

DORE to DOOR

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

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Christmas in Dore

It will not be long before the Christmas trees and lights will again be up in the Village, thanks to the Dore Village Society. They will also once again organising a special evening opening of many of the village shops.

The Open Evening will start at 6pm on Wednesday 6th December with a celebration of Christmas Carols by the Brownies around the big Christmas tree outside the Country Garden. Then look out for Dore Methodist Church Choir who will be singing carols around the centre of the Village from 7pm. The Guides will be selling coffee and mince pies on the Dore Service Station forecourt and the following shops and business' will be open:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Country Garden | Dore Classics |
| Little Mischiefs | Dore Opticians |
| Dore Delicatessen | Gaby |
| Valerie of Dore - holding a flower demonstration & serving mulled wine | |
| HSBC Bank - offering a full counter service with sherry & mince pies. | |
| Open as usual: | |
| Hare & Hounds | Co-op |
| Devonshire Arms | Tasty Plaice |
| Dore Health & Beauty | Dore Grill |
| Threshers | |
| Almas Restaurant | Vivid |

Dore is fortunate to have such an excellent range of local shops restaurants and hostelrys. Between them you will find a wide range of ideas for Christmas presents, all the food and drink you need for your Christmas celebrations as well as places to go to with family and friends over the festive season. Many of them will be offering something a little different at the Open Evening, so don't miss this great local Christmas shopping opportunity.

Anne Elsdon

Annual Wassail Walk

Wednesday, December 27th
Approx five miles
10am start
Church Hall, Townhead Road
Hot drinks and mince pies



Dore Village Society Christmas card for 2006 (commissioned in full colour from local artist Bill Kirby). On sale in the village, price £2.50 per pack of 5, from Valerie of Dore, Dore Opticians, Dore Petrol Station or the DVS room at the Old School.

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

Autumn meeting

7.30pm Wednesday

29th November

Methodist Church Hall

Talk by Kath Birkinshaw

"A Year on a Hill Farm"

Everybody welcome

A case of neglect

*The future of Whirlow Wheel
- Limb Lane Playing Field*

Whirlow Wheel, which despite its name lies within Dore, is sited at the top of the football playing fields off Limb Lane. You can glimpse the building from Ecclesall Road just beyond the junction with Limb Lane, tucked away in a small area of woodland next to the Limb Brook.

For a number of years this building was used by the recreation dept as a store. Following the theft of roof slates several of years ago, it was only covered by a tarpaulin. Inevitably this has led to damage by the weather and the eventual recent collapse of the roof. A classic case of council neglect - more like we would expect from developers.

By chance we heard in passing that an archaeological survey of the wheel site

continued on page 4

Oral History Collection

Memories of Christmas Past

The celebration of Christmas has changed greatly over the years and many of the older generation in Dore have vivid memories of family rituals and village traditions when they were young.

Joan Sheppard (nee Dugdell) remembers Christmas at Overdale, Drury Lane in the 1920s. "I always loved Christmas Eve because my father, who was coachman and gardener, used to take me with him into the plantation at the back of Overdale. There, he had to cut down a Christmas tree for the big house and collect holly, ivy and other greenery, to be taken in just before tea-time. But, best of all, he let me choose my own little tree for Overdale Cottage where we lived, which I would decorate with the help of my elder sister. I used to feel so excited I could hardly wait for the afternoon to arrive."

Hazel Hoffman (nee Gill) recalls some of the village traditions in Dore in the late 1940s. "On Christmas Eve, we used to go up to the Dore Moor Inn where many people would gather to sing the famous Richard Furness carols. There were some leaders but everyone knew the words and sang them heartily. The two I particularly remember were "Awake my Harp" and "On the dew this sprinkled morn". Afterwards, we all strolled down to one of the cottages on Brickhouse Lane for a shared supper.

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Keep up to date with what's going on in Dore at www.dorevillage.co.uk

Membership subscriptions

It has been a number of years since the Society last reviewed its membership subscription rate. Like all organisations, we have faced gradually increasing costs, and our 5 year lease on the DVS room in the Old School also falls due for renewal at the end of this year.

Our objective has always been to keep subscription income and our overall operating expenses in balance, allowing any additional income to support new initiatives and our annual donations to other community organisations.

Consequently at the AGM in May a motion was agreed to increase the subscription rate to £5 per person from 2007. We hope that existing members will continue to feel able to support the work of the Society. Renewal forms will be included in the next edition.

Christmas Lights

The Dore Village Society will be putting up Christmas lights in the Village again this year. This will take place on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd December. A working party will be in the Village from 10am each day. If you can spare some time and would like to help please contact Geoff Cope on 235 0392.

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1017051

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

Chairman (Dore to Door)

Mr J R Baker 236 9025
8 Thornsett Gardens, S17 3PP.

Vice Chairman (Planning)

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

Treasurer

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

Secretary

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

Committee

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

Mr S Barnes 236 2661

Mr D Bearpark 236 9100

(Wyvern Walkers)

Mr G Cope 235 0392

Mr D Crosby 262 1127

Mrs A Elsdon 236 0002

(Subscriptions)

Mr P Pryor 236 9831

Mr D Ward 236 3472

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 Spring (February) issue to the address on this page by **Friday 26th January**

New Faces

Dore Delicatessen changed hands on the 4th November and has been taken over by *Catherine and David Trickett* who own the small food production company called Catherine's Choice. This produces award winning, additive and gluten free preserves, which are sold to a variety of shops throughout England.

At present they employ four members of staff, a chef, trainee chef and two others. Boucle has become the manager of the Delicatessen and the Chef will be based at Dore where he will produce items for the shop and for sale further a field.

They will continue as far as possible the additive free ethos and are looking to stock many locally produced items, for example Derbyshire Smokery patties, Burnt Sugar sweets, Round Green venison in vacuum packs and John Mettricks award winning lamb in packs or to order.

They do not aim to change the shop overnight, but will introduce changes gradually, and will be continuing and expanding the outside catering.

The Terrace Café based at Dore Moor Nursery on Brickhouse Lane changed ownership in May to *Joanne and Molly* – a mother and daughter team. The new name is **Dore Moor Coffee Shop**. Along with a new name and new ownership comes a new image. The shop is currently being refurbished and relocated, to reopen end November / early December. The aim is to achieve a traditional, cosy and comfortable place to come for morning coffee, breakfast, lunch or afternoon tea.

The coffee shop is also being relocated to the bungalow at the front of the garden centre. This allows for wheelchair access and disabled facilities. Also, particularly important over the colder months of the year, the coffee shop will provide a much warmer place for customers.

Then comes the food! Traditional home cooking and baking plays a very important part where the soups, quiches, specials and cakes are all home made by Molly or Joanne. Other food such as breakfasts, sandwiches, toasties and salads are all freshly prepared before serving.

Finally we have a new restaurant format at the **Devonshire Arms - No 11**. You can now enjoy a tapas menu served in the bar, garden or restaurant or a bistro menu in the restaurant. Open Wed to Sat 12noon to 3pm & 5-9pm or Sundays 12noon to 5pm.

Space has been tight in this issue. We apologise to those contributors whose articles we have not been able to publish.

20 mph zone

As reported in our last issue, the Society is looking into the case for a 20 mph zone in the centre of the village. We have had initial conversations with council officials and consulted Department For Transport circulars on the subject.

In principle such a zone would appear possible, subject to cost (as always). There is a strong case for reducing the risk of pedestrian accidents and discouraging that group of drivers who seem oblivious to the safety of others. Given the layout of the village few if any new traffic calming measures would appear necessary, with the zone marked by 20 mph speed limit signs alone. No doubt planning gain from the King Ecgbert development could usefully be spent on this.

Current thinking is that the top of Furniss Avenue should be included within the area, along with top of Dore Road and the stretch of Causeway Head Road passing the shops. If you have any ideas or suggestions on this issue, please contact committee members Geoff Cope 235 0392 or John Baker 236 9025.

Art exhibition

Brian Edwards, the Great Longstone illustrator, is staging an exhibition of his drawings and paintings at Totley Library, Sheffield, from the 11th to the 25th November.

The work on display will cover the Totley and Dore area as well as subjects as far afield as Longstone, Tissington, Norway, and Switzerland. Brian lived in Totley for many years and is the local historian. Both originals and prints will be available. A proportion of takings will go towards the purchase of children's books.

The exhibition will be open during library hours which are:

Monday 10-7; Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9.30-5.30; Closed Thursday; Saturday 9.30- 12.30. Closed for lunch 12.30-1.30.

For further details ring 01629 640752.

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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On Christmas Day, there was always tremendous singing in the Devonshire Arms lead by Adam Siddall of Causeway Head Farm, who had a good voice." Sydney Hoffman remembers that a band used to play in Dore village on Christmas morning. "They called themselves the Dore Brass Band but in fact many of them came from Heeley!"

Most families started the day by going to the Parish Church or the Methodist Chapel and then home for a Christmas dinner of fresh chicken with all the trimmings. Hazel says "Chicken was a real luxury in those days and my father would go round the local farms to find a good one." Christmas was a happy, busy time when families and the community came together for worship and enjoyment of traditional fare and activities.

Bessie Colley (nee Brooke) has vivid memories of the big family gatherings at Sycamore Cottage, home of her maternal grandparents. "On Christmas Day we'd go over from Church Lane Farm and all the cousins would be there. We had turkey and pork, from our own farm, and home-made Christmas pudding at dinnertime and a wonderful spread at tea-time. Aunt Dora used to make bridge rolls filled with my Dad's own potted-meat, a pans ion loaf (like a German Stollen without the marzipan) and a big trifle with cherries on the top in her Noritake blue and white china bowl. The room would be decorated with paper-chains and sprigs of holly round the picture frames." A regular visitor to Sycamore Cottage on Christmas

Day was Dr. Parsons who would call for a mince pie and glass of whisky. Bessie also remembers that during the Reverend Saxelby- Kemp's time at Christchurch (1931-44), Canon Smith used to come before Christmas to ask the families of Dore to donate gifts and toys for the poor children in Attercliffe.

Not everyone rested on Christmas Day. Milk was still delivered as Don Fisher explains "You couldn't have Christmas Day off because people expected their milk delivering, and you couldn't double up anyway because it was loose milk at the onset". There was also a postal delivery on Christmas morning and the cards and parcels that arrived then seemed extra special. Joan Sheppard, whose birthday is on Boxing Day, can remember looking out for the footprints in the snow that told her that the postman had been with perhaps some cards for her.

Boxing Day is remembered by Jean Pearson (nee) Clark for the times when the Barlow Hunt used to call at the Hare and Hounds and for the Dore Football Club matches. She recalls with amusement a story about her father, Frank Clark, the colourful landlord. "On one Boxing Day, father was called upon to play because the goalkeeper hadn't appeared. And he was very naughty. He was told off by the referee because he was smoking!" Graham Thorpe and Trevor Biggin also have fond memories of the hotly contested Christmas fixtures between Dore F.C. and their local rivals Tootley F.C. which invariably ended with a festive punch-up!

These images of Christmas, when our village was less frantic than it is now, will

bring back memories for some and remind others of a time when happiness was not always the latest fashion item or piece of new technology. There seemed to be contentment in traditional family and community activities like contesting football matches or singing in the local hostelrys. By the way, what ever happened to the Richard Furness Dore carols? Does anyone have a copy of the words and music? Do let us know.

*Maureen Cope
Dore Oral History Group*

Annual Wassail Walk

Time to put the date for Dore's sixth Wassail Walk in your diaries. This year we are walking on Wednesday, December 27th, starting at 10am from the Church Hall on Townhead Road.

The Walk, of about five miles, is designed to despatch the general lethargy after the Christmas celebrations and prepare you for the forthcoming New Year merriment. The pace, as always, will be gentle and allows breath for chatter and laughs but just enough to stir up the heart and lungs. A glass of punch (or soft drink) waits at the finish, together with a warm mince pie.

