

DORE DOOR

DORE VILLAGE SOCIETY

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Well Dressing Update

Unfortunately, as many of you may recall it was not possible to have a Well Dressing last year, but we are planning to have one this year. In fact we've already started work by having our first planning meeting, however we do need more help and support.



Our village well, the last time she had her dressing on in 2023.

Thank you to all the folks who left their contact details with us at Dore Gala. For anyone else who is interested in this fascinating and ancient tradition, do please get in touch to find out what is involved in this process. We would love to hear from you and see you at our next planning meeting.

For information, the dates that we will be working on producing the well dressing are Monday 30th June to Friday 4 July 2025.

For any further information please contact Ros Kelson 07950 778 894 or rosalindkelson@yahoo.co.uk

Hope to see you soon.

The Well Dressing Team

Dore Dragon Hunt

The dragon hunt for young children, their parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents will be on Sunday 27th April starting promptly at 2pm from Dore Old School.

Join the Hunt, which looks for clues around the centre of the village, win prizes and meet Theodore, our resident Dragon. Theodore guards a nest of dragon's eggs. Entry is free and there are free refreshments available for all at the end of the Hunt.

Prize Giving takes place promptly at 3.30pm. To add to the fun fancy dress is along the theme of Saint George and the Dragon (optional).

Doreways Dore Festival

Preparations are already under way so watch out for more information about all your favourite activities and events in June and July.

Dorne Coggins

Project Connie – new co-ordinator needed

Twelve years ago, Pat Yates and I set up Project Connie to fulfil an obvious need: to help isolated older people living in Dore attend their medical appointments. Named after my mum, who lived in Dore, Project Connie has been a beacon of hope for our community. It's a rewarding undertaking for all our volunteers, resulting in almost 2000 trips over the years, each making a significant difference in the lives of our older residents.

Inevitably, Pat and I are getting older and finding the running of it is becoming a bit too much for us, so we have reluctantly decided that the time has come for us to ask someone else living in Dore to take it over.

Managing Project Connie is easier than ever. We have a dedicated WhatsApp group for our volunteers, so when someone leaves a message on our phone line, we share the details in our group chat. One of our volunteers always responds, keeping everyone in the loop. We're proud to say that we've never failed to provide the service over the last twelve years. We have about seventeen volunteers, some of whom have been with us since the beginning and every Christmas we have a get-together for drinks and a mince pie.



Off to the GP

While it's bittersweet for us to step back from Project Connie, we're realistic about our capabilities. We're hopeful that one of our younger Dore residents will be interested in taking over this vital initiative. I'm more than willing to talk to anyone about it and would happily hand it over gradually, working alongside a new lead.

On a final note, we received a lovely message from one of our users just before Christmas:

"Thank you for all your support you have given me over this year. I cannot tell you how important it is to me. I wish you and all your team a very Happy Christmas."

Please feel free to ring me on 0114 236 5248.

Sue Ross





Wassail Walk

The annual Wassail Walk took place on Friday 27th December in fine sunny weather with 56 people enjoying a stroll around Blackamoor.

My apologies to those who missed the walk because of the mix up in the start time. I don't know how that happened but I'll be diligent in checking the publicity next time.

On our return to the very welcoming dry and warmth of the Devonshire Arms many of us consumed a lot of mince pies and a modest quantity of mulled wine so an enjoyable time was had by all. Thank you to David and Cath Fallaize for organising this.

Keith Shaw

Abbeydale Park Bowling Club



I am writing this article in January when the ground is covered with snow and the temperature is hovering around zero. It seems a world far removed from sunny days with a game of bowls followed by a cuppa on the pavilion balcony whilst putting the world to rights.

But we are keeping active during the winter. We held our annual presentation dinner at the Masonic Hall in early December followed nearer Christmas by a cheese and wine party in our pavilion. We are also running a variety of games sessions each week including dominoes, Mexican train, bridge and Rummikub so we have plenty

of opportunities to be social.

We are a social bowling club and do not compete in any leagues, thus the green is available for social bowling sessions at 10.00, 14.00 and 16.00 seven days a week. A number of friendly matches with other clubs and internal competitions are run each year.

We are now looking forward to the new bowling season which opens at the end of March, weather permitting. If you would like to see what we are about there will be public open days on Saturdays 26 April and 10 May from 10:00. Experienced players or beginners are equally welcome – just turn up on those dates – guidance will be available for beginners. If these dates are not convenient, please telephone Mike Sills on 0114 235 6598 and we will be pleased to arrange a private visit. Visits from groups are also welcome – same phone number.

There can be few more pleasant ways of spending a summer morning or afternoon than a game of bowls followed by a cuppa and a chat on the sunny clubhouse balcony, all we need is the sunshine. So, if you are on the lookout for a new interest give Abbeydale Park Bowls Club a try.

Michael Sills



DVS noticeboards

Did you know that we have two noticeboards in the village that are used to display information relevant to Dore residents? You will find these to the right of the entrance to the Co-Op, and at the entrance to the recreation ground off Townhead Road. We give priority to notices about DVS events, activities and other information but do allow others to advertise events or activities that will take place within the Dore area of benefit (AoB), subject to the availability of space. We also allow new businesses within our AoB to advertise, but this is limited to a single announcement, unless the business is seasonal. Information regarding events, activities etc, that take place outside of our AoB but likely to be of significant interest to Dore residents are also allowed, but paid for advertising is not.

If you would like to place a notice, then please contact me at *caroline.davies@dorevillage.com*

Caroline Davies, Vice Chair DVS

Cover: A winter scene on Whitelow Lane, captured by Dore to Door deliverer Nicky Greenwood.

Sheffield Vulcan Rotary Club

Please don't think that Rotary Clubs mainly just raise money for good causes. Whilst Sheffield Vulcan donated around £15,000 for more than 30 charities and other worthwhile groups in 2024 alone, and our annual golf day has raised over £100,000 since its inception, this is only part of the story. Vulcan, like Rotary Clubs across the world, thrives on variety as we support those in need, care for the environment, and generally seek to enrich the community we live in, whilst playing our part in overseas projects where we can help.



Last year if you happened to be walking down The Moor on Sunday 18 August, you would not have failed to notice over 120 classic, vintage and veteran cars on display. Working in conjunction with The Moor, Sheffield Vulcan Rotary Club organised this Car Rally and were present on the day to manage and marshal the event. This year in August we are again holding this event for the enjoyment at no cost to Sheffield Centre visitors.

This wasn't our only volunteering in Sheffield City Centre last year. In September, we manned the finishing line for the Sheffield half-marathon, handing out thousands of bottles of water to thirsty participants. We also took children to the Panto, an annual fun task of ours. And an impromptu choir of Vulcan members and friends entertained travellers at Sheffield Station at Christmas. Their enthusiasm, if not their singing skills, endeared them enough to the commuters to the extent that over £500 was raised for St Luke's Hospice.



Helping out at Sheffield Half Marathon

Every year we work with schools and colleges to put students through a mock interview process to boost their confidence; few at this early stage of career planning have been asked to present themselves and their ambitions. Here they get the opportunity to be face-to-face formally with a Vulcan member, to receive valuable feedback on their inter-personal skills, as a grounding for real life situations in the world outside.

Sheffield is, of course, known for its green areas and parks and we are proud of our efforts at Beauchief Gardens on Abbeydale Road, where Vulcan members have worked for seven years with the City's Parks staff on maintenance and improvements. With funding available from Network Rail contractors Volker Story and the Local Area Committee, major changes have been made including a new sundial, park bench, steel shelter and a rose bed donated by a benefactor.

Other projects include recycling spectacles, and twice-yearly donations of personal hygiene items delivered to the Northern General Brierley Wards for the benefit of its patients in need.

These are just some examples of how we serve our community by giving time and enthusiasm - but please don't think it's all work. We meet once a week (not compulsory!) at the Norfolk Arms at Ringinglow for a meal and fellowship. Social events include ambles around Derbyshire villages with a knowledgeable guide. A keen walking group steps out most weeks and socially we have Burns night, quiz nights and other get-togethers, plus our own rock band, The Vulcan Bombers! If you are attracted to the idea of fun and fellowship whilst giving something back to the community, we'd be pleased to welcome you to a meeting. Contact us at secretary@vulcanrotary.org.uk.

Alan Brown
Rotary Club of Sheffield Vulcan

Millthorpe Nursery

We're getting ready



We're busy growing lots of lovely
spring-flowering bulbs and plants and will be
back open in mid February

We look forward to seeing you!

Millthorpe Lane, Holmesfield, S18 7SA




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Open Wednesday - Sunday 10am - 4pm



Happy New Year to you all, I hope you had a pleasant festive break and an enjoyable start to 2025 despite the week of snow.

Did you get chance to enjoy some of our festive events? There were a few to choose from.

Christmas Lights

Although not organised in any way by the Village Society, one of the highlights of this area is being able to walk around the neighbourhood in December and view all the local Christmas lights put up by residents. When the dark evenings are starting to be oppressive it can really lift the spirits to see the twinkling fairy lights and the odd inflatable Santa. Even late in January there were a few houses still with lights shining out in the darkness. And when I pass them on my way home from work, they never fail to make me smile. Even so – bring on British Summer Time!

Lantern Parade

The DVS lantern parade was a very well attended community event with a large turnout of families and neighbours braving the cold and damp to follow Santa in his pick-up from Causeway Head to the Christmas Tree for some festive singalongs. We were very pleased to see Gemini Dance again this year with another fantastic display. Well done and thank you to all of them and their dance teacher.

The organisers and marshals did a fantastic job of closing the roads and keeping everyone safe, and David Hayes was there, as he always is, letting everyone know what was going on and leading the singalong. The Christmas trees around the village looked great again this year. Huge thanks go to the Christmas Tree Team who put them all up on a cold wet November weekend, you

are superstars! This team could really use a boost to numbers, they were working with a skeleton crew this year and if they don't get any more helpers, they will not be able to put the trees up again in November this year. It would be such a shame if this were to happen as the Christmas trees and the lantern parade are one of the highlights of the year. Please get in touch if you feel you would be able to help and I will pass your details on to the team.

Wassail Walk

The annual wassail walk on the 27th December was another well attended event and it was lovely to see some new faces, and youngsters, braving the elements to walk around Blackamoor. Keith, our resident walking guru and writer of many walks that have been published in this magazine, led the way again this year. We stopped a couple of times along the way to enjoy the view and catch our breath. I have to say the downhill are getting harder than the ups, I might have to find myself a decent stick for next time! The Devonshire Arms very kindly hosted the post walk mulled wine and mince pies for us and it was lovely to be in a cosy atmosphere with a roaring fire. Our thanks to Dave and Cath for putting up with the muddy boots and paws.

Events to look forward to

After the Easter holidays we will be hosting our annual Dragon Hunt in honour of St George's Day. This will be on Sunday the 27th April. The hunt is organised by Doreways Group. Fancy dress is encouraged and there are prizes for catching the dragon. There might even be an appearance by St George himself! The hunt starts from the Old School, more information will be posted on the two notice boards in the village and on the Dore and Totley community Facebook page closer to the time.

Dore Festival and Gala

The Gala will be on the 13th July this year with festival activities in the fortnight before. You can expect the usual activities, fun run, Dore Male Voice Choir, thanksgiving service amongst other things. Hopefully the well dressing will make a return this year too. Keep your eyes peeled for information about how you can help with the well dressing and any other festival events.

Plans for the Gala and Festival will be more concrete by the May edition but in the meantime, if your young person is part of the Scout or Guide movement or you would like to be involved in the Gala, please consider helping out. You can contact the Chair of the Gala committee via email – doregala@icloud.com

If you would like to help organise the Festival activities the team would be really appreciative. Get in touch with the Village Society and we will pass your details on to the team.

Jen

Dore Village Society Annual General Meeting 2025

The DVS AGM for 2025 will be held on Wednesday 11th June at 7:30pm.

The location and AGM meeting papers will be published on our website shortly before the meeting. The agenda, list of candidates for election as trustees and location of the meeting will also be on our noticeboards.

Tuesdays 10.30am: Weekly free health walks every Tuesday from Christ Church Community Centre on Townhead Road, postcode S17 3GA. No need to book. Meet from 10.20am in the back room. Parking is available. The long walk takes one hour.

Dora



...is on the hunt for dragons this issue. Can you help? See page 2

Outdoor Youth Theatre in Ecclesall Woods for Children and Young People



Growtheatre runs weekly outdoor youth theatre sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings during term time. They take place in the J. G. Graves Woodland Discovery Centre and surrounding woodlands in Ecclesall Woods.

The Youth Theatre is a great opportunity for young people to have fun, meet new friends, explore the outdoor environment and learn about every part of the theatrical process. As well as acting you will learn outdoor skills, tool work, prop making, set design, devising and much more!

VENUE

J. G. Graves Woodland Discovery Centre in Ecclesall Woods, 260 Abbey Lane, Sheffield, S7 2QZ.

Youth Theatre takes place both indoors and outdoors, including the surrounding woodlands.



OUR GROUPS

- Tuesday Junior Group (School Years 3, 4 and 5): 5.00 pm – 6.00 pm
- Tuesday Intermediate Group (School Years 6, 7 and 8): 6.05 pm – 7.35 pm
- Thursday Junior Group (School Years 3, 4 and 5): 5.00 pm – 6.00 pm
- Thursday Intermediate Group (School Years 6, 7 and 8): 6.05 pm – 7.35 pm
- Thursday Senior Group (School Years 9 – 11): 7.40 pm – 9.10 pm

COST

Juniors - £7.00 / session

Intermediates and Seniors - £9.00 per session

We also offer a 25% discount for siblings and supported places. The first session is FREE, so that children and young people can see if Growtheatre is for them.

