

DORE to DOOR

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

NO. 129 SPRING 2018

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A Neighbourhood for the future

Dore's Neighbourhood Plan and your chance to vote - see page 23

Wassail Walk

The Wassail Walk has taken place in Dore annually after Christmas since the year 2000, traditionally venturing along tracks across Blacka Moor on a walk suitable for families and dogs.

This year more than forty enthusiastic walkers met outside the old school on a morning of light snow. Low cloud could be seen shrouding much of Blacka Moor, reducing visibility and the opportunity for the distant views that are usually enjoyed at the top. For that reason this year a different route was taken at lower level through the trees of Ecclesall Woods.

Thanks go to the walk leader, the back markers, and the catering team who prepared the mulled wine brew and room where we ended with a celebration of the Wassail.

Thanks to all the walkers, both local and visitors, who took time out in this busy season of the year to join us, and also to Dore Village Society who support the event practically and financially.

The Wassail Walk will return this coming year to Blacka Moor - a special place of recreation, history and nature - close to the hearts of many Dore people. We look forward to a good turn-out on Thursday 27th December 2018.

Martin Stranex

Art Group Exhibition

Dore Art Group is holding its annual exhibition for 2018 in the old school on Friday April 27th (2pm - 6pm) and Saturday April 28th (9.30am - 5pm). Admission is free.

Come and enjoy a wide range of art works including framed and unframed pictures, cards and notelets.

We have a tea room serving refreshments including home made cakes.

We welcome new members to our groups which meet on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in the Old School. The Thursday group is full but there are a few places available on Tuesday afternoons. Contact Gerry Doherty on 0114 236 8418 for information.

Accounting for Cherrytree

The last edition featured an article about the Cherrytree home for young people on Mickley Lane, and in particular the need to appoint a new Honorary Treasurer. This generated some interest, but unfortunately due to a computer glitch the contact details of those who responded were lost.

The Company Chairman, Steve Walker apologises most profusely for this error and invites those who contacted him, and anyone else who might be interested, to get in touch again on telephone number 07941 092 207.

Cover: 'To Dore', a floral scene from the fringe of our village, photographed by Geoff Cope



Spring cleaning time!

Litter picking three times a year will once again be undertaken and organised by our Doreways Group during 2018.

The Spring, Summer and Autumn litter picks have been listed for Sundays, 15th April, 22nd July and 30th September. Please put these dates on your new Dore Calendar for 2018 and come along to the Old School to take part. Litter picking starts at 11am and continues for about two hours.

Obviously the more people take part, the more can be done in those two hours and the village does look so much better after each clean-up.

We hope to see you on April 15th! Wear suitable footwear (some of the litter can be a bit icky), otherwise just bring yourself. All other equipment is provided. Children are welcome too, but must be supervised. If you have small children with you, have a word with the organisers who will know of somewhere you can clean away from traffic.

On a related note, we hear from Dore's devastator of detritus, Julie Gay, of a letter she wrote to Chatsworth about their use

of single-use plastic products in their cafe, including drinking straws and cartons. In reply, apparently Chatsworth's catering department are already on this and are looking at alternatives as an out of season project. So hopefully this coming year we will see more recyclable and sustainable products used to package and present your lunch.

Julie organises her own litter picks across south west Sheffield, independently of DVS. If you would like to help her and her small entourage of like-minded friends, find her on Facebook or Twitter. Search for Sheffield Litter Pickers or call her on 07775 585471.

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Abbeydale Park Bowling Club

The Club will be holding open mornings on Saturday 7th and Saturday 14th April between 10am and noon for anyone who would like to try their hand at crown green bowling. Previous experience is not necessary as free instruction will be given and practice sessions organised.

Crown green bowling is an outdoor activity which provides an opportunity to meet people and forge new friendships.

Our Bowls Club is primarily a social bowling club with informal sessions running each day in the morning, afternoon and evening. Playing groups are made up by members as they arrive.

Friendly Inter-Club Matches are held throughout the season as well as internal competitions for the many trophies bestowed on the club. Social events are held regularly throughout the year including Dinners, a Garden Party and a Race Evening, as well as regular Coffee Mornings during the close season.

Members of the Bowling Club are automatically enrolled as members of Abbeydale Sports Club and can enjoy the facilities provided by the Pavilion.

The Bowling Green is situated on the right hand side at the top of the Abbeydale Park Sports Complex where ample car parking is available.

Please come and join us at our Open Days, equipped with suitable footwear (flat with no heels), where you will be warmly welcomed. All other equipment can be provided. We have a selection of bowls from which you can choose to borrow for play.

If you require any further information, please contact Doreen or Richard Bertram (Membership Secretary), Telephone: 0114 289 1423, or email richard.bertram@btconnect.com.

Doreen Bertram

Frank Bownes

We are saddened to hear of the death in the new year and following a short illness, of Frank Bownes. Frank was the father of former DVS Chairman Andrew Bownes.

Frank was for many years a staunch supporter of the Dore Village Society, and was a member of the distribution team for Dore to Door almost since its launch as a public magazine (rather than an internal newsletter) in the 1980s. He also initially maintained an index of the magazine, a job which now, like much else these days, is handled by computer.

He was involved in supporting DVS campaigns by letter writing, and most recently became involved in the campaign against the building of a large block of flats next to the doctors' surgery on Dore Road.

Frank continued to deliver this magazine quarterly, right up until his death. On behalf of Dore Village Society we would like to extend our condolences to Andrew and the wider family, and express our sincere gratitude for Frank's many years of service.

Old School Bank Garden refurbishment

The bank garden in the playground at Dore Old School had become overgrown with lots of perennial weeds despite all best efforts, so it was felt a bit of a "refurb" was needed. A small team from the Doreways Group set to in the Autumn to do just that, sometimes in all weathers!

Digging was not too unpleasant in the dappled golden sun of late Autumn, but a different matter slogging away in the November/December drabness and cold of some harsh weather pre-Christmas. We hope you have noticed a difference!

Discoveries along the way (see the article by Dorne, back page) added an extra dimension to digging and weeding which kept us focussed. Plants donated and planted previously, including bulbs, have been removed, "potted up" and kept for future use.

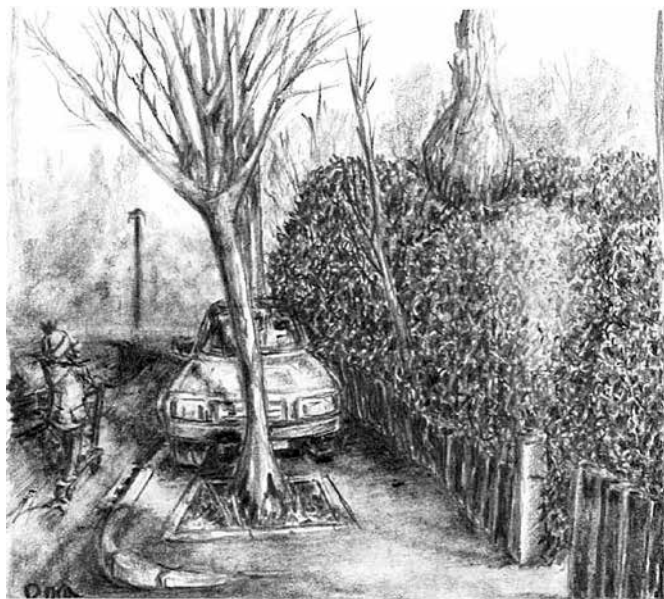
We now await the tree surgeon's visit to ensure the trees around the Dore Old School have been made safe, then, weather permitting, replanting can begin!

Thank you Garden Team members, you've done a great job!

Thanks also to all those gardeners who answered our call for plants in the Autumn, and to Dore Village Society for making a substantial financial contribution. We are hoping you may be able to help us again with any snowdrops, pulmonaria, wood anemones (as and when you locate them) or ferns. If you feel you may be able to spare any of these, please get in touch with either Dorne Coggins (0114 327 1054) or Jean Stevens (0114 236 9156).

Jean Stevens

Dora



Cars on footpath, children in roadway

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Royal Wedding in May

There are to be wedding bells in the village in May, as Dore's favourite fruiterer and all-round good guy Mark Hartley finally makes an honest woman of sweetheart and partner Cheryl.

The couple, whose romance was detailed in these pages some time ago, have decided to tie the knot at Christ Church, 4pm on May 5th. All villagers and customers past and present are invited to attend the service. Orange wedges at half time.



Cheryl and Mark

In other news, two other people are getting married in another place on May 19th. Dore's Man On The Mic David Hayes is minded to put on one of his specials but as we go to press arrangements are at an early stage and nothing has been finalised.

Plans are in hand for a party to be held in the heart of Dore village with a large children's table. Party luncheon for all, children's entertainer and live music continuing through the afternoon.

TV Screens will be in place to watch the royal wedding live from St Georges Chapel, Windsor Castle.

Bunting, flags and all the fun, ceremony and pomp of a Royal celebration is guaranteed so please mark the date and time off in your diary. The next Dore to Door isn't published until that weekend and there won't be another reminder here, so keep an eye on the village notice boards and website (www.dorevillage.co.uk) for further details as they are announced.

This will be a public event, paid for by Dore Village Society. Did you remember to join this year? Membership costs only £6 per annum and your membership form for 2018 fell out of the last issue of this magazine. Lost it? Call in at the DVS Office when open, or drop an email to Kath Lawrence at kath.lawrence@dorevillage.co.uk.

And just in case any of you were wondering (or even worrying), the wedding celebrations will be timed to finish before the FA Cup Final starts.

John Eastwood

Walk to school year

Hopefully by the time you read this, the dark cold nights are beginning to seep away and spring is approaching. This is a great time to consider the benefits of walking to school. Dore Primary School always takes part in the walk to school week on 21st-25th May, which is a fun week as children find different and fun ways to get to school.

This year we are hoping to focus on a more permanent change. A generation ago over 80% of children made the journey to school on foot. Now it is less than 50%.

There are many benefits that active travel (walking, scooting or cycling) brings to children, their schools and the local community, such as decreased congestion, lower air pollution levels, safer roads and a whole lot of happy, healthy children who arrive fit, refreshed and ready to learn.

We realise that it is not always practical for children to walk the whole way, because of distance and parents needing to get to work, but we would ask you to consider parking a little further away and completing the journey on foot.

Scouts scoop from Co-op



Leaders and members of the 267th Dore Scouts braved a wet and cold November morning to collect a cheque for almost £4,000 from the Co-op supermarket in Dore. The Co-op scheme, attached to their loyalty card, donates 1% of sales on their own brand products to local charities.

The money was raised through collection at the Co-op stores in Totley and Dore, and raised £3,949.90 in just three months. During the same period a similar amount was raised for Whirlow Hall Farm from customers who nominated that as their chosen charity.

It's amazing how those odd one per cents add up! Dore Scouts have applied to go forward on the next round of the scheme which will run until October 2018. We wish them well, and hope that all

this money doesn't mean that they'll give up on Dore Gala!

The Scouts' plans for the money this time are to provide a community defibrillator, which will be placed at the Scout Headquarters on Rushley Road. As we go to press this time, news has just come in that enough money has now been raised to purchase the

machine, which will be unveiled at a grand opening on 17th March between 11am and 2pm.

The event will include talks by health professionals, question and answer sessions, CPR and defibrillator instruction, demonstrations and much more.

The defibrillator will be available for use by anyone in an emergency and may save a child or adult's life. Come along, and find out how you could save someone's life.

Light refreshments will be available. Talks and demonstrations will take place at timed intervals. Check the information leaflets at the local Co-ops (available mid February), on posters around Dore or visit their website: www.dorescouts.co.uk.

Councillors' Surgeries

Second Saturday of each month
10.30am - noon in the DVS Office
above the Old School
(round the back and up the stairs)



Dore Neighbourhood Forum

The work over the last three years of the Dore Neighbourhood Forum Steering Group, its working parties, and a large number of Dore residents who have contributed their views, is coming to a climax with the publication of the draft Dore Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Dore Neighbourhood Development Plan, once all of the consultations, legal scrutiny and final approval in a local referendum have been completed, will become part of the Development Plans of Sheffield Council and the Peak District National Park Authority. As a consequence its policies gain legal force which means that they are used to determine the outcome of planning applications made within the Dore Neighbourhood Area. The boundary of this is the same as the Dore Area of Benefit and a map of this can be found on our website. Our area falls almost equally in the two planning authorities and the planning rules governing a planning application will depend on which area it falls in.

Our draft plan is being presented to the members of the Dore Neighbourhood Forum for consultation at a meeting on 28th February at King Ecgbert School (see page 23 for more details). The purpose of the meeting is to seek the approval of the Forum to proceed to finalisation of the Development Plan and to submit it for the next stage which is formal consultation with both of the planning authorities, other interested bodies and legal scrutiny. It is therefore important that you attend if you wish your opinions to be heard before the draft is finalised, and for us to seek your approval to proceed.

All members of the Dore Village Society (that is everyone who has paid a subscription for 2018) are automatically members of the Dore Neighbourhood Forum, and only these people can attend this meeting and approve the draft plan. I am frequently asked why this is and why non members cannot attend such meetings or approve the draft plan. The simple answer lies in the legal definition of a Neighbourhood Forum, and we have no discretion over how this definition is

interpreted and applied. Before explaining that further I would like to stress that anyone can view the draft plan and comment on it (see page 23 for details) and we will consider their comments. Furthermore, everyone who is on the electoral roll in Dore (irrespective of DVS membership) will be eligible to vote at a later date on the Development Plan in a village-wide referendum, the result of which will be legally binding on the two local authorities.