Last year we had 102 walkers! So why not make it a family occasion or bring along some friends – everybody is welcome. Please wear walking boots or, if you don't have them, some strong walking shoes with a good grip on the soles.

We look forward to seeing you.

Roger Millican

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TODAY TOMORROW TOYOTA

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was being undertaken in preparation for demolition (an emotive word) of the building. We were concerned that this seemed to be going ahead without any public consultation and sought reassurance that demolition would not happen until the Dore Village Society and other interested parties had been consulted. We are still waiting!

There may be plenty of old water power sites in Sheffield but this one in Dore was an important and rare example of uprating with a turbine. The Wheel pit is impressive and gives a good idea of the scale of such things - it can be viewed through railings two thirds of the way down.

The Limb Valley is one of the most important historical sites in Sheffield. Dore is mentioned twice in the Anglo Saxon Chronicle and the brook was the boundary between the Kingdoms of Mercia & Northumbria, and until recently between Yorkshire & Derbyshire, and the Sees of York & Canterbury. Early coal mining, lead smelting and metal working took place in this area, long before Sheffield's main industrial boom

The building has been allowed to deteriorate by the Council over recent years to such an extent that repair would be prohibitively expensive. We believe the emphasis should now be on making the remaining structure safe, retaining the wheel pit, improving public access and ensuring its easy interpretation by visitors. As it happens the wheel building is directly on the line of the Sheffield Round Walk and therefore likely to receive visitors if properly conserved with an interpretation board etc.

It is not too late to turn this neglect by the council into a positive initiative. This corner of the recreation fields could be tidied up and the wheel site made into a feature as part of Sheffield's once rich (but rapidly disappearing) industrial heritage.

John Baker
Chairman, Dore Village Society

Letters

Dear friends,

On behalf of all the family, I would like to express my most sincere thanks to all those who filled the church on September 7th, who had made long journeys and shared with our family the celebration of a man most loved and cherished by so many of us.

Thank you sincerely for the generosity given to the two funds for which we collected. Marie-Curie (£1,338.10) - who supported us in enabling Mike, though so briefly, to be at home with his family at the time of his departure.

Leukaemia Research (£1,273.96) in thanks to all those with whom he shared and touched lives on landing P3 of the Hallamshire, who were inspired by his positive, charismatic energy whilst over the eleven weeks he fought the disease. 'Be strong' and 'I'm fine' the two catch phrases spoken daily.

Sincere thanks also to Geoff Cope for the wonderful tribute to Mike and to all



Whirlow Wheel probably dates back to 1586 when John Bright was a freeholder of a wheel on 'Lymbrooke'. Recorded as a corn mill in 1655 it passed through different hands to Thomas Hollis cutler of Sheffield in 1726. From then on the property was administered by the Trustees of Hollis Hospital until 1935 when it was sold to the Corporation. The wheel was replaced by a water turbine in 1901. Drawing by Brian Edwards of the building viewed from the east, before the roof collapsed.

the Venture Scouts for whom he lived, shared and enriched his and our lives.

Thank you, from my heart, to our village who have given me a wonderful cloak of warmth and support since Mike's passing. Thank you all, most sincerely.

Jan Hulley

Dear Sir,

Cricket Ground rumour

Dore School and Charity Land Trust. Land at Townhead Road Dore, known locally as The Cricket Ground.

We have been told of a rumour circulating in the village that it is intended to apply for planning permission to build twenty houses on the above Land. We categorically refute this rumour and can state quite clearly that at no time have the Trustees ever discussed the possibility.

The land is zoned as open space, which is almost the equivalent of Green Belt status, and it is extremely unlikely that planning permission would ever be granted.

The land is currently held under a lease to Brunsmeer Athletic A.F.C which expires in June 2007. We have been told by the President of the club that it is unlikely they will enter into a new lease agreement, in which case the Trustees will invite other sporting organisations to enter into negotiations with us on new terms.

The Trustees are determined to enter into a new agreement with any sporting organisation on the basis of a lease which will include an opportunity for some community activity in the future.

**Trustees: Bessie Colley; Hazel Hoffman
Richard Farnsworth; Graham Thorpe
Rev. Michael Hunter
Dore School and Charity Land Trust**

Dear Sir,

*Site of former King Ecgberts School
Furniss Avenue*

On Monday 16th October, the Planning Board decided that an application for planning permission be deferred with an indication that the Board were minded to refuse the application for the demolition of a caretakers house and erection of 108 dwellings with associated garages/car parking spaces at the above site, pending

the outcome of further negotiations on reaching an acceptable development.

The application went to the Board with a recommendation from the Planning Department to refuse, but as we all know, developers come back again and again with changed applications in an attempt to wear down local resistance. We will continue to oppose strongly any further plans which do not show respect and sympathy to the area and local community.

We accept that some development of this site is inevitable, but surely any developer must realise, that this amount of housing would be completely out of scale, design and character with the surrounding village area. There is not the adequate infrastructure to support such a development. Green space and trees would be lost and 200 plus, additional cars would cause horrendous traffic and parking problems throughout the whole of Dore. As a community we must remain very vigilant about the development of this site.

Britain's gardens and green spaces are under increasing threat of destruction from inappropriate development. Local opinion is often disregarded and communities are left powerless to prevent the loss of precious biodiversity, together with increased strain on local infrastructure, inevitably resulting in changes to the fundamental character of neighbourhoods against local peoples' wishes.

The media are constantly highlighting the dangers of climate change. Developers now and in the future must be made, through strong planning legislation, to have respect and sympathy for the environment, they must not be allowed to concrete over every bit of available green space. We owe it to future generations to protect, not only our local heritage, but the planet as a whole.

Dore has an excellent Village Design Statement. We will keep up the pressure on the Planning Department to get this statement implemented.

**Councillors Anne Smith
and Mike Waters**

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seeing you in the shop**

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Dear Sir,
It is with a mixture of sadness and excitement that we have this week handed over the keys of the Dore Delicatessen to Catherine and David Trickett. It was a difficult decision for us to sell and we have enjoyed making friends in the village.

However it is impossible to be all things to all people and we now wish to concentrate on our hamper website, "Cuisine" to go ready meals concept and Event Catering. (as well as trying to spend at least one day off a week with our young sons).

Thank you for your support and friendship and we wish David and Catherine the happiness we have enjoyed in the Delicatessen. We are leaving the shop in safe hands and know that they will get the same support from the village that we have enjoyed.

**Debbie and Jon Broadhurst
0114 235 3569**

Dear Sir,
Having lived in Dore for 45 of my 57 years, it was with dismay that I read Autumn Dore to Door. The article "Driving dangerously" is close to 'incitement' against a minority.

It is clear the writer (conveniently anonymous) has a major dislike of people with "grander, taller cars". As far as I

know, owning a four wheel drive car is not yet illegal, but apparently it is fair game to incite others to join in his hatred of this minority group.

History is littered with previous examples of people who dislike others, especially when they are different from some "self imposed norm": people who are perceived as "more" or "less" or just "different". The whole article is given over to innuendo and suggestion from the title to such phrases as:-

"More likely to break laws; Four times more likely mobile phone use; Less likely to wear seat belts; Indicating persistent behaviour trait; Are immune to danger: take more risks; Lethal accidents" - and I am only halfway through!

Yes one modern malaise is the motor car in general. However, it is immensely sad that a far greater menace to us all is a lack of tolerance. News bulletins amply display the end result of intolerance to others, especially when "the others" are deemed to be "different".

Yes I own a 16 year old four wheel drive, given to me by a deceased friend, rather than scrap it! Conveniently your article makes no mention that the energy to create a new car is more than it uses to power it through its life. So my saving the car avoids a new one having to be made.

My old car has been vandalised twice,

but I also managed to avoid three accidents because I was high up. Turning down Brickhouse Lane I was able to see an "ordinary acceptable car" two feet over the middle white line as drivers attempt to straighten out the chicane built into the Dore Moor silliness.


Come on Dore Village Society, don't write anonymous articles against law abiding people just because they are different. We should celebrate our differences, not write nasty biased diatribes. "Freedom" is all about "choices". Dictators seek to impose their beliefs by removing choices.

If the views expressed are personal they should not be anonymous. If these views are universally held by Dore Village Society, then I would not wish to be associated with such hate campaigns in such a lovely village.


G. Nicholas Flint

Ed. We always welcome contributions from readers and think that it is important for the different views on issues to be presented.

The article concerned was a precis of two press items, the main one appearing in the Times on the 23rd June 2006. It was intended to be factual and not the opinion of an individual - hence, like many news items in the magazine, it was not attributed to a particular author.



The Media come to Totley to film our LIVE NATIVITY PLAYS



Look North, Calendar News, the Local and National Press and Radio Sheffield have all been to record these events and the atmosphere being created.

The look of both awe and happiness on the children's faces as they hold the newborn lambs, and ride on the donkey, is only matched by the enjoyment the proud, happy parents have of seeing their youngsters performing the play.

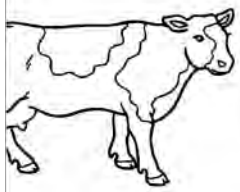
We have recreated the Bethlehem stable scene in our barn complete with live animals, Sunbeam our cow, Dorset ewes and lambs and Spirit our donkey, giving it a flavour of real authenticity and atmosphere.

The children who came last year enjoyed dressing up as Mary, Joseph, the angels or wise men and playing out their role as we narrated the wonderful nativity story. The parents filmed or photographed the performance in between joining in the carol singing. The after performance refreshments proved very popular, particularly the mulled wine for the adults! Santa's house was the main attraction for the children as they collected their presents from him, although the free donkey rides were a close second!

Why not give the whole family a Christmas treat this year

by coming to one of our plays. The whole event lasts approximately 1½ - 2 hours, the narrated play taking about 30 minutes at the beginning. Do visit our web site at www.totleychristmasfestivals.co.uk for pictures of last years performances and a list of special options for groups and clubs that start at £4 per person.


Below is a schedule of this years performances and we would love you to join us for this unique and special start to Christmas.



2006 ticket prices

Adults @ £8.75 - includes tea, coffee or mulled wine and mince pies.
Children aged 3-16 @ £8.75, Children 2 and under @ £4.50 - includes a present, drinks and Christmas biscuit.

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------|------|------|------|
| Sat 9th Dec | 10.30 | 1.30 | 4.30 | |
| Thur 14th Dec | | | 4.30 | |
| Fri 15th Dec | | | 4.30 | 6.30 |
| Sat 16th Dec | 10.30 | 1.30 | 4.30 | 6.30 |



**For further information, or to book your places using our credit card
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Catching up with the Past

On Saturday 23rd September, Dore Oral History Group held an exhibition of village life up to the 1960s and hosted its very first Old School Reunion. Not since Dore School closed its doors to pupils in July 1965 had so many old boys and girls from different generations gathered to share their memories of that time.

There were Infants from Miss Dobbs' classes of the late 1920s and 1930s, Juniors from the war and post-war years and many pupils from the classes of the 1950s and 1960s. All of them seemed to enjoy finding again former friends and catching up with the past.

The Old School rang with laughter as its grown-up children recalled the incidents of their school days. Teachers were remembered with dread or affection along with details of classroom organisation and rituals of playtime and school dinners. Class photographs were studied for familiar faces and lists of names scribbled down for all to see. There were lots of reminiscences and a real sense of continuing friendship among those who came as a group.

The whole event was a great success thanks to the many Old Dorians who attended. People had come from as far away as Newcastle, Anglesey, Surrey and Dorset, even rushing back from abroad to arrive in the afternoon. Several of those who could not attend had sent messages which were displayed for everyone to read. The chatter and laughter lasted all day and some groups of friends found it hard to part at the end.

