



## King Egbert Site Inquiry

The Planning Inquiry was adjourned for two weeks to allow the City Planning Authority time to respond to a number of changes made to the layout by Persimmon. It restarted on February 6th as we went to press.

In the view of the Dore Village Society, the changes proposed do not appreciably affect the unacceptable nature of the proposed development.

The inquiry has highlighted the conflict of interest within the City Council between their role as property managers, trying to market a site for the highest value, their role as local education authority in attempting to fund the school PFI building programme and their role as local planning authority in attempting to safeguard the environment of the village.

The Inspector's duty will be make a decision that is purely planning based and we trust he will see the problems with the current scheme. (See also pages 6 and 14)

*Dave Crosby*



*Church Lane, from a photo dated 12 August 1960. Notice how more wooded the road was in those days. The site of Dore Grill is hidden behind the wall on the left.*

## Pothole city

Sheffield used to be famous for its heavy industry and polluted air, now it is notorious for its potholes! After years of complaints from residents, the Council is lauding its bid for £300 million funding under a proposed Government Private Finance Initiative (PFI) scheme. If it is successful then maybe we will see some improvement but at a cost!

The money is in effect a loan to be paid back with interest by us council tax payers over a 30 year span. Some of the cost may be picked up by the government, but it seems the Council (that's you and me) will have to find an extra £10 million a year to bridge the gap.

## Record peal in Dore

On Saturday 9th February there was a successful attempt to ring a record peal on Dore's bells. Eight ringers rang 10,640 changes of 'Double Bob Major'.

The attempt started at 10am and took nearly 6 hours to complete. It was on the 28th anniversary of a previous one in 1980. The a similar peal was rung, but due to some technicalities it was not recognised as a record peal.

One member of the 1980 band was ringing, along with one member of the current Dore band and ringers from Sheffield Cathedral, Wakefield Cathedral, Beverley and Leeds.

Congratulations to the team!

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## Dore Gala 2008

Following the disappointment of last year, the Gala Committee is determined to make Gala 2008 even better than usual. The date has been fixed as Saturday 12th July and a Plan B has been mapped out should the recreation ground again prove unusable. The band has been booked and we are in the process of ordering marquees, toilets and all the other paraphernalia needed for the big day.

There is a great deal to do and inevitably it seems too few people to do it. If you would like to be involved do please get in touch - you don't need a Scout or Guide connection but if you have one, all the more reason for joining in. (Remember the once hugely successful Ecclesall Church's Garden Party ceased a few years ago because too few were prepared to volunteer - please do not let this happen in our community).

Help us if you can; by putting up bunting, running a stall, organising the games or serving on the committee - whatever takes your fancy. If you are interested please give one of us a call, we'd love to hear from you - Janet Brook, 236 4360 or Geoff Cope, 235 0392.

## Oral History Collection

*From Devon to Dore*

*- A farm bailiff's story*

I grew up believing that my paternal great-grandfather, Thomas Jeffery had been crushed in a threshing machine accident on a farm in Cornwall. I had always assumed that great-grandfather had been dragged into the machine during harvesting. What I actually discovered was something much more dramatic which turned the course of my family history and led me to south west Sheffield and to Dore village in particular.

My interest in the story began around 1999 when I received some snippets of intriguing information from one of Thomas Jeffery's granddaughters in Australia. It referred to Thomas slipping on ice "helping a man fix his steamroller" but I failed to track anything down because I believed that the accident had occurred in Cornwall. It was not until a previously unknown cousin, Ellen Campbell, contacted me and shared her research, that I would begin to uncover a tragedy that would not let me rest. This is the story of a Devon man who became bailiff of three local farms, including Dore Hall Farm at the end of the 19th Century.

Thomas Jeffery was one of seven children born in 1853 in Bickleigh, near Plymouth in Devon, and it was there that he began his working life as a farm labourer. Mystery surrounds his journey to the north east of England where in March 1877 he married Mary Cowell whose

*continued on page 16*

## Village Dragon Hunt

Dore Village Society will be organising its third village dragon hunt on Sunday 27th April commencing at 2 pm.

- Celebrate St. George's Day which falls this year on the 23rd
- Encourage an interest in, and knowledge of, the village
- Enable people to have some fun as a family!!

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

St George is bound to be there and this year we will be joined by our very own village Wyvern playing the part of the dragon.

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

## Blue light sale

South Yorkshire Police are preparing to sell off stations and police boxes across the county to save millions of pounds in maintenance costs. The section station on Totley Brook Road is one of 23 buildings being marketed. No doubt this means we will see even less of our local police team.

## 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  
4 South Court, S17 3PN.

### Secretary

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

### Committee

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

Mr D Bearpark 236 9100  
(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  
(Dore Recreation Ground)

## PUBLISHING DEADLINES

Dore to Door is published quarterly in mid February, May, August & November each year. The copy deadline for each issue is the end of the preceding month. Please forward items for the Summer (May) issue to the address on this page by **Friday 25th April**

## Newsagents raided

The Village Store on Causeway Head Road was raided by two robbers armed with a knife and screwdriver around 5.45pm on Tuesday 29th January. Nobody was injured but police say a member of staff was left badly shaken. They described both of the attackers as white, about 5ft 8ins tall and of slim build, one wearing a balaclava and dark clothing, the other wearing a coat and dark hat. Any witnesses to the raid should contact the police.

## News in brief

**The Tasty Plaice fish** and chip shop on Townhead Road has been sold and is closed pending the arrival of its new owners

**Only a quarter** of the £32 billion a year levied on motorists is spent by the Government on roads, says a report, based on Department of Transport figures.

**Northern General Hospital** users will not be surprised to learn that NHS trusts earned £98 million from car parking charges in 2005/6, an increase of 26% on the previous year.

**Sheffield** was named as the UK's tenth riskiest city for car accidents and tenth riskiest for car theft in a recent survey by Endsleigh Insurance Services.

**Speed bumps** are helping to destroy the planet, according to a study commissioned by the AA. Drivers are forced to brake and accelerate repeatedly, which doubles carbon dioxide emissions and fuel consumption.

## What's going on?

Are you interested in what is happening in Dore, about its history, planning, road safety or the environment? Are you good at organising things, helping out at events, prepared to deliver Dore to Door?

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

If you would be interested in finding out about the Society and our ongoing projects, come along to our room in the Old School between 10am and 12 noon on the first Saturday of the month, collar a member of the committee, or just give us a ring on 236 9025. We'll be pleased to hear from you.

## Road Traffic Accident

Around 5.30pm on Monday 17th December 2007, police attended a road traffic accident in which a 62 year-old pedestrian was hit by a car on Abbeydale Road South, near the bottom of Dore Road. The collision occurred as the local man was crossing the road and resulted in his being taken to a Sheffield Hospital where he was detained with serious injuries to his head, leg and ribs.

The Dore Village Society has been calling for a proper pedestrian crossing or at least a traffic island, opposite the station for a number of years. In the light of the accident, the matter has been taken up again with Sheffield Highways Division.

## Our choked roads

The evidence is that motorists are using cars more and more, despite record fuel prices, higher vehicle taxes, and entreaties by the Government for greater use of public transport. Traffic has risen sharply in the past decade in almost every part of England except Inner London. A recent written parliamentary answer shows that across England, traffic rose by 12% between 1997 and 2006. All this when rail travel has grown by 40%.

The number of licensed cars in Britain has grown by 5.5 million to 26.5 million since 1997. In 2006, 60% of cars on the road had only one occupant - its driver, and a quarter of all car trips were less than two miles long.

## Stone robbers

One of the flat coping stones on the low wall of the butchers little car park in the High Street was recently stolen around 3pm one afternoon. This ties in with the theft of 7 almost identical stones from Bessie Colley's cottage wall on Saturday Jan 26th.

## 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 / 236 9469 or write to:

The Editor;  
**Dore to Door**;  
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## Garden grabbing floods

In the light of recent weather events, the Dore Village Society has expressed concern about the impact of further in-fill development in Dore. The loss of gardens and the increase in both buildings and hard standing, results in increased surface water run-off with inevitable consequences down stream or in our case down hill!

Large gardens and trees offer a significant capacity to absorb rainfall. Their loss has implications to adjacent properties and the wider area. The seriousness of this has recently been amply demonstrated by the water logging of established gardens on King Egbert Road, following further drainage work in an attempt to overcome flooding of the new Barratt Homes development at its end.

Provision for, and control of, surface run-off is usually taken into account with each new individual development. However, all these developments cannot be viewed in isolation, given their cumulative effect. Amazingly, the Council's forward planning for development (the Core Strategy) makes no estimate of future numbers for garden in-fill, extensions or increased hard standing in this area, or Sheffield as a whole!

We have already experienced several cases of flooding along the adjacent area of Abbeydale Road South and given the evidence of more severe climatic events associated with global warming, there must be a concern that even without further development these floods may

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reoccur. In this context it is worth noting that in the recent independent review into the July floods by Sir Michael Pitt, he warned that the increase in new homes being built on gardens poses a "significant" flood risk, something flooding experts have repeatedly raised and which needs to be addressed.

We believe that Sheffield Council should carry out a full analysis of the risk to properties in the lower areas of Dore as directly arising from continued development in the area, and carry out or require the necessary infra structural work by utilities to cope with these risks. Without such a programme, we assume a liability would fall on the Council for any future damage to properties occurring from, or exacerbated by, flooding resulting from the granting of further planning applications for garden sites in the area.

These points have been put to the Council and we await their response with some interest!

*John Baker*

*Chairman Dore Village Society*

## 108 and feeling great!

Ex Dore resident Blanche Spaven, now Sheffield's oldest resident, celebrated her 108th birthday on the 24th January.

Blanche was born near York in 1900, the second of 10 children. According to her daughter Wendy, herself 75, her mum had been a farmer's daughter and had arrived prematurely. "The story goes that her dad had to go and fetch the doctor by horse - that was the only way to do it then." Blanche came to live on Limb Lane in Dore in 1928 with her husband Tom a carpenter, whom she had married in 1924. Dore was a quiet village then still across the Derbyshire border. "When she was first lived there, my mother used to have to collect water from a well at the bottom of the road. There are not many people alive today who will remember doing that," Wendy said.

Blanche lived in Dore for 72 years and has lived in a nursing home for more than four years after managing to remain independent until well into her 100th year.

## Beauchief Hotel

In case you missed it, the Beauchief Hotel changed hands last summer and regained its independence after a long period as part of a hotel chain. Since then the new owners have embarked on major renovations. These include a refit for the dining room, upgraded conference facilities and a new look and name, '161' for the bar, which is open from 11am daily, serving coffee and bar meals.

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## Letters

Dear Sir,

My wife Katie and I have recently returned from holiday in South Africa, taking part in a tour of Kwazul-Natal and the Drakensburg Mountains and then cross country to Cape Town with a group of Riley car enthusiasts. Five cars went from the UK, three from Australia and fifteen from all parts of South Africa, mostly pre-war. The hospitality shown to us by the South Africans was unbelievable. It was a wonderful trip with like minded people, but the point of my letter is in response to the very interesting Oral History feature in Dore to Door, No 87, Autumn 2007, about Jean Sceats.

One of the couples who were on the tour of South Africa, was Geoff and Mollie Moore. They live in Builth Wells, Powys and during conversation, Mollie asked if I knew Dore village. Just a little, I replied; my grandparents and latterly my parents lived in the village and, up to my mid 20's, my life revolved around the village; Sunday School, Primary School (I also remember Miss Palmer well), the Church choir and Scouts (latterly as an assistant leader with Peter Jackson).

It transpired that Mollie attended Sheffield University in the 1950's and had digs in Dore Village. I naturally asked Mollie if it was with Jean Sceats and of course it was. Mollie said that she hasn't been in touch with Jean since.

*Peter Swift*

*Ed. Quite a coincidence. Jean has now been put in touch with Mollie.*

Dear Sir,

Following the weekend when Sheffield was bombed, my parents and Mr & Mrs George Cooper became very good friends. Their son Harry was shot down over Germany and was a prisoner of war for some 2 years. Some 20 years ago, possibly more, he owned and resided at 8 Overdale Gardens. In 1986 Harry attended my mothers funeral. From then on we stupidly lost touch with the family.

If anyone knows where they are my wife and I would be most grateful if you could let us know via the magazine or by email at: [Johnmellors@waitrose.com](mailto:Johnmellors@waitrose.com)

*H J Mellors*

Dear Sir,

Hi. I really look forward to reading the magazine there is always somebody mentioned in it that my family knew.

I was born and bred at 18 Townhead Road (opposite the Post Office). My late aunt was Jean Dean who used to write 'Jean Recalls' in the magazine. My late Grandma was Hilda Warnes who Jean mentioned often in her wonderful tales. I left Dore some 25 years ago and miss it very much.

My family has been part of Dore for hundreds of years, and I love to hear the tales of old Dore. Nan Hilda used to keep us enthralled with hilarious tales of characters from the past.

As a child I used to go poaching with a friend and a very competent ferret until John Farnsworth caught us on his land and confiscated the ferret and the rabbits. That little incident was 40 years ago and we had a laugh about it at Jean's funeral.

Keep up the good work with the magazine. It keeps an old Dore lad going.

*John Firkins*

Dear Sir,

From May until mid-November 2007 I did some random checking of the No 30 buses leaving Dore to assess how often they were late or even early. I had to abandon this exercise during the immediate aftermath of the floods in June. I also realised that the period of the school holidays was generally much better than at other times.

On the whole I found that the buses were on time much more regularly than I had thought. If they were up to 5 minutes late I classed this as on time. Often this is caused by the vehicles parked in Devonshire Terrace.