So, what is a Neighbourhood Forum? These are legal entities set up under legislation brought in by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition Government. They have to be bodies that can demonstrate that they are in some way representative of their neighbourhood and they have to meet strict legal criteria.

Most Neighbourhood Forums have been set up by Parish Councils. In areas where there aren't Parish Councils people can form their own groupings and apply to become a Neighbourhood Forum. In the case of Dore the obvious grouping was the Dore Village Society. No other Dore group of people came forward to apply for Neighbourhood Forum status.

After going through the designated application process and fulfilling the associated legal requirements the Dore Village Society was awarded Neighbourhood Forum status in 2014. The Dore Village Society is a registered charity with a membership of about 900. Thus the Dore Neighbourhood Forum is the 900 or so members of the DVS and anyone who is not a member of the DVS is not a member of the Dore Neighbourhood Forum. That is the legal position over which we have no control, so if you want to influence the content of the Neighbourhood Plan please join the DVS and come to the meeting.

The Dore Village Society Committee Needs You

We have a significant shortfall in the number of people on the DVS committee and this is having a detrimental effect on our ability to undertake our work. The committee is normally 13 strong but we only have 10 members at the moment. We haven't had a secretary or vice chairman for eight months and we also need a deputy treasurer and someone to assist with planning matters.

If you are interested in any of these roles and joining the committee please let me know. You don't have to wait until the AGM, we can fill vacancies as and when they arise. Here is a brief description of the vacant positions that we need to fill urgently.

The Secretary

- prepares agendas for meetings in consultation with the Chairman and produces the minutes of meetings

- circulates documents prior to meetings
- maintains information (e.g. committee members' contact details, calendar of activities, Saturday morning rota)
- deals with occasional correspondence (e.g. requests for information)
- maintains copies of relevant documentation

Deputy Treasurer Tasks

- Issuing approximately 80 invoices per quarter to advertisers. This takes about two hours each quarter.
- Sales accounting and credit control. Again this is a quarterly task taking a couple of hours and principally involves chasing unpaid invoices.
- Maintaining the record of advertisers.
- Issuing receipts for payments received and updating our accounts accordingly.
- Deputising for the treasurer at DVS committee meetings when the treasurer is away.

Planning role

- Reviewing the Sheffield Council planning department website periodically to identify any planning applications within our boundary and liaising with the DVS planning lead.

Dore to Door Editor Needed

John Eastwood, the editor of Dore to Door, will be retiring in the middle of next year and we will need to replace him if Dore to Door is to continue. This does not have to be one person, it could be a team of people with each member having a role that matches their interests.

Ideally we need someone to work alongside John from the middle of the year (and earlier if possible) so that we can have a smooth handover.

This is a paid position, expenses are reimbursed and so we are not looking for someone to undertake this role unpaid.

The continued publication of Dore to Door is vital for keeping Dore residents informed of DVS activities and the role it plays in the life of Dore. It is also the means by which a lot of other information is communicated and we keep in touch with life in Dore.

The income from advertising in Dore to Door is vital to sustaining our activities and without this we may not be able to function as our subscription income does not cover our annual running costs. It goes without saying that, in that case, the events which we organise each year will cease and others to which we make donations will lose that income.

The importance of recruiting a replacement for John therefore cannot be overemphasised. If you would be willing to contribute to this role in whole or in part please get in touch with me to find out what is involved.

Keith Shaw

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So, what did you make of the new Lantern Parade?

A cold, damp night did not dampen the spirits or a willingness for families to turn out in their thousands to support the now traditional Dore Lantern Parade, the countdown to Christmas. An estimated 2600 people, with families of all ages in attendance.

So many happy and eager children, proudly lighting up the way with lanterns, multicoloured batons and flashing wands; a wonderful sight.

The parade commenced from its usual start along the row of shops on Causeway Head Road, and thanks go to Jo and her staff at Kutz Hairdressers for providing refreshments and to all the retailers who stayed open late.

Santa Claus resplendent on his pony pulled sleigh, followed by several brightly clad elves distributing sweets led the parade with the police flashing blue escort through the village.

A new addition to the parade this year was a stop at Joe & Delores @ The Grill Restaurant where over 400 Christmas goody bags were distributed to excited children. A wonderful, community-minded gesture and our thanks go to Liz, Jo and all the staff at The Grill.

The parade continued on, turning left along Vicarage Lane, around the back of the lit-up church and finishing in the Hare and Hounds car park.

A brightly-lit stage greeted Santa for the official countdown and switch on of the remaining Christmas lights. A large video screen displaying Christmas Carol lyrics encouraged the singing of several well-known Carols, and Lizzy Mack and The Shine On Choir entertained through to

7.30pm.

Father Christmas seated in his Grotto distributed over 300 Christmas presents to the Children of Dore, these kindly provided by The Dore Village Society.

Several market style stalls selling goods, hot and cold food and drinks, hot chestnuts and charity raffle tickets to win prizes all added to the wonderful Christmas party atmosphere.

Special thanks go to the eighteen volunteer marshals who helped to keep everyone safe. Thank you to Ann and Steve at The Hare & Hounds for providing their car park this year and for the hot food stall which completely sold out with all the profits donated to charity. To Dore Church, The Cop and The Dore Belles WI for their stalls.

To Amanda Hughes for arranging the Christmas trees and lights throughout the village. To David and his staff at The Devonshire for all his support and encouragement for the Parade. Mike and staff at The Dore Cafe who worked double shifts to provide so much food and beverage for the crowd.

To Faye Catton-Norton whose dedication and support was unbelievable, the parade could not have gone on without her help.

To Chris Turner, sound engineer extraordinaire who freely gives so much of his time, effort and PA use in supporting many Dore events.

To Anne Elsdon and Maureen Cope for their wonderful guidance and stewardship over the last nine years. Terry and Helen Giles for their support and for providing the initial idea which started the parade event.

The Dore Village Society for not only

funding all aspects of this year's event but also for their continued help and encouragement in its phenomenal growth over these last few years. To the retailers of Dore, for staying open late and adding so much to the late night colourful experience.

And lastly, thank you to you the families of Dore of all ages who turned out in their thousands to support the event which adds so much to the community spirit of Dore.

Dore Lantern Parade 2018 has been provisionally booked for Friday 30th November to commence at 6.45pm. This year with the police and community support we are seeking permission to close the section of Church Lane from The Devonshire across the row of shops to the Church from 6.30pm through to 9.00pm with a view to adding several more Christmas market stalls and a winter land themed event.

We are a small organising committee of only three with so much to organise and run. So please, if anyone would like to join us, contribute, advise or simply just help out on the night, you would be warmly welcomed to join us.

David Hayes 07974 661503

Email; davidvincenthayes@gmail.co.uk

Dore Village Society Registered Charity No. 1017051

The Society is the designated Neighbourhood Forum for the Dore Area, with responsibility for preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for Dore. The Society also aims to foster the protection and enhancement of the local environment, amenities and facilities within Dore, to encourage a spirit of community and to record its historic development.

Membership of the Society is open to all residents of Dore, those who work in Dore and elected local council members for Dore. Membership is also open to Corporate Members representing societies, associations, educational institutions and businesses in Dore.

Current membership rates are £6 pa for individuals and £35 for corporate members.

Telephone numbers of Committee Members are below; for email, please write to firstname.surname@dorevillage.co.uk, e.g. keith.shaw@dorevillage.co.uk

Committee Members:

Chairman

Keith Shaw 236 3598

Deputy Chairman

vacant

Secretary

vacant

Treasurer

Colin Robinson 0777 855 8555

Environment

Dawn Biram 235 6907

Christopher Pennell 235 1568

Planning

David Crosby 453 9615

Archives

Dorne Coggins 327 1054

Membership

Kath Lawrence 236 2758

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David Hayes 07974 661503

Dore to Door

John Eastwood 07850 221048

Community Activities

Philip Howes 236 9156

Christina Stark 236 8877

Contact Dore to Door:

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**Speak to the editor personally in
the Village Society Office in the Old
School any Friday morning 10am-
noon**

Deadlines for the Summer edition:

Editorial – April 20

**Advertising – April 17: phone 07583
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25 Five Trees Ave, Dore, S17 3LW

This issue we are pleased to welcome Paul Selby of the Nether Edge campaign group against Sheffield Council's felling of the city's street trees, with his personal view as to how things might go during 2018.

The end of the Core Investment Period

So what happens after the 31st December 2017, many people have asked me? This is when the first five years of the 25 year PFI contract ended, the so called Core Investment Period. During this period, the majority of the tree felling (and replanting) was meant to have been completed. 6000 trees across Sheffield were meant to have been felled, yet around 400 remain standing (as of today). Also, 70% of roads and pavements were meant to have been re-surfaced, but the current figure stands at roughly 60%.

What this means is that there are penalties that need to be paid by whichever of Amey and Sheffield Council can be blamed for the delays. The majority of the issues with road and pavement resurfacing are Amey's fault, so they will have fines to pay Sheffield Council. Amey are also liable (in the terms of the contract) for delays caused by protesters. However, Sheffield Council introduced significant delays by setting up the Independent Tree Panel process, and by restricting Amey from working on Sundays and prior to 7am (both of which restrictions have recently been lifted). Freedom of Information (Fol) answers have revealed these delays have resulted in a "seven figure" (so £1 million plus) fine for Sheffield Council to pay Amey.

From the 31st December the various fines will be aggregated. Sounds easy, but it will take months to do. For example, how can you pin down the specific length of the delay caused by the ITP process? There are rumours Sheffield Council paid the legal fees for the various injunction cases (when Amey should have done) in order to compensate for the delays caused by the ITP process. But this goodwill gesture to demonstrate the Council is "doing everything it can" hasn't stopped the protests. So will this actually count in the aggregation exercise? Then you have the fact that Amey arborists have refused to fell healthy trees, and that prior to 27th November, Acorn arborists were not really exerting themselves to fell trees. Sheffield Council reportedly read the riot act to Amey just prior to the 27th November saying that Amey/Acorn weren't "doing everything they could" to fell trees, hence the stepping up of felling activity since then. In other words, Amey and Sheffield Council lawyers will be working overtime over the coming months to pin down the blame, and therefore the penalties.

I think many people were hoping that tree felling would stop on 31st December. Because we don't have all the facts, it is theoretically possible. But I very much doubt it. Fol answers have revealed that whoever is liable for the delays to felling (which in itself delays replanting and pavement/road resurfacing) will be charged a monthly fine for as long as any threatened trees remain standing. So either Sheffield Council or Amey will have every incentive to keep on felling.

We also hear strong rumours from reliable sources that both Sheffield Council and Amey want to terminate the contract. Amey are losing money because of all the fines they are receiving for unfinished work. But they can't simply walk away because they'll be fined even larger amounts. Sheffield Council want out of the contract because of all the controversy and also for political reasons (Labour's aversion to PFI contracts). But they can't terminate the contract without a justifiable reason because they will lose £48 million a year of central government money, and also because the promised core investment work is not yet complete (which naturally they want completing!)

Campaigners have found proof that Amey broke contract law when bidding for the contract and so that allows Sheffield Council to terminate the contract without penalty. We've shown this evidence to Julie Dore, but she has refused to answer why

she is not taking that option. My personal view is that she:

1. Is receiving legal advice which is either flawed, or is pointing out that even if the risks of penalties to Sheffield Council are low, they are still a risk, and they can't afford to take that risk.
2. Is stubborn, and wants to crush the tree campaign, who have caused her so much bother.
3. Is being advised to hold out from terminating the contract until Amey complete all the Core Investment work, completing the pavement and road resurfacing (which means completing the felling of the threatened trees).

So we have a true Mexican standoff, where both parties want to terminate the contract, but can't because of the financial risks. What we need is an independent person to step in and broker a deal that costs each party nothing. This is possible, but nobody has done it yet.

An increasing pressure cooker

In the meantime, as a campaign, all we can do is keep on delaying the felling. The pressure on Amey and Sheffield Council grows by the day and in so many different ways. They are perhaps felling five to ten trees a week across Sheffield, at best. At that rate it will take 40 to 80 weeks to complete the felling programme, so nine to eighteen months of financial penalties. At the same time, the costs of security, evidence gatherers and additional felling crews is roughly £50,000 a week, so £2 million to £4 million of costs over those 40 to 80 weeks. This is a financial pressure cooker, and at some point it will become completely untenable and will explode.

The outrage from residents at their desperate attempts builds by the day, and the longer it goes on for, the more people creatively find out new ways to create embarrassment, or find out information that causes problems for either Sheffield Council or Amey.

So for example, innovative campaigners have told me about two things they've done to create issues for Acorn. Firstly, one supporter reported the various Health and Safety breaches to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), who gave Acorn an award in 2016. The response from RoSPA pretty much indicated Acorn wouldn't be getting an award in 2017 as a result. Secondly, Acorn tweeted they'd been awarded a contract with a southern Local Authority. So a campaigner direct messaged this Local Authority with evidence of the Sheffield health and safety breaches. The Local Authority was "very interested." Don't forget, it's rumoured that Acorn are the only firm willing to do the tree felling work for Amey now (albeit that Anderson's were spotted recently). So if Acorn are either prevented by the HSE from doing work in Sheffield, or pull out themselves due to the pressure, Amey will need to pay huge additional amounts of money to incentivise other mercenary firms to come into Sheffield. The message to you all? Keep on filming health and safety breaches, keep on reporting them to the HSE, and keep on thinking innovatively about how to cause Acorn problems at a national level.

