

# DORE DOOR

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

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## Membership Renewal

The Society's policy is to fund all of its regular running costs out of membership subscriptions, leaving other income sources to generate surpluses which can be used to build up specified reserves, make grants and donations, and to carry out activities to the benefit of the community.

It's time once again to ask you to reach into your wallets, real or digital, for the modest ten quid required annually for membership of Dore Village Society. If you set up a direct debit, you only have to do it once and future renewals will happen automatically.

To renew your membership, or join for the first time, you can pay by cash, card, bank transfer, direct debit or standing order by any of the following means:

1. Scan the QR code below to go directly to the renewals and payment page of our website. If you've not used QR codes before, the process is very straightforward: using the camera on your phone hold it over the QR image. It doesn't matter whether you're holding your phone vertically or horizontally, your phone can even read the code upside down. When your camera scans the QR code you will see an icon or web address on your screen near the code. Tap this and it will take you to the renewals and payment page of our website.
2. Enter this url in the address bar of your browser: [www.dorevillage.co.uk/pages/how-to-join-the-society](http://www.dorevillage.co.uk/pages/how-to-join-the-society).
3. Go to our website ([www.dorevillage.co.uk](http://www.dorevillage.co.uk)), select the Dore Village Society menu tab and then "How to Join or Renew Membership".
4. Complete the membership form included in this issue and give it to any committee member or post it through the letter box at Dore Old School, enclosing cash or a cheque.



## Cooks Needed for Old School Lunch club



For many years the Lunch club, for local elderly people, has been organised by a team of volunteers every Tuesday, except during school holidays.

Though we have a great team of volunteers each week we would like to have more cooks on the rota, willing to make a main course or pudding for up to 18 people, approximately every six weeks, all expenses will be covered.

If you think you might be able to help you would be welcome to come along one Tuesday to see what is involved.

Please contact the Treasurer 07597 337901 for more information.



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## Sheffield Folk Chorale

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### WINTER CONCERT



### Dore & Totley United Reformed Church

28 Totley Brook Rd, S17 3QS

Friday, 12 Dec - Start: 7 pm

**Tickets: £10**

Light refreshments included

Contact : Margaret Barron

078 376 81467

In aid of Sheffield Young Carers

## Dore Show 2025

We were lucky to have a fine day this year for what was a very successful show in several respects. Attendance was up with approximately 350 adults visiting and probably a further 75 or so people too young to pay the entrance fee. The number of exhibits increased across almost every category and this was especially gratifying in the fruit, vegetables and flowers sections given the drought we experienced earlier in the year. We also had a new band this year, Dronfield Brass Band, and their performance and repertoire were well received, we will be booking them again for next year.

We are very pleased to report that the show made a record surplus of £980 this year thanks to entrance fees, exhibit registrations, refreshments, raffle and the auction, but especially to the sponsorship by J C Lettings and we are very grateful for their generous support. The surplus has enabled us to give a donation of £900 to More in Door for the next stage of their plans for facilities in the Recreation Ground play area.

The success of the Show depends on the people who volunteer to help with planning, setting up on the Friday, running the event, and dismantling and putting everything away afterwards. In total this is about 60 people. Thanks to all of you, without whom the show could not take place. Our thanks also go to David Hayes for providing background music, public announcements, and of course, his sterling job when leading the auction! Also to Andy Donnelly for putting the programme together and Women's Print for organising its printing. We are similarly grateful to the numerous village shops and businesses that advertised in the programme, donated raffle prizes or sponsored exhibits.

The Dore Show committee began the year with nine members, two of whom are leaving at the end of this year after many years of involvement: Pat Ryan and me. I am stepping down as chairman at the end of my second stint in this role and I'm being replaced by someone familiar to anyone who has attended the Dore Gala in recent years, Andy Donnelly. As the former chairman of the Gala planning committee he's the ideal person to take over from me.

That said we do need at least two additional committee members to help with planning and running the show. The work isn't onerous or time consuming but every bit of help reduces the load on the other committee members. It means attending nine committee meetings a year in an evening, each lasting about an hour and a half to two hours, and then helping with set up and on the day of the show.

At the end of every event we get many complimentary comments and thanks from people who say how much they enjoyed it, and how much they appreciated the effort that had gone into it, and it's very gratifying to see how much pleasure this event brings to people. This is what makes the effort worthwhile, the feeling that the show contributes to the spirit of community in Dore. If you would like to join us and help to ensure the future of the show please contact Andy Donnelly at [andydonnelly@me.com](mailto:andydonnelly@me.com)

The Dore Show 2026 will be held on Saturday 5th September. See you there.

**Keith Shaw**  
Dore Show Planning Committee

**Please mention Dore to Door  
when replying to advertisements.  
It helps both DVS and the advertiser.**

## Totley Show 2025

Let me introduce myself, I am Mick Warwick, Chair of Totley Show and I have been asked to prepare a short report on our Show for your magazine. For many years the Dore Show and Totley Show have run on concurrent Saturdays in September. This year we had a two-week gap. The two Chairs of the Shows have built up a relationship over the last ten years to work together and this is borne out by the number of entries we have from the Dore area in our Show. We probably have about 25% of our entries from outside Totley, with the majority coming from Dore.

For the first time since I have been Chair we had dreadful weather for our 39th Show on Saturday 20th September. It was disappointing conditions; especially after such a lovely Summer. I was fully expecting that our entries and visitor numbers would be well down. However the residents of Totley and the local area are made of hardier stuff and they turned out in good numbers to support us. What an extremely busy day we had! There were a record number of over 500 entries in the morning. I thought we would be too late for most of the fruit and vegetables but there were a high number of entries in this section, especially apples! The weather held off in the morning but after lunch the rain gradually got heavier and heavier.



I did feel sorry for the charity stalls that had to battle the weather in the afternoon, particularly their volunteers who manned the stalls. It cannot have been very pleasant for them.

The main hall was alive with music all afternoon. A new choir performed this year, Sheffield Cancer Choir. They were ably supported by our regular band, Seven Hills Quintet, who again made available their PA system for us to use for the prize giving and the auction.

Across the two rooms there was a beautiful display of all kinds of crafts and produce. Many congratulations and thanks for all your talented efforts.

I was very pleased to have Colin Ross, our Lord Mayor from two years ago, to present all the prizes again this year.

This event would not be possible without the hard work of the committee in their planning and the twenty plus volunteers that donate their time on Friday night and throughout Saturday.

As usual I would like to say a few 'thank-yous' to the people and children who have entered items in the classes. We would also like to thank Totley Primary School, Totley All Saints Church, the Totley Scouts, the other local sponsors, the large number of businesses in Totley,

Dore and Bradway who supplied the raffle prizes and Dore Village Society for lending us the display boards.

We hope to see many of you next year.

**Mick Warwick**  
Totley Show Chair





Step into Christmas with us here at Whirlow Hall Farm as our much-loved Fayre returns for a whole weekend of festive magic. (29-30 November) Once again, we'll be transforming the farm into a sparkling winter wonderland filled with seasonal cheer, delicious treats, and family fun, all in aid of supporting vulnerable young people in Sheffield.

### Christmas Market

Wander through our bustling market where carefully chosen local stallholders will be offering beautiful handmade gifts, festive homeware, and thoughtful treats. From unique decorations to artisan crafts, it's the perfect place to pick up those extra-special Christmas presents.

### Festive Food & Drink

Warm up with a mulled wine and mince pie, or tuck into hearty street food and sweet seasonal bakes. And for grown-ups looking for a little extra cheer, our festive bar will be open throughout the day.

### A Magical Family Day Out

Children can meet Santa in the farmhouse and share their Christmas wishes, enjoy festive crafts, and sparkle with face painting. Gather around the fire pit for toasted marshmallows, and keep your eyes (and ears!) peeled for plenty of festive fun across the site.



### Live Music & Entertainment

Nothing says Christmas quite like the uplifting sound of a brass band, and this year we're thrilled to welcome Dronfield Brass Band alongside a line-up of live performers and school choirs who'll keep the festive spirit flowing all weekend long.

### Christmas Trees & Farm Shop

Choose your perfect Christmas tree right here at the farm and stock up on festive essentials, including your Whirlow Christmas meat order, from our Farm Shop.

### Supporting Whirlow's Work

Every ticket, tree, and marshmallow makes a difference. All proceeds help us continue our vital work with young people who need us most, giving them opportunities

to learn, grow, and build brighter futures.

Make Whirlow Hall Farm part of your Christmas tradition. Come along, soak up the atmosphere, and make memories that really matter. We can't wait to welcome you!

## Letter to the Editor

Thank you for the article, 'Furniss Ave - the before and after', which I found to be very interesting. The first photograph of the aerial view, showing the junction between Furniss Avenue and King Ecgbert Road, has given me further thoughts about this road and area, which I hope will add interest.

At the very top of the picture there is a boundary wall, which now forms the eastern side of my front garden. However, the date of the photograph must be incorrect, because we received permission to inhabit our house in a document dated 20 July 1934.

An earlier letter shows that 2 Furniss Avenue was still in an uncompleted state by the 13 January 1934. At that time, my father received another letter to say, although the road had been made and dedicated, he would have to pay for the footpath covering the frontage. The sum was 2/6p per square foot which amounted to £5.50 at the time. The foundations of number 12 can be seen, so I suggest that the aerial picture must have been taken in the late 1920's.

A number of field footpaths can be seen heading to the top of the picture. These all led across the fields to the footbridge to get to Totley. Frequently in the early days of our family life here, people would come down our garden following the old field path route until the beech hedge was planted.

From my childhood memories, the noticeable bright rectangle in the photograph was a tennis court belonging to the bungalow, named 'Corbier' (next to Durvale road junction). This was dug up during the war and made into an allotment for the 'Dig for Victory' campaign. It is possible that the Scottish family of Rothneys were living there at the time. I remember that allotment well, because, living locally, we played together around the back fields. The group was mainly boys but I tagged on as a girl and the youngest. The lads had teased the daughter of the local,

very tall, Special Constable, and he came after us in that area, but my little legs found the vegetables too much of a challenge and I got caught, but I hadn't been involved but only watched the incident.

We had such freedom in these local fields, playing outside all day long, exploring, building dens, climbing trees, looking after ourselves and each other and learning from and about the natural world. In Winter we would walk for miles to sledge the local hills, as well as on parts of Furniss Avenue.

I had a wonderful, joyous childhood and these historical pictures have given me lovely memories of our road and its environment. I am saddened that children today have never had the freedom which we took for granted.

Judith Hubbard



As we're gearing up towards the "Big C" (sorry!) it is also the time of year to think about renewing your DVS membership. If you pay by direct debit or standing order then you don't need to do anything, your membership will automatically renew. If you paid by cash or cheque, please fill in the renewal form that has arrived with the magazine and pop it in an envelope with your payment through the door of the Old School or 18A Devonshire Road. Those of you who are a little more tech savvy can renew their membership online via our website or just scan the QR code on page 2.

### Past events

Dore show this year was on the first weekend of September and a glorious day it was too. The sun shone, the ice cream van was busy and there were more exhibitors than ever! There was the usual high standard of craft and artistry on display in the Methodist Church Hall and the produce, flowers and baking in the Old School were equally impressive. It was nice to see lots of children's exhibits too though there's always space for more, do encourage your youngsters to get involved next year. The auction of exhibits was expertly compered again by David Hayes, I don't think it would be a Dore show if he didn't do it. He did offer to let me have a go but I politely turned him down, I'm much better at collecting the money in! The bidding was fast and furious, but I did manage to purchase a cake and a lovely large basket of fruit and veg.

## Dora



*Dora ready for a party*

I would just like to thank all the Dore Show committee and their volunteers. It's a long couple of days, setting up on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning then taking it all down again after the auction closes on Saturday. They've done another wonderful job this year and have made Dore show bigger and better than ever. I also need to thank Keith who is now stepping down as chair of the committee. He will be replaced by Andy Donnelly (there might have been a bit of arm twisting there!) who chaired the Scout Gala committee from 2019 to 2024. I let him have a year off before giving him a new job.

The Party on the Green was the following day and though the forecast was not good, we gamely carried on regardless. Dore Male Voice Choir were a big hit again this year and everyone had a great afternoon in spite of the weather!

### Events coming up

Between me writing this and the publishing date we will have had the Scout bonfire on Parker's Lane. Fingers crossed for a dry evening on Saturday, the 8th of November and another successful bonfire for the Scouts.

### Whirlow Christmas Market

This will be held on the 29th and 30th of November. There will be lots of stalls, the Whirlow BBQ, music, crafts and even a visit from the big man himself. It will be a great weekend for getting those early (or late, depending on how you do your shopping) Christmas presents in. Apologies for a shameless bit of advertising for the charity I work for.

### Lantern parade

The lantern parade will be held on Wednesday 3rd December. The parade will start as usual from outside Kutz hairdressers at around 6:30pm as soon as the bus has gone past! The parade will head down Causeway Head Road, turning right to go past the Devonshire Arms and gathering outside the Hare and Hounds and Dore Service Station for Christmas songs and the lighting of the tree. There will be a few stalls and local businesses will be open late for you to do some Christmas shopping. I would like to thank Jon and his amazing team of Tree Putter Up-ers for braving, what will undoubtedly be a wet and bitterly cold weekend before the parade, getting all the trees in the village up and decorated.

### Wassailing

Our annual post-Christmas event is the Wassail walk and this year it will be on Saturday 27th December. It's a 4 to 5 mile walk around the local area usually up on to Blackamoor, ending up in the Devonshire Arms for a mince pie and cup

of mulled wine or non-alcoholic alternative. It's a lovely way to blow off the Christmas cobwebs and catch up with friends whilst getting a bit of gentle exercise. Dogs and well-behaved children are more than welcome!

### The Final Issue

John Eastwood has been involved in the production of Dore to Door for the last 14 years. For 12 of those years, he managed the entire content and layout of the magazine, sourcing and writing articles, and interviewing interesting people. For the last 2 years he has shared this role with Keith Shaw, with John sorting the layout and Keith sourcing the content. This has been a great and productive partnership, but John has now decided that it is time to hang up his laptop and enter a well-earned retirement - this is the final issue that he will be involved with. The DVS committee cannot thank him enough for all his hard work, in the last 14 years we have gone from a black and white rough printed paper to the glossy magazine you hold in your hands today and this is all down to John's enthusiasm and desire for improvement. I'm sure the good people of Dore would join me in saying a great big thank you to John. Enjoy your retirement, John!

Jen

### A note from Colin, our Treasurer

As some of you will know, I'm Treasurer for the Dore Village Society (DVS), and we need a new External Examiner for our Annual Accounts. As a Registered Charity, our Accounts need to be "examined" by a competent person, (not necessarily a qualified accountant). Our previous examiner stepped down after a number of years examining the Accounts on a voluntary basis. (I guess the Society would be willing to pay a modest fee, if requested).