Particularly bad days were 24th September with buses leaving late in the morning. Then in the afternoon buses being late on arrival. The 14th November also was bad with what should have been the outgoing 13.05 having broken down. A replacement did not arrive until 13.30 - in other words the normal 13.35. However on arrival it was declared broken down because the windscreen wipers did not work. Most passengers went home or fetched their cars.

Another problem I encountered was that when I was in town waiting for a bus to Dore, on 3 occasions the 14.27 did not run at all. Presumably the 15.05 out of Dore must not have run either.

Quite often I have seen a bus go down Dore road between 18.00 and 18.30 but not in service, I have not been able to

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It does seem that the buses that come to Dore are often the oldest and least comfortable ones around and the least reliable. If people are put off from using this service the bus company will probably say there is insufficient demand and reduce the service further. They will have deliberately created the reduced demand. With the most likely expansion of Dore in the future I would have expected the company to plan ahead to capture increased demand.

I think it would help congestion at the bottom of Dore road and in the centre of Dore if there was a bus that ran to the station. Even a minibus mornings and evenings would help wouldn't it? Would it have to be run by First buses - why not by a private operator?

[ 100 buses checked - 7 didn't run, 6 were 5 - 30 minutes late. This is ignoring 26th June and 3 weeks after the flood, also ignoring the school holidays. ]

**J E Herridge**

Dear Sir,  
Archaic practise

A group of us attended the latest TOADS production - Agatha Christie's "A Murder Is Announced" - last week, which we thoroughly enjoyed. TOADS is a great little company providing sorely-needed local entertainment.

What is not sorely needed is what happened at the beginning of the evening and amazed us. The national anthem was played and everyone stood to attention.

While we did not stand up during the music, a small canvas of people sitting around us revealed later that most people found it embarrassing to have the pressure of standing up for something they did not believe in, and resented this. One woman even bent forward in the interval and said "Well done, I wish I had had the courage not to stand up like you did."

Surely this archaic practise should be dropped? Since most people today are quite indifferent or even opposed to the monarchy, the playing of the national anthem has been judiciously dropped from most events. The Ecclesall Players dropped the playing of the anthem nine years ago, and it is high time TOADS did the same. Its continuation makes it appear a fuddy-duddy and anachronistic organisation.

Come on TOADS - leave the national anthem out in future!

**Jennie Street**

*Ed. We invited a response from TOADS who replied:*

Sit down for what you believe in.

I am sorry that your correspondent does not approve of the national anthem being played, as it always is, before the curtain is raised at TOADS productions.

She is probably correct in her assumption that a lot of people find it anachronistic. TOADS was founded fifty five years ago by Lil and Geth Robinson. Before Lil died, almost ten years ago, playing the anthem was already considered by many to be old fashioned but it was Lil's fond wish that it be continued - indeed she extracted promises to that effect before she died. If for no other reason the anthem should be

continued to honour the treasured memory of a tireless organiser and immensely talented and funny actress.

There is no pressure to stand for the anthem at TOADS, in fact Lil's own son, who continues to support the society, chooses to remain seated. It is a broad church and there is room, and a welcome, for everybody.

It is sad to think, however, that in the 21st century, after all the freedom fighting that has gone on, the drive for choice, self-expression and the assertion of the individual, some people are still cowed by a tune. I, too, wish the lady who "bent forward at the interval" had had the courage to remain seated. If everyone had stood, or sat, for their beliefs, we might have had a clearer picture. Did everyone in Ms Street's party really want to remain seated or did they pick up the subtle body

language from the alpha female in their group as the band struck up? Were any of them, in fact, pressured into sitting just as others were "pressured into standing"?

TOADS plays to full, and sometimes packed houses, to regulars who arrive knowing the anthem will be played. They are all most welcome to stand or sit or sing along as they wish. I do hope Ms Street will come again and enjoy another play with us, I hope she will choose to sit during the anthem and be more comfortable, and enjoy the show.

**Richard Clubley - TOADS**

Dear Sir,

I would like to speak to the owner of the dog which was allowed to enter my garden on Townhead Road and defecate on the front lawn, where my grand children often play. Please phone 0114 236 9831

**Mr P Pryor**



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**Letters** *continued ....*

Dear Sir,  
*Planning Appeal  
Former King Egbert Site*

We will know the decision of the Appeal against the Council's refusal to build 106 houses on the former King Egbert school site about mid March 08. The Council had left this site vulnerable by not putting any planning restrictions or design guidance prior to offering it for sale.

I spoke at the Appeal and so did others including Cllr Hill and David Crosby representing the Dore Village Society. The Inspector was left in no doubt that the strength of feeling against this development was immense.

At the enquiry I made it very clear to the Inspector that the people who live in Dore are heartily sick of developers coming to our area showing total disregard for our environment, turning our narrow roads into car parks and plundering our green environment. I also made it very clear that the proposal is out of character with the area, is cramped and out of proportion for the site and surroundings. The density is too high and the design is poor.

There would be massive extra congestion in our already congested roads and lanes. Buses and service vehicles already struggle to get access and school children and pedestrians often risk accidents due to having to step into the roads to pass parked cars on the pavements.

If approved, this development could result in another 200 cars on our roads. There are many dangerous junctions



*Back in December, a grand total of £677.00 was raised in support of the Western Park Hospital Cancer Appeal, by a raffle and fundraising effort organised by Pam Maltby at the Newsplus Village Store. The picture is of Pam's grandson and nurse Helen Graves from the teenage unit at Weston Park Hospital, holding the cheque for the £677.*

especially the Bushy Wood Road / Abbeydale Road South junction. Chatsworth Road would undoubtedly become another rat run.

Of particular concern, and this concern is growing daily, is the loss of our trees, green spaces and open green heritage. Dore is a desirable area, heavily targeted by developers who have in the past

destroyed several hedges and mature trees some with Tree Preservation Orders. Developers have been taken to court over this but local residents are not stupid, they know that a fine is nothing to a developer in the scheme of his plans.

I also informed the Inspector that a few weeks ago several telephone lines went down in Dore. When I spoke to BT they said it was because of excess water due to recent rain. I chair the Council's Economic Resources Scrutiny Board and recently we have scrutinised the floods which took place in June 2007. Properties at the bottom of Dore Road were very affected, one lady virtually lost her home. We are constantly being told that the climate is changing and that we are likely to get more severe weather over the years. We value and will defend our right to keep our trees, hedges and our green spaces.

We will as a community expect developers to respect that position. We know that some development will take place on this site, We are not against development we are against inappropriate development which this is. What we are asking for, is that developers will work with the community and show some respect for our views. They should come to Dore to enhance it, not to ruin it, as this proposed development surely will.

The other speakers at the hearing all gave very strong presentations. I hope that the Council will in future protect large sites like this by including planning guidance. I am still hopeful of a favourable outcome to this Appeal.

*Councillor Anne Smith*

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## Leap Years

Leap years - of which 2008 is one - have a leap day added on February 29, to reconcile the difference between the civil year (365 days) and the solar year (365.2422).

According to the inestimable Oxford Companion to the Year, leap days were 'abruptly introduced' into the Egyptian calendar in 238BC, incorporated into the Roman calendar by Julius Caesar (though "wrongly administered in the first four decades after his death"), and established correctly by Augustus. Under the Julian calendar, leap years occurred every four years when the year was divisible by four. In the Gregorian calendar, century years are leap years only when divisible by 400.

Tradition dictates that the conventions of form and gallantry are suspended on February 29th and a woman may ask for a man's hand in marriage. By custom, if the man declines he is honour bound to buy the woman a silk gown by way of recompense. William Walsh notes in his 1893 Literary Curiosities, the "fun loving young people of America would hold leap parties during which all social convention would be upended, the ladies calling on the gentlemen, choosing their own partners for the dance, and waiting on the moustachioed belles of the occasion".

'Leaplings' are those born on February 29, and amongst their number are Pope Paul III, Rossini, and Joss Ackland. Technically, they celebrate only one birthday in four which, as Frederic discovered in The Pirates of Penzance, can

lead to all sorts of elaborate difficulties. A number of cultures consider leap years unlucky, including the Danes and the Greeks. Folklore has it that 'in a leap year the weather always changes on Friday'.

This year leap year falls on a Friday - so watch out!

## 50 Years of Service

For the Rotary Club of Abbeydale, 2008 is an extra special year. It is 50 years in June since the Club received its Charter and commenced a hugely varied programme of hands-on Service and assistance to local, national and international good causes.

This year, to mark the occasion, Members are well on the way to achieving the filling of 50 'Aquaboxes' which will be sent to parts of the world where disasters have occurred. Each sturdy blue plastic box, approved by the World Health Organisation, is despatched containing emergency survival items such as cooking pots, candles, basic hygiene items and tools. Once emptied, it can be used to purify up to 1100 litres of water using the tablets supplied.

In addition to the contributions of individual Club Members, local churches schools and Scout groups have been busily helping to collect the items required. Just a few boxes still need to be filled. The items required do not need to be new - just in clean, useable condition. If you or your group would like details of how you can help us meet our target by the end of May,

please contact me Rotarian Patrick Smith at [abbeydalerotarypr@googlemail.com](mailto:abbeydalerotarypr@googlemail.com)

On the evening of Saturday 12th April at 7pm, the Club will present a Special Concert at Holy Trinity Church, Grove Road, Millhouses featuring (separate!) performances by Dore Male Voice Choir and the "Gentlemen of Jazz". Tickets are available from Rotarian Brian Cousins on 274 7238. Proceeds to the Rotary International Foundation to support Rotary projects.

On Friday 25th (10am to 7pm) and Saturday 26th April (10am to 3pm), the Club will hold the 4th Annual 'Sheffield Young Painters of The Year' Exhibition in the Skyline Suite at Ponds Forge. All Sheffield schools have the opportunity to participate in this art competition. Last year over 651 paintings were selected and put on display, giving a lot of pleasure and sense of achievement to many Primary, Secondary, Independent and Special School students. The exhibition which is open to the public (Adults £1, 18 and under free) will once again be opened by the Lord Mayor who will also present the Awards. Support has been gratefully received from Quallsys of Sheffield and the organisers of The Great Sheffield Art Show. The Organiser is Rotarian Ken Marshall on 235 0515.

The Rotary Club of Abbeydale has thoroughly enjoyed its first 50 years of work in the local community and beyond and is looking forward to its future challenges.

*Patrick Smith*

*The Rotary Club of Abbeydale*



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## Story behind the ruins

Blacka Moor's natural resources have been used for centuries. White coal pits (related to the lead smelting industry), burial mounds and a stone circle are just some of the hidden treasures on Blacka. It seems that every inch of land was used for human benefit: heather was used for roofing thatch, bracken for animal bedding, berries were picked for jellies and preserves, the grasses and dwarf shrubs were used for grazing, the pastures were 'improved' with manure to make better grazing land, trees were coppiced for hurdles and cut for firewood, and the larger timber was used for construction.

With all these resources being utilised to the full, you can imagine what it would have been like to walk across Blacka Moor - an entirely different experience to today. There would have been people working across the landscape, and Strawberry Lee Farm (in Strawberry Lee Pastures) would have been alive with the sounds of livestock, and the barking of the working dogs in the farmyard.

This was brought to life for me recently when I came across the 1937 Clarion Ramblers' Handbook by G.H.B. Ward. Ward writes of Blacka Moor, in particular Strawberry Lee Farm, and the demise of farmsteads: "Strawberry Lee Grange... is a monument to the neglect of 'sporting' landowners of the past and the gradual reduction, and/or, elimination of sheep and cattle-grazing on the moorlands - plus the neglect in not repairing, renovating and modernising farm houses and buildings..."

Ward recognised the loss of the vitality of the working farm. There are positive aspects of this loss, as reduced grazing has resulted in a variety of habitats across the moor; however, continued lack of management would result in woodland developing across the site, flying in the face of what J.G. Graves bequeathed to the people of Sheffield. In a letter to the Sheffield Telegraph in February 1933, he wrote, "The object of the purchase is to preserve the moor in its natural state..."

Strawberry Lee Farm was sadly demolished in February 1936, only 3 years

later - what a shame that he was not able to save this small farm. Rather optimistically Ward says "we would fain hope that some day, moorside farming will again be a feature at Strawberry Lee and a house and farm buildings be rebuilt; with the right to 'turn' sheep and young cattle on the moor and Totley Moss.... One of the fields might be used for school and Sunday school parties...." Of course today in a small way we have 'turned' young cattle onto the moor, though the resurrection of the farm buildings is neither feasible nor desirable now. We also have school parties visiting each year, so to some extent we have helped to fulfil in part Ward's vision.

One story in the article relates to a Mr. George Sampson, who bred West Highland cattle at Strawberry Lee Farm. Ward tells the tale of Mr. Sampson winning every class at the Royal Show. The bull was killed around 1886 and its head mounted and displayed at the Fox House Inn and later at Longshaw Shooting Lodge. Coincidentally the cattle now grazing at Blacka Moor are Highlands, though we have no intention of keeping a bull there, or displaying its head at the Trust offices!

Later in the article there is reference to young lads collecting birds' eggs, including those of nightjar. It would be wonderful to see the return of this bird to Blacka Moor, and not beyond possibility, as they have been recorded in the Eastern Moors. A grazing impact assessment was done last year for the moor in relation to the recent cattle grazing, and nightjar was cited as a bird that may return with suitable management. Nightjar need structural variety amongst heather, with plenty of open patches (the cattle should help break up the tall, dense heather), and scattered trees and scrub for churring posts.

There is a wealth of information about Blacka Moor, including archaeological surveys. Copies are available on CD, donations appreciated. - phone 263 4335.

