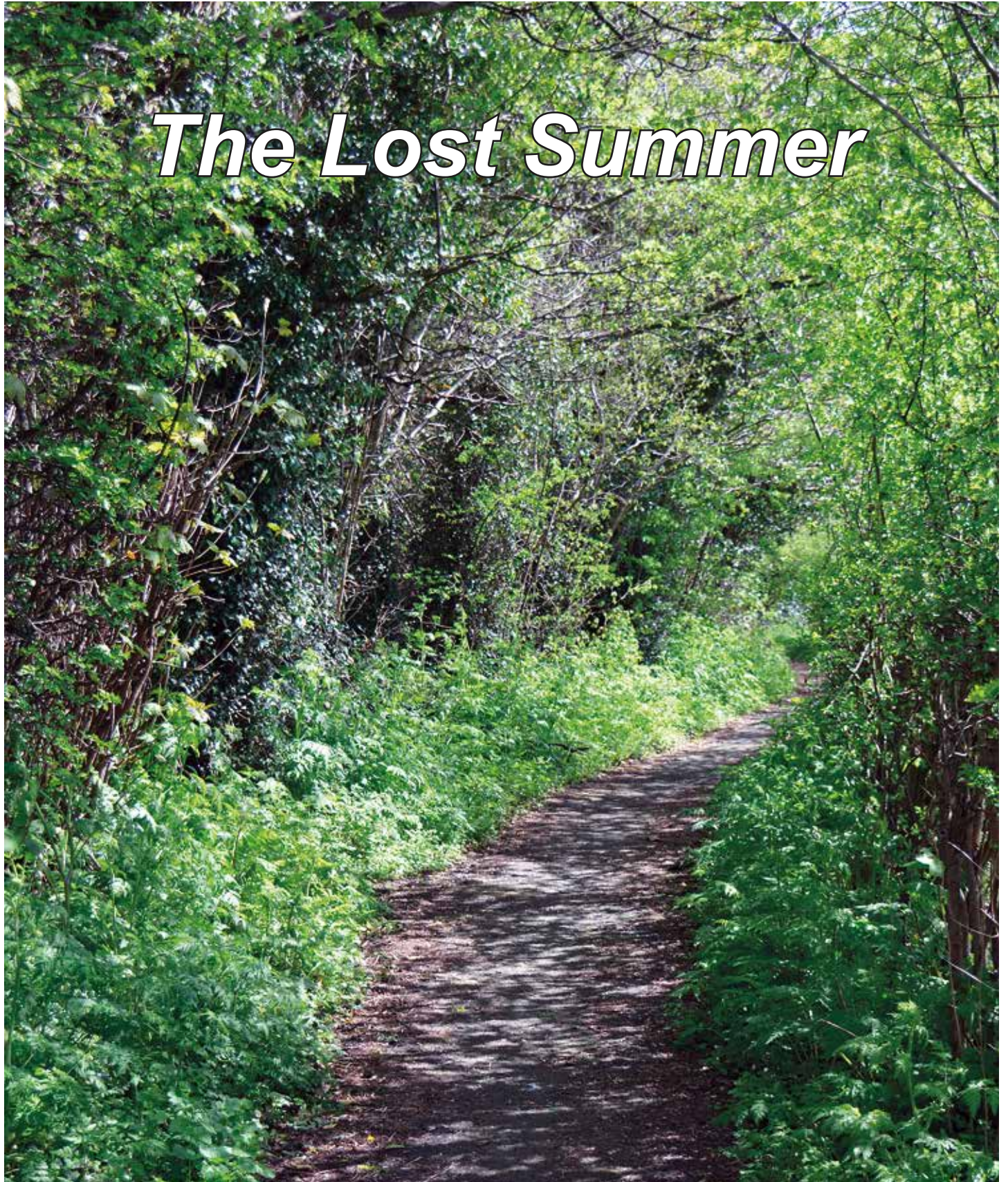


DORE DOOR

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

NO. 138 SUMMER 2020

ISSN 0965-8912



The Lost Summer

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Coronavirus in Dore

Right, let's have another go. I've started to write this article every day for the last week, and every morning I get up, look at the article from the previous day and scrap it because it's no longer relevant.

It's beyond the ability of a quarterly magazine like this to keep up with a thing like coronavirus. The situation is moving too quickly and remember that anything printed here is actually at least three weeks old by the time anyone gets to read it. That's how long it takes to get the magazine printed and distributed.

As you would expect, this nasty little virus hasn't just decimated, but obliterated the summer calendar in Dore. The DVS AGM has been postponed until later in the year. The 2020 Party on the Green, scheduled for the end of June and Gala a fortnight later have both been cancelled. Maybe next year. It isn't known yet whether any of the events planned for Festival Fortnight in between will happen. (Keep an eye on the DVS website for up to date information - if what you're looking for isn't there, that's probably because it isn't happening.) The well dressing is off. The Sheffield Half Marathon which usually comes through Dore in April didn't this year; it will now hopefully take place in September. The 75th anniversary of VE Day on 8th May seems to have largely gone, and we know of no remaining local events.

The local elections which should have happened in May have now been postponed for a year. (See opposite page.) Other cancellations are coming in too quickly to keep track of, and as I write the country is in lockdown. Nobody knows how long this will last; in fact you will probably know more than I do as I'm writing a month ago. The peak of infection is forecast to be sometime in April or May, but it will be a while after that before all restrictions are lifted.

You will find that Dore to Door is a little different this time as so much of what would have been included here has been cancelled or postponed. Regular correspondents have had little or nothing left to write about, and others have come forward who suddenly do have something to say. As I write, I have no idea how much advertising there will be in this issue. Understandably, advertisers may wish to withdraw if they're unable to trade and we're grateful to those who have chosen to remain with us.

There have been a few necessary changes to our production process too. Our printers are still working, as is the courier company who deliver the print run to us. But many of our regular deliverers are over 70, and it hasn't been appropriate to ask them to break isolation. Step in Holly Smart and a team assembled through our Scouting network; they have taken on deliveries of the magazine for this issue with a rearranged logistics setup, and as you will have noticed on the front and rear covers, everyone has been wearing disposable gloves since the print delivery arrived. A small team of people have been discussing and trying to think of every way to avoid Dore to Door bringing the virus into your home. No idea has been rejected.

Lots of local residents too have been organising themselves to offer assistance to the community. On Facebook, as well as the Dore & Totley Community group there is now a group called 'S17 COVID-19 Community Support Group'. They have

organised volunteer deliveries of leaflets throughout Dore, Totley and Bradway. You can read all about this in Claire Knight's article on pages 40-43. Many other people have come forward and volunteered to help with shopping, and other things necessary for those who have to self-isolate. If you are able to help with such things, please join the group.

The community response across the whole of Sheffield 17 has been marvellous and makes me proud to live here. My flat cap off to you all. I think that here in Dore we are getting it right, helped by the fact that we have the room to do the social distancing.

It is easy at times like this to think that we can't do anything about anything. Each country's government is dealing with coronavirus in a different way. Only the historians will be able to judge who was right. But they will judge, many books will be written, and your grandchildren's grandchildren will learn about all this in school.

Everybody can do something, even if that is just staying at home. Social distancing *is* doing something, even if it doesn't feel like it. You're helping the NHS to cope and the hospitals not to become overloaded.

I've already mentioned those who've come forward to help out with shopping and support for our vulnerable residents, and also ensuring that Dore to Door reaches you. As another example, Dave and Cath at the Devonshire Arms have thought seriously about how they can help with the resources available to them. They have opened their glass and paper recycling bins for public use, as the council have said that waste collections may suffer in the coming weeks. Green bin collections were suspended briefly, and this will be followed by brown and blue bins if SCC need to make sure they can still look after the black bins.

If you're a key worker and working endless extended shifts, The Devonshire Arms will also accept your parcels and you can pick them up any time you're both not working and awake. Phone the Dev on 235 1716.

For the rest of us, you'll find a crate outside the pub door. Leave any treats here for passing to our brave NHS workers - tea, coffee, biscuits, chocolate, cakes and the like. You can also leave non-perishables which will go to our local food banks, who are likely to need all the donations they can get in the coming months.

Three cheers too for Kath and all the staff at the Co-op; Craig, Anna and the team at The Village Greens, and Dawn, Janet and all who work at the Chemist. They have kept us going under extraordinary circumstances, putting themselves at some risk just by going to work and being there to serve us.

Please follow the government and NHS advice, keep your social distance and stay well.

John Eastwood
 editor@doretodoor.co.uk



We're pleased this issue to welcome Vivian Iroanya, a journalism student at Sheffield University who has been learning on the job with Dore to Door for this quarter. You'll see her byline on her articles in this edition. Sadly she wasn't able to do everything that we'd arranged, and she also did research work on events which are now cancelled so those efforts are unrewarded. All the same I'd like to thank her for her help, and I hope that her efforts get the required grade.

John Eastwood

"It is said an Eastern monarch once charged his wise men to invent him a sentence, to be ever in view, and which should be true and appropriate in all times and situations. They presented him the words: "And this, too, shall pass away." How much it expresses! How chastening in the hour of pride! How consoling in the depths of affliction!"

- Abraham Lincoln

Walk on



An era in the life of the Wyvern Walkers came to an end in December when Stephen & Fiona Willetts, who had been running the group for six years, stood down.

The last walk was the traditional pre-Christmas urban walk with 17 people focusing on local history and was led by Stephen. Having explored the industrial history of the Porter Brook from Endcliffe Park up Porter Clough last year, this year's walk traced the river down from Hunters Bar to its confluence with the River Don after it has joined the River Sheaf under the railway station. There had once been 11 water mills and we had fun trying to spot the few traces remaining.

On the way we learned about the George Woofindin Almshouses at Hunters Bar and Wilsons Snuff Mill, which has been in the same family since 1798 and still has an operational waterwheel. We toured the General Cemetery, one of the first public cemeteries in Britain, having been opened in 1836. The grade 2 listed Egyptian styled buildings include the gatehouse actually built over the Porter symbolising crossing over a river into death, the non-conformist chapel, the cemetery office and the upper gateway; the Anglican Chapel with its imposing spire is Gothic. We found the graves of such Sheffield luminaries as Mark Firth, James Montgomery, John Cole and George Woofindin. Along the way we saw many views of the river that most of us had never seen before despite living for decades in Sheffield. For most it was a voyage of discovery in a landscape we thought we knew well.

Over the years, not everything has gone well – I recall a walk being abandoned when Stephen lost his way on a walk near Winster. He and I went back to reconnoitre the walk for a future date, forgot the map, got hopelessly lost, thought that we'd found the route we wanted, decided that we hadn't and turned back. We eventually got back having walked almost 10 miles checking out a five mile walk! A further (successful) attempt showed that we had turned back within a few hundred yards of where we were trying to get to! At least we'd finally found the route and all went well on the subsequent walk.

On behalf of all those who have walked with Wyvern Walkers over the past six years, I would like to thank Stephen & Fiona for their hard work and, on behalf of those who will walk in future, to thank Keith Shaw for taking over.

We love having new members, so just turn up at the Old School by 9.30am on a walking day (with a flask of coffee). The walks programme is displayed on the DVS noticeboards and website, as well as on the Dore and Totley Community Facebook page.

Chris Cave

About those elections...

You'll have heard by now that the usual elections for the council have been postponed for twelve months. Primary legislation from the national government is necessary for this, enabling those councillors who should have been up for re-election to stay in place for another year. The same goes for the Police & Crime Commissioner, who should have been standing again. This is happening right across the country.

In Sheffield, there was also going to be a referendum of the way that our council is run. It hasn't been formally announced at the time of writing, but the assumption is that this will also be postponed. Campaign group It's Our City have spent a year gathering enough signatures on their petition to require this referendum to be called, but it's under different legislation to the local elections and therefore will need different legislation to allow it to be postponed.

We have no doubt that Sheffield Council will do what is necessary to get the postponement. In the unlikely event that the referendum goes ahead, you will get your polling card or postal voting form in the usual way.

You can read more about the referendum, the reasons for it and associated issues on the council website at www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/campaigns/scc-governance-referendum and the campaign website www.itsourssheffield.co.uk/.

Dear John,

Chris Morgan's piece about our local buses [*Issue 137*] was quite timely – my wife and I have just returned from visiting friends in Plymouth, a city we also lived in for a few years, and the bus situation there is a complete contrast!

Plymouth Citybus, once council-owned, has been part of the Go-Ahead group for some years, although apparently it is run semi-autonomously with a free rein – and it shows! Their buses are smart, clean, reliable, and frequent, and generally popular, and the overall impression is of a well-run operation that cares for its customers. Compare that with First Bus.

To be fair, it is never going to be easy running buses in a city our size, with the geographical restrictions to routings, and Sheffield is twice the size of Plymouth anyway (although Plymouth is also a much hillier place than you might imagine). On the whole, I don't find the 97/98 route too bad, but I only use it once or twice a week – those who use it every day may beg to differ! And the 218 also has its share of missing buses as well, in my experience.

There is no easy solution to this: yes, we can keep making our feelings known via our councillors or directly, but ultimately should we just accept that any bus service is better than no bus service at all? If First Bus sell out, will the new company be any better? If the problems are due to a shortage of drivers, then perhaps they should be paid more – but that means the fares will go up, and the whole vicious circle starts again!

Yours sincerely,

David Jane

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If you are interested in registering your child or children please visit www.dore.sheffield.sch.uk or email.



Covid-19

The restrictions arising from the Covid-19 outbreak have resulted in a number of cancellations and postponements of DVS events and activities. These include the AGM (postponed), the Party on the Green (cancelled) and our Friday and Saturday open mornings (cancelled until further notice). The DVS room in The Old School is closed until further notice.

A decision about our Heritage Open Day scheduled for September will be made closer to the time. However, preparations for the Dore Show are continuing and a decision about holding this will also be made later in the year. In the meantime, there's more information about the Show on page 39.

The Doreways group have cancelled the Dragon Hunt and postponed litter picks.

Our monthly committee meetings (held on the last Tuesday of each month, except in December) are taking place remotely. This is mostly by email and will be supplemented by video conferencing where any significant discussion is required.

If you wish to get in touch you can still contact us by email, letter and telephone. Our details are on our website at www.dorevillage.co.uk/pages/dore-village-society-committee and on page 7 of this issue.

Membership subscriptions

A total of 929 people have either renewed

their membership or joined this year. Thank you to everyone who has been so prompt. That leaves over 200 people who haven't yet renewed their membership. We sent email reminders to a number of these from the then treasurer, Colin Robinson, using his personal email (colrob167@gmail.com) and this may not have been recognised as coming from the DVS so, if you did receive this, rest assured that it is genuine.

If you didn't get the email it might be because it was identified as spam. We've also had several bouncing back as undeliverable: incorrect email address. If you think this could include you please send us your email address to membership@dorevillage.co.uk.

A number of people have agreed that we can contact them by email but haven't yet given us their email addresses. If you are one of these could you also please let us have it by emailing to membership@dorevillage.co.uk?

You can pay your DVS subscriptions online by any of the following means: Direct Debit, Credit Card and Debit Card. You can also continue to pay by Standing Order, cheque or cash if this is your preferred method. Details of how to pay by each of these methods can be found on our website at www.dorevillage.co.uk/pages/how-to-join-the-society.

If you are paying by cheque, please make cheques payable to 'Dore Village Society'.

Standing Order forms can be requested via membership@dorevillage.co.uk or by phone: 07531 183 438.

If you are posting your subscription or delivering it by hand please note that the address for this has changed from The Old School to Membership Secretary, Flat 1, 18 Devonshire Road, Sheffield, S17 3NT.

Membership queries can also be sent to this address or emailed to: membership@dorevillage.co.uk.

When renewing your subscription please include your email address if you have one as this greatly reduces our costs when we have to communicate with all members.

Treasurer

Our treasurer, Colin Robinson, has recently relinquished this post. His contribution over the last few years has been immense, particularly in addressing several significant challenges with our membership database and other administrative matters. He's done a brilliant job since he joined the committee and we are all very grateful for his contribution; it's certainly made my life a lot easier. Our new treasurer is Jen Donnelly and I am pleased to welcome her into that role and I thank her for volunteering.

Christ Church Hall

Negotiations with members of the PCC are now being conducted by the interim Community Interest Company team (drawn from the sub-committee members who submitted the proposal on behalf of the DVS, the Dore Old School Trust and others). We had a very productive meeting with representatives of the PCC on 3rd March where we discussed their circumstances and wishes, and we provided more information about how we would like to run the Church Hall. There will be a pause now because both parties need to address a number of questions that came up in the meeting and we can't meet to discuss these in the current circumstances, but we are progressing to agree Heads of Terms for a lease agreement.

Blacka Moor

In the last issue of Dore to Door there was some criticism of our support for the work being undertaken on Blacka Moor by the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust. Our response to that is on page 19.

Lastly

Thank you to John Eastwood, Richard Courcier and Amyra Treffry (the production team) for getting this edition of Dore to Door produced, and thank you to the distribution and delivery teams who volunteered to deliver copies to every household in Dore in such difficult circumstances. Thanks also to all of you who contributed to this issue.