The work is undertaken during March; our Accounts & Trustees' Report are approved at our February Committee Meeting, and we expect to have the documents signed off by the Examiner in time for our March meeting. (Both meetings are on the last Tuesday of the month.) We use Xero Accounting System for recording our transactions, and although I don't regard knowledge of this as a pre-requisite, it would help if you did know how this, or other accounting systems, work. (Sage, for example)

I don't think it matters whether our Examiner is retired or still employed, as long as he/she doesn't take a long winter break in March!

For those of you who are interested, please get in touch with me by email at [colin.robinson@dorevillage.co.uk](mailto:colin.robinson@dorevillage.co.uk).



## Christmas Greetings in the 1950's

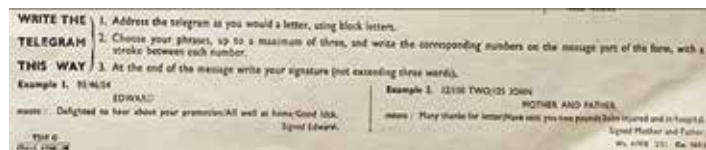
The information that prompted this article is taken from an item held in Totley History Group's Post Office collection. With other PO artifacts, it had been saved by Mrs Jackson who ran Totley Post Office for many years, then passed to us by her son who found it when he was clearing the family home. It sheds light on how people were able to keep in touch more than 70 years ago, even if they were half a world apart.

PO document headed **EFM STANDARD TEXT TELEGRAMS LIST OF AVAILABLE PHRASES**

This was a telegram service for the Forces at a time when overseas communication was normally via slow surface mail. Letters took at least a month to reach Malaya or Singapore, more than six weeks to Australia, and the replies an equal time to get back to Britain. Military outposts across the globe still gave us a presence in many areas, eg Commonwealth countries, trouble zones such as the African colonies, and the Korean War where Britain was supporting S. Korea in their fight against the Communist invasion from the north.

EFM stands for **E**mpire, **F**ar and **M**iddle East. Listed on a foolscap sheet of paper are 359 numbered phrases for use when sending a telegram to or from someone serving in the Forces. Telegram charges were calculated per word, and this provided a sort of shorthand.

From 1947-1960 there was National Service in the UK and many sons and boyfriends would be overseas. Men were 'called up' at eighteen to serve for two years in the service of their choice, Army, Navy or Air Force, helping to address the post war shortage of serving men. It had been considered essential to maintain a trained and able-bodied population, available to defend the country's interests should it become necessary.



The illustration shows instructions for compiling a message, allowing for a choice of only three short phrases from the long list. They cover many eventualities...fond greetings, reprimands, births, deaths, divorce, requests for money, news of promotion etc.

Thus, a Christmas greeting from home might read

49/148/352

Irene

Meaning: Loving wishes for Christmas / Parcel sent / Wish I could be with you / Irene

Then in reply from the serviceman

8/187/51

Tom

Meaning: Telegram and parcel received many thanks / Hope to broadcast greetings from B.B.C. Listen Sunday / Loving Christmas thoughts / Tom

The charge was 2/6 (half a crown, currently approx. £2.50) whether you used one, two or three phrases. A small selection of messages is shown at the end of the article.

Presumably all post offices, both here and wherever Forces were stationed, displayed a copy of the list allowing interpretation at each end. Now, when we instantly FaceTime or exchange WhatsApp, email and text messages across the world at very little cost, it's hard to imagine how distanced from family and friends a young serviceman might feel at that time.

Who also remembers 'Two Way Family Favourites' on the BBC Light Programme? Hosted by Cliff Mitchelmore and Jean Metcalfe.

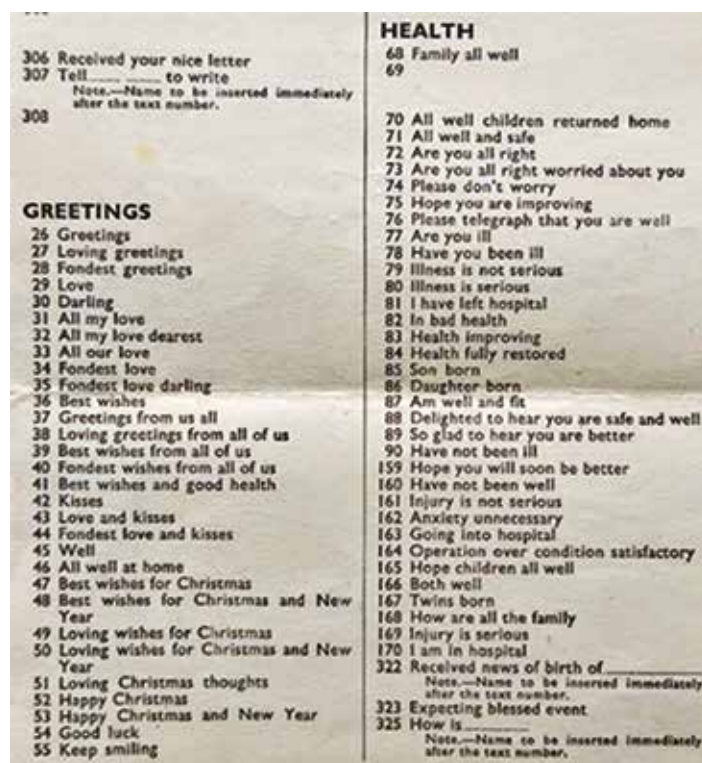
'This next song is a request from Tom in BFPO 69', Aden. He asks for Guy Mitchell singing My Truly, Truly Fair, to be played for his fiancé Irene in Sheffield. Have a wonderful Christmas darling, only 8 months 'til demob day and we'll be together again'...

The programme was broadcast each Sunday lunchtime, and another way of keeping servicemen connected to home in pre-digital times, but the chance of your message being aired must have been very slim! Hopefully, just tuning in helped to bridge the miles between families and friends who were forced to spend Christmas apart due to the compulsory post-WW2 National Service.

Although telegrams made speedy communications possible, they were also very brief and not totally private. Servicemen would be eagerly awaiting snowy Christmas cards, long letters and parcels, helping them feel nearer to home when they were serving in the tropics, a world away.

**1BFPO:** British Forces Post Office (*Postage was free to a BFPO address*).

*When you're having a clear-out, please don't throw away local 'bits and pieces' eg. postcards, bills/receipts, advertising material/ correspondence etc that might have been saved by past generations. They could shine a light on how everyday things were for previous generations. The 'ordinary' is easily forgotten. For readers in Dore, if you have anything you'd like us to see please contact Dorne Coggins at dornecoggins@gmail.com.*



## Wassail Walk

The annual Wassail Walk will take place again this year filling the gap between Christmas and New Year as in the past.

Wassailing has a long history going back at least to Norse times. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the word "wassail" derives from the Old Norse salutation ves heill, corresponding to Old English hál wes þú or wes hál; literally meaning 'be in good health' or 'be fortunate'. It was initially used in the sense of 'hail' or 'farewell'. Later it developed into the first part of a toast "wassail...drinkhail". By the 14th century, the sense had extended to the drink itself, especially to the spiced ale used in Twelfth-night and Christmas Eve celebrations, and by 1598 it was being applied to the custom of drinking on those nights.

As a result Wassailing became a way of passing seasonal good wishes between family and neighbours around settlements in Britain and parts of Europe. The tradition takes many forms, and in Dore it is celebrated as

the annual Wassail Walk organised by Dore Village Society.

This Year we will be setting off on Saturday 27th December at 10:30 am from Dore Old School car park for our usual four or five mile meander around parts of Blacka Moor, with a shorter return option for anyone wanting a shorter walk. Children and dogs are welcome.

The terrain is usually muddy so please ensure that you are properly equipped with adequate footwear and clothing. We go whatever the weather but the route is determined on the day to take account of this. Mince pies, mulled wine, water and fruit juice will be available (free) afterwards in the Devonshire Arms from midday for everyone who takes part no matter how far you walk.

There is no need to book, all you have to do is turn up in the Old School car park on Savage Lane for a 10:30am start.

I will be leading the walk again and you can contact me on 07778 422 910 or at keith.shaw@dorevillage.co.uk if you need more information.

Keith Shaw

## 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 £10 per annum for individuals and £35 for corporate members. Telephone numbers of Committee Members and associates are below; for email, please write to [firstname.surname@dorevillage.co.uk](mailto:firstname.surname@dorevillage.co.uk), e.g. [jen.donnelly@dorevillage.co.uk](mailto:jen.donnelly@dorevillage.co.uk)*

### Committee Members:

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Andy Challis

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### Environment

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- 1/8 page £50
- 1/4 page £100
- 1/2 page £200
- Full page £400

There is a 10% discount for booking and paying in advance for four consecutive editions. There is a 50% discount for local charities.

Classified ads cost 30p per word.



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Autumn's here and it's back to normal with the kids at school and who is more pleased – parents or children! A new term for them and a new look for the Library...have you seen the new children's section yet?

## Story Garden 2025 Reading Challenge

This event has been a great success again this year!



We registered 300 eager children and over 100 have read the six books to complete the Challenge.

Our Volunteers have loved handing out the rewards of a certificate, medal and a free book. As can be seen by the faces of the sisters in the photo, the children have too!

Every year we have children signing up for their first Library card so they can join in. More than 30 children, mostly under 5, have done so this year.

We hope the families who have spent time in the Library this summer have enjoyed themselves. We were delighted with the response.

## The Great Library Refurbishment Project

Last month, you will have noticed that the Library was closed for ten days while major changes were taking place to improve and renovate the interior. Brighter, lighter, more convenient spaces have been created with moveable shelving, colourful decoration and quite a number of ducks for the children. Early Spring cleaning and a cathartic burst of decluttering have also contributed to a new look Library. Come and see if you notice the difference!



## Calling all Culture Vultures – the Library is the place to be!

The ever-popular Folk Night returns for another year. Local musicians join forces to provide a range of traditional and more modern songs accompanied by some impressive musicianship. Tickets are like gold dust, so move fast – it's easier to get tickets for Glastonbury! Proceeds go towards the second phase of the Library refurbishment – have you seen the new adult section yet?

## Save the Date!

And while we're in a musical mood, make sure you put **Friday the 27th of February 2026** in your diary for the one night only appearance of Bob Hall and Hilary Blythe, local musical superstars, as they present an evening of blues and boogie. Bob is a boogie-woogie pianist, an authority on blues piano and founder member of several British blues bands including The Groundhogs. He has recorded with Peter Green and Mick Fleetwood and accompanied many great jazz and blues artists including John Lee Hooker. Hilary is an outstanding folk singer and a rock steady bass player. Hilary is also a recording artist and sings classic country and folk songs, playing acoustic guitar with Bob.

This is a real coup for our local community so save the date and watch out for the tickets going on sale! Again, the proceeds are going to help fund the second refurbishment phase in the Library – have you seen the new decorations yet?

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Opening Times: Mon - Fri - 8:30am - 7pm, Sat - 9am - 5pm

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## Library Art Space

It's all change in the Library Art displays again - there's always something new and colourful to brighten up your browsing. It's a great opportunity for local artists to showcase their work and for Library users to enjoy the range of styles we are able to present. You might even want to take one home with you.

This month we have exciting new work by local artist, Gina Hodges, amazing ocean scenes by Starfish Photography and giclee and lino prints of local landmarks by Judy Randle. If you want a sneak preview then go to the art page on [www.totleycric.org.uk](http://www.totleycric.org.uk). Or you could keep it old school and visit the Library! But in the meantime, here's a taster...



Judy Randle



Gina Hodges

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## The Library Cinema returns for the Autumn season

And did you know that Thursday matinees are free for the over 65s? There's got to be some advantage in getting older.

So it's another chance to identify with Bridget Jones and her romantic escapades, sing along with Bob Dylan, probably not sing along with Maria Callas and then puzzle over Richard Burton's extraordinary journey to stardom. And it's a good opportunity to see Toby Jones again after his powerful performance in the Post Office Scandal.

### October

Fri 24, 7 pm -- Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy (2025, 15)

Thu 30, 3 pm -- A Complete Unknown (2025, 15)

### November

Fri 21, 7 pm -- A Real Pain (2024, 15)

Thu 27, 3 pm -- Maria (2025, 12)

### December

Thu 11 -- Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy (2025, 15)

Fri 19 -- Mr Burton (2025, 15)

So book in person in the Library or call 0114 2363971 to reserve your place. Did you know there are refreshments too?

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2. He does not believe in Father Christmas;
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Parade Commences 6:30pm

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## A 21st Century child from Dore

Does it take a village to raise a child? Does it take something more? Dore has grown and exported some wonderful young people who have excelled in their fields. In this article we explore why this might be the case with the help of a young man who was born here. After university in Manchester he is now back in Dore, stopping to reflect on what challenges may come next. I thought it would be useful for all generations to hear what he has to say. It may help some younger people who are still at school with their future decision making.

His name is Nick Sanders and he is about as old as this century. He attended our local Dore schools and participated in most of what Dore can offer.



Nick graduated in 2024 with a degree in Business, Finance and Economics. After his degree he was looking around for opportunities to develop further. He was aware that a university degree only goes so far when it comes to having a fulfilling life and career. He told me how through his Christian faith he was made aware of a discipleship programme (YWAM or Youth with a Mission). He spent the first part of the five month programme in

Switzerland learning about community living, cross cultural working, developing personal skills and leadership. This time equipped him to work in a project with disadvantaged young people in Egypt. He was far away from his comfort zone but learnt how his degree could, in fact, be useful working for an NGO or similar.

He looks back to the memories he has of growing up in Dore and what made a difference with helping him move on to university, and then live and work in two different countries. His colourful, happy and vivid memories are the Bonfire Nights on Parker's Field, the Dore Scout Gala and the Evening Extravaganza sometimes called "Dore's Got Talent" where his brother got him to stand up on stage in the Church Hall and sing! A terrifying prospect at the time but he faced the fear and did it anyway. Other Dore memories, many readers will share, are scouts with outdoor games and activities on the moors; the offer of young people's meetings associated with Christ Church; playing for Porter Football Club. Football taught him about others and being in a team, but also later gave him the opportunity to volunteer, working with the younger Porter players, to develop their football skills. It being Dore, sledging on Newfield Lane and snow days at school are imprinted on his mind as well.

King Egbert School gave him countless skills and a route to university. However it struck me that the activities which helped to shape him were about community and outdoors. He agrees and says that he found that helped him de-stress from school. To find a way of de-stressing is becoming even more important for today's young people who may be struggling with their mental health. Relating to people and things on screens does not substitute for the "high" of playing football, or being with friends out on the moors. He has taken forward this sense of relating to people, as in volunteering and being interested in others around him, to whatever he has done. A temporary job at Dore Moor café helped him get over any shyness and talk to people of different ages and backgrounds. Learning these soft people skills, including active listening, are invaluable lessons. Truly listening to someone and getting to understand more of their perspective can help in so many

ways, in all walks of life. Nick started to learn this whilst in Dore and volunteering for Porter FC, but it really developed in the last year with the YWAM programme; meeting people with very different life experiences from his own.