Other pressure on Amey is also increasing. The smooth and slippery icy pavements is an emerging story which the media are starting to become interested in. There is emerging evidence that the tarmac used is substandard and unsuitable for Sheffield. Worst case scenario for Amey? Resurfacing all Sheffield pavements all over again! Clearly the costs of this would be catastrophic and would probably mean that their Sheffield subsidiary went bankrupt. If you are unhappy with the pavement surfaces, report them to <http://srha.site> and keep on pursuing that complaint, escalating to senior managers, Cllr Bryan Lodge, and if you still aren't happy, eventually to the Local Government Ombudsman.

Paul Selby

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The Harley Street Service in Dore

Harley Street in central London has been noted since the 19th century for its large number of private specialists in medicine and surgery. Today, more than 3000 people work in and around Harley Street in clinics, medical and paramedical practices and clinics. At least two of those people live in Dore and are now offering their services to villagers here.

Toby and Gwen Baxter-Smith are a friendly, outgoing couple who have started the Harley Street Ear Clinic, which now offers services to the people of Dore from a part time clinic in Hallamshire Osteopathy on Causeway Head Road. I went to see them and learn more.

Gwen's background is as a Practice Nurse in the NHS, at which she was working when she began to specialise in hearing treatments about twelve years ago. Despite her private work she continues in NHS practice, and all the GPs in her NHS role refer patients with hearing issues to her.

"I accidentally fell into it really, in my practice nurse role we had a nurse who was wonderful and she'd done the national diploma in ear care. Whenever she went on holiday there was no one else at the practice involved in ear care, so the GPs' approach was to ask me also to do the diploma course so that I could fill in for her. My initial reaction was 'a week solidly of ears, how boring', but they made me go anyway. I absolutely loved it. It was wonderful and the diploma is a nationally recognised qualification which I now teach on. When I left after the training course I thought well, if a job ever comes up in that field I will go for it. Twelve months later I saw the job advertised, I applied and got it. In six months I was lecturing on the subject and about two years later I was prescribing. Since then I've written journal articles, presented at national conferences in London and Sheffield and done all sorts of stuff for consultants, nurses and ENT specialists."

Gwen works four days a week in the NHS and one and a half days a week privately. "I'm currently back at university doing an MSc just to add another level of complexity," she tells me. "I went back to university about eight years ago to do my advanced nurse prescribing which means I now have the same prescribing abilities as a GP or a doctor on a hospital ward. I can do exactly what they are able to do in my field. So I couldn't prescribe anything for an ingrowing toenail, but I certainly could prescribe for ear infections."

After training in ear care but before meeting Toby, Gwen thought that it would be lovely one day to open a little private business because ears are unfortunately quite a neglected subject in the NHS. GPs are very busy and hearing is not a priority for them. Then, over a glass of wine with Toby one evening the idea was discussed and aspiration started to become reality.

They went with London first, beginning only just over a year ago and choosing Harley Street to start up because, whilst browsing, they discovered that a lot of Harley Street doctors were known to them as they had previously sat in Gwen's classroom. There are currently three Harley Street audiology specialists and Gwen had taught all of them at some stage. Other London doctors were offering basic ear care but nothing as advanced as Gwen's training now enabled her to provide. Google searching reinforced the fact that around half of the UK population now live within an hour's travel of the capital.

There are very few nurses working privately in hearing and ear care, which Gwen and Toby discovered for themselves when researching their business plan. Gwen is now doing essentially the same job as an ENT consultant. There are nurses out there who could potentially work privately but few of them are choosing to do so and Gwen is among the first to make this move. It is all quite exciting and very new.



"I work substantially for the NHS so four days a week I do the same job for them and that's where my teaching comes in. I am an advanced nurse practitioner so a nurse consultant is a way to describe the place I sit in the grand scheme of things. The old-fashioned word was 'Matron'."

The equipment that they need to transport fits comfortably into a medium-sized bag, so now they commute to London by train. They weren't initially looking at Harley Street thinking that it would be a bit above the level of a mere nurse but, Toby says, "Sometimes you just have to bash the door down and give it a go."

The Harley Street Ear Clinic provides exactly the same service as the NHS, but because these services are quite specialised (and thin on the ground), NHS patients have to be referred in by at least their own GP before they can be treated. Then they go on one of the NHS' famous waiting lists before treatment can start. Doctors in many cases are stopping doing simpler procedures such as ear wax removal; it is not an NHS priority or 'target' for them. Private treatment cuts out all that palaver and patients are seen quickly, though there is of course a charge. Gwen points out that the example prices on their website are based on their London practice, but in the fullness of time there will be a scale of charges for Dore which will be cheaper, reflecting their reduced

costs in providing their services to us.

"We found that we were getting calls from people who wanted to be seen the same day," Gwen went on. "There are advantages in ear care, especially with ear wax removal, not to be seen today because then you have a chance to put olive oil in, soften the ear wax which makes removal easier and more comfortable. But there is the today market."

"I was on the bus actually, coming back home and I thought we've got a dentist in Dore, a couple of opticians, at least one osteopath and a chiropodist - maybe there's a market closer to home? So we approached David (at Hallamshire Osteopathy) who was absolutely wonderful and have now set up in Dore because we can be more responsive and can pop up from home in the evenings to see anyone local who asks for our service. And deliver that service today. Plus it's nice to be local as well. Commuting to London by train can be quite tricky so it's lovely to be able to just jump in the car to get to an appointment. I can do London one day a week, any more than that we might struggle. I'm a home bird and I like it round here."

"We can do basically anything related to ears, so my specialities are infections, tinnitus, wax removal, hearing loss, hearing aids - we have a chap that works with us, Peter, he's an audiologist and has been doing audiology for 25 years. I have just done a tinnitus counselling training course with the British Tinnitus Association. I have set up steering and support groups for people with tinnitus in my NHS role."

Despite being open for just a few weeks in Dore and a little longer in London, Toby and Gwen are pleased with the way things are going. They are meeting their business targets so far in London. Gwen has lots of paediatric referrals in her NHS work, and I have been asked specifically to mention that they also treat children at their clinics.

All that remains for me to do is tell you how to get hold of the Harley Street Ear Clinic if you have an ear or hearing problem. It's a London number but don't worry, all calls are handled by the switchboard at 10, Harley Street and then switched though to wherever Gwen and Toby happen to be when you ring. They can be reached on 020 7467 8442, by email at info@theharleystreetearclinic.co.uk or you can browse their website at www.theharleystreetearclinic.co.uk.

Interviews by John Eastwood



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Artificial Intelligence: Tomorrow's World Today

The notion that machines will one day be able to carry out tasks in a way that replicates human activity and decision making has been around for a very long time but was, until recently, the stuff of science fiction. Most examples focused on humanoid robots that would act as assistants to humans and carry out instructions from them. R2-D2 and C-3PO are two well known fictional examples but the day that we have robots in our homes and workplaces is now a lot closer thanks to rapid developments in a branch of computer science called Artificial Intelligence, or AI.

If you have an Apple iPhone, an Amazon Echo or Google Assistant you will already be making use of AI when you ask a question of Siri, Alexa or Assistant. Here are some other examples of AI which are set to have radical impacts on our lives.

Taxi!

Driverless cars are already being trialled on public roads in several countries and the forecast is that by 2022 many of us won't need to own a car; we will summon a vehicle using an app on a Smartphone. We will just provide our location and destination, the number of passengers, any luggage and other items, and the time we need to arrive at our destination. We will be informed of a pick-up time calculated on the basis of real time traffic data and weather conditions, and a driverless car will be allocated from a pool. It will arrive and announce its presence and then deliver us to our destination. It will even be able to offer you a choice of routes, useful if there are tolls on some of them or other reasons you don't want to go via a particular route. And we won't need cash to pay; the fare will be charged automatically to a bank account or a credit or debit card.

Several car hire companies are already investing large sums of money in order to provide these services. Your Smartphone display will show you where the nearest cars are, which companies are providing them, how long it will take to get to you and how much the journey will cost, customer ratings, and more; much like Uber today but with more competition. You will just choose the one you want.

On a less ambitious scale you can already buy a robot vacuum cleaner for your carpet which will learn the dimensions of your rooms and the layout of your furniture as it explores your house. It will do this using a technique called Machine Learning (see later).

If you live in Milton Keynes or London (and more places soon) you can have packages or pizzas delivered by a robot. Take a look at this YouTube video to see how it works.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NnmYZRmGA9I>

Surprisingly these vehicles are not being vandalised or stolen (they have sensors, alarms and trackers installed just in case this happens); in fact most people seem to ignore them. In addition, Amazon is already trialling the use of drones to provide deliveries within 30 minutes of your order:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NnmYZRmGA9I>

and Dominos are delivering pizzas the same way.

All these devices (cars, drones, buggies, etc) use AI to navigate, to plan routes, to recognise and avoid obstacles, hazards and other traffic, and to arrive safely.

The doctor will see you now

AI has reached such a degree of sophistication that it is now possible for devices to teach themselves using a technique called Machine Learning. This is based on the idea that rather than teaching computers everything they need to know about the world and how to carry out tasks, it is now possible to teach them to learn for themselves. An example is in breast cancer screening where the machine is presented with a large number

of x ray scans which show evidence of tumours and others which are clear. As the machine examines these it is able to identify the characteristics of a positive scan and recognise them in the future. By exposing the machine to a very large number of positive and clear scans it is able to refine its decision making to discriminate very accurately between positive and clear scans. The latest reports claim accuracies that are in excess of those achieved by clinicians, particularly in avoiding false positives and thus saving a lot of anxiety and needless follow up (and, of course, making more efficient use of NHS resources). Other benefits are that these systems don't suffer from fatigue or loss of concentration and can examine scans many times faster than a clinician.

Beethoven's 10th Symphony

Machine Learning applications can read text and work out whether the person who wrote it is making a complaint or offering congratulations. They can also listen to a piece of music, decide whether it is likely to make someone happy or sad, and find other pieces of music to match the mood. In some cases, they can even compose their own music expressing the same themes, or which they know is likely to be appreciated by the admirers of the original piece.

Robofarmer

Throughout the world experiments are underway to grow crops without any use of human labour. For example, in Japan, the world's first entirely automated lettuce farm will, later this year, be producing 30,000 lettuces a day. In the UK trials are underway with fields ploughed by driverless tractors that can follow pre-programmed routes. Seed is sown, and plants tended and harvested, by fleets of co-operating autonomous machines on the land and in the air, and they can work both day and night.

Drones fly over fields assessing crop health and soil conditions, and spotting weeds, pests and diseases. Ground sensors monitor the amount of water and nutrients in the soil, triggering irrigation and fertiliser applications in just the right amounts and to only those areas that need them. All of this is controlled by AI.

Now for a something a little uplifting

Do you know that you can buy intelligent pants from a company called Skiin? (Yes, two i's). They make versions for both men and women (and matching bras for women) and the good news is that you don't have to plug them in to charge them; they come with rechargeable batteries that are easy to remove and replace.

They have been developed to monitor vital signs like heart rate, blood pressure, breathing, motion and temperature, as well as stress levels, body fat and hydration levels. Using sensors that are woven into the fabric of the garment they measure a variety of biometric indicators and continuously collect and analyze the data, transmitting the results to an app on your phone together with suggestions to improve your life such as "your sleep was restless last night, some light exercise is recommended today", or by reminding you to breathe regularly if you are stressed.

They can even control devices in your Smarthome such as lighting, based on your mood, and heating based on your body temperature. According to one light-hearted report they can also help you to meditate.

Don't ask me how they do it, I haven't tried them, but here's a question: can they dim the lights and start playing romantic music in preparation as you step through the door with your spouse, partner or date?

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Resolutions or Revolutions?

It's at this time of year when everyone is thinking about getting into a new eating and fitness regime, or in fact you may have started one, made a really good effort and before you know it, you've had a stressful or busy day and then your new-found resolutions are blown out of the window.

I know it's what most people do, and it's tradition, but I prefer not to make resolutions at New Year, as these by their very nature tend to be short-lived, wildly impossible to keep in some cases, and just too difficult to maintain. If you do want to make a New Year's Resolution, for anyone aware of the SMART acronym (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timebound), try at least to make sure that your resolution is specific, achievable/realistic and timebound.

So that said, I wanted to give you some ideas for how you can revolutionise your health by making some small changes to your lifestyle so you can become more healthy in all areas of your life. Keep these up for at least three weeks and you'll be well on your way to making bigger and sustainable changes for life. I'm sure that if you read magazines, or health sections in newspapers, you will have heard of some of these before and others you may not have! Try them out and see what you think.

Add up the number of calories in your favourite tippie. There are online calculators available to help you do this. Assuming you have a glass of wine whilst making dinner and another whilst eating dinner, you could easily drink half a bottle of wine a night, or have a few beers whilst watching sport on TV. So, going forwards, aim to reduce your alcoholic consumption by half. This could be just by sticking to one glass/bottle per night, or commit to only drinking on a Friday or Saturday night. You could save 3500 calories per week, or more, simply with this one change.

Food swaps. Making better choices can make big differences. If you are someone who loves full fat milk, swap to semi-skimmed, and if you use a lot of semi, then swap to fully skimmed. This will make virtually no difference to the calcium content, but will reduce the fat content.