Keith Shaw



Councillors' Surgeries
At both Dore Old School and Totley Library are suspended until further notice. You may still contact our local councillors through the website at sheffield.gov.uk but bear in mind that they are subject to the same restrictions as we all are at present.

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Well Dressings 2020

As you've probably anticipated, the current situation has casualties among the well dressing programme for this year. Below are some of the dressings which are planned, but were not cancelled by the time we went to press.

As always, you can check nearer the time whether dressings are still taking place by visiting www.welldressing.com where our friend Glyn Williams is having a nightmare trying to keep everything up to date. Times of dedication services and maps available from the website.

May 8	Handsworth
May 16	Handsworth
May 21	Bisley
May 23-27	Wirksworth
May 23-Jun 1	Monyash
May 23	High Peak Junction
Jun 6	Burngreave Cemetery
Jun 7-14	Cressbrook
Jun 13-19	Edlaston, Wyaston
Jun 13-21	Ulley
Jun 20-25	Youlgrave
Jun 20-28	Litton
Jun 20	Derby (Arboretum)
Jun 25	Upper Langwith
Jun 26	Crosspool
Jun 26	Tintwistle
Jun 27-Jul 4	Buxworth
Jun 27-Jul 4	Old Whittington
Jun 27-Jul 4	Over Haddon
Jun 27-Jul 4	Rowsley

Jun 27-Jul 5	Bakewell
Jun 27-Jul 5	Mellor
Jun 28	Walkley
Jul 4-6	Wessington
Jul 4-9	Coal Aston
Jul 4-11	Hathersage
Jul 4-11	Whitwell
Jul 4-11	Buxton
Jul 4	Brown Edge
Jul 4	Chapel-en-le-Frith
Jul 5-12	Apperknowle
Jul 6-11	Harthill
Jul 8	Peak Forest
Jul 9	Pilsley
Jul 10-17	Dronfield Woodhouse
Jul 10-17	Holmesfield
Jul 10-19	Cutthorpe
Jul 10-19	Millthorpe
Jul 11-15	Pleasley
Jul 11-17	West Hallam
Jul 11-18	Charlesworth
Jul 11-18	Great Longstone
Jul 11-18	Little Longstone
Jul 11-19	Sutton Lane Ends
Jul 17	Derby
Jul 18-25	Clowne
Jul 18-26	Ault Hucknall, Rowthorne
Jul 19-25	Doe Lea
Jul 25-31	Bonsall
Jul 25-Aug 1	Chadkirk
Jul 25-Aug 2	Stoney Middleton
Aug 1-8	Bradwell
Aug 1	Wingerworth
Aug 6	Hucklow

Aug 12-18	Barlow
Aug 22-28	Taddington, Blackwell
Aug 27-Sep 13	Holymoorside
Aug 29-Sep 5	Eyam
Aug 29-Sep 5	Wormhill
Aug 29-Sep 7	Foolow
Sep 6-13	Longnor
Sep 12-19	Chesterfield
Sep 12-19	Hartington
Sep 12	Whitwell
Sep 14-25	Tapton Lock

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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 £7 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

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Brenda Fryer 236 5628

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Jen Donnelly 262 1861

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Neighbourhood Forum Steering Group

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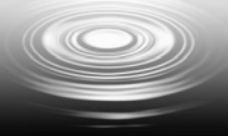
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Bushey Wood – An Ancient Woodland?

Bushey Wood is a strip of woodland that runs between the back gardens of the houses on Bushey Wood Road and Devonshire Road. A public footpath runs through it from entrances on Gilleyfield Avenue and a few metres above the Tesco on Devonshire Road.

A survey by the ecologist Fran Halsall found indications that it could be a fragment of an ancient woodland. Ancient woodland is woodland that is known to have been in existence since at least 1600 when the planting of woodland became more common in Britain.



Ancient woodland can be identified by examining old maps or other documentary evidence and/or by surveying the species that live in the wood.

Ecologists have developed lists of plants that are indicative of ancient woodland. The lists vary from region to region. They list plants that are likely to be found in ancient woodland rather than somewhere else. Many ancient woodland plants are slow to colonise new areas as they may reproduce by cloning rather than seed dispersal. They may rely on ants for seed dispersal which limits their range. Commercial developers often offer new woods in mitigation for destroyed ancient woodland but there are many reasons why new woods cannot replace them. The ancient woodland species may not be able to find their way to the new woods. The new woods will not contain the ecosystems which have developed over many years in ancient woodlands. New woods are often too shaded and the soils are often ex-agricultural soils which are too fertile (containing too much nitrogen and phosphorus) and which allow more vigorous plants to out-compete ancient woodland species.

Designation of a wood as ancient woodland does not mean that it has not been affected or managed by humans either before or after 1600 but it could have a continuous connection with the woodland that populated Britain after the last ice age around 13,000 years ago. The flora and fauna of Britain were effectively “reset” when the last ice

age retreated at the start of the Holocene epoch. Scientists have found by analysing pollen samples that the initial “wildwood” that established itself became dominated by certain trees. In Sheffield it was oak and hazel, not far south from here it was lime.

All woodland in Britain, including ancient woodland, will have been affected by human activity, particularly since Neolithic people first introduced farming with permanent settlements, crops and domestic animals around 5,800 years ago. Since then woodland has been used for such things as wood pastures with domestic animals grazing amongst the trees, the provision of materials for many purposes including buildings, ships and pit props, and providing charcoal for the production of iron, steel and lead. In this area a wood product known as “whitecoal” was used in lead smelting until about 250 years ago. No one knows exactly how this was produced but several local woods include distinctive hollows where whitecoal was produced. Bushey Wood itself bears witness to past industries as it contains some outgrown field maple coppice stools. Coppicing is a technique that can be applied to certain trees such as hazel and field maple which grow a circle of poles around the stump of the central trunk when it is cut low to the ground. This may have evolved in response to animals browsing young trees. Coppicing provides a relatively quick and ready supply of timber for many purposes including fuel.

The value of ancient woodland is that it contains unique ecosystems of trees, plants, fungi, lichen and bacteria etc that have developed over possibly many thousands of years that can't be reproduced.

Ancient woodland covers only 2% of Britain and therefore is rare. 40% of ancient woodland was converted to conifer plantations in the twentieth century. The remaining ancient woodland is under threat and likely to diminish further. 108 ancient woodlands are at risk of loss or damage from the HS2 project. A recent planning application to build motorway services on Smithy Wood, an ancient woodland to the north of Sheffield, was given serious consideration before it was withdrawn after another application for services nearby was approved. The government's 25 Year Environment Plan pledges to protect ancient woodland but it seems that often economic or political expediency will be given precedence.

Mel Jones' book “Sheffield's Woodland Heritage” lists the ancient woodland of Sheffield. It includes several woods around Dore such as Ecclesall Woods, Gillfield Wood and Ladies Spring Wood but Bushey Wood is not listed.

The survey of Bushey Wood found eleven ancient woodland species: field maple, wild garlic, pendulous sedge, hazel, herb Robert, bluebell, holly, great woodrush, dog's mercury, sessile oak and rowan.

Bushey Wood itself is only a fragment of an original wood but it can still be treasured for the special plants and other species it contains. Its size will limit the number of species it can contain as the size of a habitat is proportional to the number of species within it, but it will be important to local wildlife. It may be possible to introduce some measures to preserve and enhance its character and status to limit encroachment from garden plants and discourage the dumping of garden waste. It will also be interesting to see whether the English bluebells have been or will become hybridised with Spanish bluebells which are popular with gardeners. We will return to the subject of Bushey Wood in the future and hope to base some walks or activities around it.

Mark Ridler
pictures by Margaret Peart





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School's out



I arranged to talk to Ruth Darrall, one of the four trustees at Dore Old School. I had heard that since she has lived in Dore or nearby all her life, she might have a couple of stories and extensive knowledge of what Dore used to be like back in the old days. We agreed to sit down for a chat in one of the Old School rooms.

Ruth was one of the last pupils from the Old School before its closure in 1966.

This is now used as a community hall open to group activities in the village such as art groups, Guides and Brownies, bridge clubs and pilates classes.

However, just recently the Old School building has had some problems. "The lead was pinched off the roof and there was a lot of water. We had to close for three weeks; the thieves took £100 worth of lead, but caused about £20,000 worth of damage", Ruth told me. I asked her how this will be resolved. "The money will come from the insurance company. We can't decorate until it has all dried out in the summer. It's a bit of a nightmare; we had to close everything down for three weeks. Water was pouring through the light fittings; all the electrics and heating were out. Everything."

Her husband John helps with maintenance at the Old School. Interestingly, she added that he too came to this school. "We were both at school together, but I didn't know him at the time when we were five." She laughed. They later met in the Devonshire Arms, "but not until when we were in our twenties," she added.

After leaving school, she worked in a bank for twenty years. "I started work at sixteen. You didn't necessarily go to A Levels or university in those days. Mine was an easy transition from school to work." She then worked in the local post office for twenty-five years until that closed in 2016. "They are all closing. All the post offices are in shops, so there aren't any independent ones at all. Lots of people know me from the post office as well."

Ruth told me of the extensive work her family has done in Dore over the years and how the history of Dore is deeply embedded in her family history. "Our family has been around for a long, long time, they were the undertakers and carpenters. They were tenants of farms in the 1700s and 1800s." Both Ruth's parents, Bessie and Walter Colley, were born here too. Her mum was the first lady trustee of Dore Old School and one of the founding members of the Dore Oral History Society, which records the life stories of people living in Dore in the 20th century. She's been tracing her family's history through family bibles and wills going back to the 1700s. She also has wills from Richard Furness, Dore's local schoolmaster in 1821, who signed wills for people who couldn't write. "I have someone doing loads of work on my family history for me and we have been listening to what my mum had to say through the recordings made by the Oral History Society. I also have loads of old documents that have come down through the family and the village, so they've been tracing back our family." She added that her aunt Dora was the cake maker for the village, she made many wedding cakes for local people up until around 1970.

We decided to have a walk through the various key sites of her family history. She pointed towards her old family house, just across the village green from the Old School. This is where she used to live before she got married. Also, her grandparents' house is one of the old cottages in Dore. They had extensive grounds, but these belonged to the council who took them back in the 1960s to build the new school which is now Dore primary.

Then, we went over to Christ Church Dore where Ruth was

married, as were her parents and grandparents. She showed me the lychgate her great-grandfather had made about a hundred years ago. This leads to the graveyard with many family graves, which has been there since 1821.

"There is so much history" I said. She agreed. "There is a lot of history in Dore."

As we walked past the old school playground where kids were playing outside, she said this was also her old playground. I was quite impressed at the amount of history located in such a relatively small public space.

Ruth is also part of Doreways, whose activities are funded by the Dore Village Society. She is involved in the organization of their many exhibitions that occur once every two years. The first one was the 2012 jubilee ceremony for the Queen, which was themed on the 1950s. Others have included craft and wartime exhibitions. Other Doreways activities include litter picks, a dragon hunt for families, memory boxes loaned to the elderly to help trigger old memories, coffee mornings on Remembrance Day and many other free events.

Ruth is also on the Dore show committee, organising an event to display local produce and skills.

I asked her what she thinks is the impact of all this 'behind the scenes' work for the community? "People like it because not that many places do things now. With this being a village, a lot of older people particularly like these things."

Finally, we headed over to the Dore Village Society room, whose headquarters are in the Old School. Ruth gave me a copy of the DOS book of records and recollections. I saw the photos of some of her family members she had mentioned thus far – her grandmother Alison, aunt Dora, mum Bessie and great uncle Jack Fletcher, including a picture of little Ruth. "I remember when it was cold and when the free milk we had at playtime in a small bottle was frozen, they used to put it on the radiators to thaw out and it tasted disgusting," she said.

To slightly change subject, I asked about her hobbies outside of her work in the Old School. "I like going to the theatre, I like quizzes and reading." Most importantly, however, Ruth likes travelling. A lot. "I just came back from Tenerife and I went to Dubai in January." Due to the coronavirus pandemic, she won't be going to Spain and Portugal in May with her daughter Rachel. But this won't certainly stop her as she likes "seeing the world."

Any thoughts for the future? "Dore is a good place to live. There are lots of nice people; it is a community. In other places, many people just go from one place onto the other. I've gone through the Brownies and Guides. Once you are a trustee here, you are here for life. I cannot see us moving because I've never known any different. I don't think I'll move anywhere else. I know a lot of people retire to the seaside. I don't think I would. I imagine I'll just stay here."

Interview by Vivian Iroanya

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Some of you might remember Matt Batty, who worked with me at Dore Co-op about ten years ago. Neither of us has worked there for years now. Matt no longer lives in Dore, but he isn't far away and still has family here. He's been keeping his Facebook friends in tucks with his isolation diary, self-imposed after contact with a workmate with a suspicious cough. Matt has kindly agreed to let us

publish this, and we hope that it can give you a similar lift in these difficult times.

John

Day 1 of 14-day isolation: So far I have been banned from singing in the house. (Particularly 'Isolation' from the Mighty Boosh and 'Covid19' to the tune of 'Come On Eileen').

I have been banned from preparing my own food as gherkin and mayonnaise is not a sandwich apparently.

I have been banned from speaking to the cats as it's causing too many headaches and I'm apparently annoying them.

I have been banned from watching my television programmes because they're "shouty".

I'm not allowed the heating on.

I'm still banned from performing surprise wrestling moves (DDTs and Stunners) but this has been emphasised with more venom today.

This is day 1. Someone isn't going to survive this quarantine.

Day 2: More bans have been issued.

I have been banned from eating granola out of the box like crisps because I am "ruining future breakfasts".

I have now also been put under strict rationing. Two slices of bread per day with a sandwich filling of "not up to you".

I have been banned from stroking the cats as I am apparently peeling their fur off and leaving it around the house.

Wrestling moves on cats are now banned also. Separate incident.

I may have to wear a cow bell in order to detect where I am in the house as me being quiet is suspicious.

After deciding to ignore the singing ban, I have now been banned from singing (to the tune of 'Itsy Bitsy Teeny Weeny Yellow Polka Dot Bikini') "Iiiiiit's a coughing sneezy, breathless-wheezy Covid19 quarantine." Not as impressive as I think apparently and inappropriate.

I have also been banned from lying on the guest bed and chatting as I am ruining the throw and cushion arrangement.

I'm banned from ringing people I work with and telling them I am in quarantine because 'some twonk started coughing'.

I feel day 3 may be the breaking point.

Day 3: So, it's a late update due to having to wait until Sirius the Virus fell asleep as the first ban imposed today was banning these Facebook posts.

Second ban was the name Sirius the Virus.

Another ban imposed is me hogging the big chair. Apparently, "I'm bigger than you" isn't a valid enough reason when I wouldn't be as big if I would stop eating the rations.

Singing ban ignored again with the great 80s hit "My Sharona"... you know where that one is going, so I'll stop there. Banned.

Tested a theory I could eat quicker with two forks. Banned.

Apparently "How many gherkins can I fit in my mouth?" is a one-player game. Banned.

Finally, The Dictator played I-Spy with me but "I spy with my little eye something beginning with C...19" was the final straw. Banned.

I've also learned that cats either don't understand or don't wish to play hide and seek. I won, behind the bathroom door for six minutes. Banned due to giving The Dictator a fright.

Slowly the house is being divided, my area seems to be every room The Dictator isn't. Also, the cats have chosen sides. Traitors.

I will remember when this is over.

Day 4: Not to be dramatic, but today started with a declaration of war. The cats have initiated a fight with a night attack. During my slumber they have knocked pens and important papers off my desk in the office. They also looked extra smug. Banned from calling it a gang war and throwing gang signs at them.

I decided to see how well The Dictator and I knew each other, so I attempted communicating using the word "Breakfast" only. Apparently, my grasp of the English language is poor anyway and this made me seem more intelligent. I didn't get breakfast.

It takes me 16 seconds to walk from the kitchen to The Dictator's office, 8 seconds running and 23 seconds with my eyes closed. I am now banned from time trials and we need a new vase.

I have discovered that making a bowl of jelly in secret to eat later is not a good idea. It doesn't set straight away (who knew?!) And that tiny slab of jelly makes a huge amount of jelly and to consume it in one go is not the easiest thing to do - in the downstairs bathroom.

Coined a phrase to describe when you watch something on Netflix you wish you hadn't: "RegretFlix". Apparently, this is not needed and annoying. I am her biggest RegretFlix.

Banned from pretending to be a burglar to see how The Dictator and the cats would cope. Answer: Not very well. Too many screams. On a separate note, I can fit under the sofa and there's stuff there.

Me doing voiceovers for the cats brought us a few laughs, until George cat called The Dictator a stupid t**t. He had to ruin it.

Singing "Night Fever" and "You Give Me Fever" are banned.

The Dictator found the fish I had hidden in the microwave on Monday. I didn't forget about it, I just didn't realise it was still there. No more fish.

This has been a hard day. The atmosphere is better, but still ten days to go. I may have to build an extension.

Day 5: ABBA - Dancing Queen.

"We are in quaaaaaantine, to keep things clean from COVID nineeeeeeteeeeeeeeen". Banned.

The Dictator (TD henceforth) was in a good mood this morning after I polished the tables and brushed the sofas. This mood quickly turned sour when I added the sentence "Why dont you get it that clean?". The bruises will heal.

