.30 to 4.30

Saturday 11th Nov. 9.30 to 4.30

Here comes March

Although now regarded as the first month of spring, March was once the first month of the year. The Anglo-Saxons called it Lenet-monat; that is lengthy month, referring to the lengthening of the day at this time of the year, also possibly the origin of the term Lent.

It can be a month of varied weather,

probably the basis of the old expression "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb". Sometimes it is a dry month, in which blustery winds prevail, and these can be cold enough to make fields as hard as if coated by winter frost. Alternatively, there can be times when walkers will be able to see cloud and sunshine chasing each other over the paths ahead.

Walking through woodlands, the trees are dotted with green spots from which future leaves will hang. It is also possible to come across what looks like a heap of litter, where dead leaves and short withered grass have been thrown lightly together upon the earth.

At first sight there seems no sign of life, apart from perhaps an odd straggler at the base of the mound. Poke the point of a stick into it, however, and all the ground around can become alive with a mass of wood ants, issuing from the spot where you probed. Don't stay looking for too long, or you could soon see them covering your boots and going upwards, where they can give quite a piercing nip into bare human flesh.

Violets appear on sunny banks and under the shelter of hedges. The fragrance of this flower often scents the March air because, like the rose, the fragrance remains after the flower itself has died. Other March flowers include the wood anemone, with its brightly coloured white petals, delicately tinged with pink inside and marked with purple outside.

The daisy also appears. One of our oldest flowers, it retains its Saxon name "Days Eye" The "Eye" opens regularly with the light of day, then closes firmly at the end of it. Lesser periwinkle, with delicate blue petals, will be seen in woods and hedgebanks, along with the glossy yellow flowers of lesser celandine, and early bluebells.

March is also the month of the daffodil and the shamrock, since it contains two patron saints' days - David of Wales on the 1st and Patrick of Ireland on the 17th.

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The fourth Sunday in Lent, is now generally known as Mother's Day. This title however, and the commercialisation of the day, came about as a result of American forces serving in Britain during the Second World War, confusing their Mother's Day with the day we have celebrated in Britain for many centuries as Mothering Sunday.

In the animal world, hares are actively leaping and bounding in the fields, earning their title of mad march hares. New-born lambs become strong and can be seen playing in fields, and snakes will bask in sunny spots, usually near water, for they are truly graceful swimmers. Another graceful swimmer is the water-rat, its silky hair trapping bubbles of water so that, in the sunshine, they glisten like bright silver.

Its nest is usually in a bank with an underwater entrance.

Pike, too, will bask in the sunshine near the surface of the water. To stand on a bridge, or even a plank of wood over a stream, can offer the chance of watching the effortless turning and gliding of this and other fish. Ponds and ditches are populated with round-headed, long-tailed tadpoles, hatched from spawn and starting the perilous transformation stages of becoming a frog.

Above the burgeoning woods, fields and hedges, our native birds come out of their winter hiding places and start to sing. The blackcap's song is equalled only by the nightingale. Other birds around are the willow wren, hovering hawk and wagtail.

A quite extraordinary incident can happen when

listening to birds singing in early spring; they can suddenly all stop when, upon hearing another bird's cry of alarm, they all fly into the nearest hedge or bush for safety. The bird sounding the warning has seen the hawk hovering, nearly motionless high in the air, prior to plunging down quick as a flash to seize a selected victim. The birds know that if they are in hedges they are safe, because the hawk cannot spread its wings to seize them.

Possibly the best-known spring bird is the cuckoo. Indeed, the first hearing of its familiar call is regarded by many as a sign that spring has definitely arrived.

Geoffrey Humphrys
First published in *Country*
Walking magazine

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Letters

Dear Sir,
Proposed One Way System.

In response to overwhelming public opposition to the proposed scheme for Brickhouse Lane / Cross Lane, the Planning Board, on 16th January 2006 voted to defer the one-way system. They did however, decide to provide enhanced warning signs on Hathersage Road and to make improvements to the junction at Brickhouse Lane / Dore Moor Inn. These include a ban on right turns into Brickhouse Lane by vehicles heading towards the City.

The one-way system was deferred to allow Highways Officers to consult with ward councillors and a small group of local residents, with the intention of coming back to the Board, at some future date, with alternative proposals. Highways Officers had conceded that their proposals would result in over 1000 extra vehicles a day using Brickhouse Lane.

At a public consultation session at Dore Old School, which was attended by over 200 people, opposition to the scheme was overwhelming. The residents of Brickhouse Lane felt very strongly for numerous reasons, but particularly because during the summer they had first hand experience of the problems they would encounter if these proposals went through, when, due to an accident, all traffic was diverted temporarily on to Brickhouse Lane. The situation became chaotic, two cars were bumped, a bus was stranded and residents couldn't get out of their drives. Residents also had very serious concerns about all vehicles, including buses, turning right at the junction of Brickhouse Lane on to the main Hathersage Road.

Council Highways Officers have told us they work on a points system to ensure that resources are spread fairly across the City, solely according to the number of accidents. They also say that the number of accidents at the Cross lane / Long Line junction warrants expenditure of £20,000 to £25,000. This rules out a staggered junction, roundabout or traffic lights.

Therefore, as an alternative to the one way system we are looking at: leaving things as they are and seeing what the

activated speed restriction signs and other improvements on Hathersage Road will bring, or suggesting a number of other limited road safety improvements.

This is a complex issue and there are no easy solutions, but we will try to ensure that any proposals are in the best interests of the local community. Updates of progress will be put on the Dore Village Society web site at www.dorevillage.co.uk

Our sincere thanks to all who have sent letters of support.

Councillor Anne Smith

Dear Sir,

I am writing to encourage people to take advantage of the opportunity to talk to our Community Constable, PC. David Spencer on the 1st Thursday of each month at the Old School in Dore, 12 noon - 1.30 pm. I found it a very positive experience and one thing we discussed was one of my major irritations - the way the centre of Dore has become an unofficial 'Park and Ride' zone, making it very difficult for the elderly and disabled to park near where they need to be.

He explained to me that the paradox of his situation is that even if it became a 'limited parking' area, the police are unable to put parking tickets on cars if they are causing a parking offence. The Council decision is that only a Traffic Warden is authorised to do this. When did you last see a Traffic Warden in Dore?

Alison Down

Ed. The Society has tried for years to get a 2 hour restriction on parking in front of the shops on Causeway Head Road without success. Now that the Council has taken over responsibility for enforcing parking restrictions, a cynic would ask why send a traffic warden to Dore when there is more money to be made in the centre of Sheffield! Surely the police could do more with reference to obstruction, driving without due care and attention etc. I understand it is illegal to drive on pavements, but not to park on them!

Dear Sir,

I have just come, with a mixture of anger and disgust, from the meeting of the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority at The Source where they've decided to close and sell Ringinglow Fire Station, and to close two other stations in

South Yorkshire.

Despite a much larger petition - 6900 signatures - to save Ringinglow than was presented two years ago, and despite the strongest public expressions in protest, from a public audience of over 100 South Yorkshire residents, and despite the very well argued case put forward by Councillor Paul Scriven, which demolished the Fire & Rescue Authority's case for closure on the grounds that it was sited in a low risk area, when it came to the vote it went straight down party lines.

The majority party, Labour, defeated the amendment to keep Ringinglow, Brampton and Mexborough stations.

It was only to be expected that Labour wouldn't care about Ringinglow, but you would hope that the two Sheffield Labour councillors would be concerned that the city as a whole is losing a pump and thus fire cover for the whole city will be affected. However ... !

What is also angering me is the evidence once again of how meaningless public consultation is: this meeting had all the hallmarks of a stitched-up job.

I am left with one appeal to, make. and a challenge. In Ecclesall and Fulwood - and I know this from the campaigning we've done - there is a widespread perception that Ringinglow is to be closed for financial reasons - it sits on a site to be sold at an estimated £2.5 million- and not operational ones.

My appeal/challenge, to the fire authorities and to the Labour members is this: have the decency to admit the real reason for closing Ringinglow was to sell the land in order to solve a funding gap.

Finance ahead of public safety!

Mike Reynolds

Ed. Another case of riding rough shod over public opinion.

Dear Sir,

I have for some time been researching my family history - on my father's side, surname of Marsden. My family are from Chesterfield in the 1900's and Eckington in the 1800's. I have gone back to a William Marsden, father of a definite ancestor Joseph Marsden b. 1753 in Eckington.

William Marsden does not appear to be born in Eckington and the nearest we can find is a William Marsden born in Dronfield / Dore in 1714, who married an Elizabeth Pinedar in 1749. I am hoping that this is the correct Marsden. It makes sense as the Marsdens in Eckington were all Edge Tool Makers with their own business and there is a history of scythes/edge tool making in Dronfield.

William Marsden appears to have a father James Marsden, earlier known as Mastin. James had 2 other children I have traced: Alice b 1708 and James born 1711.

The purpose of this letter is to ask if anyone can help me further with my Marsden research. I know there are later Marsdens in Dore and have just obtained via my local library a copy of A- W of Dore, which mentions a John Marsden, miller at Bradway Mill in the 18th century.

Jane Marsden

Ed. If you can help Jane with any information she can be contacted via us at the address on page 2.

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Dear Sir,

Recently, we were asked by letter from DVS to cut back our hedge in order to preserve the pavement width outside our house. We have done this readily.

Now, we are asking a favour of Dore Village Society. For several years now smoke pollution in Dore has been increasing in extent and frequency. There always seems to be someone near us having a garden bonfire, or breaking the law, pouring smoke out of their numerous chimneys. There's rarely a whole day when the air is pure enough to breath without wishing you hadn't bothered going out.

We feel strongly that Dore is becoming a very unpleasant, and unhealthy place to live. There are a number of no-go areas for me as a runner - roads I call 'smoke alleys' where there always seems to be some smoke around - Ashfurlong Road, Newfield Lane, Town Head Road (village end), Drury Lane, Rushley Road, Vicarage Lane, Cavendish Avenue, Victor Road,

Ryecroft Glen, the lower end of Dore Road, and so on... Some of these sources are regular bonfire burners, some are coal burners - particularly Cavendish Avenue, Victor Road, Ashfurlong, Newfield, Dore Village - and the problem becomes more acute during cold, or wet weather (presumably, when people feel they 'need' a cosy fire). The Clean Air Act doesn't apply to those who live in Dore, it seems.

Certainly, there are a number of residents who live near us who have complained to the council in the past about

regular smoke pollution from 'fellow' neighbours, but nothing has been done. I was talking to a neighbour the other day, who was in disgust at yet another builder's bonfire near his house, who said he felt the problem was getting worse - and not just

from builders and paid gardeners. Some of the worst culprits were neighbours he used to think of as his friends.

So now, as members of DVS, we are asking if DVS could do something about this problem: perhaps something along the lines of sending a letter to those creating smoke imploring to their better nature, explaining to them that they are damaging the pleasantness of Dore, the environment, and the sanity and health of everyone who lives near them - not to mention the ozone layer.

This shouldn't be too hard as the regular culprits are well know to us and others who suffer on a daily basis.

The Hendersons

Ed. We sought advice from Council officials. This is their reply:

"There is no law against having garden bonfires, only that discretion should be applied. It would be polite to inform the neighbours before having a bonfire in case they have washing outside or have open windows. We would normally advise people to dispose of their garden waste at the local tip rather than burning it. So if at all possible do not have a bonfire. The council has been providing Green Bins for people to put their garden waste in so that it can be collected.."

"For bonfires on building sites, I would have to refer you Environmental Protection at Carbrook."

"Regarding domestic fires, you have mentioned coal fires and these are allowed as long as the fuel used is a Smokeless Fuel. Many people are now installing wood burning fires which do supply a manufacturers guide as to what fuels should be used. It is advisable to adhere to these due to the problems that can be created if the guidelines are not adhered to."

"Should anyone suffer from garden bonfires, they can report them through our call centre. The telephone number is 2037410."

*Trevor Haughton,
Environmental Health District Officer*

Dear Sir,

Walking as I do around the village over the last fifty years, I noted the alterations to the wall of no 12 Townhead Road and wondered whether a garage would be built. Now that the parking space is in use, I feel it has been sensitively done, with the rather pretty garden.

I much prefer it to the awful expanse of tarmac, which is over the wall, of the adjoining cottages, which has nothing to recommend it, being ugly, uneven, flowerless, and a complete eyesore! Why it is allowed to remain so, in such a prominent position in the village is a mystery to me; I know which I prefer.