CONTACT

Rachel Newman on 07745 465391 or rachel@growtheatre.org.uk

www.growtheatre.org.uk/youth-theatre/

Are you are looking for English or Mathematics tutoring for your child? If so, there's a new service just started up in Dore



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Mathematics

We cover arithmetic and reasoning using a variety of approaches: concrete, pictorial, or abstract. We teach using methods in line with local schools and support children taking the Y4 Multiplication Check and Y6 Mathematics SATs.

If your child needs support keeping up with English or Mathematics, or has additional needs, or you would like to provide your child with extra challenge, contact Charlotte and Amy for more information or to book a taster session. Sessions are based in the Old School on Savage Lane and are available Monday to Friday after 4:30 pm.

Telephone: Charlotte 07947 309996 or Amy 07495 490481

Website: thedoretutor.my.canva.site

Email: thedoretutor@gmail.com

Devonshire Arms car park



Many of you will have noticed that recently The Devonshire Arms car park has introduced a parking charge system. We'd like to take this opportunity to explain why we've been forced to take this action.

Firstly, we'd like to clarify that the car park is not, and has never been, a public car park. It is for the use of the customers of The Devonshire Arms. During the ten years

that we have been at The Devonshire, we have provided spaces for the use of the community and hopefully the community has appreciated this.

We have taken the decision to introduce this system after much consideration and for the following reasons:

- Our customers are often unable to park as it is full
- Our staff are unable to park and have to park in unsecured areas
- It costs a large amount of money to maintain the tarmac
- Approximately 95% of usage is not related to usage of The Devonshire Arms

So how does the system work now?

Well, upon entering the pub customers are able to enter their registration details onto a tablet on the bar. This will give you 24 hours free parking – plenty of time to have a drink, walk or take a taxi home and return the next day.

For those wishing to use the car park but not visit the pub then they must pay for the required time using an app that can be downloaded onto your phone – RingGo (sic). It's £1 per hour or £8 for 24 hours.

Thanks for your understanding.

David and Cath

Councillors' Surgeries

At Dore Old School on the second Saturday of each month, from 10.30am-12pm.

The surgeries at Tootley Library are on the second Monday of the month, from 6pm-7pm.

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Summer publication: May 16

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, e.g. jen.donnelly@dorevillage.co.uk

Committee Members:

Chair		
Jen Donnelly	262 1861	
Deputy Chair		
Caroline Davies	07764 169197	
Secretary		
vacant		
Treasurer		
Colin Robinson	0777 855 8555	
Cath Fallaize		
Planning		
Philip Howes	236 9156	
Membership		
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Dore to Door		
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Website/Social Media

Andrew Cameron

Environment

Margaret Peart

Neighbourhood Forum Steering Group

Christopher Pennell 235 1568

Community Activities

David Bardsley

More in Dore

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Notice Boards

Caroline Davies 07764 169197



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Letter

In Praise of Dore, a letter from a new resident

As a recent subscriber to *Dore to Door*, thanks to my daughter's family copy, I've been pleasantly absorbed in its engaging articles about Dore's history, events, and social life. This magazine has not only connected me with local happenings but also inspired me to reflect on how my experiences in Dore compare with life 'down south.'

In North Hertfordshire, where I previously lived, there's a palpable sense of detachment. People avoid eye contact, rushing past each other without a greeting, often too preoccupied with the grind of commuting to London. The pavement becomes the stage for silent exchanges—no smiles, no "good mornings".

Dore, however, is refreshingly different. Here, smiles are plentiful, whether exchanged with a stranger on the street or during a casual conversation about the weather, sport, or arts. In shops, the students from King Ecgbert School set a shining example of politeness. It's heartening to witness such warmth and community spirit.

As a sports enthusiast - hockey, tennis, squash, golf, and cricket run in the family - I often find myself watching matches or participating in bowls (both indoors and out). My creative pursuits are also well-received; winning a prize for a landscape drawing at the recent Dore Show was a delightful highlight.

Dore's charm lies in its people. Just recently, a smiling face in a store recognized me from tennis: "Ken - see you soon". On another occasion, while watching a squash match, a lady offered to buy me a pint - turns out she knew my daughter!

The warmth extends to everyday errands. A memorable moment occurred at the local fish and chip shop. When I ordered "Rock eel and chips," the reply came with a grin: "We don't have Rock eel up here. You'll have Cod". Delighted, I accepted, attempting a Yorkshire accent, dropping the 't' in "Deligh'ed."

Another endearing encounter happened at a café. Ordering chicken, bacon and mayonnaise baps, I found myself caught in a humorous exchange:

"Where are you from?" the server asked.

"Ware," I replied.

"No, where are you *from*?"

"Ware, in Hertfordshire!"

The surprise didn't end there. She revealed her aunt lived on Spring View Road in Ware - practically my old neighbourhood! On my next visit, she welcomed me with "The usual, luv?" adding with a cheeky grin, "You can have them if I get a ride in your MG Sports Car!" Her aunt had evidently shared a few stories.

That said, I've learned to tread carefully when discussing local football allegiances. A plumber working at my flat wasn't too pleased when I mentioned my support for Sheffield United. His curt response? "Never heard of them." Silence followed.

Despite such minor hiccups, Dore has quickly become home, thanks to its spirited, friendly community. Thank you, Dore, for welcoming me with open arms!

Ken Weeks

Totley History Group

Totley All Saints church retained the display we created for their November centenary celebrations to have as a point of interest for those visiting the church over Christmas.

If any group is looking at their history over past decades we might have items of interest in our archives. It's always worth visiting our website, by googling Totley History Group or contacting us on contactus@totleyhistorygroup.org.uk

Forthcoming meetings

Feb 26	Bugle Boy	Jonathan Jones
Mar 26	How the Blitz came to Sheffield	Andrew Beard
Apr 23	Packhorse Routes	Melanie Fitzgerald

All meetings are held in Totley Library at 7.30pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Everyone welcome.
Members £2 non members £3

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Lantern Parade 2024



Rain didn't stop play, although wet computer screens did cause a few problems.

The Lantern Parade 2024: what was promised by the weather forecast as a dry but windy night; with five minutes to go before the parade started the heavens opened.

Undaunted by the rain, the parade commenced led by the excellent and ever-enthusiastic Gemini Dance Group. What star performers these dancers are, lifting everyone's spirits with their enthusiasm and energetic dance routines. They proudly led the way getting the gathered crowds ready for an early sighting of Father Christmas on the back of his Santa Waggon.

Down through the village to the Christmas tree where Dore's very own Rowan Campbell Pilling, the 17-year-old motor racing star, led the countdown and turned the Christmas tree lights on.

With the rain still pouring and computer screen steaming up

there was a bit of a delay to reset everything so the lyrics for our Christmas carols could be displayed, but we eventually got there. Thank you to all who braved the weather and whose singing added to the magical night.

Thank you to all the Volunteers, Marshalls, Father Christmas, Santa's Waggon driver, Elves and shopkeepers who make the production of this Dore Village Society event possible.

Now in its eighteenth Year, the Dore Village Society Lantern Parade is the start of Christmas. See you all on Wednesday 3rd December 2025.

If you would like to help with next year's event, please contact the Lantern Parade organisers: David Hayes & Caroline Lazenby c/o Dore To Door.

David Hayes



Totley Library

Totley Library continues to go from strength to strength, largely due to our hard-working wonderful volunteers and certainly due to the ongoing support of the community. Our Christmas event was a huge success and in addition we had a significant will legacy donation so we have some exciting plans for 2025.

If you would like to be sent our monthly e-bulletin do sign up for it and we will be able to send you all the information about our new books, events and the cinema programme etc.

An appeal for help in Totley Library garden

The library garden has several areas to be maintained in order to keep it looking attractive.

Since the library became volunteer-run a decade ago, we have removed a large quantity of spikey Berberis, introduced a variety of flowering shrubs, perennials and bulbs and have made the task of general maintenance much more straightforward.

Over this 10-year period we had built up a good team of volunteer gardeners but, unfortunately, ill health, house moves and family commitments have recently reduced our numbers so we are needing a few more experienced gardeners to help with the general gardening tasks. This won't involve hedge or grass cutting as they are organized separately, but might include the need for watering at times of hot, dry weather. Obviously, different seasons require different amounts of time to be spent but it is only likely to be two or three hours per month, so not a huge commitment. We prefer to do our work when the library is closed but we are very flexible and can easily fit in around people's availability.



Ellie Maher was the very happy winner of the "Guess The Weight" of the handpainted Santa pebble.

We arrange our gardening sessions via a WhatsApp Group so volunteers can easily dip in and out as their free time allows and you don't need to be a member of the library.

If you feel that you can give us some help to maintain our lovely library garden then please contact us via totleylibrary@gmail.com or by calling in at the library to leave your contact details. Thank You.

New online service for Totley Loans (Orange Sticker books)

We are excited to introduce our new online service for our Orange Sticker books. You can now reserve books from your home by visiting our website www.totleycric.org.uk and using the "Our Books" tab at the top of the page. You can find out if the book is available to loan and you can reserve a book (place a hold for a book) online. You can also view your current checkouts, renew

your books, update your contact details and send us purchasing suggestions from your account.

In order to access this facility, when you are next in the library, please ask at the front desk to set up your password. You will then be able to login to your account using your library card number and your password. You can still reserve an Orange Sticker book at the library by email at totleylibrary@gmail.com or by phone 0114 236 3971.

When the book is available your reservation will be flagged up and the book placed on the Reader's Request Shelf. We cannot currently email you automatically to say that the book is available, but you will be emailed or phoned by a library volunteer.

Happy Reading!

Julie Kitlowski

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Making files in Dore & Totley

Beginnings

This is about tools called files – steel instruments with teeth, cutting edges for smoothing or rubbing away metal surfaces – and the people who made them. I came upon local filemakers by a strange route. In Dore churchyard is a remarkable gravestone: it's tiny and its inscription is laconic: 'S. WHITE, M. WHITE'. Coming up the path from the lychgate and nearing the tower you may spot it on the right. I investigated it for Dore's 'Adopt a Grave' scheme. Samuel White (1808-1893), married to Millicent (1817-1895), described himself as a filesmith in the 1841 census. The Whites lived somewhere at the top of Totley, specifically at Lane Head in 1851 and 1861.

Our basic sources for the edge-tool trades in the Sheffield area are the Cutlers' Company apprenticeship records from the 17th century to 1812 and the censuses from 1841. The former are not evidence of Dore and Totley filemaking but of our providing young recruits to the file trades in the Sheffield area. The earliest mention of this in connection with Dore was in 1684 when Henry Carnall was bound apprentice for the then usual eight years to James, a filesmith, and with Totley in 1692 when Thomas Dalton was apprenticed to Richard Carr. Local filemakers tended to be too humble to leave wills or later to figure in directories. They weren't all that many: about 115 apprentices and filesmiths between 1684 and 1911, disregarding the time gap between the two main sources. Between 1841 and 1871 they came a poor third in Dore (17) after scythemakers (75) and sawmakers (46). To compare the townships, far more Dore people figured as apprentices to the file trades in the 18th century, while Totley filemakers predominated heavily in the period of the censuses.

Filemakers

I use 'filemakers' as an umbrella term: across the period several different ones occurred in Dore and Totley. The term 'filesmith' was universal until 1800 when John Gray of Dore, a blacksmith's son, was apprenticed to a file grinder. Then in 1841 eight file cutters made their appearance, six in Totley and two in Dore. Until the 1960s former file cutters' shops survived at the Hillfoot Road end of Summer Lane. Chambers' Dictionary defines file cutter as a maker of files, but strictly it meant a very important stage in the filemaking process. 'Filemaker' and 'filesmith' continued to appear occasionally.

The 1871 census hints at something which had been going on unrecorded and the 1881 one appears to make this explicit. Walter Doves or Dawes, 12 in 1871, and Frederick, 10, of Barkers Row, are listed as file cutter's sons, not at school. They are family members of Charles Kilner, a file cutter, and his wife Selina, presumably a former widow. Ten years later one woman in Dore,



Barkers Row, Townhead Road

Elizabeth Hawley, and five in Totley were actually described as 'file cutter's wife' or in one case, Millicent White, as 'file forger's wife'. This seems to reflect the custom that filemakers' wives and their children, when old enough, helped out, maybe on the kitchen table. Family involvement in Dore and Totley is extremely likely, being usual elsewhere.

Filemaking

Let's have an outline of the entire filemaking process. The Hawley Collection at Kelham Island Museum issues useful guides on this. Steelworkers produced the raw material as rods (of crucible cast carbon steel from 1760, Siemens open-hearth steel a century later). The files were then forged either by a firm's employees or by outworkers at home or in their local workshops: the rod was heated and then cut or hammered over an anvil into the length and shape required. There were considerable variations in files for different purposes so forgers had their specialities. At this stage an emerging file was called a blank.

Sometimes the firm used an agent to deliver its blanks to village file cutters, sometimes the cutters themselves or their lads collected them by donkey and panniers or horse and cart. Their workshops were usually single-storey lean-tos with wide windows. They 'tanged' each blank (cut two shoulders near one end and drew that end bit out to form a handle). Then they annealed it (softened it so that teeth could be cut), ground it to make the surfaces smooth and 'stripped' it by rubbing it crosswise with another blank to make it really flat.

The actual process of cutting followed. The cutters used hammers and triangular chisels of different sizes to form the teeth and 'stiddies' (anvils fitted with leather stirrups) to keep the blanks steady on a bed of lead. Samuel White never described himself as a cutter and yet he took on an apprentice who was to become one; this suggests that he could put his hand to these other processes. The end of each file was then cropped (removed by a guillotine) and ground to form a smooth bevel. The tang opposite the bevelled end was trade-marked by hammer and punch.

At about this point the hand-cut files were returned to the factories. They were then hardened – a paste was applied to prevent the molten lead into which they were plunged from sticking to the teeth – and tempered, the red-hot metal being quenched in brine. Scouring (brushing off the paste), proving (checking for faults), oiling and packing completed the work.