Remove as many bad fats as possible from your diet. Think pasties, sausage rolls, crisps, pastry etc., and replace these with good fats such as avocado, salmon, nuts. These are more filling and of course are better for you.

Track your intake. Simply by recording what you eat, whether that is on paper or in an online system or app, then you will naturally cut-back, as you'll just have more of an awareness of what you are eating.

Think about portion control. A lot of us struggle to understand what is an appropriate portion, and some don't think about that at all. Well, the easiest way to work out what to eat is to use your hand as a guide. This is because the size of your clenched fist is roughly the size of your own stomach. Everyone's needs are different and therefore your own hand size is relevant to your own requirements. The other reason for using your hand is that it's portable. You will always have your portion control guide 'handy' when you are eating out. At every meal we need to be eating protein, carbs, vegetables and healthy fats. Use the picture as a guide but in summary, at every meal eat a palm's worth (excluding fingers) of protein, a cupped hand of carbs, a thumb/fingertip of

fats, and two fists of vegetables. Men should increase carbs and protein by one portion.

Sleep. With today's hectic lifestyles, sleep is something that a lot of us chase. However, sleep is so very important to a healthy lifestyle. We each need at least 7 hours a night. Partly, the more wakeful hours we have, the more time we have to eat! But also, being overtired may mean you might have a large milky coffee to stay awake, or miss your exercise session because you are too tired, and in fact, lack of sleep will cause your metabolism to not function correctly. Our nightly hormones, Grehlin and Leptin, have a lot to do with this. Grehlin is the hunger hormone and tells you when to eat. When you are sleep deprived, you have more Grehlin. Leptin tells you when you are full and when to stop eating, but unfortunately when you are sleep deprived you also have less Leptin. One way to help with better sleep is to avoid caffeine after 3pm, and avoid anything that will cause stimulation in the two hours before your sleep time, so this could be exercise, work or playing with technical gadgets.

Stress. When we were all cavemen, our biggest stress was trying to feed ourselves. We'd chase food, the fight or flight response is triggered, releasing hormones, including cortisol. We catch the animal and the stress response diminishes. In today's lifestyles, we are under far more stress for longer periods and some people have

an underlying undercurrent of stress for extended periods or permanently, due to their lifestyles and their jobs. The fight or flight response is a constant in this situation. When we have more cortisol in our system, this can affect our weight because we crave less healthy snacks such as those containing high sugar and/or high fat. Whatever the stress, our bodies respond like we are about to be harmed and need to run, but then our body doesn't burn off those hormones by running! Digestion is put on hold as blood is pumped to organs required for the imminent flight.

A lot of people eat far too many carbs. This is because they are delicious and easy

to eat, so they are very easy to overeat. Mix carbs with fat and they become even more delicious. Carbs are essential for energy and are our bodies' main fuel source, so we absolutely should be eating them, but in the right quantity for our bodies. Try to eat carbs in their natural state if at all possible.

Try and move more. Just increasing your daily activity, either by steps walked (ideally at a brisk pace) or by increasing your exercise activity, will have a huge impact on your health and well-being. If you are currently relatively inactive, then try and do a short walk around the block (if you have one!) If not, then there are some excellent local Personal Trainers who would be willing to work with you at home and will help to encourage flexibility and general movement if you can't face going to the gym.

So, there you have it, some ideas to revolutionise your nutrition and health over the coming weeks, and hopefully some of these small changes will become habits that stick.

In future issues I will talk about macros, myths and truths, what works and what doesn't, plus overviews of protein, carbohydrates and fats. If you'd like any specific topics covering then please let me know.



Alison Lewis
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sustainandbalance@gmail.com

Insolvency is a dangerous minefield, but there are maps that can guide you out!



Being insolvent does not necessarily mean you have no money or assets. It can, but in that case it is irrelevant because nobody can make you suffer any more than you have already. It is being insolvent whilst having some assets that is the problem, because you can risk losing them. The definition of insolvency is that you have more liabilities than assets and/

or that you are unable to meet your liabilities as they fall due. It can apply to individuals and to companies but it does not automatically mean that anything bad will happen.

Plenty of businesses and individuals are technically insolvent in that their liabilities are greater than their assets. As long as they stick to agreed payment terms their creditors usually do not care about the technical insolvency. It is the test of meeting liabilities as they fall due that really matters to them. But a late or missed payment suggests you might not be able to keep this up and will set off alarm bells. Then the creditors will not care if you are solvent or not under the net asset test, they just want their money.

A missed payment can easily result in cancellation of any agreed payment terms and a claim for the whole debt due, which automatically makes the problem worse. So if you can see a problem coming always speak to the creditor in advance and try to agree more time to pay. If you cannot get the extension, be prepared for a formal letter demanding payment, often from a solicitor. It is then time to put a guard on the fan in case something unpleasant hits it.

If payment is not made after the demand the next step is usually a County Court claim that if not dealt with will result in a Judgement (CCJ) then the probable appointment of the dreaded bailiff. If you get a claim you have only 14 days to pay, or to offer a settlement over time or to submit a defence to the claim. Unless you can pay within the time, always submit a defence, even if it has no chance of success. This will buy time, often months, before the case gets to court and you may be able to pay or agree terms in the meantime. This might avoid your other creditors getting wind of the problem and all making their own demands for payment, which usually spells disaster.

Sometimes the creditor will opt instead to issue a Statutory Demand. You can apply to the court to set the demand aside but otherwise you have 21 days to pay before the creditor can petition the court for bankruptcy (of an individual) or winding up (of a company).

But the taxman, local authorities and in some cases even ordinary creditors can go straight for a bankruptcy/winding up petition without going through this process, so be sure to read carefully any threats you get. If there is no other resolution, it might be better for you to enter a formal insolvency process yourself before the creditor does, so as to retain at least some control of the situation.

Although there are similarities between how individuals and companies are dealt with in insolvency, there are also differences. Individuals have more options open to them, including Debt Management Schemes and Administration Orders. These are usually not available to companies. I will therefore deal with each separately and, since a company's insolvency can in certain circumstances seriously affect the individuals who are directors, I will tackle companies first.

The main thing to decide if you have a company that is in trouble, is whether or not it could succeed if the debts were sorted out and, if so, whether you want to keep it and run it yourself. A factor that

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must be considered is that the suppliers who have not been paid will be understandably reluctant to give the new or restructured company credit. This will severely impact cash flow until trust can be built up again, so allow for this in deciding if it is worth carrying on. If the answer is still "yes", you have two options.

Firstly, there is a Company Voluntary Arrangement (CVA) where an offer of partial payment is made to all of the unsecured creditors, either as a lump sum or over time (usually five years). If more than 50% by value of the creditors accept the offer, it is binding on them all and the company continues to trade as long as it sticks to the deal. This sounds like a good solution, and in some cases it is, but in practice most CVAs fail, either because the creditors refuse the offer, or due to over-optimistic assumptions on future trade and excessive promises to the creditors.

The other (and usually better) alternative is a managed buy back, which means the assets are sold to a new company owned by you on terms informally agreed in advance. The new company then starts trading debt free. The debts are left with the old company, which is then liquidated. This can be preceded by an administration order if it is appropriate to keep the business running for any period before the sale of the assets to the new company.

In either of these processes, you are going to have to appoint a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner (IP) to oversee the process. These are like vampires, in that once you have invited them over the doorstep you cannot throw them out. They are legally bound to act in the best interests of your creditors, not you. This means collecting the most money they can, even if this means reneging on a provisional deal. Ostensibly this is so they can pay more to the creditors, but they take their fees out first and the more they collect the more chance they have to get fees from spending time on the case, so they will. This includes investigating the conduct of the directors (meaning you) and you cannot assume they will be friendly just because you have appointed them.

If you just want to close the company down, liquidation is the most certain option. You can petition for this yourself or, as noted above, your creditors can do it themselves. If there are no assets in the company, the liquidation will be handled by an Official Receiver (OR) who is a government employee, who has no axe to grind and is normally relatively harmless. If there are assets, the OR will usually pass the case on to an IP, and since you will not control the appointment, they can be even less friendly.

The first thing an IP is likely to do after assessing what cash he can extract from the company's assets and therefore how much he has to work with, is to see if he can get any money from the directors. It is fairly standard that he will first of all write to you saying that the company has been trading whilst insolvent and that, as a director, you are personally liable for its debts. This is usually just a try-on and a letter back saying that he is wrong and that you acted properly as soon as you knew the situation will often end the matter. But there are more likely avenues he will explore if you have not set up the books correctly before he gets his hands on them.

Many people set up their companies to pay themselves a modest salary to use up the tax allowance, then pay themselves extra in cash or pay personal bills from the company account to top this up as they need it. These payments are usually recorded as a director's loan until the end of the year then they are cleared by awarding a bonus or dividend. This is normally no problem, but if an IP gets the books before the loan account is tidied up, he will demand payment from you to clear it, and he will have a strong case. So don't give him the opportunity. Make sure the proper book entries are made to clear the account to zero or better still to show the company owes you money.

The IP will no doubt hoot about it and claim the bonus or dividend is not valid, or was paid in preference to other creditors. If he wins the argument, he can reverse the entries and claim the money from you, so make sure you have done it all correctly with appropriate board minutes and strong precedents.

If you have settled any accounts on which you have a personal guarantee, the IP may say that this was a preferential payment to

avoid the guarantee being called. If so, he can claim the money back from you so make sure you can justify the payment, for example by showing that the supplier is key to the business and any interruption in supplies would have made the situation even worse.

Generally speaking, if your books are in good order, you have a credible explanation for why the insolvency occurred, and can show that you acted responsibly as soon as you knew the company was insolvent, you should be fine. If you are in any doubt, you should take advice from an insolvency professional before you do anything. As well as having knowledge of the pitfalls, they usually have good personal and business contacts with the IPs and can use these relationships to help you.

These can be solicitors, some of whom are excellent, or other firms that specialise in giving insolvency advice. Whilst there are good and expert firms in that category, many are effectively just feeder companies to specific IPs and have little real knowledge or influence, so choose carefully.

If you have been a creditor of a business that has gone bust, it would be understandable if you are less than pleased if you see the owner not seeming to lose personally from the failure. On occasions, the bad debt might seriously impact your own business or even cause it to fail too. It is hard to ask that you have some understanding, let alone sympathy, in those circumstances. But very few people deliberately allow their business to fail and the experience is not pleasant for them either. They not only lose their income and hope of a good future, but usually feel guilt and shame as well as having to fend off dangerous attacks from the IP.

In reality, even if they have fallen foul of the law or just been careless and have to pay money to the IP this will usually be swallowed by fees and the payout to creditors will almost always be minimal or zero, so any financial loss to the owner will give you benefit only if you just want him to suffer out of revenge.

The advice given here is of benefit only to people who have found themselves in trouble without malice or intent. Those few who deliberately plan for a business to fail but seem to make fortunes by using the law to their advantage need no advice from me. They are already experts in their own right, if perhaps of little conscience or moral fibre.

I am out of space and will have to deal with personal insolvency in a future article, but as always, if you need more details or have a question that is not covered here you can contact me at ctharrison@outlook.com and I will help if I can.

C T Harrison

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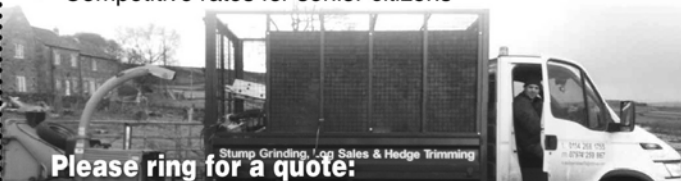
Although having long experience helping people with financial issues, Chris Harrison is now retired and is no longer a member of any accounting body. Accordingly, this article is for general guidance only and you are advised to take professional advice in dealing with your own circumstances.

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Dore Festival 2018: Sat 30th June - Sun 15th July

Despite being in the depths of winter we are already looking forward to the summer and planning our programme of events for Dore Festival 2018. Here then, is a taste of what we have in store for you and some key dates for your diary.



Our opening activity on Saturday 30th June will be the biennial Boundary Walk which keeps up the tradition of “beating the boundaries” of Dore parish. The following afternoon, Sunday 1st July will see the return of Dore Open Gardens which gave way last summer for the very successful Flower Festival. We are delighted that this event is back on the festival programme and are sure that there will be a bumper crop of gardens to visit and admire.

On Tuesday 3rd July we will welcome Barbara Thornes who will amaze with her Flamenco dancing and talk about the traditions of The Art of Flamenco. Afterwards there will be Spanish style

Dore's Digital Dragon Hunt



Dore's ever-popular Dragon Hunt will take place this year on Sunday 22nd April, commencing as usual at 2pm from Dore Old School.

If you haven't been before, this is a form of treasure hunt designed to appeal to families with children of primary school age or younger. This year, to move with the times there will be a digital format requiring participants to have with them a mobile phone which will take photographs.

Children are encouraged to wear appropriate fancy dress as there are additional prizes for the best costumes, so let's see those Saint Georges, dragons and damsels in distress in all their finery. Refreshments will be provided and prize giving will commence at 3.30pm. Best of all, there is no charge to participate. This is a Dore Village Society event and they cover all costs.

So, give yourself and the kids a chance of some fresh air and exercise on that Sunday afternoon and we look forward to seeing you there!

refreshments of cava and tapas hosted by Dore Ladies Group.

Although we are always looking for new events, many of the activities during Festival Fortnight are repeated by popular demand. You will find that the walks, trails and family fun run are all on the programme as usual along with the very enjoyable concerts and classic car show. We would like to thank in advance all those who organise these events and continue to support Festival.