*Little Owl
Name and address supplied*

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Did you know

Now we are threatened with yet more development in the shape of 89 houses squeezed onto the old King Egbert site off Furniss Avenue. Is this really how people want to live in the 21st century? Just what are we doing to our environment and way of life. Just look at the mess and destruction created by the Blue Ridge development on Ashfurlong Road, at the creeping urbanisation of Long Line, or the sheer size of houses being built on the old Hinchcliffe site on Newfield Lane. Think of the extra traffic, the inadequate surface drainage, and the strain on local schools and surgeries.

Not that we care for our environment. Bushey Wood for example seems to have become our local dumpsite as local residents discard their garden rubbish into an ever deepening layer. Everything from grass cuttings, to leylandi branches, from old sheds to spoil from extension foundations. Now the chainsaws have moved in with trees being felled despite TPOs. What was once a green oasis between post war development is rapidly losing its charm.

And then the beloved motorcar. Driving into Sheffield is such a pleasure thanks to the creative efforts of our city traffic engineers and the sheer volume of traffic which seems to grow on a daily basis! Now we read that the Government proposes to extend congestion charges to cities throughout the country. Yet for a large section of society, car use has proved not to be price sensitive - look at the growth of gas guzzling 4x4s in recent years. The only effect will be to squeeze those in the poorer sections of society, who may have to use cars due to working unsocial hours or making cross city journeys. Very equitable.

While we are on about traffic engineers, how come that despite public opposition at an open meeting, they still insisted on recommending Cross Lane become one-



way, with outgoing Dore traffic funnelled up Brickhouse Lane? No doubt cost was the deciding factor in this decision, against the option of an expensive roundabout at the Long Line/Hathersage Road junction, or the cost of offsetting the junction. Accountants rule OK!

Doremouse

Expensive smoking

Motorists could find it almost impossible to sell a car they smoke in regularly, damaging not only their health but also their wealth.

New research shows that smoking in the car can knock hundreds of pounds off the vehicle's resale value. The difference between selling quickly or having to drop the price by a few hundred pounds could be the fact that you have not smoked in it. Even a thorough spring clean before selling the car can do virtually nothing to erase completely its smoking history.

Values of cars that have been smoked in fall because of burnt carpets and upholstery, smoke-stained roof linings, and the all-pervasive smell. Almost half of those at auction to buy cars said they would not even consider buying a car that had been owned by a smoker.

Dore Blues

A community police view.

Can I first wish you all a happy and safe 2006. Can I also thank the editor of Dore to Dore for allowing my colleagues and I this small space to pass on our thoughts. I am still very much finding my feet in the area but up to press its all going very well. More about that later. I've no doubt that many of you will have seen myself and the "two Sara's", the Police Community Support officers (PCSO'S), who do a sterling job in my absence, walking or cycling about. We try to cover as much ground as possible and get to as many different places as we can.

From my point of view this article is a bit like looking into a Crystal Ball. I have to try and second-guess crime trends with a view to hopefully Preventing and Detecting Crime. Naturally as a Police

officer my main remit is crime but I want also to address some local issues that cause me some concern.

As we enter the Spring I would like to offer a few reminders to people about various matters which if considered might save them future headaches. From a Crime Prevention point of view can I remind people that after Christmas "Billy burglar" knows full well that houses are well stocked with brand new equipment. He also knows that most people will not have UV marked this equipment with their Post code and house number (pens can be obtained from me for free) He also knows that without this info, stolen goods are easy to sell on at car boots etc. Also as the days lengthen the same ne"do well turns his attention to garden ornaments and sheds. He knows that stolen garden items including hanging baskets are easily sold off at car boots with no questions asked.

Can I also mention two of the most stolen items we have at the moment. These are Satellite Navigation Systems, in particular portable ones, and Laptops. PLEASE PLEASE if you own either of the above would you remove it from your vehicle overnight. Recently we had a spate of 26 Crimes in one night ALL theft from motor vehicles. All of these could have been avoided. This also applies to Students/landlords. Its amazing how much Crime is committed against students who move to pastures new in houses with poor security i.e. door/window locks etc with loads of brand new laptops/ mobile phones/I-pods/Playstations etc, etc. These students are easy pickings for seasoned criminals.

If anyone has any concerns about Crime Prevention matters as a Team we are more than willing to offer any advice. Comprehensive advice can also be found at: www.crimereduction.gov.uk

I would also like at this point to mention the recently circulated Dore and Totley Community Survey. Which was sent out to over 1500 households in the two areas and asked in depth questions based around the National Crime Survey. To date we have had a high percentage of returns and initial indications are that most people feel safe both living and working in the area. Once a full analysis has been completed a representative cross section of the community will be invited to a focus group to address any issues raised and help plan for future actions.

As you might be aware from my last article the Policing team for Dore and Totley consists of two Police officers and two PCSO'S. Whilst each has its own remit and responsibility for an area it is thought that we should tackle both areas as one. With that in mind we have tried to tackle such local issues as graffiti and youth disturbance. The PCSO'S whilst on patrol make notes of Graffiti etc and ensure that these are tackled by the council. Whilst it might not be appreciated that this can be a priority it should be born in mind that once the fabric of a neighbourhood starts to deteriorate its not long before crime and disorder rises. This leads me onto Youth Disturbance and the impact this has on such a relatively quiet neighbourhood as Dore. The team is

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working in partnership with the Local Churches and youth groups to ensure that our local youth are not only catered for but also controlled in their activities. This work has included many visits to groups and the local schools. Hopefully this work should restore some of the peace to our area.

Speaking of community involvement I would just like to mention that on the first Thursday of each month I hold a drop in surgery at the Dore Village Old School between 12noon and 1.30pm. Whilst I don't serve hot foods you will be given a warm welcome. Please feel free to drop in for a chat about any policing issue which concerns you.

As you might have seen I like to patrol my beat on a bike. I know this sounds very Victorian but the bicycle actually allows

me to cover more area and get to places where the trouble is. It's also a great talking point with kids. The problem I have is that I don't have my own bike and am looking for sponsorship to help get one. If anyone knows any businesses or businessmen who would like to fund the provision of Dore's own Police Bike, which can be have the sponsors logo on please put them in touch.

Well I think that's enough. Any of the Dore/Totley Policing team can be contacted on the following numbers below 0114 2963187 or e mail david.spencer@southyorks.pnn.police.uk

Have a Safe next few months and don't forget I like plain chocolate on my biscuits.

**David Spencer Pc 2247
Dore Community Constable**

Dore Needs You

Are you interested in what is happening in Dore, about its history, planning, road safety or the environment? Or are you interested in organising things, helping out with events, delivering Dore to Door?

The Dore Village Society cares about our community, its history and future development. There are lots of ways we can improve things locally, but we need your help.

Whether you would be interested in considering joining our committee, supporting one of our ongoing projects, or just helping out at events occasionally, please give us a ring on 236 9025. We will be happy to explain just what help we need and how we can use your time or skills constructively.

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continued from page 1

Blacka Moor Crescent and Fairthorn in addition to owning Marshall's the grocery shop, which used to be on Church Lane opposite the Hare and Hounds. Three generations of the Marshall family ran the business until they stopped trading soon after the Second World War. The shop was well known for bacon, hams, pork pies and general provisions. His grandparents would often attend the British Dairy Farmers' Association exhibitions in London, going back to around 1870, and won prizes for their hams. Apparently, Peter still has Great Grandfather Marshall's notebooks in which are recorded his dealings in the pig trade. He would travel all over Derbyshire, including visits to Chatsworth in his pony and trap procuring pigs. Peter recalls that

"It was reputed that, but we can't vouch for it, that my great grandfather, Thomas Marshall, had the key to the big gates at Chatsworth to save going right round....and he always jealously guarded that key and I presume it went back when he passed on"

Peter recalls his grandfather's story about Dr Thorne, who was the only doctor in the area at that time. He would come up from Totley in his pony and trap. He would always ask for *"the fattest bacon you've got Mr Marshall."*

One of his earliest memories of Dore, going back more than 65 years, was as a young child of 5, starting at Dore Village School. *"...usually collecting Rita Warnes who lived in the Barker Row Cottages below...and Barbara Fearnough who lived at the bottom cottage before you turn up to the bus stop and hand in hand we used to go to Dore School"* In the summer, they would often walk from Dore School with the teacher, onto Short Lane and then onto Blacka Moor. He makes the point that it was known as Short Lane and not Shorts Lane, but he says, *"I wouldn't argue as to which was correct."*

Peter's Aunt Barbara was born at number 38 on the day in 1897 that his grandfather, Fred Marshall, collected the new clocks for Dore Church, in a pony and cart, from the Midland Station. Peter laughs, *"Aunt Barbara always said he thought more about fetching the clocks than the fact that she was being born"*

Peter recalls with affection, Mr Holmes's fish and chip shop which used to be where Dore garage is and that the place was *"always full of steam, you could never even see the counter, but opposite the fish and chip shop grandma Marshall had a wooden hut where she sold pies and peas."* This venture was, apparently, very popular as only the best meat went into the pies. Peter mentions that much of his younger years were spent at the bake house behind Marshall's shop. He was amused to recall that there are photographs of bacon and hams *"being on display on a gas lamp outside the shop"* a fact that he feels would cause concern today.

A particularly interesting childhood memory of Peter's is the story about the Old Horse. It was a tradition that on New Year's Day the Old Horse would come to Dore from Holmesfield. *"This was a*



Marshall's Shop on Church Lane c 1933. From left to right: Thomas Marshall, Sara Ann Marshall, Peter Bradley and Rita Warnes.

paper mâché type head of a horse, with big white rings around the eyes, massive teeth and jingling bridles and things that they wear and there was someone underneath it working the jaws and it used to clomp, clomp, clomp like a crocodile nearly." Peter laughs. *"Well they used to set off from Holmesfield, I gather, and of course, they called at most of the pubs."* The inevitable happened, as you would expect and by the time they reached Dore *"well they'd forgotten their lines."* It used to frighten all the local children when it turned round and Peter recalls that as small boys they would run up Townhead Road frightened to death. Sadly, though, nobody seems to know what became of the horse's head.

Peter remembers one or two of the old characters of Dore, including Frankie Fisher who was Willy Arthur Frith's cowman. The Friths farmed at Croft House. The land on which the Dore Grill was built used to contain the cowsheds. Frankie used to live in the cowshed and Peter and his friends would go and visit him there. It was always nice and warm in the winter because of the cows and he had

a *"small chest of drawers and it was invariably full of tab ends. He was always going round picking them up...and then making more or putting them in his pipe."*

Another interesting character was Juddy Brusher who used to live in a caravan on the recreation ground. Apparently, he used to work in people's gardens and Hilda Warnes and her sister, Ada Cooke used to feed him and generally look after him. Peter remembers particularly well that when Juddy died someone in the village paid for his funeral as he was a pauper and that after his funeral they set fire to his caravan and, he recalls, *"We as kids watched that all go up in flames."*

Peter remembers, before 1939, going to Dore Fair, which used to take place each year on the land which is now part of Abbeydale Sports Club. He and his friend, Billy Cooke, who lived in the next yard, would set off down Dore fields to the Fair. Billy's uncle and his son ran the dodgems, and his aunt and her daughter were on the shove half penny. They had a gypsy caravan, which Peter describes as *"a typical showman's caravan."* Peter describes the route that the fairground engines would take to get to the field, *"Now, if you come down Twentywell Lane and stop at the bottom and look straight across, there is a path or small road and to the right of it is a cutting, very much overgrown...and that was the route the fairground steam engines often used to take...through this narrow cutting."*

He and Billy would often go a day or two before the fair to watch the engines bringing the trailers.

After Dore School, about 1942, Peter went on to Henry Fanshawe School at Dronfield. He would walk down Dore Road to the station and there they would catch the train to Dronfield. He recalls that the trains would often come from Edale and then go onto Dronfield from Dore Station. He has fond memories of the school but has no regrets that he left at the age of sixteen to begin his first job at the Midland Bank. He did not particularly like this job, however, and decided to join a



Peter Bradley outside his home on Townhead Road.

refrigeration firm as an apprentice. He served his five year apprenticeship, which included attending night school at Salmon Pastures and in 1954, when the business went into voluntary liquidation, he and Harold Lomas went into partnership and built up their own refrigeration business. Peter's son Philip also works in the firm and Peter continues to go down every morning. He chuckles "I say morning because I finish about lunchtime...or as long as it takes to be a nuisance"

About the same time that Peter started at Henry Fanshawe School he became acquainted with the Swift family who were at Moorside Farm at the bottom of Long Line. Peter describes this time as "great days" They were good friends and he used to help out on the farm, in fact, he says that he probably spent as much time there as he did at school. Peter recalls the change over from horse power to tractors on the farm. "We didn't realise at the time quite what an effect it would have, but we got the saws out and we chopped the shafts off, we put on a draw bar as they call it and coupled it up to the tractor. Carts, ploughs, everything had to be altered." There were no combines at the farm then and they had to do the thrashing in the stack yard. "a Mr Tommy Morgan used to bring his thrashing set from Barlow and call at the farm, so I always remember them coming up from Rycroft up the steep hill out of there, because they'd tow the big thrasher, probably a tanker with water on,...and this steam engine used to pull up apparently without any trouble." Tommy and his assistant would leave Barlow about half past four in the morning to cycle up to Dore in order to get the machine stoked and ready for operation at seven o'clock.