Thank you all for coming along, for sharing your memories with us and especially for your kind letters, emails and phone calls afterwards. It's obvious that we shall have to do it again. Send us your details and we will put you on the mailing list for the next time.

*Maureen Cope & Co.
Dore Oral History Group*

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Peter Belk finds himself in the football team photograph.

Old School Memories

One outcome of the Old School Reunion was that a number of ex-pupils wrote down further memories of their schooldays. Here is a selection of them.

Betty Sparling (née Mycock, Dore School 1928-37) recalls a rhyme that the children used to chant about the redoubtable headmaster Sydney Speight: Mr Speight is a very good man, / He tries to teach us all he can, / Reading, writing, arithmetic, / And he never forgets to use his stick. / When he does he makes us dance / Out of England into France, / Out of France into Spain, / Over the hills and back again.

We fast-forward two decades to hear Judy McMurray (née Jones) reminiscing about life up at the Church Hall in 1957/58. Rented since 1956 by the Education Committee to relieve overcrowding, this was a multi-purpose building and so its use entailed extra chores for the children. "We all had a brown box which we kept our work in, and at the end of the school day we had to store these boxes under the stage, and then in the morning get them out for the start of the day." After the 11-plus, headmaster Mr Wright gave everybody a Wagon Wheel.

Memories of the 1960s seem to focus on three topics: rewards and punishments, food and drink, and the toilets. Children's concerns are evidently timeless! John Craddock, at the start of his school career, remembers Mrs Wilkes's highly effective doling out of dolly mixtures for good work and making you clear up after class if your clay models were unrecognizable.

To accompany her little bottle of milk at break times, Julie Poyntz (née Sparling) recalls paying a penny for five gingerbread mini-biscuits. Maybe the crumbs encouraged the mice that visited the cloakrooms; once one turned up in somebody's pocket. In winter the milk would freeze.

Outside, the toilets would be freezing

cold too. The boys' one is an enduring memory for the Craddock brothers. It had no roof. Philip Craddock recollects the challenge of trying to "pee right over the top of the wall instead of against it." Since the wall was quite high and Phil was only 4 or 5 at the time, this must have been a spectator sport as well.

* * *

I'd like to take this opportunity to add a couple of comments on the Dore Old School book. On page 65, listing Mr Bone's acquisition of games equipment in 1922, I speculated about compo balls. Now Roy Bullen tells me that they were used in cricket. Made of rubber or condensed cork, in which case they were known as "corkies", they were less expensive – and presumably less dangerous to children – than proper cricket balls.

There is a baffling misprint for which I apologise. At page 14, column 1 and paragraph 2, line 7 should begin: "45 Dore boys and 37 girls." So really attentive readers wondering how 41 could be half of 45 need puzzle no more.

John Dunstan

Postscript...

Dear Sir,

I have just returned from the old Dore School day reunion and exhibition. I want to thank everyone who made it possible and for their time and efforts.

I have seen old school friends I've not seen for over 50 years. I would also like to thank them all for coming, especially those who travelled a long way to do so.

Here's to the next one. I hope it's not another 50 years.

John Taylor taylorbuck2@aol.com

The Dore Village Society room at the Old School is open to visitors on the first Saturday of each month from 10am to 12noon. Please come along to talk to members of the committee about local issues and the history of the village.

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Michael Hulley 1946– 2006

The death occurred on 29th August of Michael Hulley who for 17 years was a key member of the 267th Dore Scout Group. He began as a cub leader but he will be remembered most for the Wyvern Venture Scout Unit that he started from scratch with 9 or 10 boys but which very quickly mushroomed into a Unit of 30 to 40 young people aged 15 to 20 years.

Mike was a truly charismatic leader. He led from the front and he joined in enthusiastically with all their activities. His boyish dare-devil streak endeared him to them and he quickly gained their respect and loyalty. He was the first to pitch his tent, scale a mountain or appear as the prima ballerina in the Gang Show, complete with tutu and hiking boots!

What started as just Wednesday night meetings soon grew to include weekends and the range of their activities increased accordingly. The Unit started the village firework festivities. For this a handsome trailer was constructed from the bottom half of a caravan in order to carry the wood.

Christened the Wild Thing (after the Units signature Tune) it was a familiar sight around the Village. Other projects soon followed including the refurbishment of a sailing dingy (Wild Thing II) and a Land Rover that was lovingly dismantled, repainted and put back together again.

Expeditions too became a regular feature. Frequent climbing trips were made to North Wales and on many occasions New Year was celebrated in a drafty barn at the side of Coniston Water. Mike organised summer trips abroad, including an expedition to Kenya where the Unit built a bridge and helped with the construction of a school room. The next expedition to Chamonix in the French Alps will be remembered by all those involved as the trip of a lifetime.

Mike gave his charges the time and space to do their own thing and they loved



Mike Hulley, who will be greatly missed.

him for it. It was no surprise therefore that 28 of them, now in their thirties came from all over the country to pay their respects at his funeral. But his spirit lives on. Many of them still climb, hike or camp in uncomfortable situations.

One member of the Unit and her Queen's Scout husband are about to embark on an overland challenge across Africa, raising funds as they go in memory of Mike for Marie Curie Cancer Care who helped Mike and his family in his last weeks. If you would like to contribute too you can, either via www.silverhorse.co.uk or directly to Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Mike retired from scouting 10 years ago and as time has shown he has been sorely missed. We all send our heartfelt condolences to Jan, his widow, to Tim his son who played an important part as assistant leader alongside his dad and to his two daughters and their families, for the loss of a truly delightful man.

*Geoff Cope
267th Dore Scout Group*

Vapour trails

"It's just like a giant noughts and crosses board". This remark was made recently by a Dore youngster whilst happily swinging away in the recreation ground playground on a beautifully clear yet chilly autumn afternoon. So, what was she referring to? One glance up into the blue yonder would have given the clue. Lines of fluffy white vapour trails criss-crossing the sky making that creatively described outline.

We all know that Dore is a great place to live but if you are interested in high flying aircraft then it is also one of the best spots in the country as we are right under the cross over point of two "Motorways in the Sky" (airways) – in fact in the centre of a noughts and crosses board – the most beneficial spot to place your cross.

The airways in question run generally east-west and south-north and aircraft flying above about 30,000 feet will leave trails (water vapour) when the temperature at that height is cool enough, so this is the time of year when they are most visible.

"Where are they all going?" says our little angel on the swing. To answer this question is difficult without an aircraft band radio or radar simulation software (all available from aviation specialists) but I can give some general pointers.

West to East. Mostly used early mornings by US transatlantic carriers such as Northwest, United, Delta, Continental Airlines and northern European carriers such as KLM, Lufthansa and the eastern block airlines all flying from North America to places such as Amsterdam, Frankfurt and beyond. To identify aircraft specifically tune to 126.775 the frequency these aircraft change onto around Worksop. Aer Lingus, Ryanair and some eastern block flights from Ireland also reach vapour trail altitude by here. This is also a route taken by the US Air Force en route to the middle east on a fairly frequent basis.

East to West. Mainly used in the afternoon (in the upper third of our grid) as the same aircraft return from Europe to the states and Ireland although many take the east coast route over Flamborough Head so fewer are seen at this time.

South to North. By far the busiest of the routes. If you face north the right hand section of our game board tends to get transatlantic carriers from countries such as France, Italy and Switzerland as well as Gatwick and Stansted flights to Scotland (British Airways and Ryanair).

Directly overhead and/or slightly to your left are the flights from Heathrow and Luton and those mentioned above who are diverted, turning left to take the transatlantic route over the Wirral or Isle of Man. Some of these aircraft can be heard on frequency 132.875 but it gets a bit complicated at busy times.

North to South. Generally we can only see these aircraft in the distance coming down over Manchester or off the Wirral and they fall outside our interest zone.

In addition to the above common flights, complication sets in with holiday charters, business jets, military flights (just seen a Botswana Defence Force Gulfstream 4 tracking north), exotic carriers such as Aeromexico, Air Tahiti and Singapore Airlines as well as route variations during quiet periods.

Whether aircraft are trailing or not they are always there and I trust this is of interest to some of your readers but you must excuse me, I have to shoot off to place my cross before someone much younger takes the centre spot!

Dave Ward

Open to the public

Whirlow Hall Farm is now open to the public on Sunday afternoons between 11.30am and 4pm. Visitors will be given the chance to have a tour of the 'Piggy Palace', see the chickens and the fancy breeds in the poultry unit and meet all of the other animals in the animal handling unit. Visitors are asked to make a donation of £1 per person.

Volunteers, known as Farm Guides, will be on hand to welcome visitors, explain what is happening on the farm and give guided tours. It is hoped that they can recruit more volunteers to enable them to open on Saturdays and in the school holidays too. If you would like to become a volunteer Farm Guide, please speak to Bridget Evans on 0114 235 2678.

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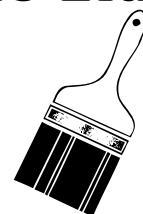
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Dore Service Station

Familiar faces at the heart of the village

now lives on the Isle of Arran in Scotland.

Dore Service station was initially built by Harold Marsh and his son George in 1954. George ran the business with his father helping serve petrol and doing the books. In 1966 the garage was bought by Alan and Mary Waller before Dick and Jim took over in 1974.

The garage was built on the corner site behind which there had been a wartime temporary water tank. At the time the Devonshire car park was a croft, with the farm buildings next door owned by Oliver Gill the village coalman. At the front of the garage, where cars for sale are now parked, was the village fish and chip shop.

The original building has been extended over the years adding an upper story office and body shop. The pumps were also moved to allow access on both sides, and somewhere in the village there is an old photograph of Mrs Waller in front of the earlier Shell pumps.

Jim Blakey and Dick (Richard) Butterworth had already been doing vehicle repairs from buildings behind the Methodist Church for a couple of years, when they were offered the business on Mr Waller's retirement.

Another familiar face, John Marsden, joined the team in 1957 straight from the army where he had been doing vehicle repairs in the R.E.M.E. He retired in 1998 and is now known locally for his duck walking sticks (see lineage adverts). It takes him an average of a day to straighten a stick, carve the head, insert eyes and varnish it.

Jim Blakey retired in May 2005 and



*Above: Dore Service Station today.
Below from left to right: Tony Ogden;
Pam Butterworth; John Marsden;
Richard Butterworth; Chris Hobson;
Jason Heard.*



*The garage is open
Monday to Friday 8.15am to 5.45pm
and Saturdays from 8.15 to 1pm.*

Dick is more cagey about his plans, there are a few years to go yet, but his hobbies are sailing and cycling, the latter not perhaps surprising given he comes from a well known local cycling family.

Dick's wife Pam started part time at the garage in the 1980s having stopped working as a infant teacher when their children arrived. She has been active in the Guide movement for over 32 years, currently as Assistant Guide to the Guides.

There must be many tales to tell about customers and happenings over the years, but perhaps not on these pages. However we have gathered that the pits can flood, so it is not perhaps surprising that on one occasion one of Don Fisher's ducks fell down into a pit. Dick quickly climbed in to rescue it, "only to be bit for his efforts!"

Dick and Jim have seen many changes in the motor trade over the years. These include the move from leaded to unleaded petrol, the dramatic increase in diesel engined cars, better corrosion protection and generally improved reliability. The move to electronic ignition in particular has been a shift from working as mechanic to more of a vehicle technician and a diagnostic approach.

Over the years a lot of petrol stations have closed under pressure from the supermarkets being unable to compete without the capacity to buy fuel in bulk. Never the less Dore Garage continues to provide a local service valued by the 90% of customers who come from Dore.

In addition to the normal repair and servicing work, the garage is an official MOT testing centre doing some 140 MOTs a month. In case you didn't know, the price of these went up to £50.35 on November 7th.