How Things Changed

We don't know if any of our file cutters were working in a factory or 'wheel' at the time of the Sheffield Outrages, though others were. One filemakers' union enrolled file forgers and cutters and another grinders and hardeners. We do know that Sheffield saw resistance to file forging and cutting by machines, which started about 1870. The mechanisation of file cutting in factory shops may have been the reason for Henry Thorpe of Townhead giving up his trade by 1881 and becoming a labourer on the roads, a come-down for a skilled worker. Later, local men – Frank and John Hague and George Tyson of Totley in 1901, Ernest Denton of Greenwood Mount and Frederick Pearson of Abbeydale Park Cottage in 1911 – were certainly employed as machine file cutters. Meanwhile the last handworkers recorded in the file trades in Dore were George Lowe of Whitelow, file forger, in 1891 and in Totley Albert Green of Baslow Road, filesmith, in 1911.

Finally, social change in Dore and Totley was to reflect the villages' representation in the file industry. It was presaged in 1881 when Samuel Duncan at the Cricket Inn styled himself as file manufacturer as well as victualler. The railway station was the catalyst that changed Dore into a budding suburb by encouraging housing development which attracted entrepreneurs. By 1891 men calling themselves file manufacturers had come to live in Dore Road. Thus, our local story of filemaking was ending at one level but beginning at another.

John Dunstan



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Gordon Fletcher (1930-2025)



Gordon Fletcher, long-serving former caretaker of King Egbert School, passed away on 14 January 2025 aged 94 years.

Gordon was caretaker of the old Mercia (Upper School) site on Furniss Avenue from 1972 to 1993. During that time, Gordon, his wife Maureen and children David, Stephen and Alison lived in the house on the school site. Whilst the school playing fields remain, the school and house were demolished to make way for the new Saxon Avenue housing development.

All Gordon's children attended Dore Primary School and then King

Egbert School. David, the eldest son, still lives in Dore village. In fact, even before moving to Dore from Dronfield, Gordon had a family connection to the village – as a child, one of his aunties lived in a cottage opposite the Devonshire Arms.

Gordon became a key member of the school community, a familiar face to staff and pupils alike, even playing for the teachers' cricket team, captained by English Teacher Ian Rouse. In his spare time, he tended one of the allotments at King's Croft, at that time the sixth form centre for King Egbert School.

In maintaining the school premises, Gordon was known for maintaining high standards and for going above and beyond his job description, often applying his joinery skills in repairing doors and windows using timber 'borrowed' from the woodwork teachers!

From 1972 onwards, Gordon and his family were active members of Trolley Rise Methodist Church. Gordon was actively involved in supporting Scouts when he lived in Dronfield, and continued this when he moved to Dore, later also helping out with Boys Brigade.

Gordon's loves included sport (as well as cricket, he followed in the family tradition of supporting Sheffield United), art and history.

Gordon retired in 1993 and moved with Maureen to Green Oak Avenue in Trolley. In his retirement, Maureen and Gordon enjoyed travelling, with destinations including Bahrain and New Zealand where their daughter Alison and her husband Bryan were living at the time.



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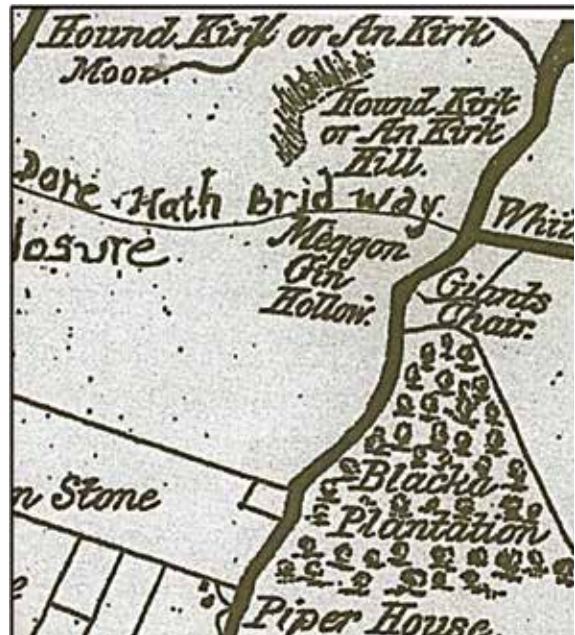
From all members of DART we wish you a very Happy New Year – albeit a little late. Did you enjoy the Christmas and New Year pieces we put onto our blog? If you haven't discovered our special DART blog site it is not too late to discover how Christmas was celebrated in Dore during World War Two followed by the arrival at New Year of 'Poor Old Horse'. The blog site is <https://dorewasinderbyshire.blogspot.com/> or to be very up to date just scan the QR code below.



Meanwhile the team has been accumulating more items for the Heritage Collection including documents going back to the 1700s relating to a local farm. We deal with a lot of requests for information about people who are or were connected to the village. Less often do we get requests for information about places. So we would like to share this puzzle with you.

Where is the Giant's Chair?

At the moment we have tracked down a map from the early 1800s and reprinted in a book by Sidney Oldall Addy in 1888. To quote from his book (which is a rich and colourful source of all things to do with our area – and available online) he states:



'Before we reach the Han Kirk Hill (Houndkirk) the road (A625 Hathersage Road) makes a sharp bend, and we cross a deep and weird valley, which lies at the foot of this hill, and is called Meggon-gin hollow. Below and on the other side is the Giant's Chair.'

So here is the map he included in this section of his book. It is recorded as a Standing Stone but where oh where has it vanished to? The modern road has cut off and straightened the sharp bend at what we now call Meg and Gin Hollow, in itself an interesting and sad story of two sisters who lost their way in a snowy blizzard and froze to death at this spot. Did the Giant's Chair get removed at the time of the road straightening? Or does it lie further into Blackbush Plantation?

If you have any ideas please do get in touch. The DART team meet most Monday mornings in the DVS Rooms at Dore Old School or you can contact Dorne Coggins at dornecoggins@gmail.com about the Giant's Chair or indeed any other research or information you would like to share.

Dorne Coggins



Pictured above: Directors Matthew and Amy Staves collecting this year's awards

Award Winners!

The results for the Best Estate Agent awards have now been announced for 2024, and we are thrilled to announce that Staves has been recognised as one of the top estate agents in the country for both sales and lettings and feature in the Best Estate Agent Guide website - www.bestestateagentguide.co.uk

There are circa 20,000 estate agents in the country and Staves were among this year's DOUBLE GOLD award winners for both Sales and Lettings putting us in the top 2% of estate agents in the country. Over 3 billion data points were analysed and 20,000 mystery shops carried out in the search of this year's top performers—the biggest assessment of any industry.

The awards are completely independent and are based on property marketing, results and customer service, which consumers consider to be among the most important criteria when selecting which agent to sell their property.

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Club News

We're off to a new gardening year with some significant changes at the Club. At the end of last year our Club Chair, Carol Whitehead, stepped down after six years at the helm. Unfortunately, we could not give her the farewell she deserved at our AGM as she was temporarily unwell and could not be there. For some of her tenure, Carol also produced the minutes as well as chairing the meeting. Prior to becoming

Chair, she co-ordinated our speakers for several years, quite an onerous job, always producing varied and interesting programmes. Although Carol has decided to leave our Committee, she still organises the Dore Tuesday Group. A huge thank you from the Garden Club Committee and Club members for your enthusiasm and dedication over many years.

It is fair to say we had been a little concerned about the future of the Club due to various vacant roles on the Committee. However, Janet Hewitt, already Treasurer, has kindly agreed to take over as Chair for 2025. This is in addition to the very active part she plays in the Townswomen's Guild. David Bardsley came to our rescue at the end of last year, stepping into the long vacant role of Secretary and has quickly established himself. Wilma Freeston and Christine Turney came along to observe a Committee meeting and by the end of it we were delighted to welcome them as new members. Christine will be working alongside Jean Dykes to produce the 2026 programme of speakers.

Spring Events

Sheffield Orchid Society Orchid Show and Exotic Plant Fair is on Saturday 1st March from 10am until 4pm in St John's Church Hall, Abbeydale Road South. Six different orchid societies from the Midlands and the North of England will be displaying the best of their growers' plants. There will also be a range of vendors selling orchids, cacti and air plants. Entrance £5.

Wed 19 March: Gardening for Year-Round Interest by Jayne Conquest

The subject of Jayne's talk is quite hard to achieve in practice. Therefore, many of us will benefit from Jayne's expertise at the start of the gardening year, a good a time as any to start planning for year-round interest.

Jayne's interest in gardening started at 16 with a Saturday job in a garden centre. A degree in Horticulture followed. After a spell propagating plants for sale at local markets as well as working



Photo Courtesy of Jayne Conquest

as a gardener, Jane went back to college and did a Certificate in Garden Design. As one of her course projects she designed a courtyard garden which was submitted to Chelsea Flower Show and was awarded a coveted Silver Gilt Medal. For the last 20 years she has taught RHS Level 2 course. Since finishing teaching, she has opened her Matlock garden for the National Gardens' Scheme (NGS) (the yellow book). Her first 2025 Open Garden event is on 20 April. Jayne is once again propagating and selling her plants and hopes to bring a selection to sell.

Wed 16 April: Why Alpines? by Mark Padgett



Photo Courtesy of Mark Padgett

Mark and his wife own Skerne Alpines Nursery where they raise and sell a range of rockery plants, specialising in alpines. Alpines are those almost miniature-like plants often brightly coloured such as sedums and campanulas. They are frequently displayed in troughs as the photograph illustrates. Skerne Alpines offer a curated collection of high-quality, low-maintenance alpines that have won prestigious RHS awards from their nursery in Driffield. With two decades of experience in cultivating alpines, they will provide us with expert advice and guidance on succeeding with them.

Wed 21 May: Bees, Wasps & Ants by Graham Appleby

After a short spell in the Royal Navy after school, Graham worked for BT and Openreach for 40 years. He now uses these skills to give talks about his interests which include being a musician and songwriter, currently task team leader of the local Rivelin Valley Conservation Group and beekeeping. He is also an allotment holder and spends many happy hours gardening.

Graham will talk about the extraordinary lives of bees, ants and wasps, their common ancestry, biology and behaviour. He may bring honey to sample and to buy as well as other beeswax products.

Where and When?

Dore Garden Club meets on the third Wednesday of the month in the Methodist Church Hall in the village. Doors open at 7.10pm for a 7.30 start. Membership fees (still only £18), which cover eight events, are due in March. Payment in cash or by cheque is preferred, cheques made out to Dore Garden Club. Sorry, we cannot handle card payments. Please arrive a little earlier than usual, ideally with your cheque already made out, as we anticipate there will be a queue (indoors!). Visitors are always welcome, and entrance is only £4 payable on the evening. Some speakers bring a great selection of plants to sell. In addition, we encourage members and visitors to bring along any unwanted house or other plants to sell on our plant table. The proceeds are split equally between the Club and the grower.

One of the benefits of membership is 10% off all products at Dore Moor Nursery on production of a 2025 membership card. Thank you to the team at Dore Moor for continuing to so readily agreeing provide this special discount.

Pauline Drissell

At the time of writing Dore is slowly recovering from major snowfall and bitterly cold temperatures. The city's fleet of gritters have been doing an amazing job under very difficult conditions to keep Sheffield moving. A question we are often asked is how the city prioritises the routes that are kept clear. The main arterial routes such as Abbeydale & Ecclesall Roads are done first, followed by bus routes, link roads, and streets where key public facilities are located. The city also has more than 2,200 grit bins that are located on other routes and some side roads. There is an interactive map on the Council's website that can help you locate the nearest one, plus details on how to report an empty or damaged bin.

This winter has also seen the first operations of the city's fleet of gritters under their new names, following a public competition. The winning names were picked from hundreds of entries, honouring the places and people of Sheffield, including local sportspeople Jessica Ennis-Chill and Snow Root. Joe (the Councillor) was one of the competition judges and was delighted to see that a pupil at Bradway Primary had a winning entry with 'Steel Gritty'.

Waste collection in our area was also hit by the bad weather, as the main snowfall landed on the evening before bin day in Dore & Totley. As a matter of routine, the number of bins collected on any one day is reported to the Council by Veolia and they use this information to target extra resources on clearing any backlog as quickly as possible.

On a related topic, at the time of writing the Unite strike at Veolia is still ongoing and has primarily impacted on green bin collections over the summer and local recycling centres. Unite have been striking in demand of recognition alongside GMB who currently have an exclusive recognition agreement, and they have subsequently added grievances over pay and some dismissals. This is a dispute between Unite and Veolia. The council is not a party to it, though we have a contract with Veolia for waste management that we expect them to deliver in full. It is a great frustration to

us that the strike has dragged on for so long, and that offers of mediation including one from the TUC have failed to resolve it. The council budget continues to be under great pressure. While the final funding settlement from central Government was unknown at the time of writing, it seems unlikely that the council will be fully funded for the recent increase in employers' national insurance contributions, either for council employees or for NI costs passed on by contractors such as care providers. The latter point is a key issue for the care sector which was already under huge financial pressure before the Budget. Elsewhere the current Council budget is experiencing great difficulty with overspends of £9.5 million in Adult Health and Social Care, £6.5 million in home to school transport for children with special needs, and £13.1 million in homelessness support, all due to increased demands on the services. Your local Councillors sit on a number of committees in the Town Hall and we are working with budget managers to hold them to account for developing improvements. On a more positive note, a small grant fund for local projects is still open. Amongst other items we have agreed grants to help towards roof repairs at Totley Library and a replacement battery for their defibrillator. We have also agreed to fund a thermal imaging camera that can be lent out so that people can see where their homes are losing heat and help them save money on fuel bills. More details on that initiative will follow shortly. As ever please feel free to contact us with any questions or feedback about Council services or come and meet us at one of our regular surgeries. These are held at on the second Monday of the month at 6pm in Totley Library, and the second Saturday of the month at 10.30am in Dore Old School.