Nick is acutely aware of how privileged he has been and that Dore is a very special and historic place. We are on the edge of Sheffield and you can have a choice of Sheffield or the hills as a destination for leisure. The

presence of Dore and Totley rail station is helpful for young people developing their independence. It is very possible to start journeys to the other side of the world from that station, just as it is great to get out into the Peak District. We remarked on how people come from far and wide to appreciate the beauty here; that beauty we could easily take for granted.

I asked him if he had any advice for a younger person living in Dore now, wondering about what the future holds and how they can help themselves. The main message is get involved in volunteering of any kind. Finding paid work is difficult and volunteering opportunities are out there. You get much more out of volunteering than you put in and learn about yourself. You meet people from all walks of life from whom you can learn. People are often very willing to help you. It is often years later that you realise what you gained from the role you volunteered for.

So what is the future for Nick? He is going to be utilising the soft skills he has learnt from growing up in a community which has loads to offer, often by volunteers, alongside the harder skills he learned at university. The answer to the question, "Does it take a village to raise a child?" is partly. The seeds were sown during his childhood and the choices he was offered, but he has taken this and developed further through the YWAM programme, and now through the world of work.

There is a strong culture of volunteering in Dore and it can be daunting for volunteers, especially on top of a day job. Hopefully Nick's words will encourage you. It is so valuable for the sense of community but also to nurture the next generation giving them the tools for a fulfilling life.

**Anita Campbell**







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# Christmas EVENTS



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### Christmas Fayre

We would love to see you at our Christmas Fayre at 10am – 12.30pm, Saturday 29th November, at the Shepley Spitfire, Mickley Lane, S17 4HE. There will be refreshments alongside old favourites such as our festive raffle and ever popular Bottle Bonanza where every ticket wins a prize. This year we have a variety of local artisan and

Christmas craft stalls as well as local choir, the Humzingers. Enjoy a cuppa and a catch up with friends or family whilst picking up a Christmas gift or two, at the same time as raising much needed funds for Transport 17. The Shepley Spitfire has a good-sized car park, stair-free access into the building, and all areas of the pub are easily accessible once inside.

### Dore Lantern Parade

Please come and say hello, introduce yourselves, and/or find out more about the services we offer and the volunteering opportunities here at Transport 17 on Wednesday 3rd December, in Dore Village.

### Sheffield Half Marathon

Are you a keen runner? Or looking for a challenge over the next 5-6mths? This year, we plan to purchase several entries to the Sheffield Half Marathon, being held on Sunday 29th March, 2026. Would you like to combine the opportunity to complete this event with raising funds for Transport 17? If so, we would love to hear from you.

As always, we can be contacted on 0114 236 2962, via the contact form on our website [www.transport17.co.uk](http://www.transport17.co.uk) or by emailing [volunteerco@transport17.co.uk](mailto:volunteerco@transport17.co.uk). We look forward to hearing from you.

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We can't complain about the weather this summer can we? Perhaps we would have liked a bit more overnight rain but we seem to be making up for it now.

With the holidays over it's back to rehearsals for the Society. These are held every Wednesday at 7.30pm in Millhouses Methodist Church hall so if you are over 16, like singing and enjoy good company why not come along and give G&S a try. We could certainly do with some more men, the younger the better.

In previous editions I reported that the Society had chosen to put on The Gondoliers next year keeping much the same format at this last two years however, due to logistical and casting difficulties, they have decided to perform Trial By Jury and The Zoo instead. The performances are to take place on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th April 2026 at Dore Community Hall and on Saturday 18th April and Sunday 19th April at Whittington Moor Methodist Church Hall, all starting at 2:30pm.

Trial By Jury is great one act romp with loads of comedy and great music. The Zoo is another one act operetta with music by Sir Arthur Sullivan but this time in collaboration with B C Stephenson using a pseudo name of Bolton Rowe. There will be more about the plots of both in the next edition of this august journal.

The date for the Christmas Concert is Saturday 20th December and will be held, as usual, in Dore Methodist Church. Rehearsals for this concert have not yet begun and won't start until November so I have no idea of the programme. All I can say is that there will be opportunity for the audience to join in with some traditional carols which always go down well. The tickets are on sale from the usual source, i.e. by phone on 07565 805405, or via the web at [doregass.weebly.com/tickets.html](http://doregass.weebly.com/tickets.html) and the earlier you book the better as there are only a limited number of seats and it is a popular event.

Let's hope it doesn't get too cold too soon and that we don't have to pay for a nice summer with a long winter!

**Derek Habberjam**

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The rhythm of life seems to change in the autumn garden and countryside, with the colours changing and things slowing down. After a dry, hot summer trees and plants have put a great deal of energy into bumper crops of fruit and seed and are entering a much-needed dormant phase in readiness for renewal and revival in the Spring. Fungi appeared in September to break down dead organic matter, putting nutrients back into the soil to sustain new growth. It seems only the

squirrels are busy digging up the grass to create a larder while food is plentiful to see them through the winter. Our own body clocks feel very much in sync with nature at this time of year, what with cooler, shorter days and darker mornings making it harder to get out of bed than with the alarm call of the dawn chorus.



Eye-catching, but toxic – Fly Agaric Fungi on Blackmoor

In the last article I wrote about Dore Garden Club facing an uncertain future with the loss of long-standing committee members who covered some essential roles needed to run the Club. I am pleased to say our club is rounding off the year with 57 members and is now in a position to look forward to 2026 with optimism with one existing committee member staying on and two new joiners.

## Reflecting on 2025

Jean Dyke's programme this year has very much been in tune with the seasons and appealed to a broad range of interests for novice and experienced gardeners. We have enjoyed talks on climbers, alpines, small bulbs, Chris Beardshaw's make-over of an Arts and Crafts style garden, bees and other pollinators, achieving colour throughout the year, flowers and gardens of the Canaries and

an amusing, idiosyncratic take on people, plants, pleasures and passions.

## Comings and Goings

At our final meeting for the year and AGM on 19 November we said thank you and farewell to Janet Hewitt and Shirley Hillitt, both founder members, who have each served on the committee for 18 years. Shirley has been the Membership Secretary and Janet the Treasurer and this year she took on the additional task of Chair.

We had a positive response to our appeal for new committee members and are delighted to welcome Barry Holloway as Treasurer and Vanessa Fields, who will be taking over on-line communications. Our 2026 committee is a nice balance of experience and newer members. Jean Dykes has fortunately decided to stay on the Committee and will be taking over Membership. Jean has organised an excellent speaker programme for the Club for 2025 and the last couple of years. Before that she organised the speakers for Friends of the Botanical Gardens (FOBs) for some 10 years. Normally organising the following year's programme would have started earlier this year. However, we weren't sure the Club would see 2026. As a result, recent joiners Wilma Freeston and Christine Turney, who are sharing the speaker programme had a late start to planning next year's programme. The programme is receiving it's finishing touches.

## We'll be back with our first event on 18 March 2026

The full programme of this event and all our 2026 speakers will be published in the new year edition. However, save the date, 18 March 2026 for the first event when local gardener, Rob King will be speaking about how he created his Sheffield garden full of adventure for enjoyment by adults and children alike.

Pauline Drissell

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# Illustrating Sheffield

## An Interview with Vicky Scott

If you've passed through Abbey Lane in recent months you can't help but have been captivated by the massive Welcome to Woodseats mural, which you can spot next to Abbey Lane school. This huge, uplifting mural, full of the sights and wildlife of Woodseats, is the handiwork of Dore based illustrator Vicky Scott.



Vicky's work isn't always quite so large in scale but her work is characterised by a use of bright colours, retro influences, the inclusion of lots of animals, natural elements, and most importantly a sense of fun. As a professional illustrator she has been commissioned to create designs for multiple different clients including greeting cards for Paperchase, app illustrations for Microsoft, posters for Cheltenham Festivals and illustrations for museums including the Postal Museum in London and Coal Mining Museum in Wakefield. Most of Vicky's designs are created as paper cut collages, starting life as a pencil sketch which she then traces onto pieces of paper and mixed media materials before assembling and scanning to create the finished illustration with a tactile feel.



Vicky is originally from South West London and grew up near Richmond Park, an area which helped to spark her early artistic interests from the huge variety of both art and wildlife on her doorstep. Early artist influences include Matisse, William Morris, Art Deco and 1960's psychedelia, which still inform her work today. She attended Wimbledon School of Art for her Foundation and gained a degree in Illustration from the University of Brighton. Her first professional commission came shortly after graduation from top stationary retailer Paperchase after they spotted her illustrations in a trade magazine. Over the past 20 years she has continued to work as an illustrator and has lived in London, Brighton and Sheffield, each city inspiring her designs and style.

In 2018 she and her partner (and cats) moved to Sheffield and this led to her creating a quirky series of illustrations combining

famous Sheffield landmarks with teapots. Vicky says: "I was looking for a project to help me get to know my newly adopted home city. People here love their city and are particularly fond of their parks but are quite understated about it and also have a good sense of humour. I hoped that people would be entertained and enjoy my Sheffield teapots and hopefully not be offended at what I'd done to their landmarks!" These designs, alongside Vicky's Sheffield Parks and Peak District maps, have proven popular with several local stockists as well as online customers. She has now created more than 20 teapot designs in this growing range. Other notable local projects include a map illustration for the Canal & River trust to help visitors explore the canal path from Victoria Basin to Rotherham, a Sheffield landmark-filled mural for the Council's Howden House, an Art Deco style poster to promote the local S17 Totley Swifts group, and of course the Welcome to Woodseats mural.

This particular project was created for local community arts organisation Anomaly Arts and with the help of a brainstorming session with the children of Abbey Lane Primary school, who were particularly keen to feature lots of animals including Picasso, the local celebrity cat. Vicky wanted to create a striking, positive and engaging mural that welcomed the viewer to the area. With lots of wildlife scattered around and the road winding through its heart, the viewer's gaze is drawn to explore all the different areas of Woodseats including the shops, school and Graves Park. This design was funded by South Local Area Committee as part of the "This is Woodseats" project, which also commissioned another mural by artist Tom J Newell, a history trail and lots of street improvements.

Vicky's recent projects include magazine illustrations for the Wild Times (the RSPB's children's magazine), a book cover for Rough Guides, a map for LSE, and a top secret painting project that will be on public display in 2026! If you'd like to see and buy her designs in the run up to the festive period, Vicky will be taking part in lots of events including Totley Scouts local Christmas fair in November and Kelham Island's Victorian Christmas Market in December. She is always happy to take on bespoke commissions, whether for small businesses or individual personalised gifts. You can spot her cards, coasters and tea towels locally in Papermoon in Dore and Gifted in Ecclesall.

Find her online:

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

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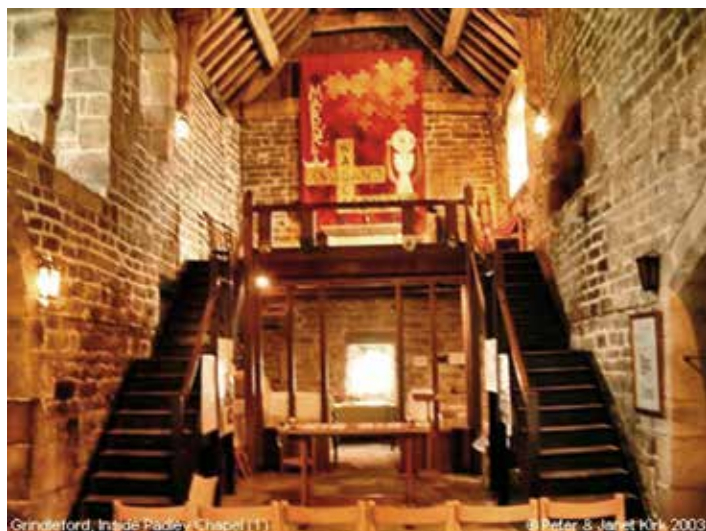
## The Steel Cotton Rail Trail from Dore and Totley Station to Grindleford and Hathersage

The newly launched Steel Cotton Rail Trail is a fourteen-strong series of walks from Sheffield to Manchester. They all start and end at a railway station on the Hope Valley line.

This walk combines two of the stages – Dore & Totley to Grindleford and Grindleford to Hathersage – and is suitable for all times of the year, although some parts can be muddy after wet weather. I combined the two as the effort required to get up onto Totley Moor is then rewarded with a mainly downhill ramble through woods and alongside the River Derwent.

Distance: Dore to Grindleford 6.3 miles (approximate time 3 hours) and Dore to Hathersage 8.5 miles (approximate time 4 hours).

Car parking at Dore and Totley station.



Grindleford, Inside Padley Chapel (1)

© Peter & Janet Kirk 2003

Interior of Padley Chapel

Toilets at Grindleford Station café and Hathersage.

Grindleford Café is also a great place to stop for some refreshments or, if you've brought your own, then Padley Chapel is just around the corner.

The hardest part of the walk is not walking past The Crown and The Cricket without stopping for a cheeky one, but the ascent up Moss Lane! It's worth it though for the views back over Dore and Sheffield. After that it's a pleasant stroll into Longshaw Estate.

For the return journey, trains run hourly from Hathersage as does the 271/272 bus service if you can't face walking up Dore Road! The bus stops near Ego at Dore Moor. The train also stops at Grindleford.

Detailed descriptions of all sections of the walks can be found by directing your browser to:

[peakdistrictbytrain.org/the-steel-cotton-rail-trail/](http://peakdistrictbytrain.org/the-steel-cotton-rail-trail/)

Jack Walker

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## DART – an extract from our latest posting on our blog



<https://dorewasinderbyshire.blogspot.com/>

Our blog highlights some of the lighter, unusual or bizarre aspects of Dore's history. The Dore Archive Research team do the serious stuff too but are also always looking for new information about Dore and its residents.

### Sir Malcolm Campbell's Sheep to Suit challenge

Given our recent spate of very hot weather and the relief shown on all the recently shorn sheep grazing on fields round the village this seemed a good story to post for summer. Here's a flavour of the story with the full details to be found on the blog, which is curated by Marianne Morgan.

The record for producing a wearable suit from shearing a sheep to a finished garment, from 1898 to the time of the challenge, was held in America. In 1931 Sir Malcolm Campbell had just won the Land Speed record in Daytona and was giving a speech in Bradford. He, being a patriotic person, issued a challenge to the shearers, weavers and tailors of Britain to beat this record held at 6 hours and 4 minutes. Two dates, 22nd and 23rd June, were set for the trial and that's where Dore comes in. For the second trial date



the shearers were all from our area and included a well-known local man, George Stone. He must have been a good sheep shearer because at the time of the trial he was a gamekeeper!