One of the main Dore traditions at this time is the crafting and displaying of the village and Guide well dressings. They will go up on Saturday 7th July and the well dressing service is scheduled for Sunday 8th July on the Village Green. Look out for details of how you can help the well dressing teams to keep this ancient Derbyshire art alive.

The village green will also be the venue for our open-air production by the The Company on Wednesday 11th July. They will be performing the hilarious play “Wyrd Sisters” by Terry Pratchett which will be perfect for our leafy stage on a warm summer's evening.

The climax of Festival Fortnight is, of course, the Scout and Guide Gala held in the Recreation Ground on Saturday 14th July. This long running annual event is the product of months of planning and a great afternoon for the whole family. Come along and enjoy it and if you can spare an hour or two to help on a stall please let the organisers know.

We are keeping our minds firmly fixed on the joys of Summer and hope to welcome many of you to a Dore Festival event. The full programme will be published in the next issue of Dore to Door, on the Dore Village Society website and on the village notice boards.

Maureen Cope & Anne Elsdon
Dore Festival Co-ordinators

Calling All Crafters!

In October the Doreways Group will be holding another one of their excellent exhibitions; this time on the theme of 'Traditional and Modern Crafts'. The exhibition and demonstrations will be held at the Old School on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th October from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm.

We would like to invite the many talented crafters and hobbyists out there to join us, by exhibiting and maybe demonstrating the many and varied crafts that we see annually entered at Dore Show. If you have an unusual craft or have revived a dying art, we would love to hear from you.

We are offering space for exhibits, demonstrations and selling opportunities. There will also be covered space available in the Old School yard for the larger and perhaps messier projects.

The emphasis of this exhibition is to showcase a wide range of handcrafted items and to celebrate the skills of their makers. We hope that it will include some of the old crafts that were undertaken in Dore village in the past such as scythe making, rope making, blacksmithing and wood crafts.

Initial enquiries and to reserve a space contact Kathryn Short on 07535 105654, or by email at kathryn.short1@btinternet.com.

Dore Scout & Guide Gala to go ahead in 2018

I am pleased to announce that Dore Gala will go ahead as usual on Saturday July 14th. A number of people have volunteered to join the committee making it possible for us to go ahead this year. However, we are not completely out of the woods. We are still looking for individuals who could help, perhaps as co-opted members, to take overall responsibility for specific attractions both at the planning stage and at the Gala itself. If you are interested in being involved do please get in touch.

Geoff Cope, Acting Gala Chairman
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Since the last edition of Dore to Door we've had confirmation from the Office of Road and Rail that passenger numbers are growing.

That will come as no surprise to anyone using the station, living nearby, or just driving along Abbeydale Road South at commuting times. It's out of sight, out of mind to those in the echelons of power who make decisions. They don't seem to appreciate the significance. We're not even sure many in Sheffield, let alone South Yorkshire, appreciate our little station.



Dore & Totley Station 120 years ago. Two brick-built waiting rooms, though the trains were cold and draughty

The fact is that in the last year numbers grew by 5.8%. They've doubled since research was being conducted for the much-delayed Hope Valley Capacity Scheme. That forecast a 56% increase in traffic at Sheffield by 2029. They've trebled since the first public reference we've found to the redoubling of the tracks and platform in 2005. The numbers have quadrupled in the last 20 years.

Suffice to say that although numbers at Sheffield have increased enormously in the last 20 years, they haven't by these rates, and only by 1.1% in the last year.

The growth at Dore & Totley shows no signs of abating as more discover the merits of our little station – despite its major shortcomings.

Improved Northern services from May

In the last issue it was noted that we'd made input into Northern's consultation regarding May timetable changes. Our very knowledgeable team's views were taken into account and by the time you read this we should have had official confirmation of those changes. We've seen a leaked copy and believe it to be accurate. There will be more trains stopping. On weekdays there will be more towards Sheffield than towards Manchester. We asked for a train about 7.30 into Sheffield. It will be later than hoped at 7.57, but better for the Hope Valley. There remains a big gap between 8.28 and 9.58 but otherwise it will be at least hourly.

We asked for a later train out of Sheffield at night, so hope the 23.34 gets used. Unfortunately, although hourly trains will leave Sheffield it won't be possible for them all to stop here. That will leave three gaps of two hours or more. They will have to skip many stations to keep to time due to slow freight train movements in the Hope Valley.

Saturday services are unchanged but if we've read it right there will be major improvements to Sunday evening services from Manchester. We'll continue to give constructive feedback and hope more can be done, especially if the new services get used.

TransPennine Express are also adding more stops. The first stop of the 6.15 towards Manchester Airport on 11th December was boarded by 16 people – followed by another 16 on the 6.25 for Liverpool. Their 21.19 from Manchester will be stopping here at 22.03 from 21st May. It seems they'll be stopping several Sunday evening trains from Manchester Airport - but none towards Manchester.

Northern's concept plan for a canopy to be added to the old station

This is NOT a done deal or a final design. The plan is displayed on a noticeboard by the station entrance. Anything that is constructed will have to fit onto an old building not designed to support it. There are

safety issues for clearances in proximity to moving trains. Forthcoming work to redouble the tracks may impinge on the current platform surface. Consequently, we had a number of reservations that will need to be addressed, not least who will pay for it. Compromise will be necessary.

The four issues that were raised most were;

- It's not big enough to cover the hundred people now gathering on the platform at peak times.
- It's not enclosed.
- It's too modern, out of keeping with the old Midland station.
- Do we really need space heaters wasting energy?

It won't come quickly, but there's a real willingness for Northern, Network Rail, Rajdhani, and others who will need to be involved, to get this done. We've had our say, Northern have acknowledged all our comments and we now await a response.

Hope Valley Capacity Scheme to redouble the tracks and add second platform

Despair may be the word here. TransPennine are now operating six-carriage trains and our platform only takes four. They use selective door opening (SDO), so don't get in the last two coaches for Dore & Totley! We can't squeeze many more stops in with only one platform and even with a canopy we need more cover.

We got our MP to ask a written question and he got this evasive response from Rail Minister Paul Maynard: "As part of the Great North Rail Project, the Hope Valley and Dore capacity schemes will increase track capacity to allow a more frequent service, accommodating three fast trains an hour between Sheffield and Manchester. This scheme is currently subject to a Transport and Works Act Order application, to which the Department is currently considering."

We know that. Tell us something we don't know, like why is it taking so long? They've had the public inquiry inspector's report since 15th November 2016. At least he's confirmed the project still exists. Assuming they ever do make a decision, Network Rail will have to update their plans, sort out the money, put the work out to tender and arrange possession periods to work on the tracks. Realistically work can't start this year, and probably not before late 2019 at the earliest, making completion by 2020 unlikely. 2021, three years late, is the best we should expect. One day we may get a pleasant surprise.

FoDaTS has a very active Facebook presence

If you use the rail service, are concerned about the environment around the station, or just have an interest in trains past, present or future, please look in and join our Facebook group. Our very well-informed members include passengers, enthusiasts, local residents and traders, past and present railwaymen from all parts of the industry – and a few who tend the planters on the station.

In the next edition we may dare to raise the highly emotive subject of parking!!

If you're not a Facebook user, and even if you are, you can join us by sending an email with your contact details to our Secretary; nj-barnes@outlook.com. Website at www.fodats.net.



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Attend the Dore Neighbourhood Forum meeting on 28 February to Have Your Say

Come to the Dore Neighbourhood Forum meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 28 February at King Ecgbert School to hear a presentation on, and to decide whether to approve, the full draft Neighbourhood Plan for Dore. This is your last chance to influence the text which subsequently will be put out to widespread formal consultation before its submission to Sheffield City Council and the Peak District National Park Authority for final scrutiny and expert examination, and then being put to the full Dore electorate for referendum approval.

You are automatically a member of the Dore Neighbourhood Forum if you are a paid up member of the Dore Village Society. The full DVS membership was legally appointed as the Dore Neighbourhood Forum and that Forum has the power to decide whether the draft Plan produced by a Steering Group and 7 Working Groups can go forward to the next stages towards its approval as part of the Development Planning policies for our Neighbourhood Area. It is still not too late to join the Society for the 2018 year by following the guidance on the DVS website at www.dorevillage.co.uk/pages/how-to-join-the-society or by contacting the membership secretary, Kath Lawrence on kath.lawrence@dorevillage.co.uk or by writing to her at "Top Dore", 170 Dore Road, Sheffield, S17 3HA. Annual membership costs £6 per adult. Only paid up DVS members will be admitted to the Forum meeting but there will be an opportunity to join and pay at the door if you allow enough time.

If you care about how Dore will develop under the pressure of planning applications over future years you will want to ensure that those who have prepared the draft Neighbourhood Plan have done a good job, steering a wise and viable course between Dore's own aspirations and the existing strategic planning policies of the Government and the City Council.

We have draft policies:

- To value the intimate relationship which Dore has with its neighbouring National Park (and which recognises that half of the Dore Neighbourhood Area lies within the National Park)
- To protect the setting of the National Park within our Green Belt which prevents the sprawl of Sheffield into the countryside and which focuses the effort to produce the housing growth which Sheffield needs on redevelopment within the existing built-up areas of the city
- To better enhance the recreational and biodiversity value of Dore's green infrastructure both within the Green Belt and the developed village
- To slow down the loss of mature residential gardens and tree

Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society

Christmas is over for another year and a Happy New Year to you all. Another successful Christmas concert has come and gone with effusive feedback which delights us all. Thank you for your support and if you missed it – bad luck - it was a dilly. I don't know how Peter Waring, our concert accompanist, does it. We throw all sorts of music at him and he just magically performs faultlessly. I think he must be our Sorcerer! We would be lost without him.

We now move on to our annual shows with floor rehearsals underway as of mid-January and the music well under our belts, it promises to be another treat. As I said in previous editions, we are performing two operettas together this time. The first being *The Sorcerer*, a short two act bit of magical nonsense when John Wellington Wells, a "dealer in magic and spells", indiscriminately distributes a love philtre (potion) amongst the townsfolk resulting in some very strange pairings. This may not be as well known as some of the other G&S operettas but don't let that put you off. The music is a delight as usual with lovely songs such as when the vicar, Dr Daly, reminisces about his youth when a curate,

cover in Dore by ensuring that housing infill in Dore is more sensitively located

- To promote the aim of providing more downsizing opportunities for Dore's older residents instead of the constant emphasis on building ever more large executive homes
- To designate and better manage our precious village open spaces
- To protect and enhance the viability and vitality of the retail, commercial and community services in the village centre and to improve the appearance of its public realm
- To protect and enhance the historical and architectural significances of buildings and sites in Dore
- To improve traffic management and sustainable transport in Dore

A huge number of organisations and individuals in Dore have contributed comments and ideas which have been worked on by dedicated volunteers in Working Groups and on the over-arching Steering Group to produce the draft to be considered on 28 February. We are enormously grateful for their community spirit and commitment.

The full draft Plan is available on the Dore Village Society website. Alternatively you can request that a digital copy of the draft Plan be sent to you by e-mailing David Crosby on david.crosby@dorevillage.co.uk or Thelma Harvey on thelma8a@gmail.com. For DVS members without access to the internet, a shortened digest of the draft Plan is available within this issue of Dore to Door or can be picked up from Hartleys Fruit Cabin at the junction of Townhead Road and Church Street – we are grateful to Mark, the proprietor of this Dore business. A full hard copy of the draft Plan will be available to view at Topley Library and at the DVS office at the Dore Old School. If you have comments to offer on the Plan outside and before the Forum meeting, you can e-mail them to dnp@dorevillage.co.uk or leave them in a box at Hartleys Fruit Cabin.

Finally, while it is only DVS members who are members of the Dore Neighbourhood Forum eventually all Dore electors will have the opportunity to vote on the Plan when it has survived the formal legal processes of examination over the months ahead. Once it is approved by a majority of those voting in the referendum it will form part of the planning authorities' Development Plans which determine the fate of planning applications made within Dore Neighbourhood Area.

Remember the date and place – Wednesday 28 February at 7.30pm at King Ecgbert School.

**Christopher Pennell
Chair, Dore Neighbourhood Forum Steering Group**

and later when he encourages everyone to drink the "tea". The fun and frolics that ensue are great for both cast and audience with the most unlikely "couples" getting together.

The second, one of my favourites, is *Trial-by-Jury*, a 35-minute romp poking fun at the judiciary when, in a breach-of-promise of marriage case, the judge ends up as the only successful party. I guarantee that you'll come out singing "And a good judge too". This is the first G & S operetta I took part in. It was 1952 (I think!) when my brother was Angelina, the plaintiff (it was an all boys school) and I was a jurymen.

The shows will be performed from Wednesday 11th April to Saturday 14th April at The Montgomery Theatre, Surrey Street, Sheffield. Tickets (£15 and £7.50) are available now by telephoning 07598 054708 or by booking via our Facebook page (Dore G&S). Treat yourselves to a good night out for less than the price of a pub meal and be magically entertained. Until then I hope that the winter is not too severe. We look forward to seeing you at the theatre.

Derek Habberjam

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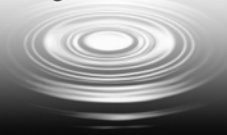
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Totley Library continues to thrive and develop as a vital hub in our community. We are enormously grateful to all our volunteers for all their hard work and enthusiasm. Remember, without our volunteers, our users and the support of our local community we would no longer have a library in Totley – so a very big thank you to you all!

