

DORE to DOOR

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

No. 92 WINTER 2008

ISSN 0965-8912

Annual Wassail Walk Saturday 27th December starting 10am from The Old School, Savage Lane, Dore Seasonal walk of 5 miles with a crowd of about 100

Mulled wine, hot drinks and mince
pies afterwards in the Old School

Dore Conservation Area

The City Council is consulting on its draft appraisal and management plan for the Dore Conservation Area. All residents in the area should have received notification of this. The appraisal includes an analysis of the character of the area which comprises the centre of the village and reviews the boundary, planning powers and enhancement proposals.

The conservation area in the centre of the Dore was designated in 1971 as an Area of Special or Architectural Interest and the community appreciates the need to carefully preserve and enhance character of the former Derbyshire Village.

The Council identifies factors which give Dore its special character including; its historic origins, the areas of archaeological significance, ten listed buildings, a number of buildings of townscape merit, the use of traditional stone and slate building materials, the informal road layout, the important green spaces, the mature forest trees and several streetscape features such as traditional paving and water troughs.

The Council acknowledges the extent to which some modern development has not enhanced the area and also the threat to the character of the area from a plethora of small scale inappropriate introductions like UPVC windows and satellite aerials.

The Council propose to exclude one or two modern developments from the original boundary in Savage Lane and Bushey Wood Close but include the older stone houses in Drury Lane. They also suggest the introduction of additional planning powers in order to strengthen development management in the conservation area.

In general the Dore Village Society welcomes the Appraisal and Management Proposals that were called for in the Dore Village Design Statement. However we have made a number of suggestions to strengthen the Council's proposals and raised the issue of protecting other historic buildings in the Dore area.

David Crosby



Dore Village Society Christmas card for 2008 (in full colour) painted by local artist Bill Kirby. On sale, price £2.50 per pack of 5, from Valerie of Dore, Dore Opticians, Dore Petrol Station or Country Garden.

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

Autumn meeting

7.30pm Thursday

27th November

Methodist Church Hall

Talk by Dr John Shortland

**“The history of St John’s
Ambulance service”**

Everybody welcome

Christmas celebrations

Once again Dore Village Society will be sponsoring and setting up Christmas trees and lights around the village and a Christmas tree outside ‘Country Garden’.

The tree lights will be switched on at 6pm on Wednesday 3rd December. As in past years the Guides and Brownies will be there to sing Christmas songs and carols around the tree for the switching on ceremony.

A added attraction this year, will be a Traditional Organ Grinder playing Christmas music, outside the Village Store and Valerie of Dore between 6pm - 7pm. Many of the local shops will also be opening until 7pm (or later) that evening. Look out for the shops advertising late opening times and information on the village notice boards.

So come along and join the fun and do some Christmas shopping at the same
.... continued on page 2

Dore Voices - Nancy Swinden

Nancy was born in 1925 at Thornsett, Dore Road, Dore, the younger of two daughters of Tom and Helen Cooper (nee Holmes). Thornsett was a large stone residence built in the 1890s by Nancy’s grandfather John William Cooper of Cooper Bros & Sons, silversmiths and electro-platers. Nancy explains “Cooper Bros was a family cutlery firm in Arundel Street, Sheffield. My grandfather founded it and then my father and his two cousins took it over.” Jack Cooper, Tom’s brother, had been killed in the 1914-1918 war.

Nancy remembers going often to Cooper Bros with her mother and being taken round the works. She has a vivid memory of the Buffer Girls who polished the cutlery. “I remember seeing them coming out at lunchtime with newspaper all down their legs. They used to get all dolled up in newspaper to keep them clean and go down to Howard Street Dinner Club where they got a fairly cheap lunch I think. My mother used to help there.”

Nancy recalls that she and her sister Judith who was two years older had a very happy childhood. They had many friends to play with from Dore Road and cousins on nearby Ashfurlong Road. She remembers particularly her best friend Pam Proctor whose family owned Proctors’ Department Store, which used to be situated on Fargate next to Coles’ corner. Other friends were June Laver, Joe Hibbard, Michael Parkin and Heather &

..... continued on page 10

You will find a complete diary of local events on the back page of this issue.

continued from page 1

time. Dore is fortunate to have such an excellent range of local shops and hostleries and they greatly value local support. Between them, you will find a wide range of ideas for Christmas presents and all the food and drink you need for your Christmas celebrations and places to eat and drink with family and friends.

Annual Wassail Walk

The national Wassail tradition goes back several centuries and varies in its form across Britain. "Wassail" gets its name from the Anglo-Saxon phrase waes hael - a term often used as a toast meaning, be hale or good health.

Wassailing has been associated with Christmas and New Year as far back as the 1400s. It was a way of passing on good wishes among friends and family. In Dore the tradition is growing as the annual Wassail Walk, with numbers of 100 or more meeting up to share paths and views around Blacka Moor.

The Walk of about five miles is designed to despatch the general lethargy after the Christmas celebrations and prepare you for the New Year merriment. The pace will be gentle, allowing breath for chatter and laughter, but just enough to stir up the heart and lungs.

The Wassail tradition continues at the finish, gathering for glasses of the customary mulled wine and warm mince pies in The Old School. Additionally, a hot, spicy fruit punch will be featured this year. Make it a family occasion or bring friends and visitors to join the seasonal atmosphere.

Dore's 8th Wassail Walk will be on Saturday 27th December, starting at 10am from The Old School, Savage Lane. All ages are welcome. Please wear strong walking shoes with a good grip on the soles. Put the date in your diaries now.

We look forward to seeing you.

Martin Stranex

PUBLISHING DEADLINES

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

Please forward items for the Spring (February) issue to the address on this page by **Friday 30th January**

Dore garden club

Why not join our growing society? The Dore Garden Club is now up and running with a monthly programme of events planned for the whole of 2009 eg coach trips, talks, plant sales and much more. See diary page for dates. Anyone interested in gardens and gardening is welcome. So please come along, add your suggestions and help to make this club a success.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 21st January, when well known photographer Meg Jullian will give us a photographic history of the Sheffield Botanical Gardens.

Janet Herridge
0114 236 0915

Driveway legislation

Planning regulations brought into force this October require new and replacement hard surfaces in the front of houses facing the highway to be made of non-porous materials, or provision made to direct water run-off to a permeable or porous surface within the curtilage of the dwelling house.

The introduction of more sustainable drainage should help to prevent some water run-off onto highways and adjoining sites.

David Crosby

David Heslop

Dore Male Voice Choir

The Dore Male Voice Choir has just participated in two major events of this year's calendar. One was the Annual Gala Concert at Ecclesall Church on 11th October. A very big audience enjoyed a varied programme this year.

The Choir had, as its guests, Cantores Novae the prestigious Sheffield young ladies choir which developed from the Sheffield Girls Choir. Vivien Pike, their music director led the choir in a delightful programme of music. The audience were also introduced to Richard Parry (baritone) who studies under Dr.Pike. The DMVC performed one novelty piece, a George Formby medley, with Roger Glew one of the new choir members accompanying on the ukelele. The Lord Mayor and Consort were present at the event.

The second was on Saturday 25th October when the Choir went to Rugby School where a concert was performed with three choirs singing together; Wigston, Dore and St.Edmundsbury Male Voice Choirs providing over 160 voices. The concert, held in the school's Temple Speech Rooms was a great event.

Forthcoming events. The Choir is singing at St.Luke's Festival of Lights on Sunday 7th December.

Then on Friday 12th and Saturday 13th December the Choir presents the Christmas Concerts at Dore Parish Church. As usual we expect this popular event to be a sell out on both evenings. Tickets will be available from any member of the choir or by telephoning 0114 236 5043.

The Choir is still increasing in numbers and since the summer we have had six new members with more to come. If you are interested in singing we will be pleased to see you on any Thursday evening rehearsal night at 7.15 at the Church Hall. You will be made most welcome.

Editorial & Advertising

Dore to Door is published 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:

0114 236 9025 / 236 9469 or write to:

Dore to Door;
8 Thornsett Gardens; Dore;
Sheffield, S17 3PP.

Email: editor@dorevillage.co.uk

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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. Current membership rates £5 per person per annum.

Chairman (Dore to Door)

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

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

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Mr D Crosby 262 1127
(Green spaces)

Mr G Cope 235 0392

Mr P Pryor 236 9831

Mr D Ward 236 3472
(Dore Recreation Ground)

Transport 17

We were very pleased to receive a grant of £2000 from the South West Area Panel. It is gratifying to know that our work is acknowledged.

We will be having a Mince Pie and Coffee or Tea morning on Saturday 29th November. This will be from 10am until 12noon, in our office. We will be selling Christmas cards and paper and new items as well as our usual bric-a-brac. We would be most grateful for any new items to sell but we are knee deep in bric-a-brac at the moment. Do come along. We will be pleased to see you.

We send our best wishes to Lorna Baker who used to escort for us. She is having a painful time at the moment. Our passengers often ask about her.

As Christmas approaches, most of our

clubs have special lunches or trips out. It is a very busy time for us with extra events. Please give Michael as much notice as you can. It takes a lot of time and effort to make sure that the buses are available, with the necessary drivers and escorts. Don't forget we are selling the Rotary Club Christmas Draw tickets.

Our collection day at Sainsbury's, Archer Road on Sunday 19th October raised £205.10. Michael Finn, our Manager and his Mum, Jean (who is 83), Felicity Revill and Wendy and Jim Trotter, amazingly collected all day. That's after working on the buses etc during the week. I can't thank them enough. Danny and I were in Devon on Grandparenting duty. I must also thank Marie at Sainsbury's for all her help and encouragement. It has been very much appreciated. Take care.

Margaret Barlow

Christmas services

Christmas services this year at Christ Church Dore:

Sunday 30 November:

10am Christingle Service

Monday 8 December;

7.30pm - Come & Sing Messiah

Friday 12 December: Concert

7.15pm - Dore Male Voice Choir

Saturday 13 December: Concert

7.15pm - Dore Male Voice Choir

Sunday 21 December:

4pm Family Carols and

6.30pm 9 Lessons & Carols

Wednesday 24 December:

4pm Crib Service and

6pm Crib Service and 11.30

Midnight Communion

Thursday 25 December:

10am Christmas Day Service

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Planning matters

With the slow down in the economy there is almost certainly going to be a slow down in developments in Dore for some time, after the frenzied building during the past few years. There are, however, some significant planning applications in the pipeline.

A major application is for development at 79 Dore Road (the white house in large grounds on the south side of Dore Road between Ashfurlong Road and Thornsett Gardens). The plans show 18 houses on the front part of the site. An application for five houses on another part of the site, to the rear, was refused earlier in the summer and has currently gone to appeal.

The new application plans show houses fronting onto Dore Road and a cul-de-sac extending into the centre of the site. Fronting this there are a series of three storey terrace town houses. The Society considers that the proposals represent an over development of the site and are out of keeping with properties in the locality.

A lesser, but still significant development is proposed for the site of 135 Dore Road, next to the doctor's surgery. Here the proposal is for a new road, a cul-de-sac, providing a new entrance into the site and eight substantial detached houses. This is more sympathetic to the neighbourhood than the proposals referred to previously. You may recall there was serious concern in the summer when developers felled all the trees in the centre of this site prior to making the planning application.