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News in Brief

Cycling enthusiasts have rededicated a Rowan Tree that was planted on Blackamoor 28 years ago to mark the centenary of the local Cycle Touring Club.

Yet another serious accident occurred on Hathersage Road on the 1st September when the road was closed and one man had to be cut from the wreckage of his car before being airlifted to hospital.

£24 Million of savings are planned over the next three years by the council, needed to pave the way for the massive private finance deal to repair the city's roads.

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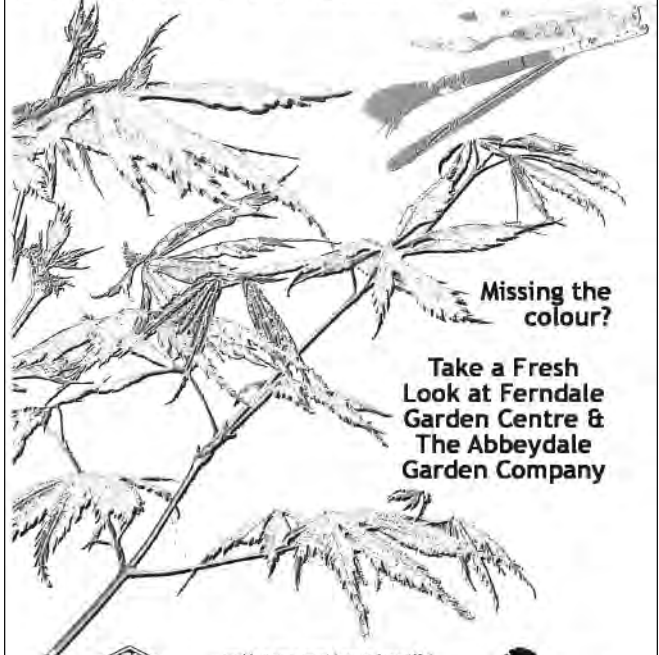
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Planning matters

King Egberts' Mercia Site, Furniss Avenue: Perhaps the most significant planning issue this last quarter has been the proposed development of the King Egbert site on Furniss Avenue, which has moved on another step. You will recall that the developers, Westbury Homes, made an application to build 89 houses on the site back in the spring of this year. There was strong opposition with objections to the proposals on the main grounds of over development of the site and traffic problems. That application was withdrawn by the developers and it was hoped that the builders would respond positively to the objections to the scheme.

Westbury Homes were subsequently taken over by Persimmon Homes, one of the largest national house builders. To general dismay they made a fresh application, not for a reduction in houses, but an increase to 109 houses on the site. Subsequently they reduced the number in the application to 108.

There have understandably been strong objections to these proposals, generally on the same grounds as previously. Apart from the high numbers of houses the proposed layout was devoid of any imagination and reflected the worst aspects of housing estate layout of the 1960's, with no open space or regard for meaningful landscaping.

The application was set to go to the Planning Board in October with a prospect of refusal, when it was decided to defer the decision and ask the developers to reconsider the application and submit revised, more suitable plans. It will be interesting to see what they produce.

It is perhaps a pity that the Council did not produce a clear planning guidance brief before putting the site up for sale. In the meantime the Dore councillors will be organising strong opposition to any proposals that do not fit in with the neighbourhood.

Ash House Residential Home, Ash House Lane: You will recall that there has been an application to demolish the residential home in Ash House Lane and build 18 flats on the site, which sits squarely within the Green Belt. I am pleased to report that this application was refused at the October Planning Board meeting. Ash House Lane is in a very vulnerable Green Belt area and any

development such as that proposed must be strongly resisted.

Abbeydale Tennis Club, Abbeydale Road South: An application has been made to build five houses on land, partly owned by the tennis club and partly owned by Abbeydale Sports Club. The proposal is to provide funds for additional indoor tennis courts on the site. The access to the site would be through the existing tennis club car park. The site of the development is adjacent to Water Lane.

DVS is opposed to the development on the grounds of loss of open space, sports facility together with concerns about increases vehicle access to Abbeydale Road South close to the busy junction with Twentywell Lane.

Walled Garden, Newfield Lane:

I omitted to report in the Autumn Edition of Dore to Door, that the latest application for building a house in the walled garden of Dore Moor House was refused by the Council on the grounds that the site is in the Green Belt. Perhaps after so many applications, appeals and refusals the owners will give up.

David Heslop

Did you know

My annual hibernation has been disturbed! You've guessed it, traffic and this time global warming.

The sheer number of cars on the road (and pavement) beggars belief. Most spend their days parked in the way somewhere depreciating, only to be used for an obligatory school run or commute. Even at night they litter the pavements, roads and driveways, now that garages have become store rooms. Surely we can find a better way to share and use these resources or are car pools that impractical?

And what is it that makes people drive so fast? Speed limits are there for a reason, but just watch cars on Dore Road or the village rat runs. Something about being in a car changes people's personalities. For example, despite signs saying Savage Road was closed recently, drivers still tried to force their way through regardless.

Then there is the pollution they generate, well CO2 anyway. We just don't have joined up thinking when it comes to dealing with global warming. Basically we need to change the way we live, working nearer to home and in smaller

units. Yet the government persists with its drive for centralisation of schools, hospitals and other public services, all in the name of economy of scale. Who costs in the time, expenses and pollution created by patients travelling to Northern General Hospital for treatment, when planning medical services. No-one. Who costs in the daily school run when amalgamating schools. No-one.

Yes global warming maybe the biggest issue mankind faces today. Yet all the huff and puff from politicians and the media fails to face the fundamental issue. It is not just how we live, but the sheer numbers of people in the world, which is the problem. The world's population has doubled in the last 40 years to over six billion and is projected to reach nine billion by 2042. It doesn't take a genius to work out that to even stop the trend towards global warming getting worse, dramatic cutbacks in lifestyle will be necessary.

But then what makes the species Homo sapiens assume they will continue to exist forever? (This reminds me of the arrogance of those speeding car drivers). So far most species on the earth have managed to exist for a few million of years each. The way we are going that seems unlikely for us. Perhaps any future life on earth will look back on Homo sapiens and wonder if the development of intelligence was a beneficial trait, or an evolutionary dead end!

Doremouse

Gilbert & Sullivan concert

As well as undertaking the usual crop of seasonal concerts this year for a variety of organisations including The National Trust and Hallows Golf Club, The Dore Gilbert and Sullivan Society is putting on their first ever Christmas Concert for the Village.

No doubt the mix will include some party pieces but will mainly be on a seasonal theme with plenty of opportunity for the audience to join in some traditional carols. It promises to be an enjoyable afternoon's entertainment and will finish early enough so as not to interfere with any evening's activities you may have planned.

So come along to the Methodist Church on Saturday 2nd December at 3pm and get into the spirit of Christmas. Tickets at £4 each are available from members of the Society or by telephoning 01246 431914 or by sending a SAE with cheque made payable to "Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society" to 32 Church Lane, Ridgeway, Sheffield S12 3XX.

Derek Habberjam

Scout Bonfire

A big thank you to all who came and supported our firework party on 4th November which we felt was a great success. The absence of piles of garden rubbish and builders rubble made it so much easier for us and meant that the bonfire burnt down almost to nothing. Thank you. *Dore Scout Group*

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Letters

Dear Sir,

I have just received the latest magazine here in Berkshire and am amazed to see myself at the front of the picture on page 22 with the class of 1964-5.

I think this picture must have been taken in the church hall, when we had our last year in the temporary building. What a pity our teacher wasn't on the photograph, it must have been Mr Foster, one of the most inspirational and best admired teachers I can remember.

I went to the 'new' school for my last year at Primary School in the class of Mr Philbidge, then on to King Edward VII.

I remember all the pupils in the photograph but unfortunately am not in contact with any of them. If you can publish my email address in a later edition I would be glad to hear from them.

My mother still lives in Dore so I am still a regular visitor, but we don't have a copy of the photograph. Can you put me in touch with whoever has a copy of the photograph which was sent to the magazine so that I can obtain some copies.

John Fox

Ed. You can contact John at JohnGrahamFox@aol.com or via us.

Dear Sir,

Dore Gala. I would like to respond to Janet Brook's letter in the Summer Edition of Dore to Door asking for information on the early years of Dore Gala.

Dore Guides (there was just one Unit in the village then) have been involved with the Gala since the late 1950s. I have memories of being a Guide and taking my turn at helping on the Guide Cake Stall when the Gala used to be held on the Cricket Field adjacent to Dore Church Hall. After a few years it moved to the Parker's Lane site to give it extra space. The Guides took part in the Gala processions and I enclose a photo of the Guides with the Scouts at the first Well



Dressing Service in 1959.

The Guides have taken part in every Gala and Well Dressing Service since then and Mrs. Beryl Bradford, who used to run the unit in the early 1960s, has cine film of parades during that time. Our records show that at the Gala in 1963 the Guide Stall made a profit of £7. We were delighted with that amount as we were trying to raise money to buy the Unit's first patrol tent. This was purchased a few months later for the sum of £21.11.0 including groundsheets!

The Guides and the Brownies have continued to be part at the Gala and in 1985 the Guide Units were asked if they would like to produce a Well Dressing to celebrate 75 years of Guiding. The original idea was that this would be done for just one year for the special celebration. In July we completed the 21st Guide Well Dressing!

In the words of the late Syd Crowson "Together we are a great team!"

**Judith Jackson, MBE. Guider,
125th Sheffield (1st Dore) Guides**

Guides and Scouts at the first Well Dressing Service in 1959.

Dear Sir,

I hesitate to correct Jean Kinsey (see last issue) but Mr Chamberlain spoke at 11.15 am on Sept 3rd 1939 and his actual words were "I am speaking to you from the Cabinet Room at No 10 Downing Street. This Morning the British Ambassador handed the German Government a notice stating that .. I have to tell you now that no such ..". As a 7 year old I remember it all very clearly. It was a beautiful late Summer day and we heard the broadcast on the 'wireless' in our dining room and I wanted to know why this chap on the wireless had made my Mum cry.

Working for Firth Brown all my working life I spent some years at the Scunthorpe Foundry and I recall the Works Engineer Laurence Grindrod of blessed memory describing the creation of the wind generator for Dore Moor House. He said it was hellish noisy and "old man Mensforth" complained about the row!

Brian Midgley

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All fired up

Sheffield is full of surprises. For instance, how many people realise there is a thriving pottery hidden away on Prospect Road in Bradway? You could easily pass no 129, home of Ray & Doreen Gridley, and miss its' name Overdale House. But it is the house, built in 1908, which lends it's name to Overdale Pottery. So how did it all start, and who is the potter?

Ray's career has seen him working successfully as a Housing Manager after studying Economics and Philosophy at University and moving to Bradway in 1981. Currently he is the Chief Officer of Age Concern in Manchester. His introduction to pottery was unusual to say the least. It all started in 1989 when his son expressed an interest in pottery lessons with local potter Norman Cherry and like a dutiful parent Ray went along to watch rather than sit outside and wait. So it was that at age 45 he found himself embarking on a new compulsive hobby.

Ray quickly found it satisfying working with the materials and making items both useful and attractive. He started with just a turntable and bag of clay, hand building pots, then progressed to a treadle mill and started to throw pots. It might look simple to the outsider, but it is far from it, and one of the attractions of the job is the challenge of structure, glazes and techniques for firing.

Potting needs space, and it was not long before the basement and coal cellar were converted, and an extension added, to create a working and display space for a growing collection of artifacts. Then a large gas kiln arrived, 12 cubic feet and firing at 1,250 degrees centigrade. Gifts to or commissions from friends, soon graduated to his first open event and sales to visitors in 1993.

Today Ray shares his studio with other local potters and college students, sharing experience, techniques and creative ideas.