About 10 years ago, after an absence of 46 years Peter moved back to Lavender Cottage, where he was born and raised. He recalls that the kitchen of the cottage had a wall that was four foot thick and that it used to be a file maker's shop. There were, apparently, quite a lot of small industries in Dore at one time, including brick making near the Dore Moor Inn, button and comb making and Johnny Stones the blacksmith. Peter recalls, "All the cart horses were brought from all the farms round the village and you could smell the burning of the hooves." Peter also mentions that the windows upstairs are quite low because of the slope of the eaves. He chuckles "...We were brought up in the days where you were sent upstairs if you were naughty and that was regularly. But my father had forgot that I was pretty tall even at about fourteen and seeing as the sills were pretty low, I could lower myself down out of the bedroom and I was gone."

Peter's main hobby is collecting tractors and he bought his first one while he was living at the top of Long Line. He goes to shows around the country, including Castle Howard and Harewood House. He has also been to Silverstone, where on one occasion he was able to take his tractor onto the track. He laughs, "I think we'd about fifty Porsches in front of me on the starting grid....once they'd done one lap....I'd just gone the length of the

pits, so I thought I'd better retreat into the paddock and call it a day."

In answer to the question "So you had a very happy childhood?" Peter says "Oh, I wouldn't have changed it for anything. As I say, living in Dore, none of the hassle that we have today of course, with the traffic, there just wasn't any." Oh that we could say the same today!

*Tricia Pitchfork
Dore Oral History Group*

Victorian Garden

The Victorian Garden in the 21st Century is the title of the talk that Mary Bagley, the newly appointed Director of Parks and Countryside in Sheffield, will be giving at the AGM of Friends of Whinfall Quarry Garden. There could not be a more relevant topic, as that is the problem involved in restoring the magic to the Garden. It cannot be restored to its original form, some of the specimens, like the Redwood Trees are maturing whilst others need replacing and some of the prized specimens of the Victorians, like the Japanese Knotweed, are now seen as over-intrusive weeds. The Council does not have the six full time gardeners that Sam Doncaster had so modern plans will have to be less labour intensive.

The meeting will be held at 48 Whinfall Court, (The Activities Centre) on Wednesday 5th April at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome and light refreshments will be provided.. Donations welcome.

*Kathleen Cox
Chairman
Friends of Whinfall Quarry Garden*

My friend Miss Flint

When Tom Lambert, botanist and TV gardening personality, receives a telephone call one morning from the Inland Revenue enquiring about his public relations consultant, a Miss Joanna Flint, he can honestly say he has never heard of her.

By lunchtime, however, he knows all about Miss Flint and rather wishes he didn't! The plot thickens (as well as the puns) as this light hearted comedy blossoms into an evening with more twists and turns than a honeysuckle, or vine weed. And Miss Flint is certainly a honey.

The plot, sown by writers Donald Churchill and Peter Yeldham is cultivated and grown by Linda Williamson to delight you on a Spring evening. *My Friend Miss Flint* will be performed by the Dramatic Society Dore & Totley United Reformed Church on Totley Brook Road from Wednesday 22nd March to Saturday 25th at 7.30pm. Tickets available from members of the Society, or the Ticket Secretary, Margaret Spivey on 0114 245 4166.

Players wanted

Totley Brook Badminton Club, who play on Tuesday evenings in St. John's church Hall Abbeydale Road South, would welcome a few new members.

We are strictly a social playing club, and welcome members from 18 to 80+. Subscription only £20 to cover from January to Easter. Enquires to John tel: 235 1129 or Derek tel: 236 2597.

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SW Area Sitting Service

"My name is Alice but you can call me Mrs Smith!" were the first words to greet me. I looked at the lady in bed resplendent in fluffy pink bed jacket, floral nightgown and red fur hat! After our initial introduction I spent a very pleasant couple of hours learning all about Mrs Smith's upbringing in Barbados and her huge extended family spread throughout England and the Caribbean. When she became tired of talking she fell asleep and I reflected on the things she had told me and how different her life had been in the Caribbean.

Since starting as a volunteer with the South West Area Sitting Service in 1998, I have learnt so much about the diversity in the lives of our clients. One man lived at Norton and walked to Ecclesall, on many occasions when there wasn't a bus, to get to his employment in a baker's shop. Another lady kept me entertained with stories of her life as a very young housemaid "below stairs" whilst another gentleman told me of his life "above stairs" as the younger son of a steel mill owner. How different their lives were then and how similar they had become in that they were frail, elderly and dependent on their families for care.

The South West Area Sitting Service was set up in 1987 as a direct response from carers. Social Workers had been trying to arrange a support group for carers and were disappointed at the apparent lack of interest knowing how many carers there were in their target area. It became clear that interest had been generated but carers were unable to attend because there was no one available to take over the caring role for an hour or two. The Sitting Service was born!

Initially there was one paid worker and a couple of volunteers who would go and sit with the elderly person to allow their carer to go out for a couple of hours. From those humble beginnings the service has grown to two part-time paid workers, almost 30 volunteers and a register of 85 carers. Some of the carers have a regular weekly sitter with others using the service intermittently.

With an increasing ageing population, services such as these are always stretched to the limit. More and more people are being cared for in their own homes or that of a relative, putting enormous pressure on their families. The Sitting Service has become an invaluable lifeline to these families. However, carers needing the service are never in short supply whereas the recruitment of volunteers is an ongoing task with there never being quite enough volunteers at any one time.

Think how your life would be changed if you had to be at home with someone who couldn't be left, for whatever reason be it illness or frailty, for even an hour. Some of the carers go out shopping, for hospital appointments, to the hairdresser's or to meet friends for coffee. Others take the opportunity to potter in the garden or have a couple of hours undisturbed sleep. Simple things which most of us take for granted but impossible for others. We try to respond to need as quickly as possible

and to avoid having a waiting list but to do this we need more volunteers. If you feel that sitting with someone for an hour or two, now and then, is something you would enjoy, please contact Joan or Estelle on 0114 223 0234 for more information.

Joan Duxbury Co-ordinator



The Time of Our Lives booklet

Getting into print

The Dore Oral History Group is pleased to announce the arrival of its first printed collection of memories, "The Time of Our Lives - Dore at War". The booklet was conceived during the year 2005, the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War 2. We wanted our contributors to share in each other's recollections and to have the pleasure of seeing themselves in print.

The publication, which draws together wartime reminiscences from many Dore villagers, is a fitting tribute to those who came through that momentous time in their lives. It is also offered in sincere remembrance of those who did not survive the years of conflict but whose stories live on. You will find it a fascinating read.

Copies of "The Time of Our Lives - Dore at War" are available for £2 each from Maureen Cope Tel.235 0392 or Barbara Jackson Tel.236 0332.

VIP treat

High-fliers with a taste for something special can snap up a day out with a difference thanks to the Walnut Club.

Helicopter and hot air balloon flights are among six activities on offer as part of a series of exclusive VIP packages launched by the Hathersage bar and restaurant. Other options include an overnight stay at Ladybower Lodge, a dinner and evening at Sheffield City Hag and a one-to-one cooking lesson with the club's head chef Nick Wilson, the Michelin-rated former number two to celebrity chef Jean Christopher Novelli.

For details visit the walnutclub website at www.thewalnutclub.com or call (01433) 651155.

Gilbert & Sullivan Society

Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society has had an extremely full and enjoyable 2005. The main events, of course, included the annual show at the University Drama Studio in April, which was *The Gondoliers*. This was the first under our new musical director, Paul White, who lifted us to heights we could only have dreamed of a few years ago.

The summer concerts in July and the concert in Dronfield were viragos of anything but G & S but none the less extremely enjoyable if the feedback we received was anything to go by. The crowning glory was the concert we gave in the newly restored theatre of Chatsworth House in October.

We were the first group ever to perform a public concert in the theatre. We raised in excess of £2,200 thanks to the help which Waitrose and the John Lewis Partnership provided as major sponsors. This sum will be split between St. Luke's and The Helen's Trust.

Next year the Society will benefit from a new Director, Gerry Kersey (currently on Radio Sheffield). We are extremely pleased that he has agreed to help us put on *The Yeoman of the Guard* which we will present at the University Drama Studio on Glossop Road from April 25th to April 29th including a matinee on the 29th.

Tickets are available now from Rita Drew, 5 Rainbow Crescent, Sheffield S12 4AZ, telephone 0114 248 7766 at £8.50 each or concessions at £7.50 each.

Do not delay. This is likely to be a popular show as it is the nearest that G & S came to writing grand opera. Although it still has many comic touches there is pathos and tragedy as well. We are well into music rehearsals and it is sounding fantastic. The Society is lucky enough to have some excellent principals who have both plenty of musical and acting abilities. We look forward to seeing you there.

Derek Habberjam

National Trust events

Are you a member of the National Trust (N.T.)? If not you can join and enjoy the benefits of freely visiting a huge number of historic buildings, countryside and coastline owned by the N.T. A few local examples: Hardwick Hall, Mr Straw's House, Nostell Priory, Kedleston Hall, besides the countryside at Longshaw and parts of the Peak Park, which the N.T. works to preserve and protect.

If you are already a member, you can also take a part in helping this work by joining like-minded members in the N.T. Sheffield Centre. Our activities include a series of talks about a whole range of subjects, a number of day outings to places of cultural interest and two short breaks to areas not easily visited in a day and you can read all about our programme in our twice-yearly Newsletter.

If you are interested in joining please contact: Ralph Solomon, 18 Cardoness Road, Sheffield S10 5RU (Tel.: 230 5266)



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Planning Matters

“Fairthorn” Townhead Road: In the last issue of Door to Dore it was reported that a planning application had been made to redevelop the “Fairthorn” property, now that the Home Farm Trust have put the site up for sale. The whole of the site is in Green Belt and, whereas there is an existing use established as a residential home, the prospect of other uses or development in any way remote from the present use would be unlikely. The application by Methodist homes for the redevelopment of the site with 31 flats for elderly people was reasonably close to the recognised use, particularly as the proposal was to demolish the existing building and provide a new building on the same footprint and no higher than the present structure.

The proposed development is sensitive to the situation in the Green Belt and there are proposals for a major landscaping and tree planting scheme. The application has recently been approved by the Council. Dore Village Society asked that there be conditions that the building is faced in natural stone and not rendering, and that occupation be restricted to persons over 60. We are pleased to report that those conditions have been incorporated in the approval.

“Farfields” Townhead Road: Again things have happened since this application and refusal was reported last time. You may recall that there was a proposal to build two houses on the land, fronting Blackamoor Road. This application was refused. The applicant has now gone to appeal. The Society is supporting the Council’s case for refusal.

King Ecgberts’ Mercia Site Furniss Avenue: It is some years now since the Council decided to sell this site, after development of the new school on the Wessex site. A planning application has just been made by Westbury Homes, the developers of “Long Acre” at Newfield

Lane, for development of the school site with 89 houses. This is a major application which will have considerable impact on the village, in respect of traffic, and pressure on resources such as schools, doctors and dentists surgeries. The development must be carefully scrutinised at all stages.

The Society has some objections to the proposals mainly relating to the layout of the estate. One major item of concern is that there is no provision for parking for those people using the sports ground. At the present time 30-50 cars come to the site at week-ends. As it stands there will be parking all over the roads. We are also concerned about the arrangements for footpaths through the estate. If you would like to see the plans they are available to view at Howden House, 1 Union Street, Sheffield list no. 05104521/FUL.

Blue Ridge: The development at Blue Ridge is now in progress with houses and flats. The developer has now applied for a change of plan for one of the plots close to the boundary. The proposed house is much larger, being three stories in height, and the Society considers that this is inappropriate, in that it backs onto and is very close to bungalows in Burlington Glen. It would be most unsatisfactory if this proposal was approved.