*Annabelle Kennedy*  
(Nature Reserves Manager)  
Sheffield Wildlife Trust  
37 Stafford Road, S2 2SF

## Dore Male Voice Choir

The Christmas Concerts in the Parish Church were again a success, with a "full house" on both nights. The choir are always grateful for the support given by the village, particularly on these occasions. The Annual Gala Concert is being moved to October this year, partly because with Easter being early, our usual time in the Spring is not convenient. But in addition we will be having a Youth Choir with us as our guests, and a Spring concert conflicts with preparations for GCSE and A level exams. This year's concert will be at Ecclesall Church, on Saturday 11th October.

The Choir has produced a new CD "Gonna rise up singing" which contains 15 pieces of recently performed music, and is on sale now. CDs can be purchased through Alan Cousins tel 0114 2369189.

*David Heslop*

## Gilbert & Sullivan Society

The TroubaDores (the G&S Concert Party) had a busy pre-Christmas run of concerts all of which seemed to be enjoyed by the concert goers. The programmes were a mixture of G&S, Flanders & Swan, comic readings, John Rutter and Christmas music, giving the ensemble a chance to show their strengths - very successfully too!

As trailed in the last edition of 'Dore to Door' this year's show is to be The Mikado. A tale of a somewhat despotic Mikado wanting the town of Titi Pu to hold an execution. The town Elders can't bring themselves to comply but they pretend to execute Nanki Poo, a wandering minstrel. The trouble is, unbeknown to them, he is the son of the Mikado disguised as an itinerant musician to escape the clutches of Katisha, an extremely forbidding lady of the Mikado's court. The Elders, particularly Poo Bah - Lord High absolutely everything (except Executioner which honour falls to Ko Ko), having dug themselves into a hole, are lined up for execution. However, Ko Ko, who got everyone into the mess to start with, gets them out of it by making a play - rather unwillingly - for Katisha. Once Katisha is married to Ko Ko, Nanki Poo and his bride Yum Yum can come out of hiding and everyone (except perhaps for Ko Ko) lives happily ever after. The whole plot is laced throughout with comedy and some of Sullivan's best known and popular music.

The Mikado will be on at The University Drama Studio, Glossop Road from Tuesday 1st. April to Saturday 5th. April 2008. Evening performances will begin at 7:30pm and there will be a Saturday Matinee at 2:30pm. Tickets at £8.50 (concessions £7.50) are available now from Val Tel: 01246 416364, or from any member of the Society. It is one of the best light operettas to bring youngsters to see because it moves along at a decent pace, is funny and has a plot that is easy to follow, so come and join us for a thoroughly enjoyable evening out.

*Derek Habberjam*

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## Traffic congestion and parking

*Judging by the number of telephone calls and letters, traffic congestion and parking are obviously becoming a major issue in parts of the village.*

Dear Sir,  
Parking in Dore

I know that I do not need to remind you of the traffic problems that the residents of Dore have to contend with. My main concern has always been the excessive speed at which some motorists drive. However, on Sunday I felt obliged to contact the police regarding a car which was parked completely on the pavement in Church lane. As there seemed to be no action taken some time after my report I decided to take photographs of the offending car with a view to publicising the matter.

My wife and I are fortunate to be able bodied and were quite able to negotiate this offending obstacle, albeit by having to walk into the road at the point of a bend. My concern in instances such as this is for people who are less fortunate in their mobility or sight and would find it much more dangerous to facilitate this manoeuvre.

Is there anything more we can do as pedestrians or motorists for that matter, to reduce the number of inconsiderate parking situations that we are so often faced with?

On a separate but related issue which again I know is of concern to you, here is another photograph of traffic congestion at the junction of Furniss Avenue and Totley Brook Road that is typical at school release times. I know that this only happens twice a day in term time but it gives an indication of how serious the traffic problem is on Furniss Avenue. I have no doubt that the proposed development of the old King Ecgbert School will significantly add to this situation.

I am sorry if this has gone on too long but I feel that the traffic situation in Dore is becoming somewhat more than frustrating.

**Ron Grayling**

*Ed. My understanding is that it is illegal to park in such a way as to block a pavement. Technically it is illegal to drive on a pavement, but not to park on it!*

*Sadly the traffic congestion in your second picture reflects our car driven culture. It marks a downward decision spiral, starting with giving parents the choice of school without thinking of the traffic implications, the press encouraging a fear for children walking to school, increased danger from more and larger cars (created by the parents themselves) and in this case no provision in the design of the new King Ecgbert School under PFI to provide drop and pick-up areas despite this being suggested by DVS. I also think that we as motorists have our part to play in the parking issues in Dore. How many of us park in the road instead of our garages, or at least on our drives? We all need to recognise our communal responsibilities.*

Another resident has written to mention what a mess it is on Totley Brook Road when the school bell goes. "Because there is pavement on one side of the road only, his wife has to push a pram and hold on to her 8 year old while walking on the pavement by the bus gates that has 300+ school students waiting for buses. She has been told to f\*\*\* off by one student in the past when trying to get through.



*Inconsiderate parking on Church Lane. Pavement parking has become an epidemic!*



*A typical day on Furniss Avenue.*

The language isn't great at the best of times from students and unfortunately her son has to hear it. The situation worsens when the weather isn't so good.

Other parents avoid the area so its not just me having a moan, some drive adding to the congestion outside Dore Primary. Cars drive through the bus gates that according to the police are not bus gates! Parking is a joke in that area. The council need to have a close look at this. It's much more of a priority than the bottom of Dore Road that seems to get a mention every now and again".

Dear Sir

I am becoming increasingly dismayed by the ruin of the grass verges in the area, caused by the growing number of private cars and tradesman's vehicles parking on them. Causeway Head Road is one of the worst affected areas. Could those responsible please show more respect for their - and our - surroundings?

**Kathleen Hope**

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## Helicopter Rescue on Blacka Moor

It was one of last summer's sunnier days at the beginning of August when my friend Ann and I decided to go for a walk on Blacka Moor. We had gone on the same walk lots of times and like many people living in Dore had come to regard Blacka Moor as part of our 'back garden'. We set off mid-morning when the sun was shining and the day was hot, we chatted most of the time and were really enjoying ourselves.

Coming to the end of our walk we had just passed the bench seat near Bole Hill and were walking down the bridleway towards the gate barrier and the stepping stones. I remarked to Ann that she ought to be careful as the bridleway was rather dangerous because the path had lots of loose stones on it as a result of the torrential rain in June/July. Unfortunately the warning came too late as she slipped and fell hurting her leg.

At first Ann did not think that she had done much damage but said that she was unable to walk further. Fortunately we had taken a mobile phone with us and so were able to call for an ambulance. The ambulance crew arrived but had to leave their vehicle by Ann Barber's stables as they were unable to bring it any closer - they eventually arrived on foot some forty minutes after our call.

The ambulance crew immediately assessed the situation and decided that Ann needed to go to hospital and that there was really no way that they could carry her back to the ambulance. There was only one way to get her to hospital and that was by helicopter. The ambulance crew radioed a request for an air ambulance and a helicopter was dispatched from Leeds, arriving some seventeen minutes later. Unfortunately the helicopter was unable to land by the bench seat because of the surrounding trees and eventually the pilot decided to land on the top of Bole Hill.

Once the paramedics from the helicopter arrived they confirmed the suspicions of the ambulance crew that Ann had in fact dislocated her foot and fractured her tibia and fibula and that she did indeed need to be transferred to hospital. With the help of some gas and air plus morphine they managed to remove Ann's boot and get her onto a stretcher and transport her up the hill to the helicopter with the help of some men from the Sheffield Wildlife Trust who were (luckily) working nearby.

In case you are wondering what happened to Ann once she took off in the helicopter - well she spent a total of two weeks in hospital, had an operation on her leg as she had broken her tibia and fibula (and by all accounts had made a fairly good job of it!) and then spent three months with a fixator on her leg requiring weekly visits to the hospital. Ann has now been discharged by her consultant but it will take up to eighteen months before she is fully recovered.

As you can imagine Ann is extremely grateful to all the people who helped her and we would both like to warn others that although you are only going for a short walk you should always be prepared and in particular to take a mobile phone with you and also a survival blanket - these are extremely light and cheap to buy but in an emergency are essential.

As a result of Ann's accident Sheffield Wildlife Trust are arranging for the bridleway to be repaired and this should take place within the next few months.

*Penny Woodcock*

P.S. The whole rescue will be shown on Helicopter Heroes sometime in April.

## Dore Art Show

Is it my imagination, or does time fly by a lot faster these days?

After a strange old year of "climate changes" bringing an early Spring last year, with crocus and daffodils all blooming weeks before normal, we all wondered what all the fuss was about. What is this "Global Warming" anyway? However we were all brought down to earth when the lovely spring sunshine gave way to weeks of rain and the awful consequences that caused and the havoc still obvious in some parts of the city and indeed other parts of the country. We in the hillier parts of Dore were for the most part the lucky ones, staying drier than others less fortunate.

The weather however didn't put a damper on us in the Art Group and we enjoyed showing our work last year both at the Show, and again at our new venture, an open day which we had in November to show you what we do and where we hold our Classes, again in the Old School. We hope to hold something similar in the Autumn this year if all goes to plan, with next Christmas in view, so look out for details of that later on in the year.

This year's show is going to be held a little later this year, as Easter falls very early and as schools are off for a couple of weeks and people go on holiday. We have chosen to hold our Annual Exhibition of Dore Art Group's work on Friday 18th April 2pm to 6pm, Saturday 19th April 9.30am to 5pm.

As usual we will be in the Hall of Dore Old School where we would be so pleased to see you all - friends old and new - and of course the usual offer of a nice cup of tea or coffee and home made refreshments at reasonable prices (and well worth it!) served with a smile of course!

We promise you a nice 'day out' so please do come along and see for yourselves. We can't wait to meet you.

*Connie Bedford*  
Dore Art Show Organiser

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## Did you know

I am fortunate enough not to need a mobility scooter - yet! But I can appreciate how useful they become when it is difficult to get around on your own two legs. One of the biggest problems scooter users face is 'the curb', especially when getting on to pavements in front of shops. From this point of view the recent curb lowering in the centre of the village is a great idea - but why such a waste of public money? A little bird tells me that on average each lowered curb costs £500, no doubt from European funds, but still our money!

So instead of working out where dropped curbs would be worth the expense they seem to have been installed to a robotic plan. Hence new provision has been made to cross Devonshire Terrace Road at the Dore service station end, yet a few feet towards the COOP there are already lowered driveway entrances on opposite sides of the road. These entrances are never blocked by parked vehicles, unlike some of the new access points such as the one outside the Hare & Hounds. And how do you manoeuvre when riding at right angles onto a narrow pavement and needing to turn left or right immediately? Were our local mobility scooter users consulted? It would be interesting to hear what they think.

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Soup Chef's home-made soup of the day

Garlic Bread

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Salmon

Poached salmon steaks covered in mayonnaise garnished with salad

Melon

Melon fan with fresh fruit

Pâté

Chicken liver pâté served with finger toast

Mackerel

Hot smoked mackerel served with horseradish sauce

Steak

6 oz fillet steak with tomatoes and mushrooms

Fish

Chef's fish of the day

Chicken Cacciatore

Chicken cooked in red wine, mushrooms and garlic

Pie

Chef's homemade pie of the day

Roast

Chef's roast of the day

Lamb

Three grilled cutlets with tomatoes and mushrooms

Three Bean Provençal

Mixed beans in a red wine, mushroom and tomato sauce

Vegetables

Fresh vegetables and potatoes of the day

Sweets

Choice of sweets

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Fresh filter coffee and mints (£1.50 extra)

Dinner £17.50

Four courses

Monday to Friday

Soup

Chef's home-made soup of the day

Pâté

Chicken liver pâté served with finger toast

Melon

Honeydew-melon fan served with fresh fruit

Pancake

Chicken and herb mushroom pancake glazed with cheese

Salmon

Poached salmon steaks and prawns served with Marie Rose sauce

Mackerel

Hot smoked mackerel served with horseradish sauce

Brie

Deep-fried Brie served with fruit coulis

Lamb

Shank of lamb served with mint and honey, and white wine sauce

Steak

6 oz fillet served in a red wine and Mushroom sauce

Roast

Chef's Roast of the day

Pie

Chef's home-made pie of the day

Salmon

Grilled salmon fillet served with parsley butter

Chicken

Poached breast of chicken in a sauce of white wine, onions, mushrooms and brandy

Trout

Fillet of trout in almond and butter sauce

Three Bean Provençal

Mixed beans in a sauce of red wine, mushrooms and tomatoes

Vegetables

Chef's choice of vegetables and potatoes of the day

Sweets

Choice of sweets from the trolley

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## Planning matters

The Public Inquiry into the appeal by Persimmon against refusal of planning permission for their proposals for the development of the King Ecgbert school site off Furniss Ave was held over four days from 15th January. Representations were made by the Dore Village Society and a number of local residents. The arguments were against the number of houses proposed for the site, the layout of the development, the absence of adequate car parking both for residents and the adjoining sports ground, the impact of the proposed house positions on adjoining properties, together with pedestrian access through to the village centre.

During the course of the lengthy enquiry, the developers produced amendments to the plans. It was not possible to seriously address these revised proposals during the proceeding so the Inspector adjourned the Inquiry for reconvening in a further three or four weeks. The result is likely to be given some weeks after that. This is probably, and hopefully, the last major development of this size in the village. The impact on the village will be considerable and so the outcome of the Inquiry is important to all in Dore.

The saga of the proposed development at 'Farfield' Blacka Moor Road goes on. You may recall that the site of this house was purchased by a developer. An application for two houses fronting onto Blacka Moor Road was refused by the Council as the gardens encroached onto open land at the rear that was a paddock. An appeal against the refusal was successful. One house, to be built at the corner of Blacka Moor and Townhead Road was eventually given approval.