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Second consultation to open on Older Person's Housing Strategy

Residents will be asked to have their say on a new five-year strategy that will enable older people to live independently later in life. The draft strategy has already passed through one round of consultation, and further views are being sought on shaping this before it is then approved by the Council's Housing Committee. This second consultation went live earlier in February.

In this country, older age is often considered to be 65 and above, but providers of housing for older people set differing ranges, some starting at 50 years old. We recognise that older people are not one group and people biologically age at different rates. This strategy is aimed at tackling the issues that might affect all people as they get older to improve the housing choices that will be available to them, enabling them to live independently at home for longer.

There are estimated to be around 100,000 people aged 65 or older in Sheffield. Their contribution to the city is invaluable. Of those 100,000 older people, some 11,000 provide at least 19 hours of unpaid care a week, and more than 8,000 are in employment.

Sheffield has a growing and increasingly diverse older population. Between this year and 2040, the number of people aged 65 and over is expected to increase by 21%, and by 26% for people aged 85 and above.

There are related health considerations to plan for. Most people would prefer to live independently in their own home for as long as possible, but to make this a reality health, care and housing services need to be better integrated.

Meeting older people's needs will require an increase in accessible and adaptable mainstream homes, including those that are designed for multi-generational living. This also requires more specialist housing providing varying levels of support and/or care. It is estimated the number of properties available to rent is below where it should be and part of this strategy will look at addressing that shortfall.

The draft strategy builds on the progress made by the Older People's Independent Living (OPIL) Housing Strategy that was in place between 2017 and 2022. It will address some of the previous strategy's objectives and will see the Council working collaboratively with our partners, communities and residents. The scope of the strategy covers three main areas:

- Mainstream age-friendly housing
- Specialist older people's housing for independent living
- Housing support for all that enables people in later life to live well in their home

The draft strategy has been developed via a cross-sector steering group which includes people with lived experience such as volunteers from organisations such as Sheffield Age UK and Sheffield 50 plus, and officers from the Council's Housing, Adult Social Care, Planning and Public Health Intelligence teams. That partnership working is essential if the ambitions of the strategy are to be realised.

The outcome of this second round of consultation will be presented back to the Housing Committee this summer where a final policy will be debated by the committee for approval.

To read the report brought to Housing Committee today (Thursday 23rd January), head to the Sheffield City Council website.

To sign up to take part in Sheffield City Council surveys and consultations, head to the Have Your Say Sheffield website.

South Pennine Group of the Hardy Plant Society

On Saturday 17th May The South Pennine Group of the Hardy Plant Society will be holding a Spring plant sale at Sheffield Botanical Gardens (Thompson Road entrance) from 11.00 to 15.00 and on Sunday 18th May from 11.00-14.00.

From our Member of Parliament

Happy New Year! I hope you have all had a wonderful festive season. As we step into 2025, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the past few weeks and share some updates with you.

First and foremost, a huge thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas fundraiser for Roundabout, South Yorkshire's youth homelessness charity. Roundabout is dedicated to ending youth homelessness by providing a safe place to live and tailored support that helps young people achieve independence and break the cycle of homelessness. Since 1977, they have transformed thousands of lives and now support over 380 young people aged 16-25 every single day. Thanks to your generosity, we raised an incredible £553.30, along with an additional £122.50 in Gift Aid. Your contributions will make a tangible difference in the lives of vulnerable young people across our community.



Over the past few weeks, I have had the pleasure of meeting with a range of community and parliamentary engagements. I visited the local Scouts, where we discussed public service and the importance of community engagement. Christmas remains the busiest time for Royal Mail and it was great to visit the Sheffield West Delivery Office to hear about the postal workers' operation. I also supported the parliamentary campaign to introduce universal screening for prostate cancer, advocating for accessible services and information for all men. This is a vital step forward in ensuring early detection and better outcomes for those who may be affected.

As a member of the Environmental Audit Committee, we have launched an inquiry into the environmental and climate impacts of the Government's ambitious target to build 1.5 million homes over the next five years. This inquiry will focus on crucial issues such as environmental protection, active travel, reducing embodied carbon, and strengthening local nature recovery networks. It is essential that we work towards sustainable development that not only addresses the housing crisis but also protects our planet for future generations.



Looking ahead, I am optimistic about what we can achieve together in 2025. I'm committed to listening to your concerns and working tirelessly to ensure Dore remains a wonderful place to live. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to connecting with many of you in the months ahead. As ever, please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is anything I can assist you with.

Warm regards,

Olivia Blake MP
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Ladybower Reservoir from Bamford Edge

Dennis Knoll, Stanage Edge, Bamford Edge

This is an easy walk with splendid views that change all along the route.

Suitable at all times of the year except for very windy conditions or bad weather. Some parts can be muddy after wet weather.

Distance: 10.5 km / 6.5 miles.

Time: 3 hours plus time to stop for refreshments and look at the views.

There are no toilets on this route.

The walk commences at the Dennis Knoll pay and display car park beneath Stanage Edge (Grid Ref SK 22707 84381). If this is full there are several off-road alternatives close by.

From the car park walk up the well-defined track towards the edge. This is part of an ancient packhorse route that led from Hathersage to Sheffield and was known as Long Causeway or Long Causey. It was in use from pre-Roman times up until the late 18th century and was used to transport a variety of goods including salt and hogsheads of treacle. Read more at en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long_Causeway.

As the track ascends it curves to the right and the view starts to change so it's worth pausing occasionally to look at this. Shortly before reaching the edge take the path that's a hairpin turn to the left and go over a stile. The path from here runs beneath the edge and is quite well defined. As you progress you will see a number of features appearing slightly to the left and then also ahead. The first of these is the top of Win Hill, followed by Mam Tor, Lose Hill, the Kinder plateau, Derwent Edge and a small patch of Ladybower reservoir.

After about 2 km / 1.25 miles turn left at the intersection of a path that descends from the edge at grid ref SK 2244 8622 and follow this down to a track running just above Jarvis Clough. Turn left and follow this down and around across the stream and uphill until it levels out and splits. Take the right fork and continue to the next split and fork right again, walking past some grouse butts. The

track becomes a little indistinct for a short stretch but then becomes clear again and takes you to a stone wall. Turn left here and follow the wall to a rocky outcrop marked as Pillars on the map. This is a good spot for coffee and enjoying the views over Ladybower.

Shortly after the Pillars the track splits again. The right-hand path descends to a stream and then rises up the hillside opposite but the approach to the stream is steep and the crossing is awkward so it's easier to take the left-hand path that follows the contours of the hillside in a sweeping arc. Continue on this path until you get to Bamford Edge then walk along the edge for about one mile / 1.5 km, keeping to the top of the edge and ignoring tracks that lead down to the road until you get to a distinct fork just as the ridge ends. Both routes lead down to a gate and stile and onto the road, the left fork is a slightly easier descent curving round a disused quarry along an easy path.

Turn left along the road and walk downhill, round a curve to the right and then uphill until you come to a footpath on the right. Cross the stile and follow the path until you reach another road, turn left and continue until you get back to the car park.





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Burbage Edge

This is a pleasant and easy stroll along part of Burbage Edge, with views of Carl Wark and Higger Tor, and back along Burbage valley. Much of the walk is exposed so best walked in fine, dry weather. The first half will be muddy in parts after rain and it's also uneven in places and on the descent from the Edge.

Distance: 2.5 miles.

Time: 1.5 hours (including time for views and photographs).

Food and toilets near the beginning and end of the route at Fox House and at Longshaw cafe.

The walk commences at the pay and display car park at Longshaw or from the Fox House car park if you are intending to call in for refreshments at the end of the walk.



From Longshaw car park

At the top end of the car park take a path that runs towards Fox House parallel to the road and emerges through a gate (or over a pile of rubble depending on how recently a car has gone through the wall on the bend in the road; a frequent occurrence which happens several times a year when drivers fail to slow down sufficiently to take the bend safely). Go through the gate, cross the road with caution and proceed uphill past Fox House and along the road for about 500 yards to a stile on your left.

From Fox house car park

Exit the car park at the top right hand corner and walk up the road to the stile.

Cross the stile and follow the path for just over half a mile until you join a wider path. Follow this along the edge until you descend to a crossing point. Turn left here, descend to the path that runs along the valley, turn left again and continue until you reach the main road. Cross with care and enter Longshaw through a gate opposite. Then go back in the direction of Fox House to a road. Cross here and walk down to Longshaw Lodge. At this point you can continue to the café, explore Longshaw further or turn left uphill back to the car park or Fox House.

Wyvern Walks by Keith Shaw

Photo foreground: Carl Wark, background: Higger Tor

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This article is the first in a series introducing the members of the DVS committee where they can describe their roles and explain what they do and why they joined the committee. It's also an opportunity to let you know more about the range of activities the DVS undertakes or supports.

To start with meet Jen Donnelly, Chair of DVS, and Christopher Pennell, Chair of the Dore Neighbourhood Forum.



Jen Donnelly

I have lived in Sheffield all my life, growing up in Nether Edge and attending Clifford First School, Hunters Bar and then High Storr's. After finishing school, I worked for the glass industry science laboratory in Chapeltown.

We moved to Dore when our children were very small. I spent six years in Dore Primary School's parents' association, most of those as secretary. When my boys left there I was looking for a new challenge, so after attending a public meeting, I joined the Dore Neighbourhood Forum steering group in 2015. This group was the driving force behind the now adopted Dore Neighbourhood Plan – a planning document that Sheffield Council have to consider when granting planning applications. It has also allowed access to funding for various projects around the village through the Community Infrastructure Levy.

In 2018 I was persuaded to join the DVS committee. I was treasurer of the Society from February 2020 to June 2021, at which point I took over as Chair. I have also been involved in the Dore Show and Dore Gala for many years.

As well as chairing our monthly committee meeting and the AGM, my role includes leading the development of the Society, supporting other committee members in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities, and ensuring a smooth handover as and when committee members relinquish their roles. I also take the lead in maintaining relationships with bodies such as the Ward Councillors, the City Council, our landlord, and others, responding to general enquiries from the public, either directly or by referral to the appropriate committee member, liaising with the secretary to agree meeting agendas, collaborating with the treasurer producing the Trustees' Report in preparation for the AGM, and a variety of other miscellaneous actions.

I believe that spending time volunteering, whether that be in the local community, scouts and guides, for a local charity or even joining a litter picking group is beneficial to the mind and the soul, giving us the chance to meet new people and appreciate what we have.



Christopher Pennell

I left Oxford University with a Law degree and joined the National Coal Board in 1968 where I rose through the ranks (including a few years as PPS to the Chairman) to lead all the industry's provisioning activities (then a £1.3bn spend p.a.). I was exposed to and even involved in many of the dramas of life in coal-mining from national strikes to colliery disasters but learned how to manage in a rough, tough, vital industry. Before leaving I was asked to lead the coal privatisation project, working with merchant bankers, corporate lawyers and civil servants. Then totally switched career to become a National Trust Regional Director covering several stately homes, historic collections and 40,000 acres of land including, locally, Hardwick Hall, Kedleston Hall, Clumber Park and Longshaw. I am particularly proud of leading the acquisition and presentation of The Workhouse as a new initiative for the National Trust portraying an important alternative perspective on our history.

Then I became a part-time board member of English Nature, of Natural England and of the Peak District National Park Authority and Chair of the East Midlands Heritage Lottery Fund Committee. In 2014 I received an MBE for services to Heritage.

Finally several years as Chair of the Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust, some time as a CPRE trustee and latterly a Trustee of Dore Village Society, where I led the preparation of the Dore Neighbourhood Plan and am now leading the drafting of a Green Infrastructure Strategy for Dore's Green Belt. I enjoy using my experience – both the business and management efficiency of my earlier career but also the commitment to landscapes and countryside of my later career and retirement – to volunteer in charity work. I was particularly inspired by my time in the HLF working with dedicated voluntary groups to make substantial contributions to their heritage. I retain a firm belief that communities greatly benefit from voluntary work as do the workers themselves, just as I have contributing voluntarily to the community I have lived in for over thirty years.

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Racing to Success



Dore resident and aspiring Formula 1 racing star Rowan Campbell-Pilling is gearing up as he continues his journey towards his motorsport dream. Whilst most 18-year-olds are busy socialising with friends and getting ready for university, one Dore resident is forging his own unique path and demonstrating strict dedication far beyond his age.

Last year, Rowan made his debut in the ROKiT Formula 4 (or F4 as it is known) British Championship. F4 is a category of motor racing established and regulated by the FIA (the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile), the governing body of motor sports, to offer young racing drivers around the world the opportunity to make the move from karting to the world of single-seater racing.

Competing in both the Daniel Ricciardo Series (DRS) and iame x30 classes, Rowan was crowned champion in 2021 in DRS and won more titles across the iame x30 championships in junior classes. In senior karting, he took wins in both categories before moving on to his debut year in single seaters in 2024.

Now, as part of the Motorsport UK Academy, Rowan is gearing up for his second season in F4 after a stellar first season. With a rollercoaster of 30 races across 10 different tracks and racing alongside 33 other drivers from across the globe, Rowan brought home 21 trophies and a Pirelli Hardest Charger Award. He ended the season within the top 10, only one of three rookies to do so, and placed third overall in the Rookie Cup. Taking on board everything he's learnt Rowan aims to take the title in 2025. Ahead of this he talked to Dore to Door about his journey so far and his aspirations for the future.



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Q: What got you into racing?

A: "It's great to live in Dore, so close to the Peak District and a super community. As a family, growing up, we were always outside. At only two years old, I had a go on an electric trial bike and I loved it and we spent hours and hours riding around the fields. These are really fond memories and many people in the village often remember me on my trials bikes. I then progressed on to four wheels and we started karting, travelling all over the country most weekends, again fond memories, particularly when we won and brought lots of trophies home. I was lucky enough to win many races and championships and that success led me to want to win more and more."

Q: What was your biggest achievement in karting?