On the first day the record was broken at 3 hours and 8 minutes. But on George's record day the process took an astonishing 2 hours 9 minutes from fleece leaving the sheep to a finished suit emerging from the mill: and that included travelling time from location to location. But then if you think of what Dore village has witnessed with Dore Festival a challenge to do something amazing is perfectly typical. Think Concerts, Well Dressing, Exhibitions, Gala and all the seamlessly organised events that have just taken place. A woollen suit in just over two hours - a piece of cake for folk round here!

Now the summer season of practical activities is drawing to a close for us - only some fieldwalking still to come, with the prospect of spotting Neolithic flints - we are moving into our Autumn and Winter Programme of walks, talks and visits. For full details of what we have in store look at our website: [www.thetimetravellers.org.uk](http://www.thetimetravellers.org.uk)

It has certainly been a fascinating summer of discovery as we carried out local test pit exploration. This involves digging a one metre square pit down to bedrock and examining the layers and finds as we go. Some of our members were involved in bigger scale digs like the Castleton site, Roughbriarworth near Stocksbridge, Sheldon, Gainsborough and beyond.

Traditionally we organise an away trip in September, which this year was to Chollerford in the North Tyne valley which means Hadrian's Wall territory. Vindolanda is a must for any visit to this area and we were fortunate to be on site just minutes after a rather nice Roman amphora rim and handle had been excavated.



We are a very friendly group delighted to talk about all things archaeological so why not pop into one of our Coffee Mornings held at Dore Old School. The next one will be Wednesday 10th December from 10am to noon. Or, how about a talk about Gainsborough Old Hall from Colin Merrony of the University of Sheffield on Tuesday 2nd December at 7.30pm in Dore Old School. Free for members and only £3 for non-members.

**Dorne Coggins ( Secretary)**

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**David Bardsley**

I left Bromley Grammar School at the age of 18 with three 'A' Levels and joined the National Coal Board's London Headquarters Purchasing and Stores Department and shortly afterwards moved onto the Department's management training scheme. At this time the Board decided to re-locate the Department to Doncaster. Many staff, appalled at the prospect of a move north of the Watford Gap, were offered redeployment to other London-based posts. For the more willing souls there were enhanced promotion prospects; at the age of twenty-one I was appointed to a management role, moving to Doncaster in May 1967, by which time I had passed the HNC and the Final Diploma of the Institute of Purchasing and Supply. In early 1968, seeking promotion with the impatience of youth, I moved back to London as a Research Officer in the NCB Industrial Relations Department, devising and carrying out surveys of mineworkers' reasons for leaving the industry. After 18 months I moved back to Doncaster into the Board's Staff Department.

In 1972 I married Jane. We purchased a house in Doncaster, later moving to Everton, a small Nottinghamshire village that was to be our home for forty years. We now have two children and five grandchildren: a daughter and three grandchildren in Sheffield and a son and two grandchildren in Germany.


I filled various personnel roles, finally becoming Deputy HQ Staff Manager covering the 3,000 employees located in the Doncaster region. In 1987 I moved into a post in the newly formed IT Strategy Team, which was charged with aligning the Board's IT Strategy with its Business Strategy. After 3 years I was promoted into British Coal Opencast as Head of their IT function and then, as privatisation loomed, seconded as a Business Consultant to the NCB Privatisation Team, responsible for preparing the Board's IT systems for use by the three successor companies. This task was completed in early 1995, when the UK coal industry was privatised and I was made redundant. I obtained a job as an IT Strategy Analyst at the Royal Mail in Chesterfield, soon to be promoted to Strategy Manager and then Head of Information Systems for the operational arm of Royal Mail, itself a £5 billion turnover organisation. In 2001 I resigned from Royal Mail and, with Jane as company secretary, set up Stratsys Ltd, becoming an independent IT Consultant, mainly working for large blue-chip organisations including Royal Mail and companies such as Toyota and pharmaceutical giant GSK. I became a member of the British Computer Society and was granted the status of Chartered IT Professional. We closed Stratsys and retired in 2010.

Throughout much of my career I have been involved in voluntary work. I had been a cadet in my school's ATC Squadron and, at the age of 21 was a commissioned officer in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve (Training), running adventure training courses for ATC cadets in the Lake District. As our children started in the village school, I became a parent governor and then chair of the Governing Body. I joined the village Parish Council, which I was to chair until we moved away from the village. I also chaired the Northeast Bassetlaw Forum; a local forum of nine Parish Councils. I was a Trustee of a local village trust, also of the Bassetlaw Arts Association and chair of the Everton Village Players (a local amdram group).

As we crept towards old age we decided to future proof our retirement. Facilities in Everton were very limited and access to them elsewhere was heavily car dependent. We wanted to be nearer our family in Sheffield; we moved to Dore in 2020, soon to be confronted by Covid. As the country slowly recovered and Dore's clubs and societies reopened we looked for involvement. I attended the DVS AGM and became a trustee, helping at various events and utilising my Parish Council experience of planning issues by commenting on Sheffield City Council's emerging Local Plan and attending a couple of the Council's Planning Committee meetings to speak against planning applications that the DVS opposed. I became the DVS Asset Manager, compiling an inventory of all assets and (trying) to keep track of where they were. Jane and I joined the Dore Garden Club, where I was elected to the committee. We also joined TOADS (the Totley Operatic and Drama Society) and Jane joined Made with Love, knitting garments for Sheffield Children's Hospital. We are Friends of Whinell Quarry Gardens. We both signed up for weekly Pilates sessions. Why do we do all this? I think it's because we feel it's important to contribute to the local community and to keep bodies and brains active as we transition into old age - not sure we haven't arrived there; it's not a bad place to be.

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## Coal, Crowds, Chaos and one Coach



*Painting courtesy of the Science Museum Group*

### Early days

We did raise a glass at the 150th anniversary of our Dore and Totley station in 2022. You might want to do likewise in 2025 at the 200th anniversary of the passenger railway in Britain. The idea of a horsedrawn plateway to carry coal from west Durham and Darlington to the River Tees at Stockton for the twelve miles between Stockton and Darlington started in 1810. Matters proceeded slowly but met funding difficulties and opposition from the competing canal lobby and the local hunt who didn't want their prey upset by strange machines. The parliamentary Bill for the line was eventually passed in 1821, and by 1825 the idea had developed into steam locomotion on "fish-belly" wrought iron edge rails for flanged wheels. This was thanks to the persuasive abilities of the celebrated engineer and "Father of Railways" George Stephenson who had earlier patented wrought iron fish-belly rails. [The railway world had to wait until 1857 for the first steel rails.] Northumberland-born Stephenson was a fine example of diligence and application who was still illiterate at the age of 18 and had decided to better himself. Locally, his many railway projects included surveying the Sheffield and Rotherham and North Midland (Derby to Leeds) Railways. In later life, George Stephenson moved to Tapton, Chesterfield where he spent the last ten years of his life in semi-retirement growing exotic fruit and vegetables in hothouses. Some say that he was trying to rival the efforts of the gardeners at Chatsworth. He died there in 1848, and his grave is inside a vault at Holy Trinity Church, Chesterfield.

Prominent Quaker woollen manufacturer Edward Pease and local Quaker businesspeople arranged the funding of the railway. The laying of the first rail of the Stockton and Darlington Railway took place near Stockton on 23 May 1822. George Stephenson had been involved in surveying the route. As chairman of the company, Mr Thomas Meynell performed the ceremony by laying several fish-bellied malleable iron rails from John Birkinshaw's Bedlington Iron Company. This was the first of 1,200 tons of rails bought from this Northumberland company at the rate of twelve pounds and ten shillings a ton. These rails were placed four feet and eight inches apart, following the example of the gauge used on George Stephenson's Killingworth Railway in 1814. The later addition of half an inch to reduce friction on curves gave us the standard gauge used to this day on many railways worldwide. Some of the local newspaper editors and reporters were still very sceptical, and one newspaper wondered why people would even submit themselves to the experience and pay to be hauled by a "roaring steam engine". Members of the press also appear to have been a bit flummoxed by some of the technicalities judging by the copy they provided.

### "All Ready"

The day of the opening looks just as chaotic in health and safety terms as that pictured in Terence Cuneo's 1949 painting of the event which is in the Science Museum Group collection. The date was Tuesday 27 September 1825. In front of the Mayor



and corporation of Darlington, several hundred navvies and members of the public, after a cry of "All Ready" this auspicious start from Darlington was made while a cannon was fired and a band played nearby in celebration. Handel's "See the Conquering Hero Comes" from his oratorio "Judas Maccabeus" was the usual fare at such events. The locomotive "Locomotion" built by Robert Stephenson was driven by his father George Stephenson. As the other locomotive hero of the hour, 22-year-old Robert Stephenson wasn't present on the opening day as he was working on a mining project in Colombia, South America. The train formation behind "Locomotion" was six wagons of coals and flour, the covered coach "Experiment" for the directors and proprietors, twenty-one coal wagons crammed with passengers and a band of musicians, and six more wagons of coal. The coal chaldron wagons destined for the first train had earlier that day been hauled by stationary engines up the Brusselton incline watched by an admiring audience. "Chaldron" was a measure of coal, approximately 2½ tons. The coach "Experiment" was fitted out with seats along both sides and a wooden table in the middle. A man on horseback carrying a flag with the company motto "Through private danger to the public good" preceded the train. Crowds lined the route, some keeping well away from the locomotive in case of an explosion. Sporting gentlemen riders with their fine steeds tried to keep pace with the train until George Stephenson told the preceding rider with the flag to get out of the way so he could speed up the engine. This he did, speed was put on and it may have reached 15 mph at times. The chasing riders and runners were left behind. A man who had been clinging to one of the first wagons stumbled and fell, and "Experiment" ran over one of his feet causing a serious injury. The passengers who were unfortunate enough to be in the open wagons experienced significant jolting, and there was some panic after a brief stop to remove a derailed wagon which had developed a defective wheel. More panic, puzzlement and rumourmongering ensued with another halt which was simply to take on more water for the locomotive. The company's new Locomotive Superintendent, Timothy Hackworth, did his best to calm the pioneering passengers. After a journey of about three hours, the train arrived safely in Stockton to a salute of guns. The band played "God Save the King" and there followed a celebratory six-hour dinner at Stockton Town House. It was described as "very elegant" with over twenty toasts to the new Stockton and Darlington Railway.

The load and passengers might have been in peril as the locomotive had no brakes and steam had to be shut off to bring it to a stand. The Darlington town centre starting point location appears to have had a sort of level crossing protected by gates which were probably in place by the opening day. Other crossings along the twelve-mile route weren't initially gated, and the first trains which were drawn either by horses or locomotives sometimes found human and animal obstructions in their way. A trial run a week earlier with George Stephenson driving found the Edinburgh mail coach racing alongside the railway for two miles. His son Robert Stephenson was, of course, famed for designing and building the "Rocket" locomotive in 1829 which triumphed at the Rainhill Trials.

## Horsedrawn again

This railway's new October 1825 passenger service saw the coach "Experiment" returned to being horsedrawn to run from Stockton at 7.30 a.m. to arrive at Darlington "about half-past nine" as the timetable put it. The return coach from Darlington left at 3 p.m. and arrived at Stockton about two hours later. A similar service was provided on weekdays for a one shilling fare with extra charges for heavy packages and parcels. Passenger demand increased, and old redundant stage coaches were fitted with flanged wheels, albeit still to be horse-drawn as the "Locomotion" was diverted to haul the more valuable minerals traffic.

Although there was a limited amount of traffic on the line, drivers of coal trains wishing to avoid a wait quarrelled and fought over

who should be allowed into a particular siding first. A post was erected by the company, and the first driver to reach it with his train was the first to be allowed into the siding. Where there was limited visibility, and in the absence of the locomotive whistle, a horn would be blown by the coachman or driver to announce the presence of an approaching train.

The new Stockton and Darlington Railway in its first three full years of operation derived only 3% of its income from passenger receipts – the remainder was from coal and freight traffic. This result was possibly the first demonstration of the economic potential of the freight by rail business. Figures produced at the time – somewhat optimistic and probably calculated by ardent supporters of the new railways – suggested that locomotives were 30% cheaper to run than horses.

## Locomotive rebuilds

The three-year-old boiler of "Locomotion" exploded in 1828, and the locomotive had to be rebuilt. After several more rebuilds followed by a period working as a stationary engine, it was eventually retired to be mounted on a plinth in 1857. What was exhibited was more of an assembly of spare parts with the four-wheeled locomotive having amongst other things three identical wheels and one spoked one. The "Locomotion" replica used in the 1925 centenary celebration cavalcade in Darlington was actually powered by a small motor engine in the tender with oily rags being burnt in the firebox to give the impression of steam and smoke. A further working replica of "Locomotion" was built in 1975.

## Time and crime

At the outset of railways, trains ran to very limited timetables and some of these were to "railway time" where there could be a variation of as much as 14 minutes, say, between the time in London and that in Exeter nearly 200 miles away. Initially there was little or no other traffic to get in the way. Detection of trains relied on the clock, hourglass timers and time intervals, simple observation, listening and alertness during daylight hours, staff sobriety, and faith in the rudimentary motive power, rolling stock and permanent way. The Stockton and Darlington Railway started life to deal with a healthy traffic in minerals. It built on the wooden wagonways which had existed in the area for over 150 years. Passengers in horse-drawn coaches had been at risk from robbers and rough roads – now they started to be at risk from the hazards of early railway travel. The Stockton and Darlington company's – if not the country's – first railway policeman called Joseph Sedgwick was appointed in 1825. He was responsible for keeping people, straying animals and obstructions off the line for safe running of the traffic. One of his successors, Constable W John Metcalfe, appointed by the company in 1846, has his portrait on display at the National Railway Museum.

## Tail lamp

The people behind the Stockton and Darlington Railway and those 19th century railway pioneers have led us today to be able to mark the 200th anniversary of the passenger railway in Britain. And what a journey it's been! *"Through private danger to the public good"* indeed.

Mike Peart



## Community Infrastructure Levy First Projects Announced

Dore is due to receive its first £18,000 allocation from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which has arisen from new development in Dore over recent times. It is intended to be set aside to support community priorities in the Dore Neighbourhood. While the levy is collected by Sheffield City Council, the money belongs to the neighbourhood and must be spent in line with the Dore Neighbourhood Plan.

Following extensive consultation during the Plan's preparation, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has identified four initial projects to take forward:

1. Developing Dore as a gateway to the Peak District – mapping footpaths, monitoring wildlife, and improving access for all.
2. Installing additional and/or improved public seating in suitable village locations.
3. Extending accessible play/exercise equipment at Dore Recreation Ground for both children and adults.
4. Improving the triangle of land opposite the Hare & Hounds for wider community use.

We now need local volunteers to help 'champion' these projects. If you would like to be involved in shaping, managing, or delivering any of them, please get in touch. Without volunteers they will not happen.

At the same time, we are already planning for the next round of CIL funding from future development. We want your ideas for projects that reflect the priorities of our community and build on the Neighbourhood Plan and its offspring, Dore's Green Infrastructure Appraisal of Dore's Green Belt.