One piece of good news is that the planning application for development of the pond area to the back of Abbeydale Hall has been refused. This pond was maintained by a small active society, as a wildlife area, whilst the property was in the ownership of Sheffield College and was of real benefit to the locality. It is allocated as such on the Council Development Plan. Since the development



David Heslop admiring the new wall plaque commemorating the site of Cat Croft Green.

of Abbeydale Hall with flats, access to the site has been barred and the site has been neglected.

There has been no further planning progress on the King Ecgbert site on Furniss Avenue. Persimmon, the developers, who made the planning applications, have virtually called a halt on new developments at the present time and it would appear unlikely that there will be any progress at the King Ecgbert site for some time. However, one day the developers will return; hopefully with more sensitive proposals for the site!

David Heslop

Use Again?

Totley resident Jennie Street has won an Environment Award for her campaigning approach to recycling.

Jennie has been urging Sheffields to stop throwing their re-usable goods into skips and wheelie bins, and proposes a new campaign with the catchphrase "Use Again?" The question mark is important. Everything that might be discarded gets the once over with the phrase Use Again? And if the answer could be yes, then various alternative channels can be followed to recycle that item.

Over the past few years, Jennie has helped set up yard sales around Sheffield to help people reuse their unwanted household goods, and she was incensed recently to discover more 80 usable items of clothing and toys in a south Sheffield skip. She helped herself, cleaned everything up and took it all to a local charity shop.

There are plenty of refugees and asylum-seekers and people on hard times who have nothing and can only afford to buy second-hand. Those who are well-off can forget that not everyone is in their position. Her message is, don't throw anything reusable away.



Dore village greens

If you have had cause to walk along Church Lane during the last month, you may have seen a new plaque in the wall of the churchyard at the junction of Church Lane and Vicarage Lane.

The plaque marks to site of one of the six ancient greens of Dore. This green was known at Cat Croft Green, or Catty Croft Green. In 1674 it was referred to as Caddy Green (see the DVS publication "The A to W of Dore"). Is it significant that houses nearby are called Croft Farm and Greenways?

The opportunity was taken to install the plaque while the boundary walls to the churchyard were being repaired. The Dore Village Society propose to similarly mark the other greens of Dore: Hall Green, Oxen Green, Knowle Green and Watering Trough Green.

The remaining village green, known to us all was called School Green or sometimes Town Green, and does not need marking. However, the Cockpit, (sometimes called Cockpit Green), at the junction of Townhead Road and Drury Lane is also of historical significance and needs commemorating in some way.

David Heslop



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Letters

Dear Sir,

I am writing in reply to a letter about Dore coal mines in the last issue. There was a mention of ganister not being of very good quality and therefore wasn't mined. My father Edgar worked in the Ganister mine on Short Lane for many years in the 1940s, quite a big operation at the time with extensive workings. There's not much left of it now as a house and stables now occupy the site.

The mine was owned by Edward Jenkin Thorpe (Ted) who also ran the Devonshire Arms pub on High Street, he used to visit the mine in his SS Jaguar and I was fortunate enough to get a lift back home in it to Towhead Road now and again. Quite an occasion as cars were very rare then, especially one of that stature.

There was also a mention of pit ponies not being used in Dore. They were indeed used in the mines that were on what we called Fishers Moor, which is the moor that runs from Avenue Farm to Strawberry Lea. There were at least 2 or 3 mines on there, we visited them to see the ponies, they all had names which I could remember up to a few years ago.

Someone else was asking about the Dore football team that played in The Hope Valley League. Most of the Dore lads followed this team home and away, it was a very good team, it had it's ups and downs like most teams but all in all it was good. The games against Tideswell, Stoney Middleton and Totley were always very entertaining and sometimes got a bit violent even in those days. The Totley match was usually played on Boxing day to a very good and vocal crowd.

We had some top class players, Dougie Walsh in goal was as good as any, and Stuart Eggo, Frankie Roe, George Stacey and Jack Kent were better than most. Georgie Thorpe was the best centre forward in the league and I seem to remember Georgie and Stuart Eggo being

picked to play for a Hope Valley team against an Everton side on one occasion.

We lads had both cricket and football teams, the cricket team was more of a success than the football, thanks mainly to the efforts of Mr and Mrs Nassau who ran it for us. I wish the council had considered draining the recreation ground in those days, as it was like a quagmire at times when we played our games on there. We used to spend most of our time in the Rec as we called it. I think I've climbed nearly every tree in there. Last time I was in there some of the nails were still in the trunks that we used to help us climb up

John Taylor
(ex 96 Towhead Rd)

Dear Sir,

I am seeking information on my wife's great great grandfather known as "The Hallamshire beekeeper". He resided in either Dore or Totley in the 1800s. I believe he was also a lay lawyer or such, reputed to have got 'privies' installed in tenement houses in the Sheffield area.

I would be most grateful for any information you may have on him or could you point me in the direction of anyone that may have.

J V Fogarty

Dear Sir,

My sister, who still lives in Dore, gave me a copy of Dore Old School as a present and I would just like to make a couple of comments.

On page 92, photo shows Jean Eddishaw standing 3rd from Right.

On page 93, photo shows Rodney Clark waving from tractor seat. Waving from the pavement, close to the wing mirror is John Swift. I met up with him in London (courtesy of Friends Reunited) last month, and he is still easily recognisable. We had not met since 1954!

Thanks for a very interesting book. Give my regards to Graham Thorpe. His brother, Michael, was in my year.

Neil Edmonds

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for the gift of 'On Your Dorestep', which is very interesting. It brings back many happy memories of more active days! However, it also tempts me to walk more again - albeit in stages.

Please extend my appreciation and gratitude to Messrs Bearpark, Heslop, Millican & Dunstan; and also to David Heslop & John Dornkamp for the delightful illustrations and beautiful photographs, - & all involved.

I will now have the courage to take the short cut from Parkers Lane to Causeway Head Road, through the old site of Coate's and Siddall's farms. I have never actually walked right up Kerwin Road, a field between Taylor's and Naylor's bungalows and Dr Wood's house in the 1940's.

I read with great interest in 'Dore to Door', John Caseley's oral history, and sent it to my brother. We didn't know about the bomb that destroyed the shelter in their garden!

Sheila Ward

Ed. This is just one of many letters and telephone calls received thanking the Society for producing the walking book 'On your Dorestep'. Copies are available for sale at the Newsagents on Causeway

Head Road, or from Seasons Gallery on Abbeydale Road South. It would make an excellent Christmas present and should be of interest to ex residents, local walkers or anyone living in Sheffield or Derbyshire .

Dear Sir,

While reading the Dore to Door Local History Internet edition, I was drawn to two letters you have published from a lady in New Zealand. Her name is Melody Reeves and her letters to you were back in Autumn 2001 and Winter 2002 edition. The lady has written with regards to her family history and asking anyone with an interest in the Reeve family to get in touch.....

I appreciate that her letters were submitted a few years ago. However, I would like to contact Mrs Reeves because of a mutual family connection of the people she mentioned in her Autumn letter. Would anyone be able to help me here, please?

Angela Walls (Mrs)

Ed. If you are able to put us in touch with Melody Reeves please call 0114 236 9025 or write to the address on page 2.

Dear Sir,

Thankfully most dog owners in Dore clean up their dog's mess. But someone here goes to the trouble of carefully picking up their dogs mess into a plastic bag, ties a knot in the top and then leaves it where it was deposited, now just wrapped up in plastic.

At first I thought perhaps they have left it there to save having to carry it with them for the rest of the walk and will collect it on the way home. But no. I have seen these bags left for weeks on Totley Brook Road, on the public path leading to Totley Brook Open Space, on the drive of Avenue Farm, on Strawberry Lee Lane and Penny Lane. The idea of picking up dog poo is to remove it completely, not leave an additional plastic bag behind that pollutes the environment.

Dawn Biram

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Letters continued...

Dear Sir,
Child Safety Along Church Lane

I am really concerned about the lack of a safe place for children to cross Church Lane going to and from Dore Primary School at each end of the school day.

There is no obvious 'ideal' place to cross Church Lane given the numerous drives, parked cars, muddy verges and other obstructions. There are no dropped kerbs on the church side making it difficult for parents with pushchairs who often have to squeeze through between parked cars. As a result crossing takes place at many locations, many unsuitable.

Outside the Door Grill Restaurant, it is unclear where the point at which the footway/car park entrance becomes the road. Cars travelling into the village at speed often drive off the road at this point to allow traffic coming in the other direction to pass. This often requires pedestrians waiting to cross to step back or risk being hit. The same situation also occurs when trying to cross from the many driveways along the road.

School turnout time is often much worse as there are more cars parked on the road due to activities in the church and Dore Grill. This often completely fills one side of the road making finding a safe place to cross away from parked cars impossible. This is particularly difficult for children taking their first very important steps to independence by walking home without adult supervision. Nobody should ever have to cross between parked cars in this way on such an important route to and from school. The assistance of a lollipop



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lady in this location is sadly missed.

The situation could be considerably improved with the addition of an easily identifiable crossing point in the vicinity of the green grocers (where the large log is). There is ample space, it offers good visibility and provides a convenient crossing point for the whole community. This should as a minimum have a paved area with dropped kerbs and bollards similar to the one outside the Causeway Head Road shops.

As someone who is passionate about road safety and as a Chartered Highway Engineer, I feel a compelling need to press for positive action which is why I have made local councillors, the school and governors aware of my concerns. The suggested safe crossing measures could be put in place easily and cheaply to help ensure that our children are as safe as possible.

I am sure we all share in the same objective of 'safeguarding our children' to

give them the best opportunity in life. We need to allow our children to gain confidence to be independent and to acquire the necessary skills. In doing so they must not be forced to take unnecessary risks on the journey they have to make twice each day to attend school.

Please share any concerns you may have with our local councillors so that together we can influence positive change for road safety within our community.

Martin Hobbs

Ed. You can find contact details for our local councillors on the back page.

Labour of love

A new book, *The Life And Times Of Albert Crookes*, has just been launched lovingly typed by his wife over the last two years. Accompanied by numerous photographs, the book is a captivating history of one man's life in Sheffield from the Depression years of the 1920's, through the devastation of World War 2 and the technological advances of the 1960's and 70's to the present day.

The book is much more than just a story about one man's life, but also a local social history that documents everyday life for people living through the hardships of the inter-war years and then having to sacrifice even more with the advent of the Second World War. While also describing the lighter moments during all these times.

Copies of the book are available to order at a cost of £4.50 (+p&p) by either emailing stuart@acliani.co.uk or by telephoning 0114 236 8817.

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Sat 13th Dec	10.30	1.30	4.30	6.30
Mon 15th Dec			4.30	
Tue 16th Dec			4.30	
Wed 17th Dec			4.30	
Thur 18th Dec			4.30	6.30
Fri 19th Dec			4.30	6.30
Sat 20th Dec	10.30	1.30	4.30	6.30
Mon 22nd Dec		1.30	4.30	6.30
Tue 23rd Dec	10.30	1.30	4.30	6.30
Wed 24th Dec	10.30	1.30	4.30	6.30

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 Address.....
 Post Code.....
 Tel. No.....