Growing tired of the many lotions and potions in the bathroom, I decided to mix the shampoos together in one bottle. Efficient. TD's mood further plummeted upon hearing this news. I have no idea what my hair smells of, but I think I have created a cat repellent. Calling it my "Social Distancing Cream" has been banned.

After cleaning the bathroom and binning what looked like an apothecary's wet dream, boredom set in.

I decided to play Pillow Shepherd for old times' sake. For those not familiar, you need more than one cat and a pillow case. Wait for it before you judge.

Open all doors in your home and start the cats in different rooms. To win, you must guide (without fear or fright or physically touching them) both cats into the same room in under five minutes. The pillow case? That goes on your head for a more authentic shepherding experience. Banned.

I found a marble! Banned.

"Matthew Batty for Great Britain. He has trained hard for years for this opportunity" I announced before I swan dived into the air with grace upon TD who was lying on the sofa.

Olympic Sofa Diving... Banned.

To avoid further temper flares, I told TD I would have a healthy dinner, so I had a potato and pea salad with pork and a pork bone jus! It was delicious and all was well until TD discovered that I had actually had chips and mushy peas with a sausage and gravy.

Today was the worst day for boredom. A lot has gone unwritten due to peace treaties with TD who I must say deserves a medal.

Day 6: I woke up to three-legged Jack meowing in my face. Didn't realise TD was also awake and apparently me saying that "if he woke me up like that again he would be turned into a draught excluder" is an over the top reaction.

TD refused to make breakfast, so I ordered two bacon and tomato sandwiches. I know she does not like bacon and tomato sandwiches so double breakfast for me. The food arrived and suddenly TD liked bacon and tomato sandwiches. Vicious, evil ruler.

After the busy morning, more bannings were issued:

I blink too much. So I now have to ration my eyelid movement.

“How many toothpicks can my beard hold?” is not a hobby apparently and was a waste of good toothpicks. Banned.

TD was not as impressed as she should have been that I learned a full scene in Neighbours by rewinding Sky and rehearsing for half an hour. I could have helped with something else. Banned from live action theatre.

I decided to wind TD up by speaking my sentences backwards. E.g.: “Idiot stupid a me calling stop”. I got tired of this and just started shouting words. Banned.

TD is doing a jigsaw puzzle. I decided to hide 15 pieces of the jigsaw. I also have hidden all the candles and a bakewell tart. Nothing bad can come of this.

I have strategically hidden both the Alexas in TD’s office and set them both for the same alarm time. That’ll teach her to eat my bacon and tomato sandwich.

The songs today were not at all brilliant as I am running low on material, however I did manage to annoy TD by singing Akon: Locked Up. “We’re locked up, won’t let me out”.

Finally, the cats seem on side with me today so I think it’s time for a revolt against the tyranny. TD has a war on her hands.

Day 7: Traitors. The only logical explanation for what happened is the cats have betrayed me. I woke up to find TD already awake and glaring at me. “Why were all my candles in my coat pockets and a Bakewell tart in my hood with puzzle bits?” I think it was Jack in retaliation to the draught excluder comment. Three-legged git.

TD has noticed that I’ve been playing basketball with my socks and the laundry basket. She noticed because there are maybe one or three socks hanging from the curtain rail above it.

I fed the cats and made sure George got more than Jack. Not so smug now, tripod.

Feeling bad about tormenting TD, I thought I would pay her a compliment to let her know all is still well during this horrid time. Apparently “You look nice when I squint” isn’t a compliment and more of an insult, but I didn’t get a chance to explain that I meant she looks good close up and from dead far away...

I was sitting watching Neighbours (rehearsals) when the bell tolled on both Alexas. Before I could ask if TD got a fright, two cats came rushing downstairs with an angry TD behind. I squinted and said “You look pretty”.

“Covid19 Quaranteeny” was the main song of the day again. TD started wearing earphones so I voice noted her on WhatsApp in case she felt left out.

Saying “My corona virus is itchy” does not get sympathy nor a cup of tea.

I counted 14 pigeons today. I can’t promise they were 14 different pigeons because one or two looked awfully similar.

I can walk on all fours from the kitchen to TD’s office in 22 seconds. 43 with my eyes closed. Banned.

I sellotaped my legs together to see how I could cope being kidnapped, and I woke up an hour later after a brilliant nap. The sellotape has now been hidden from me.

Shouting upstairs to TD to let her know what adverts are on telly is banned.

So, day seven is done. TD finishes her isolation tomorrow and is excited to be out of the house for some reason. I have another seven days but that’s ok because we are all now on lockdown and everyone else is doing exactly what I am.

Day 8: I found my bow and arrow this morning. I was over the moon for the full 15 seconds I held it before TD took it off me.

Called cousin Thomas to wish him a belated happy birthday. I knew it was his birthday yesterday, but I thought if I called a day late it would give us something to talk about other than his birthday being on that day I had called, and potentially branch out into

something not birthday related. Didn’t really pan out that way to be honest, the main focus was still his birthday. I don’t even know what I was thinking. Selfish.

TD went shopping. I called every 10-15 minutes so I could gauge when she would be coming back so I could hide. Eventually I hid in the duvet. Not under, but in the buttons and under the blanket bit, with my head under the pillow. Half an hour later TD was still not home and I was fast asleep.

That got me thinking what it would be like having a pillow head and pillow hands and feet. TD came back at the wrong time. Now I’m not allowed near the bedroom when she is out. It was incredibly comfortable, FYI.

The cats went out. I was glad of this as I think that they are really getting on my nerves with all their free food and freedom.

The next door neighbour watched me cut my grass today over the fence. I felt really uncomfortable so I just started fake coughing and sniffing. He went inside and watched from his kitchen.

Played on the Playstation for the first time in a while today online. - until someone of the age of about 10 called me a knob. Put the Wii on instead. Bowling. No-one calls you a knob on the bowling.

TD hid the biscuits from me because I can’t stop eating them. It is here, I must inform TD that I found them behind the Bero flour in the baking cupboard and I must admit to eating about nine of them.

TD said she saw a fight in Morrisons over Social Distancing. I said if she started a fight with me over Social Distancing I would throw a lettuce at her. TD asked if we could practice Social Distancing in the house.

At a push you can fit six silverskin pickled onions on a toothpick. Banned.

Not a busy day today. Big day planned tomorrow because I’m going into the garage. I’m very excited. It’s like a little holiday.

Day 94,091(9): Went into the garage today with TD. Whilst organising my fishing gear I decided to try on my waders again. Apparently saying “I’ll wade in and help you move that box” or “Don’t worry, I waded in and put the chairs outside” aren’t funny puns.

George and Jack joined us in the garage for a bit. George bit the washing line pole. George isn’t very clever.

I started refurbishing an old miner’s lamp. TD told me not to, because I would get bored and leave it half done like everything else in the house. TD is stupid. I started by taking it apart meticulously. I unscrewed the lid and removed the glass which I cleaned in the sink. Whilst in the sink I washed my hands singing happy birthday twice. I then dismantled the rest of the rusty lamp and put it in order of size on the bench TD had just ‘zoflora’d’ and apparently that’s the worst thing I could have done. After that I walked out of the kitchen because I was completely and utterly bored of the lamp.

I can throw 52 cards at TD individually in under 30 seconds. TD took way longer to pick them up. Banned.

I walked back into the kitchen and realised the lamp was still in there so walked back out.

Next door caught me in the garden again, he presented a “Keep Fit Insanity” DVD from his pocket and asked if I wanted to borrow it, glancing at my stomach. I asked if he wanted to borrow my lawn mower and glanced at the overgrown moss pit of a mud patch he calls a lawn. Checkmate.

I told TD about the encounter and she asked if I wanted to borrow some make up for my ugly face. I declined.

I could smell toast a lot today and I googled it as I couldn’t get through to a GP for some reason. Apparently it means I’m having a stroke. That’d be an awful cherry on a very shit cake.

Apparently I say apparently too much. I didn’t know that was an apparent problem.

Song: Electric Six - High Voltage (Danger Danger). “Danger Danger, Corona! We cant touch, we cant kiss, Danger Danger its Covid! keep your distance, off you piss” was the worst one yet according to TD.

A couple of messages received about sharing this dross I have been writing. So I’ve made it public. TD said I shouldn’t share anything even if it’s online because I could infect people with my

stupidity.

About an hour ago I tried to see if I could touch every wall in the house in under 60 seconds. I managed it quite easily but I was very hot so opened a window. To my surprise the whole street were applauding my effort. TD said it was for the NHS but she was just jealous.

Day... God knows? Is it still March? Is it still 2020? Day 10?

Stockpiling plucked nose hairs to look at and discuss later in the day... banned.

TD ventured out again today for essential shopping. I asked for caffeine free Pepsi and crisps. Apparently these are not essential. I said "I will essentially make loads of noise if I don't get them". I didn't get them.

I walked around on my knees for the first half of the day to see what it would like being smaller. The only thing it proved is that small people must have really sore knees. TD stayed upstairs during this experiment.

I went into the garage again as TD forced me to remove the half finished oil lamp. I started to clean the lamp when I wandered off and found a wine making kit. Six bottles and two vats. I'm now excited to announce my new COVID wine range... Corona Wine-us or Covid Vineteen. It will be ready if I ever get round to finishing the oil lamp.

TD made a delicious lunch of cheese toasties. I pointed out that my toasties had the least amount of cheese and tomato in. TD mentioned that is because mine was spread over more toasties. The fact I had four toasties is irrelevant in my eyes. All toasties should be equal.

I found a piece of medical equipment I made once. Yes, I made it. I saw a video on ear cleaning and that they used pipettes. So I emptied a Tommy K bottle, cleaned it and then sourced a biro. I used the metal end of the biro that the actual pen sticks out of, and placed it in the rubber lid where the sauce comes out (I hope you're following this). I then went into the bathroom and filled the bottle with water. I had created a high pressure miniature jet wash for ears. I stuck it in my ear and it hurt so much I couldn't bear using it again. I then wondered if it could clean nasal passages. It was after this thought that I nearly drowned after firing the jet into my nose. TD threw my invention in the bin.

I poured my last caffeine-free drink into a glass with excitement but it did that thing where the glass still obviously had washing up liquid in it and frothed and foamed and went flat. I drank the drink and was about to complain when I realised it was me who washed that glass. TD smiled and I can't help but think it was karma.

I sang loads of normal songs today that I knew TD wouldn't know. Everytime I asked her who sang it and she replied "I don't know" I was saying "Oh, you've never heard of Miley Virus?". No sense of humour.

George cat sat and looked at me for an hour. It made me so uncomfortable I left the room.

Finally, TD announced that roly-polys are not a 'mode of transport' fit for inside the house. Banned.

Day 11111111: Woke TD up at 7:20am by gently rocking her out of bed. Wasn't so smirky smirks about the flat caffeine drink anymore. Revenge = banned.

TD reached out an olive branch it seemed, and made a nice brunch for us. One of my hash browns was all smashed. TD said this is because it stuck to the baking tray. Still a strong 7 out of 10 brunch.

I ventured into the garage again. I had no reason to, other than complete boredom. I opened the door, saw the oil lamp and went back into the house.

Changing the words to ChaCha Slide is banned. "Everybody wash your hands, wash wash wash wash wash wash wash wash wash wash."

"Waaaaaash on the right BOW... waaaaaash on the left... BOW splish splish, BOW BOW splish splish, BOW BOW splish splish BOW BOW, my hands real smooth doo-doo-doo doo-doo-doo"

TD especially hated the replacing of criss-cross with splish splish as this was making a soapy mess. I said "No". Surely she couldn't complain - how can clean water make a mess? I think I won that argument as TD just walked off sighing.

Rugby tackles are not a form of a surprise quick hug and have been banned.

I decided to tickle TD's feet. Without asking for this following information TD yelled "OK, OK, I dropped your hash brown on the floor and stood on it". You can imagine my face. Revenge is back on the menu. Unbanned.

Tomorrow I'll try my armpits and see what secrets they release.

Jack was clicking the curtains. Apparently just shaking my head at him isn't a strong enough deterrent and I could have done more to stop him. "He only has one paw so he only does half the damage" wasn't something I should have said.

Friends joined me and TD on Facetime. Instantly bored of them talking about healthy food and their days, I decided to talk loudly until mine was the only voice. They all looked pleased.

I got a deck of cards and taught them all a game I made up on the spot. "Was it Poker? Blackjack? Gin Rummy? Newmarket?" I hear you ask?

No, these are simple folk so I invented a game called "Guess what card is next". It sounds over-complicated but it really is just guessing the next card. There is a point system though:

1 point for the correct colour

2 points for the correct suit

4 points for the correct number

10 points for the correct card.

All you need to know is I didn't win. But three players guessed the correct card which was followed by a darts-like celebration. Oi Oi Oi. I turned off Facetime after five hours of this.

My isolation posts are being published in a village magazine in Dore where I used to frequent the local pubs. "Dore to Door" it is called. The editor has asked me to take a selfie. After 14 attempts at pouty face and TD laughing I have given up and will try again tomorrow.

TD told me I was inconsiderate for playing videos on my phone loudly and to put headphones on. Forgetting how headphones work momentarily I thought for five seconds it also meant she couldn't hear what I was saying. I sharply remembered this after TD's face went red with rage when I called her a "Bat-eared twonk".

Tomorrow, I have decided we are going to drink the house dry and clear out all the old booze we have left from the social events we have never had.

Day 12: Mambo Number 5.

"1,2,3,4,5 everybody wash your hands and let's stay alive". Surprisingly not banned... until I played the real song on repeat six times in a row. I never did find Mambos 1-4.

I was awoken at 6am today by George cat sitting on my chest. He is heavy for a cat. The vet once looked into Becky's eyes and said he was never going to be thin. I still don't know if the vet was talking to me and Becky or just Becky.

I told TD that it's really 5am not 6am. TD didn't appreciate being woken up for that information. Nor did TD appreciate me reminding her all day we are an hour forward and calling myself Future Matt. And saying things like "I'd have done that an hour earlier yesterday".

I hoovered the downstairs carpet today. I hoovered the word "Tits" into the pattern. TD rubbed it out with her feet. So I hoovered a willy shape on each step of the stairs. Still unnoticed.

I got my keyboard out of the loft to try and learn again. I can play "This Years Love" by Davey G, but that's about it. After about ten minutes of setting it up in the living room I got bored and turned the PS4 on. I had a message from the kid who called me a knob last week, calling me a knob.

I found a golf ball in my office so I decided to play "Blow Golf". You have to blow the golf ball with one short sharp burst of breath from one room into a designated spot. I used the right leg of my boxers downstairs as the hole. TD confiscated it as she nearly fell bum over bonce when carrying my keyboard back upstairs.

In retaliation for HashBrownGate from yesterday, I have tied all TD's trainers together by their laces. It looks like a centipede has come over to stay.

TD and I were discussing which Marvel Superhero we would be.

I said I would be Thor, an impressive specimen of a demigod.

TD said I would be fat Hulk. Leaving mess everywhere and always angry for no reason and too loud and too heavy handed and not a good dress sense and poor communication skills and... I stopped her there during the character assassination. She would be the red skull thing from Hydra.

Ran a bath and thought I would read a book and relax. I climbed into the bath and dropped the book. I had nothing to read or listen to. It was like being in an isolation tank but without a lid. On the plus side I now know we have 46 bathroom tiles.

I made a chicken casserole and George watched. We heard a loud meowing and howling from the front so we rushed out. Old tripod Jack was starting a fight with a tabby cat three times his size with 25% more limb-age. This cat keeps coming onto our driveway and starting a fight with three-legs when he is on his own. Bully cat.

"Kick his head in wobbly" was something I shouldn't have shouted apparently. The tabby ran off. Jack looked ever so proud. George was just in the house licking the lid of the casserole pan. I can't help but think they were all in on this.

I shaved my beard today, TD pointed out that my face had grown in size during isolation. I pointed out so has her arse.

If anyone wants a game of "Guess what card is next" or to compare scores in Blow Golf give me a shout.

Day 13: I am feeyooming. I didn't wake up this morning. I was just suddenly awake. Three legs was sitting on my shoulder 'nose-breathing' into my face when four legs knocked over my water onto my phone. They aren't even isolating and they are being dickheads.

TD was blaming me, saying that I should not have had the full glass of water on the bedside. Where else am I meant to keep it?! In the loft!? I sat up in a rage. "I am always in trouble, aren't I? When things break it's always my fault!" I feyoomed... as I GENTLY opened the curtains. The rail and curtain came off the wall in my hand and covered me in plaster.

The words to describe this stroke of hideous luck are not available. TD just had 'that' look on her face. It's ok, I fixed it.

I found a hair in the middle of my forehead today. It was longer than an arm hair. I plucked it and I looked more bald.

Played "Guess what card is next" with Andy and his sproglettes today. The children were great at guessing. Andy however was cheating and had written down the cards in order to cross off which ones had been called. I regretted giving him a tour of my office and its many treasures.

Jessica also played: 111 points. Pretty epic result considering she didn't get a correct colour or suit for like 15 cards. Well done. As I explained to both of them it is a game of experience and they can only improve.

I watched a video on how to make Playdoh with flour, food colouring and water. TD saw me watching the video and hid the flour. For future reference, Canderel powdered sweetener is not a flour replacement. Just ended up with sugar water.