To volunteer for one of these four project teams or to suggest an idea for future CIL funding, please email: [julia.watkinson@dorevillage.co.uk](mailto:julia.watkinson@dorevillage.co.uk) or [christopher.pennell@dorevillage.co.uk](mailto:christopher.pennell@dorevillage.co.uk)

**Julia Watkinson & Christopher Pennell**

## New homes on the Green Belt in Dore

The desperate need for additional housing is widely acknowledged. Dore is being asked to provide just 82 of the 5000 new homes Sheffield is seeking.

Previous articles in Dore to Dore have indicated that the entire area between Cross Lane, Hathersage Road, Ash House Lane, Limb Lane, Parkers Lane and Causeway Head, was affected. The most recent article, announcing the Council's proposal, does not show that the new homes will occupy only the field immediately behind existing houses at the North West end of Causeway Head Road (SW19, see below). This is less than a fifth of the area originally implied.

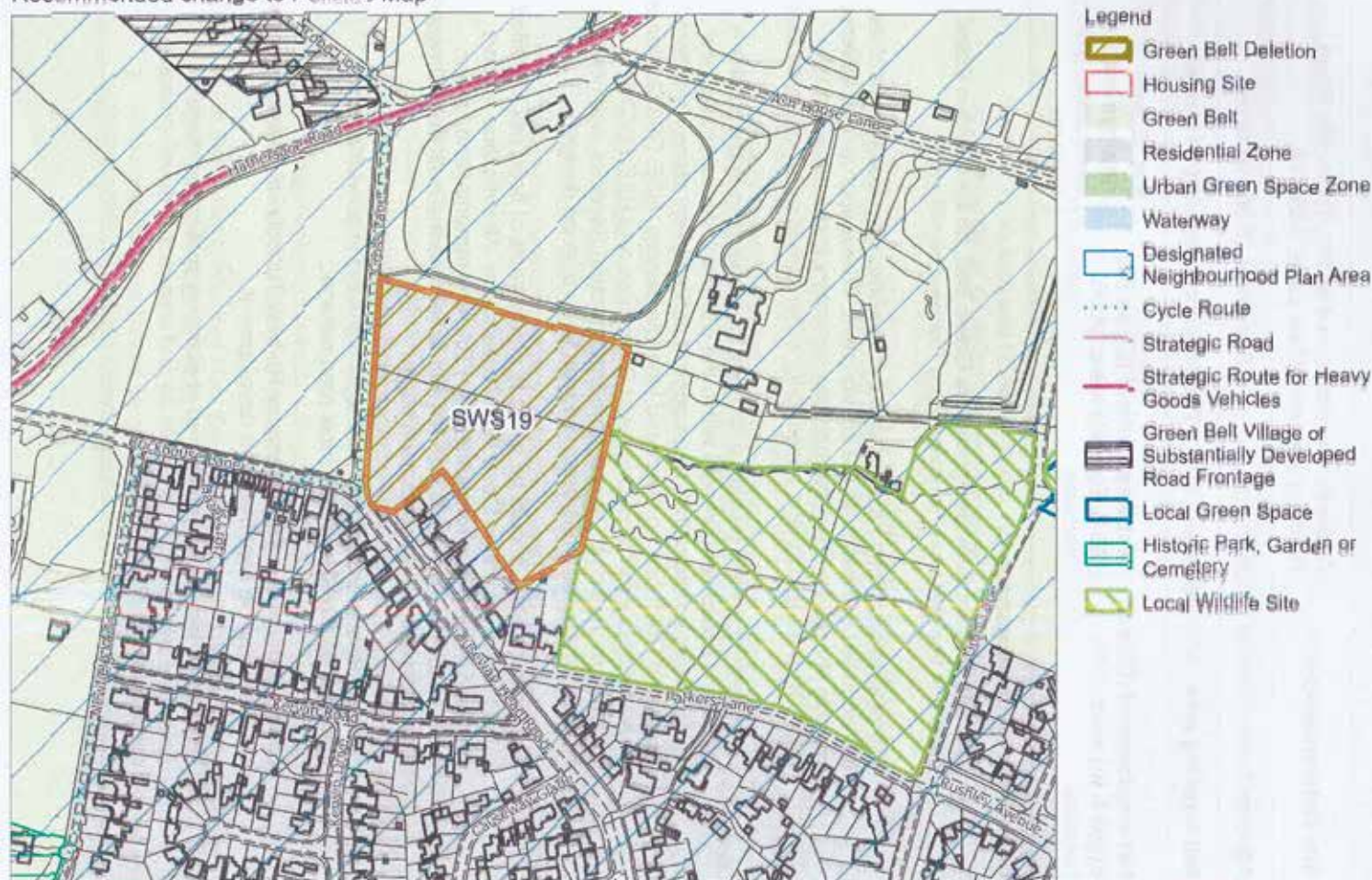
If we zoom out on Google Maps we see a vast area of open farmland to the north, east, and west of the proposed development. Rather than "closing a wildlife corridor", the proposed development only requires a slight detour, and, it should be noted, a great deal of wildlife already makes welcome use of suburban gardens.

The benefits of bringing 82 additional families into our community are considerable, but they have been ignored. Local businesses, schools, churches and community activities, all stand to benefit.

I've been told that only the wealthy will benefit from additional homes in Dore but, as people move up the housing ladder, lower rungs become available elsewhere.

**Timothy Treffry**

Recommended change to Policies Map



Development map provided by Sheffield City Council



# Dore's Green Belt Got its Hearing

On 15 October David Crosby and I secured a public hearing in front of a National Planning Inspector into the proposal to release Green Belt site SWS19 alongside Cross Lane to build 82 new homes (see map). We accept that Dore has no higher claim to preserving residents' countryside views than anyone else in the City and that larger Green Belt sites were listed for release elsewhere. Nevertheless, we asserted that Dore's immediate proximity to the Peak District National Park and the quality of our Green Belt in the setting of that Park secured a first-rate reason for questioning the choice of SWS19 for development.

We were faced with a common acceptance by the Council and the National Park Authority that views of site SWS19 from the moorland edges of the Park and vice versa were distant and not significantly damaging to the natural setting of the Park. We argued that the natural setting of the Park consisted of much more than these distant views:

1. The same landscape character type – Enclosed Gritstone Uplands – extended from within the Park to the edge of developed Dore and included this site which should be cared for as the National Park's Landscape Strategy document prescribed.
2. The Park Authority had formally identified the moors above Dore as their Natural Zone which is of the highest importance to protect; so, in our view, the Park's Crown jewels should look down on a natural setting which avoids new development and detracting from the wilderness feel of this Zone.
3. Is this to be the generation who, instead of respecting the nearby memorial Haythornthwaite Wood, only one field away from site SWS19, will undermine the excitement of travelling upwards to the moors through their natural setting by building houses one field depth from the road? Ethel Haythornthwaite, a Sheffield heroine, had successfully fought off massive housing plans between Whirlow Bridge and the Dore More Inn and secured the success with the creation of the England's first Green Belt and its first National Park.

The developer's illustrative plan showed the site was to be over 3 times as intensively developed as the norm in most of Dore. Not only would the site invade the established natural setting of the National Park, but it would also spectacularly fail to fit into the prevailing character of developed Dore. In both respects it would clash with the policies of Dore's Neighbourhood Plan. We doubted whether an eventual planning application would ever succeed based on such an intensive development. It was difficult to see how so many homes could be allowed and yet provide space to adequately screen the development from close and distant views, to allow public and private green space within the development, and to protect the neighbouring sensitive Local Wildlife Site. On top of this a developer would have the costs of meeting the NPPF Golden Rules, of providing 40% or so of affordable homes, of covering Biodiversity Offset costs and of coping with persistent flooding risk. These matters should have been more thoroughly explored before proposing to release the site; it would be nonsensical to leave them to be resolved at planning application stage.

The Developer's ecology report showed the site to be far from bland in biodiversity terms, a point picked up superbly by two immediate neighbours to the site, Tony Burghall and Joseph Cain. They brought to life our assertion that SWS19 was a critical component of an important wildlife corridor from Ecclesall Woods to the Park's moorland treasures, by recounting the species they had observed passing through. It would be a scandalous failure on the Council's part not only

to miss an opportunity to strengthen this green corridor which appears on their plans for the future, but instead to block a wide part of the route. This development flies in the face of our Green Infrastructure Appraisal of Dore's Green Belt and the huge importance experts place on connectivity being the key to biodiversity recovery.

We drew the Inspector's attention to other practical handicaps for this development:

- traffic dangers posed by large numbers of motor vehicles exiting the site on to Cross Lane within short reach at each end of hazardous road junctions;
- lack of reliable bus service on Cross Lane and its distance from D&T railway station;
- intense difficulty in ensuring primary and secondary school places in Dore;
- difficulty in securing patient status at local GP and dentists' surgeries; and
- pressure on limited parking spaces in central Dore.

We regretted that Sheffield planners made no attempt to consult us in advance of proposing this site despite having worked with the Dore planning team for over a decade and experienced our professionalism and commitment.

Finally, we reminded the Inspector that if they accepted our case against releasing this site, it would be possible to reject it from the Council's suite of proposed releases without preventing the Council from achieving the overall target the Inspectorate had set because the Council had proposed sites which significantly exceeded that target.

**Christopher Pennell**



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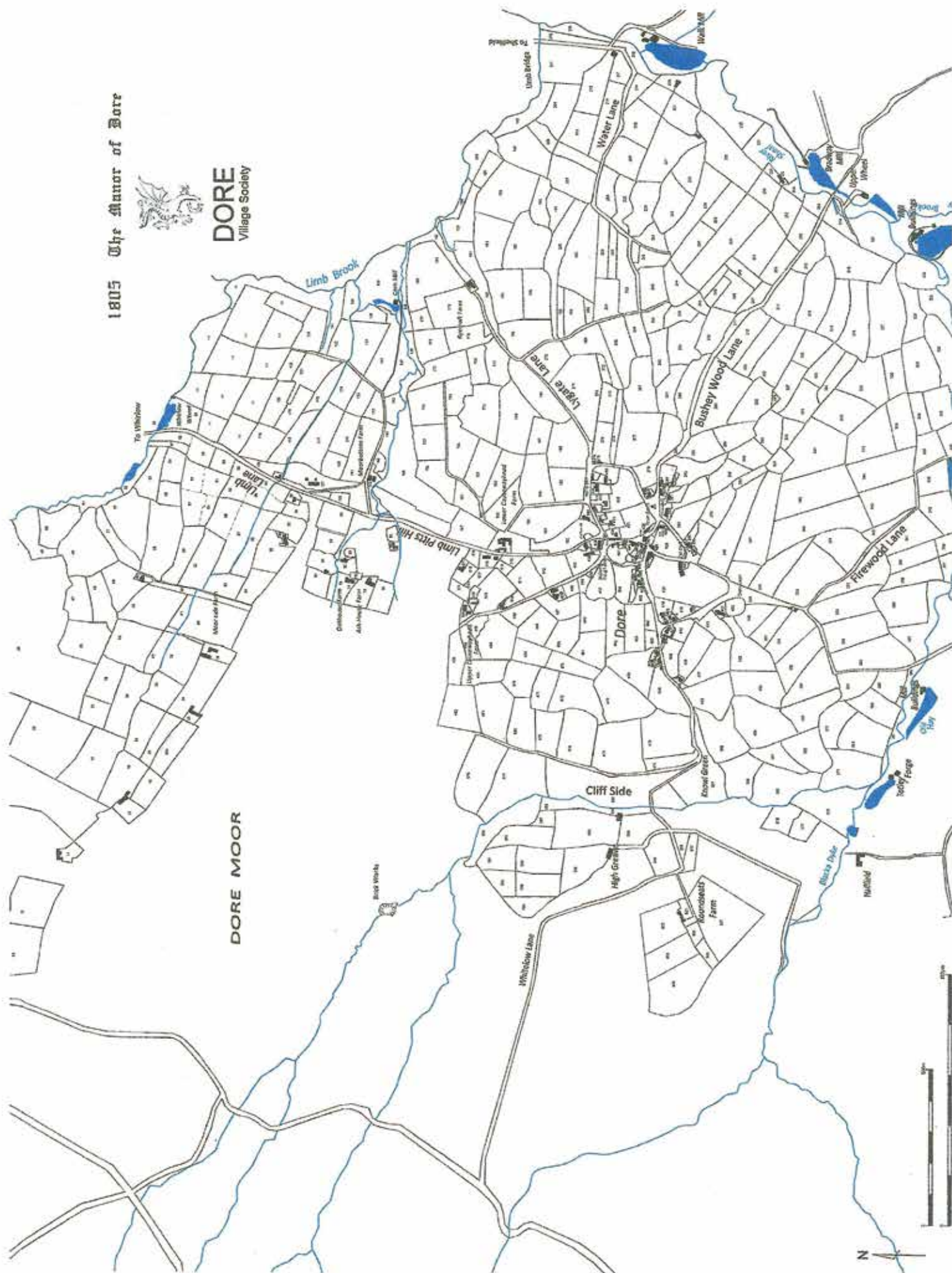
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# Our Early Links with Abbeydale

## The Eighteenth-Century Scene

If you had ventured from Totley or Dore into Abbeydale just over two and a half centuries ago, say in 1770, the landscape apart from its wooded slopes would have looked very different. The dale would have had at most a rough track or footpath over the watermeadows. Isolated valleys with bushes for cover were dangerous places, best avoided. The bridleway into Sheffield went by Limb Lane, past Whirlow Mill and up Fenney Lane to Whirlow Hall, then along Broad Elms Lane and Hough Lane to Ecclesall. The first turnpike road west of Sheffield had, however, been authorized twelve years earlier, though it's unclear how much was already open. Two prongs of a fork, one from Buxton across Houndkirk Moor and the other from Chapel-en-le-Frith over Burbage, were united at Ringinglow and the handle of the fork led you into town by way of Banner Cross and Psalter Lane. The still impressive width of Ringinglow Road and its verges above Bents Green reflects lasting concerns about highwaymen and the need to avoid cover for surprise attacks.

Instead of following perilous Abbeydale, ancient local tracks from settlement to settlement mostly crossed it and the River Sheaf's tributary valleys. The original track from Dore to Totley, its longevity shown by the stretch of holloway in Oldhay Lane, is a case in point. Two more led across the Sheaf valley from Dore, one south-east through Bushey Wood down to Bradway Mill and up to Upper Bradway and Dronfield. The other wound down to Water Lane, Walk Mill on the Norton side of the Sheaf—originally a fulling mill processing wool from Beauchief Abbey's sheep grange at Strawberry Lee—and up Twentywell Lane to Lower Bradway and Dronfield or Norton. Both are reputed to have been 'coffin roads' along which Dore's dead were carried to Dronfield until 1843, and parts of them retain an air of mystery. Below Bushey Wood the little stream suddenly enters a deep 'sick' or ravine. This suggests with its exposed rocks that far more water once flowed down here. It looks like a river bed and in places seems too narrow to be a holloway. At one time the path alongside must have been wide enough for a cart-track, though it's hard to imagine animals pulling laden carts up the fearsome bank across the valley.