We would also like to thank everyone in the local area who has signed up to our Library Lottery. As the number of people joining our monthly lottery has grown, so have our prizes – with the first prize now being over £120! The lottery makes a real difference to the library and this support helps us to keep the library open. Details on recent winners is given below.

We were delighted that Totley Library was recently voted runner up in the Children's Library category of the 2017 South Yorkshire For Kids Awards. Thank you for everyone who voted for the library!

As usual, we have a lot going on at the library over the next few months as detailed below.

Building Improvements

Plans for building a small extension at the rear of the library are currently with the Council's Planning Department. We are seeking permission for our plan to build a disabled public toilet and a store room. Plans are currently available in the library or via the Council.

Sheffield City Council will also start work shortly on a number of fire safety improvements to the library, including a new fire alarm system, new fire doors and compartmentalisation and improved fire escape routes. The library will continue to operate as usual whilst this work is undertaken.

Books, Books, Books!

Great news! - we have just been given a small grant from the Council to buy new books. Whilst we plan to buy a number of prize-winning books and best sellers, we are keen to make sure we find out what books our users and local people would like to see in the library. So, we have recently asked users for their views on what types of books they would like us to buy. We will also use some donated funds to buy more new books for our Orange sticker scheme for both adults and children. Please let us know what you think and what new books you would like us to buy.

Children's Activities At Totley Library

Our Story Time for Toddlers and Pre-school children which is held weekly from 10am on a Wednesday morning continues to be popular. Each week has a different theme and children can come along with their parents or carers to enjoy a story and related activities.

During the school holidays, (other than August), Story Time at the library is extended with a welcome given to primary school children, aged 5-11 years. Children are invited to join activities during the holidays. Plans for half term and Easter Story Time sessions include:

February Half Term: Wednesday 21st February - we will be celebrating the Chinese New Year, this year is the Year of the Dog in the Chinese Calendar.

Easter Holidays: Wednesday 4th April – we will have a variety of Easter activities. Wednesday 11th April – our theme will be Insects and Minibeasts and we will be joined by members of the Gardening Team and also by some Friends of Gillfield Wood. Older children will be invited to join in with a project to build an Insect House which will be sited in the grounds of the library to encourage more insects and mini-beasts to visit the library garden.

Other Events at the Library

Family History Events - we are planning to hold two events in the library in April and May to help people interested in researching their family histories. Talks will be given by members of the Sheffield Family History Society, providing advice. Details will be available via the library or the Totley Library website in the near future.

Totley All Saints Church 'It's Springtime' event – Saturday 24th March 2-4pm – Totley All Saints Church will be holding an event to celebrate the arrival of Spring! It will be held in the library on Saturday afternoon, with stalls, refreshments and entertainment.

Library Lottery Winners

Congratulations to our recent Totley Library Lottery winners! Rita O'Hara won the first prize of £108.60 in October with Neville Duncan winning the second prize of £27.15. Jane Cosens and Robert Mason were our winners in the November winning £121.20 and £30.30 respectively. In December Claire Howard won the first prize of £123.60 and Juliet Rowson won the second prize of £30.90.

Isabel Hemmings

Community Cinema this coming quarter

Children's Films

Thursday 22nd February 10.30am – Kubo and the Two Strings (half term holiday film)

Sunday 18th March 2pm – Ferdinand

Sunday 15th April 2pm – Sing

Sunday 13th May 2pm – Paddington 2

Adult Films

Thursday 22nd February 3pm – Churchill

Friday 23rd March 7.30pm – Victoria and Abdul

Thursday 29th March 3pm – My Cousin Rachel

Friday 20th April 7.30pm – My Cousin Rachel

Thursday 26th April 3pm – Victoria and Abdul

Friday 18th May 7.30pm – Dunkirk

Thursday 24th May 3pm – The Shawshank Redemption

Tickets to all shows (includes entry into raffle draw)

Adult – £4.00 and Child – £2.50. Tickets available from the library main desk.

Further information from www.totleycric.org.uk. Or call in at 205, Baslow Road.

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Swap a weed for a native

If, like me, you have some knowledge about soil, you will still have been fascinated if you watched the TV programme “Deep Down and Dirty” on BBC4 recently. It explained how soil is formed (it is an extremely slow process) and how it became able to support plant-life. It provides the nutrients plants need and the organisms that have developed in it recycle the plants when they die back. These organisms include fungi and their mycelia and a huge variety of microscopic organisms, insects and three species of worms which each play a different role in the breakdown of plants. Some organisms break down leaves and others wood. They maintain a healthy balance of nutrients and also the texture and moisture-retaining properties of the soil. They also predate on each other, but soil has more life in it than all the life above it.

The first plants to develop were lichens and, before there was any human activity, trees, shrubs and flowers developed along with insects and other wildlife, all of which depend on the plant life directly or indirectly.

However, this balanced state is easily damaged and, while early farmers would have had some effect, over the last ten centuries or so land has been cleared or drained, trees have been cut down and intensive farming (with its use of chemicals and loss of hedgerows) have done much damage to the soil and caused huge loss of wildlife habitats.

Then invaders and travellers brought in exotic plants which can be more impressive than our natives, but can be very invasive and difficult to remove, displacing our native flora. We also plant lots of cultivated plants which can have the same effect and do not support our wildlife in an ecologically natural way.

Just as plastic waste in the oceans is killing precious wildlife, the use of chemicals on farmland and in gardens is killing life in the soil. Like plastic, chemicals are everywhere. Most plants bought from local shops, garden centres and DIY stores will be grown in compost to which chemicals have been added.

I have been browsing through some old issues of Dore to Door. In the early 1990s, “Jack Daw” wrote articles about this problem (perhaps I should also use a pseudonym but no suggestions, thank you!). That was over twenty-five years ago and the situation is now worse - we need to learn lessons and start acting much more quickly; a very good reason to go organic both in the garden and in the kitchen. Most people are put off going organic because of the cost, but the “true costs” and the long-term costs of not going organic don’t bear thinking about. Start with little steps so that it just gradually becomes a way of life.

Jack Daw also explained that bees and other pollinators have evolved with the scent and form of our native flowers, while the scent and form of introduced flowers is not always so attractive to them or the nectar and pollen as accessible. He also pointed out that evolution (of flowers) is not for man’s pleasure, but to attract butterflies and moths.

My brother who lives in Australia has sent me an article from a

newspaper. It is headed “Swap a weed for a native”. Like here, people have introduced exotic plants and some are very invasive. At least they are referred to as weeds, whilst here most people refer to OUR wildflowers as weeds. The writer points out that these changes threaten the very survival of our ecosystems and that “weeds” out-compete the native flora for sunlight, nutrients and space. Ironically, over the page is their regular ‘advice for gardeners’ article advising which foreign or cultivated plant looks most wonderful or lasts longest!! Similarly, the RHS, garden centres, flower shows and most garden programmes and magazines show no real concern for the state of the soil or the loss of native flowers and wildlife.

The Australian article also gives jobs gardeners should be doing each month. I had always failed to achieve those, but don’t have to now, as native plants are very resilient and are mostly easily transplanted if necessary or if you choose to do so.

In my experience, people who involve themselves in organic and sustainable gardening, farming or conservation efforts, whilst frustrated with the lack of concern generally for the state of the environment, get much satisfaction from what they do either on their own or with like-minded people, and make many friends.

We need to act now to try and save our ecosystems or it will be too late and our children and grandchildren will not thank us for the legacy we leave for them to deal with. During a recent programme with Judy Dench, “My Passion for Trees”, one expert said that the best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago! Failing that, do it today!!


Just to finish, E B White, author of “Charlotte’s Web”, said “I would feel more optimistic about a bright future

for man, if he spent less time proving that he can outwit nature and more time tasting her sweetness and respecting her sincerity”.

Marian Tiddy




Himalayan Balsam - mentioned many times in these pages as volunteers try to remove it from Totley Brook, but an invader and just a tiny part of the much, much bigger problem



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People keeping well



Congratulations, you made it through the festive season! Spring is hopefully on the way although I'm writing this on a typical grey January morning. It's often seen as a time for change and here at SYP we're undergoing a bit of a restructure too. New neighbourhood policing teams are being introduced in certain areas with officers and PCSOs

working together to resolve long term issues. The South West team which covers Dore & Totley is still based at Woodseats but we now come under the Sheffield West district along with our colleagues from the North West team. Our Facebook and Twitter pages have been merged under the name Sheffield West NHP. The Facebook page is updated daily with robberies and burglaries from the day before and if you're not following us yet please have a look. We have also launched a new way of keeping in touch with you through a system called SYP Alerts. This replaces the Neighbourhood Watch confirmer telephone system and is extended out to all residents to email items of interest to anyone who has signed up. Visit www.sypalerts.co.uk for more information and to add your name to the mailing list. There will also be options added soon to have alerts sent via text message to your mobile.

Our Neighbourhood Watch remains strong and active across S17. If you are interested in learning more about what they do, or have thought about starting or joining a group please contact me and I will forward your details on to the local coordinators who can let you know what is in place around your street.

For the past few months I have been holding a monthly drop in at the Tesco store on Abbeydale Drive with my colleague who covers the Millhouses and Ecclesall area. This is usually around the third Wednesday in the month, dates are publicised on our Facebook page and I'm trying to find a way to let people not on Facebook know as well. If you see me there do come and say hello!

I have mentioned the Dore & Totley People Keeping Well project before. We held an information event at the Cross Scythes just before Christmas which was very well attended. Activities are now planned and include a Green Oak Park clean up, life skills exchange workshops, a sporting memories group, fitness classes and a community choir. Expression of interest forms are available at Totley Library or you can contact the coordinator at Age UK, Joanna Graves on 0114 250 2850 or via email at Joanna.graves@ageuksheffield.org.uk. I will hopefully be popping into activities where possible for a chat and a cuppa. If you know of anyone near you who might like to take part in any of these activities please pass their details on to Joanna.

Crime wise we are currently seeing a small spike again across our area in thefts from vehicles and in burglaries. Please take care to ensure alarms are set, doors and windows are securely locked and all crime prevention measures are in place. Contact me if you need any advice regarding your home security.

As usual, please contact me if I can be of any assistance either by email at adrian.tolson@southyorks.pnn.police.uk or on my work mobile 07787 881945. If it goes to voicemail please leave me your name and telephone number and I'll get back to you when next on duty. Keep safe!

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Celebration at the Stoops

For this review I have had to resort to a substitute venue. The original plan was scuppered when my partner fell ill (fully recovered now, thanks for asking), so I fell back on the opportunity of my mum's birthday lunch at The Blue Stoops.

For those of you who don't know The Blue Stoops, it is a 16th Century Grade II listed building in the heart of Dronfield. The establishment was closed for two years until it was taken over and renovated by The True North Brew Company (The Broadfield, Waggon & Horses and The Forum et al), and reopened in late 2016. The refurbished interior tips its hat to the pub's tradition and history with oak beams, wood panelled walls, an open fire and lots of curious knick-knacks adorning the walls and window sills. Overall there is the cosy, warm atmosphere one would expect from a pub of this age.



Hooray for ham hock.

As well as my parents there were my children and my brother and his family. As a result, it is impossible to go through all the meal choices, so I will restrict myself to the highlights and lowlights of the meal. For the most part, the range of starters avoided the usual pub stalwarts and included hot smoked salmon paté (for Dad), maple ham and jalapeño fritters (me) and miso rice balls (no-one, but worth a mention!). With a selection like this, the aim was obviously at the gastro end of the pub market, but frankly without the prices and pretensions of others I could mention. All the starters were under £6, and the fritters that I chose were really good. The batter was thin and crispy, the flavour of the sweet ham gave way to the heat of the peppers, cooled with the chive sour cream served on the side. Dad's paté came with crusty ciabatta slices and an avocado crème fraiche. Typical of my father, he pushed the crème fraiche to one side and asked our waitress for some butter. However, as I tasted the dish with the accompaniment, I think he made an error. The smokiness of the hot salmon and the cool avocado combined into a wonderful taste experience, and the smooth paté and crunchy bread gave the needed texture combination.

My middle son opted out of the starter, and when I saw the size of the honey roasted ham hock (£12.95), I totally understood why. The significant chunk of meat was served on the bone with hand-cut chips, seasonal greens and cider gravy. The meat was tender and sweet and the gravy added a lovely acidity to the flavour. Although one would expect that any pub should be able to cook chips, if they are wrong it can put a downer on the whole meal. These chips didn't disappoint, crispy on the outside and fluffy on the inside – just as they should be.

There was a specials menu which, amongst other things, listed the pies and sausage of the day. The steak and mushroom in ale pie (£9.50) was a popular choice amongst the

male contingent. Served with the previously mentioned hand-cut chips and mushy peas, the shortcrust pie crust was thick and with the sort of integrity that allowed it to soak up significant amounts of gravy and Hendo's without getting soggy. The steak filling was really tender and tasty, and the mushroom flavours showed through in a way that is not always apparent in pies of this type. As they were served before my dish, I was almost jealous until my sausage and mash (£9.50) arrived.

The special sausage of the day was pork and black pudding – and it was nothing short of gorgeous. The sausage filling was coarse and chunky to just the right level, the black pudding was in exactly the right proportion to enhance rather than overpower the pork, and it was all seasoned exceptionally well. The mash was silky smooth although a little more dense than most would serve, which I thought was a plus point. The gravy was good, although the same as was served with the pies, and maybe a richer onion gravy might have taken this dish to another level.