I wanted a little snack today so I found some tinned chicken. Another little tip. Don't eat tinned chicken. I believe it was chicken meat, but I believe it was the chickens' arse meat. George enjoyed his share though.

I put all my watches on my left arm today. I at first pretended I was a cockney watch salesman, but after being pushed out of TD's office for being annoying I decided to change characters and became *MatTime BatTime!* My superpower was knowing the time anywhere in the world. TD pointed out she could find that out with her phone. I need to revise this super power as I am too impressed with the name to give up.

TD found three biscuit wrappers in my dressing gown and a crisp packet. She got mad and said I am a slob, I smiled because it only reminded me of happier times.

It was annoying me, thinking there were windows in the house I haven't touched so I walked around and made sure I had touched them all. TD was angry about the smudge marks but I was too satisfied with myself to be bothered. Have you touched all your

windows? Think about it.

I googled "Why do we get itchy" today. Too big a subject to tackle.

I found a two-man tent in the garage. When I first got the tent I wanted to test it out. It was too cold outside and TD told me to wait until it was warmer. TD went for a bath and I set up the tent in the living room. TD was not impressed but all I had to do was zip the door and I was free in my own little tent world. I slept in it that night and woke up with all sorts of back and neck problems. Totally worth it.

I asked TD if I could set the tent... she said no. Not a effing chance and if I did I would be in the garden in the tent for the remainder of the pandemic. I'm seriously considering my options.

If you want to challenge Jess' score let me know. I don't mind playing game show host.

DAAAAAAAAAAY 14!!!! THE LAST DAAAAAAAAAYYYYYYYYY:

So, this is the last day of isolation for me. I thought I would do my own little "Best Of" compilation day where I would repeat my favourite mischief. Unfortunately for me I had this thought out loud and TD threatened to smash my stupid face in if I worked myself daft. So... banned.

I put my music on in the shower today. It was a Take That song. Patience. "Have a little patience yeeeeeeeah". It was on my GooglePlay list. Good song. I sang it to TD to prepare her for her day.

Spoke to Thomas on the phone today. We ended up having a discussion about the body and how it is weird. So, we came to the conclusion that Tom isn't clever enough for his body and shouldn't be trusted with the intelligence he has. Basically he has the ability to do really stupid things so he should have his powers taken off him. I know what I mean and so does Tom. TD said we shouldn't speak anymore because we are making each other stupid.

My old email address is Mattybaty11, I decided to email Mattybaty0 through to mattybaty10 to say hello and congratulate them on beating me to it.

MatTime BatTime came to some use today. The new superpower is the power of controlling time like Dr Strange but with a better name.

TD made a heart shaped cake. It was still a bit raw when it came out of the oven and collapsed in the middle. "Has your heart sank because your heart sunk?" Wasn't funny and meant I wasn't allowed any of the cake. The raw, flat heart cake. What a shame...

I went into the garage and the neighbour walked past. He was singing Take That - Patience. First, I wondered what he was going to do to annoy me, then I wondered how long he had watched me shower. TD said he probably just heard me belting it out, but I always prepare for the worst. I closed all the curtains in the house and sang 90s hit Hansons "Mmmmbop". If I hear him singing 90s hit Hansons "Mmmmbop" I'm going to update my home security.

I caught Jack eating a fly. Absolutely disgusting. I don't know why he swallowed that fly. TD banned the song as I sang it.

I waved at the postman today. He didn't wave back.

I found a yoghurt in the fridge. 21st March 2020. I ate that, it tasted worse than yesterday's chicken arse meat. Last night I was sick because of the chicken arse meat and everytime I think of the chicken arse meat I burp.

I hid under the bed in TD's office and sang "In the jungle the mighty jungle the lion sleeps tonight" song until I got a cup of tea. After about 10 renditions of the full song I peeped my head out. TD had gone. Moved into my office and I was just alone under a bed singing "In the jungle the mighty jungle" song. That was a low point. A moment of self reflection followed.

I've hidden all of TD's socks. Not to start a fight or in retaliation but just out of sheer boredom.

Matt Batty

Blacka Moor woodland restoration

The diversity of habitats at Blacka Moor provides a home for a wonderful range of wildlife, while the peaceful atmosphere and beautiful views offer a relaxing and revitalising place for people to enjoy (particularly important under the current circumstances). We at the Wildlife Trust work hard to look after the nature reserve both for people and wildlife, working under the mantra of doing as much as is needed, but as little as possible to maintain the special qualities of Blacka Moor.

Our ecological surveys found that rare woodland birds (in particular pied flycatcher and redstart) were not doing as well as they might on the reserve. These species require mature woodlands in which to nest with a certain amount of open space in glades and woodland rides, where they can feed on insects. However, the surveys showed that these open areas were missing from the woodland, due to a lack of recent management. Willow tit, another nationally declining species which is known to breed in the area, doesn't currently breed on the reserve due to the lack of open woodland and scrubby understory vegetation which it requires.

Historically there would always have been a level of disturbance within our woodlands, stimulating woodland regeneration. A range of native wild animals such as beavers and wild boar would have created and maintained open spaces. Following their extinction in the medieval period, the traditional practice of woodland coppicing would have done the work of these wild animals by clearing open spaces within woodlands on a rotational cycle, but coppicing has largely disappeared from the countryside since the early 20th Century.

Under management plans approved by Sheffield Council and the relevant government bodies, Natural England and the Forestry Commission, a programme of woodland restoration has been carried out at Blacka Moor over the past two winters to address this problem. Trees have been thinned to create open glades, particularly along the watercourses. Thinning has focused on sycamore, an introduced tree which competes with native species. We have also mapped 99 veteran or "future veteran" trees on the reserve – the biggest or oldest examples of their species – and thinned around these woodland giants to allow them to thrive. Two woodland ponds have been created and nearly 50 nest boxes have been installed for the woodland birds.

There have been some concerns raised about the impacts of

the woodland restoration work, which is understandable as these works can look quite stark when they are first done. However, nature bounces back very quickly: by the time you read this the woodland wildflowers will be flourishing in the new sunny glades that have been created, buds will be bursting with new shoots springing up from cut stumps, and our precious woodland birds will be returning from winter in Africa to find improved breeding opportunities at Blacka Moor, where they will hopefully thrive and increase their numbers over time.

Nabil Abbas, Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust

Note from the DVS

In the last issue of Dore to Door there was a letter which criticised the work that the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust is undertaking on Blacka Moor, and the DVS for contributing financially to SRWT in support of that work. Above, Nabil Abbas of SRWT has replied by explaining the background to their work and the reasons for carrying it out. The following is our response to the letter.

The environmental importance of trees cannot be overstated and we were very conscious of this when we considered the request for support from the SRWT for the work they wanted to undertake. We took into account many factors, particularly the care they had taken in conducting their surveys and the endorsement of their plans by Sheffield City Council, Natural England (which is sponsored by the Department for the Environment), and the Forestry Commission. We also noted that the plans were intended to recreate, as far as possible, the natural environment as it existed in past centuries. We concluded that the ecological benefits of the work would be significant and, consequently, the DVS committee agreed unanimously to support it.

We are always willing to listen and talk to people who disagree with or question our decisions, but it's more productive to do this through direct contact than by correspondence in print where it is difficult to have a constructive discussion. Similarly, uninformed speculation about the motives and future intentions of the SRWT is unhelpful. It's much better to get in touch with them to raise and discuss concerns.

**Keith Shaw
Chairman, Dore Village Society**

Totley Library

As this issue goes to press, Totley Library is closed because of the coronavirus crisis. This means that all events and activities at the Library, including the Plant Sale, Community Cinema showings, and all meetings organised by community organisations, are cancelled until further notice.

Brighter News

Extra cash boost! Sheffield City Council has confirmed that the grant funding for voluntary libraries is set to continue. In addition however, in March the Council announced that every library in the city will receive an additional 'one-off' cash boost of £10,000. This windfall means that Totley Library will have extra money to spend on what will best meet the needs of our community. The trustees will be discussing how best to spend this cash when the Library re-opens.

Harry Potter Book Night on 6th February was a resounding success. Over 80 children plus their parents/carers attended the evening and we raised over £250 for Library funds. There were plenty of mini-wizards and witches in attendance and they all seemed to have a great time mixing potions, making wands, decorating dragon eggs and even making their very own Hedwig in The Owlery.

"Honeydukes" were selling delicious refreshments including

Chocolate Frogs! There was an intriguing Treasure Hunt and a Harry Potter quiz to keep ardent fans busy. We had a number of games and plenty of fun activities for everyone. We even had our very own version of Quidditch. In the Quidditch Competition, Ravenclaw were the winners with 16 points and Daniel Watkinson won the jar of Bertie Botts Every Flavour Jelly Beans. There were 121 Beans in the jar and Daniel guessed 120. Thank you to everyone who came along! A huge "thank you" must also go to all the Library volunteers who put on their wizarding finery and made the whole evening such a wonderful success.

Art Exhibition and Sale. We are still hoping to hold this in June and we will be looking for artists to exhibit. They pay £10 for a table/board and we receive a percentage of sales.

Lottery Winners: Congratulations to recent Library Lottery winners! The first-prize winner in the January draw was Ann Butterell, and the second-prize winner was Roberta Bunns. In the February draw, the first prize was won by Brenda Fryer, and the second prize was won by Eva Ellis.

Totley CRIC website: We will endeavour to keep everyone posted about any new developments through our website – keep an eye on it at www.totleycric.org.uk.

Phil Harris

Play it again!

I wasn't quite sure what to expect from Replay as I got into the Devonshire Arms. I've never attended a local gig, let alone reviewed it! I was about to throw myself into the unknown; hopefully I would be able to pull myself out of it in a good mood.

As I had arrived half an hour early, I was pleased to step into a warm venue after shivering in the freezing cold. I was quite surprised at the number of people there when no one on Facebook had clicked the 'going' button. The venue was pleasantly crowded and noisy. I sat down in the back corner, as the 'perfect' spot was already taken.

It was advertised online that the band's music genre included popular funk and soul classics, including a bit of rock and pop. Would this mean a live set mixed with loud, gentle and electric music? I would soon find out.

The feeling from the audience was a decent, friendly vibe. Everyone was chatting to each other in their little groups as many walked past carrying their pints. The band was still rehearsing - Greg Heslington prepared his keyboard, whilst guitarists Andy Needham and Will Price practiced a couple of guitar notes.

There wasn't an initial buzz for the band. There was an ongoing football match on TV. Are people here for the band or the football match? Well, at 9.30 I got my answer.

As soon as the band hit the stage, the audience erupted in an unanticipated cheer as the LED lights came on. The first song played was "Cosmic Girl" by Jamiroquai.

There was an instant energetic intro by lead singer Rachel Raynor. She sings with a smooth and clean vocal delivery, sometimes, however, drowned by the heavy sound of the instruments in the background. She was hitting many high notes with ease and then, boom, the drums came in and the show got into an upbeat pace.

The music was slightly too loud for a small venue and there was a problem with feedback in the beginning but the band soon sorted this out. Rachel's confidence was astonishing. "Are you having a good time?" she asked. It's clearly noticeable that she's been doing this for a long time. Indeed, the band was formed in 2014 and Rachel has been gigging for over ten years.

Each band member progressed through various tempos and rhythms, showcasing their musical abilities and talent. From guitar to drum solo performances, the instrumental control was impressive.

The audience stepped it up further - some were dancing, singing and nodding in rhythm, others were clapping along and videoing. One lady was definitely having a good time as she flicked her hair and threw her hands up in the air, whilst Rachel prevented another ecstatic lady from coming on to the stage.

Highlights from the set included "Shake Your Body" by the Jackson Five and "We are Family" by Sister Sledge with their contagious choruses. "Valerie" by Amy Winehouse showed an amazing vocal control by Rachel.

After a couple of slow tunes, they went for a break. I found the perfect time to speak to Andy. "I'm loving it, it is my local pub, I know half of the people in here" he said. This could explain the energetic excitement of the audience.

Another sound check and we are good to go!

I was delighted to hear "Don't Start Now" by Dua Lipa, a hit song that peaked seventh on UK Singles Chart last year.

To finish off, Replay played "Uptown Funk" by Mark Ronson. With its catchy chorus, everyone shouted "WOO!" Then, the second encore was "Get Lucky" by Daft Punk and it was superb.

The act finished at twenty to eleven, despite the audience



wanting more songs.

Overall, they had a rough start, but it got better and better. There was engagement from the very beginning. It was everything you'd hope a local gig to be.

A week later, it was time to head to The Crown Inn to listen to another group I had never heard before: the Amelia Carter Band. Sadly, this performance was the day after an unprecedented timing in the coronavirus pandemic, where Europe was declared as the epicentre.

I was four minutes earlier than the advertised start time of 9pm, however, they were still rehearsing. "One two one two" I heard. Thankfully, this time I was in the first row, sitting in front with two lovely ladies who were having dinner.

It had been advertised earlier on their Facebook page that Mark Potter was to be absent and for the night he was replaced by a new guy named Darren.

Before starting, the band said a couple of jokes, perhaps to establish an initial engagement with the audience. But, there was no response. I wonder if this was going to be the same dull reception throughout. I was right.

There were far fewer people present compared to Replay. Could the coronavirus situation have contributed to the drastic decline in audience presence?

After starting half an hour later than originally advertised, finally, they kicked off their set with "Road Runner", followed by "Doctor Doctor", a Thompson Twins number. Their set was a mix of rock, jazz and blues, not my personal taste and I struggled to recognise most of the songs.

Amelia's vocals were loud and deep. She engaged professionally with her colleagues as they skimmed through the set. Just like the Replay Band, I enjoyed ACB's solo instrumentals as they opened the evening with harmonic and exquisite guitar and violin vibes. The band was formed in 2011 by Amelia Carter and has played all over the UK from Northampton to Colne.

Disappointing, however, was the audience. The only people nodding and applauding at the end of each song were the ones sitting in the front. There were only three tables in the front with a maximum of ten people combined. Anne, the lady sitting in front of me told me: "They are really good and this is the first time we've seen them." At least this was encouraging.

Just when I become slightly distracted by the constant breaking news on my phone, Amelia said: "Forget all the bad news. Let's enjoy ourselves." It was clear the external climate was having an impact on the performance that night.

The night continued with covers such as "Back to Black" by Amy Winehouse and "I Put a Spell on You" by Annie Lennox. During the break, Amelia told me: "It is a really friendly crowd. Everyone seems to be enjoying it. Hopefully, they will enjoy the second set too." I wasn't convinced of this, as by 11pm there was an even more visible decrease in audience size.

Toward the end, in a very awkward moment, Andy asked, "Where is everyone?" This led to a final discussion between the group to sadly finish 15 minutes earlier than anticipated. Amelia then encouraged us in a beautiful statement to continue to support our local venues, even during these uncertain times.

Vivian Iroanya



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Planning for the Future

My Steering Group colleagues and I have new insights into development planning after four years on the Dore Neighbourhood Plan. It's becoming my Mastermind special subject! So, first a report on where our Plan has got to and then some general observations on Development Planning.

Dore Neighbourhood Plan

On 20th September, we formally submitted our Neighbourhood Plan to the City Council for them to conduct the remaining stages of its journey towards a Referendum of Dore electors. To our surprise it took the Council over 24 weeks to 'validate' our plan – that is to check that the plan and its supporting documents fulfilled all the statutory requirements – and by that time coronavirus was so advanced that Council planners felt unable to move to the next stage, the six week public consultation planned for 16th March, because they could not conduct the consultation in conditions which would be fair to all potentially interested parties, and, of course, the Planning Department was becoming hard-pressed itself because of the virus. So, we are faced with further delay with no exit strategy as everyone adjusts to coronavirus realities. Disappointingly, at present I am unable to advise when the consultation will take place, nor the following examination by an independent examiner, nor whether we can expect a referendum to be held this year.

Development Planning

All this is important because one of the cornerstones of civilized public life is having a well-ordered system for development planning. Such a system needs to meet the development needs of today's society in ways which do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs; nor should development compromise the essential cultural significances of our heritage and the vital importance of our biodiversity and landscapes. It needs to be informed by both expert assessments of need and how best to meet it, and by democratic opportunities for ordinary people to be consulted, to scrutinise, to contribute and, if needs be, to object.

Built development was relatively uncontrolled before the modern planning regime was established by the post-War Attlee government in the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act. Government effectively nationalised the right to develop land and required local planning authorities to regularly produce long-term forward development plans and policy maps for their areas. Over subsequent years all sorts positive tools were created to control development in sensible ways from Building Regulations, to protected areas (like Conservation Areas) and Landscape Character Assessments. One of the most recent positive improvements has been the greater recognition of truly local needs and wishes in the Localism Act of 2011, which introduced the new concept of the Neighbourhood Plan, one which Dore has enthusiastically embraced.

Throughout that time there have been those who have argued that the planning system is too bureaucratic and slow to meet the nation's needs, particularly for new homes, and others who have argued that the slowness in providing new homes does not justify loosening planning controls, because it is substantially caused by problems in the pricing and funding of development, the predilection of developers to favour greenfield as opposed to brownfield development, to sit on land and permissions without getting on with building and all too often failing to build the affordable homes which people want. There is a whole industry of planning advisors helping developers and landowners to criticise and circumvent planning policies and arguing the case for loosening the planning system.