Names of children:
 Name.....
 Age..... Boy/Girl

Names of children:
 Name.....
 Age..... Boy/Girl

Names of children:
 Name.....
 Age..... Boy/Girl

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Did you know

The press is currently full of doom and gloom about the credit crunch and the need for an increase in public borrowing. I was staggered therefore to read of proposals to re-locate the No 97 Bus Terminus from the front of the Cross Scythes pub in Topley to a point on the road half way to Owl Bar.

This imaginative solution to finding a new turning point for the buses is said to involve reducing the speed limit to 30mph on that stretch of road and installing street lighting at a cost of £375,000. Am I the only one to think this expenditure is madness!

Do we really need more light pollution in this area of countryside? Amazingly buses to Bakewell and Hathersage can travel through the countryside without lighting, so why not the No 97. This is utter nonsense. Buses could easily turn around at Owl Bar instead and provide a useful service to the businesses there and to walkers coming out from Sheffield.

What kind of decision making process results in such proposals? No doubt the money will come out of some budget or other, but whichever way you look at it,

this is our money as tax and council tax payers!

You would expect that the current economic circumstances would have reduced the number of planning applications. It seems however that although the big developers such as Persimmon are laying off staff and subcontractors, the smaller independent builders are still relatively busy building extensions and developing "Brown Field Sites" i.e. back gardens etc. It would be nice to think that any slowdown would allow the planning process to catch up and maybe take more account of community needs and feelings.

Sadly I am not confident that this will happen. It seems that Council Leader Paul Scriven has demanded that the planning department become more "business friendly" or be sacked and the function contracted out to a private company. We all know how well previous privatisation has served the public interest!

Talking about bureaucracy, it seems Dore's ducks are under threat again. Council officials have demanded that something is done about them, as they defecate on the highway and wander into people's gardens. Well so do wild birds.

And what about the horses and dogs that relieve themselves on our pavements? I know which I prefer.

It is time the Council realised that our ducks have saved them thousands of pounds on traffic control measures and added real character to the village. As for them entering gardens, it is not so long ago that the front gardens of all houses had gates. But then I guess they make parking the car more of a chore.

If you are wondering what happened to the three Dore geese, it is a similar sad tale. No, they have not been eaten by a fox but have been sent away for frightening children. No matter that they joined the throng at the Gala of their own accord without any fuss.

Time was that we all grew up at home with domesticated animals around us and understood and took into account their behaviour. Now the sight of a goose, and in some cases a pet dog, can send some children and their parents into a panic. Perhaps we should bring the geese back so that children and some parents can get a life!

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Christmas and the New Year*

JOHN CLARK DAIRYMAN

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

continued from page 1

Rosemary English, all children of prosperous Sheffield businessmen.

The Cooper family employed several local people who worked in the grand house and beautiful garden. Nancy remembers "We had a housemaid, a cook and two gardeners. Very spoilt weren't we? We only had a push lawnmower so one gardener used to push it and the other one pulled it. They were called Johnson and William. I can see them now." She laughs. "There was also a lady who came in every Monday to do the washing in her dolly-tub in the scullery." Nancy recalls the butler's pantry where the silver was cleaned and "the baize door going from our part of the house to the kitchen." Nancy and her sister Judith had a nanny who taught them at home from the age of five. Nancy says "I was very fond of her."

The children enjoyed the freedom of the spacious grounds which included lawns and a tennis court. "My cousin used to come and stay a lot and he was very keen on tennis." Nancy recalls. But they also indulged in some risky pursuits. "We had outbuildings with roofs and we used to climb all over them. It was great fun but we weren't supposed to. Anyway, I fell off into a rain tub, got soaking wet and was terrified of my father. I went in the greenhouse and my sister got lots of newspaper to try and dry me off. I remember hoping that he wouldn't see me, but of course it was obvious." She laughs.

Another incident evoked a more painful childhood memory for Nancy. "I used to cycle round the lawn until one day, when I was seven, I fell off and hurt my leg. My mother and everybody said of course you haven't broken it and I said I have, I heard it crack. I lay on the sitting room floor and was given an anesthetic, which then was just ether. It was horrible, smelt revolting, you felt as if you were suffocating! Dr. McCauly from Eyam gave it to me and put my leg in a splint. Every two or three days he would come and wind it and pull it out



Above: Thornsett, Dore Road, 1904. Now replaced by a cul-de-sac called Thornsett Gardens



Left: Judith and Nancy Cooper at Monreith Bay, August 1933

Below: Gardener and maids outside the conservatory at Thornsett - Does anyone recognise who they are?

so that my leg kept the right length. I was in bed in the sitting room and as it was summer they carried me outside through the French windows, the whole bed and me onto the terrace!" She exclaims.

In 1932 at the age of seven Nancy started at the Sheffield High School for Girls. She remembers the kind teacher, Miss Hamilton. "She looked after us very well when we were little children. She made sure we weren't unhappy or anything." Nancy also recalls Miss Knowle who taught history and of course Miss Walker, the Headmistress. She travelled to the High School by train from Dore station to Heeley. "I can remember I was terrified when we got to Heeley because I didn't think that I could lean over and undo the carriage door. You know you had to lean out didn't you? I always had to get somebody to help me or I thought I'd get stuck on the train. Then we had to run like mad to pick up a bus which took us to the High School." Sometimes Tom Cooper took his daughters to school in his "lovely old Woolsey car" when he was not away on business.

During the school and the works holiday the Cooper family would go away. "We used to stay in a boarding house in Scarborough for many years and then we got a caravan." Nancy opens the family album and points to an evocative photograph of herself and sister Judith outside their touring caravan at Monreith Bay in August 1933. "We had terrific fun." She says.

However, when Nancy was ten years old her family moved to Grindleford. Thornsett became the home of Bertie Nutt, the eye specialist who had a great love of snowdrops and grew many different



varieties in the spacious grounds.

In the 1970s Thornsett was demolished and the development known as Thornsett Gardens was created. The developers offered attractive family homes around a cul-de-sac which were the very latest in contemporary living. Several were bought by Midland Bank and Manpower Services employees who were relocating from London and the home counties to new headquarters in Sheffield. As the steel industry and cutlery firms were dying so the city was attracting key service industries to take their place.

And once again the gardens of Thornsett were filled with the sound of children's laughter as they played and rode their bikes and roller skates around the former lawns.

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Town Guns and heritage

Kelham Island Museum reopened its doors to the general public on Sunday 26th October, proudly unveiling a £30k refurbishment to the giant sized River Don Steam Engine and highlighting a number of other impressive artefacts, including Sheffield's very own Town Guns and a "Staybrite" stainless steel sailing ship.

The Sheffield Town Guns were made in 1795 from bronze and were purchased for the Sheffield Loyal Independent Volunteers in preparation for a French invasion and in case of civil unrest. These bronze 6 pounders were made by Francis Kinman of 7 New Street Square, London. It is likely that they were only ever used for practice and ceremonial purposes.

However there is one documented account of a riot in Norfolk Street on 4th August 1795, when soldiers from a newly formed regiment refused to march. The Volunteers were called in and ordered to fire; two people were shot dead and several others were injured. While tradition has it that the guns were wheeled out for the occasion, there is no evidence to suggest that they were actually fired in anger.

The model sailing ship was made by Firth Vickers in the 1930s as a showpiece for "Staybrite" Stainless Steel. This steel was used for a vast range of products from stylish shop fronts and hotel lobbies to hospital wards and operating theatres, from domestic kitchens to warships.

The River Don Engine, a giant sized piece of Sheffield heritage, was built to roll steel and has now undergone a total

refurbishment. It is an important piece of Sheffield's industrial heritage and the last working engine of its kind. It was engulfed by water during the floods in 2007 leaving it covered in grit and residue. As one of the main attractions at the museum and a significant reminder of the city's heritage it was a vital element of the displays that needed to be brought back to its full working capacity.

The engine required two steam cleans which was carried out by Trust staff helped by a team of apprentices from Sheffield Forgemasters. Once the initial cleaning process had taken place the engine was assessed and it was found that although significant restoration and a repaint was needed, the engine had suffered no damage to its mechanical workings.

The restoration team also included Dennis Dawson, who was involved in the original assembling of the engine at the museum almost thirty years ago. It took almost three years to move, assemble and display the fully working engine that has been entertaining visitors at the site since the museum opened in 1982.

The River Don engine is fired up twice a day when the museum is open and when working to its full capacity runs at temperatures of up to 160 degrees. It is an impressive sight, running or not.

Some areas of the Museum will remain closed until the second phase of the recovery programme is completed in spring 2009.

Sheffield Industrial Museums Trust
www.simt.co.uk/kelham

Coffee Morning success

Tricia Pitchfork, Anne Elsdon and Elizabeth Watson would like to thank everyone who supported their Macmillan Coffee Morning at 33, Newfield Crescent on Friday 26th September. With donations received and the amount raised on the day, a total of £855 was forwarded to Macmillan Cancer Support with the request that it go to our local Sheffield team at the Northern General Hospital. Thank you all again for your continued support and we hope to see you again next year.

Chorale concert

Get into a festive mood at Escafeld Chorale's Christmas concert at Ecclesall parish church on Monday 15th December.

The choir will be performing a variety of well-known and less-familiar carols, and there will be an opportunity for the audience to join in singing some of those all-time favourites that we have been singing since we were children. At the end of the concert, seasonal refreshments will be served.

The concert is in aid of the south Yorkshire branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Association - come along and soak up the Christmas spirit while helping to make life a little bit easier for those suffering this terrible disease. Tickets (£8/£6) will be available on the door, or book in advance (£1 discount) at Calow Classics, 721 Abbeydale Road.

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Life, Confidence and the Property Market

Alistair Humphrey of Eadon Lockwood & Riddle assesses the extraordinary financial events of the past few weeks and looks at what effect these will have on the property market.

Some financial commentators already argue that it will take many years for confidence in the banking system to return. As the Prime Minister said recently, "The greatest asset of all, and the one that has been missing in the last few weeks, is confidence itself."

But does this mean that it will take years for confidence in the property market to return? The economic system may well require confidence but life is a different matter. Most people's lives, while affected by the economy, are not dominated by it. Babies will still be born, people will marry or co-habit, divorce or break up, retire and, sadly, die. People will lose their jobs or get other jobs - sometimes in other areas. A lucky few will win the lottery. These events usually presage a property sale and/or purchase. These potential movers are not affected so much by confidence but by life - or death.

We are seeing the sharpest period of property market turmoil in living memory. The market will not correct overnight and there will still be uncertainty. Prices may well have to fall further before they reach their optimum sales level and the point where the market can really begin to rally. As an example, for an average two bedroom town centre flat to sell its price should reflect three times an average person's income. At this price even cash-strapped and nervous lenders will be prepared to lend. Until prices reach this average level lenders will be wary and the market for two bedroom flats will remain stalled.

But this does not mean there is no activity in the meantime. In fact September was, in many parts of the country, a relatively good month for sales. Why was this? Well, firstly life continues. The second reason is more profound. As both the banks and the stock market are hardly attractive places to deposit hard-



Every sign of a slowdown in the local property market.

earned cash at the moment, investors are seeking sounder alternatives. Some are putting it under the mattress or buying gold, while others are favouring financial institutions that are newly backed with government guarantees.