The birthday girl chose a pork tenderloin (£13.95), stuffed with poached pears, blue cheese and shallots with pommes Anna and a perry jus. Although I didn't personally taste this dish, I can trust my mum (!), and her report was very positive – succulent pork, melt in the mouth potato and a great flavour from the pear and blue cheese combination.

The others in our party variously chose a burger (£9.50), slow braised lamb shank (15.95) and buttermilk fried spiced chicken burger (£9.50), and there were no complaints in the slightest. After the hearty portions of all the main course, the only two desserts were ordered by the youngest two diners – a sticky toffee pudding and a chocolate brownie. On the basis that they both stayed quiet while eating it and didn't allow anyone else to share, I can only imagine they were both good!

In summary, The Blue Stoops was really good value for money (especially as my Dad paid!), serving good, well-cooked food in decent portions, and with enough variety and twists to make it more interesting than standard pub-grub. A great venue for a pub dinner or lunch, and I will return – probably initially to try the Sunday roast, which if it has the same quality at £10.50 will be well worth it.

Hendo Nagasaki



Sausage & mash. Good rib-sticking stuff.

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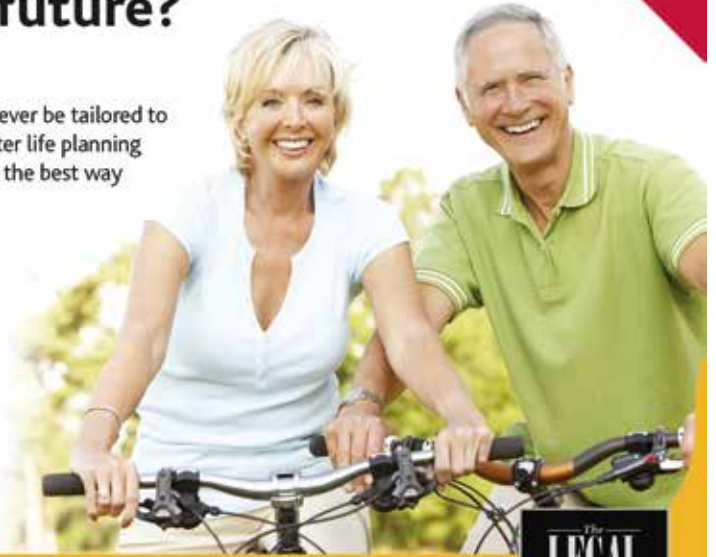
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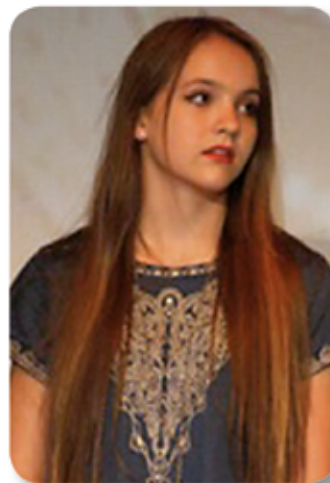
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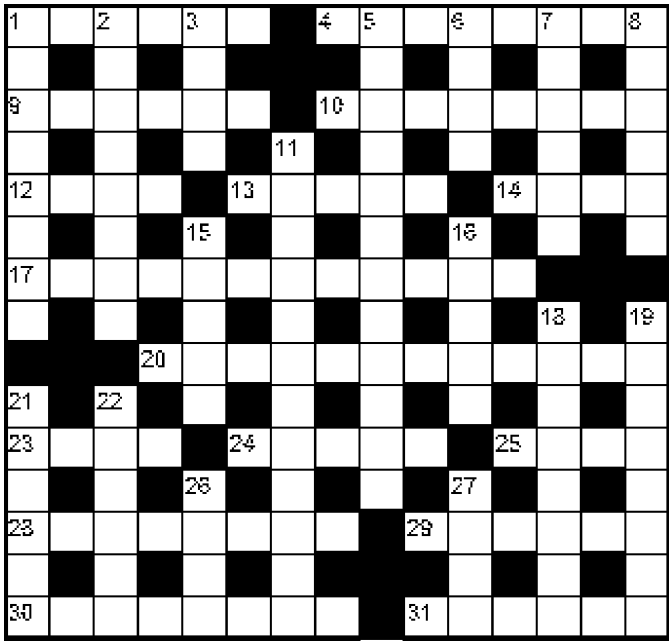
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Across

- 1. Trash like canvas (6)
- 4. Stormy wind does take away from what is expected (8)
- 9. Suggestive when it enters mid-point from the rear (6)
- 10. Credited writer with external promotion (8)
- 12. Fill some barrels at every brewery (4)
- 13. Classical character has no time in disgrace (5)
- 14. Partially hypnotised a great bustard (4)
- 17. Number of balls acquired, then was indebted but dominated (12)
- 20. Achievement by sage possibly, precipitate but incompetent (12)
- 23. Shrub depicted by fine artist (4)
- 24. Support the pair (5)
- 25. Wine producer loses resistance to yawn (4)
- 28. Jacket requires case to explain victory and run away to union (8)
- 29. Curtail what's left after smoking (3-3)
- 30. Mike's follower is working on example to taste bull (8)
- 31. Made something happen when roughly employed (6)

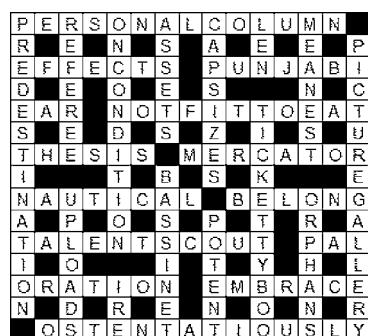
Down

- 1. A report leads to opposition (7)
- 2. Made level uncertain in Slough (7)
- 3. Greek goddess controlling how big the pupil becomes (4)
- 5. Common even in rudeness showing inability to get off (12)
- 6. Warrant discontented extra force (4)
- 7. Introductions required when University maintains money owed (6)
- 8. Most expansive point holding official papers (6)
- 11. They don't like anyone making first senatorship corrupt (12)
- 15. A small layer is white (5)
- 16. Wine is going up close to race (5)
- 18. Bulwarks make copy in sections (8)
- 19. One set of books completed and beloved (8)
- 21. Weighty fish extremely misshapen (6)
- 22. Chicken caught another bird (6)
- 26. Incline not to have soft fruit (4)
- 27. Heartless punctuation mark creates unconsciousness (4)

Crossword compiled by Mavis

Answers will be published in the February issue

Solution to our Winter crossword:



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Sadly, due to the weather a number of games have been postponed. At the time of writing this article, Storm Elena has hit the UK and therefore we have lots of water to contend with, which will no doubt lead to further postponements and the season being extended.

50th Anniversary Charity Dinner

It was a must in our anniversary year to hold a Charity Dinner. Sheffield Hallam University played host to just under 200 guests and players and members of yesteryear came together with present players, managers and parents to take part in a wonderful evening.

The Club welcomed back the world's all time greatest goalkeeper, Sheffield born Gordon Banks, together with his former playing partner Terry Conroy 'Mr Stoke City', who provided us with a wonderful insight into Gordon's career.

As with all Brunsmeer dinners, there was an important focus on raising money for a local charity, and this year we were pleased to team up with STORMS – The Dan McAllister Foundation whose objective is to assist in putting strategies in place to reduce male suicide. This particular charity holds significance for us as a Club in memory of one of our referees, the late Will Freeman who sadly took his own life during 2017.

We were delighted that Will's parents Sheila and Greg joined us as our special guests for the evening, whereby funds were raised for STORMS.

Pitch side Advertising Initiative

In an attempt to raise funds I am pleased and grateful for the

support shown by a number of local businesses with this season's initiative (picture below). Not only does this raise funds for the club but also creates and raises the profile of our ground.

Brunsmeer Academy

If there are any Y1s or Y2s (as at September 2017) who are interested in our pay and play academy then I have listed below some details.

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PILATES CLASSES Dore Old School, Tuesdays 9.15-10.15am. Fridays 9.15-10.15am, 10.30-11.30am. Tone muscles, improve posture, increase flexibility and relax. Teresa Tinklin 07906 312372, <http://www.bodyhealthpilates.co.uk/>

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FEBRUARY

- Wed 21 Dore Garden Club 7:30pm Methodist Church Hall. "My Garden Makeover", speaker Janet Hewitt. Visitors welcome £3.
- Thu 22 Dancing With Dementia Tea Dance 1pm-3pm. Dancing in the Skyline at the Skyline Suite, Ponds Forge International Sports Centre. Live music from Susan St Nicholas. * Live music * Dancing * Tea and Cake Admission £5 per person. To book call 0114 223 3400.
- Fri 28 Dore Neighbourhood Forum - Meeting and Presentation. Come to the Dore Neighbourhood Forum meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 28 February at King Egbert School to hear a presentation on, and to decide whether to approve, the full draft Neighbourhood Plan for Dore. See article, page 23.

MARCH

- Tue 6 Wyvern Walkers, meet Dore Old School 9:30am. From Ashford-in-the-Water over the fields to Monsal Head and returning through Taddington and Great Shacklow to Ashford. (about 6 miles). Contact David Bearpark : 0114 2369100 or see programme of walks for more details.
- Tue 13 Dore Mercia Townswomen's Guild 9.30am for 10am at Church Hall Townhead Road. AGM and Speaker from charity 'Baby Basics'. Visitors welcome.
- Tue 13 Dore Methodist Church Ladies Tuesday Group, 7.30 pm Dore Methodist Church Hall. 'The NHS Then and Now', speaker Andrew Raftery. Visitors welcome.
- Wed 14 Dore Quilters meeting 6-9pm, Dore Old School. Tonight, Weaving ribbons to make a selected design. Visitors welcome.
- Sat 17 267th Dore Scouts launch installation of defibrillator unit at Scout HQ, Rushley Road 11am-2pm. Talks by health professionals, question and answer sessions, CPR and defibrillator instruction, demonstrations and much more. Refreshments available.
- Wed 21 Dore Garden Club "10 Ways to a Better Garden", speaker Doug Stewart (Horticulturalist). Dore Methodist Church Hall, 7.30pm. Visitors welcome £3.
- Sat 24 Wyvern Walkers: Meet 9.30am Dore Old School. This is a walk suitable for early March. We will start from Calver Village and walk to Curbar Village before crossing the fields to Baslow. From there we will return to Calver via Bubnell. Contact Stephen Willetts: 0114 2362821, or see programme of walks.
- Sat 24 Totley All Saints Church 'It's Springtime' event 2-4pm. Totley All Saints Church will be holding an event to celebrate the arrival of Spring! It will be held in the library on Saturday afternoon, with stalls, refreshments and entertainment.
- Wed 28 Totley History Group: "A Walk Through Derbyshire." an illustrated talk at Totley Library by Stephen Gay. Visitors welcome £3.00
- Thu 29 Dancing With Dementia Tea Dance 1pm-3pm. Dancing in the Skyline at the Skyline Suite, Ponds Forge International Sports Centre. Live music from Steve Gray. * Live music * Dancing * Tea and Cake Admission £5 per person To book call 0114 223 3400

APRIL

- Sat 7 Abbeyle Park Bowling Club Open Morning. The Club will be holding open mornings on Saturday 7th and Saturday 14th April between 10am and noon for anyone who would like to try their hand at crown green bowling. Previous experience is not necessary as free instruction will be given and practice sessions organised. Please come and join us at our Open Days, equipped with suitable footwear (flat with no heels), where you will be warmly welcomed. All other equipment can be provided. We have a selection of bowls from which you can choose to borrow for play. If you require any further information, please contact Doreen or Richard Bertram (Membership Secretary), Telephone: 0114 289 1423, or email richard.bertram@btconnect.com.
- Tue 10 Dore Methodist Church Ladies Tuesday Group, 7.30 pm Dore Methodist Church Hall. 'Palestine - Food for Thought', speaker Jenny Richardson. Visitors welcome.
- Wed 11 Dore Quilters meeting 6-9pm, Dore Old School. Tonight, A chance to work on Projects Half Done. Show and tell. Visitors welcome.
- Wed 11 Dore Gilbert and Sullivan Society present "Trial by Jury" and "The Sorcerer". Montgomery Theatre, Surrey Street, Sheffield. Performances 7.30pm nightly Wednesday to Saturday. Tickets £15 (£7.50 for under-16s) telephone 07598 054708 or book via Dore G&S Facebook page.
- Thu 12 Wyvern Walkers, meet 9.30am Dore Old School. From near Curbar Gap to Gardoms Edge to view bronze age antiquities, then onto Birchen Edge for Nelson's monument and the Three Ships. Past Jubilee Rock in Chatsworth Park to Baslow and returning via Wellington's monument. 7 miles. Late finish, Dore approx 2pm. Contact Philip Hetherington : 0114 236 7647 or see programme of walks for more details.
- Sat 14 Abbeyle Park Bowling Club Open Morning. See entry for April 7th.