41 Newfield Crescent: Some time ago there were applications to build houses in the back garden of this property. There is now a new application to knock the existing house down and build two new houses, one on the site of the original, and the second down the garden. This latter property will look straight into the back of the adjoining house and the Society objects to this proposal. Such tandem development, which is all too common, is most unfortunate and inconsiderate of adjoining owners.

Moorside Farm, Long Line: You may recall that the owners of Moorside Farm, close to the bottom of Long Line, obtained planning consent to convert the farm into a number of separate dwellings. There is now an application to extend off the property even further with five stables, a tack room and a barn. As most of this accommodation was present in the first place, before conversion into housing, this is a further inappropriate extension into the vulnerable Green Belt on the north side of the village.

Stop Press. The latest planning applications include a new bungalow on Whitelaw Lane, the steeply sloping field looking towards Blacka Moor, by the entrance to Fairthorn. This is well into the Green Belt, as such is an outrageous application which the Society is strongly objecting to.

David Heslop

Botanical Garden tours

Tours, led by members of the Friends of the Botanical Gardens (FOBS), are available to the general public on the 3rd Sunday of each month from March to October. Meet at Clarkehouse Road Entrance, 2.30 pm. The tours last about 90 minutes and cost £3 per person.

Online planning

The public can now check online a massive amount of information about planning applications, amendments and decisions. Maps identify properties and allow the monitoring of applications affecting nearby properties. Applications and comments can also be made online.

The new service is offered through the Sheffield city council’s own website at www.sheffield.gov.uk with a quick link to planning and city development. Anyone without internet access at home can use systems at council libraries.

Lost gardens of Dore

More and more of Britain’s front gardens are disappearing at an alarming rate, being paved or covered in concrete. Few councils monitor or measure the level of hard landscaping work being carried out, largely because it is classified as ‘permitted development’ and planning permission is only required in conservation areas.

The most common reasons for this trend are the creation of off road parking (car ownership has grown dramatically) or a wish to reduce garden maintenance to a minimum. Often the attempt to provide extra space for cars by hard surfacing is negated, when perhaps two parking spaces on the road are lost because of a new dropped kerb.

The most obvious impact of changing a planted front garden into a hard-surfaced area is a visual one. Gardens compliment and soften the aspect of a house and the street as a whole. Then inevitably, with the loss of plants, local biodiversity is reduced, while another damaging effect on the environment is the increased rainwater run-off and accompanying risk of flooding. Replacing vegetation with hard materials also contributes to higher temperatures in urban areas and reduces the amount of air pollution absorbed by plants.

If this was countryside or parks being lost, there would be a huge outcry. In fact many environmentalists believe a shake-up of the country’s planning laws is required to stop the loss of traditional front gardens.

But none of this is necessary. It is perfectly possible to design off street parking areas with imagination, flair and permeable materials. Selective planting can help soften the impact and allow the best of both worlds. The Environment Agency has produced a guide for homeowners encouraging them to use permeable materials. No doubt local landscape gardeners are also able to offer plenty of practical ideas. It is certainly worth the investment, as there is clear evidence from house values that, although off road parking carries a premium, when it is done with some imagination, the houses are more attractive to buyers.

John Baker

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Transport 17

I hope it is not too late to wish you all a happy 2006.

Sadly, for many people, it started with illness or even a stay in hospital. We send our best wishes to you all and hope that you feel fit and healthy soon. We have missed seeing some of our passengers and a few have gone to the great lunch club in the sky.

Wendy Trotter has been an escort on the buses for 14 years. When I first started with T17, I worked with Jim, her husband, many times when he drove for us. Wendy has decided it is time to retire. She will help us out in an emergency. They are both on the Management Committee. It is a pleasure to know them both. I am sure our

passengers would like to join us in thanking them very much for all their hard work.

Everyone who works for Transport 17 is very committed. Sometimes though, due to other commitments, we can be short of staff. This can lead to clubs being cancelled - our last resort. CAN YOU HELP? How about starting 2006 by helping us out. Ring 236 2962 if you can help. Or call in at our office at 172 Baslow Road. I am sure you would enjoy it.

May I ask for our passengers to let us know if they can't come to their club. It is especially important for them to let their club organisers know if they can't go to their lunch clubs.

Keep safe. Best wishes.

Margaret Barlow

News in brief

Dore Moor inn has a new management team in the shape of Simon and Rachel Smith who took over at the end of November. They both have strong local links and Rachel's parents were landlords at the Hare & Hounds some 20 years ago.

Council works to allow a drainage pipe from the new development at Blue Ridge have partially cleared an area of the verge which their own city ecologist said was worthy of preservation for the richness of its ecology.

The **Sheffield half marathon** celebrates its silver anniversary this year on Sunday May 14. Entry forms are available from 230 8429 or by visiting their website at www.sheffieldmarathon.com

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Countryside Matters

*Volunteering with
Friends of the Peak District*

Out in all weathers building dry-stone walls, staffing stalls at numerous summer shows or assessing the impact on the countryside of local planning applications, *Friends of the Peak District* volunteers turn their hands to all manner of varied and vital tasks. Each minute they contribute of their valuable free time, goes a long way to support the work of the Friends to safeguard the finest landscapes of the national park, for everyone to enjoy.

One of the highlights of the year is the Peak Park Picture of the Year Competition. Judged by professional photographers who volunteer their time and expertise, the contest is organised and run by volunteers culminating in a touring exhibition, awards night ceremony and the production of Christmas and greetings cards. Everyone had a great time at last year's Awards, held at a "pie and pea" supper, celebrating National Parks Week, where even the beer was locally produced! Just a few weeks later volunteers were gathered round a large table with the tea and coffee flowing as they undertook one of the year's most monotonous tasks – Christmas card packing! But you should have heard the chatter going on. The first print run was sold out within a month, so then we went through it all again to meet the festive rush.

September, the weather was bright but cool and windy. There were five of us volunteers standing in the shelter of a dry stone wall, that would have been there when our grandfathers grandfathers were too young to appreciate the landscape before us. The plans for proposed building extensions and access roads flapped in the as we stared into the glare of the afternoon sunshine, towards trees that could soon disappear. We visualised the proposed new line of a steel and concrete boundary wall then, following further research and

discussion, our volunteer team made recommendations to the Planning Authority to consider the use of alternative materials to retain more of the location's natural character.

Friends' volunteers carry out significant tasks that really help to protect the countryside we love. We have fun, working at our own pace and fitting volunteering around our jobs, family life and other interests. Some volunteers stay a few months, some many years. We get satisfaction from using our skills and knowledge, or simply from lending a hand when many hands are needed. Some volunteers are in the early stages of developing their careers; others are content to have retired from the traditional working week.

"I found the work stimulating and rewarding ... enabled me to see some beautiful parts of the countryside." - Tom Kistell

"Had such a lovely time with you over the summer and really appreciate all the ways in which you supported Me." - Julia Makin

"... An excellent opportunity to combine my professional expertise and my interest" - Graham Woods

Could you put something positive back into the countryside?

Please get involved by emailing Volunteer Co-ordinator Colin Lavender at Colin@cprepeakandyorks.org.uk or phone 0114 266 5822 to arrange an informal chat at the Friends office in Endcliffe Crescent, Broomhill.

Nation's favourite

The humble hedgehog has been voted the nation's favourite garden creature in a survey carried out

by the Royal Horticultural Society and The Wildlife Trusts. The survey, part of the Wild About Gardens project, also placed the robin, frog, blackbird and ladybird in the top ten. Almost all respondents believed that gardeners should do more to support wildlife and that gardeners can come to the rescue of species in decline.

400th anniversary

This year is the 400th anniversary of the Union Jack flag.

King James VI of Scotland ascended to the English throne and became James I of England in 1603. At that time the flags of England and Scotland on land were, respectively, the red St George's Cross and the white St Andrew's Cross.

But because of confusion as to what flag would be appropriate at sea, it was proclaimed on April 12, 1606, that: "All our subjects in this our isle and kingdom of Great Britain and the members thereof, shall bear in their main top the red cross commonly called St George's Cross and the white cross commonly called St Andrew's Cross joined together according to a form made by our heralds and sent to our Admiral to be published to our said subjects."

Blacka Moor petition

In the autumn Friends of Blacka Moor organised a petition calling for the council and the Charity Commission not to go ahead with plans to change Blacka Moor's charitable status as a public pleasure ground, and not to go ahead with plans to fence and graze with cattle.

The petition was presented to the council with 761 signatures, well over 90% of them collected on Blacka itself without any canvassing. Nevertheless this overwhelming display of feeling by the regular walkers and other users of Blacka seems set to be ignored.

We have had meetings with Councillor Harry Harpham Sheffield's Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Green Spaces who discounted the petition as something of no significance.

The Charity Commission had originally declared that leasing Blacka to a wildlife trust was totally irregular and could not go ahead because of the terms of Alderman Graves' Covenant.

Predictably they caved in under pressure from the council and have written a new clause in the governing document. Friends of Blacka Moor and others are still objecting to this.

The immediate practical effect of this seems to be that we are to have cattle and barbed wire on Blacka from April for the foreseeable future with more fencing to be erected very soon.

Short of obtaining funds to challenge in the High Court the best tactics for those who are concerned is to write to Councillor Harpham and others on the council. A website for information can be accessed at www.blackamoor.info

Neil Fitzmaurice

Back to her roots

One of Sheffield's best-know fundraisers has gone back to her roots in her new role at one of the city's best-loved charities.

Bridget Evans, a keen fruit and vegetable gardener, is the new Chief Executive at Whirlow Hall Farm Trust. She takes over from David Heugh who was with the charity for five years. Bridget was previously director of the Weston Park Hospital cancer appeal. During her leadership the income of the charity trebled to over £1.5m. She is also currently a school governor at Yewlands City Technology College, Grenoside.

Bridget has a passion for the countryside and enjoys walking, gardening and cooking for family and friends using her home-grown produce. She grew up on a farm, her brother still farms and she has a really keen interest in farming and the countryside.

More than 10,000 children a year visit the farm at Whirlow on the outskirts of Sheffield. The classroom-in-the-countryside charity raises money to improve and renovate buildings and enhance the education of young people, many of whom are from the inner city or have special needs.

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Keeping In Touch

Or "why is world war 1 and jelly babies connected"

More and more people are keeping in touch with Dore activities via the web site. In addition to carrying the latest list of village diary events, we are now achieving a regular stream of news items including pictures provided by Dore residents.

Visitors to the web site are provided with news headlines on the welcome page. From a recent survey, 25% of visitors study the news in detail. The most popular other pages are those covering forthcoming events, village history and the archived information available via the web site, plus links to local organisations and businesses.

Our January survey showed that whilst

most of our web site visitors are connecting from the UK, including schools, universities and council offices, around 20% are from the USA, Poland Sweden and Australia.

Some visitors are spending up to 40 minutes at a time browsing through the pages, having located us by searching for "Dore Village", "Dore businesses", "Dore history", "Dore Village Society".

Perhaps the most bizarre contact this month appears to have come in response to the search question "why is world war 1 and jelly babies connected" via the infamous Wikipedia site.

More typically we know that many Dore residents present and past are now using our web site to keep themselves and others in touch with Dore Village. Spread the word for www.dorevillage.co.uk

Colin Lavender

Standby turnoff

Standby buttons on televisions and other gadgets could be regulated to cut their consumption of electricity under plans being considered by the Government's energy review. Electronic manufacturers could be required to comply with new standards that set maximum energy use levels when appliances are in "sleep" mode.

More than £740 million worth of energy is wasted annually by British homes, much of it from televisions that are switched off with a remote control and left on standby.

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Mrs Eaton's Sweet Shop

Mrs Eaton's sweet shop used to stand in front of Dore & Totley Station, where the entrance to the flats now is. The wooden hut must have been cold in the winter. Does anyone remember it?



Looking towards Dore & Totley Station with the sweet shop in the foreground.



We don't get winters like this anymore! A view of the back of the sweet shop from the station forecourt. Both pictures provided by Eric Wilson.

Annual Art Exhibition

Christmas has been and gone, the cards and trimmings are down, the 'lights' put away in the loft along with all the decorations for the tree, (why is there always one thing left behind the curtains after it is all packed away for another year and the step ladder put away in the garage?)

How dull and bare everything looks in the days after the 12th night, without the glitz and glow of Christmas and how nice it was to see so many people had put fairy lights on trees and bushes in their gardens as well as in the windows of their houses to brighten up the damp and gloom of the shortest days of the year.