But others concede that the one place that has consistently performed as a sound investment, despite several ups and downs over the past fifty years, is the UK property market. Some canny investors are already entering the market.

There is an old adage in investment circles, 'trend is your friend'. It is well to heed this. The UK property market has seen a strong upward trend over the past half century. In fact over this period values have risen at an average annual rate of more than ten per cent.

It is, as ever, impossible to predict the future but there is one key pointer. According to statistics, throughout the UK there will be an inadequate supply of housing over the next few years, made more acute by the rapid slow-down in new home starts. House builders have been unable to find adequate finance and have shelved or mothballed projects. This

paucity will create high demand and, in turn, a stronger housing market. So much so that despite the fall now some property industry professionals predict that house prices could rise by up to 25% over the next five years. This may seem wishful thinking at a time we are all so shocked and despondent, but previous bust-to-boom examples prove such a rise to be a distinct possibility.

For now however the message is very loud and clear - 'Realism is the name of the game' only those properties that are perceived as being value for money are attracting any interest! Those that have been available for any length of time without any price reductions are discounted immediately - Mr Joe Public is very well aware and informed.

Alistair Humphrey FRICS, FNAEA



Prices haven't fallen like this since the Romans left! John Wells



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Finding suitable presents for friends and relatives isn't always easy. However you can always turn to the printed word, with books to cater for every interest and hobby. Publishers tend to produce more new books at this time of the year than any other, and this issue contains plenty of reviews on some you might like to consider, along with the wide number of books already covered in our other issues during the year.

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Reduce your carbon footprint?

Everywhere these days people are talking about carbon footprints and climate change... but what does it mean for you? For billions of years the atmospheric gases have slowly changed and the average temperatures have gone up and down, but now, human activity is putting out more carbon dioxide than the trees, grasses and oceans can absorb and this is beginning to change the climate rapidly. This will have several major unpleasant effects including weather extremes (more droughts, floods and storms), sea-level rise which will flood low lying areas and make many people homeless, ecosystem collapse making some animals and plants extinct and

making our food crops vulnerable to pests and disease, as well as many other subtle and unforeseen effects.

There is little we can do now to prevent some climate change but we can prevent catastrophic changes if we alter the way we live now. We have to reduce the amount of fossil fuel we use (coal in power stations, petrol/diesel for transport, gas for heating and cooking) and items, which use resources and energy to be made, transported to us and used. We are now at the stage where climate change is finally being acknowledged and talked about but all of us must do every little thing we can to bring down our carbon footprint.

If not, we may not be able to escape changes to our living that few will want to see: displaced, flooded out communities will need houses building somewhere else,

to continue producing the vast amounts of power we are demanding, wind farms will have to go somewhere or even worse, nuclear waste buried somewhere. It is therefore important that all of us must cut down our consumption of energy and every little change helps.

Some of the changes will also save money, for instance, replacing old light bulbs with compact fluorescent 'low energy' bulbs, fully insulating the house, turning down the central heating thermostat by a degree and only heating rooms you are using.

Glass conservatories can be used to supplement heat to the rest of the house even during winter sun, but as soon as the sun starts to drop, the temperature will drop like a stone and they are best closed off, not kept fully heated as an open part of the house. Cook in pans with lids on and only fill the kettle with the amount of water you need to boil. Get into the habit of taking bags with you for shopping. Try to reuse things, for example bread bags can become sandwich bags that can then go on to be used to clean up when taking the dog for a walk.

Some of the changes also have health benefits and are fun. Try to walk or cycle rather than using the car every time. Its very hard at first when there is a car sitting on the drive, but once into the habit of walking, cycling or chatting to new friends on the bus, (or even waiting at the bus stop for the unreliable 30!) it becomes the first option and the car gets used only when vital.

One measure that is often overlooked is the impact of diet on climate change. Being vegetarian is even better in terms of reducing your carbon footprint than not having a car. Of course this doesn't mean that everyone has to stop eating animal products altogether but a conscious decision to make some meals free of animal products would make a difference and bring animal welfare benefits too. Sometimes the change is simple, for example falafels in place of meatballs with spaghetti. If you do eat animal products, support British farmers and try to shop for local products, ask for local products to be sourced by the big supermarkets.

Changing the way you live need not be uncomfortable or difficult, and it can be fun and healthy. Some people measure their carbon footprint every six months and try to reduce the emissions they are responsible for each time... quite an interesting challenge! Why not write in to this magazine with your questions and suggestions. We all need encouragement and inspiration about how together we tackle this problem. Your grandchildren may one day ask, "What did you do to tackle the global warming crisis"?

The cost of motoring has risen by a fifth in the past year because of high fuel prices and the falling resale values of cars, according to the RAC.

Taking all costs into account, including financing, depreciation and insurance, the average annual cost has gone up from £5,133 to £6,133, with the average weekly cost up from £98.71 to £117.94.



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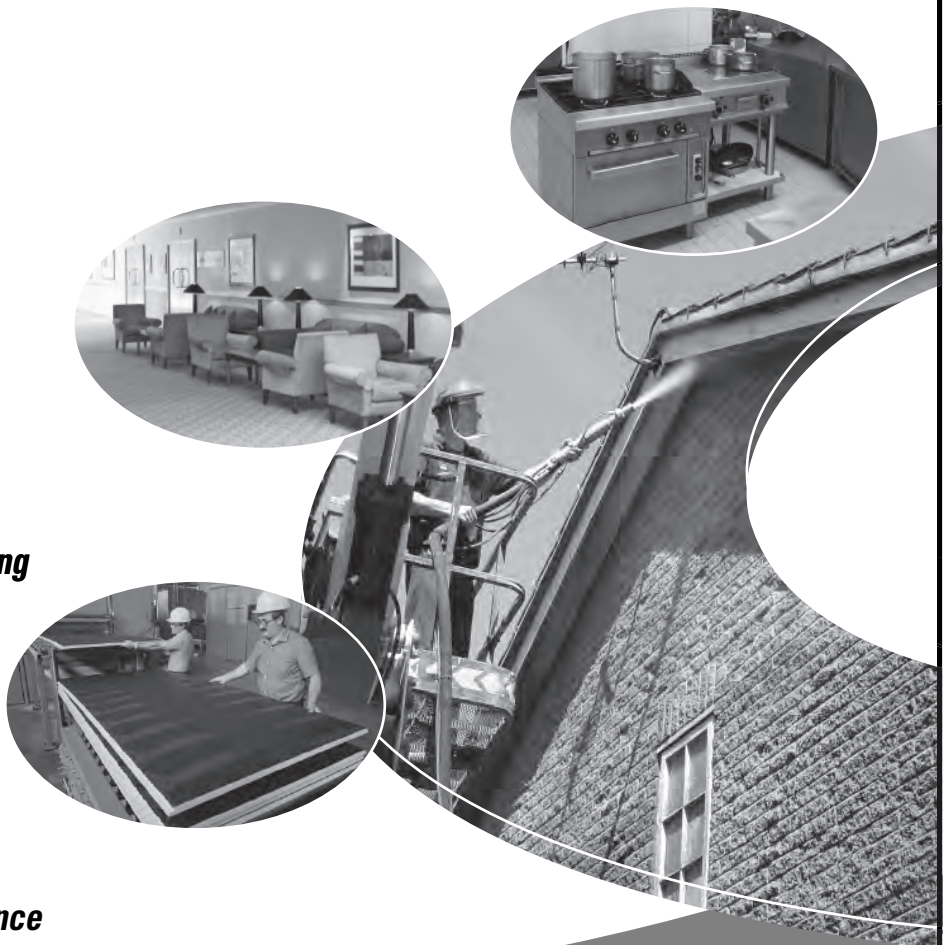
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Oral History Open Day

On Saturday 18th October Dore Oral History Group held a successful Open Day. Our theme this year is 'Childhood - Now and Then' and we had hoped to attract Dore people of all ages to come along. We put up as usual an interesting display of photographs and memories taken from our extensive archive of recordings. There was also a fascinating collection of toys and games from the 1920s to the present day. Those who came along thoroughly enjoyed themselves but we were disappointed that there were not more young people for whom the Open Day was intended. We can only presume that sporting activities and shopping were more attractive than experiencing the past in a really fun way.

We would like to thank all those who attended our event. Your continued support and appreciation makes the effort worthwhile.

Maureen Cope
Dore Oral History Group

Curry capital

Sheffield is making a strong bid to become the curry capital of the north after city restaurants put up a strong showing in this year's British Curry Awards. Locally, Almas Indian Brasserie on the High Street, which has recently undergone major refurbishment, received a four star rating as a regional finalist and a place in the national top 100.

A plea from Grace Cottage

*Heavy rain makes River Savage
Displaced water down the drive,
Windows splashed and walkers too,
Would you like it done to you?
In your motors please slow down,
And take away my heavy frown.*

Friends of Rowan School

Do you want to join this small friendly group of volunteers with their hugely worthwhile task of fundraising for the benefit of the children who attend this small Special Primary School in S17?

The children come from all over the city, and have severe communication disorders including those on the Autistic Spectrum and have loved the extras that FOTRS have provided in recent years. These include - a minibus, sensory room, Plug into Music Therapy, an outside activity circuit, trikes and scooters and a shed to house them in, amongst many projects.

At present, they need more volunteer fundraisers to help write letters, research on the internet and meet to talk about how to raise money towards new projects such as a sensory garden, a bike track, develop an orchard, woodland area and allotment.

The group meets in the daytime in term time, for an hour or 2 every week or fortnight. Please get involved by calling Chris Moore on 0114 262 0068 or Miriam Broom on 262 1383

Belly Dancing lessons

A taste of the orient has come to Dore in the shape of Belly Dancing lessons! If you have wondered at the exotic music coming from Dore and Totley United Reformed Church on Saturday mornings, this is the reason. The lessons are run by Jenny Murphy, a Sheffield girl, who learnt belly dancing off a Moroccan lady in the South of France and went on to teach it to the Turks in Turkey! Having returned to the UK she has continued teaching this wonderful dance at several Sheffield locations, in addition to keeping her full time job in the pharmaceutical industry.

Now due to popular local demand she will be starting another six week course in the New Year - 10th Jan, running every Saturday from 10.30-11.30am. The classes are intended as good fun for women from 13 to 60+. When asked why women should take it up, Jenny says it is "because belly dancing works with women's curves, instead of fighting against them, a dance create by women for women-what a great way to get fit!" You can contact her on Tel: 07816 850132 .

Cards for good causes

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

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A charity that works

Emmaus Sheffield is a secular charity which works to break the cycle of homelessness by providing a home, training and work, and returning its beneficiaries to independent living. It is open to all who are prepared to work to the best of their ability.

In March 2006 sufficient capital funds had been raised to purchase Sipelia Works, a former cutlery factory in the City Centre Canal Basin and the building has now been developed to offer self contained accommodation for seven homeless people, a staff apartment, office, shop, storage and sales area. Plans have been drawn up to develop the building further to provide accommodation for an additional 17 residents but with costs inevitably escalating year by year this is very much a long term goal.