The Government's Position

This age-old argument came to the fore again when the Government (MHCLG) issued an eleven-page paper on Planning for the Future immediately after the Budget.

At the root of the paper is the Government's frustration that new homes are not being created at the desired rate of 300,000 new homes a year. As recently as 2012/13 the annual figure was only 125,000, but in 2018/19 240,000 new homes were created (although nearly 30,000 of these were changes of use from offices and the like). The Government is driving LPAs (Local Planning Authorities) to hit higher rates of home creation, and for a long time Sheffield has been falling short. Happily, it may have met the Government's Housing Delivery Test for the first time in a while in 2019, and that is important if Sheffield is not to be penalised by Government.

However, the other risk to Sheffield is how severely out of date its current Local Plan is. Some of it is as old as 1998 and the most up to date part is dated 2009. As SCC warns in every Planning Committee paper, the more the Council's own dated policies depart from the more up to date 2019 National Planning Policy Framework, the less reliable they will be, giving developers the opportunity to appeal against refusal of permission. This makes all of us vulnerable to unacceptable development.

The Government's paper is incentivising LPAs to deliver more homes by setting a December 2023 deadline for LPAs to have up to date Local Plans; while Sheffield's latest timetable for producing its new Local Plan achieves adoption in September 2023. When did Sheffield ever meet such a timetable even without the recent impact of coronavirus on its workforce? We should face the fact that part of the slowness in LPAs is caused by the decade of austerity which national Government visited on local government, reducing their capacity to perform.

Surprise, surprise... the paper promises an ambitious Planning White Paper to 'modernise' and speed up our planning system; but how much of that speed will be achieved at the expense of the protections quite properly built into that system? Your protections against inappropriate development in the wrong places, using poor designs and failing to meet real community needs instead of developers' notions of what suits their pockets.

There are good things in the paper:

- Stressing that "Government will back brownfield, encouraging greater building in urban areas" – and can we hope that that will encourage more respect for the Green Belt?
- Government will launch a national brownfield sites map.
- It advocates making the best use of existing transport hubs, encouraging modern green communities where people live close to public transport – again, which would suggest not building in isolated Green belt where public transport is poor or non-existent.
- Government will encourage greater building within and near to urban areas and encourage building upwards (as we have seen in Sheffield of late) and increasing density 'in line with local character'.
- Government will ensure that permitted sites are built out more quickly and improve CPO effectiveness in achieving land assembly for difficult sites – surely highly relevant to ambitions to develop under-utilised past industrial sites near the city centre.
- "Putting tree-lined streets at the centre of future plans" – now isn't that a welcome turn up for the books!
- Greater commitment to affordable housing, including a Social Housing White Paper later in the year.

However, there are still worries in a paper which criticises the innovative 1947 planning initiatives as too complex, too slow and unable to deliver enough homes where they are needed. It is all too easy to blame the rules for a failure which has many more sources and causes. Politicians of a certain persuasion love a bonfire of the regulations, hoping that will obscure the wider reasons for a lack of the homes we really need. I'm sure CPRE will be able to explain some of them when they provide the speaker for the next DVS AGM.

Christopher Pennell

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There can be no doubt – the climate is changing. In February, it seemed that we were in the rainy season. Those of us who live on a hill are lucky that we are less likely to suffer flooding, and I am sure everyone feels a great deal of sympathy for those whose towns, villages, streets and houses have been flooded. Personally, I agree with those who say we should not be building on flood plains, but we all need to be more knowledgeable about the natural world so that we can live with it and not against it. Nature will only seek to find ways to try to rebalance everything, as is perhaps happening now. The current outbreak of coronavirus might not have occurred, and the flooding might not have been so severe or so often.

My garden has been very wet, but seven small trees as well as a variety of shrubs have helped to absorb the excess water. The top of the lawn was quite squelchy too, but it soon improved when the rain was less frequent.

This situation will hopefully not occur in future as, in March, two alder buckthorn, a downy birch and a goat's willow tree were planted and they will take up more water as well as supporting a wider variety of wildlife. I also ordered eight more alder buckthorn whips to be planted within existing, mostly native, hedges to try and improve their density. An extra ten of these were sent by the supplier in error but they let us keep them (without payment!) and they are being added into the hedges too. We are hoping they will flourish. They were all grown in Britain from indigenous seed - some in Scotland and the rest near York.

I am delighted to have found an oak seedling in my garden. It may need a little control in many years to come as its position might not be ideal but it is the best tree for wildlife, supporting around 300 species in its lifetime, and my gardener has kindly given me another one from his own garden. Hopefully, they will both be here for a very long time.

Springtime is not the best time to plant trees, but it is a good time to plan for next autumn and look into where to source native British-grown trees. This is important because several destructive varieties of foreign wildlife have been brought in with trees and other plants grown abroad, to the detriment of our own wildlife.

I understand that there are problems with many local street trees and there could be many reasons for this. Trees are beneficial for improving air quality and the ambience within built-up areas, but they must always be native for our benefit and that of our wildlife. White hawthorn and silver birch are particularly good, but others are also suitable. In total contrast, the ornamental cherries which have been prevalent around this area for many years make a huge amount of slippery mess on pavements, especially the leaves in Autumn, and provide little, if any, support for wildlife.

I was interested to read the article in the Winter Edition of *Bradway Bugle* concerning the damage caused to insects by the use of electric blowers. The loss of insects over the last twenty years or so is huge and is now a serious problem. No wonder bat populations have plummeted, some species to the point of extinction. There were bats around my area years ago - but not

now. So, buy a good brush and gather up the leaves (it's good exercise!) which can then be mulched or piled in a dry, sheltered place where they will support insects until they break down. If you aren't able to do so, there are plenty of people who can. I am sure someone would be only too happy to help.

If a lot of leaves fall on the lawn, remove some of them but do leave a "fair scattering" of them for the wildlife in the soil. They will draw it back down which will feed the lawn with natural and vital nutrients which are far better than any product you can buy, supporting the soil wildlife and so helping them to create a healthy soil texture with good drainage.

Throughout winter, there have been many birds visiting the feeders and pottering around the garden. These include goldfinches, chaffinches and greenfinches, one greenfinch being mostly a creamy yellow - almost like an albino. Blue tits, great tits

and coal tits, along with house-sparrows and dunnocks are regular visitors. These small birds have to wait their turn until the magpies, blackbirds and squabbling starlings (so good to have them back, though) have had their fill. Two lovely wrens are finding insects on the hedges and among the debris below. If disturbed, they fly to the top of the garden close to the hedge and in an undulating manner - almost as if they're bounding along! Maybe they will nest up there, and there's plenty of material around for all the nesting birds on my untidy beds!

The robin perches on a branch near the feeders, waiting for a chance to visit them. He will come quite close when the feeders are

being refilled and often follows us up the garden, perching nearby and singing a brief phrase. If I whistle a similar phrase, he will answer and this exchange can go on for quite a while which is lovely. He is particularly pleased when there is any gardening activity, coming quite close and darting in as soon as he can for worms!

Most spectacular are two woodpeckers who visit two or three times on most days and two beautiful nuthatches, clinging upside down on the feeders as they do. In late March, two collared doves appeared as well.

All this activity attracted the attention of a sparrowhawk on at least two occasions, but as far as I am aware it was not successful in catching any birds. The nearby hawthorn and ivy may have helped here. However, all living things depend on others, including us, so we must not demonise the sparrowhawk.

All in all, and despite the rain, there is plenty going on in the garden which is very satisfying, and hopefully, more to look forward to. In fact, while frogspawn had not come in February as usual, as I finish this article, I am delighted that a large amount has appeared in the middle pond so, hopefully there will be lots of froglets and newts too. Wild daffodils are blooming as are some primroses, and I will soon be adding more varieties of wildflowers, grown from seed, into the beds.

I think I dare hope that Spring might really be here and cheer us all up in these most difficult of times.

Marian Tiddy



Mini log pile next to the bark path, supporting mosses, ferns and masses of hidden wildlife



Liverwort and wild daffodils peering over the wall

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The Street Trees of Sheffield

When the news broke a decade ago that Amey had been awarded a 25-year contract to start in 2012 to transform the city's damaged roads, joy abounded!

In June 2015 I first realised that Amey's programme for road repairs in Dore involved the collateral slaughter of 149 street trees (later increased to 172) without public consultation. It became self-evident that the works programme across the city was dominated by the priorities of road engineers; and for such single-minded people street trees were merely obstacles to the maintenance of fine highways. At that point I became a protester, leafleting homes about the threat to the Rustling Road lime-trees and on 1st July demonstrating outside the Town Hall where a very dispiriting debate on an 8,000-signature street tree petition was taking place.

Two meetings of the Council's Tree Forum followed, where citizen critics found themselves stonewalled by Councillors and Amey defending its fatuous 6D tree-felling nostrum – dead, dying, diseased, dangerous, damaging and discriminatory – when no-one objected to felling for the first four reasons if properly evidenced, but found some of the cases for felling of the last two Ds ludicrous. My first article for this journal on street trees appeared in summer 2015 and from this I discovered Kathryn on Abbeydale Park Rise (APR), a bundle of creative energy and ideas for protecting our trees, followed shortly by Ann on Devonshire Road, whose sense of fierce indignation was to drive the Dore campaign for months which became years. Dore produced 2,000 signatures against the felling programme.

Street walks were organised with Amey and our supportive ward councillors – first on APR, later on Chatsworth and Devonshire Roads and to inspect the magnificent Vernon Oak. The determined protestors grew – Margaret and Sue from Vernon and Chatsworth Roads and Sally from Totley – adding expertise, patient logic, inventive protest, art, poetry and music. All our threatened trees were ringed with yellow protest ribbons. By September 2015 a major submission had been made by the Dore Village Society to the Council and Amey, backed up in October by an appeal to John Mothersole, the Council's Chief Executive. The DVS made a reasonable request for reprieves for the most precious of the threatened trees in return for not objecting to the felling of less iconic trees. That appeal was first ignored, then kicked into the long grass.

We had many meetings with Council leaders, who continually argued that the silent public majority wanted the trees down, but this argument collapsed when the Council's organised street surveys found in most cases that there were majorities voting for keeping healthy trees. An increasingly powerful case was being made by protesters that street trees had real value in terms of carbon sequestration, oxygen generation, clearing pollutants, cooling the urban heat effect, hosting biodiversity and providing calm for troubled minds, but the Council were obdurate.

The Council's and Amey's behaviour went from bad to worse. They set up an Independent Tree Panel to re-examine the case for felling individual condemned trees. Even where the Panel recommended that some trees could and should be saved through modest engineering work, the Council accepted Amey's advice that the trees should still come down. Legal proceedings in the High Court temporarily looked helpful to the protestors but later swung the other way. The crunch came on 17th November 2016 when the police and tree-fellers descended in a night-time raid on Rustlings Road and felled a row of iconic handsome limes and arrested several people who protested.

Tree-felling began in earnest with even the most iconic trees like the Chelsea Elm, the Vernon Oak and the Western Road WW1 memorial trees threatened. The fellers, very often backed by teams of hired security men who behaved all too often like thugs under the cover of a High Court injunction, played cat and mouse with ordinary people – yes, demonstrators, but ordinary people and I was one of them, respectable, responsible and an

MBE – as they struck at random, sometimes very early in the day, to put up barriers and start felling. The most active period for this within Dore and Totley occurred through the harsh 2017/18 winter with significant numbers of local protesters patrolling our streets in the snow and rain and trying to physically block access to the best of the condemned trees – particularly on APR, Chatsworth and Aldam Way – to defy the Amey onslaught. We all saw instances of vicious violence against peaceful people and examples of brave and sometimes lonely stands against the threats.

We lost handsome limes on Totley Brook Road and Chatsworth Road and some much-loved cherries on APR were felled or disfigured.

The Tide Begins to Turn

Tree-felling gradually reduced as the opprobrium towards the Council multiplied locally, nationally and internationally, particularly when Radio Sheffield roasted a Sheffield Cabinet member, Bryan Lodge, over the discovery that the Amey contract had secretly included a high target of fellings. Even Michael Gove intervened. A felling moratorium emerged, but the underlying position had not changed, and trees continued to be at risk. However, the Council was weakening and Amey began to put more effort and funding into finding engineering solutions to save condemned trees.

Overtures towards a partnership solution to the impasse occurred in September 2018 in joint talks between the Council/Amey and STAG, mediated by the Bishop of Sheffield. In July 2019 the new responsible Cabinet Member, Cllr Lewis Dagnall, announced the appointment of Liz Ballard, the CEO of Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust, as the independent Chair of a group (consisting of the Council, Amey, STAG, the Woodland Trust and other experts) to jointly hammer out a fresh approach to Sheffield's street trees.

By early March this year that group had researched, debated and drafted a Partnership Sheffield Street Tree Working Strategy "promoting and enhancing a network of street trees that Sheffield can be proud of." By late March the Council had fully endorsed it. The city now has an exemplary working Street Tree Strategy which over the course of the coming year can be acted on and further contributed to until a final text is set in stone. It encompasses many of the beliefs about the value of street trees which kept the protestors demonstrating over those many months of freezing cold, and it went even further.

The strategy's future broad outcomes (backed by detail) are that:

- Our street trees are sustainably and carefully managed in accordance with best practice
- Our street trees are more resilient through the type and age of trees we plant and how we manage the current tree stock
- We will increase the value and benefits that flow from our street trees
- We will contribute to more equal distribution of urban forest across the city to promote health and wellbeing
- We will increase street tree canopy cover
- The wider community will be encouraged to be involved in caring for and valuing street trees

I take my hat off to the Council and Amey for eventually realising the error of their ways and being constructive. I applaud STAG for organising the city protest, and our local Wildlife Trust for repeatedly publicly questioning the Council's tree-felling policies while retaining enough independence that Liz Ballard could be the expert honest broker to produce the splendid new Street Tree Strategy, which we should all wholeheartedly back. But most of all I was honoured to join Kathryn, Ann, Sue, Margaret and Sally and many more ordinary Dore and Totley street protestors who did extraordinary things; and most of all I mourn the best of the trees we could not save... the magnificent Totley Brook Road and Chatsworth limes and some of the APR glorious cherries. This must never happen again.

Christopher Pennell



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To say the first couple of months of 2020 have been an interesting time for Transport 17 is an understatement. Just a couple of days before Kerry Machon, our admin assistant, was leaving to concentrate on her other job Mike Finn, Transport 17 Manager, was signed off from work with stress. Since then he has given notice that he will be leaving Transport 17 on 10th April to concentrate on his health and wellbeing after 35 years of dedicated service.



Mike Finn

Mike joined Transport 17 in 1986 as part of the Community Programme Scheme which provided us with a driver for 25 hours a week to help cope with the increased running times. In 1989, funding was obtained which enabled Transport 17 to employ Mike as a coordinator/driver to take over the day-to-day organisation from Ron Hogg. He coordinated the many aspects of maintaining a very efficient service and maintaining the safety of the minibuses as well as doing

some driving which he has been doing ever since.

Mike initiated the Outward Bound Club in 1993 which was an extension of the current service taking club members on planned outings to events, places of interest and garden centres. Sadly, it had to be folded in 1999 due to a shortage of drivers and pressures of the permanent service.

At a time when there wasn't an effective Management Committee, Mike, along with John Savourin took the lead in running the organisation. More recently Mike was heavily involved in the organisation and running of our very successful Pea and Pie Supper.

The buses were Mike's pride and joy and he spent hours ensuring they were maintained to the very high standard for which we are renowned.

His contribution to Transport 17 and those whom it serves in the local community has been immeasurable and we are certain that you will join us in thanking him for his long service and to wish him well for the future.

Also, our treasurer Peter Marquis resigned from the Management Committee. We need to find a replacement for him as soon as we can. If you or someone you know feel this is something you could do, we would love to hear from you. We would like to thank Peter for taking on the role and are really pleased he is continuing to help us as a passenger assistant.

So, we've had to pull out all the stops to keep Transport 17 going and between all of our volunteers – both on the buses and in the office – we've kept the buses on the road serving all of our clubs, only cancelling one bus run in the last two months. We are incredibly grateful to all of our volunteers for doing extra shifts, going above and beyond what they would normally do – which is always a lot – to make sure that we can continue to serve our passengers.

A new volunteer role has emerged as we tried to cope with no administrative assistant. A number of us have been in the office first thing in the morning to pick up messages and answer phone calls, a role which is critical to ensuring that the list of passengers to be collected each day is correct. It has worked really well, so we are looking to recruit volunteers to help with this activity. Volunteers are in the office for 9.00 and stay until 10.30/11.00. Initially it is quite a busy time with drivers and passenger assistants meeting to collect their lists as they begin their day, so there is a very sociable atmosphere. Again, we would love to hear from you if you think that this is something you could help us with.

A special mention must go to Jenny Nuttall who has been taking on many of the responsibilities critical to keeping Transport 17 rolling. In doing this she has also been able to look at the range of tasks that underpin the running of the organisation in an effort

to take things forward. She has been considering how this can be achieved most effectively. Jenny's commitment and dedication to Transport 17 has been incredible as she has worked to keep things going on so many fronts. We are so appreciative and can't thank her enough.