After the lovely sunsets and skies of the cold and frosty days over the run up to Christmas it's nice to turn our thoughts to the season to come. Did I see a thistle thrush among 'our' birds in the garden this

week? Even the blackbirds are happy to share the food I put out to eke out the remains of the winter berries before turning their activities to what is around the corner.

SPRING .. The very word has a zest to it ... It brings me to thoughts of our very own show to rid us of the winter gloom. Our Exhibition, put on each year by the Dore Art Group, will be held in the Old School in Dore village on Friday 7th and Saturday 8th April.

It's the week before Easter this year and as always we look forward to meeting old and new friends who we hope will come, view and perhaps purchase a picture, have a cup of tea or coffee and a chat.

After wondering last year if anyone, would come to the exhibition - the Pope's funeral was on the Friday, followed by the Royal Wedding of Prince Charles to his bride on the Saturday, but bless you, you did us proud and came in record numbers to see the show.

Oh yes - it's official by the way - going to an Art Gallery and spending time looking at the pictures is good for lowering STRESS levels.

Please come - it's good for you !

Connie Bedford
Dore Art Show Organiser

Traffic alerts: You can now find out about delays on the roads in Sheffield from the 'Traffic Alerts' page (quick link: www.sheffield.gov.uk/trafficalert). Any current traffic incidents are displayed with their location, the time the problem started and if the problem has cleared. The sheffield council website also provides online access to 33 city CCTV cameras.

Highways helpline: To report dangerous potholes, defective street lighting or for street cleaning services, ring the Council's helpline on 273 4567 from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday.




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Letters continued....

Dear Sir,

SDF - second round of public consultations

The Sheffield Development Framework (SDF) will eventually contain all the City's planning policies and guidelines and replace the Sheffield Unitary Development Plan. The SDF will guide all new development, protect the environment and help to shape the places where we live, work, shop and visit. It is therefore vital that as many people as possible are consulted.

In the later stages of SDF preparation, covering local areas, it is important that Dore residents are able to contribute. It is also important that the excellent Dore Village Design Statement prepared by the Dore Village Society is incorporated into supplementary planning guidance in order to protect our heritage.

The second stage of SDF consultations, from 27 February to 10 April, will cover emerging options for the core strategy, a City policies document, a City sites document and a proposals map. If you wish to be included on the list of SDF contacts for future consultation, please email: sdf@sheffield.gov.uk or write to SDF Team, Howden House, Sheffield S1 2SH.

You will then be written to at key stages, alerted to the publication of documents and consultation events and informed about how you can contribute your views.

Councillor Michael Waters

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you to thank you for the cheque that Dore Village Society kindly donated to Sheffield Wildlife Trust at Christmas. This was unexpectedly but gratefully received. As you will know, the continued support of our members and donations such as this all contribute to improving the environment.

I have considered the options of appropriate projects to which the contribution can be allocated. The work at Blacka Moor, in particular the repair of the Pinfold Bridge, I believe would be a very worthwhile cause. I hope you are in agreement. The bridge repairs are due to take place before March 31st 2006, though this is weather dependent.

Interestingly, I spoke to a local person some time ago about the bridge - they informed me that it is made up of old gravestones (the individual was passing by when it was being repaired some years ago, and noticed this). I am sure that this will come to light during the repairs, but I wonder whether anyone in the Society is aware of this?

I would also be interested in any stories, incidences or experiences that your members encountered as children or adults on Blacka Moor. We have a comprehensive archaeological survey, which tells us a huge amount about the site. However, I am particularly interested in any stories that are in living memory. Such stories and experiences can often inspire ideas for schools' sessions and bring the site alive

Annabelle Kennedy, Reserves Manager

News in brief

Threshers shop on Causeway Head Road is being sold to a franchisee as part of a major restructuring of shops within the group.

The television licence fee for colour sets will rise to £131.50 from the 1st April, and to £44 for black and white sets.

A planning application has been approved to extend Dore Masonic Hall in order to create toilets and a cloakroom.

Global warming is increasing at an unsustainable rate caused by the emission of greenhouse gases associated with industrialisation and economic growth from a world population that has increased sixfold in the last 200 years.

Sadly there will be no Open Gardens event during the Dore Festival this year.

Greens shop is now a photographic studio specialising in family portraits.

The average cost of a wedding in Britain is expected to rise to £17,370 - an increase of more than 5 per cent compared with last year.

The CPRE project to produce the local food directory for South Yorkshire has been a great success with more than 12,000 copies distributed to health practitioners, local food networks, retailers and shoppers across the region.

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continued from page 1.....

steam locomotive, carriages and workshop. The house eventually became part of Miss Trott's private school*.

Guy Mitchell was a true pioneer in the history of miniature railways, owning the very first of Northampton based W. J. Bassett-Lowke's 7" gauge LNWR Precursor class 4-4-0 live steam locos, designed by the later to be famous Henry Greenly.

Whilst many local residents are familiar with the miniature railway, just as many are not! "I've lived here all my life and never knew this existed!" is a typical comment from people who find it by accident walking by the Limb Brook or in Ecclesall woods. Those who do know the secret of the little railway (often second generation visitors now, bringing their children) think it's the best value for money 'park' in Sheffield.

The land, once known as Dr. Marshall's field and connected to the Limb Brook footpath by a wooden bridge, is now owned by the Sheffield and District Society of Model and Experimental Engineers. The Society moved from Nether Edge to Abbeydale Road South in 1978 at the invitation of Sheffield Council Parks department who used the land as a nursery. Since then the railway tracks have expanded and the buildings improved using money from train rides and refreshments.

March 2003 saw the completion of an extension to the clubhouse with new toilets (including facilities for disabled visitors and baby changing) and an engine shed, the cost being partly funded by a £5000 'Awards for All' Lottery grant. In 2005 a carriage shed and wheelchair carriage were built, again with help from the Lottery.

Prior to moving to its current location an elevated track and wooden clubhouse were at Chelsea Road, Nether Edge. Before that the Society had a small track at Birley Moor. Today there's an extensive, fully signalled dual gauge (7" and 5") ground level railway, a multi-gauge (7" to 0 gauge) raised track and a gauge 1/gauge 0 'garden railway'. Loco unloading facilities, covered steaming bays with compressed air and electricity, carriage shed, turntable and engine shed attract enthusiasts from other towns.

Signalling is controlled either automatically by the loco drivers, or by a signalman inside a scaled down signal box. The system is fully interlocked using electronics and pneumatics. There are two stations, two level crossings, two footbridges and one overbridge, with some challenging gradients. The Society owns a petrol hydraulic locomotive, called 'EDWARD' and a battery powered 'diesel' 'HYMEK'. Many members operate their own steam locomotives. Others build and operate traction engines and stationary engines.

The railway opens to the public for train rides (weather permitting) on March 19th then on alternate Sunday afternoons and bank holiday Mondays throughout the summer months. An exhibition will be held on the weekend of 8th/9th July. During winter months members meet on



Local builder Eric Wilson with his loco Roderic, pulling a full load of passengers at Abbeydale Miniature railway. Picture supplied by George Wainwright.

Sunday mornings and in the evening on the first and third Fridays of the month. A 'retired contingent' gather on Wednesdays to carry out maintenance and development work.

You can find the 'secret railway' in the woods off Abbeydale Road South alongside Limb Brook, near The Glen Nursing Home. We put out a yellow sign on the grass verge when we are open. Refreshments are usually available.

If you are seriously interested in model engineering and would like to become a member of the society, or simply want more information about the miniature railway please phone 236 9002 or visit our web site at www.sheffieldsmee.co.uk where you can take a virtual tour!

Mick Savage

Ed. If any readers can supply any information regarding the Brook House Railway, or its contemporaries the Greystones Railway or Peakland Railway would they please contact Mick Savage, tel. 236 9002.

** According to John Booth writing in our autumn 2005 edition, several of the old houses on Grove Road used to form Dore & Totley High School for Girls (preparatory for boys) - Principal Miss Trott. He thinks the school closed in the 1960s. We would be interested to hear from anyone who can tell us more about the school.*

Abbeydale Miniature Railway www.sheffieldsmee.co.uk

Timetable

First train 1p.m. – last train 5p.m.

March Sunday 19th

April Sunday 2nd

Sunday 16th (Easter Sunday)

Monday 17th (Easter Monday)

Sunday 30th

May Monday 1st (Bank holiday)

Sunday 14th

Neighbourhood Watch

In theory Dore has one of the largest concentrations of Neighbourhood Watch groups in the city. I say in theory because only a small percentage of street coordinators regularly attend the bimonthly meetings held at the Totley Rise Methodist Church Hall at which there is always a Police presence.

Whether this is due to waning interest or to lack of knowledge of meeting dates is hard to tell, but dates are always posted on the village notice board some two to three weeks in advance and are broadcast on the Police telephone Watchline Service. They are also posted on the Dore Village Society's website.

I would urge any coordinators who are not currently registered on the Watchline Service to consider having their name and telephone number added to the register. The main purpose of the Watchline is to pass information quickly to the coordinators and, although problems have been experienced both with this and previous telephone systems, it now seems to have settled down. If you decide to register, I can supply a form for completion and despatch to South Yorkshire Police.

If your group is still active, do try to attend the meetings as this is the only way you will know what is happening in this area.

There are major changes in Policing taking place in South Yorkshire and, as of now, both Dore and Totley come under the Sharrow and South West Sheffield Safer Neighbourhood Area based upon Meersbrook Police Station instead of Woodseats as previously. Our new Community Officer, P.C. David Spencer is very supportive of Neighbourhood Watch in common with previous incumbents, so please help to keep Dore a low crime area by playing an active part.

Jim Trotter 236 6444



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Beauty and the beast

I meet many people on my trips to the village on my scooter, accompanied by my canine companion. I am often asked about what work he does for me so I thought I would write this article. I was trying to think of a sensible, suitable title but only one came to mind as reflecting our relationship accurately.....

Many people come up to us and looking intently at one of us say things like

Aren't you beautiful?

You are so gorgeous

You look so intelligent

You've got such lovely eyes

OK, so now you have guessed who 'beauty' refers to and why I, 'the beast', am jealous.

His name is Euro for which I carry no responsibility. Something more macho would have been preferable even though Euro is now more of an 'it' than a 'he'. Thinking of calling him 67p (value correct when I got him)!

Euro is an incredibly calm, good natured soul. I think I should try his food - it must be laced with Prozac! Talking of his food, he has to be weight-watched closely and has no titbits of any kind. He must be able to go to restaurants and not expect scraps or to hang around slobbering hopefully! I do carry a card issued by the Department of the Environment to authorise his admission to food places. He has the same rights of access as a Guide Dog. He has even had a seat allocated to him at the Lyceum! However, he does eat paper and according to my son, who recently cleared the garden, he also eats socks, pop socks and tea-towels!!!!

Euro is now two and a half. He spent a year with a family who do 'socialising', then 6 months in training, then a month or so with an instructor who assessed him and then matches each dog to a successful applicant. The organisation that I went through, at my children's suggestion, was Dogs for the Disabled. They are well

organised and supportive. Euro was placed with me to see how we got along. The instructor originally coming a few times a week, then gradually decreasing in frequency. We still have a lot to learn. Very different from having a pet dog, but more of that later.

We had to have a test outing together with an independent instructor, I was nervous, Euro wasn't! He was just doing his thing the same as always. We passed and he swapped his lovely blue 'in training' jacket for a horrible yellow one. We are the 316th partnership! I signed a contract saying amongst other things that I won't sell him! I then paid £1. You never own the dog, as with other assistance dogs such as Guide Dogs. The organisation pays for his pet insurance and a food manufacturer donates his food. The vet I take him to has agreed to groom him, an activity he loves but something I have difficulty doing myself. I have an obligation to ensure he gets some exercise, although this is not required daily, for which walking with me around shops counts and also that he has time off-lead at least weekly.

He is brilliant at walking at the same pace as I 'scoot', soon settles when I stop or sit down at a friend's house, which is usually within a minute. I think he sees a bridge table and realises he is in for yet another two to three hour sleep! Even those who don't like dogs are usually ok about him being around.

His main task is to pick up what I drop eg phone, keys, remotes, post etc. He can also help me take off my coat and gloves. His other main job is to carry a bag to and from the house to my car or to the scooter which I keep in the garage. He seems so keen to work that he does bring me items I have not asked for, for which I must not praise him. His speciality is papers from the waste bin - I have now bought one with a lid! This habit is something I have learned to be wary of, as any item placed somewhere different from the usual place he will move, so I guess he is tidying for me, my standards not being good enough! He doesn't damage anything I ask him to bring to me but what he appears to see as 'lying around' is fair game - this includes food! I think this is why I have several chewed remote controls and food left on a table disappears when I am out of the room.....