The other route, called Dore Lane as a composite name, was more roundabout but less strenuous. From the village it went down Lidget Lane, a primitive narrow version of the present Dore Road as far as the entrance to Ryecroft Farm. It then turned right along the full sinuous length of Ashfurlong Lane—not yet promoted to Road—to Water Lane, whose antiquity is shown by the holloway at the bottom with the causey for pedestrians alongside.

The erratic course of today's Ashfurlong Road is explained by the boundaries of ancient open fields known as Dore Fields. What some still call 'the path down Denniff's Fields' from the present Vicarage Lane (see picture from 1995) to Ashfurlong Road and a field path preceding Cavendish Avenue led directly to Water Lane. This combination provided a short cut to Twentywell Lane and remains a pleasant option for walkers from the village hub to the station.

## More Trees, Fewer People

In the mid-1970s Roy Bullen, Dore's expert on local footpaths and their history, noted other paths which had vanished without trace. One relevant to our story was known as the Cockshutts footpath, providing access to the mills and wheels (grinders' workshops) on the Sheaf below Walk Mill. Scythes were made and ground at what would later become the Abbeydale Works and there were two wheels between Beauchief and Millhouses corn mills. The Cockshutts path took its name from two fields through which it passed on leaving Water Lane in a north-easterly direction for the bridge over the Limb Brook, then situated where it joins the Sheaf. This bridge, superseded in 1815, left a legacy: in 1827 a long narrow field to its south still went by the name Bridge End Field. 'Cockshutt' meant a glade where woodcock were netted, and as the name here goes back at least to the 15th century it seems likely that long ago the neighbouring woodland was much more widespread.

A striking difference between then in 1770 and now was the sparseness of human habitation. Between Totley Bridge and the county boundary at the Limb Brook there were probably only two houses. The first was a farmstead on the future site of Brinkburn Grange, with Bradway Mill nearby in Norton parish across the Sheaf. The second farm was once Walkmoor Lees House but renamed Jowit House after its tenant farmer of the 1740s. It was located inside a curve formerly made by Water Lane to connect with Twentywell Lane whilst avoiding the Walk Mill's main building and dam which stood in the direct line. (As you approach the hill its site is just on your left between the two railway bridges.) Of Abbeydale Hall there was as yet no sign.

## Birth of the Baslow Turnpike

Fifty years later, around 1820, you would have noticed one big change: Abbeydale now had a brand-new turnpike road. It was the offspring of the Greenhill Moor Turnpike, authorized in 1781 to run from the existing Sheffield to Chesterfield Turnpike at Greenhill Moor (Dyche Lane) via Greenhill, Bradway, Dronfield Woodhouse, Holmesfield, Owler Bar, Wooden Pole and Froggatt Edge to Calver. This road had spurs from Wooden Pole to Hathersage and from Owler Bar to Totley. In 1803 the same turnpike trust widened its scope in two new directions by securing powers to construct a road from Baslow to Sheffield. This was to incorporate the existing section between Owler Bar and Totley and proceed by what we now call Baslow Road, Abbeydale Road South and Abbeydale Road to Goose Green (Highfield) where it still joins London Road, then also part of the Chesterfield Turnpike. It entailed the construction of Limb Bridge across our boundary brook.

For unknown reasons—the earliest minutes are missing—building didn't start until 1812, but then it progressed quite fast. My earliest explicit reference to the road being open is an announcement of an auction for the letting of the tolls (in effect a licence to collect them) dated August 1816 but listing, as the basis for initial bids, the amounts raised at the various tollgates and bars in the previous year; it thus implied that things were up and running at least by mid-1815. The coming of the new road may well have prompted the building of a house and stables on the site of the future Abbeydale Hall sometime between 1812 and 1827. The curve at the foot of Water Lane now became a zigzag along a short stretch of the turnpike to join Twentywell Lane. The present T-junction was created only in 1890 with the construction of the Dore and Chinley Railway.

*To be continued.*

**John Dunstan**

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## Service changes from 14th December – a smidgeon of good news

Eighteen months after completion of engineering work costing over £150m, I'd like to be able to say we're about to see a big uplift in both fast and slow services along the Hope Valley line. You guessed it, we're not.

Monday - Saturday services from all three operators are unchanged. The supposedly temporary cancellations of a third of Northern's Sunday services are confirmed until at least May 2026. Northern's Manchester based crews still don't have Sundays in their contracts. It's all expensive voluntary overtime. The Department for Transport remains unwilling to add further subsidies to bring Sundays into the contracted working week – there's no money! Talks are supposedly continuing. It's a shame because walkers love getting out at weekends.

However, there's better news on Sunday mornings. Thanks to the good relations we have with TransPennine (TPE) and East Midlands (EMR), we'll gain two new fast trains to Manchester at 8.15 (TPE to Liverpool) and 9.49 (EMR). East Midlands currently provide our only Sunday morning fast service to Manchester and Liverpool at 10.46 and that will continue. They had planned an extra stop at Edale but there's been a last-minute hitch. No promises for May but that would particularly please walkers from Nottingham and Chesterfield.

These two new fast train stops help to plug Northern's westbound gaps. EMR will also be starting a new eastbound service leaving Manchester at 11.42 arriving at Dore at 12:26 and departing at 12.30 for Sheffield, Nottingham, Peterborough and Norwich.

There are always trade-offs between end-to-end speed and numbers of stops. The more we all use current services the more it helps when making business cases for more.

## Read all about it! The Hope Valley Line – Dore to Chinley

Volume Two of Ted Hancock's life work has just been published. He spent decades researching the development of transport generally and railways very specifically in our area. His passion took him into all sorts of corners as he tracked our ancestors' endeavours to cross the South Pennine hills.

Volume One was published in 2019 with 300 A4 pages of fascinating information. He intended publishing two further volumes. Drawing all his research together became too much. There were always too many loose ends to be followed up and collated. His family and friends have taken years to cram as much as possible into one final volume. It comprehensively runs to another 350 hard backed pages with hundreds of pictures, maps, statistics and human stories relating to the building and operation of the line. He digresses to the building of the Derwent Reservoirs and the tunnel from the Derwent Valley to feed the Rivelin Reservoirs. There were accidents.

Totley Tunnel and the diversion of the Old Hay Brook are given detailed attention. Quadrupling of the tracks from Dore & Totley station into Sheffield in 1904 is well illustrated. Those tracks were removed by the 1980s but would be very useful to have back today.

Ted gave illustrated talks on aspects of his research. He had tons of material to draw on! Like Ken Dodd it was difficult to get him to stop. There were always more stories, digressions and then yet more questions. I have a copy of Volume 2 and am overwhelmed with all the information.

The volumes won't be easy to find at booksellers. For those interested in history, particularly of railways and the development of our area, these two books are available to

buy at Greenhill Library. Go and have a look. Good meaty Christmas presents?

## Toilets and shelter

I'm on dangerous territory here! We're working on it. As an example, Penistone station recently acquired a purpose built and superb fully accessible toilet pod with finance largely from SYMCA and Northern. They also have a large glass-fronted shelter. Very expensive because they're on the railway. They're excellent, but...

Thanks to the activities of local ne'er-do-wells the seats have had to be removed from the shelter. The toilet has to be locked and can only be released by a contact centre. The call wasn't answered on the day we tried it! (We found a lovely cafe nearby.) Radar keys work for the disabled.

## Open Meeting 25th November at refurbished Totley Library

Our next Open Meeting (and AGM) is now to be on Tuesday 25th November with refreshments from 7.00 for 7.30 at Totley Library. We'll have representatives from both Northern and TransPennine to speak and answer questions.

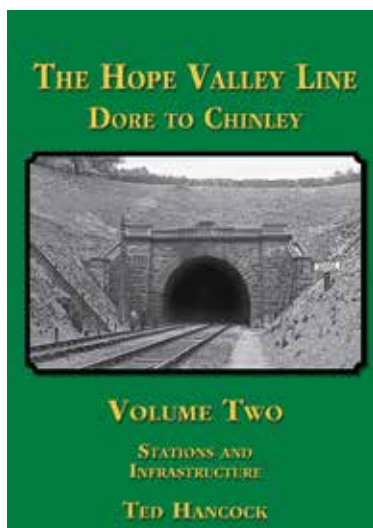
If you're a Facebook user, you can find and join us by searching for FoDaTS. An active group with over 1000 members it's updated frequently with topical information and comments.

Alternatively look for our website at [www.fodats.net](http://www.fodats.net). We hold bi-monthly committee meetings at Totley Library and are always happy to hear new ideas. Ask for details and maybe come along.

If you're not on Facebook and would like more information please send an email to our Secretary; [njbarnes@outlook.com](mailto:njbarnes@outlook.com) or to myself; [chrismorgan4@btinternet.com](mailto:chrismorgan4@btinternet.com)

All best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from the Friends of our station.

**Chris Morgan**  
Chairman



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## New 'Inaccessible' Station

This man, with mobility issues, is set to face another year sitting out in scorching sun, snow or standing up at the station that has been hailed by Network Rail as 'fully accessible'. They may have restored one of the railway lines, but have taken away much of what we had and still need here.



The development left no covered seats on platform 2. Passengers before, had the perfect choice of the open canopy over the restaurant building or our character brick shelter that provided a proper bench inside that was warm in winter, but even more crucially, with increasing extremes of climate change, gave us cool shelter in summer. This is important for people with poor mobility, the elderly, children, pregnant women, anyone wanting to rest a bag on their knee instead of having to put it on a dirty floor, or who can't or don't want to lean on a sloping metal block.

Being a historic station on the Hope Valley line crossing the Peak District National Park, located directly opposite a SSSI woodland in Sheffield's rural fringe, the desire for protection is recorded in the Dore Neighbourhood Plan:

*NEIGHBOURHOOD ASPIRATION 13: Dore and Totley Station 'Dore and Totley Station should be developed to provide adequate facilities for all users in sympathy with the historic character of the existing station and its natural setting'.*

At the Public Inquiry of the expansion in 2016, representation was made from community groups. David Crosby of DVS questioned the scheme in relation to the Design Standards for Accessible Railway Stations in the Joint Code of Practice 2015, in order to ensure these conditions could be met whilst retaining our shelters and vegetation. And these features were shown to be retained in the Network Rail illustrations of the development. The scheme was passed with an important condition that ensured that before any development work begun, detailed plans would have to be submitted to the local planning authority that must contain details of hard landscaping, soft landscaping, lighting, vegetation, shelters, minor structures such as furniture, fencing, refuse or other storage units and signs.

Sadly in 2021, when these detailed plans were submitted to Sheffield City Council, the entire area of the station was not included, other than to just blank it out as urban space. I am really disappointed that no comments or objections were made to the Council on these plans by any community group or councillors and so Network Rail was given a free rein to clear the station of all its vegetation and demolish the brick shelter. The power was with Sheffield to ensure we got what we needed and still valued here, but it wasn't taken up.

In a previous Dore to Door the update from the Friends of the Dore and Totley Station group, said that a FoDaTS founder member, (i.e. me), and friends were instrumental in ensuring that

the cherry trees on the roadside of the station were saved when the car park was expanded back in 2013. This isn't quite true, they were always going to stay and the ones that had to be removed were promised to be replaced. The mature shrubs and trees that I did save, with thanks to a petition signed by 100 of my fellow commuters, was our strong iconic conifer tree and all the other trees and shrubs along the platform edge that gave the station its wooded character, making it feel integral with Ladies Spring Wood, reaching across to Ecclesall Woods. More were added in to further screen the expanded car park. Evergreen and deciduous trees with natural undergrowth provided shelter and food for wildlife. So, it is sad that after saving these trees, they were all allowed to be unnecessarily cleared in a development that has transformed the station into a typical urban 'town centre' station, but that is now less accessible for some.

Dawn Biram

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# Christmas in S17

Services across Dore and Totley this December

## All Saints Totley

Thursday 4th - Saturday 6th  
The Christmas Experience  
(more info: [allsaintstotley.church](http://allsaintstotley.church))

Sunday 14th & 21st - 5pm  
Carols by Candlelight

Friday 19th  
6pm - Kids Carols in the Cricket  
8pm - Carols in the Crown

Christmas Eve - 1.30pm & 2.30pm  
Christmas Eve Family Carols

Christmas Eve - 11.30pm  
Midnight Candlelit Communion

Christmas Day - 9.30am  
All-Age Celebration

## Christ Church Dore

Thursday 4th - 10am  
Toddler Group Nativity

Thursday 11th - 11.30am  
Carols at the Dore Bar and Grill

Thursday 18th - Carol-oke  
7pm - The Hare & Hounds  
8pm - The Dev

Sunday 21st - 4.30pm  
Christmas Carol Service

Christmas Eve  
3pm & 5pm - Crib Service  
11.15pm - Midnight Communion

Christmas Day - 10am  
All-Age Celebration

## Totley Rise Methodist

Sunday 30th (Nov) - 10.30am  
Multiplex All-Age Advent Service  
With a Choice of Activities

Sunday 21st  
10.30am - Christmas Praise Party  
4pm - Christmas Carol Service

Christmas Eve - 4pm  
Crib Service & Nativity Dress-Up

Christmas Day - 10am  
All-Age Celebration  
Joint Service with Dore Methodist

Sunday 28th - 10.30am  
Joint Service with Dore Methodist

## St John The Evangelist

Sunday 14th - 4pm  
Sheffield Carols  
The Castle Inn, Twentywell Rd

Christmas Eve  
5pm - Christingle  
11.30pm - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day - 10am  
All-Age Celebration  
At St John's, Abbeydale Rd South

## Dore & Totley Christian Fellowship

Sunday 21st - 10.30am  
Christmas Carol Service  
Dore Community Centre

## Dore & Totley United Reformed

Sunday 7th - 10.30am  
Christmas Tree Decoration

Sunday 14th - 10.30am  
Christmas Carol Service

Christmas Day - 10.30am  
All-Age Celebration

Sunday 28th - 10.30am  
Poems & Praise

## Dore Methodist

Sunday 21st - 10.30am  
Christmas Carol Service

Christmas Day - 10am  
Joint Service at Totley Rise

Sunday 28th - 10.30am  
Christmas Sunday  
Joint Service at Totley Rise

## English Martyrs Totley

Saturday 20th - 5pm  
Vigil Mass

Christmas Day - 8.30am  
Christmas Day Mass

Saturday 27th - 5pm  
Vigil Mass



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# Helping Our Heathlands at Blacka Moor

Around 85% of heathland has been lost over the past 150 years. What remains is now even rarer than tropical rainforest. But we have a real chance to help heathlands like Blacka Moor recover and become more resilient in the future.