Overdale House on Prospect Road. An unlikely place to find a thriving pottery.

He produces a range of attractive and practical everyday items including plates, bowls, jug, teapots etc. His biggest project so far was to make 100 matching plates for his daughters wedding, not easy when each is made by hand. But it was a success, and as a nice touch each guest was given a plate as a present at the end of the day.

Ray's work is on display at the London Road Gallery and at Harding House Gallery in Lincoln. He also has stalls at local events including the annual 'Pot Fest' at Bakewell and Art in the Gardens (Botanical Gardens). More conveniently you can visit the pottery during one of their Open Weekends, the next of which is on the 24th to 26th November, ideal timing for Christmas presents! They will be open from 5pm to 8pm on the Friday, 11am to 8pm on Saturday and 11am to 6pm on the Sunday.

Ray has a real enthusiasm for what has become more than a hobby. He still works full time in Manchester which helps, as he finds that he comes back fresh to his pottery after a day busy in the office. As for the future, he hopes to move towards spending more time on his pottery as retirement approaches. Sounds like a good strategy to me.

John Baker

Daffodils

Once more a team of trusty planters sallied, forth in October to plant 2500 more daffodil bulbs on the verges of Dore. The new areas that have been planted this year are? under the trees beyond the Scout Hut on Rushley Road, in patches on Brickhouse Lane, on Old Hay Lane by the top corner near the stile and round the benches on Newfield Lane/Whitelow Lane junction. These are all an early flowering variety and should make good displays in late February.

Dore Village Society have now planted over 14,000 daffodil bulbs, 40,000 crocus and 4,000 snowdrops around the village in the past few years. Save for the crocus' we have purposely avoided planting on verges

in front of properties in the hope that residents might feel moved to plant their own. Indeed some have done so, for which we thank them. On the other hand we would ask people not to park on the verges and put the bulbs at risk.

It is now probably the last year that we will be planting bulbs round the village. May we take this opportunity of thanking all those people who have come out, sometimes in inclement weather, to plant bulbs and corms over the past few years. Their work has been of great benefit to our community. In the meantime the spring bulbs continue to come up year after year right round the village. We hope that they bring some joy to our residents and visitors each year after the winter months.

Anne Elsdon and David Heslop

Whinfell Quarry Garden

Recent visitors to Whinfell Quarry Garden will have seen great changes. If 2005 was the 'Year of the Paths' 2006 is the 'Year of the Trees'. The council owns the Garden but over the years little had been done and some of the trees were nearing the end of their lives.

Following a tree survey commissioned by the Friends of Whinfell Quarry Garden, the council agreed with the work identified and moved swiftly to deal with those trees identified as dangerous. Others were merely dead, diseased or damaged and the budget did not stretch to that. But funding was found, largely from private subscription and the trees at the top of the Garden have been removed.

Some people have expressed concern at this, but most of the trees in question were self seeded. Removing them has meant that some of the specimens being crowded are now beginning to thrive. At the moment I have to agree that the area of wood chippings does look a bit like a desert but 16 varied species chosen for their range of colour throughout the year are due to be planted this autumn. They are container grown trees already eight feet high and we look forward to enjoying them in the very near future as they become established.

This work was done on the west of the Garden, we are hoping that we can find funds for similar work in the east of the Garden to be started soon.

We continue to have our working days in the Garden and anyone is welcome to join us. We not only need people to work in the Garden we need people to work for the Garden; at the moment we need a secretary, help with publicity and research for the archive. Please contact me on 235 0534 or at kathleen.cox@bigfoot.com if you would like to help.

Working Days in Whinfell Quarry Garden during 2007 will be Saturdays Jan 20th; Mar 17th; May 12th; Jun 30th; Sept 1st and Nov 24th.

Kathleen Cox, Chair Friends of Whinfell Quarry Garden

For a trial period the local 5 day weather forecast will be posted on the DVS notice board at the recreation ground - any comments would be appreciated.

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Ecclesall Woods Sawmill

Ecclesall Woods Sawmill, off Abbey Lane, has recently re-opened, on Fridays to Sundays, 10am-5pm, for the sale of a variety of wood products. During December, it will be open every day, for the sale of Christmas trees.

At present, it is offering woodchip, firewood logs, and charcoal for sale, as well as handmade indoor and outdoor wooden furniture and sculpture. You can also commission your own designs. All of these products are locally sourced and supplied by local businesses, from well-managed local woodlands.

In the near future, it is planned to build a new purpose built shop and gallery within the sawmill site, by creating a timber-framed building from locally sourced timber. This will also provide an information point for visitors to Ecclesall Woods, through leaflets and other information, and a starting point for events led by Rangers and others.

The project at the sawmill is led by the City Council, but is being developed in partnership with local wood-based businesses and a local social enterprise called the Working Woodlands Ltd, as well as the Friends of Ecclesall Woods.

Part of the profits from the timber and other sales, will be re-invested into regenerating the sawmill site and its links to the surrounding woodland, to provide a better visitor experience, and a greater range of education and training events and activities for the community. By buying your firewood or Christmas trees from the sawmill, you will also be helping to support these benefits.

For more information, please contact me, Ted Talbot, (Woodlands Project Officer), Parks and Countryside, SCC on 0114 2500 500

Ted Talbot

Keep up to date at -
www.dorevillage.co.uk



Living above the shop? The station master's house at 287 Abbeydale Road South was built at the time of the opening of the Sheffield and Chesterfield Line in 1870. The adjoining house is built alongside the historic boundary river called Limb Brook which, having passed under the road and railway lines, joins the River Sheaf. Downstream of the confluence is a weir which raised the water level, feeding Abbeydale Works dam via a goit. No. 285 was originally (until 1935) in Derbyshire whilst no. 283 was in Yorkshire and Sheffield. Similarly the former came under the Archbishop of York and the latter under Canterbury. Brian Edwards.

Dore Male Voice Choir

The Choir has just returned from a very enjoyable tour of Jersey with Wigston and District Male Voice Choir. Three concerts were performed to almost full houses and the visit to the Channel Islands was a great success, undoubtedly helped by blue skies, warm weather and a lively programme.

We have a concert, in conjunction with South Yorkshire Police Band at Christ Church Pitsmoor on 2nd December. On Friday and Saturday, 15th and 16th December we will be holding our own Christmas Concerts at 7.30 at the Dore

Parish Church. We promise our usual lively Christmas Programme with mince pies and mulled wine in the interval, all for £6 a ticket. Tickets can be bought from me on 236 5043 or from any Choir member. Don't risk just paying at the door, the concert may be sold out! The Choir has had a purple patch in the past two months with five new members, giving us our highest membership total for some years. Anyone interested in joining the Choir only needs to call at one of our rehearsal nights each Thursday at 7.15 at the Church Hall, or telephone me to find out what it is all about. You will be most welcome.

David Heslop

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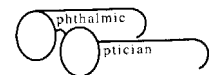
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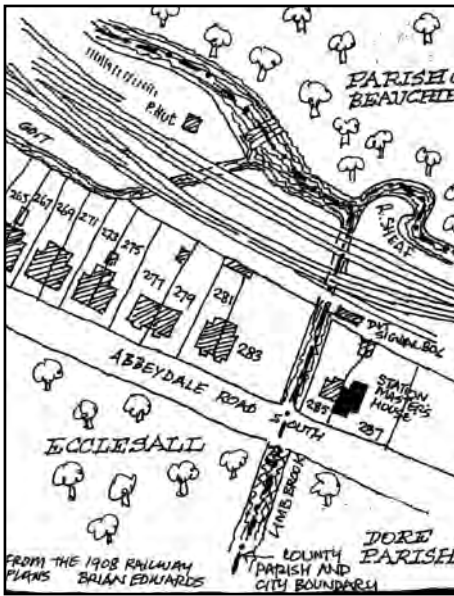
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Map showing the position of No 287 Abbeydale Road in relation to the Limb Brook boundary.

News in Brief

Savage Lane, from Vicarage Lane to the High Street has been made the subject of a temporary traffic order, enabling the closure of the road for up to 18 months to allow work to take place to deal with flooding problems.

A 'Pearson' grandfather clock, made in Dore during the 1750s, has returned to Dore from the USA after months of effort by the Dore Village Society.

Dovedale in the Peak District has been designated a national nature reserve.

Unlawful tree works

Two offenders were recently found guilty of damaging trees in Bushey Wood and ordered to pay £1,000 in costs and given a 12-month conditional discharge by Sheffield Magistrates.

Ms Amanda Taylor and Mr Shaun Thomas of Dobcroft Road, were both found guilty of two offences under Section 210 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990. They were given a 12-month conditional discharge, but the Council was awarded costs amounting to £1,000, which is to be paid equally between them.

The offences took place in late July 2005 in Bushey Wood, which is protected by City Council Tree Preservation Order No. 199 and is situated between Bushey Wood Road and Devonshire Road, Dore.

The actual works were done immediately to the rear of 67 Devonshire Road at Dore. The owners of that property are Mr and Mrs Thomas and Shaun - Thomas is their son. The owners were apparently unaware of the works, as they were away on holiday at the time, and Ms Taylor alleged that she had arranged for the tree works to be done as a surprise for her parents-in-law. She had employed a man that she had met in a pub and hadn't seen since - paying him £30 for the work.

The tree works involved the severe and unskilful lopping of two large oak trees and the felling of another large oak tree that was determined to have been over 100 years old.

Part of the costs awarded (£600), is allocated for compensatory tree works, allowing the Council to carry out some

remedial pruning, as well as the planting of a new tree to replace the one that was felled, and it is hoped that this can be done this winter.

Ed. If you are thinking of undertaking any tree work on your property it makes sense to check with Ray Harris, Planning Officer, on 0114-2734198 before you decide to have trees pruned or felled. It only takes a brief phone call, and he can usually give an immediate response on whether Council permission is needed or not, which can prevent possible problems in the future. Had Amanda Taylor or Shaun Thomas done this, they might have taken a different course of action!

Sheffield Council plans, in the relatively near future, to have a facility for anyone to check their address on the Council's website, as to whether their trees are protected by the Conservation Area, or by Tree Preservation Order.

The Council also recommends that people use a reputable contractor, and there is information and advice on the Council's website as to how to choose a tree contractor or a tree consultant: <http://www.sheffield.gov.uk>

Environmental Planning often send out a copy of the Council's list of accredited tree contractors. Clearly, people do not have to use them, but they will be assured that these contractors are fully qualified, have the relevant insurance, and safety certification.

There are evidently a number of jobbing contractors active in the Dore area, without the necessary qualifications or expertise.

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Letters

Dear Sir,

Please could you publish a few words about the vandalism that has been happening this summer on the football field, behind the church hall on Townhead Road. It ended on the 9th August when the wooden changing rooms were set on fire and burnt to the ground. The heat from the fire damaged machinery and equipment stored in the shed behind.

This vandalism should not happen in any community. I am still so angry that it should happen here in our community and there can be no excuse for it. We live in a lovely place with good housing. There is plenty of support for young people in the many fine organisations for young people that run in the village.

The football ground is rented by Brunsmeor football club who run 13 teams doing a good job providing facilities for boys and girls of all ages and from all areas of Sheffield to play football.

Janet M. Stapleton

Dear Sir,

I write with regard to the parking difficulties continually experienced by residents visiting the shops and bank on Causeway Head Road.

There are approximately twenty three parking spaces which are presumably intended for short stay shoppers, the great majority of which are taken by people parking early and staying for all or most of the day. All spaces are taken by 9am.

This situation can only be detrimental for the shopkeepers who must be losing lots of trade due to people being unable to park. Surely it would make sense for parking in front of the shops to be limited to one hour which seems to be the norm in other similar situations.

I feel sure that most of the residents of Dore wish to see our local small shops prosper in the face of ever increasing competition from Supermarkets.