Training is ongoing and currently I am trying to train him to bring me items at a distance from me that I point to. At the moment if he doesn't spot the item I want he just brings me anything he thinks I might want, I then try not to laugh and do not praise him.

The only blips so far are an occasional refusal to go willingly into the car - is this a reflection of his view on my driving and/or the fact that occasionally the small scooter I keep in the car has landed on him? - and distraction, if there are children around or food on the floor nearby. Oh yes, plus the need to take cushions off the settee to show off and get the attention of any visitors.

The way I have been advised to treat him is based on pack behaviour. I have to be placed higher in the pack than he is.

The trainer advised me that the most powerful tools for achieving this are to ignore him, make no eye contact or touch or talk to him, unless I have called him to me. Apparently dogs are most content when they know their position in the pack, being second is not of itself a problem.

Food is a key reward for good behaviour. Eye contact, talking and touching are also rewards. So basically very like humans. Watch those TV programmes on children and parents!!

I am now established as leader of his pack! If Euro is ever in doubt or the opportunity presents, he will assume the role of leader. An example of Euro doing this is that when he is in a room with me he always settles on the carpet, but when he first came if he found himself in a room on his own I would often discover him making himself at home on the settee!!!!

One of my difficulties is convincing others that he is not treated cruelly! At home, when I call him to me he is made as much fuss of as any other pet dog. He has plenty of 'time off'.

I would ask you not to engage with him at all when he is wearing his jacket, even if he is lying down, and not to respond in any way if he asks you for attention. He is well aware of when people are talking 'about' him although not directly to him! By sticking to this it helps me (and supports his training, which cost around £10,000) as he is ready to work and not distracted - he would, I'm sure, much prefer to be petted and played with. I try to stick to this however harsh it appears to others but occasionally make an exception where children show interest in his role.

For those of you who do not want his attention in the first place, the main tips are not to make eye contact and to fold your arms - not raise them.

We still have a lot of training to do together, but I do think we make a good team. I hope Euro also thinks this.

Beryl

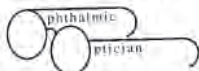
Ed. In this case, women's best friend!

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Ecclesall Woods - Update

The sawmill site at Ecclesall Woods is now back in full Council control as of the 1st January 2006. Over the coming months the site will be closed to the public, during which time it will be tidied, essential maintenance undertaken, formal site signage introduced and the entrance made more attractive.

Ted Talbot (who was Ranger Service Manager at Parks and Countryside until a few years ago), has been appointed as the Woodlands Project Officer for the Ecclesall Woods sawmill site. He will be working part-time on a 3 year contract, part funded by European Objective 1 monies (via the South Yorkshire Forest Partnership Team).

His role is to act as Champion for the proposed transformation of Ecclesall Woods sawmill site into a multi-purpose facility, involving potentially: small-scale visitor facilities; workshops for wood-related businesses; a retail outlet and "shop window" for wood products, a base for site related staff; and a "gateway" for education, interpretation and training programmes and materials associated with the surrounding woodland.

Ted will also be co-ordinating the planning and implementation of the project in conjunction with stakeholders and partners and help to attract and manage the funding and other resources required.

This project is at an early stage. As the year progresses, there will be further chance for you to hear more about and influence the proposals. Various volunteer opportunities will also be coming up over the coming months.

One of the first projects related to the sawmill site will be a gallery, opening from mid-February 2006 (at weekends only) where examples of locally produced hand-crafted bespoke wood furniture will be on display to the public within one of the buildings in the sawmill site, produced by furniture makers from Sheffield and North Derbyshire of national and international repute. Furniture will also be available for sale. This is a joint project with the South Yorkshire Forest Partnership Team, and Working Woodlands Limited, a local social enterprise involving local furniture makers and woodcrafts persons. Look out for further publicity nearer the time.

Turning to other related matters, the proposed project with Ruskin Mill Educational Trust (Freeman College in Sheffield) is progressing. The Trust provides specialist education facilities and services for young people aged between 16 and 25 with learning difficulties. A vital part of the educational programme offered is the "ancient and sustainable technology" curriculum.

This curriculum enables students to take part in green wood work, and other woodland crafts, and to experience craft activities in a context that is affected by the natural cycles of the seasons and the weather. As part of this it is planned, later this year, to develop a small woodland camp, with temporary wooden shelters, for 3-5 students initially, focusing on

green wood turning. It is hoped this will start in autumn 2006, but I will keep you informed.

Elsewhere in the woodlands, the Rangers are busy repairing benches, digging ditches, and undertaking a whole host of other maintenance tasks and small-scale improvements as part of routine repairs and preparation for this year's round of Green Flag, which the site successfully retained in 2005.

A recent allocation of "planning gain" monies to the woodland for path improvements means we will be undertaking some priority path improvements in Wood Three, between Abbey Lane and Dore Road over the coming year. Work near the Limb Brook is already underway.

Over the coming year, the current management plan for the woodland will be reviewed and a new five year work programme will be developed, following public and other consultation. In addition we will be working with the Friends of Ecclesall Woods over the spring and summer to help launch the recently

produced schools education pack for the woods, funded by a Local Heritage Initiative grant the Friends attracted. This will involve a range of events and activities with school children.

If you would like further information, or have any comments and views on the above, please feel free to contact me on 0114 2736387.

Nick Sellwood
Woodlands Manager
Sheffield Parks and Countryside

Save those trees

Retrospective planning permission was not granted by the Council for the pruning and felling last autumn of mature oak trees in Bushey Wood. This was carried out by unknown contractors on behalf of a Devonshire Road resident. If the Council decides to take legal action in respect of the damage to these trees, which were protected by a preservation order, the homeowner could face a fine of up to £20,000.

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The Wildlife Garden

Forget snowdrops pushing their way through the frosty soil; catkins appearing or lambs being born, the first true sign of spring is the sound of a neighbour mowing the new flush of grass.

You can also guarantee that around the same time as the annual mowing marathon begins, fliers from various lawn-maintenance companies will drop through your letter box. Whether one company is any better than another or they can really produce a bowling-green lawn from a turf which is so worn, it looks as though the MOD has used it as a tank-testing track, I can't say.

However, there is one thing that is certain, the emergence of these specialist enterprises over the last few years shows just how much lawn upkeep has changed. It is no longer an art, based solely on someone's experience, but a science.

Grass, just like any other plant, has a seasonal growth cycle and requires a variety of nutrients at different times of the year. One of the things which lawn-maintenance companies do is match fertilisers to the plant's needs, for instance in spring, a nitrogen-rich fertiliser is used to 'green it up'.

Now while a striped, close-cut lawn might be seen as a thing of beauty and is often considered a 'must-have' item in British gardens, it is also energy intensive and requires a lot of fertiliser and water to ensure it is kept at its best. So, are there ways in which we can minimise our impact on the environment - and our pockets - while still producing a tidy lawn that we can be proud of? Also, can such a feature ever be considered 'wildlife-friendly' or are the two incompatible?

Before cutting the lawn, it is important to check over your mower and make sure the blades are clean and sharp. This not only helps reduce any drag on the blades and the energy your mower will use, it also ensures the grass is cut cleanly, which means it is less prone to catching fungal diseases.

Also, adjust the blades to their highest setting at this time of year, as despite the influence of global warming, your grass is only just starting to regrow. As the season progresses, you should lower the height of the blades gradually, so that the grass will have time to get 'used' to the new cutting

regime.

Something else you must remember is never cut the grass when the ground is saturated, as you will compress the soil, which prevents the grass roots penetrating. This leads to poor drainage and the bane of all lawn enthusiasts - moss. But don't automatically reach for the herbicide spray, moss is a valuable commodity that is eagerly sought after by many garden birds to line their nests.

The more often you cut the lawn, the more it will need feeding. Nowadays, the trend is to use resin-coated fertilisers which slowly release their nutrients over time or there is an organic alternative: pelleted chicken manure. Which ever one you choose, both must be spread evenly or you could scorch the new growth. Very soluble fertilisers are best applied 'little and often', but unless used carefully, they can drastically change the soil's pH.

If all this seems like too much trouble, then what about sowing a mix of around 50% clover/50% coarse grasses, as this does not require any additional nitrogen fertiliser - the element being provided by the legume. Unfortunately, such a meadow is not to everybody's taste, although when in bloom it is a glorious sight and the flowers are bumblebee-magnets.

Another way to avoid using fertilisers is to leave your grass cuttings on the lawn. Although you clearly shouldn't do this if you are planning to use it for playing bowls, many of the nutrients in the clippings, such as potassium, are readily available and quickly taken up again by the growing grass. Indeed, this is a practice often carried out in apple orchards, as the grass is very good at accumulating iron - while the tree is not - and when cut, the grass will release it back into the soil in a form the trees can utilise.

Even if you do all these things, it still doesn't answer the central question: can a lawn ever be wildlife-friendly? Personally, I think that if you cut back on the amount of fertilisers, herbicides and worm killers you use and learn to tolerate other plant species creeping in amongst the grasses, then in essence, what you have created is another habitat for your garden wildlife to exploit. Starlings will poke around in the lawn for grubs and on warm, damp nights your local hedgehog will no doubt feast on the earthworms that pop up through the turf in search of mates.

Having said this, perhaps the ultimate in eco-friendly actions is to get rid of the electric or petrol lawnmower entirely and buy a hand one instead. Then not only will you help cut back on all those greenhouse gases needed to generate the electricity or refine the fuel, you will also get rid of those extra pounds you put on around your waist over Christmas.

Other tasks for the wildlife garden in spring.

Clean out any debris from nest boxes and cut back hedges before the birds start nesting. Also, dead plant material will need removing from the pond and any over-grown plants reducing in size to give the amphibians more room for their vigorous courtship.

When the birds start nesting, fill a few shallow containers with mud and cut back some of your wispy ornamental grasses and sedges, but don't compost them as they will be useful for building materials. Keep feeding the birds, but avoid giving them coconut and ensure they can't get access to whole peanuts, as both of these can choke fledglings. Instead, try putting out live foods, such as meal worms, or dig over a patch of ground so that they can easily find worms or pests like slugs.

Jack Daw

Family History Fair

Are you are interested in finding out more about your family history? On Saturday 1st April the Sheffield & District Family History Fair is taking place in the Centre in the Park, Guildford Avenue, Norfolk Park between 10am and 5pm. Admission is free.

A large number of local groups and organisations will be available to give advice and offer products to help you, whether you are an experienced researcher or just starting out.

St John's special services

The choir at St. John's, along with other singers from the area will be offering special music at two services this Easter and Ascensiontide.

Sunday April 2nd at 6.30p.m. A service of Anthems, Hymns, and Readings for Passiontide. The Music will include:

Miserere - Allegri,

He Trusted in God & Behold the Lamb of God - from the Messiah by Handel.

Christus Factus est - Felice Anerio

O Vos Omnes - T.L.de Victor

Sunday May 14th at 6.30pm A celebration of Easter & Ascension.

The music will include:

Te Deum - Haydn

Hear my prayer - Mendelssohn

O Thou the Central Orb - Wood

Blessed be the God and Father - Wesley

We welcome everyone to these services

.Good Friday April 14th. 10am. A Family service especially suitable for children.

2pm. Devotional hour by the cross.

Easter Sunday April 16th. 8am Holy Communion. B.C.P. Service

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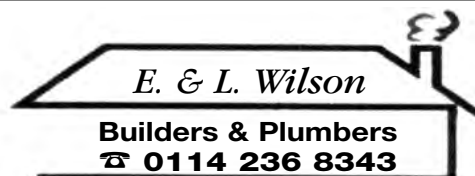
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The Mystery House

Philip Robinson recently purchased this postcard on ebay. postmarked 29th September 1906. The card was sent from Blackheath, South London to a Mrs Brewer in Ulverston. The message on the reverse reads "This house is where B & I stayed at in Totley near Sheffield. I hope Mr. Brewer is better & think you were also better for the change to (?) Southport. Love to you all from (?)"

The gateposts are pyramid topped, and on the left-hand post is the word "BRIAR" presumably the first half of the house name.

The picture was first published in the Totley Independent before Christmas. A number of respondents quickly realised that the house is in fact in Brinkburn Vale Road off the bottom of Devonshire Road. But the mystery still remains. Who was it wrote the card and why were they staying at the house? Was it the home of relatives or a lodging house?