The business of the charity is the collection of good quality, donated household goods which are then sold in the social enterprise with the money raised being ploughed back into the Community, providing skills training, counselling and support with learning life skills.

A number of training courses have been on offer and five residents have embarked upon an NVQ Level 2 in Amenities Horticulture, two more have begun to learn to drive and two others are applying for their provisional drivers licences. One has attended a National Trust working weekend with a view to eventually applying for work with the National Trust.

Each resident has their own story to tell but I am sure you will be moved to hear that one of the residents had been sleeping under a bridge adjacent to the building for several nights waiting for it to open.

Those living in the community are long term socially excluded individuals who may have suffered homelessness as a result of relationship breakdown, mental health problems or substance abuse. They sign off primary benefits and commit to

work in the social enterprise 5 days a week for which they receive a weekly allowance. Money is also saved for them for holidays and to assist when they do eventually move on to independent living. Research has shown that this saves the state £32,000 per resident per year.

The Emmaus charity fulfils many criteria - alleviation of homelessness, reduction of landfill, retraining and a sense of family and community which many of the residents have either not had for a long time, or have never been a part of. We are always on the look out for goods to sell in our shop so if you have anything you would like to donate that is of a good, saleable quality we have a van and can collect.

Alternatively, come and have look round the shop to see the goods we have on sale - one man's waste is another man's treasure! Phone - 272 0677 www.emmaus-sheffield.org.uk

The Waddington Album

My great uncle Jim Waddington was an artist and during the period between 1900-1925 he painted sketches of the leading music hall performers whom he saw. Until now only a handful of people have seen them. Everyone has expressed sheer delight Wonderful, beautiful, fascinating, amazing are the words used to express their feelings. Two people who can be regarded as experts are Ken Dodd and one of the Antique Road Show valuers. On different occasions their views echoed the previous remarks adding that the sketches were stunning and unique.

I have now decided to try and give more people the opportunity to enjoy the artistry. Although many of the performers' names may mean nothing to us now, with the permission of the Pomegranate Theatre Chesterfield I am planning an exhibition when a selection of the pictures as posters will be on display in the theatre foyer from November 4th - 29th, daily between 9am-10pm except Sundays. Entry is free. I hope that you can come and get great pleasure from the artistry.

James Powell

Christmas Carol Concert

On Friday 5th December, Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind are holding a Christmas Carol Concert at the Victoria Hall Church Sheffield. Providing the music for the evening will be The Sheffield Singers who are part of the Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus and the South Yorkshire Police Brass Band who are both donating their time to SRSB.

Amongst the singers on the evening will be Julie Smethurst who is registered blind herself and not only runs her own Braille transcription service but is also a trustee of SRSB and the Chairman of the Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus.

All the monies raised on the evening will go directly to SRSB who are currently undertaking a major redevelopment of their Mappin Street premises which will include new social, educational and care

facilities for blind and partially sighted people in Sheffield of all ages.

The concert starts at 7.30pm, Tickets £10 / £7.50 conc. Tel: Sue Coggin, Fundraising Manager, on 0114 251 9643

The Stange Stumble

On Sunday 28th September on what started out to be a very cold and wet morning, (well it was at 07:30!) a brave 98 entrants started out in the return of the 'Stange Stumble', including several as a direct result of our earlier article.

The walk, modified from previous years, was either a 25 or 10 mile walk over the edges of the Peak District but staying within the Sheffield boundaries. Some 71 decided on the longer route with four serious runners.

A grey start at 9am did not deter the hardened walkers who had journeyed from all parts of the country, even as far away as Surrey, to be there. The weather brightened into a glorious day, affording stunning views along the edges.

The first runner completed the course in 4hrs 10 mins and the first walker on the Short walk in 5hrs 10mins. (It was really 12 miles but we didn't tell them until the end!). The first long course walker returned in 6hrs 54 mins. Only one person retired due to injury, not serious, and the last three finished in 10hrs 15 mins despite having been advised to stop at the last check point.

All in all a good day was had and it is anticipated that the money raised will be in excess of £1000.

Exhibition at the studio

There will be an exhibition of paintings by local artist Hazel Lale from Tuesday 2nd December 2008 through to Friday 9th January 2009 at AG Studios (10 Causewayhead Road).

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Christmas Food Collection

Members of Hallamshire Round Table will be doing the usual collection of food items for the homeless and needy this Christmas.

The collection is an ongoing tradition for the residents of Dore and goes back nearly 50 years. The amount of food and gifts we receive each year is phenomenal, and is greatly received by the local homeless centres.

This years collection will take place on the Sunday the 14th December, reminder notes will be sent out prior to the date.

Round Table is a worldwide organisation of social groups for men aged 18-45 that actively contributes to its local community, if anyone is interested in joining Round Table please contact Mike on 0114 236 6757. Many Dore Residents have been members either when they first move to the Area or have been recommended to us via friends.

Our events for 2009 include; Pool competition; Dinner and Speaker; Archery; 5 A Side football; Valentines Ball - get in touch if you would like to come along (PS no funny handshakes, just beer and good company!!!)

Mike Braddock

T.O.A.D.S production

Well, this is your last chance to buy tickets for our next play - a comic murder Mystery entitled "Dying for Dinner" by Paul Beard. It takes part on a not quite completed set of a Dramatic Society, who

are holding their social evening on the stage. The Chairman has decided that he will organise a Murder Mystery Dinner and has already notified the members of the parts they will play. O.K. so far? Things don't exactly go to plan, but you will have to come and see for yourselves as I am not allowed to say anymore!

The dates are Wednesday the 26th November to Saturday 29th November, 7.30pm at St John's Church Hall, Abbeydale Road South.

Tickets are £3.50, or £3 concessions, available from any member or from me, Kate Reynolds, on 236 6891. Don't miss it.

Abbeydale Picture House

Events still to come this year are: December 5th - Dick Whittington the family Pantomime, performed by Chaplin's Gold Pantos. Take your little ones on your annual Panto trip to see what happens to Dick Whittington when faced with King Rat. Performances at 10am and 2.30pm. All tickets £5, special offer to schools-3 free teachers per group booking.

December 19th - Christmas Showtime featuring the Picture House Youth Theatre and other star performers. Get into the Christmas mood with this magical, family variety show. Performance at 5.30pm. All tickets £10. Box Office: 07775966106

www.abbeydalepicturehouse.co.uk - new website. Click on our 'restoration' button to find out how you can help and find out about their new raising the rafters campaign.

Journey to Bethlehem

Everyone is warmly invited to take a special Journey to Bethlehem at Totley Rise Methodist Church, Grove Road, to trace the events leading up to the birth of Jesus during the very first Christmas over 2000 years ago.

Free 30 minute tours will begin on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th December between 4.15 and 7.30pm.

Visitors will be met by a Roman Centurion, who will guide them through scenes from the Bible telling of the birth of Jesus, take them on a visit to the Inn at Bethlehem, and to the village market place, where local crafts will be demonstrated, and visitors will be able to sample food of the time. Having visited the shepherds in the fields, the tour ends at the stable, where a real baby Jesus is cared for by Mary and Joseph.

The tour, in small groups, lasts about 30 minutes and is free, you are invited to stay for refreshments afterwards. Come warmly dressed, as the shepherds, (and their sheep!!) are outdoors.

If you have been before, you are most welcome to come again, and bring along some of your friends. For many people it has been said that Christmas starts here! Over 900 people journeyed last year, and now, as then, it is essential to book your time slot in advance by calling 0114 236 8726.

All of us at Totley Rise Methodist Church look forward to seeing you, as we prepare together for Christmas 2008.

Phil George

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Network Rail massacre

One significant event in recent weeks has been Network Rail's systematic removal of trees and undergrowth alongside the Manchester railway line at the bottom of Twentywell Lane (see above). This has generated widespread public dismay and annoyance at its extent, similar to earlier insensitive work not that long ago between Totley signal box and Totley Tunnel. Literally hundreds of trees have been systematically felled, some quite mature hardwood specimens. These used to provide a habitat for thousands of birds, and served to soften the man made features of the railway. Now we are faced with a visual wasteland. An effect strengthened by the mass of cabins and equipment on the adjacent temporary building site.

It seems it's all done in the name of "safety" and visibility for train drivers, avoiding leaves on the line and removing the danger of falling branches. Whilst no-one would deny that these are important considerations, the sheer scale of the work and its totally indiscriminate nature are surely unnecessary. Network Rail have been pursuing this policy for some five years now all over the country, accompanied by howls of complaint from all quarters. But then who are they accountable to!

The Wildlife Garden

For most gardeners, dandelions feature high up on the list of 'our top ten most despised weeds', because in a close-cropped lawn, these plants will produce a flattened rosette of leaves that shades out the surrounding grass, resulting in a circular area of dead growth. Also, once established, the deep-rooting tap root makes it very difficult to dig out. This can reach a depth of 3ft/1m and needs repeated applications of a potent weed-killer or the use of a special curly dandelion remover which looks more like a tool fashioned for the Spanish Inquisition, rather than a gardening implement, to get rid of it. Nevertheless, if you leave just the smallest bit of tap root in the soil, up will pop another plant, as surely as an income tax form comes through the letter box every April.

Dandelions also have another trick up their weedy sleeves: they release ethylene, the gas that causes fruits like tomatoes to ripen. It is used as a weapon on neighbouring plants, which results in their growth being stunted and their fruits to ripen prematurely. And if all this isn't enough, there are the seeds to contend with.

Although the clocks of feathery seeds are great fun to blow and scatter in the wind when you are a child, no gardener wants 180 or so of these seeds (the average number in a clock) parachuting *en masse* like an invading army, onto a newly dug flower-bed.

The seeds germinate rapidly, but at this stage are easy to control. If the plants seed themselves amongst other herbs, they will intriguingly produce vertical leaves, rather than a ground-hugging rosette. Presumably, this is to hasten the plant's upward growth, enabling it to try and outdo its neighbours in the race for light.

Another unusual feature is that despite looking identical, each dandelion is slightly different from all the others; the

plant equivalent of snowflakes. This is because the plant produces its seeds asexually (apomictic), so any faults in its genetic code are automatically passed on, creating a unique adult plant. In view of this, it seems odd that dandelions are such good bee plants and I can't help but wonder why. If the plants don't need bees to reproduce, why attract them in the first place?

Fortunately for us they do, making dandelions one of the most useful bee plants and the great golden swathes which cover many a roadside verge are often vital early in the year, particularly for native bees. They are also attractive to honey bees, to such an extent that orchard owners are often encouraged to grow them amongst their trees, but they have to be cut down as soon as the fruit blossoms open, so the bees, which by now are used to foraging in the orchard, have no choice but to switch to pollinating the fruit trees.

Dandelion leaves are often included in herby salads, but are best either blanched or harvested young, as the older, dark green ones soon develop a bitter flavour. However, this doesn't stop ermine moth caterpillars and those of the garden tiger moth munching their way through them.

The leaves are not the only edible part: its flowers are one of the main constituents of dandelion wine, whilst the 2-year old roots are used to make a caffeine-free coffee substitute and in the production of dandelion and burdock cordial. Also, they have long been exploited in traditional herbal medicine for treating a wide variety of ailments including: acne, chronic joint complaints and gout. Even the latex in the plant's sap was once utilised to remove corns, warts and verrucae.