A: "It's hard to pick just one. Last year, ultimately, means a lot to me. Getting to experience the F4 championship for the first time has been incredible and to win 21 trophies, in what essentially we're calling my learning year, was insane."

"But, having said that, winning the Daniel Ricciardo Series in 2021 is something I'll always keep with me. I was just 14, making me the youngest ever winner of the series. That's something I'm really proud of, plus that hard work is one of the reasons I'm where I am now."

Q: How has karting prepared you for the jump to single seater racing and your career in F4 now?

A: "Karting gives you the fundamentals of racing. You learn so many skills which translate into your race craft. You cannot get into an F4 car without karting really, it's the route everyone takes to get to the top."

Q: What made you want to go into the ROKiT British F4 certified by the FIA championship last year?

A: "It was natural progression from karting to go to cars and single seaters and is the route to Formula 1 so it made sense that after being in senior karting, to test both F4 and GB4 to learn as much as possible so that when I finished my GCSE's I would be ready to progress to F4."

Q: What are your aims for this season of ROKiT British F4?

A: "The ultimate goal for last season was to learn, learn, and learn. Despite testing in F4 before, driving in the championship and learning as much as possible from the process was super important. With my second season I'm aiming to take the title and build on everything we learnt and achieved as a team last year."

Q: What are your aims going forward?

A: "My ambition has been for a long time to get to the top of F1. Now that I'm in F4 I can see those dreams of mine have real potential. We're going to keep working hard, especially for this next season of F4, and keep on pushing forward."

Q: What about school?

A: "I'm still attending my Sixth Form lessons and studying for my A-Levels locally. I'm a very practical person so I'm taking Design and Technology and Art at the moment. It was always important to me, and of course my parents, to make sure I had my education in place before anything else."

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: "As an F4 driver, racing pretty much takes over. When I'm not on track, I'm either thinking about it or training for it. Therefore, I'm usually at the gym, but I also like to play a few rounds of golf with my brother in my spare time."

"Growing up I also took part in Beavers,

Cubs, Scouts, and the Explorer Groups here in Dore. I took great pleasure in getting involved, earning my badges and being a part of the community. I've helped as a young leader and I'm a familiar face around the village."

"A lot of my skills, from taking part in these clubs, really help me today as I build my career in motor sport, and get involved with charities, businesses and other groups, both here in Dore and in the rest of Sheffield."

Q: What charity work do you do?

A: "I'm an ambassador and Children's Champion for The Children's Hospital Charity. I was born in Jessops Hospital and was then admitted, at only two months old, for a serious chest infection into Sheffield Children's Hospital. My family and I know how important their care and support are so being able to support them with fundraising and awareness means a lot."

"In 2023, I raised almost £10,000 for the Interithe charity through an abseil, a fitness challenge, sponsoring, karting coaching, and running fundraising events with my F4 car and simulator. Since then, I've raised another £15,000, taking our total to an incredible £25,000."

"I can't thank everyone who helped raise this money enough. At the end of last year I got to visit the hospital and was given a tour of the facilities. The highlight of my visit was seeing the interactive playground."

"I learnt about how the space is used and which toys are chosen to stimulate children and prepare them for their procedures, removing the fear factor from what would otherwise be quite daunting operations."

"As an ambassador for the charity, it's important for me to understand the work that takes place at the hospital and the real life changes they make to children's lives. Being able to see the work in practice was remarkable and being able to raise funds towards this crucial work means a lot."

Q: What team are you racing with this year?

A: "Watch this space."

Interview by David Hayes



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Winter is a time in archaeology when thoughts turn to more indoor activities so The Time Travellers has a full programme of talks lined up. These can be seen on our website: www.thetimetravellers.org.uk But it is also a time to reflect on some of the finds unearthed during our summer digs. There is nothing so peculiar as this one. We unearth amongst midden finds many small balls curiously similar to marbles. If you are not familiar with their actual origin you can be excused for thinking that is exactly what they are – childhood games.



However, what you have found is part of an extraordinary invention: the Codd bottle. So, a little more about this curious artefact which can occasionally still be found intact.

Sometimes called a globe stopper, the Codd bottle was invented by Hiram Codd in 1872.

Hiram was born in Suffolk in 1838 before moving to London to work as an engineer. His ingenious invention revolutionised the storage and transport of soft carbonated or fizzy drinks. The bottle was filled upside down under gas pressure which pushed the marble against a rubber washer in the pinched neck. This created a seal. The bottle itself is substantial and weighty to withstand the use of gas pressure against it. More astonishing is Hiram Codd's bottle design was the first example of recycling because the bottle could be returned and reused. The first bottle exchange was in 1880 in London and then the facility spread all round the country.

In 1873 Hiram and a partner, Ben Ryland, had

set up a bottle manufacturing plant – the Hope Glass Works – in Barnsley. The bottle in the photograph came from this Works and had been sold on to Brownson & Co, of Eccles, who used the bottles for Mineral Water. Hiram released the patent in 1874 with the stipulation that the marbles, rubber seals and the groove tool to release the gas pressure had to be bought from him under licence. These were all made at the Hope Works.



Now for the clever bit. To open the bottles and release the soft drink the groove tool or 'walloper' was needed.

The wooden walloper was placed over the neck of the bottle and... walloped. Now we say 'codswallop' meaning rubbish or nonsense but back then it had an entirely different meaning. The bottles are still produced in India and widely used in Japan.

And the marbles? Too many naughty boys cracking open the bottles to retrieve the marble means that intact original Codd bottles are nowadays very rare.

To find out more about The Time Travellers you can get in touch via Dorne Coggins (Secretary) at dornecoggins@gmail.com

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“To be or not to be” – A Village or a Suburb?

“For this Hamlet, Dore, of scarce 300 souls, hath grown unto a Village, forsooth, indeed unto a Suburb, in Yorkshire, not in Derbyshire.”

Dore Comes Of Age

The large hamlet or small village of Dore remained for centuries a modest isolated farming community surrounded in all directions by fields until one reached the natural boundaries of a massive ancient wood to its East and the rising slopes of Blacka Moor, Brown Edge and Houndkirk to the West, with the deeply incised and wooded Limb Brook Valley to the North-East and the Old Hay Brook, Totley Brook and the River Sheaf to the South-West. Sure the village developed new trades and skills as it moved from agriculture to the industrial revolution – home-based toolmaking, small-scale mill-working, even mining and quarrying; but it was not until the 20th century that the population took off (rising towards 7,000) and houses were built on all the fields up from Abbeydale.

Yet still it calls itself a ‘village’! Why? Perhaps because it still feels somewhat cut off from central Sheffield – as it was civically until 1934 – caught physically between a National Park and Ecclesall Woods and the Hathersage Road and Abbeydale Road South. It has ameliorated its growing size by still valuing the countryside surrounding it on three sides and by growing together as a community, knitted together by community-scale groups – its church and chapel communities, its local schools and their activities, in its enterprising village centre businesses, and in a host of interest groups - from gardening to singing to historical research to bird-watching and scouting. There is a calendar of well-supported ‘village activities’ – the Annual Dore Festival and Gala Day, the Dore Village Show, the Well-dressing, the Party on the Green, the Remembrance Day Parade, the spectacular but safe Bonfire and Fireworks Display and the pre-Christmas Lantern Parade. Underlying it all is a strong tradition of community volunteering, whether it is creating new public gardens, picking up litter, organising old peoples’ lunches, or even demonstrating in support of, and surrounding, threatened street trees.

Dore Village Society and Dore Neighbourhood Forum

Dore can proudly call itself a community, almost defying its current size; but its community instinct is particularly demonstrated in its commitment to neighbourhood planning. For 61 years Dore Village Society has organised activities in Dore and deliberately spawned or financed satellite groups to carry out work at arms length, investing in the zeal of others to foster community interests, such as the Dore Show Committee, More in Dore and Archives and Heritage. In October 2014 a significant further step was taken when the entire membership of the DVS was declared a Neighbourhood Forum under the 2011 Localism Act by the City Council and the Peak District National Park Authority. That significant step opened up a major new possibility for Dore – that it could, through the work of the Dore Neighbourhood Forum Steering Group and the community at large, prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for Dore. To this day Dore remains one of only two communities in Sheffield to have succeeded in taking a Neighbourhood Plan to Adoption, covering the years 2019 to 2035.

Given that organisational space between the DVS and the Forum Steering Group, Dore, through the latter, could become a development planning body, and the first fruit of that was to secure a Neighbourhood Plan which plays a part in how Dore may in the future be developed. Now I am able to report on two further significant fruits of that change.



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Green Infrastructure Strategy

The Neighbourhood Plan could only make pronouncements on development planning policy within the constraints of laid down planning processes. The Neighbourhood Forum collected and supported aspirations outside these constraints which could benefit the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the Dore community, and it had the foresight to set these out in two Annexes to the Neighbourhood Plan. One of these aspirations has already been met, at least within the limitations which budgets allowed, namely (DN Proposal 12): "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". However, the first aspiration (DN Proposal 1) has been pursued directly by the Neighbourhood Forum with funding from the DVS: "A Green Infrastructure Strategy should be prepared to take the opportunity to improve access and enhance the landscape" initially across Dore's Green Belt.

The Forum Steering Group invited Margaret Peart, David Crosby and me to form GIST (the Green Infrastructure Strategy Team) to prepare and publish such a strategy. The Team has worked on this document over the last two years with some help from two external consultants, Prof. Ian Rotherham and the ecological consultancy, Wildscapes, and from Dore's own John Dunstan. The document will be widely available in printed and online form very shortly, appearing as a 'Green Infrastructure Appraisal' of Dore's Green Belt. While it contains all the evidence and policies required for a 'strategy', we have entitled it an 'appraisal' because we really need the involvement and endorsement of a partnership of interests, perhaps led by the City Council, to turn it into a widely accepted 'strategy'.

This 'Appraisal' goes well beyond the vital, but oft-repeated, protections in planning law for land classified as 'Green Belt'. It also sets out why the entirety of Dore's Green Belt constitutes the setting of a National Park and why it should be respected and protected for that reason alone; but again it does not concentrate on that alone. What it really seeks to do is to describe objectively why the Dore Green Belt landscape in its own right is important – what are its constituent features, how does its land and its watercourses interact, how is it planted and farmed, how does wildlife thrive within it, how is it used and valued by people and, most important of all, what ecosystem services does it provide for the people of Dore, of urban Sheffield and of wider South Yorkshire, and are these services in good shape or could they be improved.

It is our contention that Dore's Green Belt does already provide a wealth of valuable ecosystem services to our fellow citizens and with the right policies it could do even more – services like carbon capture, cleaner air, cooling of the nearby urban heat islands, strengthening biodiversity, agricultural and arboreal production, nature-friendly flood alleviation measures, first-class recreation opportunities, a sense of greater wellbeing and much, much more.

Not only will Dore have an important and authoritative account of the true significance of its Green Belt as a collection of landscapes of great importance in their own right, but it will be publishing this account at a time of significant importance:

First, because it coincides with Sheffield's draft new Local Plan for the City being examined by national Planning Inspectors increasingly looking to a Labour Government for their test criteria; and maybe our Green Belt Appraisal will give pause for thought that a Green Belt can be valuable for other than purely National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) reasons; and

Second, the South Yorkshire Mayor is obliged by Government to produce this year a Nature Recovery Plan for South Yorkshire as a whole, and perhaps Dore's Green Infrastructure Appraisal could provide some valuable evidence for such a Plan and for the range of ecosystem services available between developed Dore and the National Park to the benefit of the huge urban population close by.

Community Infrastructure Levy

The second major fruit of the Neighbourhood Forum work is the fact that at last CIL (the Community Infrastructure Levy) is becoming a reality for Dore. The DVS and in particular the Dore Neighbourhood Forum knew many years ago that we could expect CIL to impact on us in due course. CIL is a charge which Planning Authorities can levy on new building developments to help pay for public infrastructure needed or desirable to facilitate the development or to make life more sustainable where development is occurring.

The Dore Neighbourhood Forum anticipated the implications of this for Dore, in that, if Dore had an approved Neighbourhood Plan it would be entitled to a larger proportion of CIL monies arising from developments in its area than if it lacked a Plan and it would have more say in how it was spent. Accordingly we added a second Annex to the Neighbourhood Plan at page 38 on CIL, where we anticipated that in due time Dore would benefit from a share of CIL levy income on development in Dore. Specifically we set out Dore's priorities for how such money might be spent.

In mid-January this year Keith Shaw, David Bearpark, Julia Watkinson and myself, representing the Dore Neighbourhood Forum Steering Group, met a City Council officer to learn that:

While the major part of incoming CIL monies within the City would be spent by the City Council on much needed major infrastructure (such as transport and services expenditure) to accommodate significant building development within the City;

15% would be retained for local expenditure generally under the oversight of the Council's Local Area Committees;

Exceptionally 25% of the CIL arising within Dore Neighbourhood Area would be made available for spending in Dore according to needs identified by the Neighbourhood Forum, thus at a level 10% higher than in areas without a Neighbourhood Plan;

So far £18,000 CIL had been identified and set aside for expenditure in Dore;

The Council would expect to be satisfied how the choices were made as to projects to be approved for a share of this money.

Happily, in our case we have already done extensive work to consult within our community in public meetings and workshops as we worked on the early stages of Neighbourhood Planning between 2015 and 2017 which enabled us to include within the 2021 Plan at Annex 2 a description of the priorities for CIL expenditure in Dore. This means that we can hit the deck running with evidence of our communal needs as modest projects are proposed for funding.

Of course, as time passes more CIL funding will emerge and the Neighbourhood Forum will need to refresh its priorities for community expenditure by widely consulting again the people of Dore. We will keep you updated with the processes to be adopted to satisfy the CIL management rules.