Andy Birch and Stuart McDonald who were recruited as drivers have now passed their MIDAS tests and are able to drive for us. This has eased pressures somewhat, but sadly we are to lose Colin Price who is returning to Eastbourne to live. Colin has been a stalwart of Transport 17 for 22 years, but his connection goes back 30 years as his mother-in-law was a passenger on one of the buses. Recruited by Bill Glossop in November 1997 when Colin had taken early retirement, he began as a passenger assistant. Once he had the driving qualifications, he started on the Jordanthorpe route going on to do other routes including St Williams and St Marks which he did for ten years with Tony Bradbury. At one point he worked four days a week, what an amazing commitment. As well as driving the buses he also helps by taking the buses to the garage for maintenance, he has played a significant role in recruiting volunteers and attends our coffee mornings, in fact there isn't much that happens at Transport 17 that Colin hasn't been associated with at one time or another. We all knew we could rely on Colin and we're going to miss him greatly.

Colin is terribly sad to be going, but on the upside he has discovered there is a community transport bus service that goes to Beachy Head that is looking for volunteers so he is intending to offer his services - how lucky are they going to be. He and his wife have found a ground floor flat and, having many friends in the area already, they are well prepared for many happy years down south. He feels it is a role that gives value and joy and he so often ended a run with the feeling - that was a good day's work. I'm sure that you would like to join with Transport 17 in wishing him and his wife all the very best for the future.

Colin will leave a huge gap at Transport 17 and although we have two new drivers starting it will take more than that to replace him, so our search for volunteer drivers is as important as ever. Maybe hearing of Colin's experiences might just trigger a thought for you that this is something you would enjoy doing in whatever spare time you might have available. If you would be interested in taking on this or any of the other roles mentioned in this article please either pop into the office at 172 Baslow Road, or send us an email to admin@transport17.co.uk.

The effects of the coronavirus are now hitting us all hard as everything we do has come to a halt. It is hardest of all for our passengers who will be missing the social contact and we can only hope that it won't be long before we can resume normal service.

We had a very successful coffee morning at the Cross Scythes, raising £805 despite all the concerns regarding the coronavirus. A huge thanks to Ben, Scott and the staff at the Cross Scythes, along with everyone who supported us whether through donations or attending. Dave Billington made us a super cake to guess the weight of, which was won by Catherine Wrigglesworth. Her guess was closest to the weight which was 4lb 13oz or 2.193 kg. Our volunteers did an excellent job in collecting together an array of chocolates, wonderful raffle prizes, items for the 'as new' stall then sorted, displayed and sold it all to make the money we raised.

Finally, we have received donations from Bradway Discussion Group £100, Cavendish Ladies Probus Club £170, £84 from All Saints Church raised in lieu of sending Christmas cards, £55 from Step Out Sheffield from their Saturday morning walks in January and February, £35 Rising Sun collection box, £100 from Heather Belbin and over £80 from small change donations from lunch club attendees.

Dore Methodist Tuesday Group have selected us as their chosen charity for this year and have given us £250 as a part of this. Once again, we have also received a very generous donation of £2,000 from the Facey Family Foundation. Huge thanks go to all of these people for their support.

Sandra Longley (on behalf of the Management Committee)



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Editor's note – the author below is a Dore resident, personally known to me. She wishes to remain anonymous. She has, however been kind enough to let us reprint the below from her blog, with which I know many of you will agree.

Thoughts on a brave new world

The last couple of months since I returned to work after Christmas, have been strange. At work I manage PR across the globe and the virus that we now know as Covid-19 began to impact what I did each day very early. Editors in China went away for Chinese New Year and didn't come back - they are now, I am exceptionally pleased to say. We cancelled lunches with the media; exhibitions we were due to attend were postponed; trips to China, India and Singapore, Germany, and the US were postponed, then cancelled. I just haven't felt like writing.

But now... well the whole point of this [blog] site was to share hints, tips and experiences that might make life easier. We are all at the beginning of what will be the strangest few (I hope) months of our lifetimes. Already we've had frayed edges in our house. Nothing different from the usual 10-year-old moments and sibling squabbles; but knowing what we are all embarking on somehow makes them all the more vivid. If we're like this now – how are we going to be in a month? Two months? Six months? God help us.

So, I will do what I promised to myself. Alongside juggling my job, which has now come home with me, and the coordination of two children's education, I will find time for myself. I'd like to share that time with you, in the hope that my journey might help yours. Let's all pull together.

As I get started, I want to share my personal plea. Over the last few days I have begun to venture carefully onto Facebook in a personal capacity. I have shied away from it for a couple of years as I found it did me no good. For all the advantages that social media provided, keeping in touch with friends and family, I also found myself in groups that I wouldn't have ventured into but for one thing in common. I found this exposed me to the opinions of people whose opinion I would never normally seek, or want. I also found that on occasions these opinions lacked the filter of face to face contact. People talked to the masses without having to face those they were talking to and without knowing them, but full of judgement. In the last few days I have had my heart warmed by some amazing stories, but saddened by the very thing that led me to take a sabbatical from Facebook in the first place.

They say that you don't know a person until you have walked a mile in their shoes. As we venture forth into the unknown I am committed to thinking the best of all those around me. I haven't walked a mile in anyone else's shoes and I don't even profess to know all the personal challenges of those closest to me. Let's pull together. Let's not assume the faceless masses who have booked online deliveries, or shopped for their families and collectively left the shelves empty, are evil. Let's not assume that those offering to deliver groceries to the elderly are seeking a way to con them. Let's be grateful to all those out there keeping our supermarkets open, delivering groceries, and all the other essential services that we need to continue with our lives, rather than showing frustration that we can't always get what we need. They are working with what they have and doing what they can.

I feel heartened by the fact that in China, just two months after the first human transmitted case was officially declared and lockdowns began, restaurants and bars are beginning to reopen. They are not at the end of this, but there is hope for life to return closer to what is normal. For me, the world feels surreal at the moment. I am fortunate to say that I have not yet been impacted directly by the virus, so I turn to those who know better to guide me on what is happening. A profound thank you to our NHS, amongst whom I count many friends and family. I for one am heeding their plea to stay home.

Name and address supplied

I wonder what we are all going to do for our summer holidays? We had put plans off with Brexit and now with Covid19 it's scotched any idea of going anywhere. It was going to be Italy but now... What you will all have to do is come to the Summer Concert in July if restrictions are lifted by then, but more about that later.

The concerts at Whittington Moor and The Merlin Theatre raised nearly £1000 between them. We could have done with more bums on seats at the Merlin, but the weather was absolutely foul and it was blowing a hooley, so small wonder some of our older supporters stayed at home. Still, those that did turn up all said how much they enjoyed it. The same response was evident at Whittington Moor where we did have a full house on a cold but very sunny afternoon. There were many comments regarding the high quality of the singing and how good and varied the programme had been. There was plenty of comedy too as you might expect from us with Alex Hayward-Brown, Judy Savournin, Ian Stewart and Stephen Andrews all shining with their comic timing and spontaneity. These two concerts were full of music from the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas and there were more than a few of the audience miming if not singing along with us.

Unfortunately, Patience, which was to have been the annual show, has been cancelled due to the coronavirus. What will happen to our finances is anybody's guess. We should be able to recover some of the costs through our insurance, but we are keeping our fingers crossed. I have confidence in our committee to make the best possible fist of it all.

What was very pleasing is that we have several young members, many of whom were to have taken leading roles in the show and appeared to thoroughly enjoy themselves, such as Jo Huchisson, (Lady Angela) Lucas Ferguson (Bunthorne) and Charlotte Waring (Lady Saphir); all excellent actors, lovely singers and great assets to the society. Let's hope they stay with us for some time. I am sure you will meet them at concerts. For those supporters who have bought tickets, refunds are available either via dore_bookings@mail.com or by phoning John on the ticket hotline 0114 236 3797. I know I am being cheeky in suggesting this, but it would help the Society enormously if you could consider your purchase as a contribution to the funds but please do not feel obliged or under pressure to do so.

It is very uncertain whether the summer concert will go ahead or not this year. It is due to take place on Saturday July 4th in Dore Church Hall at 7:30pm (as usual) and will be an eclectic mix of music and humour. At the time I am writing this no rehearsals are planned and therefore I have no idea of the programme but you can bet your bottom dollar, if it does go ahead, it will be full of well-known popular music with some surprises and plenty of comic elements. Coronavirus permitting, we hope to see you there. Tickets (£8 each) will be available from me – 0114 236 2299 from mid-May. Looking further ahead, we have a concert booked for October 17th at Bolsover. This is obviously more likely to occur, and tickets are available from Gill Rugg Tel 07813 672766. This concert is under the auspices of the Classical Sheffield.

Derek Habberjam



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As we moved towards the second quarter of 2020, we were looking forward to a really positive AGM on 30th April. That has had to be cancelled.

By that date we should have had:

1. Six carriages on almost all TPE trains stopping here.
2. The imminent arrival in May of longer and new Northern Class 195 units on several trains, with three or four carriages on a number.
3. East Midlands getting their rolling stock sorted out.
4. Zozzy's coffee firmly established, from 6am until after 10, and considering Saturday opening.
5. An update on the forthcoming Hope Valley Capacity Improvement Scheme, where completion was beginning to look good by the end of 2023.
6. News on the feasibility study for more car parking.
7. News on what's to be done about our canopy, currently propped up, although there seems little need.

And around the station other positive steps.

- We now have a new public access 24/7 defibrillator.
- Northern have accepted the grass along the frontage should have been being cut monthly, and it was cut on 23rd March.
- The daffodils planted by FoDaTS members over the last three years are looking good.

Sadly, it wasn't to be.

The bunting we had ready to mark 75 years since VE Day and the 150th anniversary of the opening of the route through Bradway Tunnel, seems inappropriate at present. Maybe we might have to wait until 2022 when we celebrate 150 years since our station was opened and victory over COVID-19.

We now have temporary slimmed down timetables in operation. Instead of promoting rail use we're supposed to be discouraging all but essential travel. 'Is your journey really necessary?' is the phrase resurrected from World War 2. We've been incredibly successful. Hardly anyone is using trains - or buses!

Rajdhani, Summer House, Hair Union and Zozzy's have closed down for now. At the time of writing volunteers have been asked not to do any work around the station, even if keeping our distance.

The deserted car park may be being used by joggers prior to a short run. Or by small children being taught to ride cycles.

We'll pull through. It'll be hard, and will probably take a few years, but we'll get our thriving station back.

If you're a Facebook user, you can find and join us by searching for FoDaTS. It's normally a very active group. If you're not on Facebook and would like more information, please send an email to our Secretary: njbarnes@outlook.com There's lots of information on our website at: www.fodats.net.

Chris Morgan

The gardening season is well and truly upon us. It's official; Gardeners' World has resumed on BBC2 and we have nearly 30 episodes to look forward to on Friday nights. No sooner have green bin collections resumed than they've been cancelled, like many aspects of life, until further notice. The Garden Club has had to cancel the March, April and May speakers. We're all having to adapt to a greater or lesser extent to different ways of living. At times like this it's good to fall back on the simple things in life. As I type, the garden door is open, and I'm accompanied by cheerful bird song. Vibrant male bullfinches and their drabber female mates are busy munching their way through the white sunflower seeds, blue and long-tailed tits pecking at fat balls. A beautiful song thrush makes a guest appearance a couple of times a day from the undergrowth. There's a pair of collared doves – not seen for several years and a sprightly fox crossed the garden yesterday. Nature carries on and adapts, even after the deluge and despite what's going on in the human world.

Recreation, Relaxation, Learning in Our Gardens

Many of us in Dore are fortunate to have a garden or balcony. Even though our social diaries have emptied, schools and local open spaces run by the National Trust and RSPB have closed, we can still have a haven where there's the opportunity to get involved and engage with nature. The small army of new homeworkers will be enjoying breaks from the laptop in the garden on fine, lengthening days. Scientific studies confirm the link between gardening and good mental health, combating anxiety and improving low mood as well as getting you moving. Taking time to notice just three examples of the natural world every day can enhance your wellbeing – and who isn't up for a dose of that? This is going to be the year of the garden as it becomes our main outdoor focus. Here are some ideas to keep you occupied in your outdoor space:

- Create a Hedgehog Highway with amenable neighbours to allow hedgehogs to move between gardens. www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/link-your-garden/.
- Look out the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust for tips on their website www.wildsheffield.com.
- Join the RSPB Wild Challenge, an award scheme to investigate and learn about wildlife and do practical things to give nature a safe and welcoming home. www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning-for-families/family-wild-challenge/activities/. Ideas include building a hedgehog café, making a mini beast hotel and creating a bird bath. Instructions are provided and you will probably have most of the materials for these projects already in your shed or garage.
- Listen to the dawn or dusk chorus. The robin is invariably the bird which kicks things off. Get a CD or download on bird song recognition. Several years ago, I became interested in recognising birdsong after going on a guided walk with the Wildlife Trust. Even though I might not be able to see the secretive wren in my garden or the chaffinch on Blackmoor, I can hear they're there.
- Consider leaving one strip of grass in your garden unmown. Perfectly manicured grass deprives crucial pollinating insects of the wild flowers they need to feed on, according to the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH). In particular, bees and hover flies, key pollinators, have suffered widespread losses across the UK and particularly in upland areas. A CEH expert advises leaving just one strip of lawn unmown would make a significant difference. Most solitary bees have short tongues and rely on easily accessible plants such as dandelion and cow parsley which often grow in grass.
- Dig for Victory! This couldn't be timelier with the approach of VE Day. Create a mini allotment or plant vegetables in pots (see review of speaker column). Share seeds with your neighbours if you have any spare.
- Get children involved in planting reliable annual seeds, e.g. courgettes, spinach, garlic, rainbow chard, nasturtiums and sunflowers. Buy a basil plant when you next shop and repot in

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BEFORE

AFTER



a terracotta pot and it will keep growing all summer. Although closed to visitors, Dore Moor Garden Centre are providing free delivery within Dore of plants, plugs, seeds, compost and any other gardening bits and bobs you might need. Give them a call with your order on 235 0092 and pay over the phone. As a rule of thumb, bedding plants need protection until the late May bank holiday. Much earlier and you're likely to be caught out by frost.

Coming Anytime Soon?

Having cancelled the Spring Programme, we'll review if we can run the summer programme nearer the time. Keep an eye on notice boards around the village whilst Garden Club members will receive their usual email notifications. If it's business as usual, On 17th June we're due to have a presentation from June Lesley from Our Backyard Rescue in Ilkeston. Lesley's rescue centre is dedicated to rehabilitating and releasing hedgehogs into the wild. She will provide lots of tips about creating a wild-life friendly garden for hedgehogs and other animals. On 16th September we have a new speaker to the Club – Rob Potterton, owner of Potterton Nurseries in Lincolnshire which has been in family hands for over 40 years. Rob's talk will cover the development of the nursery, garden centre propagation methods, cultivation, preparation for garden shows and much more.

Previous Speakers

In February we had an illustrated talk by Ken Balkow on Wild plants of the Sheffield Tinsley Canal. Ken concentrated on a 4 mile stretch of the canal, which was originally designed to



transport goods to the Humber estuary, from the Canal Basin at Victoria Quays to its link with the River Don at Meadowhall. The tram from Sheffield stops at various places near the canal and follows it from Attercliffe, stopping only a couple of minutes' walk from the towpath. After seeing the unexpected plants which grow by the canal, a tram ride to the canal and a walk back are recommended.

Last year we had a lively presentation from horticulturalist, florist and garden designer Rachel Barracliffe who talked about growing vegetables and plants in containers. What with the timing of the talk and publication of Dore to Door, it seemed more relevant to write about it for the summer edition. Key to success in working with container planting is getting the drainage right. Rachel recommends John Innes no. 3 compost mixed with a slow-release fertiliser and water retaining granules. In terms of achieving that 'wow' factor and a natural effect she advised every pot should feature a thriller, filler and spiller. The thriller should be a plant which is twice the height of the pot (hosta, yellow elder, heuchera or variegated foliage), the fillers needs to be smaller annual plants to fill the gaps, and the spiller are the trailing plants and foliage which will grow over the rim of the pot. Rachel's slides demonstrated the dramatic effect of her approach. She also emphasised that you have to be prepared for regular deadheading of container plants such as petunias, million bells and surfinias to encourage new growth. In response to questions, her tips about growing vegetables in containers included sowing two courgette seeds 18" deep in large, wide pots and keeping them well watered, planting spinach seeds 6-8" deep in wide pots and in partial shade to prevent bolting, sowing chard in July for picking in October and using porridge to deter slugs! Finally, belated thanks to Committee Member Lindsay Fox who contributed to the article in the last edition.