However the developer re-applied for the development of the remaining land, behind the existing 'Farfield' house, for two houses fronting onto Blacka Moor Road (on the site of the proposals won on



*Seen at the bottom of Dore Road in January. A new Tardis or the answer to Sheffield's lack of public conveniences?*

appeal) together with another house on the back land dominantly overlooking the Green Belt. The planning authority refused this application and we were relieved that when the developer went to appeal against that refusal, the Inspector dismissed that appeal. The Inspector stated that the height of the houses, three stories, was excessive, that the house at the rear overlooking Green Belt was inappropriate, and that the garages sited at the front of the two houses together with the small amount of garden remaining were unsatisfactory.

That was not the end of the matter! The developer has now made a new application. This is for two three story houses fronting the road on similar small plots with garages at the front and a driveway between, leading to a three story house at the rear overlooking the Green Belt. Spot the difference if you can! There is a minor difference, instead of dormer windows for the top floor accommodation,

the plan shows roof lights. How long would it be before the builder or occupiers changed the roof lights to dormers?

There is a planning application for a house in the front garden of 62 Dore Road. The existing house is set well back down a long drive. Such an application would no doubt have been acceptable save that the architect has produced a large house with flat roofs at varying levels and an assortment of large and small windows in random situations on all elevations.

They say that beauty is in the eye of the beholder but this proposal has neither form nor style nor does it sit comfortably with its surroundings. Not exactly a Frank Lloyd Wright or an offering from Bauhaus, although it appears to emulate that period. The houses on Dore Road are either Victorian or Edwardian Villas or more recent brick and stone properties. The tranquillity of this street scene will be shattered if consent is given to this proposal. If it is, one hopes that the 15 foot high beech hedge will provide the proverbial fig leaf.

*David Heslop*



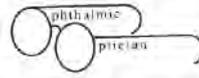

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..... continued from page 1  
 family had recently returned from America to the north eastern coalfield. Thomas and Mary soon began their own family and I discovered that their second son Thomas was baptised in Sheffield, at Christchurch Fulwood, during October 1879. Sadly, the baby only just survived into the new year and was buried at Christchurch Fulwood in January 1880.

This is the first record we have of the Jefferys in the Sheffield area, but I suspect Thomas may have been one of the 'navvies' known to have been recruited from Devon by the Duke of Devonshire's agent to work on the Totley tunnel. Certainly Totley, as well as Dore, is mentioned in the Australian record, touchingly noted in a Family Bible.

Addresses found in the Sheffield birth records showed Thomas and Mary to be living in the Mayfield Valley and moving from one tied cottage to another. Baby Thomas lived his short life at Bassett Houses. Annie, the next baby, was born at New May Cottage, Foxhall Lane in February 1881. John Thomas (Jack), my grandfather, was born at Buck Trap at the junction of Fulwood Lane and Andrew (formerly Andwell) Lane, on the 3rd January 1882.

However, by the Spring of 1886 the family had moved to Oxdale Lodge, which once stood beside the Redcar Brook on Houndkirk Road and was later known as Badger House. Twenty seven year old Mary Jeffery gave birth there to another daughter, Mary, her fifth surviving child. For the first time Thomas gave his occupation on the birth certificate as 'Farm bailiff'. Perhaps he and his family now had a more settled existence in the lodge on the edge of the moor.

The older children attended Dore School and like many others from the outlying farms and dwellings would have walked there and back in all weathers. In fact a reference to two of the Jeffery children has been found in Dore School



Above: Badger House (formerly Oxdale Lodge), Houndkirk Road, demolished in 1936. Aside: John T (Jack) Jeffery, wife Sophia and family. 1911. Jack and sister Annie were pupils at Dore School in 1891.



Sheffield Star the weather forecast for January predicted "a severely cold month with keen frosts. Rainfall moderate, 2 ½ inches which falls chiefly in the form of snow between the 3rd and the 6th and the 9th and the 12th". It was too cold to work on the farm so Squire Beeson took Thomas with him to help repair a traction engine in the yard of his workshop at River Street, Carbrook. Mary said later that Thomas had sometimes walked in front of Mr Beeson's traction engine holding a red flag, as demanded by the law at the time, but that he had never been to the Carbrook workshop before.

It seems from the report of an inquest held on Thursday 12th January at the Amberley Hotel, Attercliffe Common, that Thomas was required to help the traction engine driver, William Oughtibridge remove two 25 cwt. drive wheels from a jacked-up traction engine. It is clear from the records of witnesses at the event that unlike other Sheffield manufacturers Beeson's men were not in the habit of using the appropriate safety equipment. I estimate that the men were working outside in freezing conditions for up to two hours. They were probably anxious to complete the job as soon as possible. William Oughtibridge told the coroner that he thought it might have taken another "five to ten minutes" to set up the block and tackle which could have held the wheels as the men worked.

The two men had removed one of the large wheels safely and were engaged in removing the other. When Oughtibridge began to suspect that the second wheel might slide off the axle he left Jeffery to go and fetch a prop to support it. In the few seconds this took, the wheel fell off and crushed Thomas Jeffery underneath its terrific weight. He was killed instantly.

Unfortunately, the tragedy took place just before employers were required to accept full liability for accidents. In spite of the absence of safety equipment, the inexperience of my great-grandfather and the treacherous weather conditions, the coroner, Mr. Wightman found that Mr

log book dated 16th January 1891. The Headmaster Samuel H. Beresford noted "John T. Jeffery and Annie Jeffery among the Standard 1 pupils."

In April 1891 Thomas Jeffery was recorded in the census as 'Farm bailiff' at Holt House Farm on Long Line. Thomas, his wife and their seven children were the sole occupants, living in four rooms in the farmhouse. Thomas seemed to have found his niche and might have established himself more comfortably in the area had he not taken up employment at Dore Hall Farm on the Duke of Devonshire's estate.

William Henry Beeson, who was born in Westminster and who described himself as a "Manure manufacturer" in the 1891 census, moved from 104 River Street, Carbrook, near his works, to take up the tenancy of Dore Hall at some time during 1891 or 1892. 'Squire Beeson', as he was known to the family, was about the same age as Thomas Jeffery and a newcomer to Dore, probably to escape from the noxious air of the smog-filled Don Valley. He employed my great-grandfather as bailiff on one of the largest farms in the area at that time. Thomas, no doubt, would have thought this a good move, offering better conditions and prospects for his family. Sadly, it was not to be!

On the morning of Wednesday 11th January 1893 Thomas Jeffery left Dore for the last time. According to that day's

## Oddjob

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Beeson could not be held responsible for the death. It was reported that he was "very much grieved over the accident, for the man who was killed was the best he had ever had in his employ." Some of the jurors recommended that Mr Beeson be asked "to make some allowance to the widow who was left with seven children" but all that the coroner could offer was to increase Mary Jeffery's witness fee from 2s to 7s 6d.

The harsh reality of that fatal accident at Carbrook was the break up of the Jeffery family. Without a husband to support her or a place to live Mary was forced to return to the north east to keep house for one of her brothers. She took four of the children with her but the two youngest were taken back to Cornwall by Thomas' younger brother George and his wife

Lavinia. As some sort of compensatory gesture William Beeson paid for George, presumably the brightest of the children to be educated at the local Bluecoat school. However, eight year old George could not settle alone in Sheffield so his eldest brother William saved a shilling and took him back to Seaham by train. After the fateful events of January 11th 1893 the Jeffery family became very poor.

Burial records show that Thomas Jeffery was buried in Dore churchyard somewhere in section one on January 15th 1893 by Revd. W. D. Hubbard but with no one to tend the grave it has vanished without trace. William Beeson, who died on September 11th 1897 aged 46 was also buried in Dore churchyard and his family grave is easily found. The 1901 census shows Florence Beeson, widow, children

and servants still living at Dore Hall Farm.

When the Jeffery boys grew up they all became coal miners, but in 1911 George emigrated to Australia where his family prospered. Three of the brothers who had been separated met again in Cairo during World War 1. After the war James, Thomas and Mary's youngest son who had been adopted by Thomas' elder sister, travelled back from St Neot in Cornwall to Seaham, Co Durham to see his mother one last time before her death.

There only remains for me to discover where in Dore the family were living on that fateful day when my great-grandfather was crushed to death and where exactly in Dore churchyard he is buried. Can anyone help?

*Roslyn Fletcher (nee Jeffery)*

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## LocAle Campaign

With so many pubs these days selling only beers that are available nationally, the York & Sheffield CAMRA LocAle campaign sets out to inform pub owners and consumers of the benefits of drinking a local pint.

A lot of the national brews have no regional characteristics and identity; all too often, they taste bland and inoffensive to appeal to as wide an audience as possible. What's more, they can certainly notch up the 'beer miles' as they are transported across the country.

The LocAle campaign not only looks to redress the balance and encourage support to local breweries, but to also offer consumer choice and incentives for landlords through publicity and sales.

Yorkshire is blessed with many craft and micro breweries some of which have a long history. The Old Brewery at Tadcaster, home to Samuel Smith's, marks its 250th anniversary in 2008 and Sheffield Brewery Company has its 1st on 16th January. Others, have only been going for a few months.

Beers from these breweries aren't always easy to find in their local area, so to encourage pubs to stock and promote them Sheffield CAMRA will offer publicity and accreditation to pubs which make a commitment to have at least one locally brewed real ale always for sale. The beer must be a cask-conditioned real ale, as defined by CAMRA, and must come from a brewery which ideally is no more than a specified distance from the pub. Sheffield branch has chosen 20 miles. Different beers will qualify as LocAles depending on which part of a branch area you are in.

Sheffield & District CAMRA will be launching their campaign on Tuesday 19th February at the Ranmoor Inn on Fulwood Road, with a wide range of beers from local breweries on the bar and available for all to try. So, what better reason to get out and support your local pub and breweries and, who knows, you may find some local treasures!

Further details from 01845 501277.



*Hallam MP Nick Clegg has made an effective start at Westminster, after recently being elected leader of the Liberal Democrat Party.*

## Dore Festival 2008

Saturday 28th June - Sunday 13th July

A walk around the ancient boundaries of Dore is the first of many events planned for this year's Festival. The full and varied programme is now almost complete and includes the Gardens Open afternoon on Sun 29th June and the Well Dressing Service on Sunday 6th July. Many of the ever popular walks and musical evenings are booked and a Gardeners Question Time is also being organised. So book these dates in your diary and look out for more information nearer the time.

*Maureen Cope and Anne Elsdon*

## Visitor increase

The nativity plays at Tootley Hall Farm again attracted an increased number of visitors before Christmas. 73 plays were held over the 4 week period, 54 school and 19 family events with a total number of visitors just short of 3,500. A near 30% increase on the previous year. It is anticipated that the plays will have to start a week earlier next year to accommodate all the schools that would like to come.

## Whinfell Quarry Garden

The Friends of Whinfell Quarry Garden were thrilled to receive a surprise Christmas present from the Dore Village Society in the form of a cheque. We have decided to spend it on three magnolias (*Magnolia Stellata Grandiflora*) and these will be planted in the spring at the top of the Garden behind the memorial seat. All the support and interest that we get from DVS is much appreciated.

Following our grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund we have been able to do a great deal of the much needed work in the Garden. The self seeded trees and those coming to the end of their life have been removed and now some trees which had been crowded and their growth inhibited are thriving and being shown to good advantage. The monkey puzzle tree is standing proudly in its own space, the two hundred foot giant redwoods and the weeping beech are now well displayed against the quarry face.

At the end of November after the tree surgeons had finished we had a big working day ending with a bonfire to clear the ground so that replanting could take place.

We are delighted that John Smith from the council's Parks and Countryside Department has chosen specimen trees from around the world for year round colour and interest to plant in the Garden. We now have nearly thirty new trees over ten feet tall which we expect to attract visitors from all over Sheffield and beyond.

There is a golden leaved Indian bean tree (*Catalpa Bigonioides Aurea*), which tolerates pollution, a wedding cake tree (*Cornus Controversa*) so named because of its shape and a variegated tulip tree (*Liriodendron Tulipifera Fastigiata*) believed to be the only one in Sheffield. The sixteen trees planted last year are all thriving so by mid-summer there will be almost fifty new trees of interest both to the casual observer and the more serious arborist.

Beneath the trees there will be ground plants and shrubs (of which the magnolias are a part) put in place so spring. This means that in three areas, largely at the top, the planting will be complete.

Our next big task is to finish the work started on the paths last year when nearly forty tons of sandstone were put down. We are sourcing further sandstone for this at the moment for the paths to be laid in April.

Before that we have a working day on Saturday March 15th when we need all the help we can get to clear the paths to be resurfaced. To volunteer just turn up at 9.30 and the rangers will supply the tools.

If you can't come and help on this day do try and visit. If you've never seen the Garden, and perhaps do not know of its existence, I think you will be pleasantly surprised by this heritage garden on your door step.

Thank you again to DVS for your contribution.

*Kathleen Cox Chair of  
Friends of Whinfell Quarry Garden  
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## Rev J.T.F.Aldred (1820-1894)

Following research into their family history, the Barton family of Bath have kindly forwarded extracts from a history of the Shirley Aldred Company by Professor Sidney Pollard. Some of the key characters in its history lived in Dore as the following extract reveals:

....."J.T.F.Aldred, as the son of the founder, became a reluctant senior executor of John Aldred's estate, and for over ten years the firm, trading as "John Aldred's Executors", was left, with little supervision, in the care of salaried managers.

John Thomas Foster Aldred, who found himself thus unwillingly in charge of an industrial property requiring much technical and commercial knowledge, could hardly have been less fitted for such a task. He had been educated at Lincoln College, Oxford, where he took his degree of B.A. in 1842. He became an M.A. in 1845. In 1844 he was appointed to a curacy in Bawtry, and in 1849 he became Vicar of Dore, an appointment which he held for forty-five years, until his death in 1894.