A Well-Planned Community

Small villages can naturally communicate amongst their residents with relative ease. If and as they grow into a suburb of a larger town or city, the things which tie their residents together can loosen under the centripetal force of the city's hub. In Dore's case that past historic civic separation from Sheffield and continuing feeling of physical separation caused by Ecclesall Woods and the Limb Valley has left the suburb behaving as a continuing village with its own almost 'civic centre' provided by the Dore Village Society and the Dore Neighbourhood Forum. The latter have worked hard to encourage village endeavours and village pride but have been very modern and practical in meeting real needs in today's world and planning for the future, evidenced again in an emerging Green Infrastructure Appraisal and well-anticipated preparation for the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Rejoice in the prescience of your village champions!

Christopher Pennell

Railway 200 – the Bicentenary of Passenger Travel by Rail

You might not have heard the celebratory “Whistle Up” at noon on 1st January 2025 when as many railway locomotives as possible across the country sounded their whistles at length. During 2025, the railway industry and its users will be marking 200 years of railway passenger travel in Britain. Whistling is just the start of a year of celebration. Stockton and Darlington came first. It took until 1872 for the railway to reach Dore and Topley on the line between Sheffield and Chesterfield and beyond. The Hope Valley line through Topley Tunnel and on to Chinley didn’t open until 1894. Our last signal box in the area, Topley Tunnel East, closed after 130 years and was demolished in 2024: the area’s signalling is now done from a workstation in York.



Topley Tunnel East signal box

The Stockton and Darlington Railway started life in 1825 to move the healthy traffic in minerals previously carried on waggonways. People needed to move as well and in October 1825 a passenger service started. The engine “Locomotion” with the coach “Experiment” took about two hours to make the journey between Stockton and Darlington. The first services were preceded by a man on horseback carrying a warning flag. A return service also took two hours and the fare was one shilling. There were extra charges for heavy luggage and parcels. Passenger demand was such that old stage-coaches had to be converted to run with



The Rocket

flanged railway wheels. The company’s first policeman controlled the traffic. Locomotive whistles didn’t exist at first, and horns were blown to warn people and animals in the way. Loud warning whistles didn’t appear until 1836, and the law later prevented locomotives not fitted with whistles from running.

In 1829, the Rainhill Trials were held to test the locomotives that might run on the almost completed Liverpool and Manchester Railway. Five locomotives competed, but only one finished the course successfully. That was George and Robert Stephenson’s “Rocket”. What remains of the original “Rocket” is still in the National Railway Museum, along with a working replica and a cutaway replica to show the workings. The Liverpool and Manchester Railway formally opened the following year with the Prime Minister, the Duke of Wellington, as guest of honour. On the opening day eight trains, each bearing prominent coloured flags, set off from Liverpool at intervals and 750 people were carried in them. The Prime Minister’s train led the procession, and when it stopped to take on water another train on the adjacent



The Northumbrian

track drew up next to it. Former minister and Liverpool MP William Huskisson got off the train to speak to the Prime Minister and was run down by “Rocket”. His leg was seriously injured, tied with a tourniquet and it was decided to take the patient 15 miles on to Eccles for treatment. Huskisson was loaded into a wagon hauled by the “Northumbrian” locomotive driven by George Stephenson. The 15-mile journey took 25 minutes. Huskisson was treated with laudanum and brandy, dictated his will, signed it, even dotting the ‘i’ in his surname, and died later that day. He had said earlier that while he approved of the Liverpool to Manchester “experiment” as he called it, he would never agree to England being “gridironed” by railways. How wrong he was – until the days of Doctor Beeching!

How the railways have changed in Britain. A myriad of small railway companies were absorbed by the bigger and most successful ones towards the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. The companies were grouped together in 1923 to form the “Big Four”. They were nationalised in 1948 to form British Railways and later British Rail. Rail privatisation started in 1993 and gave us a complicated system of train operating companies, rolling stock companies and infrastructure organisations. Now, the new government is working on some form of return to national ownership so it’s “all change” again! Let’s hope that we passengers feel the benefit.

Mike Peart

1825 - 2025 – 200 years of Train Travel

The Stockton and Darlington Railway was opened 200 years ago in September 1825. Primarily it was built to carry coal, but it also carried a few passengers, rather like our Hope Valley line. In the early days passengers were very much a secondary consideration. Railways made it possible for the industrial revolution to take off faster in Britain than in any other country – although very many countries have now overtaken us.

At 12.00 on 1st January locomotives on heritage railways across the land blew their whistles or sounded their horns to mark the start of a year of celebrations. Locomotives at the Abbeydale Miniature Railway across the road joined in as did we.

It was a cold, miserable, drizzly morning but Northern's 11.58 was just too early to take part. However, a small group of hardy Station Friends mustered eight whistles that were blown with ear shattering enthusiasm from beneath the shelter of the Dore & Totley footbridge. One whistle belonged to the railwayman grandfather of one of the young men. We'll be hearing more of the bicentenary as the year progresses.



Construction work

It's effectively finished, just tidying up work at the station, along the tracks and at West View Lane. The car park around the entrance should be fully cleared and resurfaced by early February. Replanting around the car park has been delayed but is also imminent. It's already well advanced on the railway triangle. By the time you read this some surviving daffodils may be showing their heads. By the next Dore to Door, we may be making progress with more planters and posters to brighten the station.

Four electric vehicle (EV) charging points

They are now live and can be used with the downloadable Blink App. It's too early to say how easy and expensive they are to use but vehicles have been seen plugged in. They have been installed for SYMCA, the park and ride car park owners, with central government funding to promote greener travel.

Extra services - Don't hold your breath

That's looking less and less likely. Currently our Sunday service is cut back, with one in three trains cancelled on an emergency timetable so check very carefully before making plans. By 2027 we may get some of the better services we were led to expect would come after all the recent construction mayhem.

In January FoDaTS committee members attended Stakeholder Conferences held by Northern, TPE and East Midlands Railway in Manchester, Liverpool and Nottingham to lobby for more stops. We attend many other meetings and write countless emails bearing in mind that Dore & Totley is just one of 500 stations managed by our three operators. Every extra stop for us delays all the other passengers on that train by three minutes, and often delays other trains running behind.

We think we've identified cost effective cases to justify more stops by all three operators. They accept the validity but need direction from bodies like Transport for the North - and ultimately HM Treasury for any extra subsidies needed. We're trying to get Transport for Greater Manchester and South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority behind us, or maybe we're behind them as we believe our case to improve services at Dore benefits Manchester as well as Sheffield. We're reaching out to Hope Valley rail users and those down the Goyt Valley from New Mills into Manchester as one of our suggestions should benefit them too.

So why might it take until December 2027? Because there's potentially a two-year countdown from agreeing a new timetable to actually introducing it! It has to fit with all other timetables for routes running alongside, diverging from, and crossing it. It has to identify long enough platforms at all stations along the route.

Then there need to be enough carriages to operate any extra trains. It may take over five years to get new ones built. There are few suitable secondhand trains. If more drivers are needed it takes 104 weeks from advertising a vacancy before they are entrusted with taking a train out solo, responsible for all of us, hopefully not stopped in Totley Tunnel.

MONEY! Industrial relations

Money is at the bottom of the current difficulties on our bit of the railway. Northern doesn't make enough to cover costs on any of its routes. Some may cost £1.25 per passenger mile in subsidy, work that out. A few of the best routes may 'only' be subsidised at 5p for each mile a passenger travels. Dr Beeching must be turning in his grave to see some lines being kept open. The average subsidy last year was about 42p per passenger mile and the previous government wanted that brought down to 41p. At which point railway unions negotiated (behind threats of indefinite industrial actions) and won backdated pay awards without any efficiency actions to compensate. That makes it all but impossible to reduce the need for increased subsidies on any route. Until better contracts are agreed for all conductors and others working voluntary overtime, management will remain very difficult. It's a volunteer Sunday railway at present.

Where to go – Hope and Edale

During the recent snowy weekend the Peak District was rammed full of cars looking for places to park. They were particularly badly abandoned around Edale, Castleton and Mam Tor. If only I could report that the trains ran to time and were also rammed full. They didn't and they weren't, but at least those who used them could watch the rescue helicopter and hear the obstructed emergency vehicles' sirens with a clear conscience. It's lovely out there.

We must get our line more popular and drive up income to help pay for better facilities. Unfortunately, this is a classic chicken and egg situation. As we slip backwards, we can see a cash strapped government having to make hard decisions. That's unlikely to be adding anything extra, more likely cutting back. That's the reality, economics and politics. But we fight our corner

If you're a Facebook user, you can find and join us by searching for FoDaTS. It's an active group with over 970 members and is updated frequently with topical information and comments. Alternatively look for our website at www.fodats.net. We hold bi-monthly committee meetings at Totley Library and are always happy to hear of new ideas.

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

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The Peacock at Owler Bar

Previously owned by Chef & Brewer, this Grade II listed pub dates back to the 19th Century and was built by the Duke of Rutland on the road to Chatsworth House and Bakewell. The Peacock closed on November 18th for a major refit after becoming the latest addition to the portfolio of Longbow Venues, which also includes the Maynard, the Ashford Arms and The George in Hathersage. The reported £350,000 refurbishment was completed just before Christmas and I was looking forward to our visit in January, especially as one report (from my parents!) gave it a glowing review.

Having not been to the Peacock in many years, I can't really comment on the changes. However, the result of the refurbishment is a traditional country pub with oak beams and dark wood furniture, but cream walls and excellent lighting that give it a lighter ambience than one would expect.

The menu boasts *"pub classics with a modern twist alongside dishes inspired by the team's travels and world flavours"*, and, although that sounds a little ambitious, the Raymond Blanc trained executive chef, Adrian Gagea, has certainly made it work.

We booked a table for two at 4pm on a Sunday afternoon to give the option of a Sunday roast as well as the normal menu. We were greeted and seated efficiently in a very full restaurant and left to study the menus for a few minutes before our drinks order was taken. I started with a pint of Pravha (£5.80/pint) in anticipation of a wait before our order being taken, such was the volume of customers. My partner had a very palatable glass of house red (Rubic Garnacha at £5.75/175ml), and within minutes our very friendly, confident and efficient waitress came to take our order.

Unfortunately, my first choice of starter (Onion Bhaji Inspired Scotch Egg with homemade Mango Chutney – £9.95) was off the menu, so I opted for the Wild Mushroom & Truffle Arancini with Sweet Potato Velouté and Root Vegetable Crisps (£8.95). Although the arancini themselves were quite small in comparison to others I have had, they were wonderfully crunchy on the outside and the mushroom and truffle was perfectly balanced. The velouté was silky smooth and the crisps gave the dish an excellent texture. My partner chose a starter from the "nibbles" section of the menu – Pão de Queijo – Brazilian cheese bread with tomato salsa (£4.95). The bread was like a cheesy, savoury profiterole and was wonderfully light. The salsa was perfectly seasoned and had just the right amount of piquancy to offset the slightly salty cheese of the bread.

As advertised, the main courses are a combination of pub classics and interesting international dishes. For example, there are burgers, sausage and mash, and fish and chips alongside poached smoked haddock with saffron risotto, lamb shank in a rogan josh curry, and Chicken Milanese a la parmigiana. As it was a Sunday, we also had the choice of five roasts including the plant-based option. My partner chose the Roast Rump of Lamb (£24.95) which came with braised red cabbage, maple glazed root veg, roast potatoes, cauliflower cheese and Yorkshire pudding. Unfortunately, we were informed that they had run out of roast potatoes and were offered mash instead. My partner didn't have a problem with that, although I really would have had an issue, and it was a sign of things to come as by about 6pm they had totally run out of roast dinners! That being said, the food itself was excellent. The locally sourced lamb was perfectly pink, the vegetables were really well-cooked, and the Yorkshire was really significant!

We had previously been informed by our waitress that the pie of the day was Steak in Guinness (£20.95), and I was happy to choose that as my main course. I opted for mash rather than chips, and the dish came with crushed and minted garden peas and sautéed kale. The pie had a degree of structural integrity that is rarely found these days, and it stood on its own even when the gravy was added. The excellent shortcrust pastry held a beautifully balanced filling with large chunks of steak in a thick gravy and just the right amount of onion and carrot. The mash was perfectly seasoned and

smooth and the minted peas and kale were really well cooked and a great garnish for the pie and mash. A poor gravy can spoil a dish anytime, but a good one can elevate one, and the gravy we were given was definitely in the latter category. We had to request more, it was so good.

As my partner was driving she stuck to the one glass of wine she had ordered, but for the sake of this article I was able to sample a couple of glasses of Stones Throw Shiraz from South Australia which was good value for money at £9.50 for 250ml. It was a great example of a Shiraz with layers of fruitiness and savoury and a hint of pepper.

The range of desserts is as eclectic as the main courses, although in keeping with my more traditional main course I opted for the Homemade Bakewell Tart served with crème anglaise (custard to you and me!) and raspberry ice cream (£9.95). It was just like my mum used to make – perfect shortcrust pastry, dense sponge and just the right amount of jam. The custard could have been warmer for my taste but was really tasty, and although I enjoyed the raspberry ice cream, it probably wasn't necessary, and I would have opted for extra custard instead.

My partner was bordering on full, so chose the sorbet (£6.95) – one scoop each of Raspberry, Orange and Blood Orange. I don't believe there is a lot that can go wrong with sorbet, but it was very nice nevertheless with a good combination of sharp and sweet flavours. Just to finish off we had a cappuccino (£3.50) and an espresso (£3.50) and I indulged in a large Cointreau.

In summary, the meal was excellent, the service from our waitress (Ruby, I believe) was outstanding, and overall, the whole experience was great value for money at c.£120 plus tip. It is certainly at the higher end of the gourmet pub spectrum and as such not somewhere to go every week, but we will definitely be going back, even if we have to book a little earlier to guarantee the roast!