All in all, dandelions are such versatile and useful plants that perhaps in a few years time, if the credit crunch bites ever deeper, people will be complaining about the grass spoiling their dandelion patch, rather than other way round.

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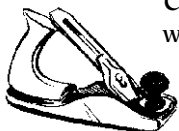
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Bobbie Drakeford recalls


If you were a member of Dore Youth Club in 1961, August meant meetings would take place at the old vicarage; these meetings were entitled Vicarage Garden Weeks and took the form of weeding, cutting grass and hedges, all most enjoyable when you are 16 years of age and with a group of friends. After helping to tidy the huge garden, the meeting would conclude with everyone adjourning to the large kitchen where Mrs Hayward would dispense mugs of coffee. The avuncular figure of Reverend Hayward would always join us and encourage us to talk about ourselves and our ambitions.

My turn to express my dreams and ambitions came around and when asked, I said that I would love my own dancing school. Rev. Hayward always one to encourage, asked what qualifications I had to hold to start. Having just taken my first Associate Ballet examination with the then Dance Teachers Association, I nervously told him that I already had a qualification but that I would need premises, a pianist and I really couldn't see my way to getting either.

The next week again in the vicarage garden Rev. Hayward came and found me and said that he had been thinking over what I had said and he saw no reason why I shouldn't start a dancing school in the village. He would let me have the large back room at the church hall free of charge until Christmas. This would give me an opportunity to establish myself and find out if it was going to work, not only that, he had also nominated piano playing Peter Hawksley, another youth club member as my pianist.

So on Saturday 16th of September 1961 Dore School of Theatre Dance was born.

15 children came on that first day, Gill Sceats (now Thirk), Jane Lowe (now Flint) and many names I can't remember, 2 shillings was the cost of the 1 hour class.



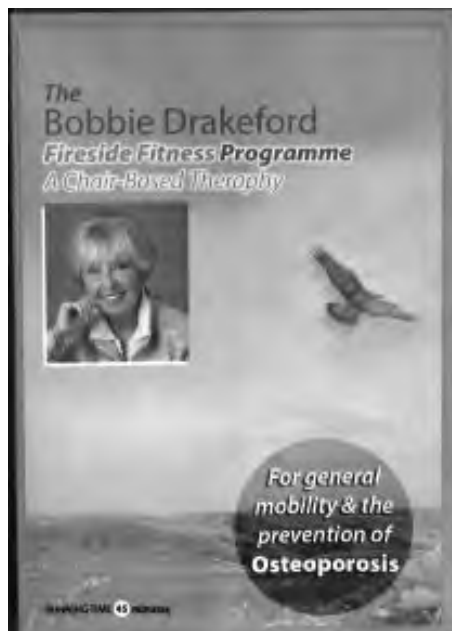
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*Fireside fitness programme DVD
by Bobbie Drakeford*

A man from the Sheffield Evening Star came and took photographs, I was so excited. After the class Peter and I went round to the Coffee House (Dore Grill) to have a cup of coffee to celebrate our success.

By the end of October I had decided that I must show parents what was happening during the classes, so on the 2nd of December DSTD held its first show. The show took the form of an open evening, with coffee tables set out in the main hall and during the first half there was a demonstration of classes on the stage. During the interval coffee and biscuits were served and the second half gave the children the opportunity to present song and dance routines (25 pupils by now) wearing costumes made by aunt; and that's how it all started!

The following five years were not easy, working full time at the Telegraph and Star, squeezing in my own lessons to further my qualifications and teaching dance - spare time was non-existent. In the early days I taught ballet, tap, stage and also ballroom dance to pad out my income. I was modelling Junior Miss clothes in Manchester, Harrogate, and Manchester and in stores in and around Sheffield, all to add pennies to the coffers!

During the first years I also gained an RSA Anatomy and Physiology diploma, studied Pilates and Alexander Technique, all to enable me to understand more about the body and ultimately what was happening under the skin when teaching dance. After 5 years the Telegraph and Star had to go, I had managed to secure a 9am to 1pm position as a typist. This position now enabled me to start classes earlier to accommodate the growing number of pupils, and move the classes from Saturday to Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday after school had finished. The Church Hall at that time was part of Dore Primary School with terrapin class rooms on waste ground at the back of the hall (where the houses are now at the top of Leyfield Road) and lunches served in the large back room. When I think back, the

large back room in those days had a wooden track across the middle of the floor for the sliding panel which, when in place divided the room into 2 small class rooms and an open gas fire in the corner of each small room. (What Health and Safety?)

Within the first 20 years we had many small triumphs, one student successfully auditioned for White Lodge the Royal Academy Junior School, a boarding school where education and classical ballet dance are combined. (The school where in the film 'Billy Elliott', Billy successfully gains a place). One of our senior students went into cabaret in Las Vegas, yet another into the Bluebell Girls at the Lido in Paris and a number of others won places in Pantomime etc. During this period I had to admit I couldn't do everything myself so I had to have an assistant, the part time job now a thing of the past, I was combining teaching, modelling and choreographing Hair and Fashion shows in England and Europe. I also joined forces with the late Maggie Foster to open Rowan Tree Studio's our model agency.

My qualifications were now at Licentiate level in some subjects and Fellowship in others, I also had an RSA Anatomy and Physiology Diploma; things were progressing well with DSTD. We had settled into a time table of January to July work for examinations and September to December fun time, preparing for the now annual show taking place every year on the first Thursday Friday and Saturday in December. We were also very successful in winning medals and trophies at the Sheffield dance competitions held originally at the Montgomery Theatre and latterly at Richmond College; competitions are no longer held in Sheffield they finished about 1978/80.

In 1985 now a full Fellow Member of the International Dance Teachers Association I became an examiner. Still beaver away teaching children and students I also started to coach teachers, not just my own assistants but teachers from out of town, thus putting Dore on the dancing map. The achievements of the school had begun to have quite an international flavour with one teacher going on to open a Ballet School in Norway, and senior students working in cabaret in Europe and Asia.

In 1990 holding my RSA Anatomy and Physiology qualification and having a keen interest in the subjects, and my aunt newly diagnosed with Osteoporosis, the necessity for a programme of weight bearing exercises specifically for the over 60's became something I felt a need to develop; this started as always with any DSTD venture at the Church Hall. The programme went on to receive full medical approval with Fireside Fitness a chair based programme joining the original Mobility Programme.

This all led to an interview for Radio 4's Woman's Hour, the classes being put onto video (and now DVD); classes were set up and continue to flourish in many places in Sheffield. The spin off had a

....continued on page 28

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continued from page 26...

terrified me, lecturing to doctors, health workers and physiotherapists on the benefits of a social exercise programme that held medical approval as a follow on from treatment delivered by the medical establishment. Classes have now been going strong for 18 years with the programme evolving and moving with current thoughts on exercise to keep it up to date.

Six years ago Kate Riley (my right hand) started the schools Singing and Drama section, under the title of Musical Theatre classes. This is where children have the opportunity to combine singing; movement and dance completing the schools full Performance Arts Programme. Also at this point, boys being quite reluctant to dance with the girls, boy's only classes were started in Freestyle, Street and Hip Hop. We have had fantastic children at the school over the years and still do, all with commitment and dedication.

During the period when I was director of IDTA Sales Company, the students had the opportunity, biannually to appear in a London theatre, dancing and modelling garments sold by the company. The first show was at the Mermaid Theatre then on two occasions the Royalty Theatre but the icing on the cake for the students was the four shows they performed at Her Majesties Theatre, such excitement, being in the theatre where Phantom of the Opera is performed and seeing all the mechanics that operate the scenery underneath the stage. After the demise of the Sales Company the students are still able to perform in professional theatre after we received an invitation to dance in a show at the Opera House Blackpool (one of the largest stages in Europe) this is an annual event and in which the school has been invited to perform for the past five years, many fingers will be crossed for the invite to arrive next year 2009!!!

As a result of the school shows, DSTD

has over the years bought equipment for the family room at the Children's Hospital, penjects for children suffering from Diabetes, supported through the Tear Fund, a child in Brazil, and for many years a small mission school in Awasi, Kenya. This only stopped after we were given information that money was being diverted to the War effort!!!! Not something that children should be involved with in any way shape or form. We are now supporting a young lady of 13 years in Nepal, her family are unable to pay school fees, books, uniform etc. our support is enabling her to continue with her education and preventing her from having to leave school and work on the farm carrying cattle fodder (bundles of leaves, 2 metre x 2 metre loads) 1000 metres up the mountain each day.

In 2002 I was honoured to be made a director of the International Dance Teachers Association, my Anatomy and Physiology Study guide for Students was published and currently I am privileged to be working on the revision of an IDTA syllabus for world wide distribution. Three of the teachers coached here in Dore are now IDTA examiners one recently being selected to lecture at the Royal Academy of Dance Summer School in Hong Kong, in my capacity as principal examiner and lecturer I travel the world; I wish the Rev. Hayward could see the school now!

My work at the school, seeing children progress and develop through the IDTA examination system and our annual show still gives me immense pleasure. We are now able to provide such a broad spectrum of subjects that from January 2009 the school will be known as Dore School of Performance Arts thus giving by means of this title the knowledge that we are now able to offer all subjects required for students to progress into theatre by what ever root they decide to proceed. This may be Performance Arts Colleges, University Degrees of Performance Arts. The school also has expertise to advise pupils with regard to their GCSE and A level Performance Arts and Dance courses, we also specialise in coaching students wanting to embark on a teaching programme.

Thank you Rev Hayward for giving me the opportunity to pass on my knowledge, giving many students and teachers from this village and beyond, fulfilment of their childhood dreams and lifetime ambitions.

Bobbie Drakeford

News in Brief

Getting a new mobile handset each year adds 7.5kg of CO2 emissions to your annual carbon footprint!

Well done to poet Frances Leviston who grew up in Dore. As well as appearing in October in an Off the Shelf Event at the Showroom, she was shortlisted for both the 2007 TS Eliot Prize and the 2008 Forward Prize.

Millhouses Park Café reopened on October 3rd having been refurbished during its closure and cleared by the Health Protection Service after the recent food scare.

Josh wins Masters

Great Britain may have been eliminated from tennis' Davis Cup's World Group, but the future of the sport in South Yorkshire continues to look promising. Abbeydale Tennis Academy pupil and Dore resident Josh Gledden has rapidly moved up the Lawn Tennis Association's rankings after winning the U18s Masters at Roehampton this year.

Josh came back from one set down and 4-0 against in the second set to clinch the prestigious title 5-7, 6-4, 7-6. He had won two of his group games and the semi-final tie to reach the final.

The 16-year-old has now moved from being ranked 38 overall in the UK to a spot in the top seven U17 players. Josh was up against the best five youngsters in his age category who had qualified following achievements in the LTA's summer Grand Prix.

Josh will now step-up to the International Tennis Federation (ITF) world ranking tour for juniors, which will see him test his skills against the world's best 2,300 players at under 18 level.