W. Talbot

Dear Sir,

Having been in the steel business all my working life, I just had to comment.

On Page 24 of the Autumn Edition of Dore To Door, there is a picture of Harry Brearley, described as the INVENTOR of Stainless Steel. This description is not correct, as by his own admission, he insisted that he had DISCOVERED Stainless Steel.

At the time he was in charge of the research laboratory at the Thos Firth & Sons in Sheffield, working on the production of non corrosive steels for rifle barrels and gun tubes.

The work eventually progressed to the making of high chromium steel in an electric furnace and as a result, and using the correct heat treatment procedures, samples were given to the cutlery manufacturers who produced knife blades.

Harry Brearley became a distinguished figure in the steel industry. He was awarded the Bessemer Gold medal by the Iron and Steel Institute in 1920, and was granted the Freedom of Sheffield in 1939.

Barry Bull

Dear Sir,

I am researching my family tree. I am a descendant of Jarvis & Ann Goodwin, grandparents of Betsy Ann Goodwin who married Sam Thorpe the grocer and lived at Whitelow Farm before her death in 1935. There was a very informative article on Sam Thorpe in the Winter 1995 Dore to Door written by his grandson Alec Thorpe of Bradway.

I would love to hear from any descendants of Betsy Ann, especially Alec if he is still around, and would also appreciate any information on Betsy Ann's sisters Edith and Margaret who both married in Ecclesall parish at the turn of the century.

Paul Metcalf Nottingham

Dear Sir,

My Mother, Doris Tuft, started her working life as a maid at the Dore More Inn in 1908. She was twelve years old and 'lived in'. One of her duties was to accompany the driver of a horse drawn carriage, when it went to collect visitors from the LMS Station at Pond Street. Her job was to take care of the luggage. If the coach was full she had to walk behind.

At seventeen years of age she moved to Harrogate and became 'kitchen maid' at the Grandby Hotel. She quickly learned to speak some French language because the Chef was French and all the menus were in French. Before she came back to Sheffield in 1915 she had learned about French Cuisine, Silver Service, wines, Table Setting and "How the other half lived" !!!

Because the Great War had taken away a large portion of the workers she took a job on the "Trams" as a conductress. (I still have her Cap Badge, which is a splendid replica of the Sheffield Coat of Arms).

She used her "Waiting on" skills all her life, being called upon to help at Banquets, Balls, Feasts, Dinners and many other special events both Private and Civil. She worked until turned 80 years old and died aged 96.

A Crookes. Retired Engineer

Dear Sir,

I am commencing research into our family and have known for some time of a connection with the Abbeydale Works and Dore village.

I know my Great Grandfather was one Thomas Thorpe of Barkers Row, Dore listed in the 1881 census living with his wife Elizabeth [nee Biggin], four sons and a daughter. He was a scythe grinder [as was both my father and grand-father].

Does anyone know if there is a connection between my Great Grandad and one Robert Thorpe who was allotted land in 1822 at the Bod [Limb Lane] under the 'Dore Enclosure Act'?

My great, great grand-parents were George (1810-1870) and Hannah (1812-1891) Thorpe. George was Inn-keeper at the Rising Sun on Abbey Lane until his death, whereupon Hannah took over the licence. In the 1881 Census she was living there with a Florence Crookes aged 15 yrs and Ellen Ellis aged 4 Yrs. The Rising Sun Inn is listed on the 1881 census as being on Little Common, Ecclesall.

I have a very early photograph of a gentleman in 'working garb' (to whom I bear a strong resemblance) who, I was told many years ago, was a Publican. Could this be him? The information is by no means certain, its origins lost in the mists of time. On the reverse it states "From the studio of W. Shingler, 183 Langsett Road, Sheffield. Negatives preserved, copies may be had. Enlargements in oil, water-colours etc.."

There are other names - my Grandad's brothers and sisters who are listed as born in Dore. My Great Grandad Thomas, born in Totley and his wife Elizabeth (nee Biggin from Greenhill) also their brothers and sisters where Dore features.

A trip to your fair village is a must to investigate burials at Christchurch, were I am told several of my ancestors were laid to rest.

Roger Thorpe, Nottingham

Dear Sir,

I am researching aircraft crashes in Shropshire during WW2. One of the airmen killed in such an accident was F/O Douglas Frank Newsham, who is buried in Dore Churchyard. He was killed when his Hurricane collided with another Hurricane of 5 Flying Training School at Chetwynd Aston in Shropshire. Both pilots were killed. He was an instructor at the training unit.

I would be very interested to know if anyone in the village has researched this pilot or knows of any surviving family members that may still be living in the local area? I would be extremely grateful for any help.

Tom Thorne

tomthorne83@yahoo.co.uk

Christmas Fair Totley All Saints Parent and Toddler Group are holding their Fair on Saturday 2nd December 10am-1pm, at the Church Hall, Totley Hall Lane.

There will be a Santa's Grotto, Crafts and face painting for the children, a raffle, tombola, cake stall, tea, coffee and mince pies, and a toy and book stall.

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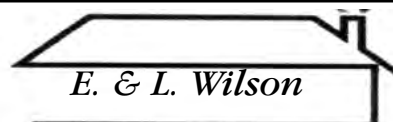
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Salute to the admiral

Nelson's Monument, or Nelson's Pole, (illustrated here) stands proudly on Birchen Edge near Baslow, and is not far from the Robin Hood pub. The monument was carved and erected by Samson Savage and others, including George Herrington (whose initials are carved on an adjacent rock). The monument has 21st October 1805 chiselled into it, recording the death of Admiral Nelson.

One hundred years later the local doctor called Wrench organised a procession up to the Pole and delivered an address ending with three cheers for Nelson. To record that occasion, George Sheldon carved Oct 21 1905 on the monument. Nearby, three grindstone slabs called the Wain Stones are carved with the names of three ships at Trafalgar: Victory, Royal Sovereign (misspelt) and Defiance. On the other side of the Barbrook River is a Monument to Wellington.

Brian Edwards

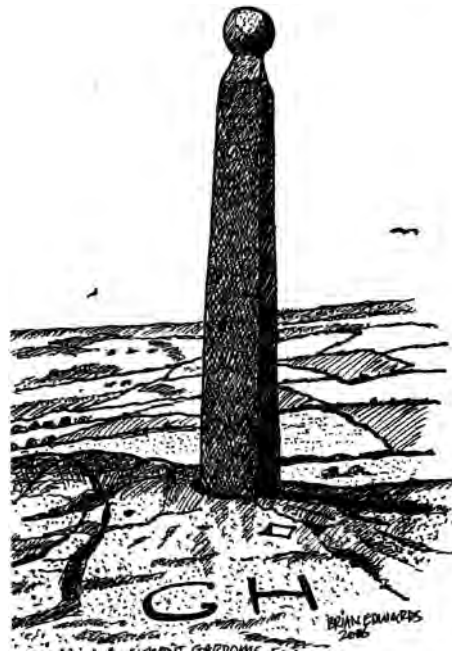
Birdlife at Whirlow

Unfortunately many modern farming practices have had a detrimental effect on farmland birds. At Whirlow Hall Farm, all is not gloom and doom: a more sympathetic approach to wildlife in recent years is already having an effect, and there is much cause for optimism.

The most noticeable birds at this time of year are probably Swallows, House Martins and Starlings. The adult Starlings can be seen collecting food amongst the sheep for their chicks in Parkhead, whilst their fledged young (they often raise two broods) join them on the fields, forming flocks of up to 100 by end of Summer.

Other species that are easily seen are Magpies, Blackbirds, Wrens, Blue Tits and Pied Wagtails. Last year a pair of Grey Partridges tried to nest in the fruit picking area, but the inevitable disturbance caused them to abandon the young who were rescued by the Farm Manager, Will.

From the middle of August until late September, Swallows and House Martins are on the move, and the farm can attract large pre-roost gatherings. Sometimes they are joined by parties of goldfinch feeding on thistle heads. At this time of year, other migrating species appear in



ones and twos, and Wheatear, Stonechat and even a Yellow Wagtail have put in brief appearances. Whilst the Spring migration is a more urgent journey, with birds intent on reaching their breeding grounds, in Autumn they seem more relaxed, and often stay around for days.

Although everything goes rather quiet in early October, it is not long before wintering flocks of gulls, finches and thrushes arrive. There is also the spectacle of flocks of Rooks and Jackdaws, which gather in the fields in late afternoon before rising in a noisy crowd to roost in Ecclesall Woods. The key to a wildlife friendly farm is the provision of areas for insect-friendly, seed-bearing plants: the nettles and other "weeds" growing along the base of the walls and elsewhere are left there deliberately - they are an essential part of the environment.

Wendy Thomson

Cards for Good Causes

The Sheffield Charity Christmas Card shop is open 10am - 4pm from Monday to Saturday until Saturday 16th December. You will find the shop in a portakabin on the forecourt outside the main entrance to the Anglian Cathedral. For enquires please phone Mary Watson (shop manager) on 07801 855522.

Winemaking

Like most winemakers, the gathering and making is almost over for me this year. Parsnip or barley wine can be made in November, but my last two are blackberry and elderberry. Of course the recipes get altered. Elderberries are notorious for being harsh, so are generally combined with other things to mitigate that. Bananas or pears or.... runner beans!? Well, yes I may try that as the two are ripe together at the moment, and it evidently makes a wellbalanced wine.

Basically, if you like cooking and the experimentation that goes with that, you'll really enjoy winemaking. You can learn about Chemistry too.

About 12 years ago I became interested at Chatsworth Show, chatting to folks from the Peak Wine Circle and sampling their wares. Then after a Dore Show, chatting to Alan Chester and drinking one of his prizewinners, a blackberry wine. And I can still remember how wonderful it was. Exchanges still take place after Dore Show. This year Rebecca Harrison exchanged her Dandelion wine for my fig and Rosehip.

So how did Alan himself get started? In his own words; "I started in 1956. I had been teaching in Newbury from the previous year, and was befriended by a Yorkshire couple who often asked a few young bachelors home for a meal. The husband was a Biology teacher at my school and made wine by the barrel. We drank lots of it; so when Rachel and I married we soon got into winemaking".

Berkshire is a lusher county than Yorkshire and the hedgerow fruit was good. We got basic instructions from our friends, acquired a 'good bread crock' as the old recipes say, unearthed lots of bottles from a dump and got cracking. Rhubarb and Elderflower were our first attempts. The wine went straight from crock to bottle, until we drank lots of cider and thus acquired a few gallon jars.

Elderflowers were large and aromatic. The first brew had 18 heads to 2gallons, and a note later in the year said 'too strong bouquet, less flowers next time'. Despite that, over the years I used up to 40 heads, until in recent years, Rachel asked for a return to fewer flowers".

There is mention here of old recipe books. Over the years Alan has given me good advice and recipes and on one occasion chapters about Mead from a book. You could guess the age of the book. The instructions for suitable nutrients to add (honey is short of nutrients) began, "Go to your local apothecary"

Nevertheless there are many excellent recent books, much improved yeasts and very experienced staff at Brewmart, Woodseats for beer and winemaking. Fruit and flowers can be gathered free and if you're lucky like me to have a friend who's a beekeeper, even honey can be bartered. A wonderful hobby.

As Richard once said as he was told the price of my glass of red wine in a pub "She could have made a gallon for the same price!"

Gillian Farnsworth

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New Faces

The new branch manager at **HSBC** is *Richard Pye* who has worked for the bank for six years, most recently as the Branch Manager at Sheffield University. He would like to get to know as many people in the village as possible, so please take the chance to say hello. Currently 77% of our customers are very satisfied with the service provide at Dore branch which is the highest level of customer satisfaction within South Yorkshire, but he believes that they should be aiming to always improve on this - suggestions welcomed. One improvement made already is to open counter services until 4.30 to align with the hours that the branch is open.