Ed. If you have any old postcards of Dore or its surrounding we would be pleased to publish them.

View from KES

All the building and grounds work on the new school is just about complete, and we are very pleased with the result. More on this later in this article.

We often get many compliments passed on to us, but most of these are 'by word of mouth'. We would like to build up a 'thanks book', where we can keep letters and comments and pass them on to the staff concerned. So if you have been particularly pleased about something – maybe a trip or activity in which your child has been involved, or you have attended a school event such as a concert, a play, or have been shown around the new school on one of our Open Evenings why not send us a note and let us know?



The mystery Victorian house, which turned out to be on Brinkburn Vale Road.

Official opening: I can confirm that the official opening of our new school will take place on Friday 10th March. Richard Caborn MP, has kindly agreed to open the school. In addition to Richard, we are hoping to have one or two other guest speakers at the event including Sheffield's Mayor. The school will also be open on Saturday 11th March for ex-pupils, staff and members of the local community to come and have a look around. In the run up to the opening we hope to have a number of events for students to celebrate this special occasion.

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 Concerts were held early in

December, following a rehearsal weekend for the orchestra, which provided intensive tuition and rehearsals for our musicians. The concerts were very good, and they were thoroughly enjoyed by the musicians and audiences with the range and standard of music being excellent.

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 (sideshow, 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 £750, and we will be presenting a cheque to a representative of HARC in a Y7 assembly.

In November we had a special fundraising day for the Pakistan earthquake. We had a non-uniform day, an Eid party and pupils also raised money by bringing in homemade cakes etc to sell, having sponsored silences (always popular with teachers) and busking. We raised £1800, which was donated to the Disasters Emergency Committee.

Adult education classes: Our Adult Education classes began on Thursday 19th January. At the time of writing I am not yet clear how many people have signed up for each of the classes we are running: ICT, Asian Cooking and Biology.

These classes are all free of charge, all I ask is that we have a reasonable minimum number who are willing to attend. If you are reading this article and would like to know more or are maybe interested in attending one of the classes, why don't you give me a call at school and I shall see what I can do?

Buses: We have been working with First Mainline to make a number of changes to the way we manage the bus service.

About half our pupils live outside the immediate area around the school (Dore

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and Totley), and many of the remainder travel to and from school by bus. In November we wrote to all parents outside the S17 postcode area about bus issues.

We have a longstanding rule that pupils who use the 97/97A service must catch the bus at the terminus outside school at the end of the day. This is because we have staff on bus duty supervising the pupils and ensuring well ordered queuing and boarding.

From January, the bus service after school improved with a fifth bus being put on. This means that between 3.25 and 3.40 there should be five buses to take pupils from school.

We also want to ensure that pupils do not congregate in the area by the Spar and Tesco at the bottom of Bushey Wood Road after school, where there have been some problems in the past caused by poor behaviour. Pupils have been told they are not allowed to visit the shops at the bottom of Bushey Wood Road before 4.15 unless accompanied by a parent. We have spoken to the shop managers about this and they are happy to support us by not serving our pupils after school. The shops will also let us know of any problems and use their CCTV to record antisocial behaviour.

At the same time, the bus company has closed the two stops near the Spar/Tesco area after school, so buses will not pick up from there.

We expect pupils to leave the school straightaway at the end of the day unless they are involved in a supervised activity (sports practice, study club etc.) – obviously we cannot be responsible for unsupervised pupils.

Progress with the new school: Work on the new school is nearly complete. Since September, the contractors have been completing the external works – car park, drives, tennis courts/play areas and landscaping. We anticipate that everything will be finished within the next couple of weeks.

We are very pleased with the way in which the new school has been maintained in good condition so far. We have worked hard with pupils to ensure that they respect the tremendous new facilities – we don't want it to be taken for granted and, by and large, this has been the case. Unfortunately we have had one or two cases of petty vandalism caused by people who are not members of the school. However, in each instance the culprits were caught on CCTV, and they have been dealt with by the police – we won't hesitate to report such cases to the police, as well as reclaiming the cost of the damage.

We have also been largely successful in our efforts to keep the school 'gum-free'. We would like to remind parents that pupils are not allowed to have chewing gum in school because of the mess it makes and we deal with culprits accordingly. We also ask that visitors (including parents!) refrain from chewing gum in school.

Use of the drives and car parks: Dropping off and picking up: - Parents who bring and collect their children to and from school are reminded that pupils should be dropped off and collected

outside the school gates. Please do not come down the drive to drop off or pick up (unless there is a particular medical need such as a child on crutches) as this causes congestion. Pupils are quite capable of walking the 50 yards from the top of the drive. Also, if you drop your child off at the King Ecgbert Road footpath, please do not drive down the cul-de-sac, as this causes major congestion problems (and nuisance to the residents). Please drop off in Furniss Avenue so that your child walks along the cul-de-sac.

Visiting school: - If you need to come into school during the day you may be able to find a parking space in the car park – otherwise, please park on Totley Brook Road. MITIE (the facilities management company) are introducing a parking permit scheme, so if you have parked in the car park you will be asked to give the details of your car when you sign in at reception. We do have some spaces for drivers with disabled permits.

School Travel Plan: The school travel plan was produced to coincide with the opening of the new building. The aim of the plan is to raise awareness of and encourage sustainable travel to and from the school site by staff, parents and students, and to reduce the use of the car for these journeys. The Travel Plan is a 'live' document, which will be regularly monitored and reviewed by the school.

We shall be actively encouraging staff to car share and students to travel to and from school by bus or bicycle. Further information on events we have planned in relation to this plan can be obtained by contacting Mr McClafferty, Deputy Headteacher.

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

Sean McClafferty Deputy Headteacher i/c Community and Technology College Status

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Before *After*

Book Reviews

There will be plenty of readers who already have a copy of *A History of Sheffield*, by well known local historian David Hey. David has now revised and extended the 1998 edition to include new information and illustrations as well as bringing it right up to date. The book follows the growth of the city from its early beginnings and its probable foundation by William de Lovetot in the 12th century, through the middle ages to the start of industrialisation and its eventual development into an industrial city renowned for its steel. The result is an excellent overview of Sheffield's history, with separate chapters expanding on the most important periods. The final chapter covers the modern city from between the wars to the demise of steel and efforts towards regeneration. The book is comprehensively illustrated with old black and white and more modern colour photographs, along with maps and painting. *A History of Sheffield* is essential reading for anyone interested in or wishing to research the history of our city. Published by Carnegie Publishing in paperback. 312 pages, price £14.95 ISBN 1-85936-110-2

Here a Little, There a Little is the life story of Mary Dyson (nee Smith) who rose from being a buffer girl in the Sheffield cutlery industry to be Lady Mayoress in 1970-71. Her story spans the whole of the twentieth century and gives a fascinating insight into the basic living conditions of working-class people in Sheffield. Schooldays, chapel, work, romance and family life are depicted here with a strong sense of life and community. For Mary, who married Sydney Dyson one of the post-war leaders of Labour politics in the city, political life provided the opportunity of putting into practice the Methodist principles learned at Sunday School. Later retirement from politics opened up a



whole new career in the world of art. Mary died recently at the age of 97 and her life story is fondly told by her daughter-in-law Sheila Dyson. Published by Northend in paperback, 80 pages price £6.99. ISBN 0-901100-61-7

People are drawn to the sheer majesty of Chatsworth house, yet its impact is greatly enhanced by its estate setting. Maintaining great estates was labour intensive, which led to the need to house workers and the development of the estates three villages, Edensor, Beeley and Pilsley. *The Chatsworth Villages* by Diane Naylor is the first book to describe the three Chatsworth Villages, their history and development. Beeley is Saxon in origin, Edensor was an important Saxon settlement subsequently relocated when the estate was landscaped, and Pilsley, partly a planned village, can be traced back to the Domesday Book. The book is full of interesting detail and packed with over 300 wonderful old photographs capturing the buildings and significant village events of the times. A book to make you look again at these three unique Derbyshire villages. Published by Landmark Publishing in paperback, 144 pages price £14.99. ISBN 1-84306-198-8

The Sheffield Campaign for Access to Moorland (SCAM) played a pivotal role in the campaign to restore public access to mountain and moorland in the UK. A battle finally won with the passing of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act in 2000. *Right to Roam* provides a history and celebration of SCAM, looking back to its early beginnings at the 50th anniversary celebrations of the 1932 Kinder Scout Mass Trespass, and at the active lobbying role which the group undertook. It includes descriptions of some of the early organised mass trespasses, and the unheralded restoration by SCAM members of ancient moorland standing stones and guide stoops, which had been pulled down because they were believed to encourage and aid trespassers. A special walks section includes eight suggested 'Routes to Roam' complete

with maps, in the newly-opened access areas. Published jointly by Northend and SCAM in paperback, 88 pages price £6.99. ISBN 0-901100-60-9

Not every walking book has fool proof instructions on routes, but the second book in a series *Brill Walks in the Peak and Dales* gets about as close as you can get. Each of the twelve circular walks has been thoroughly pre-tested, following the clear instructions (supplemented by notes on points of interest) and maps provided. The walks are grouped into 4 areas around Matlock, Bakewell, Birchover and Youlgrave and range from 3 to 7 miles long. Each section begins with a narrative written by co-author Freda Bowman, where a fictional character tells a tale set at an interesting time in the village's history. Her husband Bob who is a volunteer Peak Ranger, has taken the scene setting photographs. The first book in the series *Brill Walks in the Peak* is still available, covering walks around Eyam, Grindleford, Ashford in the Water and Hathersage. Published by Northend, spiral bound. 76 pages price £7.99 ISBN 0-901100-62-5

Wyvern Walkers

Over 100 people joined the Wassail Walk on Tuesday 27th December. An enjoyable walk was followed by hot mince pies and a glass of punch at the Old School. Walkers donated over £300 towards the Pakistani Earthquake Appeal.

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. We meet 9.30am at Dore Old School for car share where appropriate. Forthcoming walks are:

Thursday 2nd March. From Grindleford along the Derwent and across fields to Froggatt before ascending Froggatt Edge and returning via Hay Wood - about 5.5 miles

Friday 24th March. From Eyam to Bretton, then Foolow, returning to Eyam - about 5 miles.

Tuesday 11th April. Around Holmesfield, incorporating a Church, a Castle and a Manor House - about 5 miles.

Saturday 29th April. A longer walk of 10 miles at a steady pace proceeding up Blacka Moor, along the Houndkirk Road, down the Porter Valley with lunch at Forge Dam. Return to Dore via Whiteley Wood. Bring a packed lunch.

Finally be sure to make a note in your diary about our bi-annual boundary walk around Dore, which takes place on Saturday 24th June.

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Stars in Dore

Sirius, the brightest star in the whole sky, is due south in Dore at sunset in early Spring and sets before midnight. Let's take some time thinking about this spectacular object.

Sirius, the Dog Star, was not always the alpha-macho object, even though it has changed little in brightness during the whole of humankind's existence on this planet. A mere two hundred thousand years ago, however, Sirius was not below left of Orion but near Castor and Pollux in Gemini. At that time, it was also very much fainter. Furthermore, another two hundred thousand years hence, Sirius will have left our northern skies altogether and will almost have reached the southern celestial pole.

This is typical behaviour of all nearby stars. Sirius, itself, is only 8.8 light years from the Earth. At the present rate of population growth and urban and village sprawl we may have all moved to another location ourselves, perhaps where Sirius still shines! On the more serious side, there is a most interesting historical reference to Sirius which should be highlighted in connection with what we have said.

In 903AD al-Sufi, 'Abd al-Rahman, was born in Persia (Iran), a beautiful land where the Sun and stars shine brightly, perhaps contrary to our present-day image of the Middle East, that battle-torn, ravaged and angry land which has suffered for centuries. Muhammad had died c632AD leaving a legacy which can scarcely be denied, one which united armies and helped his followers to free themselves of Byzantium. However, religion can have a strange, aggressive effect on people. Astronomy was always of strong interest for humankind, too, certainly for the Arabs, and, I suppose, partly due to the sheer power of knowledge, this noble science exerts pressure today on governments.

Quite late in life, al-Sufi compiled a famous text, *A Book of the Fixed Stars* (c.964AD) based on Ptolemy's *Almagest* (2nd century AD). Stars were charted and Arabic names were given to all the brighter stars, and al-Sufi, himself, added many of his own observations. He is clearly a reliable secondary source, as was Ptolemy before him, but we must tread carefully with nebulous mythology. We must today also totally ignore Astronomy's idiot brother, Astrology, even if we can extract some useful tidbits from historical Astrology.