Abbeydale Bowling Club

Members of the club have had a very enjoyable season and the results of the internal competitions on Finals Day were:

Veterans Singles *John Perkinton*
Mixed Handicap *Frank Young*
Curvaceous Singles *Malcolm Stobbs*
Mixed Doubles

Mary Parkin and Trevor Davies

Ladies Doubles

Mary Parkin and Audrey Eyre

Mens Doubles

Peter Thorpe and Mike Cross

Ladies Open

Mary Parkin

Mens Open

Trevor Davies

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Book Reviews

Fans of Sheffield's Sean Bean will have enjoyed the recent broadcast of *Sharpe's Peril* on television. Now ***Sharpe Chefs II: On Campaign*** is a sequel to last year's *Sharpe Chefs* charity cookery book, with all author royalties going to the "Children with Leukaemia charity". The book is packed with delicious recipes, historical facts and trivia as well as information about the charity. It includes full colour photographs of the recipes and contributing celebrities, along with photos of the *Sharpe* TV series starring Sean Bean, including backstage pictures and photos from the *Sharpe's Peril*. There is a foreword by *Sharpe* author Bernard Cornwell

The book follows the campaign trail of *Sharpe's* men, the South Essex regiment, with tempting recipes and interesting facts at each location they stop at. Places and recipes on the campaign trail include Karahi Chicken in India, Pork Rib Roast with Chilli Plums in Portugal and Roast Beef and Asparagus Rolls in Belgium. There is also historical information about the campaign and what life was like for the soldiers.

Another sure fire winner for fans of Sean Bean, the *Sharpe* Series or anyone looking for some new and interesting recipes. Published by Pickard Communication 100 pages price £12.99 ISBN 9781905278237. Can be ordered online at www.youbooks.co.uk

The latest book by local photographic collector J R Wrigley ***T'owd Locals*** (old public houses is the translation from 'Yorkshire') contains more than 80 photographs of public houses taken during the late 1800s and early 1900s. These pubs were once at the centre of Sheffield life, some remain, but many are long forgotten. Back then, public houses had a much more important role in society and were at the heart of many communities.

These photos not only show the pubs themselves, but capture the atmosphere and living conditions of the time. So we see horse drawn coaches, adverts for rag, bone and skin merchants, groups of children playing outside the establishments and the launch of the new tramway system in 1901. We also see scenes of life before the First World War,

with a Whitsuntide procession going past the George and Dragon on Bank Street. Pictures really are worth a thousand words. Published by youbooks.co.uk price £9.99 ISBN. 9-781905-278220 Available from good bookshops or can be ordered online.

A new book ***Pop Art of Sheffield's King Mojo and Beyond*** reveals a fascinating glimpse into the pop art history of Sheffield's most famous club, King Mojo. This look through the history of pop art in Sheffield includes the famous Mojo Club as well as The Ark Club, Broadway, The Penthouse, Chesterfield's Victoria Ballroom and even the C&A shop. It is a real slice of local history. The book also looks at the artists who produced this art and looks at how it affected them.

The book contains posters, adverts and membership cards from the clubs as well as pictures of paintings on the walls ranging from the original African Warriors and stunning flower power murals of Medusa in Mojo to the biblical murals in The Ark Club.

The book is produced by Mojo Club owner Peter Stringfellow, local author Dave Manvell and artist Paul Norton. All author proceeds from the book are being donated to the Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity. The book records an important part of Sheffield's history and will be a welcome walk down memory lane for anyone who remembers it, as well as being a stunning collection of art for anyone seeing them for the first time. Published by youbooks.co.uk at £9.99. ISBN 9-781905-278213 can be ordered online.

Today we take so much of our modern, day to day lives for granted, electricity, running water, gas and waste disposal. However, the basic necessities of life were not always so easily come by, and how these changes to our domestic lives came about is a fascinating story. ***The Domestic Revolution: From Brainwave to Microwave*** by author Stan Yorke takes the reader on a journey of discovery explaining the inventions, ideas and developments that have provided us with our present day comforts. The book is divided into three time zones, from 1750 to 1850, then 1850 to 1900 and finally 1900 to 1950. Thus it takes us from the

1750s with the invention of the water closet, via gas lighting in 1806, the National Grid in the 1930s and to the first microwave in 1947. Illustrated with over 160 photographs and drawings, published by Countryside Books at £8.99, available from www.countrysidebooks.co.uk or all good booksellers, ISBN 978-1-84674-1135

The great Victorian Age brings to mind great feats of engineering; the building of railways, the construction of bridges, the development of powerful steam engines and advances in the production and use of new materials such as steel. Yet the giant steps taken in Victorian technology were sometimes achieved at high cost. Health and safety issues were seldom considered and impatience for achievement too often resulted in catastrophe and disaster.

In ***What the Victorians Got Wrong*** authors Stan and Trevor Yorke explore some of the mistakes and errors of judgement that occurred. These include the Dale Dyke disaster in Bradfield, bridge collapses, railway accidents, gas explosions and Leisure-time disasters. A sobering read and evidence of the price paid for progress! Published by Countryside Books 95 pages price £7.99, from www.countrysidebooks.co.uk or from all good booksellers.

Welcome to the Mystical world of "The Great Old Wizard Tickety Boo" and his many friends, and join them on their adventures through the "Magic Tree Wood" and beyond. Whilst reading through the five rhyming stories you will meet the Wizard himself, his friends Yabba Rat, Grumpy Stumpy The Dwarfen Hero, The Old Man Of Autumn, Gizz the Ghost, and Father Christmas, joining them in their adventures through the changing seasons. Imaginatively and colourfully illustrated, ***The Great Wizard Tickety Boo & Friends Book of Short Stories*** should suit readers from 5 to 8yrs old. Published in A4 format, 65 pages price £11.99 and available from Rhyme & Reason, tel: 266 1950 or www.oldwizardticketyboo.co.uk

The generation of people who left school around the mid twentieth century is already dwindling away and with them their memories of life and work. Now one hundred and twenty three stories of working life from in and around Sheffield have been brought together in ***Earning a Living memories of Work in and around Sheffield***.

Typically people moved from school to work, no mention of a Gap Year in those days. The need to bring in a wage to the family home was the driving force. How big was the pay packet then and what could it buy? How have people fared in their later years? Wages clerks, dinner ladies, train drivers, post women, joiners, hod carriers, crane drivers, electroplaters, teachers, drop stampers. All tell their own stories.

The first of two volumes is now published by the Sheffield branch of the WEA (Worker's Educational Association), 260 pages, price £7.50 ISBN 978-0-900823-85-5 Available from most bookshops.

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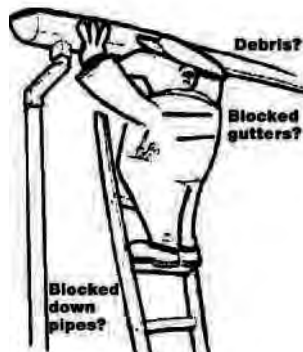


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These are the special seasonal services that are taking place this year. Everyone is invited to join us at St. John's for any of these services.

November 30th. 6.30pm. Advent Carol Service. A special service of readings and Advent carols by the choir and congregation. This service has become very well loved since it was started a few years ago.

December 10th. 2.30pm. The Deanery Mother's Union Advent Carol Service. You don't have to be a Mother to attend!

December 21st. 6.30pm. Christmas Carol Service by Candlelight. Our traditional service of 9 lessons and carols for the whole family and friends with carols for all to sing plus a few specials by the choir.

December 24th. 5.30pm. Christingle Service. With well known carols, the blessing of the crib and the distribution and lighting of the Christingles.

What is a Christingle? Come and join us on Christmas Eve and you will find out about them.

December 24th. 11.30pm. Midnight Eucharist. The first Communion of Christmas, with carols and, full choir. Everyone welcome.

December 25th. 9.30am. Christmas Day. Family Communion. A shortened service for all who were in bed at 11.30pm. Get out of preparing the Christmas dinner and bring the young people and Grandpa & Grandma to Church.

Normal services will take place between the special services and from January 4th at 8am and 10am.

St. John's offers a warm welcome to everyone at any of our services and we wish everyone in and around the parishes in S17 a very happy and blessed Christmas.



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Classified Advertisements

To cash in on unwanted items or promote your services locally, all you have to do is phone **Sheffield 236 9025** to discuss your wording then send it along with a fee of **£1.50 per line** to the address on page 2.

ASHTANGA YOGA IN DORE Monday pm, 7.45 - 9.15, King Egbert School, starts 12 January for 10 weeks. Booking essential. Contact Nicola **07739490143** or nicolaharpin@hotmail.com

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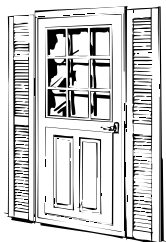
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.....Continued from page 32

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

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Seeing stars in Dore

Depending on when the D2D magazine appears on your doormat, you may recall seeing a fairly rare conjunction of Jupiter and Venus, the two brightest planets, magnitudes -2 and -4. On 29 November at dusk they passed to within 2 degrees of each other in the south-southwest in Sagittarius. Venus was the lower of the two. A 2-day old crescent Moon was possibly also to be seen but very low in the southwest, so one had to look as early as one could in the evening.

Saturn rises in the east well after midnight at the beginning of December. It actually looks quite faint and huddles at the hindquarters of Leo, the Lion, near the star Denebola. It is faint partly because Saturn's rings are now seen nearly edge-on, with only the planet's disk showing. The bright star below and to the left is Arcturus. So this brighter object might be confused with Saturn unless, of course, you are using a telescope. Mars cannot be seen at all now because it is lost in the glare of the Sun at this winter's conjunction. The same goes for Jupiter in January 2009.

Sometimes when using computer programmes for astronomy one can easily be misled into thinking one can pinpoint historical celestial events like eclipses. If our calendars had not been modified over the centuries and millennia this might have been an easy job.

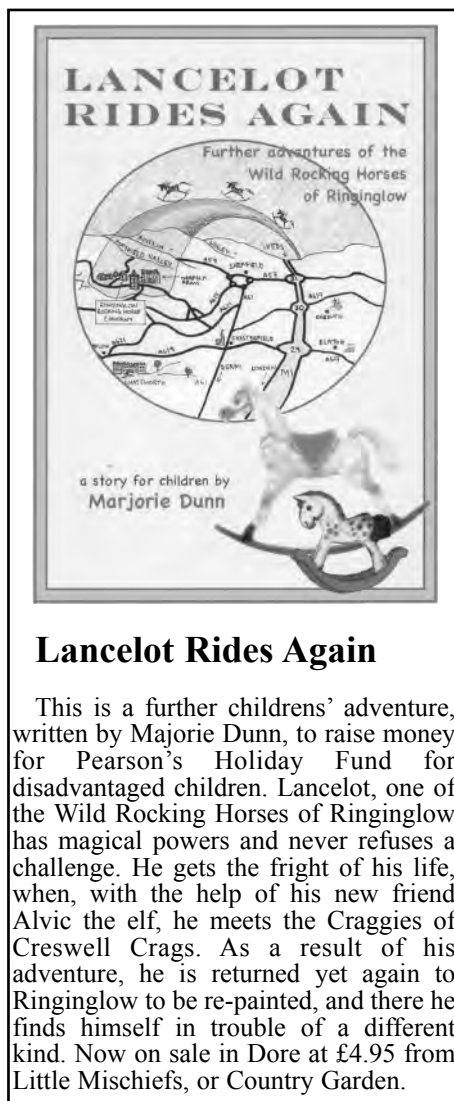
Chinese, Babylonian, Mayan, Greek, Egyptian, Muslim and Roman calendars, to name only a few, were all different. Most calendars had to be topped up by several days occasionally to ensure agricultural and religious events matched the solar and lunar cycles. Today's archeologists prefer counting solar years 'before present' which for their purposes is much more efficient.