Pauline Drissell



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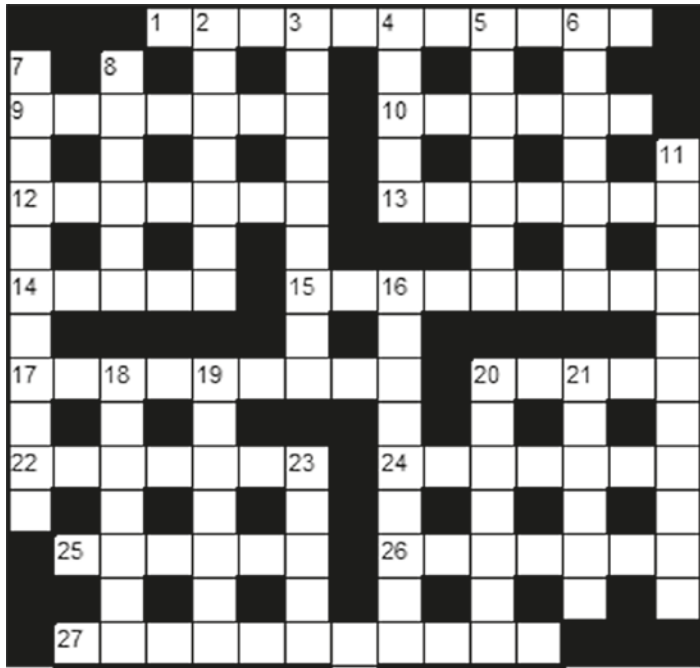
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Across

- 1. They suggest possession of a job with posher set (11)
- 9. Unreactive to the best return from fixed momentum (7)
- 10. Morning examination is without boundaries (6)
- 12. One unwillingly kept entertainer to time (7)
- 13. Minor case involving four or six (7)
- 14. Run to the river country (5)
- 15. Sliding score signals dancing party (9)
- 17. Finished keeping warm (7,2)
- 20. Reportedly amass a mass (5)
- 22. It's cancelled when the boy manages to get around the entrance (7)
- 24. Groan about being in charge of life (7)
- 25. Lagavulin's here after having originally much to lose (6)
- 26. Strategy about further detachment (7)
- 27. Love follows fear of the battleship (11)

Down

- 2. Shaft reduction could be a hazard (7)
- 3. Did search refuse to reveal extremely sarcastic got punished (9)
- 4. Return to do the play again (5)
- 5. One into rings of forgeries (7)
- 6. Discovery that the parson has left leads to rapture (7)
- 7. Taking out and getting victory in women's clothing (11)
- 8. Credit surrounding broken nose and black out (6)
- 11. Disorder with mineral source leads to aura that's radiant (11)
- 16. One letter from Greece contains reminder that's unscripted (9)
- 18. Extra cross on plastic earring (7)
- 19. Bone that comes from two girls (7)
- 20. Monopolise clean bunk (7)
- 21. Changing hands when chopping almond is unplanned (6)
- 23. Party need for expert (5)

Crossword compiled by Mavis

Answers will be published in the August issue

Solution to our Summer crossword:



This will be a shorter article than usual from me, it's very difficult to know where we will be by 1st May!

This is a very difficult article to write as at present we are under very strict guidelines as to our behaviour. It will also be rather shorter than usual, hopefully normal service will resume shortly. I'd like to be optimistic and hope that by

the time of publication we might be able to see the light at the end of the tunnel, but fear that might be my natural optimism trying too hard! I'm not going to repeat the guidelines here as I've no doubt you will be well aware of them. What I will do is try and find a little bit of glitter in the grey.

What I'm struck by at the moment is the willingness of so many people to offer their assistance to their neighbours, be they elderly, vulnerable or just stuck in the house. I'm heartened to see local shops and local suppliers stepping up and being discovered by a whole new customer base. It's also great to see that a lot of people, often forgotten, are suddenly becoming everyday heroes such as the lorry drivers, the shop workers, the delivery staff and so many others I could mention. I hope that all this is not a short term reaction and that if anything good can come out of where we are now, then maybe these things are what we can carry on.

I'd just ask at the moment that you remember to be kind. It's easy to let frustration get the better of you, we're all doing our best in a difficult time.

At the time of writing I am well and working, hopefully this will continue so if you do wish to contact me please do so on the usual 07787 881945 or via email on adrian.tolson@southyorks.pnn.police.uk. Please remember that I cannot take reports of incidents or crimes on this number; these will still need to go via 101, or in an emergency, 999. You can also use the 'Report a Crime' section on the South Yorkshire Police website. If I don't answer I am probably not on duty so leave a message with your name AND number so I can return your call.

Keep following whatever guidelines are in place at publication time and let's look forward to better days ahead!

Thank you and stay safe,

Adrian Tolson

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The VE Day anniversary is still here - even though we can't commemorate it



All the VE Day anniversary events in Dore are cancelled, as you would expect under the circumstances. We don't know yet whether any national events will still take place such as the Remembrance Service in the Royal Albert Hall, but at the time of writing it isn't looking likely. So, here are two local pictures from the event in 1945. Above, this rather poor quality snap is of the dance in our Church Hall, which was then a new building. Right, a parade through the village and you'll probably recognise that the people are marching down Savage Lane towards our War Memorial. Note the corporal in uniform, bottom left.



30 years ago...

From Dore to Door #18, Summer 1990

Memories of Dore

Mrs Margaret Clark of Leyfield Road has been kind enough to share some of her memories of Dore.

Mrs Clark became landlady of the Hare and Hounds in 1929 and she and husband Frank spent 43 years there. She looked so young that when the vicar, Rev. W. Gibson, called to welcome the new tenants he asked to see her mother.

The Hare and Hounds of those days was smaller, the Post Office, a grocers and a butcher's shop occupying what is now part of the present pub. The sorting office was over the Post Office and the post-master and his wife lived at the back - they got their water from the pub kitchen.

The Hare and Hounds had a lovely old farmhouse kitchen with a highly polished Yorkshire range and a stone sink which had to be donkey stoned.

There was a Tap Room, Bar Parlour, a Smoke Room with a piano and a Bagatelle Room. Mrs Clark played the piano for many sing-songs in the Smoke Room.

She still has the envelope on which she wrote down the prices of the drinks - 1/2 pint bitter - 4d; spirits 9d and 1d for soda (old money of course).

The pub was the meeting place for many village activities. The Ploughing Match meetings and their dinner were held there and stakers lunch was provided for the men who 'staked out' the field for the ploughing. Longshaw Sheepdog Trial meetings also took place there.

Dore Football Club (which was re-formed by Mr. Clark when the war ended) met in the pub, and also used the loft to change. Water was provided for washing by a hosepipe from the kitchen window to the yard. Members of Dore and Totley Sick and Funeral Society paid their dues to Mr George Thorp in the pub.

During the war fruit and vegetable shows were held in the loft to raise money for the Hare and Hounds Cigarette Fund. Cigarettes

were sent to customers and their relatives serving in the forces. If the recipient returned a post-card to the pub, another packet of cigarettes was sent.

The war also saw the formation of the Knitting Circle in the Hare and Hounds kitchen where balaclavas and socks were provided for the troops. The Fire Watchers had their meetings in the pub (The A.R.P. post was in the Chapel).

The war also brought new customers to the Hare and Hounds; men from the Ack-Ack Battery at Knowle Green and Airborne Troops camping at Kings Croft.

In 1952 Mrs Clark won first prize for breadmaking at Dore and District Ploughing Society, but felt she had an unfair advantage because a friend from America had brought her some white flour, which was better than that available in England.

When Frank and Margaret Clark retired in 1972 it was the end of an era - and this was summed up in the following letter which was copied in script by Mrs Betty Brown, framed and given as a retiring present to the Clarks.

"Sir, When you report (July 15th) that Frank and Margaret Clark are leaving the 'Hare and Hounds', Dore, you are reporting the end of an era - the end of the Dore that used to be.

The Dore when the 'Hare and Hounds' had stone-flagged floors, white scrubbed furniture and hard seats. The Dore of closeknit community - its amazing characters - men with wide leather belts and brass buckles - its own dialect.

My cousins Punch Fisher and Kes Fearneough were men one never forgets, the Ashbys, Unwins, Coates, Hancocks, Denniffs etc. The ganister mines, the milk floats, the nine-acre, the turn-pike, Christmas parties ...

Dropping in for a drink on Sunday lunch time with friend the late Stewart Jepson, beer, thin beef and Yorkshire pudding with the family; 10pm and still there.

Frank and Margaret be praised, Dore will never the be same again.

Ernest Jenkinson, 1972."

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A Passage to India

Considering the weird times we are living through at the moment, it seems like a lifetime ago that my partner and I visited Mowgli for an early evening dinner on a Saturday night back when restaurants and pubs were actually open! Having been to India a number of times and eaten Indian street food in Delhi and Mumbai, I was fascinated to see what Mowgli had to offer. There definitely wasn't any of the trepidation I felt the first time I tried to order something vaguely looking like lamb from a street corner food-cart in Delhi!!

As we entered, we were greeted by attentive and friendly staff who explained the menu and the tapas style menu. While looking at the menu I ordered a bottle of Cobra, which came only a few degrees below room temperature, which is probably the only criticism I can find for the whole evening!

For starter we ordered a monkey wrap - an open roti wrap with charred tandoori chicken, pomegranate, spinach, mint and chutneys (£8.75) and Maa's lamb chops & turmeric chips - marinated in spiced yoghurt with ginger and garlic, with tomato coriander and mint chutney (£8.95). Both dishes were amazingly tasty, with a good balance of spices and the flavours of all the elements combining into a great whole. The ideas of Indian street food were all there, and although refined for the English palate and sensibilities, the dishes weren't miles away from what I remembered.



We were recommended two to three dishes each as main courses with rice and bread. After the starter we decided that two would be sufficient for us and ordered a house lamb curry - cooked with anise, plums and chickpeas (£7.25); the Mowgli House keema - minced lamb, roast cumin, cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon, peas and tomatoes (£7.15). Both of these dishes must have been cooked for a significant amount of time, and very slowly, to get the rich depth of flavours we were presented with. In addition, we had mother butter chicken - tandoori chicken pieces simmered in a spiced tomato and yoghurt sauce finished with a gloss of butter (£7.95), and a Goan fish curry - boneless market fish fillets simmered in a fiery, tangy, sweet sauce with tamarind, ginger, coriander and dried smoky Kashmiri red chillies (£8.25). Yet again we got amazing flavours, succulent meat and fish, and excellent balance to the dishes.



We ordered a couple of sides - roti and basmati rice, thinking that we would be receiving smaller portions than what actually appeared. Served in the middle of the table, we were able to sample each dish as we wanted, spooning rice and curry onto our plates with exclamations of "ooh - you have got to try that one." about the only thing we said to each other for the first ten minutes!

Again, the Indian street food motif was totally present, but refined to a level that surprised me with every mouthful. There was plenty left when we eventually decided enough was enough - unfortunately too full to consider dessert, and I can only apologise for not being able to include those in the review.

We asked our very friendly waitress if she could box up the leftovers, then had a twenty minute debate in the taxi home as to who was going to have them for tea the following day!

I realise that Mowgli is a chain and there are restaurants all over the country, but they have hit on a formula which is both new and great tasting. At somewhere just north of £50 for two, plus drinks, it is not the cheapest, but I believe is good value for money for the quality of the food and the experience - although I am glad we didn't have to sit on the swings!!

Sadly, at the moment they are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but I hope they weather the storm and re-open when things get back to normal - whenever that may be.

Hendo Nagasaki

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Brunsmeer Athletic: The Season that Never Was



It is now a year since I (was) first volunteered to become the official Brunsmeer correspondent for Dore to Door. At the time I imagined – somewhat naïvely it turns out– that the most challenging aspect of my role would be simply choosing which of the club's numerous on-the-pitch highlights would prove of most interest to readers of this august organ.

If only!

I have spent previous columns detailing the club's battles with allegedly incompetent pitch contractors and the wettest winter since records began. This time round, I find myself in the bizarre position of having to produce a jolly, end-of-season round-up literally the day after the FA announced it was going to cancel the grassroots season and expunge all results from the record. Here goes...

There are of course more important things than football. As I write, most of Europe is in lockdown as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and there is no indication of when or how that situation

will conclude. However, that is not to say we shouldn't miss the beautiful game.

The positive role that sport plays in our lives should not be understated and football is the world's most popular pastime. For active participants it is of course a hugely enjoyable way to keep fit and healthy, but beyond that, to the countless more numerous fans of the game, it provides a rhythm to everyday life, a highlight in the weekly routine, but perhaps most importantly of all it gives us all social currency.

I am reminded of the comment a wise owl once made about my own home city of Liverpool. They described it, slightly unfairly, as a place where "the only thing people talk about is football to disguise the fact that they have nothing else to talk about." Yet, for those of us who enjoy the game – and I assume that includes you – it often seems there is almost as much entertainment to be had talking about football as there is playing or coaching.

For many people, the lack of football means there is a huge void in their lives at the moment. And while that is definitely not the saddest thing in the world at the moment, it is certainly one more sad thing we could do without.

The return of football will certainly make life easier to bear. It will provide a distraction from trouble and strife, but that has always been its main purpose. The modern game was born in the mid-19th Century out of the necessity to occupy factory workers who were enjoying Saturday afternoon off for the first time. It was hoped that workers would shun drunkenness and traditional, brutal sports like cock fighting and embrace alternatives like football and rugby instead.

So, at Brunsmeer we are already making plans for the new season (the pitches at least will be in pristine condition). We'll be ready to pick up where we left off, providing a focus for the lives of our players, coaches, and supporters. Thankfully, football won't be disappearing forever, it will just like feel four times that long to those of us who love the game.

Steve McKevitt

Test yourself with this

It's 1.5km from the bottom of Whitelow Lane at the edge of Dore to its junction with Hathersage Road. The road winds past fields and the occasional farmhouse before it opens onto a long straight with beautiful views back over Dore village and beyond into Sheffield. Usually, this is a very quiet back route out to the Peak District Park but (hopefully) on the evening of 8th July it may be a little bit different.

7 Hills Cycling Club, Sheffield, are organising a cycling hill climb race on Whitelow Lane. It's a very simple concept. Riders set off at one-minute intervals, ride as hard as they can against the clock and the quickest rider wins. Currently, the fastest recorded time is just over four minutes up the 7% average gradient, but that record is likely to drop quite a lot in the race. There will be awards for the fastest male, female, veteran (over 40) and youth (under 16) but this event isn't only about the really quick riders. The road will be closed to traffic and fully marshalled so riders of any age and ability can join in. For some, the challenge will be to simply ride up without stopping.

If you would like to join in, it costs £10 for adults (to cover road closure and prizes), is free for juniors and you need to pre-register by 27th June at www.cyclingtimetrials.org.uk. If you are not a member of a cycling club, you can join as a free guest member of 7 Hills CC for the day. Full details are at www.7hills.cc.

The first rider is off at 7.30pm. Why not challenge yourself to ride? Any bike will do! Or come and support those pushing themselves through the pain! Everyone is welcome.

Thanks to Ben Lowe of VeloViewer for providing the prizes. Dore Club have generously allowed us to use their facilities for the event headquarters where prizes will be handed out after the race.

Allan Wailoo

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Still hoping for Dore Show

In these early weeks of lockdown and uncertainty about how long Covid-19 will keep affecting our daily lives, there seems little that we can regard with real certainty anymore. And so it is with the Dore Show, still scheduled for Saturday 5th September.

It has been no surprise that so many events, nationally and locally, have rightly already been cancelled for early and midsummer. But the Show - being a September event - might still fall within the period when normality is returning, or at least when we are free from the restrictions that would be its downfall right now.

So, the Dore Show Committee has decided that preparations will continue to be made as if we will be going ahead, whilst retaining the option to cancel nearer the time should the situation mitigate against it. This means that all of you planning to enter the classes can still have the time to prepare your exhibits. Even if it all might seem in vain if we must eventually cancel, I'm sure you will benefit

Homegrown Vegetable and Fruit Section

1. 6 pods of runner beans
2. The longest runner bean
3. 3 onions – 200g or less
4. 1 vegetable marrow
5. 4 potatoes – one variety
6. 4 beetroot
7. 1 curviest cucumber (no EU Regulations now!)
8. 5 tomatoes – one variety
9. 8 cherry tomatoes
10. Any other vegetable
11. 4 dessert apples
12. 4 cooking apples
13. A tray of mixed vegetables - including salad
14. A plate of soft fruit
15. A bunch of mixed herbs in a jam jar
16. A pumpkin or squash
17. 3 courgettes
18. 5 carrots – with tops and tails

Homegrown Flower Section

19. A vase of 5 dahlias – arranged to effect
20. 3 cut home grown flowers - same variety
21. A miniature arrangement in a teacup
22. Roses - any container
23. A foliage plant in a pot
24. A vase of mixed flowers
25. A vase of sweet peas
26. A floral arrangement

Domestic Section (Home-made)

27. 4 sausage rolls with home-made pastry
28. A ginger cake – any recipe
29. A Victoria Sandwich – to prescribed recipe
30. A lemon drizzle cake
31. A chocolate cake
32. A Fruit Loaf
33. 4 Scones
34. 6 biscuits
35. A loaf of homemade bread
36. Savoury flan

from having had your creative juices tickled between now and then!

Please scan the class list below and decide which category you wish to tackle, but don't assume that the list is exactly what it was last year; there have been a handful of omissions and new classes included in order to freshen things up and to reflect changing interests.