"The Rev. J.T. F. Aldred", wrote a friend in an obituary notice, "was a type of Country Vicar not often seen hereabouts. He was a fine, tall man, with the rosy face that speaks of Derbyshire air, and the appearance of a gentleman farmer. He was indeed, a very excellent farmer, and did not a little towards the improvement of agriculture in the not too genial neighbourhood in which his parish is placed.

In his parochial calls he was welcomed in a three-fold character - as spiritual adviser, as farmers' privy councillor, and as a medical man...Perhaps twenty years ago,...Dore had no medical man... (and) the people had entire faith in his medical skill. He also made their wills, adjusted their family quarrels, and in a general and fatherly way, played the part of the good shepherd. He was a man of nimble wit, and loved a joke...Mr. Aldred was a very broadminded and liberal man, clear in his own convictions, but tolerant of those of others. He had considerable knowledge of architecture, and a strong bent towards the study of antiquities".

Though Dore was close to the borders of Sheffield, and many, if not most, of his parishioners were not farmers, but men engaged in the cutlery, tool and steel industry, to which were added, in the early 1890's, workmen engaged in the building of the Totley Tunnel. J.T.F.Aldred successfully lived a life akin to that of an 18th century country parson. In politics he was a confirmed Tory. He took an active interest in the local school, in the Ecclesall Board of Guardians, to which he became chaplain in 1852 and to which he was elected in 1873, and in the Dore Agricultural Society. He thought nothing of taking a service at the Workhouse at Nether Edge, then riding four miles home to attend to his duties in Dore, and then riding on to Totley for yet a third service on a Sunday.

The Dore Vicarage was a comfortable building to which the Rev. J.T.F.Aldred added a large new wing. In this rambling house lived not only the vicar and his large family, but in later years also two brothers-in-law and, at times, half a dozen Oxford undergraduates whom Philip Aldred, one of his sons, had brought up for coaching during the summer vacation.

Life was rather unconventional at times: above all, the vicar had an aversion to bills, which he generally burnt unseen, and members of his family had to resort to devious stratagems to satisfy the local tradesmen. On one occasion payments had been delayed for so long that the bailiffs appeared at the house. Their visit, however, had a happy ending: the two men were treated with liberal hospitality by the family, and were last seen, arm in arm, and singing merrily, pursuing an unsteady course down Vicarage Lane without further interest in the property.

Among the publications of J.T.F. Aldred was a tersely-written "Concise History of Dore, from the Earliest Times" (Sheffield and Dore, 1864), of which the DVS has a copy.

In 1864, during Aldred's ministry, Dore Church, an insignificant structure erected in 1828, was much enlarged, and in September 1876 330 subscribers joined in a presentation to the vicar which included two large photographic portraits, a brass lectern, reading desks and chairs for the church and a silk cassock. The new chancel, started in 1895, the year after his death, was dedicated to his memory.

Enough has been said to make it clear that the Rev. J.T.F.Aldred was not an ideal head of a chemical firm situated in Rotherham, Killamarsh and Chesterfield. He viewed the business with some distaste, and it was not surprising that at the end of his administration many of the assets had disappeared. The Rotherham Works and Wellgate House became the property of one of the managers, William Easton, and were abandoned soon after the latter's death. The other manager, William Kirk, is also believed to have retired from the firm with a small fortune.

J.T.F.Aldred married Mary Elizabeth Rycroft, and had four sons and a daughter. He died on 10th October, 1894, aged 74.

Phillip Foster, his eldest son, was born in 1851 and read law at Hertford College, Oxford, taking his B.A. in 1874 and his B.C.L. in 1876, receiving the degrees of M.A., D.C.L. later. He was a well-known coach in Oxford with an uncanny ability for forecasting examination questions and enabling the sporting type of undergraduate to pass examinations. Among his students was Cecil Rhodes.

He was the author, besides several works designed to help candidates at examinations, of the Chronological Summary of the Chief Real Property Statutes (1877) and A Manual of the Law of Mortgage and Real Estate (1883). He died on 7th March, 1895.

John Charles, the second son, was born 1852 and became a medical practitioner. He was the first doctor to reside in Dore, taking over from the amateurish ministrations of his father, and extending his practice later to Totley, Abbeydale, and into Sheffield. His surgery was at first in the Vicarage; on the death of his father in 1894 he built a large house, "King's Croft" nearby, but after the death of his wife in 1897 and his mother in 1899 the family left Dore.

John Charles went to the South of England; his son, Maxwell, whose scholastic progress had been disappointing, but who showed all the greater prowess on the cricket field, playing for Leicester and the Midland Counties went to New Zealand in 1901 to seek his fortune, and John Charles followed him out there in 1902.

The third son, Shirley, was born in 1854 and it was he who eventually took over control of the family business having seemingly inherited from his grandfather the qualities which go to make a successful business man.

Christian Rycroft, the youngest son, was baptised in February 1857, and followed in his father's clerical footsteps.

J.T.F.Aldred's only daughter, Mary Emma, was born in 1865 and died in infancy in 1867...."

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Dore to Door is also available on subscription within the UK for £5 per year. Details from 236 9025 or send a cheque made out to the magazine, along with the recipients address, to the address on page 2.

## Who do you think you are?

I am sure that many of you watched the BBC2 series 'Who Do You Think You Are' which followed the personal journey of celebrities as they set about discovering the truth about their ancestors. Apparently, the public reaction to the programmes took the BBC by surprise as viewing figures topped five million for some of the shows. None of the celebrities apart from one had any noble or titled ancestry; most came from quite ordinary middle-class or working-class backgrounds. So, what was it that grabbed the nation week after week? There were of course some fascinating and moving stories told but essentially the series illustrated the actual

process of family history research and showed how easy it is for anyone to set out on their own voyage of discovery.

The huge popularity of trying to discover our roots has prompted the development of many national and local family history societies and here in Sheffield we have several active groups. They and others will be gathering for the Sheffield and District Family History Fair at the Centre in the Park, Norfolk Heritage Park on Saturday 26 April from 10am until 4pm. The entrance is free because the organisers want to encourage as many people as possible to come along and enjoy tracking down their ancestors. There will be displays by groups from all over Sheffield and beyond including the Dore

Village Society and Dore Oral History Group as well as examples of genealogical publications, local maps, computer software, free database searches and more.

The Dore Village Society has a good archive of local records, personal papers, photographs and oral history recordings which are of interest to people tracing their family history in our area. They are available to the public at the Dore Village Society rooms in Dore Old School, Savage Lane on the first Saturday of every month from 10am until 12noon. Do come along and check out the collection. It may help you to discover better if you are who you think you are.

*Maureen Cope  
Dore Oral History Group*



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(from OFSTED inspection report, March 2004)

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## Rowan School appeal

The Rowan School is a Sheffield citywide LEA special needs primary school, built in 1976. It provides education for children with complex and severe communication disorders. Currently they have 63 pupils, most of whom have a diagnosis of an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and several others who also have additional disorders such as ADHD, EBD etc. Some have very challenging behaviour.

The Friends of The Rowan School Trust (FOTRS), a registered charity, was set up in 2003 to raise funds for The Rowan School and local community.

Last year in June/July we sent out a letter of appeal to the residents of Dore, Totley and Bradway which were kindly distributed by the students of King Egbert School. We thank them for their help. We are pleased to tell you that through the generosity of so many, we received the sum of £1,100 and a lovely electric organ. We sincerely thank those who sent us a donation.

The purpose of raising the funds was to provide fencing round the field and woodland at the back of the school so that the contained land could be developed into gardens, a sensory play area, a bike track and managed woodland, which will enhance the local area and encourage wildlife. The King Egbert Family of Schools Extended Schools Co-ordinator, is helping this project, along with many others and the Sheffield Wildlife Trust is helping the woodland project.

We are pleased to report, that with other donations from banks, building societies and various foundations, enough money was raised to complete the fencing so the development of the field and woodland can proceed. We are now appealing for further donations to complete this essential work, which will benefit not only the disabled Rowan children, but also the local area and community. We also ask for

volunteers to help us with some of the work involved.

Please send any donation, however large or small, made payable to 'The Friends of The Rowan School' to Dr F W Wright, FOTRS Treasurer, 72 Grove Road, Sheffield, S7 2GZ. We are gift aid registered so please ask for a form when sending your donation to Dr Wright. Chris J. Moore, Chairman FOTRS



*Santa Special at Abbeydale Miniature Railway. Picture by George Wainwright.*

### Forthcoming Timetable

First train 1p.m. – last train 5p.m.

**March** Sunday 9th,  
23rd (Easter Sunday)  
& 24th (Easter Monday)

**April** Sunday 6th  
Sunday 20th

**May** Sunday 4th  
Monday 5th (Bank holiday)

[www.sheffieldsmee.co.uk](http://www.sheffieldsmee.co.uk)

## Wyvern Walkers

Wyvern Walkers offer a regular programme of local walks. These are arranged on different days of the week so that there will be some days that will suit all interested walkers. The walks are mainly circular with a distance of no more than about 6 miles.

We meet at Dore Old School at 9.30am and return to the village by lunch time and no later than 1.30pm. A modest pace is followed. Several of the walks involve a short car journey (car sharing organised) to the start of the walk.

New walkers will be warmly welcomed. If you decide to join us please be sure to wear stout footwear, appropriate clothing and to bring some water.

Forthcoming spring walks are:

**Thursday 28th February:** Starting from Cutthroat Bridge walking onto Derwent Edge to Wheel Stones, and then down close to Derwent Reservoir before returning to our starting point. Between 4 and 5 miles.

**Sunday 16th March:** Starting from the village we will walk through Ecclesall Woods, via Parkhead to Whirlow Fields and into the Limb Valley, returning via limb Lane. 5 miles.

**Tuesday 1st April:** The walk starts from Edale and proceeds via Barber Booth, Rushop Edge, Lord's Seat, Mam Tor and back to Edale. 6 miles

**Thursday 17th April:** We will take the 9.21am train to Grindleford and walk back to Dore via Padley Gorge and Fox House. Meet at the Old School at 9am for transport to Dore station. 6 miles

**Tuesday 6th May:** Starting from Ashford-in-the-Water, we will walk up to Sheldon Village and then to the ruins of Magpie Mine, before returning via Deep Dale and a woodland path. At this time of year the Dale should be clothed in wild Spring flowers. 5.5 miles

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## Transport 17

I hope that you all had a good start to 2008 and have not developed webbed feet. Many thanks for all the goodies given to us over the Christmas period.

We are seriously fund-raising (mostly begging) for funds for a new bus this year. I know that all the clubs and many individuals, support us all the time. PHFS Financial Services, who have their offices just down from us on Baslow Road, gave us a donation this Christmas instead of buying Christmas cards. It would be brilliant if a business or club could have us as their charity project for 2008. Could you persuade your Company or club?

The S17 areas of Sheffield have always been there for us. Dore Village Society gave us £500 recently. We operate in many other areas of Sheffield and have support from clubs and passengers in these areas. It is very much appreciated, but we need to raise £40,000 for our new bus, so as you can see, it is a big job.

In 2006, Mike Finn, our Manager, started to write to the local papers, City Council, Councillors and MPs re the state

of the roads. We know it will cost a lot of money but they are getting really bad. Just before Christmas, Mike was quoted in the local press. He told how some of our passengers have stopped coming out to clubs and events because they are being shaken up. If they have back troubles, it can be very painful. I hasten to add that it is not because of our drivers.

We have started a petition and this is in our office at 172 Baslow Road. Please come and add your name.

*Margaret Barlow*

## World Challenge

Teenagers receive a lot of bad press but I hope you will be interested in the way in which our local school is encouraging teenagers to be involved in challenging and worthwhile projects.

I was selected, along with 15 others, by King Egbert School and World Challenge to take part in a 3 week educational expedition to Uganda in 2009. We will spend part of the trip working with a local community to help finish building a

school that was started by a previous group of challengers from our school and do some teaching with the children.

World Challenge organises educational trips in the UK and all across the world, with the aim not only for teenagers to have a fantastic adventure but to teach key skills for later in life.

There was a huge amount of interest to go on the trip in our school from both Year 10 and 11 which resulted in the first challenge: writing a letter of application for the trip. In this letter we had to say why we wanted to go on the trip, what we would bring to the team and how we would raise the funds for the trip.

I was thrilled to be selected and the challenge has now really begun. We meet weekly to develop our team, learn about Uganda and plan events to raise funds. There are two parts to our fundraising. We work individually to raise the cost of the trip for each person (approximately £3,000 each) and we also work together to raise money for the materials for the school buildings. Since October I've done all sorts of different things to earn money; baby sitting, gardening, car washing, animal care, Xmas bag packing and decorating. I even did a sponsored tidy up of my local area (Totley Bents) with five of my friends. We cleared a lot of rubbish away including a car bumper, a toilet cistern and too many plastic bottles and cans to count. The sponsored tidy up raised a massive £210 so I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who so generously sponsored me.

Our next big events in March are a sponsored abseil in Buxton and a "Battle of the Bands" to be held at King Egbert school.

If any local business, or individual, would like to sponsor either me, the team or would like to contribute to the development of the school (we need to raise a minimum of £1,500 to be able to get enough building materials to get the roof on) or would like more information about the project, please contact me at [nallcroft@googlemail.com](mailto:nallcroft@googlemail.com)

Thank you very much for your interest and support.