Hendo Nagasaki

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Photo: Paul Maddox

Activities on Blacka Moor Nature Reserve

Are you interested in helping with the conservation work on Blacka Moor? Join the volunteer work days on Blacka Moor Nature Reserve run by Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust. Volunteer work days run on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Thursday of the month, carrying out a variety of practical conservation tasks on the reserve, including woodland and heathland management, rights of way maintenance and a variety of other tasks. It's a great chance to get involved and no experience is necessary. If you are interested please book on the sessions through the website <https://www.wildsheffield.com/whats-on/list/>

Other events on Blacka Moor

User Forum Walkabout Meeting: A walkabout meeting on Blacka Moor with Nature Reserve Manager and Ranger on Saturday 15th March looking at the upcoming spring and summer work. It's a great chance to find out more about the reserve, share your ideas and explore the reserve. It's a bookable event so if you are interested please book on <https://www.wildsheffield.com/whats-on/list/>

If you would like any more information please contact Hannah Wittram (Community Wildlife Ranger) on h.wittram@wildsheffield.com

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Here's an update on progress with the More in Dore charity initiative, particularly regarding our fundraising efforts for inclusive playground equipment at Dore Recreation Ground ('the Rec').

Generous Donations

We're thrilled to announce kind donations from the Holdsworth family, who wished to reflect generations of fun at the Rec, and one from The Rowan, the specialist school for children with complex speech, language and communication difficulties. We also received donations from Dore Ladies Group and anonymous community supporters. Your generosity is helping us move closer to our goal of creating a fully inclusive playground space, thank you.

Christmas Table-Top Fundraiser Success

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas event which raised over £1,500. Additionally, thanks to a treasured supporter, we secured match funding of £1,000, bringing the total to over £2,500.

Funding Applications

Several funding applications are now underway, targeting both national charities and local grant providers who prioritise accessibility and community development. If you're aware of additional grant opportunities, please don't hesitate to share.

Community Awareness

A series of outreach initiatives are in progress to raise awareness about developing projects via social media and local businesses to highlight the importance of inclusive play. If you or your business would like to be involved, please WhatsApp/text 07957 462533 or email dorerec@gmail.com

Collaborations

We're continuing conversations with equipment suppliers who specialise in accessible playground designs. Their expertise ensures the new slide, proposed agility trail and replacement swings cater to a wide range of abilities and needs.

Upcoming Events:

We have a community fundraiser on Sunday 23rd March with a Baby and Toddler theme. Please WhatsApp/text 07957 462 533 if you have pre-loved equipment to re-home and come along to Dore Old School, Savage Lane, S17 3GW between 1 and 4pm to browse and 'donate what you feel'.

Support Needed

To keep the momentum going, we'd love your input and assistance to:

- Identify additional grant opportunities or fundraising ideas.
- Promote the project within your networks - business and social - please reach out or simply 'follow' us on Facebook More in Dore (further details below).
- Join planning discussions for fundraising initiatives (conducted by WhatsApp 07957462533 or email dorerec@gmail.com).

Thank you all for your continued support and enthusiasm. This project has the potential to make a huge difference to the lives of so many children and families and your dedication is vital to bring it to life.

How to donate

Online: scan the QR code (by phone as if taking a photo, hold still, press the yellow link when it appears to reach the donation page).

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Dore to Door got a sneak peek behind the construction barriers at Christ Church interior last month. For over a year now, the only thing that villagers have been able to see of the renovation works is the new exterior door (bottom centre) which has been opened up on the Church Lane side.

As you can see, all the old dark wood has gone - the fixed pews being most of it. The beautiful old pipe organ, a historic

artefact in its own right, has also been removed. Though this is a shame, the organ had been broken beyond economic repair and out of use for many, many years. The old pulpit has been removed, and (top right) the dark-coloured radiator covers are being repainted in a lighter tone.

Mobile seating should give a more relaxed and less-cramped feel to the building, especially on those occasions

when the church is full. There should no longer be a need for the congregation overflow to line up along the walls or peer through the door from the entrance foyer.

There is still much to do, but the end is in sight and the latest completion target is in time for reopening celebrations at Easter. You should be able to come along and see it all for yourself by then.

John Eastwood

Dore & Totley United Reformed Church

As we look forward to Spring, we will also begin holding events to support our next charity. Subject to approval at the church meeting, which is how the URC makes decisions, we shall be raising money for Sheffield Young Carers.

Our first event is an Easter coffee morning from 10am to noon on Saturday 12th April. As well as drinks, homemade cakes and some stalls there'll be a raffle and an Easter egg hunt. If you'd like a stall, please contact Margaret Barron on 0114 2311831. Our famous jigsaw sale will be in the Autumn with other events to be arranged. Regular quizzes are very popular.

Our halls are always very busy with choirs, fitness groups, Age UK groups and children's groups. One of these is Little City on Monday mornings with role play for preschool children. More

information on this can be found by emailing littlecitysheffield@littlecityuk.com.

The Tuesday lunch club is now in its 51st year, with many thanks to the dedication of our volunteers. On Wednesday mornings from 10.30 onwards we have a welcome space coffee and crafts session followed by a short midweek service at 11.30 am. On the first Wednesday of each month, we have a Carers' cafe. Sunday worship at 10.30, led by one of our ministers or local preachers, is open to all at whatever stage of your faith journey.

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Reducing our Carbon Footprint

For a number of years, the Methodist Church has been encouraging local churches to look at ways that reductions can be made in our carbon footprint. Over the last few years we have, as part of our routine repairs strategy, replaced our lights in the worship area with LED light fittings and also replaced all our external lighting with LED units. We were aware that there were other initiatives that would help to reduce our footprint further, but lack of funding prevented us from developing these.

In Spring 2024 we became aware of the Low Carbon Community and Culture Project, which offers grants to community and cultural organisations delivering from public-facing buildings in Sheffield to explore ways to reduce carbon emissions and improve energy efficiencies in their buildings. Our Church Council agreed that we should explore this possibility further.

In conjunction with South Yorkshire's Community Foundation, who were administering the project, we worked through initial investigations, which then led to an Energy Audit being conducted. This subsequently showed that we could potentially reduce our annual Carbon Footprint by 2.13 tonnes of CO₂ and reduce our energy costs by over £1500 per year if we were able to undertake the following work in our building:

1. Installation of loft insulation in our worship area.
2. Fit internal secondary glazing units to windows in the worship area and the Hall.
3. Replace the remainder of the lighting fittings in the building with LED units.

After obtaining three quotes for each element of the scheme and other administrative work, we were able to submit a formal bid for funding. In November we were delighted to learn that we had been granted funding for this scheme from the UKSPF Low Carbon Community and Culture Project, which is part-funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

So, in January and early February we had contractors on site undertaking all this work which will make our building warmer and more comfortable for everyone using it, as well as saving us money in energy costs and reducing our carbon footprint. We apologise to some of our regular users who were inconvenienced whilst the work was done, but we are sure it will all be worthwhile. Also, we express our grateful thanks to the staff from South Yorkshire's Community Foundation and our contractors for their help and assistance in bringing this scheme into fruition.

Welcoming Space

We continue to operate on a Wednesday morning (10:30 to 13:00) and are always pleased to see newcomers. We offer a warm welcoming space, with a supply of tea, coffee and biscuits, an opportunity to socialise and make new friends, browse the day's newspapers or have a game of dominos. Around mid-day we serve a "Soup and Roll" lunch. There is no charge for this, but we always appreciate donations! We have the use of a mini-bus from Transport17 and still have some empty seats on the bus – we do have to make a charge of £4 per trip for the bus – but not a bad price for door-to-door service. So, if you are at a loose end on a Wednesday morning why not drop in – our front door on High Street is always open.

On 18th December we had our Christmas Celebrations with a special lunch. This was funded by a donation from the Dore Village Society, and we express our gratitude to them for their support in this way. We also learned in December that our Welcoming Space had been granted further funding from the City Council via the Southwest Local Area Committee. We thank members of the committee for their contribution to our running costs.

Ladies Tuesday Group

Our programme for 2025 is well under way.

In January we had a very interesting and informative address by a representative of this year's chosen charity St. Luke's Hospice.

In February, we had a really interesting talk by John Doornkamp who spoke about his childhood growing up in The Netherlands during World War 2 and the German Occupation. What a difficult time it must have been.

Our next meeting will be on March 11th at 2.30pm, when Heather Thomas of the "Goboka Rwanda Trust" will tell us some of the life-changing projects undertaken by the Trust.

On April 18th we will be addressed by Alan Swann. His talk is entitled "Laughter, the great medicine" and it is guaranteed you will leave with a smile on your face!

Janet Ridler, a guidebook writer, will be with us on May 13th when she will give us an illustrated talk "The history of Sheffield Cathedral".

On June 10th, Sue Woodcock tells the story of her full, diverse and interesting life in "From Copper to Shepherd".

Our last get together of the summer on July 8th sees us off to Sickleholme Golf Club for a lovely lunch.

We are a very friendly group, with a diverse programme of speakers but always find time for a chat over a cuppa.

All Ladies are welcome to come and join us. Guests £4.

We would like to thank everyone who donated toys, games & books for our Toy Collection on November 30th. We had an amazing response and the Salvation Army who distributed them were delighted. Well done everyone.



Rosemary Memory Café

On the first and third Tuesday afternoon of each month, AgeUK Sheffield hold a memory café in our hall. This is an opportunity to socialise and enjoy spending time with your loved ones who have dementia. Together with Christ Church we support this initiative by providing volunteers to help. Contact AgeUK Sheffield on 0114 250 2850 for more information before attending.

Working with Christ Church

We are pleased to work with friends from Christ Church and offer hospitality for some of their activities whilst they are unable to use their own building. Every Thursday morning at 10:30 am there is a quiet, reflective Communion Service. During school term-time on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 9:00am there is an opportunity to join in with Morning Prayers. Everyone will be made very welcome at any of these gatherings.

Volunteers

As you will gather from the above we are an active church, but we are always looking for volunteers to help at our Welcoming Space or Memory Café. If you would be interested in volunteering, please phone Jackie on 0114 235 1085.

Room Hire

Our hall is an ideal venue for children's parties, (sorry no bouncy castles!), family get togethers or one-off or regular meetings. For details about room hire and more information about our church and all our activities, please see our website at www.doremethodist.org.uk

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Another year gone by. Where does the time go? Einstein was correct when he said that time was not fixed. The older I get the faster it goes. We'll have to wait and see what 2025 brings.

From the Society's point of view, 2024 wasn't a bad year. We had several successful concerts, with the Christmas concert extremely well received, being full of Christmas music and plenty of laugh out loud moments. The audience seemed to appreciate being able to join in and sing some of the popular carols. We also had an excellent run of three "almost" shows of Iolanthe (they were much more than Concert versions, being both in costume and with enough room to stage many scenes) and to cap it all we raised well over £500 for the Alzheimer's Society.



© Patrick Scott
Pete Geary as Nanki Poo

This year we will be repeating the format, so will run three (almost) shows of The Mikado, one of the most popular G&S operettas which has many well known songs and bags of comedy. Where else are you likely to find a plot involving a suggestion that the Lord High Executioner should cut off his own head, or Nanki Poo the lovelorn musician (actually the Mikado's son escaping his father's court), offering himself for execution, provided that he can marry the Lord High Executioner's bride to be? This is one light opera that everyone will surely enjoy, being filled with W.S. Gilbert's comic wit and Sullivan's superb and very singable music. The performances will be on Sunday 6th April at Crookes Social Club, Saturday 12th April in Dore Community Centre (the Church Hall) and on Saturday 26th April at Whittington Moor Methodist Church. All performances begin at 2:30pm. Go on, give it go if you've not tried it before.

Tickets are £12 each and £8 each for under 16s and are available by phone from 07565 805405 or from <https://doregass.weebly.com/tickets.html>.

Derek Habberjam



What a busy end to the year for the Choir, the gala concert was a great success with our guest artist Jessica Ouston delivering a wonderful performance. This was followed by three Christmas concerts which were a sell-out on each of the three nights. Our guest artist Charlotte Hoather gave a fabulous performance each night; her acting ability was on another level clearly illustrating that telling the story is as important as the singing.

Due to the refurbishment of Dore church we have for the last two years held our Christmas concerts at St John the Evangelist on Abbeydale Road and a big thank you to them - they gave us excellent support. However next year we will be back on home ground.

So, to the future: we have a full programme already in place for 2025 which is available on our website (www.doremalevoicechoir.com) commencing on May 10. At 7pm that Saturday the Christ Church Dore reopening celebratory concert will take place at Christ Church, Church Lane, Dore.

Why not join the Choir if you are you looking for a new hobby, to meet new friends, to experience the "buzz" of singing with like-minded people, to help deserving causes, to perform in public and to go on concert tours? If you can hold a tune why not apply for membership of the Choir? The Choir provides 2 uniforms and all the music and currently costs a little more than £2 per week.

Whilst we have 72 members, we are always looking for new ones and to this end we will be shortly holding workshops. If you are interested check up on our website and Facebook for the dates.

And finally, a big thank you to all you wonderful people who continue to support the Choir.

Ray Mellor
PRO and Vice Chairman




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Dore Bridge

Dealing With Bad Breaks (2)

The last issue of Dore to Door dealt with coping with a bad break in a trump suit. Here is the bidding from that hand. West is the dealer and N/S are vulnerable.

South

♠ A J 8 7 2
♥ A
♦ A K 7 6 5
♣ 5 3

The bidding was:

West	North	East	South
P	P	P	1S
P	2C	P	2D
P	3D	P	5D

With five losers in the South hand, partner showing four card diamond support with an assumed eight loser hand, a combined total of 26/27 points and the prospect of a 500 vulnerable game bonus, South bid 5D. This makes with careful play despite a bad break.

However, many partnerships would rather play in 3NT than five of a minor because it's generally easier to make nine tricks than 11. Here are the North/South hands.

North

♠ 10
♥ K 9 8 5
♦ J 9 8 3
♣ A Q 10 7

South

♠ A J 8 7 2
♥ A
♦ A K 7 6 5
♣ 5 3

The bidding might proceed as follows.