Last summer the writer was intrigued by an attempt by two astronomers from Argentina and New York to pinpoint a solar eclipse mentioned in Homer's (8th century BC) epic story, the Odyssey. It was generally accepted that it occurred 800 years before Christ and 400 years after the Fall of Troy. There was a total eclipse on 16 April 1178 BC and it occurred at about 10am here in Dore but was only to be seen as a partial solar eclipse, at an altitude of 21 degrees in the ESE.

The Sun was then just below the Pleiades in the ESE in Taurus. Mercury was to the Sun's right, then Mars and Venus somewhat further to the right in the same line. Jupiter and Saturn were just rising together in the ENE. The eclipse would have been particularly impressive on account of these five planets all appearing at the time as eclipse totality.

Homer seems to have mentioned all these events in his epic story. It makes one think that his story was based on some historical facts. It only becomes more complicated when one hears that Homer was not one poet, but possibly several. But, then, Dore and Totley were not here either in 1178 BC. Please contradict me if I am wrong!

A great X-ray flash was detected by



Lancelot Rides Again

This is a further children's adventure, written by Majorie Dunn, to raise money for Pearson's Holiday Fund for disadvantaged children. Lancelot, one of the Wild Rocking Horses of Ringinglow has magical powers and never refuses a challenge. He gets the fright of his life, when, with the help of his new friend Alvic the elf, he meets the Craggies of Creswell Crags. As a result of his adventure, he is returned yet again to Ringinglow to be re-painted, and there he finds himself in trouble of a different kind. Now on sale in Dore at £4.95 from Little Mischiefs, or Country Garden.

NASA's Swift Satellite in the early part of this year. This was so important a discovery that every large telescope across the world was turned towards that part of the sky where it occurred. From Dore, although not visible to the naked eye, this brief flash (lasting a mere 5 minutes) occurred very low in the north on the afternoon of 9 January 2008 in the constellation of Lynx. This is probably not a familiar constellation to people in Dore or Totley but it may be interesting to search for it between Ursa Major (the Great Bear) and Gemini (the Twins). This event was the birth of a supernova.

The flash out-performed any previously known X-ray burst by a factor of 10,000, and blazed with an equivalent of 10 million Suns. We are all aware of the dangers of X-rays! Think about the care exercised by dentists when they take a snapshot of our teeth.

This supernova occurred in the galaxy NGC 2770, dubbed a veritable fireworks factory by astronomers, which is 88 million light years away. The supernova could be seen in optical telescopes slowly decaying over several days. If you wish to browse the Internet look for SN 2008D on Google where the whole story is told on many News and NASA websites. Try www.nasa.gov/centers/goddard/news/topstory/2008/swift_supernova.html Can you remember where you were on Wednesday afternoon 9 January 2008? Don't worry; none of us were at risk.

If skies are clear at Christmas one might see Venus (mag. -4.2) low in the SSW in the early evening, and even catch Jupiter setting to its right. Neptune is then just above Venus and Uranus a little higher to the left, both needing a small telescope and a chart.

There is no Moon at Christmas so the constellations Cassiopea, Cepheus, Lacerta and Andromeda will be seen nearly overhead at the zenith in the early evening. In the east is Taurus, and in the west, Hercules. The bright star fairly high in the west is Vega and the bright star in the east is Capella. The familiar Plough (or Big Bear) is low in the north.

By the end of December the thin crescent Moon will reappear in the SW together with Venus, and if one is lucky one might get a glimpse of Mercury just beneath Jupiter, below and to the right at the horizon. Binoculars and a clear view of the horizon, say, from the nearby Peak District, will be necessary.

We should never forget, nor forget to be thankful for those beautiful moors only twenty minutes away in a car. No wonder Little John, one of Robin Hood's merry men, chose to come back to the Hathersage area in his retirement! He was possibly born nearby at Loxley. We even share the skies that Charlotte Bronte enjoyed. She stayed for three weeks with Ellen Nussey, daughter of the vicar of Hathersage in 1845. Charlotte probably based Jane Eyre's home, "Thornfield", on North Lees Hall, and the village of "Morton" on Hathersage itself.

Remember, inspiration abounds on our doorstep, not only on our desktop.

David Andrews

New French car law. Motorists who drive in France without a reflective jacket or a red warning triangle in their car could now be fined by police. Under new laws any driver not traveling with either piece of equipment could be fined £70-£105.



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Diary - Winter 2008

NOVEMBER

- 24 **Transport 17** Mrs. Margaret Barlow, Dore Methodist Women's Fellowship 2.30pm Methodist Schoolroom
- 26 **Art Photography:** Landscape, City & Coast. Lecture by D Butcher for the Sheffield Soc for the Encouragement of Art, 2.30pm Tapton Hall Admission free Tel 236 0941
- 27 **History of St John's Ambulance Service** talk by Dr John Shortland for Dore Village Society, Methodist Hall 7.30pm. Free admission. Seasonal refreshments
- 26-29 **Dying for dinner** autumn play by T.O.A.D.S. 7.30pm St John's Church Hall. Tickets 236 6891
- 29 **Seasonal Concert** Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Soc Dore Methodist Church 3pm £6 incl refreshments - 236 2299
- 29 **Concert** Sheffield Chamber Orchestra Schumann concerto and Beethoven's 7th symphony Firth Hall Sheffield University, 7.30pm tickets from 255 3440
- 30 **Christmas Fayre** Whirlow Hall Farm Trust 10am-3pm Farmers market, craft stalls, live music, Christmas Trees, Turkeys, Cards etc. Free car parking

DECEMBER

- 1 **Handel's Messiah**, Sheffield Bach Choir at Sheffield Cathedral, 7pm Tickets £13 & £10 conc Ring 2363373
- 2 **Christmas Event** Friends of the Botanical Gardens, details from 236 0279
- 2 **Wildlife of Ecuador & Galapagos** Talk by Hilary Sills for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group 7.45pm Church Hall
- 3 **Christmas lights**, entertainment and late night shopping in centre of Dore from 6 - 7pm
- 5 **Mining and Quarrying in the Porter Valley.** Talk by Peter Kennett for Hunter Archaeological Soc 7.30pm in the Traditional Heritage Museum, Ecclesall Road
- 6 **Sheffield Village Carols.** Workshop in Christ Church, Dore, for singers and instrumentalists - North East Early Music Forum 10-4.30pm. Contact: 01904 673675
- 6 **The Magic of Christmas** carols and Christmas readings John Wade Singers, Millhouses Methodist Church 7.30pm. Refreshments in interval
- 7 **Festival of Light** St Luke's Hospice switch on 6pm
- 8 **Milk Bottles** talk by Mr R Lamb, Dore Methodist Women's Fellowship 2.30pm Methodist Schoolroom
- 8 **Lecture** - Key Events in the formation of the Society by Dr Jim McQuaid to mark 75th anniversary of South Yorkshire Industrial History Society, Kelham Island Museum 7.30pm Details: 230 7693
- 8 **Sheffield Bach Choir** at Dore Parish Church. Come and Sing Messiah, 7.30 pm Tickets £7 seasonal refreshments
- 9 **Latest Developments at Creswell Crag.** Talk by Dr Paul Pettitt for Hunter Archaeological Soc 7.30pm Sheffield University, 34 Gell Street Tel: 230 4243
- 12 & 13 **Christmas Concerts** by Dore Male Voice Choir, Dore Parish Church 7.30pm Tickets from 236 5043
- 14 **Dashers Dash & Rudolf's Ride** - fun run & bike ride in aid of St Luke's Hospice 9am registration - 236 9911
- 14 **Service of Celebration and Remembrance**, for St Luke's Hospice, Sheffield Cathedral 2.30pm
- 15 **Christmas Celebrations**, Dore Methodist Women's Fellowship 2.30pm Methodist Schoolroom
- 22 **Christmas Wreath Making**, with Sheffield Rangers, Ecclesall Woods Saw Mill 1pm start - family activity
- 27 **Wassail Walk** - approx 5 miles starting 10am from The Old School, Savage Lane. Mulled wine, hot fruit punch and mince pies afterwards

JANUARY

- 4 **Guided walk** in the Limb Valley with Sheffield Rangers 9am-12noon meet Whirlow Brook car park
- 5 **New Beginnings** Rev Francis Neil, Dore Methodist Women's Fellowship 2.30pm Methodist Schoolroom
- 10 **Step out** with Sheffield Rangers 5 mile round walk. Meet 10.30am at Ecclesall Woods Saw Mill entrance
- 13 **The Project at Codnor Castle.** Talk by Gavin Chamberlain for Hunter Archaeological Soc 7.30pm Sheffield University, 34 Gell Street
- 13 **The Yorkshire Air Ambulance** Talk for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group 7.45pm Meth Church Hall

- 19 **Christmas in Alabama** Mrs M Maxfield, Dore Meth Women's Fellowship 2.30pm Methodist Schoolroom
- 19 **John Towleron Leather** Sheffield's water engineer talk by David Leather for South Yorkshire Ind History Soc, Kelham Island Museum 7.30pm Details: 230 7693
- 21 **Botanical Gardens** - a photographic history by Meg Jullien, Dore Garden Club, 7.30pm Meth Church Hall
- 27 **The Costa Brava** Talk by Bob Warburton for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group 7.45pm Meth Church Hall

FEBRUARY

- 2 **The Grand Canyon** Mr M Feather, Dore Methodist Women's Fellowship 2.30pm Methodist Schoolroom
- 6 **Prehistoric Farming Methods** Mesolithic to Bronze Age. Talk by Sarah Vine for Hunter Archaeological Soc 7.30pm in the Traditional Heritage Museum
- 10 **Talk** by Rev David Willie for Dore Methodist Tuesday Group 7.45pm Methodist Church Hall
- 10 **Derrick Riley's Cropmark Landscapes Revisited** Talk by Daryl Garton for Hunter Archaeological Soc 7.30pm Sheffield University, 34 Gell Street
- 13 **Batchelor Auction**, Bramal Lane Platinum Suite for St Luke's Hospice - call 236 9911
- 16 **Water Aid** talk by Mr C Bardy, Dore Methodist Women's Fellowship 2.30pm Methodist Schoolroom
- 16 **Engineering and Empire** talk by Henry Gunston for South Yorkshire Industrial History Society Kelham Island Museum 7.30pm Details: 230 7693
- 19 **Dore Garden Club** meeting, 7.30pm Meth Church Hall
- 24 **Gentle Music & Movement** Talk by Jean Clarke for Dore Meth Tuesday Group 7.45pm Meth Church Hall
- 28 **Concert** Sheffield Chamber Orchestra Firth Hall Sheffield University, 7.30pm tickets from 255 3440

Local councillors are available for consultation in the Dore Village Society room on the 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 Colin Ross telephone 235 1948 Email: colin.ross@sheffield.gov.uk

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