*Nick Allcroft*

## T.O.A.D.S. production

After the success of the Agatha Christie murder in November, we have chosen a comedy for our Spring Production. "An Eye For An Eye, Darling" by Ian Hornby, will probably ring a lot of bells for the husbands in the audience! How many of you have tried to arrange a "special occasion" for the wife, in secret, only to find that everything is going wrong, two and two make five, six, or even seven? With another large cast of eleven, there are a lot of laughs in this play and great characters.

You can have a good evening out, at St. John's Church Hall, Abbeydale Road South, Totley, with coffee, orange, red or white wine in the interval, Wednesday to Saturday, 14th to 17th May, at 7.30pm. Tickets £3.50, or £3 Concessions, from Kate Reynolds on 236 6891.

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## Charity Park Races

Two races in aid of Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity will be staged in Graves Park on April 20th. Theo's 10K race is for runners of all abilities and attracted more than 1,000 runners last year. There will also be a 2k family fun run. Together the events raised £70,000 in 2007.

Entry this year is £12 per person for the 10k race and £4 per person for the Family Fun Run. The closing date for entries is 18th of April or when the race reaches capacity.

For more information or to enter online visit [www.theos10k.com](http://www.theos10k.com) or ring 271 7203 for a form to be posted out.

## Points to ponder

Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your glasses.

Blessed are those who can give without remembering, and take without forgetting.

The irony of life is that, by the time you're old enough to know your way around, you're not going anywhere.

God made man before woman so as to give him time to think of an answer for her first question.

I was always taught to respect my elders, but it keeps getting harder to find one.

Every morning is the dawn of a new error.

## Oasis commission

Local artist Pete McKee is delighted after receiving a commission from Oasis to produce a vintage image for exclusive and limited edition promotional prints and posters. The new image of an anorak-wearing music fan on a scooter ride was inspired by Oasis's legendary 1994 Brighton show, which saw the band supported by Ride and The La's.

A run of just 100 silk screen prints, each signed and numbered by the artist, cost £190 unframed or £250 framed. Posters are £25. The prints and posters are available from [www.oasisinet.com](http://www.oasisinet.com) or [www.petermckee.com](http://www.petermckee.com).



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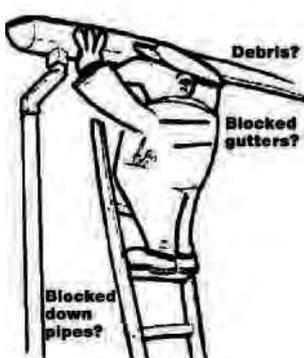
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## Lasting Powers of Attorney

While most people know that they should make a will, fewer people are aware that they need to consider what might happen if they are no longer able to manage their affairs. In order to avoid your family or friends having to make an application to the Court of Protection for the appointment of a Deputy, it is sensible to draw up a 'Lasting Power of Attorney' (LPA).

*What is an LPA?* - An LPA is a document by which you give someone else (the Attorney) power to make decisions on your behalf.

*Are There Different Types of LPA?* - There are two types:-

1. A Property and Affairs LPA allows the Attorney(s) to make decisions on your behalf about your property and affairs, including paying bills, collecting income and benefits, selling your house, subject to any restrictions or conditions. Having an LPA makes things easier for lots of reasons; you might find it difficult to get about or to talk on the telephone, or might be out of the country for long periods of time.

2. A Personal Welfare LPA allows the Attorney(s) to make decisions on your behalf about your personal welfare, including whether to give or refuse consent to medical treatment on your behalf and deciding where you should live. These decisions can only be taken on your behalf when you lack the capacity to make those decisions yourself.

*Who Can Make An LPA?* - Anyone aged 18 or over, with the capacity to do so, can make an LPA

*Who Can I Choose To Be My Attorney?* - The Attorney must be at least 18 years old, must be mentally competent and not be or become bankrupt.

An LPA is a very powerful legal document and it is important to remember that the Attorney will have the same control as you have over your money, savings and property.

When choosing an Attorney, it is important that you are happy and



*File cutting. This trade was carried out in Dore and Totley as long ago as 1692 when a young lad was apprenticed probably at the age of seven. The rate of hand cutting entailed making about one thousand cuts on each side and three hundred on each edge, a formidable days work. Here my drawing shows a cottage on Butts Hill in Totley where at one time men, women and children may have slaved away. Of course the cottage has in more recent times, been much altered and extended. Brian Edwards*

confident of the choice and comfortable that the Attorney is responsible for making decisions on your behalf.

*Can There Be More Than One Attorney?* - Yes there can. They can be appointed to act together; or together and independently; or together in some matters and together and independently in others. In fact, it does make sense to have more than one, so that if one dies or is unable to act, the others can step in.

*When Can The LPA Be Used?* - The LPA can be used at any time but not until it has been registered with the Office of the Public Guardian.

*What Is a Certificate Provider?* - A Certificate Provider is a person you must select to complete a Certificate on the LPA confirming that you understand the LPA and you are not under any pressure to make it. The Certificate is a vital part of the LPA document.

*Who Can Be A Certificate Provider?* -

There are two categories. Category A is based on knowledge certification. This means that the person providing this certificate is someone known to you personally and has done so for at least two years. Category B is a skilled certification. This Certificate is provided by someone who considers that they have the relevant professional skills and expertise to certify the LPA.

For further information, please seek our professional advice.

*Emilda Eaton*  
*hlw commercial lawyers*

## News in brief

**Contractors vehicles** have damaged the daffodil planting at the junction of Townhead Road and Newfield Lane.

**The traffic restrictions** on Long Line have been lifted with a return to the status quo and the hope that improvements to Hathersage Road will reduce the chances of serious accidents at the Long Line / Cross Lane junction.

**The winds of change** are blowing. Wind power - from both onshore and offshore sites - supplied 1.1 % of the electricity generated in the UK in 2006, compared with 0.7 % in 2005.

**The RSPCA** has launched a free service 'Home for Life', which undertakes to care for animals and rehome them when their owners die - see [homeforlife.org.uk](http://homeforlife.org.uk)

**Learner drivers** are more than twice as likely to pass the theory test first time as they are the practical test. In 2006/7, 70 % passed the written exam on the first attempt compared with only 33 % behind the wheel.

**Sweden and Austria** lead Europe on renewable energy. The latest figures from 2005 show that each produces more than half its electricity from sustainable sources, compared with a European average of 14 per cent. The UK lags behind at 4.3 per cent.

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## The Wildlife Garden

Calling a flock of goldfinches a 'charm' says an awful lot about these pretty birds: their liquid, tinkling song; striking black and white head complete with red mask and broad yellow bars on their black wings made goldfinches the 'must have' cage bird in Victorian times. Indeed, the scale of this trade was so vast that in the 1860's, around 132,000 birds were caught each year at just one site near Worthing, Sussex. However, since a ban on the commercial trapping of these birds came into force, which was in fact one of the first campaigns of the RSPB when it became established way back in 1889, goldfinch numbers have steadily increased.

Clearly, once trapping was abolished, the population would recover, but their comeback has been far more dramatic than ever imagined: the RSPB estimates there are roughly 300,000 breeding pairs at present in the UK. Yet not only has their range increased, they have also become far more frequent garden visitors: up from 25th to 20th position in the RSPB's 2007 'Big Garden Birdwatch'.

So, what is the reason behind this? Part of the answer lies in the bird's choice of food. Although they eat the seeds of weeds, for example dandelion, groundsel and ragwort, the goldfinch has a secret weapon, namely its long, thin beak. They use this like a pair of forceps to prize out the seeds of plants with prickly seed-heads, such as burdock and teasel, which are virtually inaccessible to other seed-eating birds.

As a result, these finches have probably benefitted from the introduction of set-aside and the current trend for weeds on roadside verges being allowed to run to seed. Be that as it may, some ornithologists argue their success is actually down to the spread of thistles.

Now while this might be true of goldfinches in the countryside, why are

they becoming far more frequent visitors to our gardens? The answer is very simple: the increasing use of 'nyger' feeders. I have absolutely no idea why these thistle seeds are called 'nyger' (also labelled 'nyjer' or even 'niger' by some suppliers), but whatever their name, in my garden the goldfinches love them and they are also great favourites with dunnocks, redpolls and siskins. In fact at this time of year, I have to use two nyger feeders to cope with the demand.

Despite this, not all our finches have been thriving, for instance bullfinch numbers have dropped by 53% (Common Bird Census, between 1970 and 1999). Just like the goldfinch, it too was widely trapped in the past, though not because of its song, which in truth is quite a nondescript three syllable melody. Nor was it anything to do with its gorgeous plumage: a black cap and pinkish-red breast on the male birds that make them look as if they would be more at home flying in the Amazon rainforest instead of a British garden, but because of their feeding habits.

They also eat the seeds of many weeds, including bramble, dock and nettle, but unlike goldfinches, much of the bullfinch's diet is made up of ash seeds. The advantage of concentrating on these seeds ensures bullfinches have few competitors and as a bonus, every couple of years they are produced in great abundance.

Unfortunately, in alternate years few seeds are generated and the birds have to rely on another source of nourishment, namely tree buds. Although they will eat the buds of native plants like crab-apple, hawthorn and wych elm, bullfinches also go for the swelling buds of fruit trees and ornamental bushes, such as forsythia, lilac and viburnum. The problem is these buds aren't particularly nutritious, so the birds are forced to consume large quantities, to such an extent that a single bird can actually devour up to 30 buds in a minute.

It is therefore not surprising that the species were once regarded as pests, particularly by fruit tree growers. Since the 16th century they have been killed remorselessly, yet it wasn't trapping that ultimately caused their numbers to plummet, but apparently, the grubbing up of hedges. Sadly, their numbers have fallen so low, these birds are now considered a species of 'high conservation concern'.

Admittedly, bullfinches can certainly damage fruit crops and in early spring, one or two pairs regularly visit my apple trees, no doubt intent on trying to set a new world record for 'bud stripping'. In spite of this, rather than 'caging' my fruit bushes and trees - which is the recommended method to prevent these birds from damaging the buds - I always ensure there are sufficient quantities of seeds readily available for them.

You might assume this is the logical way to control their destructive habits in the years when ash seeds are few and far between, yet seemingly, because of the shape of their beak, they find it difficult to pick up small seeds from the ground or bird tables. Nevertheless, bullfinches will take the occasional peanut from a bird table and mine often eat smaller seeds - especially rape (their favourite) - if mixed together with fat, which can then be hung out in blocks or smeared into the cracked bark of suitable trees.

There is of course the risk that by providing bullfinches with seeds, you could attract them to your garden where they would then go on to damage buds, which is why this technique has never been adopted in commercial orchards. But perhaps now, with bullfinch numbers being so low, it would prove more successful? Still, one thing we can guarantee is that unless we actively help these birds, a 'bellowing' of bullfinches will become as rare a sight as the orchards where they once fed.

*Jack Daw*

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## New priest in charge

Hello, I'd like to introduce myself to all the readers of Dore to Door. I have recently joined the community of St. John's Abbeydale and am enjoying getting to know people and the locality. Everyone is so friendly and helpful I can't believe I've only been in my job for 2 months.

St. Johns is situated on Abbeydale Road South but it is the local church for not only the surrounding area but also the Bradway Estates. Anyone is welcome to join us at 10am on a Sunday, you will find a very warm welcome. If you live in the Parish you can get married or have your children baptised at St. John's, or if you suffer a bereavement I am available to take funerals or offer bereavement support.

I have lived in Sheffield for almost 16 years and know parts of it well. I moved here with my husband and family of four children (3 girls and 1 boy) when we lived in Mosborough at first.

My husband is also in the church so I have been a Vicars wife for many years before training and being ordained myself nearly 9 years ago. Previously I worked as a music teacher - both class and instrumental - violin and viola, so I appreciate the choir at St. John's and the high level of music, making for special services.

I am originally from Leeds but feel very much at home in Sheffield. My husband and I love walking in the Peak District on our days off. You can't beat the scenery and the many fantastic places to eat on the way! Our children have left school now



*Cheap, cheerful, but not quite local.*

but love returning and enjoying the delights of local pubs and clubs as well as theatres. I am enjoying sampling the food and drink in S17 area too!

**Rev. Helen Blackburn**  
Abbeydale St. John Church

## Less charity

The number of people who give to charity is falling, at 54 % in 2006-07, down from 57 % two years ago according to VS Magazine, while the amount given has risen to £9.5 billion.

Only 50 per-cent of men donate, compared with 60 per cent of women. However, men make up for it by giving more, donating £29.62 on average, while women give £25.90.

One group that all fund raisers would like to attract is the very wealthy. High-earning financial services professionals need to give 5 % of their salaries and bonuses to charity if Britain is to match US levels of giving.

## Book Reviews

There are many books on climate change, but few have drawn on such a wide range of scientific sources and included up-to-date research material as *Six Degrees: Our Future on a Hotter Planet*. The 'six degrees' of the title refer to the best and worse case scenarios for predicted average global temperature rises from future greenhouse gas emissions. Six degrees may not sound much, but even a one degree rise produces profound changes.