## The story of heathland

Heathland may look wild, but it's one of our oldest manmade landscapes. Most heathlands are thought to date from the Bronze Age some 3,000 years ago. Humans started clearing trees growing on infertile soils, probably to entice game into clearings to make hunting easier. Later, they used it to graze livestock or grow crops.

Grazing and tree removal caused the nutrient levels to fall further and the soil acidity to increase. These conditions suited heathland plants like heather and bilberry, which were previously limited to coasts, cliff tops and mountainsides.

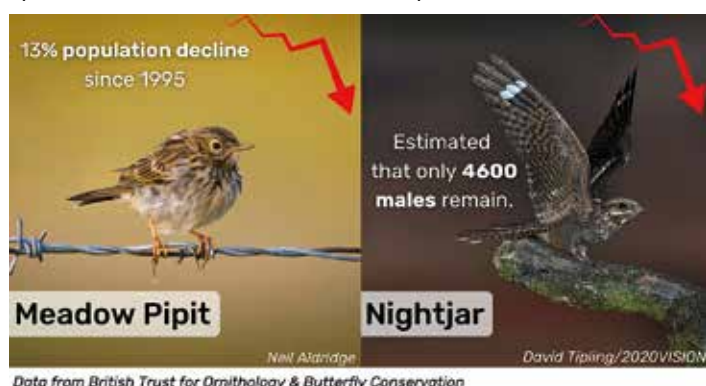
Upland heath is found over shallow peat and mineral soils in the north and west of the UK, as well as in the southern uplands such as Dartmoor and Exmoor. This is often called moorland. Locally around Sheffield and the Peak District, we have lowland heathlands, found below about 300m on more freely draining sands and gravels. These are "semi-natural" habitats, requiring human intervention from our nature reserves team and volunteers to stop them developing into woodland.

## Why our lowland heathlands matter

Our country is still home to 20% of the world's surviving lowland heathlands, giving us both a duty and an incredible opportunity to protect them. Once considered as waste land of little value, lowland heathland is now appreciated and protected for its unique wildlife and natural beauty.

Blacka Moor is one of the largest and most spectacular of Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust's nature reserves. It contains 181 hectares of breath-taking scenery and forms part of a much larger internationally important wild landscape, the Eastern Peak District Moors, which is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

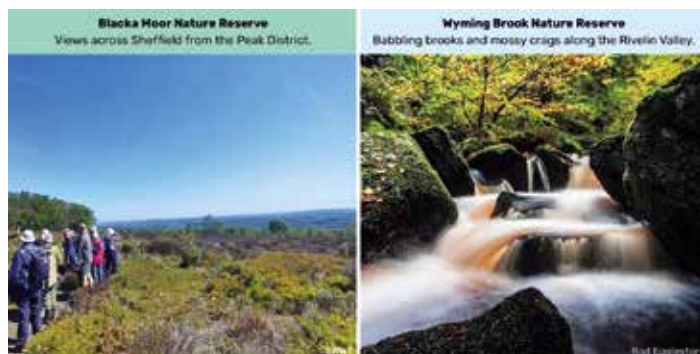
On warm days, you can see green hairstreak butterflies flicker like tiny sparks of colour, or spot common lizards darting through the undergrowth. On summer evenings, the churring call of nightjars echoes across the heather. These species, and many more, depend on heathlands to survive. Without action, over 20 species could vanish from our landscape forever.



## Our heathlands are under threat

Lowland heathlands such as Blacka Moor are under threat from higher nutrient levels in the soil caused by pollution, as well as climate change. They need heavier intervention such as grazing with cattle and sheep or cutting, to maintain the heathland and prevent it turning into woodland.

Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust's new CEO, Dr Edward Tripp, who studied heathland ecology for his PhD, explains:



"I studied how nitrogen input affected the composition of heathland plant species that make up a healthy heathland, including heather and bilberry. I found that where nutrient input was higher, the heathland would be less resilient and would require much more intensive management intervention to maintain its quality.

"I also looked at the resilience of heathlands to climate change by comparing heather growth from colder and warmer climates to identify whether actions could be taken to limit the impact of temperature change to our already fragile heathland habitats."

## Acting for the future

Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust cares for heathland in its nature reserves across Blacka Moor, Wyming Brook, Fox Hagg and Greno Woods.

This autumn, Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust launched an appeal to raise £50,000 to protect and restore Blacka Moor and its other heathland nature reserves. The Trust is calling on local people to help safeguard them before it's too late.

Nabil Abbas, the Trust's Senior Nature Recovery Manager, explains why this appeal is so important: "Heathlands are magical, wild places, full of rare and remarkable species. But they are under serious threat and we need to act now. With the help of our wonderful community, we can give them a future. Protecting heathland today means our children and grandchildren will still be able to hear the nightjar's call, see lizards basking in the sun and walk through landscapes rich with heather in years to come."

The £50,000 *Help our Heathlands* appeal will fund vital conservation work including:

- **Boosting biodiversity:** Restoring native heathland plants such as heather and bilberry, which provide food and shelter for species like the bilberry bumblebee.
- **Building climate resilience:** Using natural flood management to create ponds and bogs that support wildlife and reduce flooding risk downstream.
- **Clearing invasives:** Tackling bracken, bramble and non-native plants that choke out heather and other important flora.
- **Creating wildlife corridors:** Linking fragmented heathland areas to allow safe movement for wildlife between habitats
- **Engaging with local people:** Offering opportunities for local volunteers and communities to take part in practical conservation and learn about these special landscapes.

## How you can help

The *Help our Heathlands* campaign is more than halfway to raising the £50,000 target it needs to help heathlands and the species which depend on them. The Trust is asking everyone who loves to get out in nature and visit these special wild landscapes to support this appeal.

Help protect heathland for future generations, by donating at: [wildsheffield.com/help-our-heathlands](http://wildsheffield.com/help-our-heathlands)

**Kirstine Verkerk**  
Marketing and Communications Manager  
Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust






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## Pop-Up Advice and Support Event

We hosted a "Pop-Up Advice and Support Event", organised by AgeUK Sheffield on Wednesday 22nd October. Representatives from AgeUK Sheffield, and the City Council, Community Wellness Service were amongst those present and able to explain the services they provided. Look out for future publicity for other similar events.

This event followed the creation of our Community Information Hub, where we have a range of information and leaflets to take away. These cover a number of local services and support that is available for all ages. The best time to call in to access the Information Hub is on a Wednesday morning between 10-30am and 1pm when our Welcoming Space is open. You will get a warm welcome, and cup of tea or coffee and we will try our best to help you, even if it is only giving you contact details of specialists who can advise you further.

## "Made with Love" Group



Recently three of the ladies from the Made with Love sewing/knitting group went on a Quilting Retreat and in between the quilting they managed to make 47 Christmas Stockings! Well done. These will be sent to the League of Friends at Sheffield Children's Hospital.

Our Group meets monthly on the last Tuesday afternoon, 2pm to 4pm in our church hall. Everything we make is given away to local charities.

## Ladies Tuesday Group

In September we resumed activities with our Annual General Meeting where we set our programme for 2025/26. Our chosen charity for the year was voted in as "Support Dogs Sheffield" and we look forward to hearing all about these amazing dogs and how they are trained to be so invaluable to their disabled owners at our January meeting.

In October, we had a really interesting, illustrated talk by Patrick McLaughlin, entitled "Myths and Legends of Britain".

On November 11th we will be entertained by John Kirkman who will be giving us an illustrated talk on "Learn more about your garden Birds". John is a local bird enthusiast and always entertaining.

On December 6th we shall be holding our annual Toy Collection from 10.30am-12.30pm in the church hall. Donations of new unwrapped toys, books and games will be very welcome. The gifts will be distributed by the Salvation Army to children who would not otherwise receive a gift on Christmas morning.

December 9th will be our Christmas Celebrations, with carols, a buffet and entertainment by The Bus Pass Buskers. Should be fun.

On January 13th we will hear more about our chosen charity.

February 10th gives us a chance to learn the history of a local landmark when Pauline Burnett gives us an illustrated look at what life was like for "The Tenants and Workers of Abbeydale Forge".

We are a friendly, welcoming ladies group who meet on the second Tuesday of the month in Dore Methodist Church Hall at 2.30pm. Why not come and give us a try. Membership is £25 per annum and visitors are always welcome at a charge of £4.

## Welcoming Space

Now that we are in Autumn and Winter and the length of daylight is decreasing some people are more reluctant to get out of their home to meet up with others. Our weekly Welcoming Space, meeting each Wednesday between 10:30am and 1pm, offers the perfect opportunity to come out and socialise. A warm welcome is assured and there is a constant supply of tea, coffee or biscuits. Around 12:00 a light lunch of hot soup and a roll is served. During the morning there is the time to catch up on the news in the day's newspapers, have a game of dominos or just chat with others. All this is at no charge – but we do appreciate a donation towards our running costs!

We know that some people find it difficult to walk to our hall in High Street. This should not prevent anyone coming as we have the use of a Transport17 minibus, and this can collect you from your home and take you back just after 13:00. We do have to make a charge of £4.50 for this service. If you would like more information on this transport please phone 0114 235 1085 and speak to Jackie.

Our Welcoming Space could not operate without the help of a team of volunteers, and we are looking to expand our team. If you would like to learn more about volunteering, please contact Jackie – phone number above.

Whilst we aim to operate each week we will be taking a two week break over Christmas/New Year, so there will be no sessions on 24th and 31st December.

## Carol Service

Our Carol service will be held on Sunday 21st December at 10-30. Everyone is welcome at this special service.

## Our Website



Our website, [www.doremethodist.org.uk](http://www.doremethodist.org.uk) contains much more information about our church, our services, our activities and information on other groups who meet in our building. You can also scan the QR code alongside, to access it.



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## Food Bank Collection Point at Christ Church Dore and Urgent Request



Christ Church Dore has been supporting the Grace Food Bank in Lowedges for some time, both financially through monetary donations and by having a collection point for food or other items in the church. We are now trying to help them in other ways too, principally by publicising their need for financial assistance and in their search for new premises.

It's always a struggle for small charities such as this to attract sufficient funds and food donations to keep going but the Grace Food Bank now faces a more fundamental challenge, it could be forced to close early next year unless new premises are found. After more than a decade serving the city from its base at The Michael Church in Lowedges, the charity has been told it must vacate the building by February 2026. If no new home is secured before Christmas, January and February will be spent in packing down operations - just when demand for food support is at its highest.

Last year they provided food support to over 11,000 people, including more than 4,000 children, but food donations have fallen sharply recently, forcing the food bank to spend over £51,000 on

purchasing food to meet demand. Financially, their income dropped from £242,000 to £130,000, largely due to reduced grant funding.

They have an urgent need for support from the community, local businesses and Sheffield City Council to help it continue its vital work. This includes:

- Community Action: supporters willing to write letters of backing to councillors, MPs, and decision-makers (contact the food bank for names and details).
- The food bank would also welcome anyone with grant funding or financial experience who could join the trustee team to strengthen its future.
- Donations: food and financial support to cover the weekly £1,000 food shortfall. Check their website for local food donation points.
- Regular monthly donations are especially valuable, as they provide stable income the charity can rely on.
- If you are a UK taxpayer, completing a Gift Aid form means the government will add 25p to every £1 you give, making your donation go even further.
- Volunteers: particularly those with finance or administration skills.

Grace Food Bank is a lifeline for thousands of Sheffield families and relies on the generosity of local people, churches, and organisations for food and financial donations. If you could donate food (or anything else) at Christ Church Dore it would be very much appreciated. See the photo for where to put them.

Food can also be donated at the following collection points:

[gracefoodbanksheffield.org.uk/donations/#food](http://gracefoodbanksheffield.org.uk/donations/#food)

You can give financially online at: [gracefoodbanksheffield.org.uk/donations/#money](http://gracefoodbanksheffield.org.uk/donations/#money)

You can contact them if you'd like more information, or can help with premises, grant writing, or letters of support, at [office@gracefoodbanksheffield.org.uk](mailto:office@gracefoodbanksheffield.org.uk)



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## Brunsmeer AAFC 2025/2026 Season

In a blink of an eye the Summer came and went and another season is well and truly under way.

A number of our teams attended local Summer Tournaments with some venturing further afield on the East and West Coasts of the country plus it was Barcelona for one team!!!

A number of successes were recorded:

- Under 7's Boys Red Wickersley Tournament
- Under 9's Boys Black LJS Tournament
- Under 12's Boys Withensea
- Under 13's Boys Summer transition League & Cup Winners
- Men – Ambassador Cup Winners

## Under 23's

At the eleventh hour we were approached to see if we could facilitate an additional team. We could not say no to a previous Brunsmeer Coach Andy Campbell and his son James both of whom had represented the club from Under 8's through to Under 16's.

Fantastic work by our Secretary Andy Thomas managed to find a slot in the Imperial League. This addition increased the total number of teams representing Brunsmeer AAFC to 26 this season which is a club record.

## Ground

A lot of attention has been given to tidying our perimeter over the summer months. Neighbours were approached regarding anything they needed addressing and for those who contacted us we duly obliged.

Ball netting has been replaced and fixed where required but unfortunately they don't stop every ball so if anyone comes across any in their garden please throw them back as they do cost a fortune.

## Away Changing Facility

An unveiling took place one evening to show off our wonderful new facility.



*"This project will make a real difference to Brunsmeer Football Club and its members and attract even more players. Grassroots sport plays a huge role in bringing communities together, which is exactly why the Mears Foundation is proud to support projects like this."*

*Heather Tyrer, General Manager, Mears Foundation*

## Football Foundation Greener Game

We are currently being assessed to see if we qualify for the Greener Game initiative in conjunction with E.ON. A site visit has taken place and we are just awaiting the verdict! It may be the case that we simply don't use enough electricity but we will see how it goes.

## Pitches

The rain in mid-September couldn't have come at a better time as it allowed them to be in perfect playing condition. We have 9 teams using both pitches and on some Sundays three kick offs take place at 10am, 12pm and 2pm so the investment will be tested!

## How it all began.....

I want to share with you some club history over the next few articles and where is the best place to start "at the beginning!" (see future issues)

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### Here's what we've achieved together:

- 2021 Toddler Frame installed, replacing the unsafe wooden A-frame.
- 2023 The Quest junior frame added, replacing the wooden fortress with towers, bridge and slide.
- 2024 New standalone slide installed, designed with safety in mind (1.8m height, cushioned surfacing).
- 2025 Thanks to a generous £2500 donation from a local resident and £900 arising from September's Dore Show, the Agility Trail is now ready for installation.



### What's next?

- Replacement Swing for 2026. We're digging deep to raise £10,000 and we're halfway there!

### Creating Spaces and Connections for Everyone

More in Dore has more in store for our community infrastructure, which will help people piece life together, one step at a time.

We aim to create stronger links between individuals, families, groups, schools, businesses, and services in our village so everyone can thrive.