Dore is part of the area covered by Sheffield City Council's **South West Area Panel**. The work of the Area Panel includes holding public meetings, where local Councillors and residents can hear about issues of local interest and raise queries and concerns; supporting the work of local groups; helping to improve local services; and administering a small budget to the benefit of the area. *Rebecca Maddox* is the new Area Co-ordinator. You can contact her on 0114 2922191 or e-mail rebecca.maddox@sheffield.gov.uk

Book Reviews

The sheer number of published books containing old photographs is testimony to the value of photographs as a historical record. Old photographs often capture sights and scenes which might as well come from a different world now obliterated by progress. Three new books published by Pickard Communication contribute to this catalogue.

David Richardson has been taking photographs of Sheffield for over 40 years as well as assembling a collection of the works of others. In his new book *Sheffield Pictorial*, we catch a fascinating glimpse of Sheffield as it once was, through a range of colour, sepia and black & white prints. People are captured posing or in passing, along with latter day forms of transport and buildings long since demolished. A team of 17 horses (1905), Tommy Ward's Elephant (1914), and

Campo Lane (1898) caught my eye. 104 pages in A4 format, price £13.99. ISBN 1-905278-06-03.

In the same, if more modest vein, is *Postcards from Sheffield*, bringing together reproductions of 80 postcards all with a Sheffield view or connection. Strange to think that these picture cards were chosen to carry messages between friends or loved ones over the last 120 years. The subjects chosen are fascinating, from school science laboratory to river bridges, from landmark buildings to groups of workers. A5 landscape in full colour price £8.99 ISBN 1-905278-10-1

Finally *An East End Camera* is the ninth book in a series by J R Wigley bringing together a collection of his own photographs and the work of others. The east end of Sheffield has undergone more change than perhaps any other area of the city. Terraced streets, industry, in fact a whole way of life has been swept away leaving this handy little book to illustrate its passing. A5 landscape in colour price £8.99 ISBN 1-905278-08-X

On a different theme is a new book for fishermen. *Fish-it!* is a indispensable guide to Coarse Fishing in the Linclonshire area. Written by Chris Keeling it contains information on 70 sites. price 88 pages, £8.99 ISBN 1-905278-07-1

The Real Christmas Story

On the second weekend in December, for the 4th year in succession, Roman centurions will be waiting at Totley Rise Methodist Church on Grove Road to lead visitors on a Journey to Bethlehem. In 30 minute tours, groups will be guided through scenes leading up to the very first Christmas 2000 years ago, such as Isaiah's prophecy and the Angel Gabriel's message to Mary. In the market place townfolk are seen demonstrating the crafts and tastes of the time. The tour ends at the stable where a real baby 'Jesus' is cared for by Mary and Joseph. It's the real Christmas.

The tour is free and refreshments are served. Come warmly dressed. Tours start Fri 8th Dec 7pm to 9pm. Sat & Sun 9th & 10th Dec 4:30pm to 7:30pm. It is essential to book in advance as the event is very popular. Call 236 8726 to book a tour.

The Rowan (SEN) School

The Rowan School, Durvale Court, is a Sheffield citywide LEA special needs primary school, built in 1976, providing education for children with moderate and severe learning and communication difficulties. Currently they have 63 pupils 96% of whom have a diagnosis of an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and several others who also have additional disorders such as ADHD, EBD etc.

It has always been the policy of the school to open the playing field and adventure playground at the rear of the school to local children to play on during the summer evenings, week ends and holidays. We are sad to report that during the holidays, whilst the caretaker was away, someone vandalised the new minibus, presented in November 05 by the Variety Club of Great Britain. Also the climbing tower in the adventure play area was damaged. Repairs will cost about £200.

Because of the children's disabilities the school needs expensive specialist equipment and accessories. In the past, friends and families have been able to raise some funds to purchase these, but by nature of their child's disability and the extra burden placed upon their family life, fund raising for them is very difficult. The Friends of The Rowan School Trust was set up in 2004 by some concerned Parents, Governors and an ex Head teacher to raise funds for these badly needed 'extras'. We need funds for the following:-

Drainage to the Playing Field Provision of a Safe Fenced Sensory Play Area for the Infant Children Provision of 8 Trikes/ Scooters and a Playden for the infants Provision of a Soft Absorbent SafaGrass Surface round our Adventure Playground. Please help us to provide these essential items by sending a donation to :- Dr. Frank Wright, Treasurer FOTRS, 72 Grove Road, Sheffield S7 20Z. Cheques to F.O.T.R.

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The Wildlife Garden

Earlier in the year, I heard that ecologists were voicing their concerns about the long term survival of British bumblebees, so I went outside and looked around my garden to see if their fears had already been realised. But when I did, instead of finding there were few, if any bumblebees, the flowers were full of them; I even had a thriving colony in my compost heap. Why then are scientists so worried about bumblebees when clearly, at least in my garden, they are doing well?

Now I love reading detective stories and trying to solve the case before the fictitious sleuth, so as there was clearly a mystery waiting to be unravelled, I was as happy as a chocaholic on a visit to Thornton's chocolate factory. I brushed the dust off my deerstalker, got out a magnifying glass and yelled 'Come Watson, Come! The game is afoot.' albeit to a rather startled blackbird.

Over the last 142 years, 25 bumblebee species have been reported in the British Isles. Of these, six are parasitic* 'cuckoo bees' (technically inquilines*), while half the remainder are close to being, or are already extinct. However six species, including the buff-tailed (*Bombus terrestris*); white-tailed (*B. lucorum*); red-tailed (*B. lapidarius*) and early (*B. pratorum*) are actually doing well, particularly in gardens. This is why, if we try to gauge the overall state of Britain's bumblebees solely by looking at those we see in our gardens, we can get a false impression.

But aren't six species of bumblebees

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enough for all our needs? Well actually, no. The problem is that in the world of bumblebees, size really does matter or more accurately, tongue length matters. Of the common species, the four already listed have short tongues; the common carder bumblebee (*B. pascuorum*) has a medium-sized one and the common garden bumblebee (*B. hortorum*), a long tongue of around 13mm.

Bumblebees tend to visit flowers with corolla tubes roughly the same length as their tongue, thereby enabling them to reach the nectar at the base of the flower. Both common carder and common garden bumblebees prefer flowers with a deep corolla, such as foxglove, which because of their longer tongues, enables them to exploit flowers that the other bumblebees can't reach. In contrast, the short-tongued bumblebees are less specialised, but still have favourite flowers like bramble, dandelion and thistle.

Yet what about runner beans? These have flowers with a long tubular corolla, which would imply that only long-tongued bumblebees should be able to exploit them, but in practice, short-tongued buff-tailed bumblebees can often be seen visiting the flowers. The reason for this is quite simple: because these bumblebees can't get

tongue down to the end of the bean's flowers, they cut a hole at the base, which allows them a more direct route to the nectar. These so called 'nectar-robbers' actually have 'teeth' on their mandibles to allow them to do this. Once the hole is cut, other insects like honey bees will also use it, but unfortunately this doesn't help the plant get pollinated, so it has to rely on long-tongued species to do the job. Luckily, these bumblebees will actually ignore any holes at the base of the flower made by their cousins.

So, if you want your beans pollinated, you need to encourage species with longer tongues, not just any old bumblebee. And guess which species of bumblebee are most threatened by extinction - those with long and medium length tongues. Still, not everyone grows runner beans, so you might wonder how the decline of certain species will actually affect us in practical terms.

Take for example organic crops. Organic farmers rely on rotations and as part of this cycle, use legumes which help put nitrogen back into the soil. Red clover is the one most frequently grown and its flowers are only pollinated by long-tongued bumblebees. This is all well and good, but farmers who specialise in growing clover purely for seed can no longer attract enough of these long-tongued bumblebees to pollinate their crops and it is such a serious problem that production has virtually been abandoned here in Britain. As a result organic farmers, plus any gardeners wanting to grow these plants, are increasingly reliant



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on getting their clover seeds from other countries, usually New Zealand. Sadly, medium- and long-tongued bumblebees right across Europe and America are also suffering the same fate as those in Britain. (So important is this practice for long-tongued bumblebees that healthy populations of the rare shrill carder bee (*B. sylvarum*) have actually been found on organic farms in Wales.)

However, not only do farmers' crops rely on bumblebees, many wild flowers may also have a specific bumblebee pollinator and as the bees are disappearing, so too are the flowers. With these wild flowers dying out, who knows what else we might be losing - everything from disease cures to new alternative crops. What can we gardeners do to help prevent the decline of bumblebee species in the countryside, apart from buying British organically-farmed products?

Bumblebees rely on gardens in a variety of ways. While workers might forage in great numbers on farm crops when they are in flower, these tend to all come at once and for the rest of the year, there can be so few flowers that bumblebee colonies may actually starve. By growing a succession of flowering plants between April and July, gardeners are able to help bees during this crucial period.

Also, bumblebees prefer biennials and perennials rather than annuals, perhaps because they produce more nectar, but despite this, annuals such as phacelia and borage are still great favourites - especially of buff-tails. It is equally important to grow flowers with a deep corolla, like aquilegia, comfrey and honeysuckle, specifically for the medium and long-tongued species.

For a queen bumblebee, the critical times in her life are somewhat different. One is in spring, just after she has emerged from hibernation, because not only does she have to feed herself, there is also pollen and nectar to gather for her first brood. White deadnettle and pussy willow catkins are both excellent sources. The other is in autumn when the queen needs to fill up on nectar, which she converts into fat to help her survive the winter months.

In my garden, huge numbers of pink tubular blossoms are produced by the abelia (*Abelia x grandiflora*) and from late July to October, these are a great favourite with queen buff-tail and red-tail bumblebees. They are also popular with hummingbird hawk moths, honey bees, common carder bumblebee workers, red admiral butterflies and various hoverfly species!

Although the hibernation sites for the different species of bumblebees are not known, scientists have found that queen buff-tails will hide in crevices under bark or tree roots, or even dig a short tunnel into the side of a bank. The important thing seems to be that the hole is dry and north facing, presumably to ensure it doesn't heat up too prematurely in spring.

Finally, despite a number of insecticides being sold as 'bee friendly', this statement invariably applies to just honey bees. Whether they are also safe for bumblebees isn't normally specified (and may well not

be known), so unless an insecticide states it won't harm bumblebees, it is best to avoid using it altogether.

Is this the final clue as to why some bumblebees are doing so well in our gardens? If I was a fictional detective, I would now gather all the suspects together in one room and reveal all, but unfortunately this mystery can't be solved by simply pointing a finger at someone and crying out: 'You did it!' Could it be (as some garden writers are convinced) we are no longer a nation of 'true gardeners' i.e. we're less fussy about weeds, irregularly use insecticides and rely more on shrubs and perennials bought from nurseries than grow our own, we have, perhaps unwittingly helped provide the ideal conditions for some species of bumblebee to thrive? Now, wouldn't that bee (sic) ironic?

For information on the bumblebee conservation trust try their website at: www.bumblebeeconservationtrust.co.uk

Jack Daw

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Stars in Dore

Bartholomew Weichsel is a new resident of Dore. Certainly an unobtrusive and friendly newcomer, Bart, as he is known to the few who already know him, will clearly become a rock in our village community. We have done an ancestral search and discovered that the family can be traced back quite a long way. They originated in either central Scandinavia or further east in the region around the mouth of the Vistula in the Baltic. It is a little uncertain because masses of them were driven down towards Denmark (where we first met Bart) over very many millennia.