In his book Mark Lynas spells out the probable global and regional effects. Perhaps the most worrying conclusion is that if we can keep the global rise to around two degrees, the UN's stated aim, the climate may stabilise, but if warming goes beyond that, many positive feedbacks kick in so that a runaway rise to at least six degrees by the end of the 21st century may be inevitable. This is an easy-to-read distillation of the predicted effects of a changing climate for a non-specialist audience. Published by Fourth Estate in paperback, 358 pages price £12.99 ISBN 0-00-720904-5

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Having trained as an astrophysicist, John Gribbin knows his science, but he also has an ability to make cosmology understandable to everyone. *The Universe: A Biography* is the story of the universe from the Big Bang 14 billion years ago, through the formation of stars and galaxies, the formation of planets, black holes, theories on dark matter and

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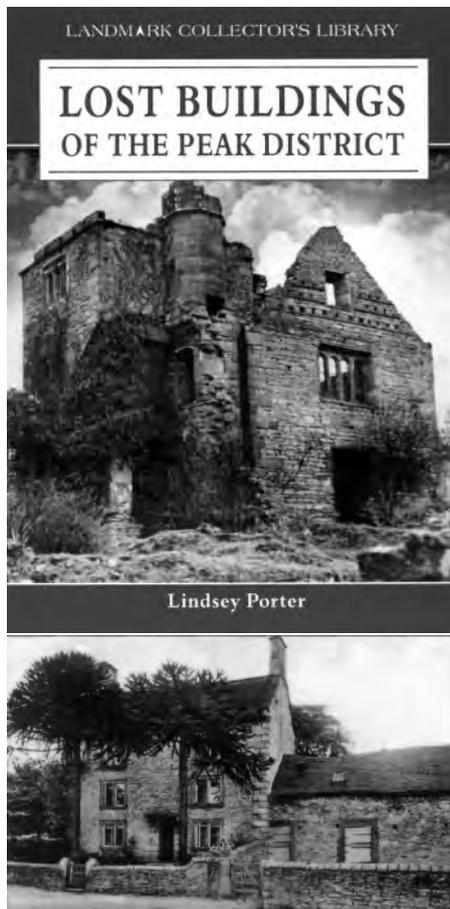


Karen Bartle

the beginning of life, to the Big Crunch or Big Rip at the end (and beyond). This is as clear an account of current thinking on the subject as you could get and an introduction to a host of concepts and technical terms along the way. Published by Penguin in paperback, 242 pages, price £7.99 ISBN 978-0-1410-2147-8

It is often said that our heritage is disappearing in front of our eyes, and so it has been over the last 100 years, as factories, mills, chapels, pubs, shops and houses - grand and small - have fallen or been changed beyond recognition in the cause of progress. *Lost Buildings of the Peak District* is a study of many of these in and around the area, including a few that survive with a different use today. Author Lindsey Porter has assembled nearly 230 black and white photographs and drawings, each with a brief description, showing the buildings in their heyday and in some cases the same sites today. This creates an invaluable historical journey and is a timely warning to what we may still lose from today's development pressures. Published by Landmark in a quality gloss format, 142 pages, price £14.99 ISBN 978-1-84306-358-2

Andrew Robert Buxton Cavendish, 11th Duke of Devonshire, was Duke for longer than any of his forebears. His legacy is Chatsworth, now a national treasure but for him an unexpected inheritance hamstrung with an unimaginable debt. In *Memories of Andrew Devonshire* his widow Deborah, Dowager Duchess of



Parwich Youth Hostel

Devonshire, has now compiled her own reflective and often poignant tribute. More than 180 photographs, many from the

family collection, have been chosen to illustrate his life from childhood to military service, from ministerial office to family life, his hobbies and responsibilities. This is a fascinating book for those interested in the family, in Chatsworth itself, or how photographs can document social and other changes over the last 80 years. Published by Landmark, 112 pages, price £9.99 ISBN 978-1-84306-366-7

For over 60 years author and poet Tom Bates has enjoyed a love affair with Derbyshire, the county of his birth, which he celebrates with us in his latest book *Northern Derbyshire: Snapshots in Time*. Working on themes previously researched and published singularly, this book collects together a series of "snapshots in time" articles, and arranges them in chronological order, from the foundation stones of Derbyshire to the present day. In the first 10 chapters there are glimpses from the Ice Age, the Roman Era, the Middle Ages, the Civil War and the Industrial Revolution, and through the Victorian age to the modern day and even a humorous glance into the future! The main part of the book is then given over to "potted histories" of many of the most popular North Derbyshire villages, exploring their unique history, architecture and surroundings. Published by New Age Poetry Press in paperback, 228 pages without illustrations, the book is available at £9.99 from the web site [www.aboutderbyshire.co.uk](http://www.aboutderbyshire.co.uk) or direct from the author on 01246 470649 price £6.50.

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## Dore Blues

A Community Constables View.

Firstly for those who were wondering The Sharrow Policing Team came 3rd in the awards in London.

Our area has been, in Policing Terms, quite busy of late with a number of worrying incidents taking place. We have seen Robberies (two local shops have been victims of such), Damages (a rise in graffiti and bus shelters being smashed), Burglaries and a rise in Anti-social behaviour. This is not to say that Dore is still one of the safest places to live in Sheffield and perhaps that's why the above is a little bit more than concerning me.

I don't want to be a doom-monger but the worrying part from my point of view has been a lack of public response to these. I really can't believe that NO-ONE either witnessed these acts or has any information about these types of Crime. I can't stress enough that without information received from the public then the type of crimes which have such a negative impact on peoples quality of lives will go unchecked and hence escalate. With the extra pressure put on our time by events and other duties your Policing team can't be everywhere and we need your support. ITS THAT SIMPLE.

We can be contacted on the following numbers below at Meersbrook on 0114 2963187 or at Totley box on 0114 2963681 or e mail david.spencer@southyorks.pnn.police.uk I will agree that some of these crimes would be difficult to foresee let alone stop but some could be. We have had a couple of crimes committed whereby the offenders have tried to steal car keys from within the hallway of houses. These have been attempted by pushing poles (yes long pieces of metal) through the letterboxes in an attempt to snare car keys. South Yorkshire Police have for some time now attempted to prevent this type of crime

through publicising the best way to stop this, i.e. to keep car keys etc well out of sight. I know that it's often easier to keep keys to hand just by the door, but if its easy for you then its easy for anyone wanting to steal your car.

Other timely crime prevention matters involve the garden. As the days lighten we tend to see a rise in crime related to thefts from sheds etc. A new one on me has been a number of thefts of garden walls i.e. coping-stones etc. Someone who probably thought all was ok must have seen these. Can I ask that if anyone does see anyone dismantling walls etc and this looks suspicious then they at least phone me at Totley Box and leave some details. You never know.

Some of you will have no doubt seen the local press reports about the selling off of local police Boxes. I can confirm that in relation to the section station on Totley Brook Road within the next year it may indeed be sold of. Naturally this causes me some concern and prompts me to seek alternatives. I DO NOT WANT TO LOSE OUR BASE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. But Neighbourhood Policing is all about Partnership working. This works really well when we tackle

issues like graffiti and Anti-social behaviour. What I am now going to look for is to develop another Policing base within the Sheffield 17 area. This may be in a school, library or any other building. If any one has any ideas or suggestions please get in touch.

These changes will also affect the boundary that the local Policing team cover. From mid February the area for Dore and Totley will be extended to include Millhouses, Bents Green and Whirlow. This has many positives allowing for better planning regarding youth problems, Senior School liaison etc. These changes will also mean a slight realigning of staff and I hope to gain another PCSO.

That's all I have to say for now I shall of course continue to make Dore a Safe, Crime Free and pleasant place for people to live, work and visit.

*Pc 2247 David Spencer  
Dore Community Constable*

**The third Totley Yard Sale** will take place on Sunday 6th April 10am to 2pm. Lots of Totley people will be selling surplus items. Details from tel 236 2302

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## To clear or not

In the unlikely event that we have more snow, should you clear your front path and the pavement in front of your house? What is the legal position?

The local authority is responsible for clearing snow and ice from the public highway and pavement under Section 41(1A) of the Highways Act 1980. Private landowners are not obliged to clear snow or ice from the highway, even if the road or pavement passes over their land.

Indeed, from a legal point of view it may be risky for private individuals to clear these areas, as by sweeping snow from one part of the pavement you can create a danger in another area and if someone is injured, you will be liable for

negligence or nuisance.

On your own land, it is a different matter. You owe visitors a duty under the Occupiers Liability Act 1984 to take reasonable care to ensure that they are reasonably safe (at all seasons!).

This means that if you know someone (such as the postman) is likely to walk up your garden path, and you also know that the garden path is slippery, you must take reasonable steps to clear the path of snow and grit if necessary.

However, you should not simply brush the snow from your path on to the public pavement. It is also a public nuisance to block the pavement or the road by sweeping snow from your property on to the highway.

## On the beat

The role of police community support officer (PCSO) was introduced in autumn 2002 and there are now over 16,000 who provide high-visibility reassurance policing and deal with low-level crime and antisocial behaviour.

PCSOs spend a lot of time patrolling the streets and getting to know communities.

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The copy deadline for our May issue is Friday 25th April

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## Classified Advertisements

.....Continued from page 32

**TO LET:** Swallow Cottage, Totley Bents Beautifully renovated stone built property accommodates 4. Phone **0114 236 7806** English Tourist Board 4 star rated

**1-2-1 PREGNANCY YOGA CLASSES** classes in the comfort of your own surroundings. Taught by qualified pregnancy yoga teacher, suitable for those with no yogic experience preparing for the birth of their child. contact **07739 490143**. or [pregnantyogini@hotmail.com](mailto:pregnantyogini@hotmail.com) or

**THAI MASSEUSE** available to provide active, invigorating massage. Thai massage techniques revolve around pressure and stretching techniques and are ideal for those seeking to loosen, stretch, lengthen and strengthen the muscles in the body. Please contact **07739 490143**.

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**PILATES CLASSES IN TOTLEY** taught by an experienced physiotherapist/pilates instructor at the United Reformed Church, Totley. Please call Emer on **07792 422909**

**POPY - POSITIVE OLDER PERSONS YOGA** - Mondays at The Ark (Townhead Road) in Dore 13:30 - 15:00. Classes include: A gentle warm-up; Yoga postures designed to increase bone density, improve balance and maintain flexibility; Pelvic floor exercises to help bladder control; Breathing techniques to help combat stress and promote breath awareness; Relaxation to assist with centring of the body and calming; Tea/biscuits/chat to increase social interaction. Interested? - please email [nlowe12@hotmail.com](mailto:nlowe12@hotmail.com) or contact Nicola on **07739490143**

**CAT SITTING SERVICE** A long established, and professional service, making daily visits to your home to care for your cats, and also giving the added benefit of house security. Experienced ex cattery Manager who loves animals. Fully insured and police checked. Call Bev at Creature Comforts on **079060 17511** for details.

**MUSIC TUITION.** Piano, Electronic Keyboard, Theory, Harmony. Enjoyment or exams. Beginners to advanced. Full prospectus available. Bradway Music: Geoff Henthorn GNSM, Tel: **235 2575**

**CIRCUIT TRAINING** For total-body fitness, try Wednesday or Thursday evening circuit classes at the Abbeydale Sports Club. Designed for people in good health, age 15 and older. It is a challenging hour, but you work at your own pace. For more information, please phone or text **0774-920-6133** or visit [www.wildago.com](http://www.wildago.com)

**PIANO TEACHER** in Dore has vacancies. Jazz, classical and theory. Beginners to advanced. Tel **0114 236 8007**

**DULUX DESIGN SERVICE.** Your local designer Chris Read is only a call away on **0845 880 6888** or visit the website [www.duluxdesignservice.co.uk](http://www.duluxdesignservice.co.uk)

**KUNDALINI YOGA** Yoga of transformation. Want to get fit, re-balance your life and improve Mind, Body & Spirit, try Kundalini Yoga. One to One sessions or local classes available. Contact Shauna on **07834486522** or email: [varanjeetkaur@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:varanjeetkaur@yahoo.co.uk)

**ORCHID V.I.P. CLUB:** Our club meets once a month for dinner and other social activities. New male/female members are welcome - age 40 upwards. **07708304471** [www.orchidvipclub.webeden.co.uk](http://www.orchidvipclub.webeden.co.uk)

**DOG LOVER WANTED:** with a secure garden & time to spare for short-term [paid] fostering. Call Dave at K9-Minders **01246 418587** or **0776 237 7394**

**HAYLAGE** Tight well made round bales, suitable for horses £15 bale collected, £20 delivered locally. Call Edwin on **236 4761**

**LOCAL DRIVING INSTRUCTOR** - DSA approved. competitive rates and discounts. Ring Dave on **0114 236 8094** or e-mail at [drive@dtaylor.net](mailto:drive@dtaylor.net).

**JACKIE COLLINS STAGE SCHOOL** Qualified theatrical tuition. DRAMA CLASSES Age 6-10 Weds 4.30 - 6.00pm, Fri 3.45 - 5.15pm Age 11 - 18 Weds 6.00 - 7.30pm. STAGECRAFT CLASS (Acting, Dancing and Singing) Age 5 - 18. Fri 5.30 - 7.30pm. Dore & Totley United Reformed Church Hall, Totley Brook Road. Contact Jackie Collins BA (Hons) **236 7564**

**60 MINUTE LASER TEETH WHITENING.** Go up to 10 shades lighter with the latest 'BEYOND WhiteSpa' instant teeth whitening treatment. Mobile treatments available. £179. **07717710355** [www.teethbright.co.uk](http://www.teethbright.co.uk)

**MESSY MONKEYS** - Fun activities for 1 to 4 year olds including messy play, painting, crafts, baking, play dough, sand & water play. Call Sarah **236 2110** to book

**EXERCISE REFERRALS** People with certain controlled medical conditions might be eligible for a FREE 12-week fitness programme. If you want to learn safe exercises to improve your health, ask your doctor if you qualify for the Exercise Referral scheme at Abbeydale Park Rackets & Fitness Club. For more information, leave a message for Wil on **0114-262-0638**.