One of last year's new features that we are retaining is the Show and Sell stall, which was located just inside the entrance to the Methodist Church Hall. If you have a talent which isn't reflected in our class lists you can enter a piece of your own work to a) display only, or b) display with a price tag if you wish to sell it. It will only cost you £1 for your entry which can be brought along on Show morning like the other exhibits - don't forget to put a price tag on if you wish to sell! If it doesn't sell, you can collect it at the end of the Show or donate it - just tell us when you register.

Andy Pack - Chairman, Dore Show

37. A jar of chutney
38. A jar of lemon curd
39. A jar of fruit jam

Wine Section

40. A bottle of home made wine
41. A bottle of home brewed beer

Junior Section

42. Original Lego construction – solid base no bigger than A4 paper (Age 4-8yrs)
43. Original Lego construction – solid base no bigger than A4 paper (Age 9-14yrs)
44. A fruit and/or vegetable animal (Age 4-8yrs)
45. Garden on a plate (Age 4-8yrs)
46. Recycled materials – art on a plate (Age 4-8yrs)
47. Design a poster on an Energy Saving theme (Age 9-14yrs)
48. 4 Slices of Rocky Road – judged on taste (Age 9-14yrs)
49. 4 decorated biscuits – judged on decoration only (Age 4-8yrs)

Textile and Hand Craft Section

50. An item made using paper craft
51. An item of fabric clothing
52. A handmade knitted item
53. Any soft toy
54. Handicraft in wood and/or metal
55. A crocheted item
56. A tapestry or embroidered or cross stitched item using a kit or chart

Visual Arts Section

57. A watercolour painting – 'Landscape'
58. A water colour painting – 'A reflection'
59. A painting in any other medium or mixed media
60. A monochrome drawing – any medium

Photography Section

61. A black and white photograph – 'Loneliness'
62. A colour photograph – 'Animals'
63. A colour photograph – 'Buildings'
64. A colour photograph 'Tessellation'
65. A colour photograph 'A lighted candle'

All you need is love... and some toilet rolls

The story of how our community stepped up

As January 2020 came to a close, we started hearing news of a new virus hitting Wuhan, a city in the Hubei province in China. It seemed so far away. We could never have imagined that only six weeks later we would not be getting into the car and heading off to work in the morning, but we would be setting up office at the kitchen table. That our children would not be at school but would be doing PE with Joe Wicks in front of the TV and parents would be bluffing their way through long-forgotten quadratic equations. That we would not be popping round to see our friends and loved ones for a cup of tea, but would be using phones and tablets to talk to them by video.

We could not imagine that in households around the land, we would be questioning each other on excessive toilet roll usage because heaven forbid if we were to run out we would have to join a queue at six in the morning and pray there would still be some on the shelves. No socialising in pubs or restaurants. No walks on Higger Tor or trips to the Grindleford café for egg and chips. Worst of all, we would be worrying for our own safety and that of our loved ones.

L.P. Hartley said "The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there". It certainly seems like that today as we look back and marvel at the people, privilege and comfort that many of us took for granted BC (Before Covid-19). However, in the depths of confusion and fear, in a world where scarcity and

isolation have become realities, a remarkable thing has happened. Across the UK, a swell of goodwill and action has washed over individuals and communities. This has been no more evident than here in S17. As it stands today, there are around 150 active helpers, and an incredible 1805 members of the S17 Covid-19 Community Support Group on Facebook. This is the story of how our community mobilised ready to handle the impending health disaster heading our way.

Adam Slade, co-owner of an architectural practice in Hathersage lives in Topley with his wife Susie and their three children. He had been keeping up with the news and following the effects of Covid-19 first in China and then in Italy when on March 11, the World Health Organisation declared the corona virus a global pandemic.

Adam says "It was increasingly apparent that the same things happening [in Italy and in China] would happen here. I love our local community, but we still have an insular culture. It was time for our community to come together. I am a thinker, often working ideas through in my head before actioning them, but on this occasion, there just wasn't time." On the morning of 13 March, while he was getting his children their breakfast, Adam created a 'Group' on Facebook with the simple mission being:

To provide a support network to the S17 community at this time of need.

By lunchtime he had approved 250 members and his phone battery was dead. By the evening it had 450 members. Adam

recognised that one pair of hands wasn't going to be enough and support would be needed, so later that day he put out two appeals: firstly, for some admin help and secondly, for ideas on how the group might reach and support the most vulnerable in the area, particularly those who were least likely to have access to social media.

Two of the first people to respond were Simon Parker and Liz

Nicklen. Simon, who has lived in the area with his family for eight years, had great confidence that the community would come together. He says "I've seen a great community spirit here". The first task was to get a community of helpers signed up: "We decided to set up an online survey. Little did we know that within 24 hours more than one hundred people in S17 would have put themselves forward". Hundreds had joined the Facebook group, but not all would be willing or able to actively help others; the survey meant those who could give time could register their interest and be added to a WhatsApp Helpers' Group to enable better communication and coordination.

Liz has lived in Dore for twenty years and brought her two boys up here (they are grown up now and living out of the area). She has previously been a Community Responder, but her career and children meant she hadn't really got involved in the local community as much as she would have liked – until now that is.

"Over breakfast on the 13th March," says Liz, "I spotted the community group and joined – I must have been one of the first. It was beginning to sink in just how awful this situation was going to get, and I was feeling almost panicky, so it was brilliant to be able to volunteer". Liz offered help with the admin side of things and shared a flyer template from another group. This was the answer to Adam's problem: how could the helpers make contact with the people who would most need support? Before she knew it, Liz would become the administrative control centre, matching volunteers to every street in S17. And Simon would become the powerhouse behind the printing and distribution of thousands of leaflets. Adam, Simon and Liz became a team: determined, focussed and dedicated. There was no turning back... a job needed doing.

The weekend of 14-15 March was the last relatively 'normal' weekend in the UK. Although no sports were being shown, people were able to visit local bars and restaurants. The weather was amazing, and the hills were busy with people. Meanwhile, hand sanitiser and toilet rolls were hard to find, and lockdown loomed over us all. Things were about to change for everyone.

Local shops and providers began adapting the ways they worked to make sure their customers (existing and new) could receive the services they need. Liz created a list of all local businesses who were offering takeaway / delivery, and these were included on the leaflets. Adam ensured they were engaged and supported via the channels available. Connections were made with churches and



other community groups to enlist help from their active network of established volunteers and be more joined-up.

In the following days, all over Dore and Topley, computer printers died and print cartridges ran dry. Within just five days of starting the group, 2,500 leaflets had been produced; soon after, enough leaflets were printed to cover every one of the 6,500 houses in the S17 postcode.

Liz then began the mammoth task of checking which roads had received leaflets, and through the WhatsApp Helpers' Group, looked for help to fill gaps with great diligence and success. Whole days were spent tracking coverage and seeking help to cover any gaps. Before long, the busy WhatsApp Group was supplemented by seven micro groups and clusters of helpers started working together. Within just a week of the initial Facebook post, they became self-managing, an essential factor for sustainability going forward. Over a hundred and fifty volunteers spent hours writing their details on leaflets (people talked of writer's cramp) before setting off to deliver them through the doors of their local streets. One person spent 8 hours delivering leaflets in total.

Conversations were had – from a safe distance – between helpers and people in their front gardens.

Introductions were made and reassurances given. People were appreciative, and volunteers felt helpful. Neighbours unknown to each other for years were acquainted for the first time. Even though there was a growing sense of anxiety and concern for the challenges we would be facing in the coming weeks, a sense of connection and community started to bud and blossom much like the spring bulbs and hedgerows coming to life all around us.

Almost immediately, responses started coming in. Phone calls to reassure that things are OK for now, but "it's good to know you're there". Requests for shopping were made by people who were self-isolating. Urgent prescriptions needed collecting. Post needed to be sent. Helpers offered connection, reassurance and support, and those that needed it reached out gratefully to accept it.

One helper shared this story:

"I shop every two or three days for an elderly person who is vulnerable and has no family nearby, apart from an elderly brother in Hillsborough that can't help. I shop for essential items and pay his rent weekly and he has asked if he gets sick can he call on me to help, which of course I will. He is very scared, and I keep reassuring him he will be ok and that myself and the whole community support group is here to support him. He is so overwhelmed by the kindness and help he is receiving, and he can't thank me enough each time I go to see him. He blew me a kiss from his door today which made me smile. Each time I go and deliver his items I well up with emotion knowing that this support is truly making such a difference to his life. I can't thank everyone enough and the organisers for everything you are doing. In this crazy world it's good to know I'm doing some good and bringing joy to [this gentleman's] life, I'm so glad I can be there to support him."

Another helper received this message:

"Thank you so much for the kind message and useful leaflet information. Yes, we are trying to self-isolate, being in the age group that the government advises should. At the moment, we

have all that we need for a while, but it is reassuring to know there is a helping hand when we might need it in the future weeks or months. Thank you once again also to the Community Group."

And here are just some of the other comments that helpers have shared:

"I delivered a prescription for an elderly gentleman - he was so grateful and left a bunch of daffodils on the doorstep for me."

"A lovely thank you on the Facebook group from a man who lives 300 miles away. Just to know his parents are not having to worry and that I am helping to reduce his stress levels so he is not worrying about them is really pleasing."



"All three households I am supporting have someone classified as vulnerable, two of which have had letters telling them to stay in for twelve weeks. They are all very grateful for the support."

"Collected a prescription for a person with diabetes who was self-isolating. Had a lovely chat from the end of the drive with them and the bonus was they lived opposite a close friend so had a chat with him too at a distance."

"One household in particular now telephones and emails regularly and is very happy to know that there is support in the community. They were pleased to see me after not seeing anyone at all for two weeks."

"A self-isolating 85 year old called for some supplies. He doesn't have family in the area. He was worried about having to go out to get shopping."

"One of my first calls was for groceries for a family of four, the mother had a fever and needed some groceries until they had a Tesco delivery. I could procure most of what they needed from the Topley greengrocer and Border View Farm! I also had a neighbour who wanted to help S17 (but had difficulty keeping up with the Facebook/WhatsApp flow); I asked her if she could take a meal to them for a Saturday evening (I knew she loved to cook for others and is good at it), and she was delighted to do that. The mother was very appreciative and this story has a happy ending with her excellent recovery and she is a mainstay in our small neighbourhood WhatsApp group."

"An 84 year old lady - who is quite self-sufficient and her daughter is helping, but we have chatted a couple of times on the phone and did a Skype call!"

"We have been able to help two households with their weekly shopping. Both households are shielding elderly people with underlying conditions and who were scared to venture out. Whenever we pop around to one house with shopping, they open their window to thank us and have a chat and they express what a difference it is making. In fact, this couple told their daughter (who lives in Kent and who therefore cannot support her parents) about our efforts, and they explained to us that this had motivated her to start a similar initiatives for those who were vulnerable in her local area."

It is testament to our community that so much has been achieved in such a short time....that so much has been achieved collectively.

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It is a silver lining in this terrible situation. From one person's flash of inspiration and action, others stepped forward and spent hours getting the initiative off the ground. More people contributed with printing, advice, information and offers. As it stands at the beginning of April, a hundred and fifty helpers volunteered their time to reach out to their neighbours (more are always welcome). Over 1800 people joined the community group which gives everyone a sense of connection and encouragement as ideas, suggestions and gratitude are shared.

All this is now backed up with a website to ensure people can easily access the most relevant useful information whether they are looking for support, or they are volunteers. WhatsApp groups continue to be used by helpers to make sure every request is honoured and satisfied. At the time of writing we know the peak of the virus is yet to come, and as a nation we will soon be dealing with the challenges that brings. But having harnessed the willingness of people across our community and taken collective responsibility for the most vulnerable amongst us, we are as ready in S17 as we can be. The exponential growth of this virus has been more than matched by the exponential growth in the generosity and goodwill of the people in this community.

What is really hard to believe is that the three-person powerhouse who got this initiative off the ground didn't know each other BC, and

have never met in real life. That will have to wait until this lockdown is over. In the meantime, here are their reflections of the last month: "I've been overwhelmed with the community's response. It's all happened very quickly, from getting set up to where we are now; it wouldn't have been possible without people's time and commitment. We have merely been facilitators. The thanks are all down to everyone working together in the community. From time of writing we know there are dark days ahead, but as a community we can and must keep pulling together to provide light."

Adam ("I can't wait to get out and about again with the family and of course go to the pub!")

"I've been blown away by the level of support shown by the whole community, and the way it's been embraced by everyone involved, whether that is through the help and support network or those who are using the support offered. Everyone is filling a much-needed gap that will in time need to dovetail with the longer-term support network that will be created by the hundreds of thousands in the GoodSAM programme. There are lots of ways to get involved...so please do get in touch on our Facebook page. And do keep your leaflet handy, because we don't know what tomorrow will bring or when we will need to call upon a helping hand. We are there to support each other equally through this."

Simon ("I'm looking forward to one heck of a set of street parties")

"I am utterly humbled. There are truly amazing people where we live. People who are adding to their own risk because they want to help others. They are the real heroes. It's one thing to do the practical stuff [setting things up] but I think the biggest thing our volunteers have achieved is giving people the comfort of knowing there are people out there who are strangers but they care and are just a phone call away if needed. THANK YOU to every single one of you for every gesture and kind action you have done so far and for everything you will continue do.

We don't know the twists and turns that this story will take, so my second message is STAY STRONG. We will get through this. We're all going to have bad days in the times ahead as we have to face the increasingly harsh reality of this illness but just know that there are people out there, in your community, who care and are there to catch you."

Liz ("Technology is amazing but nothing beats a proper hug. I can't wait to hug my boys, my mum, in fact all my family and friends")

www.facebook.com/groups/S17Covid19

www.S17covid19.co.uk

Article by Claire Knight
Photographs of deserted Dore by John Eastwood



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Dore's more unusual industries



Following on from the last archive article which mentioned Dore's weaving industry and then carried on the textile theme with dressmakers, tailors, seamstresses and drapers, it seemed only fair to point out to you that Dore was a centre of button making.

Who hasn't seen grandmother's button box, played with the buttons, used them as counters or just admired them without thinking of where they had come from and how old some of them might be? What events did those buttons witness?

Martha Stewart, the American TV presenter said that "*buttons are the fossils of the sartorial world, enduring long past the garments they were designed to hold together.*"

The earliest buttons are believed to be those from the Indus valley dating from 2800-2600BC and were decorative rather than functional. Right up to the 17th and 18th century, garments were either held together with pins or were laced. Only the wealthy could afford the extravagance of decorative buttons, often made from ivory, glass, porcelain, jet and pearl, as well as precious metals set with gemstones.

I'm not suggesting that you have any of these early examples in your button box, but you will surely have examples of small punched mother of pearl buttons which were commonly used on shirts and blouses. These may have been made in Sheffield; there was a pearl button making industry at Manor Lodge in the 18th century using reject material from knife handle making in the cutlery industry. Button making in metal had started in Sheffield about 1650 as a sideline in times of recession in the iron industry. In 1714, a Samuel Hall is recorded as a plate button maker, having premises in the parlour section of a cottage near Townhead. This 'Townhead' is probably the one in Sheffield rather than our Dore area because so far, we haven't tracked down a Samuel Hall in Dore at the right time period. There was also a Button Lane in Sheffield.

So, what about button making in Dore? Our local historian, John Dunstan, interviewed in the late 1960s Miss Ellen Hancock whose family included John Hancock, churchwarden of Dore in 1715. She said that

"Buttons were manufactured at Moor Bottom (off Limb Lane)



by a family named Dewce, originally Flemings (Flemish origin, possibly Huguenot refugees). A specimen of the buttons is in the possession of J. Hancock. The buttons were copper or brass with gems of glass or composition set in them."

The Dewce family were a long-established Dore family in the 1700s, living not only at Moor Bottom but also Dore Moorside and on Limb Lane.

All that remains nowadays of Moor Bottom Farm is what is shown in the photograph above. From the bridleway from Limb Lane towards Ecclesall woods, the lower stone course of the farm can still be seen in the trees. Miss Hancock said that the 'Old Shop' – maybe the button workshop – got pulled down as early as 1851.

But back to brass buttons. Brass buttons of the same period were being made in Hathersage on Besom Lane, and also, from about 1720, at a mill on Dale Brook. The metal and materials were brought from Sheffield and then the finished product was sent back. This piecework format is probably the same system as at Moor Bottom. It is quite feasible to imagine that the inset composite material was what was referred to as 'end of day' spatter glass – the remains of coloured glass left in pots at the end of the glassmaker's day.

This brass button dates only from the 1920s but shows the metal shank and the way a piece of mother of pearl has been inset. By this time brass buttons could be mass produced using stamping machinery, and the mother of pearl was similarly punched out using a stamp.



So now it is time to see what you have in your button box and to think of how many expressions we commonly use that reference buttons - "*as bright as a button, button your lip, to buttonhole someone, button nose, push your buttons.*"

We may be in the era of zips and Velcro, but buttons live on, sometimes as an anachronism nowadays. Look closely at the sleeve of a gentleman's suit. Why is there a row of buttons on the cuff, often with a slit, if not a relic of when out hunting a gentleman needed to turn back his sleeve and button it out of the way to keep it clean?

If you find a button that you would like dating, or more information about, please do get in touch with the Archive team.

Dorne Coggins

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