This all happened at least 15 to 20 thousand years ago when the Weichselian glaciers carved out landscapes and transported southwestwards crushed and eroded limestone, petrified shells, fossils and minerals, in an exotic icy cocktail. Bart is, of course, a curvacious, heavily eroded limestone pebble sitting graciously on the writer's desk, probably several hundred million years old from the so-called palaeozoic era. This is roughly the time taken for the Sun (and Earth) to make one complete revolution around the centre of our Galaxy, the Milky Way, the

so-called cosmic or galactic year!

There is a similarity with erosion in Nature and in the Universe at large. The writer has always been fascinated by the sea, often watching the sea for hours on end. Imagine sitting on the shore for a thousand years. Masses of stones are thrown up onto the beach and the larger ones tend to be left stranded since the receding waves do not carry enough energy to drag them back. Successive tides reveal the weak spots in these large stones and slowly wash right through small cavities and polish away all sharp edges. We find large rounded pebbles holed almost like pieces of Henry Moore sculpture. The smaller stones are ground to a fine polished gravel having been dragged back and forth by waves perhaps 30 billion times during our thousand year vigil. There are not seas on Mars but similar erosion is caused by Martian winds, with vast deserts across the planet.

Although the weather has been gloriously warm right through the Summer months and seems to be very kind to us this Autumn, there have been few opportunities to see the stars. Our thoughts have turned to other things, potholes not Black Holes. We walked along Newfield Lane at the end of September and were shocked by the increase in traffic and its impact on the pedestrian and, particularly, the condition of the road itself. The twilight hours which used to be so tranquil are desperately spoiled for Dore's walkers by cars which often are driven at great speed. Erosion and damage of this road surface is serious and very dangerous. There were numerous deep potholes which are treacherous for walker and driver alike. Does the Council really think that to paint a few yellow lines around the potholes will relieve them of their responsibilities? It took more than three weeks to fill in the holes from being painted yellow.

We reported in these columns a little while ago how the writer's wife fell at a pothole one evening in Parker's Lane, cut and bruised her face, sprained an ankle and broke her glasses. The Council refused to acknowledge their responsibility (it was not a case of their neglect!) so you can imagine how the next victim will fare. If the Council inspects roads at regular intervals and responds to interim complaints they apparently have the law on their side. So make sure that you break your neck at a well-timed critical moment when a delay occurs in the Council's duties! It will not be long before Heather Lea Avenue and other through roads become the same with so much new traffic from builders and the new residents moving into the fringe of our village green belt. The message to all is to drive with especial care and consideration, and walk around the potholes especially during the dark hours.

Few bright planets are visible from Dore until the end of the year. Only Saturn rises in the east north-east after midnight in November and can be seen in Leo slightly above and to the right of Regulus, the brightest star in that constellation. Its rings are closing slowly each year now but the planet still makes a superb spectacle in a

small telescope. Until the New Year Venus and Jupiter are too close to the Sun to be visible. Uranus and Neptune, in Capricorn and Aquarius, respectively, may be picked up during the first part of the night but they both require a telescope and they are rather low. Mercury crossed the Sun on 8-9 November as seen from some distant parts of the world, not Dore, and remains near the Sun for some weeks, so it is poorly placed for us until next year. Mars, in Ophiuchus, only pops its head up in the southeast an hour before dawn as we draw into Winter.

That leaves the controversial object, Pluto, which has been subjected to a renaming recently as 'a trans-Neptunian dwarf planet'. To keep the record straight, however, there is so much disagreement amongst the professional astronomers about demoting it into a 'dwarf' that the new name may never catch on. In any case Pluto will hide itself from the world behind the Sun during Autumn. It will reappear just before dawn in the east southeast in Sagittarius (magnitude 14) at the end of January 2007.

On Christmas Eve 2006 there is a three-day old Moon in Capricorn low in the south-southwest in early evening. The brightish star to the south, lower left from the Moon, will be Fomalhaut in the constellation Pisces Austrinus, the Southern Fish. On the same night Uranus and Neptune are close by the Moon. Imagine the Moon to be the centre of a small clock, then Uranus is at ten o'clock, Neptune at four o'clock. On New Year's Day 2007 the night will be bright since the Moon, only two days from Full, will reach very high in the sky (60 degree altitude).

The only astronomical 'event' predicted for this Winter is visible from any high vantage point with a good view to the west. The top of Ringinglow Road up in the Moors would be a suitable place unless there is ice on the road. On the last day of January 2007 at twilight both Venus and Mercury will be visible in the southwest in Aquarius. Mercury, the elusive planet, will be five degrees below Venus. The Moon is then near Full just rising in the east northeast, quite a dramatic spectacle but best seen just as the sky darkens. There is always the chance of the unexpected, a new comet, a nova, even a supernova for which the Reader could be the discoverer. If you are keen then join the local Society.

The Sheffield Astronomical Society meets in the Mayfield Environment Education Centre S10 4PH, the old school beside the Chapel in Mayfield Valley, accessible via David Lane, Fulwood, on two or three Mondays per month at 7.30pm. The Society caters for all those interested in Astronomy, young and old, particularly the beginner. It is also a social gathering where you can learn about telescopes and observing the Universe, and about websites and astronomical software. The Society has several telescopes and is currently planning a Space and Astronomy Centre. Contact Darren (evenings or weekends) Tel. 0114 269 2291 or take a look at their website www.sheffieldastro.org.uk.

David Andrews

Diary - Winter 2006

NOVEMBER

- 11 - 25 **Exhibition** of paintings & drawings by Brian Edwards at Totley Library. Open during library hours.
- 18 **Beauchief Gardens** working morning 10-12 noon. call 296 0550 for details
- 18 **Concert** for Sheffield Bach Society, Judas Maccabaeus, Handel. 7.30pm Sheffield Cathedral. Tickets 266 8257
- 19 **Chesnut Hunt & Roast** Sheffield Rangers Ecclesall Woods Saw Mill site 11am-2pm Tel 283 9195
- 22 - 25 **Seasons Greeting**, autumn play by T.O.A.D.S. 7.30pm St John's Church Hall. Tickets 236 6891
- 24 **Visit to Ecclesfield Church** by Sheffield Society for the Encouragement of Art Information from 236 0941
- 24-26 **Pottery demonstrations & sales**, Overdale Pottery 129 Prospect Road. Times from 262 1122
- 25 **Christmas Market**, Mothers Union, Church Hall 10am-12noon. Bric-a-brac, cakes, plants, flower arrangements
- 25 - 22 **Christmas Tree Sales**, Longshaw Estate, Woodcroft car park 10am-4pm
- 25 **South Yorkshire Archaeology Day**, 1030am-4.30pm at the Showroom Cinema Cost £10 Details from 273 5804
- 26 **Xmas Fayre** Whirlow Hall Farm, 10am - 3pm. Craft stalls & Farmer's Market, festive music & refreshments.
- 27 **My Work in the Community**. Talk by Pc David Spencer for Dore Methodist Ladies Fellowship 2.30pm
- 28 **Magic with a smile** Talk by Brian Varley for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, 7.45pm Church Hall
- 29 **A Year on a Hill Farm** talk by Keth Birkinshaw for the Dore Village Society. 7.30pm Methodist Church Hall Everyone welcome - free admission

DECEMBER

- 2 & 3 **Christmas Weekend** at Hardwick Hall decorated for a Tudor Christmas (01246 858400)
- 2 **Christmas Concert** by Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society, 3pm Methodist Church Tickets £4 from 01246 431914
- 3 **Bakewell Market** Sunday Specials 9am - 4pm.
- 3 **Santa Specials**, miniature railway 11am-4pm
- 3 **Festival of Light** St Luke's Hospice, 6pm, free entry
- 3 **Dronfield Brass Band**, with cheese & wine at Sheffield Cheshire Home 7pm tickets £3.50 236 9952
- 4 **Concert** Handel's Messiah Sheffield Bach Society 7.30pm Sheffield Cathedral. Tickets 266 8257
- 5 **Poetry Evening** at Totley Library 7-8.45pm 293 0406
- 6 **Victorian Christmas Fayre** Sheffield Cheshire Home, Mickley Lane 10am-12noon 50p entry 236 9952
- 9 **Step out with the Rangers**. 5 miles, 10.30am-2pm. Meet Millhouses Park cafe + a snack Tel 283 9195
- 10 **Bakewell Market** Sunday Specials 9am - 4pm.
- 10 **Santa Specials**, miniature railway 11am-4pm
- 10 **Carol Service** for St Luke's Hospice at Sheffield Cathedral 2.30pm Free entry
- 12 **Robinson's Mills at Papplewick** Talk by Stephen Walker for Hunter Archaeological Soc, Lecture Theatre 9 Arts Tower Sheffield Uni 7.30pm 230 4243
- 12 **Christmas Celebrations** with Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, 7.45pm Methodist Church Hall

- 13 **Christmas Party** Dore (A) Townswomen's Guild 12 Noon for 12.30 Abbeydale Sports Club
- 13 **Loxley Silver Band**, bar & christmas snacks at Sheffield Cheshire Home 7pm tickets £3.50 236 9952
- 15 & 16 **Christmas Concerts** Dore Male Voice Choir 7.30pm Dore Parish Church tickets £6 from 236 5043
- 21 **Christmas entertainment**, with wine & mince pies at Sheffield Cheshire Home 7pm tickets £3.50 236 9952
- 27 **Wassail Walk** 5 miles start 10am from the Church Hall on Townhead Road. Hot drinks & mince pies afterwards.
- 31 **Disco** Sheffield Cheshire Home 236 9952

JANUARY

- 1 **Stainsby Mill** (Hardwick Hall) special opening 11am-4.30pm (01246 858400)
- 5 **Moated sites in England** - Fortification or Fashion? Talk by Julian Birch for Hunter Archaeological Soc, Lecture Theatre 9 Arts Tower Sheffield Uni 7.30pm
- 9 **Prehistoric Rock Art** in Northern England. Talk by Clive Waddington for Hunter Archaeological Soc, Lecture Theatre 9 Arts Tower Sheffield Uni 7.30pm
- 10 **Abbeydale Picture House** (Restoration of) A talk by Mr M Trout Dore (A) Townswomen's Guild 2pm The Old School Dore
- 16 **Sri Lanka** Talk by Rev David Willie for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, 7.45pm Methodist Church Hall
- 20 **Working Day** at Whinfell Quarry Garden 235 0534
- 30 **Dore Oral History Group** Talk by Maureen Cope for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, 7.45pm Church Hall

FEBRUARY

- 2 **Sheffield Cathedral Cemetery** - recent excavations Talk by Richard O'Neill for Hunter Archaeological Soc, Lecture Theatre 9 Arts Tower Sheffield Uni 7.30pm
- 10 **Step out with the Rangers**. 5 miles, 10.30am-2pm. Meet Whinfell Quarry Gardens + a snack Tel 283 9195
- 13 **Whirlow Farm** Talk by Bridget Evans for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, 7.45pm Church Hall
- 13 **Stonehenge & Durrington Walls** Talk by Mike Pearson for Hunter Archaeological Soc, Lecture Theatre 9 Arts Tower Sheffield Uni 7.30pm 230 4243
- 14 **A Most Peculiar Place-Rye** Talk by Mr Rob Warburton Dore (A) Townswomen's Guild 2pm The Old School
- 17 **Concert** Sheffield Bach Society 7.30pm St Mark's Church, Broomhill. Tickets 266 8257
- 27 **The Romantic Road** Talk and slides by Robert Maxwell for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, 7.45pm

Councillor surgeries

Local councillors are available for consultation in the Dore Village Society room on a regular basis. Conservatives. 4th Saturday of each month 10am to 11am Contact details: telephone 273 4108 Email: anne.smith@sheffield.gov.uk or michael.waters@sheffield.gov.uk

Liberal Democrats: 2nd Saturday in the month from 10.30am to 12 noon. Contact details: telephone 235 2289 Email: keith.hill@sheffield.gov.uk

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