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**CARPET CLEANER HIRE.** Free local delivery. M.J. Services **0114 236 7272**

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**BABY YOGA** - Good fun and gentle exercise for your baby and you. Sessions consist of massage, exercise and relaxation for both parent and baby with songs and rhymes to make it fun and easy to remember. Call Liz on **07811 281213**

**FRENCH ALPS** Luxury Summer/Winter Apartment for skiing, walking, cycling, climbing holidays. Sleeps 4-6, especially well equipped for children. Tel **262 1781** or see [www.apartmentfrenchalps.co.uk](http://www.apartmentfrenchalps.co.uk)

**WOULD YOUR DOG** enjoy a walk on Blacka Moor? Daily walks. Phone John on **235 2099** or **07853138675**

**RUBBISH REMOVED.** See main adv in this issue. **0114 2681330 07710 446438**

**LANDROVER REPAIR SERVICE** MOT repairs, chassis welding, service & maintenance. Call Ian on **079 7019 2717**

**HOLIDAY COTTAGE TO LET** overlooking the sea in a beautiful fishing village on the Moray Firth, N.E. Scotland. Sleeps 6 people. **262 1043** for brochure.

## Stars in Dore

Some of us are planning summer holidays at this time of year. My family already have trips lined up to Antigua, Malaysia and Portugal, not Hastings, Bournemouth or St Ives, as we had when we were young. Of course, it is the sun they are after for which they have to endure sometimes long car journeys to airports and massive parking fees. Then there follows hours waiting at some unearthly time of day or night, and on arrival, bottles of mineral water at exorbitant prices and enough alcohol to sail the whole Cunard fleet in.

We were amused to read recently about an adventure holiday this summer to view the total solar eclipse of 2008 on August 1. The holiday puts you on the Trans-Siberian Express and offers the awe-inspiring total eclipse outside the Siberian city of Novosibirsk. One can alternatively fly over the North Pole during eclipse totality. If the locations do not attract, there is always the China Orient Express and the ancient Silk Road, the caravan cities of Xi'an, Dunhuang, Turpan, Hami and Urumqi. There is a 4-hour drive from Hami to the high desert, too.

My advice would be to wait until next year 2009 July 22. Try [www.tq-international.com](http://www.tq-international.com) for the fun of it! Next year the eclipse track crosses Central India, China, Southern Japan and the Southern Pacific. See [home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~jander/tot2009/ts\\_e09intro.htm](http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~jander/tot2009/ts_e09intro.htm) where the eclipse expert, Fred Espenak, tells about weather expectations along various parts of the track. The Writer thoroughly enjoys looking at his eclipses on the Internet, and looks forward to 2010 July 11 when the track crosses the Cook Islands, Tahiti and Easter Island.

It does not, of course, surprise us that if we jump on the bus in Dore we can very soon arrive in another part of town where

everyone around us is just like us, more or less. However, take an imaginary spaceship to another star. Shall we meet living creatures inhabiting another world? That question is a difficult one to answer but we are one step closer to finding out. High in the evening sky this Spring there is a faint naked-eye star known as 55 Cancri which is now believed to possess five planets. A team of US astronomers led by Debra Fischer and Geoff Marcy have recently discovered that 55 Cancri's fourth planet revolves in the so called 'habitable zone' where primitive bacterial life could exist since temperatures would allow pools of liquid water.

Readers can visit NASA's website [www.nasa.gov/audience/formedia/telecon-20071106/](http://www.nasa.gov/audience/formedia/telecon-20071106/) to see pictures, videos, a chart and lots of information about these exoplanets. No little green men yet though! For Readers that prefer to just look up into the night sky, the star 55 Cancri is not far to the left of the planet Mars in the constellation of the Crab.

Mars is in Taurus on the northern outskirts of Gemini on March 1, not very prominent at magnitude 0.2, setting at 2am in the north west. It should, however, be easy to find the red planet below right of Castor and Pollux, the Heavenly Twins. The red star Aldebaran slightly further below right could be mistaken for Mars but, in any case, the two objects together make quite a colourful view, one at only 120 million miles, the other at 68 light years. By April 1, Mars will have moved towards Castor and Pollux but will have faded substantially (magnitude 0.8). By May 1, Mars is beneath the Heavenly Twins and even fainter at mag 1.2.

Throughout the Spring, Saturn is moving westwards in Leo and is gradually gaining in prominence over Mars as it sinks towards the horizon. Saturn passes very close to Regulus (alpha Leonis) in June. In fact, Regulus provides an excellent guide as to how the great ringed-planet is actually tracking across the celestial sphere. Saturn's rings are about half-open now in 2008, and, of course, as always make a glorious sight in a telescope. It is at its closest to Earth this year on February 23. Jupiter is in Sagittarius, a southern constellation never far above our horizon. Those wishing to observe the giant planet will have to wait until Autumn.

The writer has always been aware that whilst the information given does apply to the wonders of the night sky above Dore, the weather has been so deplorable of late that nothing much could be seen. On hazy nights probably only the brightest stars and planets were easy targets. Also, even with a telescope many of the glorious objects described could be very disappointing. We nearly all use mobile phones and some drivers have a GPS navigational aid in their cars, although we must admit that we do not! An American company, Meade, has brought out a multimedia device called mySKY looking a little like a hand torch that you point at an object in the sky (night or day) with a colour screen which shows either a library close-up picture or a detailed explanation. For 30,000 celestial objects, the device

tells what object one is pointing at, or informs the observer on earphones explaining the relevant astronomy. The whole family can stand outside or sit inside sharing the experience. As these high-tech devices go, the mySKY is not expensive (£290 in UK or \$400 in US). Look at [www.astronomics.com](http://www.astronomics.com). This is less than many small telescopes which themselves can often become cumbersome and disappointing items to own. Lippert invented the telescope 400 years ago this year, and next year comes the quadri centennial of the first telescope being turned skyward by Galileo. Perhaps we should apologize to them for suggesting a mySKY.

Residents of Dore will be happy that commonsense prevailed in the decision not to close Long Lane. We can also celebrate the fact that our leafy lane which leads down to the best observing site for the western night sky, Newfield Lane, has been preserved from nasty developments.

Now perhaps we should hope that there will not be horrible street lighting near the wooden bench at the bottom of the lane which will destroy the glorious dark sky over the moors. Careful shielding of street lights can sometimes help to put the light where it is needed. We hope that future planners will listen to the voices and hearts of the local residents in our village of Dore more often.

*David Andrews*

## Dangerous mobility

Dangerous driving by those at the wheel of a mobility scooter could become a thing of the past: ministers are considering introducing new tests. The Department for Transport is reviewing the registration, training and fitness-to-drive requirements of mobility scooter users in England. All options, including the introduction of compulsory training, are being considered.

## I'm Your Man

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## Diary - Spring 2008

### FEBRUARY

- 18 **Yorkshire Water** Talk by Mr C Bardy for Dore Methodist Women's Fellowship 2.30pm Open Meeting
- 18 **Building bridges:** a Sheffield speciality talk by Dr Alan Wood for Sth Yorkshire Industrial History Society, Kelham Island Museum 7.30pm Details: 230 7693
- 26 **The Weird & the Wonderful-in Western U.S.A.** Talk with slides by John Doornkamp for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group. 7.45pm Church Hall
- 29 **Batchelor Auction**, Bramal Lane Platinum Suite for St Luke's Hospice - call 235 7554

### MARCH

- 1 **Spring opening** at W.O.R.K Ltd Ringinglow Rd. 10am - 3pm serving cooked breakfasts, cappuccino's, latte's, Saturday papers - what more do you need
- 3 **M.H.A.** Talk by Mrs J Clayton for Dore Methodist Women's Fellowship 2.30pm
- 5 **From Curates Wife to Bishops Wife.** Speaker Judith Nicholls Dore Ladies Group. 7.45pm Dore Church Hall New members always welcome visitors £3
- 5 **Hepworth Gallery, Wakefield** Antonino Vella lecture for Sheffield Society for the Encouragement of Art
- 7 **Women's World Day of Prayer** English Martyrs Church Enquiries 236 3027
- 7 **Earthworks of Derbyshire villages** Talk by Clive Hart for Hunter Archaeological Soc Traditional Heritage Museum 7.30pm 230 4243 Visitors welcome
- 7 **Spring Ball** at Baldwins Omega for Whirlow Hall Farm Trust. Details from 235 2678
- 8 **Mystery Trail** guided walk with the Rangers from Whirlowbrook Park. 11am-2pm Booking via 283 9195
- 11 **Castles of North Wales** Talk by Julian Birch for Hunter Archaeological Soc Lecture Theatre 9, Arts Tower Sheff Uni 7.30pm 230 4243 Visitors welcome
- 11 **Home and Away.** Talk with slides by John Severs for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group. Church Hall. 7.45pm
- 15 **Working Day** at Whinfell Quarry Garden from 9.30am
- 15 **Sheffield Bach Society** Mass in B Minor with South Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra 7.30pm Sheffield Cathedral Tickets - 268 3812
- 16 **The Tudors: Why They Still Matter** talk by David Starkey for Friends of Sheffield Manor Lodge, Hallam Univ Tickets: 01246 415497
- 17 **Oberamagau** Talk for Dore Methodist Women's Fellowship 2.30pm Open Meeting
- 18 **From Cutlery to Steel City:** Sheffield in the 18th Cent Talk by Professor David Hey. The 17th Dr Kenneth Barraclough Memorial Lecture for Sth Yorkshire Industrial History Society, & SMEA. 5.30pm Holiday Inn Royal Victoria Hotel, Sheffield
- 19 **Spring Fayre** Cheshire Home, Mickley Lane 10am-12
- 31 **Bring & Buy Sale** Dore Methodist Women's Fellowship 2.30pm

### APRIL

- 1 **History of Sheffield Manor Lodge.** Speaker David Templeman, Dore Ladies Group 7.45pm Dore Church Hall visitors welcome £3
- 1 **Not All Cavalry Men Ride Horses.** Talk for Dore Meth Tues Group by Tony Hallam. 7.45pm Church Hall
- 1 - 5 **The Mikado,** Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society, The University Drama Studio, Tickets from 01246 416364
- 2 **Journey in Watercolours,** Words & Music. Lecture for The Sheffield Society for the Encouragement of Art 2.30pm Tapton Hall, Adm Free. Details (0114) 236 0941
- 6 **Totley Yard Sale** 10am to 2pm Details from 236 2302
- 10 **Step out with the Rangers.** 6 miles, via Dronfield 10.30am-2pm Meet Lowedges Post Office Tel 283 9195
- 12 **Concert** by Dore Male Voice Choir and the "Gentlemen of Jazz" at Holy Trinity Church, Grove Road, in support of Rotary projects. Tickets from 274 7238.
- 14 **Tales of the unexpected** Talk by Mr L Ginn for Dore Methodist Women's Fellowship 2.30pm
- 15 **Our Minister.** Talk by Rev. Garry Dawson-Jones for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group. 7.45pm Church Hall

- 18 - 19 **Annual Art Show** Dore Art Group Friday 2pm - 6pm Saturday 9.30am - 5pm, Dore Old School
- 19 **Singers Festival** D&T URC Totley Brook Road. Class details from 0113 256 5320 (David Clover Competition)
- 20 **Charity Park Races** Graves Park, for Sheffield Children's Hospital 10K & 2K family fun run. 271 7203
- 21 **Convince Sheffield and convert the world** - a 150th anniversary celebration of the start of commercial Bessemer steelmaking. Talk by Trevor Lodge for Sth Yorkshire Industrial History Society. Kelham Island Museum 7.30pm Details: 230 7693
- 25 - 26 **Sheffield Young Painters of The Year Exhibition** at Ponds Forge Adults £1, 18 and under free.
- 26 **Singers Festival** Part 2 D&T URC Totley Brook Road. details from 0113 256 5320 (David Clover Competition)
- 26 **Family History Fair** - Sheffield & District Centre in the Park. Norfolk Heritage Park, Admission Free. 10am-4pm
- 27 **Village Dragon Hunt** to celebrate St George's Day for all the family. Starts 2pm at the Old School
- 28 **W.O.R.K.** Visit by Dore Methodist Women's Fellowship
- 29 **Unmentionable Foundations.** Talk by Janet Stain for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group. 7.45pm Church Hall

### MAY

- 4 **Plant Sale** FOBS Botanical Gardens 10.30am to 2.30pm Meet Thompson Road entrance Admission free
- 6 **Whinfell Quarry Garden** Speaker Kathleen Cox Dore Ladies Group 7.45pm Dore Ch Hall visitors £3
- 7 **History Trail** FOBS Botanical Gardens 7.15pm Meet Clarkehouse Road entrance Admission free
- 7 **Ancient Gems: Life & Collections** of The Rev. Greville Chester. Lecture for the Sheffield Society for the Encouragement of Art 2.30pm. Tapton Hall, Adm Free.
- 10 **Spring Fair** at W.O.R.K. Ltd Ringinglow Rd 10am-4pm Bedding plants, hanging baskets & craft stalls lots gift ideas, teas, coffees and delicious home made cakes
- 12 **Talk** by Rev G Dawson-Jones for Dore Methodist Women's Fellowship 2.30pm
- 13 **Don't Go Over the Iron Bridge.** Talk by Audrey Barnard for Dore Meth Tues Group 7.45pm Church Hall
- 14 **Tree Trail** FOBS Botanical Gardens, 7.15pm Meet Clarkehouse Road entrance Admission free
- 14 - 17 **Spring Play** "An Eye For an Eye, Darling" by TOADS, 7.30pm St John's Hall tickets 236 6891
- 19 **Mining and quarrying in Ringinglow** and the Porter valley. Talk by Peter Kennett for Sth Yorkshire Industrial History Soc Kelham Island Mus 7.30pm inf: 230 7693

### 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: Anne Smith telephone 273 4108 Email: anne.smith@sheffield.gov.uk

**Liberal Democrats:** 2nd Saturday in the month from 10.30am to 12 noon. Contact details: Keith Hill telephone 235 2289 Email: keith.hill@sheffield.gov.uk or Mike Davis 274 8002 Email: mike.davis@sheffield.gov.uk

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