- Tue 17 Dore Mothers Union 7.45pm Old School. Talk about Mothers Union social outreach work, Speaker Margaret Minns. Visitors welcome £1.
- Wed 18 Dore Garden Club, Methodist Church Hall 7.30pm. "Growing Glorious Gladioli", speaker Peter Farrow (Grower and Exhibitor of Gladioli). Visitors welcome £3.
- Thu 19 Dancing With Dementia Tea Dance 1pm-3pm. Dancing in the Skyline at the Skyline Suite, Ponds Forge International Sports Centre. Live music from Steve Gray. * Live music * Dancing * Tea and Cake Admission £5 per person To book call 0114 223 3400
- Sun 22 Dore Village Society Annual Dragon Hunt, Commencing Dore Old School 2pm. See article page 19 for further details.
- Tue 24 Dore Mercia Townswomen's Guild 10 for 10.30am at Dore Methodist Church Hall. 'The British Schindler', speaker Tim Mulroney.
- Wed 25 Totley History Group - "Wincobank: Hill Fort, Hall and Community." Talk by Penny Rea at Totley Library. Also Totley History Group AGM. Visitors welcome £3.00
- Fri 27 Wyvern Walkers, meet 9.30am Dore Old School. Starting from Cromford canal wharf (pay and display) we walk to Wood End and Bow Wood where there should be a glorious display of bluebells and wood anemones. Continuing to Lea Bridge and Lea Hurst to the canal and High Peak Junction to follow the old High Peak Railway incline to Cromford. Possible lunch at Wharf Cafe or at Cromford Mill. 6.25 miles. Late finish, Dore approx 2pm. Chris Cave : 0114 236 4648 or see programme of walks for more details.
- Fri 27 and Sat 28 Dore Art Group Annual Exhibition, Dore Old School 2pm-6pm Fri, 9.30am-5pm Sat. See article page 2 for details.

MAY

- Tue 8 Dore Mercia Townswomen's Guild 9.30 for 10am at Dore Methodist Church Hall (change of venue) 'Tax, Care & Toyboys', speaker Oliver Hill. Visitors Welcome.
- Tue 8 Dore Methodist Church Ladies Tuesday Group, 7.30 pm Dore Methodist Church Hall. 'Mother's Little Helpers', speaker Susan Watts. Visitors welcome.
- Wed 9 Dore Quilters meeting 6-9pm, Dore Old School. Tonight, Dye workshop out in the yard. This will depend on the weather forecast for that evening and may be switched for an alternative workshop. Visitors welcome.
- Tue 15 Dore Mothers Union 7.45 pm Old School. 'Churchyard Stories', Speaker Dorne Coggins. Visitors welcome £1.
- Wed 16 Dore Garden Club: "Flower Power Fairs", speaker Judy Popley (Flower Show Organiser). Dore Methodist Church Hall, 7.30pm. Visitors welcome £3.
- Sat 19 and Sun 20 Spring Plant Sale: The South Pennine Group of the Hardy Plant Society, Sheffield Botanical Gardens (Thompson Road entrance), 11.00-2.30 Saturday, 10-1.30 Sunday. A wide selection of well-loved and rarer hardy plants are for sale, with advice from knowledgeable members. Free admission, all welcome. To help protect the environment, please bring your own bags to take your plants home. Canvas bags will be available to purchase at low cost. For further information about the group please see our website: www.southpenninehps.btck.co.uk.
- Tue 22 Dore Mercia Townswomen's Guild 10 for 10.30am Dore Methodist Church Hall. Dore History Talk, speaker Dorne Coggins.

**Taken from the Events page of the DVS
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I climbed over the garden wall

Andrew Wright is the son of Irwin Wright who was the last headmaster at Dore Old School. He lives now in Hungary and at 80 is still working as a 'storyteller'. He has sent us this story which relates to him, as a boy living on Long Line, spotting the outlines of what were probably Iron Age round house outlines. They are in/on what is now the Dore Tigers junior training pitch area.

I lived in the third house from the bottom of the road. The little valley in the story is in the Dore Moor Inn field just to the other side of the field track. It is just possible to trace the route of the stream across the big field on our right and in the fields above the Dore Moor Inn field.

I climbed over our garden wall, a typical Derbyshire wall made out of large, uncut gritstones, held together by their shape rather than by cement. I dropped down into the field. It was of rough grass; occasionally the farmer put beef stock there.

It was autumn, already evening and there was white, cold mist floating above the grass against the darkness of the night sky and the gloom of the fields.

In the next field there were the dark shapes of trees which I didn't recognise. I didn't remember them being there. On the other side of the little valley, in the next field, I could make out the shape of two dark triangles, as tall as the trees. I stopped. How could they be there? What were they?

There was no sound, no breeze, so common in the Pennines.

I heard the stream in the little valley. But how could I, because it was in a pipe underground? It only appeared at the top of the field for the animals to drink from.

Then, I saw a girl with long straggly hair. She was standing absolutely still by the open stream holding a clay jar. She was watching me. She saw that I had seen her, and her eyes moved from side to side. I could see the whiteness of her eyes.

I felt she was nervous. I felt it was odd for me to frighten anyone. I raised my hands. She could see I had nothing in them.

I felt I had to speak, 'Hello!'

She replied, 'En!' And then she turned and ran up the other valley side, just twenty metres or so.

I was nearer now and I could see the two triangles were the conical roofs of round huts. I had never seen them there before. I crossed the stream but didn't go up the valley side after her. A moment later, a man, came out of one the huts and was silhouetted against the white mist. He shouted down at me.

'En awa!'

And then he sprang down the valley side like a deer and was next to me in moments. He was bearded and had long hair and wore animal skins. He looked at me carefully and then looked around, peering back the way I had come.

'Awa! Awa!' He turned and beckoned me to follow him. We climbed back up the valley side to the first of the huts. Another man came out of the other hut and there were other faces behind him.

The man I was with pushed me into his hut. In the middle of the hut there was a fire, and there were stones like the ones in our garden wall, placed around the fire. The light of the fire showed long, blackened timbers stretching upwards to meet in the centre and then many small branches crossing the long timbers and these were covered with mud in most places. Around the wall of the hut which was very low there was a raised shelf with animal skins on it. Perhaps their beds and places to sit.

In the hut, the man held my two upper arms. He looked at me quizzically. I felt his face was kindly. His wife came and she had straggly hair like her daughter. She reached forward and felt my nylon padded jacket. She smiled at me. She said something to her husband. He replied but still held me. The girl came nearer. She was smaller than me. She reached up and felt my woolly hat. I looked at her. Her face was thin, she was hollow cheeked, her eyes were large and grey-blue and they glittered.

The woman spoke again and pointed at the seat. The man

pushed me gently and I sat down. The man reached down to the fire and took a small animal's leg from one of the black stones and gave it to me. It was not too hot, a little burnt but tasty. The mother gave me the clay jar to drink from. The water was cool and so pure.

I knew I had to leave. It was not my world. I stood up and smiled and nodded my head and raised my hands. 'Thank you. Thank you.'

Suddenly, I took off my woolly hat and gave it to the girl. She was so happy with it. She put it on her head and smiled again.

They let me leave. The family from the other hut was standing in the doorway. They stepped back to let me out.

It was darker outside and felt wet and chilly after the warmth of the hut. I walked slowly and carefully down the valley side and across the stream. Only then did I turn around to wave. But they were back in their huts.

I crossed the field and climbed over our garden wall and then I ran down the garden path to our house.

'I was getting a bit worried about you.' my mother said, 'And where's your hat? I am sure you had one when you went out.'

I put both my hands to my head as if it was a surprise not to find it there. 'I must have dropped it. I'll go back tomorrow.'

I went back the next day. The stream was in its underground pipe. I couldn't hear it. The huts were not there but my dark woolly hat was lying on the ground, lightly frosted over.

This valley is about twenty metres deep and on the edge, on the other side, I found and identified three hut circles in about 1952 when I was fifteen. I told my mother and father about them but my father, even though he was writing a history of Dore village did not come to see them. A few years later, in 1955 and still a teenager, I informed the Sheffield museum and the curator came to see them and told me they were probably Iron Age hut circles and had not been recorded before by the museum.

Many years later the secretary of the Dore Historical Society wrote to me:

"Hello Andrew. I have finally been able to get hold of the definitive Archaeological data from when Weston Park Museum reconnoitred your discovery in 1955. They took a lot of finding! There is another A3 sheet which is too big for me to scan and no trace of any photographs that might have accompanied the survey. Whilst it says 'not ancient' on the sheets my colleagues on the Time Travellers Committee feel that the site was looked at in 1955 when decisions were reached that more modern equipment over-rides. We have walked the site now; part of Dore Rugby Club grounds and a riding stables. Hopefully there will be more to tell you anon. Best wishes. Dorne."

Sixty-five years, later, in 2018 on January 1, I was walking in Godollo, in Hungary, a chilly evening and I imagined and saw clearly everything I have written above. I only saw two huts. Perhaps my visit pre-dated the construction of the third hut.

Andrew Wright

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Dore Old School Garden and the game of Snobs

Many of you will have seen that the transformation of the garden area at Dore Old School is moving on at pace, halted occasionally by poor weather. We have been very grateful for the generous donations of plants and bulbs for the area especially since it has increased substantially in planting space now the site has been cleared.

What has been intriguing is what has emerged from the tangled undergrowth. We have uncovered towards the top of the site a substantial wall of well-cut stone which runs from the edge of the churchyard towards the roadside. There was great excitement at first when we wondered if this was part of the Chapel of Ease.



Sadly, after closely looking at the 1805 map of Dore, at best it would be no more than a boundary wall. It did allow for a more considered think about where the Chapel actually had been which involved a look at archival postcards held in the Heritage Collection. It would suggest that Sammy Thorpe's general store, as seen in this well-known postcard from the beginning of the 20th Century, may well have utilised the footprint of the old Chapel of Ease since it seems to occupy the same position as on the 1805 map. Incidentally, just visible to the left of his shop are the terraced houses known as 'The Woodyard' which were pulled down in the mid-1960s and would have lain in the area of the Hare and Hounds car park. Look closely at the wall of the car park today as you move down Savage Lane and you can spot the filled-in gateway to the houses.

But what about the game of Snobs? Whilst digging out the

Dore to Door Worldwide

Dear Editor,

I would just like to congratulate you on producing a fabulous and informative magazine.

I live in Far North Queensland in Australia but my roots are in Sheffield and two of my sisters are Dore residents. My sister, Pam, regularly posts the magazine to me at quite a considerable expense so I'm pleased that I can now keep up with all that is happening in your part of the world on line.

Of course like most of your readers I am absolutely disgusted to hear of the felling of ancient trees around the village for no good reason and cannot begin to think how SCC can justify such actions. Here, we live in an area of World Heritage listed rainforest and spend much of our time volunteering to grow and plant trees to repair damage done by inappropriate clearing in the past whilst helping to maintain biodiversity. If your readers are interested they can look at the work we do at the website of TREAT (Trees for the Evelyn and Atherton Tablelands) at www.TREAT.net.au.

Thanks once again for bringing a small slice of English village life to the wet tropics.

Yours sincerely,

Angela McCaffrey

copious amounts of twitch grass we have found shards of Victorian pottery, glass, clay pipes and the item in the photograph below.

Covered in soil, it looked at first like a die and it is the right size. But when cleaned, all sides of the cube were ridged. It is rough glazed and appears to be Victorian in age. In the group of gardeners working that morning only one person



knew instantly what it was. It is a snobs cube played much like the childhood game of 'jacks'. Played since Roman times its earliest name was knucklebones when the five pieces were, literally, made from sheep bones. In different parts of the country it is also known as Chuckstones, Dibs, Dabs, Fivestones, Otadama or Tally.

Dore's snobs piece is a posh one because usually the pieces were simple fired clay. Unlike 'jacks' there is no ball involved. The player has to get as many pieces on the back of their hand after throwing them into the air. 'Out' is when no pieces have been caught.

What made us smile was how there was a very clear division of snobs versus jacks amongst us. Snobs appeared to be played in South Yorkshire, Derbyshire and further south whilst jacks was played to the north. Jacks, in case you are not familiar with them, are made up of star-like pieces in metal.

Something else that made us smile was the Second World War escapade described by Judith Hubbard. Judith attended Dore Primary School and she told us this tale:

For the war effort everyone was encouraged to plant up any scrap of land for vegetables. To this end, Judith and her fellow classmate Beryl Denniff, decided to plant up the very patch of land being cleared. Beryl Denniff lived at Dore Hall Farm on Vicarage Lane (now demolished) and she was persuaded to borrow a wheelbarrow and garden tools from the farm to clear the patch. After a great deal of effort from the two little girls they reached the point of being able to plant seeds. Then they waited and waited. In vain, because nothing grew.

We are hoping for better results when we start to plant up the site!

The Doreways Garden Squad

30 years ago...

From Dore to Door #9, Spring 1988

The Totley Library

Prior to 1934, when the Sheffield boundary was extended to include Dore and Totley, the Derbyshire County Council provided local library services in schools at Dore, Greenhill and Totley. These part time services, staffed by volunteers, continued under the auspices of the Sheffield Libraries, Art Galleries and Museums Committee until 1937, when paid staff were employed.

The decision to rebuild the Church School at Totley in 1939 meant that alternate premises were required. The unlikely rescue came from the City's Electricity Department. On the 16th December 1939, the Totley Branch library was opened in the former office and showroom attached to the Totley Electricity sub-station in Abbeydale Road South, for an annual rent of £15. In these cramped premises a part time service continued for many years, becoming increasingly inadequate with the rapid growth of the local population. Extended working hours did little to relieve the congestion.

In 1971 the present site of the Totley Branch Library was purchased for £6,500 where the 'pre-fab' site has been developed. This pleasant building was opened by the City Librarian and Information Officer, Mr John Bebbington on Tuesday, 26th February 1974.