### What It Means in Practice:

- For children - safe, modern play equipment at the Rec.
- For adults - the potential for outdoor exercise equipment, informal meet-ups and local wellbeing support.



### So, as you can see...

...we've come a long way from those early days of unsafe wooden frames and no funding. We have big plans ahead, both for the Rec and for the community at large.

We would love your continued support whether that's through sharing old photos of the playground, sharing stories about how the playground was funded in the past or organising future fundraising events. Please email or chat to us about how you think More in Dore could help you!







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## Playing One No Trump Contracts 1: Escaping 1NT Doubled Using Exit Transfers

Playing in one no trump, either as declarer or defender, can be problematic. Here is the first of two conventions taught at Dominic Rayner's Intermediate Class at Sheffield Bridge Club that you can use to circumvent problems.

If you play weak no trump then 1NT doubled is probably your least favourite contract. If partner has a weak hand the contract will often go down (with a significant penalty if vulnerable). So, how can you escape from this predicament?

Opener has made a limit bid (ie. a hand limited to 12 to 14 points) and is unlikely to be in a position to take defensive action so it's up to you to respond.

If you have 9 or more points you will have at least 21 to 23 points between you and that may be enough for 1NT to succeed, or escape with a small penalty, so it should be safe to pass – see more later.

With fewer than 9 points action is required to find a better contract than 1NT. There are several options available to counter the double and one of the most effective is Exit Transfers. These are similar to Jacoby red suit transfers but they allow you to transfer to any of the four suits. Here's how they work.

With 5 or more clubs redouble. This is asking partner to bid two clubs.

With 5 or more diamonds bid two clubs. This isn't Stayman because of the intervening double but is asking partner to bid two diamonds.

With 5 or more cards in a major use red suit transfers just as you would if undoubled.

After the transfer has been completed it is unlikely that you'll want to bid again so be content to have escaped the double.

Without a 5+ card suit you pass. Opener then alerts. Alerting a pass isn't normal practice and must, therefore, have a conventional meaning. In this case opener follows the alert with a redouble which is asking you to bid four card suits in ascending order:

**2♣** if you have four clubs

**2♦** if you have four diamonds and no four card club suit

**2♥** if you have four hearts and no four card club or diamond suit

**2♠** if you have four spades and no other four card suit

Bidding continues until, hopefully, a 4/4 fit is found, or failing that a 4/3 fit. Although not ideal playing in a 4/3 fit will probably be better than 1NT doubled.

When you have 9 or more points and pass opener will alert and redouble as above, and then you pass again to play in 1NT redoubled, making game if the contract succeeds and, hopefully, turning the tables on the doubler.

On each of the following hands West has opened 1NT (12-14) and North has doubled. What would you bid as East? And then what would west bid?

(1)

**West**

♠ K 8 4  
♥ K J 8 7  
♦ K 9 3  
♣ Q J 5

**East**

♠ Q 7 3  
♥ Q 9 6 5 2  
♦ Q J 8  
♣ K 7

(2)

**West**

♠ J 10 4  
♥ K J 6 3  
♦ A 8 7  
♣ A 6 4

**East**

♠ A Q 8 5 2  
♥ 10 8 5  
♦ 10 9  
♣ 10 9 3

(3)

**West**

♠ K J 4  
♥ K J 8 7  
♦ K 9 3  
♣ J 8 5

**East**

♠ J 7 3  
♥ 10 5 2  
♦ J 8  
♣ K Q 9 7 3

(4)

**West**

♠ J 10 4  
♥ K J 6 3  
♦ A 8 7  
♣ A 6 4

**East**

♠ A 8 5  
♥ Q 9 8  
♦ Q 10 9 5  
♣ 9 8 3

### Hand 1

You could bid 2♦ as a transfer to hearts where you'd probably make 9 tricks for a score of 140. However, you have 10 points and at least 22 between you so a good chance of making 1NT, therefore pass. Partner will alert and redouble assuming that you don't have a five card suit. This is asking for your four card suit(s). You then pass the redouble and partner plays in 1NT redoubled making at least seven tricks and game, scoring 460+ non-vulnerable and 660+ if vulnerable. Considerably better than going down in 1NT doubled.

### Hand 2

With six points and a five card spade suit bid 2♥ as a transfer to spades. This should make barring bad breaks, especially as north probably has the K♠ for the double and this can be finessed. In comparison 1NT is likely to fail, especially if opponents have a long suit that they can run. Even one down in 2♠ undoubled is better than 1NT doubled going down, it could be a good result at duplicate if everyone else goes down in 1NT doubled.

### Hand 3

With five clubs and seven points redouble to ask partner to transfer to 2♣. This has a reasonable chance of making or going for a small penalty.

### Hand 4

Without a five card suit pass. Partner will then alert and redouble asking for your four card suits, in this case 2♦.

**Keith Shaw and Dominic Rayner**



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## NOVEMBER

- Tue 11 Dore Methodist Tuesday Group, "Learn more about your garden birds", an illustrated talk by John Kirkman, whose talks are very informative and entertaining, at 2.30pm in Dore Methodist Church Hall. Visitors welcome, a donation of £4 is appreciated.
- Tue 25 Friends of Dore & Totley Station Open Meeting (and AGM) 7.00 for 7.30 at Totley Library. We'll have representatives from both Northern and TransPennine to speak and answer questions. Refreshments. See page 31.
- Wed 26 Curious Suburbs of Sheffield, talk by David Templeman. Totley History Group, Totley Library at 7.30pm Members £2 Non-members £3
- Sat 29 Christmas Fayre 10am – 12.30pm, at the Shepley Spitfire, Mickley Lane, Totley. In aid of Transport 17. Refreshments, festive raffle and ever popular Bottle Bonanza where every ticket wins a prize. A variety of local artisan and Christmas craft stalls as well as local choir, the Humzingers. Full details on page 13.
- Sat 29 & Sun 30 Whirlow Hall Farm Christmas Market. See article, page 4.

## DECEMBER

- Tue 2 Dore Ladies' Group Community Centre, Townhead Road 7-45pm. A demonstration by Claire Loughridge on UV resin techniques and an opportunity to buy some of her work.
- Wed 3 Dore Village Society annual Lantern Parade. See pages 5 and 9 for more details. Carol Singing round the village tree, many local shops open late, Santa Claus usually pops in to the Devonshire Arms.
- Sat 6 Toy Collection from 10.30am-12.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall. Donations of new unwrapped toys, books and games will be very welcome. The gifts will be distributed by the Salvation Army to children who would not otherwise receive a gift on Christmas morning. See also page 37.
- Tue 9 Dore Methodist Tuesday Group. Join us for our Christmas Celebrations with "The Bus Pass Buskers" and a Christmas Buffet. At 2.30pm in Dore Methodist Church Hall. Visitors welcome, a donation of £4 is appreciated.
- Thu 11 - Sat 13 Dore Male Voice Choir Christmas concerts. Christ Church Dore, Church Lane, nightly at 7.00pm Tickets are £13 and can be booked online at doremvc.com, via Norman West on 01142 960797, or from any choir member.
- Fri 12 Sheffield Folk Chorale, Winter and Christmas songs across time. United Reformed Church Totley Brook Rd, 7pm. tickets £10 from 07837681467. See panel on page 2.
- Sat 20 Christmas Concert by Dore Gilbert & Sullivan Society, Dore Methodist Church. See page 13 for tickets (ticket only event).
- Sat 27 Dore Village annual Wassail Walk. Come along and get some fresh air, walk off all those mince pies. See page 7 for more details.

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## JANUARY

- Tue 6 Dore Ladies' Group Community Centre, Townhead Road 7-45pm. A talk by David Johnston on Life in 1950's Britain.
- Tue 13 Wyvern Walk. Leader: Heather Brennan 07535 247 474. Walk details: We will car share to the Longshaw car park and walk to the Longshaw Visitor Hut, Surprise View, then along Millstone Edge before rising gently onto Higger Tor. Then walking to Upper Burbage Bridge before returning to Longshaw along the main track down the Burbage Valley. Distance: 6.1 miles Bring lunch/snack and drink.
- Tue 13 Dore Methodist Tuesday Group. Our chosen charity for 2025/26 is Support Dogs Sheffield and a representative of the charity will be telling us all about these amazing dogs and how they are trained to be such a wonderful support for their disabled owners. At 2.30pm in Dore Methodist Church Hall. Visitors welcome, a donation of £4 is appreciated.
- Wed 28 The Last of the Little Mesters, talk by Peter Machan. Totley History Group, Totley Library at 7.30pm Members £2 Non-members £3

## FEBRUARY

- Tue 3 Dore Ladies' Group Community Centre, Townhead Road 7-45pm. Paul Leonard MBE - Murder mystery involving a lady and a Dior handbag.
- Tue 10 Dore Methodist Tuesday Group. A really interesting illustrated talk about a much loved local landmark. Pauline Burnett will be telling us all about "The tenants and workers of Abbeydale Forge 1738-1933". At 2.30pm in Dore Methodist Church Hall. Visitors welcome, a donation of £4 is appreciated.
- Wed 25 Demolished Sheffield, talk by Mike Higginbottom. Totley History Group, Totley Library at 7.30pm Members £2 Non-members £3

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Considering it has been open since 1818, I was surprised that I haven't previously reviewed The Cross Scythes! I might have lost the chance when it closed down (twice), but following its re-opening earlier this year I have been waiting for a suitable opportunity. Since its second closure, this historical pub has been taken over by The Northern Collective, owners of The Bank House in Hathersage, The Dore, and The Peveril Stores & Bakery in Castleton. The pub has been refurbished in a similar contemporary, country pub way to the others with dark wood tables, wooden floors and bold patterned wallpaper.

Five of us went late on a Sunday afternoon and were greeted by a friendly waiter who took us to our table and left us with menus and a wine list. I ordered a pint of Asahi Super Dry lager while I looked over the menu, deliberately avoiding the Sunday lunch options, knowing that my fellow diners would all be choosing one of those.

The comprehensive main menu consists of a range of nibbles, small plates, nachos, sandwiches & wraps, salads, mains and standard grill options. All the regular pub staples were included – fish and chips, sausage and mash, pie, burger etc (all £17.95). In addition, there are several much less common options, with Tandoori Cod (£23.95) served with saag aloo, tender stem broccoli and curried velouté; and Bibimbap (£21.95) – a Korean fried chicken dish with steamed rice, julienne carrots, pickled cucumber, pak choi, spring onion, chillies, topped with a fried egg and honey sriracha mayo, being two of the notable ones. On Sundays there is the additional lunch menu consisting of six roast options, including two sharing platters and a range of sides.

One of the nibble options chosen by one of our group was Corn Fritters with truffle parmesan mayonnaise (£7.95). Although, I didn't get to taste it, I have it on good authority that it was very good. As a starter I chose the Monkfish Scampi (£8.95) which came with lemon and dill aioli, chorizo, and pea purée, and the others chose the Korean Fried Chicken with spring onions, sesame seeds, and fresh chillies (£8.95). The "scampi" consisted of three large chunks of monkfish tail, perfectly cooked and coated in crispy breadcrumbs. To my palate, it was a little under seasoned, but that was rectified with a small twist of salt and pepper, and better to have to add salt than to try and remove it! The sharpness of the aioli offset the sweet fish, and the chorizo gave it an added dimension. The pea purée was deliberately a bit chunky rather than smooth, but that didn't detract from the taste, which was excellent. Overall, this dish was an excellent start to the meal.

After missing out on tasting the corn fritters, I made sure I got my fork into the Korean fried chicken. Another great dish – crisp and crunchy on the outside, succulent chicken on the inside, with just the right amount of heat in the glaze and fresh spring onions and chillies adding to the overall quality of the dish. I will definitely be considering that dish on any return visit.

As predicted, the others in the party ordered a Sunday roast. The Lose Hill Leg of Lamb (£20.95) was chosen by three of them, and the Peak District Sirloin of Beef (£21.95) by the other. All the roasts came with roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding, seasonal vegetables, carrot & swede mash, creamed cabbage, sausage meat stuffing, and homemade gravy. The addition of a couple of side dishes of Cauliflower Cheese (£3.95) completed the full Sunday lunch experience. We ordered a bottle of Ke Bontà Sangiovese (£23.95), and when we saw the size of the glasses, we quickly realised that one wouldn't be enough!

Purely for the purposes of the article (of course), I was allowed to sample my partner's lunch, and I was very impressed by the tenderness (and quantity) of the lamb, to which she had liberally added mint sauce. The roasties were crunchy and the vegetables were all perfectly cooked and well-seasoned. The Yorkshire pudding was large and although almost certainly pre-made and re-heated (totally forgivable on a busy Sunday), it was still more than acceptable.

My initial choice was Watson's Sausage & Mash with roasted carrots, garden peas, crispy onions and a red wine jus (£17.95).

Unfortunately, they were out of sausages, which considering they were 50% of the titular elements was somewhat disappointing. My alternate choice was the Braised Ox-Cheek Bourguignon (£23.95) served with creamy mash, crispy onions, carrots, mushroom, kale, and pearl onions. I must admit I have a bit of a thing about mash. It needs to be creamy, but not sloppy, with plenty of seasoning and butter and it is easy to get wrong, but so good when it is done right. This mash was in the latter category, to the point where I mention it here before the Bourguignon! As for the ox-cheek, it had been cooked to the point of melt in the mouth tenderness in a rich and deeply flavourful sauce. However, the mushroom flavour was not overwhelmed, and the onions retained just the right amount of bite. The carrots and kale were both well done, although I could probably have done with one of them, rather than both.

Despite my ongoing love of cheesecake (£8.95), my reading of the dessert menu ended after the first option of Apple & Blackberry Crumble (£7.95) served with vanilla crème anglaise, or to you and me, thin custard! It was a good-sized portion of crumble with a decent crunch to the topping and really well-balanced filling. Just the right amount of sugar had been added to offset the sharpness of the fruit, and the custard was just thick enough to qualify and served hot and full of flavour. The only other dessert ordered was a Yuzu Crème Brûlée (£8.95) served with homemade shortbread, mandarin gel, and vanilla Chantilly cream. For those of you that don't know, Yuzu is a citrus fruit originating in South-East Asia, that resemble a yellow clementine (we had to Google it at the table!). The flavours worked really well together, with the citrus of the yuzu and the mandarin complimented by the cream. The shortbread was perfectly crumbly and added the texture required. The only criticism was the caramel was too thin and not properly caramelised.

Overall, The Cross Scythes is an excellent example of an old-school country pub which has been brought into the twenty-first century, with a wide range of good hearty food and some more modern twists. The menus demonstrate excellent value for money with the total including drinks (three bottles in the end!) and a generous tip, coming to £60 per head. In addition, the food itself was at the higher end of the pub food genre and I will definitely be returning.

**Hendo Nagasaki**

The Cross Scythes, Baslow Road, Totley, Sheffield S17 4AE

Open Every Day: Monday - Sunday | 8:00am - 11:30pm

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