According to al-Sufi, the Arabs called Sirius al-schira al-abur ('Sirius which has passed across'). Excuse our lack of Arabic accents! Al-Sufi writes that it was called al-abur "because it has passed across the Milky Way into the southern region". He relates a mythological story which describes Sirius as having fled towards the south and passed across the Milky Way towards Suhail (Canopus, the second brightest star in the whole sky). The same story is retold by Albufaragius (13C).

In truth, Sirius has, indeed, passed across the Milky Way in sixty thousand years as can be inferred from what has

already been said in our first paragraph. It is tempting to believe that the Greeks and the Arabs were re-telling a story passed down from the Early Stone Age. The actual proper motion of Sirius could not possibly have been known to the ancients unless an even earlier Age had already noticed discrepancies in Sirius' position from much earlier stories handed down to them! We might never know!

This story might be in some Reader's minds as they stroll down Newfield Lane on a warm Spring night. Sirius is well visible across Blackamoor, and will continue to be so unless houses in the St Catherine's (Long Acres' new name) flood the Lane with security lights! We implore them not to do so. St Catherine is the patron saint of the Dominicans, her name being Caterina Benincasa, being born in Sienna (1347-80). A stigmata is said to have been imprinted on her body.

Sirius holds a secret which was suspected in 1842 and proven in 1860. It has a faint companion star of a rather unusual kind. A so called white dwarf star nestles in beside it and shares its motion across the sky. If readers of Dore to Door remember, we mentioned recently the white dwarf in Eridanus, the celestial River which stretches from the equator to Achernar in the southern sky. Sirius' white dwarf companion is so dense that our Sun could be packed into a ball the size of our Earth. This small ball is called Sirius B. The star has collapsed into itself as nuclear burning ended in the stellar core. One can read more about these miracles of astrophysics in an excellent, simply written book by William Keel, entitled 'The Sky at Einstein's Feet' (2006 Springer 10: 0-387-26130-3). It is written by an astronomer who adds many personal anecdotes and is very up-to-date.

This Spring (2006) the planets are not so rewarding as in the last few years. Venus in March rises before sunrise and may be seen rather low in the south-east at dawn, magnitude -4.4. Mars will be much fainter (+1.5), still in Taurus, below the Pleiades cluster, but rapidly moving into Gemini through April and May, and appearing further and further towards the west until it is lost in sunlight. Jupiter (mag -2.3) is in Libra, a constellation that never rises high in the Dore skies. The giant planet can best be seen after midnight until sunrise. Elusive Mercury is in conjunction with the Sun around 19 May and is unlikely to be caught in Dore this Spring. That leaves Saturn (about mag +0.3) as the most promising planet. It is visible the whole evening high in the constellation of the Crab, near the Beehive Cluster, with its rings now closing and revealing part of Saturn's northern hemisphere. A sight of its largest moon, Titan, will never feel the same now that humankind has soft-landed a probe on it.

The Moon is Full on 14/15 March in Leo, 13/14 April in Virgo and 11/12 May in Libra, and if you wish to see lunar craters at their best, look with your telescopes at any times other than these. We are often asked about Full Moon, and that is why we show two dates each. The exact time of Full can fall either in the evening or the morning so we can at best

'date' it by stating during which 'night' it occurs. A certain Father Murphy once contacted me in Ireland about the exact time of Full Moon, and I was somewhat embarrassed when he explained that he was working in the Philippines and needed to advise girls on the biological rhythm. Anyway, our dear Moon cannot be blamed for all mishaps! It is one of the most rewarding celestial objects. A telescope is not even needed to see its surface features. We have heard of the Man in the Moon but we were surprised this month to read in *Sky and Telescope* magazine of the Woman in the Moon. She looks to the left, the profile of her head nearly filling the Moon, and apparently she wears a necklace carrying a diamond (the bright-rayed crater Tycho?). We have frequently managed to make out the Man and the Hare but next Full we shall be looking for the Woman, and perhaps for Caterina Benincasa.

David Andrews

Sweet smell?

Onyx, the city council's waste disposal partner, is being re-named Veolia Environmental Services after its parent company, which is bringing together its four divisions - waste management, transport, water and energy - under the Veolia brand.

The rebranding of vehicles will take place over the next few months. Whether this involves violet coloured bin lorries remains to be seen.

Dore Chimes

The concert party offshoot of Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society, Dore Chimes has had another full year. We have been offered more dates than we could fulfil, always a nice position to be in.

Our chosen name has, unfortunately been confused with bell ringers - oops - so we are in the process of renaming ourselves the TroubaDores. Still, we have had a busy year with concerts for the TWG, Ecclesall Historic Society, The Children's Society - Glossop, The Samaritans, Dore Ladies Group, Tickhill Music Society and Brodsworth Hall (for the fourth year running) and we even have a booking for 2007!

A charge is made for non-charitable functions. If you are interested in learning more about this group which provides light-hearted entertainment, please contact Jenny Bland on Sheffield 236 8552.

Derek Habberjam

Extra DORE to DOORS

Extra copies of Dore to Door, price 15p each, are available at the newsagents on Causeway Head Road, Totley Library, or the Dore Village Society room during open mornings.

Dore to Door is also available on postal subscription within the UK for £4 per year. Details from 236 9025, or visit our website. www.dorevillage.co.uk

Diary - Spring 2006

FEBRUARY

- 18 **Concert** with Sheffield Bach Choir at St Mark's Church, Broomhill 7.30pm Tickets £11, conc £8, from Sheffield Music Shop Broomhill, Blue Moon Cafe or SBS, 3 Tapton Mews, Tapton Crescent Rd, S10 5EA (Students £6 on the door).
- 20 **Charity Fashion Show** in aid of St Luke's Hospice at Baldwin's Omega 12.30pm Details from Tel: 236 9911
- 20 **St Cuthbert's Way Part 1.** Melrose to Kirk-Yetholm Speakers: Anne and Jim Headridge, Dore Methodist Women's Fellowship. 2.30pm Open to all
- 20 **Emerson Bainbridge of Sheffield**, talk by David Wilmot for South Yorkshire Industrial History Society 7.30pm Kelham Museum. Visitors £1. Tel: 230 7693
- 22 **Coffee Morning** Dore & Totley support group for the visually impaired, 11.30am Totley Methodist Church, Grove Road. 255 0758

MARCH

- 3 **Women's World Day of Prayer**, Totley All Saints Church, 13.30am, speaker Mrs Catherine Snow, refreshments, everyone welcome. Details - Tel 236 3027
- 6 **Talk** by Rev Garry Dawson-Jones for Dore Methodist Women's Fellowship 2.30pm
- 6 **Darnall Works**, talk by Mr Andrew Shepherd for Hallamshire Historic Buildings Society, 7.30pm Quaker Meeting House, James Street. Tel 230 9663
- 7 **Fashion Show** by Dore Classics for Dore Ladies Group. 8pm Church Hall Townhead Rd. Tickets £3 tel 236 0002
- 11 **Volunteer Working Day** at Whinfell Quarry Garden, from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Details 236 1113
- 12 **Spring plant sale**, Sheffield Botanical Gardens 2-4pm, refreshments and free admission
- 14 **Roman Chester:** Fortress, Town & Port. AGM then talk by Dr David Mason for Hunter Archaeological Society, Arts Tower, Sheffield Univ 7pm. Tel 01246 413496
- 18 **Dinner** at Carriage House Chatsworth, 7.30pm speaker Meredydd Hughes for St Luke's Hospice. Tel: 236 9911
- 20 **My days in 'Nursing'** talk by Mrs Ann Capper for Dore Methodist Women's Fellowship 2.30pm
- 21 **Stay Bright in Sheffield**, lecture on stainless steels by David Dulieu for South Yorkshire Industrial History Society. 6pm Royal Victoria Hotel. Tel: 230 7693
- 23 **Coffee Morning** Dore & Totley support group for the visually impaired, 11.30am Totley Methodist Church.
- 25 **Concert**, St Matthew Passion, Sheffield Bach Society at Sheffield Cathedral 6.30pm Tickets £13, conc £10, from Sheffield Music Shop Broomhill, Blue Moon Cafe or SBS, 3 Tapton Mews, Tapton Crescent Rd, S10 5EA. 266 8257 (Students £6 on the door).
- 29 **Spring Fayre** at Mickley Hall, Mickley Lane (Leonard Cheshire Home) from 10am-12noon

APRIL

- 1 **Family History Fair** Centre in the Park, Guildford Ave, Norfolk Park 10am-5pm free admission.
- 3 **Bring and Buy Sale.** Dore Methodist Women's Fellowship 2.30pm.
- 3 **Schooling for the poorer sort 1560-1800**, talk by Mr Malcolm Mercer for Hallamshire Historic Buildings Society, 7.30pm Quaker Meeting House, James Street. Tel 230 9663
- 4 **Visit to Uganda** Speakers Rev Dr Michael Hunter and Linda Hunter for Dore Ladies Group, 7.45 Church Hall Townhead Road. Guests welcome £3
- 5 **The Victorian Garden**, talk & AGM for Friends of Whinfell Quarry Garden, Whinfell Activity Centre, 7.30pm
- 7 & 8 **Art Exhibition**, Dore Art Group Dore Old School Fri - 2-6pm Sat. 9.30am-5pm Refreshments - Admission free
- 8 **Step out to Blacka Moor** 7 mile walk with the Rangers, meet at the POst Office on Townhead Road at 10.30am. Finish 2.30pm. Tel: 283 9195
- 10 **Surgical instruments** in the Hawley Collection. Talk by Adrian Padfield, for South Yorkshire Industrial History Society 7.30pm Kelham Museum. Visitors £1. 230 7693

- 23 **Family Dragon Hunt** starting 2pm at the Old School, organised by Dore Village Society. Fun for all the family. Refreshments and prizes.
- 24 **'Sri Lanka Post Tsunami'**. Speaker Rev David Willie, Dore Meth Women's Fellowship. 2.30pm Open to all
- 25 - 29 **Yeoman of the Guard** by Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society presents at the University Drama Studio. 7:30pm matinee at 2:30pm on 29th. Tickets (£8:50 or £7:50 concessions) from 248 7766

MAY

- 2 **Your Health** - How Bees can Help Speaker Gloria Havenhand of Troway for Dore Ladies Group 7.45 Church Hall Townhead Road. Guests welcome £3.
- 7 **Plant sale**, Friends of the Botanical Gardens 10.30am -2.30pm.
- 8 **Volunteer Working Day** at Whinfell Quarry Garden, from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Details 236 1113
- 8 **Talk** by Mrs Leslie Wallace, for Dore Methodist Women's Fellowship 2.30pm.
- 10 - 13 **They came from Mars...** a play by T.O.A.D.S at St John's Church Hall, 7.30pm. Tickets from 236 6891
- 13 **Bluebell Walk** in Ecclesall Woods organised by FEW. Meet 10am opposite Beauchief Gardens
- 15 **Upper Don Walk** and Brooklyn Bridge project, talk by Robin Fielder & Dr Alan Wood for South Yorkshire Industrial History Society 7.30pm Kelham Museum. Visitors £1. Tel: 230 7693
- 20 **Archaeology Walk** in Ecclesall Woods organised by FEW. Meet 10am opposite Beauchief Gardens
- 22 **'Dore Oral History Project'**. Talk by Mrs Maureen Cope for Dore Methodist Women's Fellowship 2.30pm

Councillor surgeries

- Local councillors are available for consultation in the Dore Village Society room on a regular basis. Forthcoming dates are:
Saturday 25th February, 25th March & 29th April 10am - 11am
- Conservatives.
Saturdays 11th March, 8th April & 13th May 10.30 - 12 noon
- Liberal Democrats.

Christ Church Dore services

- 1st March at 7.30 pm - Ash Wednesday Holy Communion Service in Church followed by coffee
- Wednesdays 15th March, 29th March and 12th April - 7.30 for 8 pm - Joint Meeting for Lent at Dore Methodist Church
- 19th March at 9.30 am - Uniformed Church Parade
- 26th March at 9.30 and 11.00 am - Mothering Sunday - Church Army Visiting Speaker: Paul Fitzpatrick
- 9th April - Palm Sunday - Joint S17 Churches service at King Egbert's School, Dore, processing from Christ Church at 10 am for 10.30 am service at King Egbert's.
- Friday 14th April - Good Friday - 10am All Age Service (followed by hot cross buns)
- 12-3 pm Vigil at the foot of the Cross in Church
- Sunday 16th April - Easter - Services at 8 am, 9.30, 11.00 and 5.30 pm

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