West	North	East	South
P	P	P	1S
P	2C	P	2D
P	3NT	P	P
P			

However, North/South could be more adventurous and proceed to six diamonds via the following sequence (with thanks to Dominic Rayner of the Sheffield Bridge Club for providing this).

West	North	East	South
P	P	P	1S
P	2C	P	2D
P	3D	P	3H ¹
P	3NT	P	4D ²
P	4NT ³	P	5D ⁴
P	5NT ⁵	P	6C ⁶
P	6D	P	P

¹Fourth suit forcing

²Slam try

³Roman Key Card Blackwood

⁴None or four of the "five" aces, clearly four

⁵Asking for kings, exploring the possibility of a grand slam

⁶No kings, ignoring the king of trumps

Six diamonds requires very careful play.

As before (November's article) West leads 9♣ and it looks as if this is "high for hate" and is denying an honour. That means that West probably has four or two clubs. With three small clubs (ie. below the 10) West would lead the middle one (MUD, or middle-up-down) but the 9 can't be a middle card because North has the king.

On this layout a cross ruff looks like the best approach but the sequence of play depends on the trump distribution. If it's 4/0 with

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all four in the West hand it's difficult because we will lose a trick to Q♦ and need to avoid any other losers. However there's no need to test diamonds immediately and risk the contract.

The best way to play a cross ruff is to cash side suit winners before drawing trumps and that gives us time to assess the layout of the cards.

Trick one goes 9♣, A♣, 6♣, 3♣ so what next? Looking a dummy there's the possibility of establishing a long spade if they break no worse than 4/3.

At trick two cross to A♥ to unblock, followed by A♠ and a spade ruff in order to play K♥ and discard a club from hand. Both follow in hearts but, interestingly, West plays K♠ on the second spade leaving us with:

North
 ♠ -
 ♥ 9 8
 ♦ J 9 8
 ♣ Q 10 7

South
 ♠ J 8 7
 ♥ -
 ♦ A K 7 6 5
 ♣ -

Time to pause, what can we infer from the play so far?

East played 6♣ at trick one so is unlikely to have the 4♣ or 2♣. West led 9♣ from an even number and so started with four clubs, leaving East with K♣, J♣ and 6♣.

West also has only two spades and so East has five, meaning that we can't establish a long spade. Time for a rethink.

We now know that West has seven cards between hearts and diamonds. So West is 3/4 or 4/3. How best to find out which it is?

At this point the lead is in dummy so it's safe to lead a heart and that might reveal West's holding. So lead 8♥ and ruff. West plays

Q♥, implying having three hearts (unless West is false carding and also has J♥). That's not good news because it means that West has Q♦, 10♦, 4♦ and 2♦ and we will lose a trick to Q♦. We now know that the remaining layout (with South on lead) is:

North
 ♠ -
 ♥ 9
 ♦ J 9 8
 ♣ Q 10 7

West
 ♠ -
 ♥ -
 ♦ Q 10 4 2
 ♣ 8 4 2

East
 ♠ Q 9 5
 ♥ J 10
 ♦ -
 ♣ K J

South
 ♠ J 8 7
 ♥ -
 ♦ A K 7 6
 ♣ -

We can now continue to cross ruff with West making just one trump. If West ruffs low at any point declarer will overruff and if West ruffs with Q♦ and then plays a trump to shorten declarer's holding declarer will discard 9♥ on the ruff and still has control.

Here is the starting layout

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

West
 ♠ K 6
 ♥ Q 7 3
 ♦ Q 10 4 2
 ♣ 9 8 4 2

East
 ♠ Q 9 5 4 3
 ♥ J 10 6 4 2
 ♦ -
 ♣ K J 6

South
 ♠ A J 8 7 2
 ♥ A
 ♦ A K 7 6 5
 ♣ 5 3

Six diamonds can be beaten on an opening lead of a trump but it's unlikely that West would choose this lead.

As it happens 3NT is unmakeable on the above layout on the standard lead of 4♥ and West attacking clubs when in with Q♦. So this is one time when a minor suit contract is better than 3NT.

Keith Shaw

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MARCH

- Tue 4 Dore Ladies' Group - Community Centre, Townhead Road, 7.45pm. Bethany Millward, Centre Co-ordinator for Baby Basics Sheffield talks about their work providing support directly, where it is most needed, to new mothers and families.
- Tue 18 Wyvern Walk led by Peter Bower 07748 086 793. Parking at Whirlow Bridge, we will walk up Limb Valley to Ringinglow then do a circuit of Porter Clough, Brown Edge and Lady Cannings plantation, returning by Limb valley. Approx. 6 miles. We meet at the Old School, Savage Lane, Dore, ready for departure at 9:30. Car sharing will be organised on the day if we are not starting the walk in Dore. Please be sure to wear appropriate footwear and clothing and bring any refreshments and drinks that you will want to consume.

APRIL

- Tue 1 Dore Ladies' Group - Community Centre, Townhead Road, 7.45pm. 25 years in Nepal - Keith Brook MBE speaks about his work helping disadvantaged people in Nepal mainly through promoting education and the link with Birkdale School.
- Sun 13 Wyvern Walk led by Keith Shaw 07778 422 910. Parking at Longshaw pay and display car park. Then down Padley Gorge to Grindleford Station, up to the Grouse Inn and back to the car park. 5 miles. Mostly easy going in sheltered conditions. We meet at the Old School, Savage Lane, Dore, ready for departure at 9:30. Car sharing will be organised on the day if we are not starting the walk in Dore. Please be sure to wear appropriate footwear and clothing and bring any refreshments and drinks that you will want to consume.
- Sun 27 Dore's famous Dragon Hunt - see page 2 for details. All primary age children and their grownups welcome. Fancy dress optional.
- Wed 30 Wyvern Walk led by John Proctor 07960 791 879 and Chris Goldie 07443 944 401. This walk offers long views and takes in the Redmires & Rivelin Dams. Parking is at the upper Redmires Reservoir car park (SK256856). We walk to the wall of the top Redmires Reservoir and take the left turn to walk alongside the culvert before

dropping down across New Hagg moor to a footbridge to cross the river Rivelin. A delightful walk along the bank of the river eventually brings us to Wyming Brook Drive, a popular tourist attraction at the beginning of the 20th century. Passing the Rivelin Dams we then start a steady climb through birch woods via Fox Hagg to follow a high level path through woods along the rim of the Rivelin valley. The final part of our walk takes us along the banks of Redmires Reservoirs back to the car park. 7.5 miles. Please bring light snack & drink for multiple stops during the walk. Back at Dore about 15.00. We meet at the Old School, Savage Lane, Dore, ready for departure at 9:30. Car sharing will be organised on the day if we are not starting the walk in Dore. Please be sure to wear appropriate footwear and clothing and bring any refreshments and drinks that you will want to consume.

MAY

- Tue 6 Dore Ladies' Group - Community Centre, Townhead Road, 7.45pm. Philip Smith of Bents Green Nursery gives a talk about his life in Horticulture.
- Sun 25 Wyvern Walk led by Keith Shaw 07778 422 910. Parking at Monsal Head pay and display car park. The walk crosses the viaduct and takes a track uphill past High Dale, down to Litton Mill and back through Miller's Dale and across the new footbridge at Cressbrook Mill. 6 miles. We meet at the Old School, Savage Lane, Dore, ready for departure at 9:30. Car sharing will be organised on the day if we are not starting the walk in Dore. Please be sure to wear appropriate footwear and clothing and bring any refreshments and drinks that you will want to consume.



Jumping squirrel in winter photographed by local resident Maria Gladden. "I was on a walk the morning it snowed back in November. When trying to capture the snow in the trees a squirrel jumped onto a branch so I took a few snapshots of him standing still and then he jumped!"

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The article below first appeared in Dore to Door issue number 37 in Spring 1995. It was the fourth in a series of articles, the first three of which have been reproduced in our last three issues.

William Cavendish, fourth Earl of Devonshire, Part I (1640-1694)

By the time that the future 4th Earl of Devonshire was born it had become a firm family tradition to name the Cavendish heir William.

The fourth William Cavendish in line for the earldom was brought up against the background of the Civil War and completed his education with the Grand Tour of Europe.

At the age of twenty-one he made his first move into political life upon his election as M.P. for Derby, in the same year that he acted as a train-bearer at the coronation of Charles II. A year later he was married, in Ireland, to Lady Mary Butler, the fifteen year-old daughter of the Duke of Ormonde.

In 1665, Cavendish volunteered for service in the fleet and in early June fought with credit alongside the Duke of York against the Dutch De Ruyter. The excitement of the encounter was very much to his liking, though the rest of his life was to be punctuated with more personal squabbles.

Philanderer and poltroon

On the London scene William Cavendish was an extravagant philanderer, as handsome a rake as any man at Court. Such was his success with the ladies that the king forbade his mistress, Nell Gwynne, from keeping his company. On one occasion the roving courtier threw down the gauntlet in defence of the reputation of an actress. Both duellists emerged unscathed but the Cavendish second received an accidental blow from which he later died. In 1669 Cavendish managed to emerge with honour from a nasty incident in France when he was insulted by three Frenchmen at the opera. He returned the insult with a blow and immediately found himself at the sharp end of three swords. He had to be tugged away for his own safety but not before he had received a bad gash. His assailants were arrested but Cavendish, in an act of gentlemanly grace, gained their release.

Six years later he abandoned etiquette on greeting news of the death of a Colonel Howard with some satisfaction, on the grounds that the Colonel had been fighting for France. The brother of the deceased published a broadsheet attacking Cavendish, who, in defiance of a resolution passed in the House of Commons forbidding him to react, retaliated by posting a notice outside the Palace of Whitehall. It described Howard as a poltroon. Both men were committed to the Tower until they were calm enough to be reconciled.

Behind these mild scandals, Cavendish had become increasingly active in parliament, a vigorous and fearless speaker in the House of Commons and a determined opponent of arbitrary government. He argued for strict adherence to annual parliaments and protested against the lax observance of anti-papery laws. In 1677 he promoted a successful bill to recall English forces from service to the French crown and the following year served on the committee which drew up articles of impeachment against the Lord Treasurer Danby.

Principled

Whatever his views, Cavendish never agreed to any measure perceived as unbalanced in its fairness. Together with his old friend Lord Russell, he withdrew from the Privy Council in protest against the prevailing Roman Catholic interest. Cavendish went further, speaking out against King Charles's endeavours to preserve the right of succession for his Catholic brother, James. It is said that when Lord Russell was condemned to death for his part in a plot to assassinate James, Cavendish visited him in the condemned cell and suggested that they swap clothes to enable his friend to escape. Russell refused and was executed in 1683.

Around this time one of Cavendish's friends was murdered in Pall Mall and when it was discovered the assailants were in the pay

of the German Count Coningsmarck, Cavendish challenged him to a duel. He only withdrew the challenge on the direct insistence of the Secretary of State. William Cavendish succeeded to the Devonshire title in 1684, two months before the death of Charles II. He took little trouble to hide his dislike and disapproval of the new king, James -- a feeling that was mutual -- but for a time national concerns had to be put aside as a result of another personal quarrel.

Posse and promissory note

It came about when Colonel Thomas Culpepper, against a background of laying claims to lands in Derbyshire, questioned the Earl's allegiance to the Crown. Such a grave insult could have only one outcome, short of a duel, and Culpepper was felled to the ground. The Earl immediately made for Chatsworth to let the fuss die down but the Colonel went to gaol for eight months. Ill-feeling smouldered on until the two men came face-to-face again at Whitehall in the summer of 1687.

If it had not taken place outside the royal chambers, the caning of Colonel Culpepper would probably not have brought such wrath upon Devonshire. As it was, the king was furious. Refusing a plea of parliamentary privilege he sent the Earl to prison until he could come up with the enormous fine of £30,000. James refused to accept bonds for twice that amount brought to him by the Dowager Countess of Devonshire -- bonds signed by Charles I against money borrowed from the Cavendishes during the Civil War.

Blaming the king for being blatantly difficult, the Earl discharged himself from gaol, careful to settle all debts for his prison 'lodgings' to avoid accusations of mere escape, and fled to Chatsworth.

Colourful stories have told how the Earl fled to Chatsworth ahead of a posse led by the Sheriff of Derby. Whether he was ever within reach or not, or whether he really did turn a key on the Sheriff, Devonshire remained above arrest and sent the king a promissory note for the £30,000.

Protestantism

The time proved to be opportune for attending to pressing matters at Chatsworth, nothing less than the rebuilding of the ill-proportioned, unstable house and the transformation of its gardens. The work was to continue almost up to the Earl's death.

Meanwhile, however, Devonshire grew increasingly concerned at the tyrannical behaviour of the king. He became involved in making secret and dangerous approaches to James' Protestant daughter Mary and her husband, Prince William of Orange, inviting them to dethrone the unpopular James. Hopes of achieving a Protestant succession were set back when in 1688, a son was born to James.

William and Mary were pressed with a new urgency, the Earl of Devonshire adding his signature to a cipher letter sent to The Hague by a small group of eminent Englishmen. Devonshire, together with Lord Danby, the Earl of Delamere and Mr D' Arcy, met near Chesterfield to plot an uprising. Their meeting place was the parlour of the Cock and Pynot inn, today open to the public as the Revolution House.

The plan was for Prince William to land in the north, his route to London secured at York by Danby and at Nottingham by Devonshire. In the event William landed on the south coast. Devonshire, before marching to Nottingham to proclaim a well-received explanation of events, read his 'Declaration in Defence of the Protestant Religion' at Derby.

By the time William reached the capital, James had fled for France. Devonshire was kept in close attendance on William and Mary and remained prominent in securing their sovereignty. He stood firmly in their trust and at their coronation had the honour of bearing the crown when he acted as Lord High Steward of England.

Over the following years the Earl excelled as a skilled statesman. His patriotism and loyalty were accorded royal recognition when on 12 May 1694 he was created First Duke of Devonshire and Marquis of Hartington.

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