

# Norton Lees News

the newsletter of the Thorpe House Residents Association

## Bishops House Special Meeting

Please come and show your support to help secure the future of one of Sheffield's oldest buildings. The meeting will be held at

**7.30 pm Tuesday 24 June**  
**St Paul's Centre/Church**  
**Norton Lees Lane**

At the meeting will be;

Guest Speaker Phill Sowter (Head of Operations, Museums Sheffield) South Yorkshire Police, Local Councillors Cllr Robert McCann (Cabinet Member for Housing & Sustainable, Safer Communities), Denise Reaney, Frank Taylor. There will be a presentation of our ongoing petition (please sign it first if you haven't already).

All are welcome, the meeting is free - please come and help look after your community! Read inside for more details about the house itself and the efforts of the Friends Of Bishops House so far..



**001 July 08**

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**A NEW  
NUMBER  
TO CALL**

**101**

**WHEN IT'S LESS  
URGENT THAN 999**

### Advertising co-ordinator needed

In order to produce a newsletter with more pages and better quality photographs, we need to generate our own income. This is most easily done by selling advertising space (we reach 1500 local residents on a regular basis!). We're looking for a volunteer to manage this process - it's a neat, self-contained job that doesn't require a lot of time, just enthusiasm. In the process, you'll get to know all our local shops and services and meet the people who make neighbourhood life possible. Ring Dave on 321 6251 or email [thora.editor@googlemail.com](mailto:thora.editor@googlemail.com)

# Poets Corner

## Local History Happenings

The poem I wrote of Norton Lees  
Brought me a good response,  
I really felt elated  
I'd got it right for once.

Somehow I'll get my brain in gear  
Then start to write again,  
About our happy friendly group  
Who's interest will not wane.

We all enjoyed our outing  
Last summer at the Oakes.  
Tea and strawberry gateaux,  
All were happy folk's

How we loved the slide shows  
Of Old Norton Lees,  
When people bring old maps in  
Each other for to please.

We borrow and we lend stuff  
And swap our stuff around.  
Then chat about what we have seen  
Or something we have found.

We have two leading ladies  
Who run our show so well,  
Vivien and Irene,  
They work like Bl---- Hell !

They always try to please us  
With coffee or with tea.  
Then dish the chocolate biscuits out  
Just join us, then you'll see.

Two-fifty it will cost you,  
Seven-thirty until nine,  
We think you will enjoy it,  
For we all think its fine.

## Beryl Heathcote



the old Cross Scythes Inn

# Bus Routes 1 & 33

As promised here is a reply to the issue of the evening terminating journey on routes 1 and 33 raised by residents at the recent ThoRA meeting.



There have been a number of discussions relating to this service. We now know that because First do not operate the contract for the route in the evenings - this is TM Travel. They operate all the daytime service on a commercial basis and chose to terminate their last departure from Meadowhall at Batemoor.

This means that the last journey will not run through from Meadowhall to Hollythorpe. The reason it was in the timetable was because First did not cancel the service registration so the journey remained in the timetable. This will be rectified at the next available print (during the summer) but please be aware *not* to catch the last First departure on service 1 if they wish to travel to Hollythorpe from Meadowhall. Instead, travel through the city centre (probably quicker anyway).

Bus service 33 is operated wholly under contract to the Transport Executive. This means that this route is fully subsidised from the Transport Executive's budget for contracted bus services. Bus services 1 and 2 and 20/20A are operated on a commercial basis by First. These services rely wholly on revenue to determine financial viability and the operators determine the routes, frequencies etc for these services.

**Pam Horner** (Travel South Yorkshire)

## Tudors on your doorstep!

Tucked away at the top of Meersbrook Park is Bishops House that was built when Henry VIII (yes the one with the six wives) was on the throne, which makes it 500 years old. It is now the only surviving example in the world of a Tudor lower middle class farmhouse. The building methods of the Tudor carpenters are clearly visible as all the beams are numbered which made construction easier.

The house is also said to have two resident ghosts and rumours still abound that there is a tunnel direct to Beauchief Abbey.

In 1886 the property passed to the Corporation (now Sheffield City Council) and until 1974 Recreation Department employees lived in the house. In 1976 Bishops' House was restored and opened as a museum. It is open to the public 10am - 4pm on Saturdays and 11am - 4.30pm on Sundays and is free of charge.

Understandably local residents have expressed their concern about how the building could be better preserved for future generations. It currently suffers from vandalism and the fear is that this could become something worse. Were the house to be damaged by fire, it's almost certain not to be repaired.

On the 24th June 2008 a representative from The Sheffield Galleries and Museums Trust who are now responsible for Bishops House will be talking about its plans for this historic building and answering your questions.



## Membership Now Due

Your support is vital! Yearly : £2  
Individual, £1 Concessions

The easiest way to pay is to call in to Thorpe House Post Office any day except Friday where Richard will be able to pass your money on to our Treasurer. Alternatively you can pay Pat directly at any meeting. *Many thanks!*

THoRA helps many local people with many issues. All our committee are volunteers, so every penny helps with the cost of this fantastic newsletter & our quarterly meetings. Additionally each paid-up Member helps us obtain extra funding from the Council.

## Committee

Many thanks to everyone who voted for the new Committee at our AGM on 15 April 2008. Your new Committee are :

Chair	Richard May
Secretary	Dave Holt
Treasurer	Pat Bradshaw
Newsletter Editor	Nick Robinson
Committee	Ken Bower
	Lyn Bower
	Sheila Forshaw
	Andrew Hogan

(Other members of last years committee are entitled to be listed but have not yet indicated that they wish to serve another year). Everyone can be contacted via [thora.editor@googlemail.com](mailto:thora.editor@googlemail.com) or my voicemail service 299 8218.

If there is an issue in your area which you want sorting, we will help and support you. Please contact us to get involved.

## Local history

The local history group meet on the second Tuesday of each month at St Paul's, 7.30pm, £2.00, contact Vivienne 281 0767 for details.

# Motorbiking

There are nine woods that make up Gleadless Valley Woods. Some have been here since at least 1600 and are therefore deemed "ancient" woodlands. Within the woods are many varieties of trees, plants, birds & mammals and also archaeological features. Close to the Norton Lees area are Carr, Hang Bank, Conygree & Ashes Woods. Within these areas are found the great spotted woodpecker, ancient oak trees and wood anemone.

For the past two years THoRA has been working to help protect the woodlands. There is an ongoing problem of illegal vehicles causing destruction of this ancient habitat. Three cars have been burned in the woods within the last three years, which costs the tax-payer around £15,000 and also leads to contamination which is detrimental to this habitat.

Illegal motorcycles cause destruction of the habitat and noise pollution as well as subjecting residents (and riders) to risk. They use public roads to reach the woods, often with no insurance, helmets or license plates. Transit vans unload up to 4 motorbikes at a time and riders come from as far away as Leeds to ride in the woods. The bikes are ridden through the woods and onto the school playing fields.

THoRA have brought together the agencies involved; councillors, parks & woodlands, police, Balfour Beatty, safer neighbourhoods area panel and MP Megg Munn. The aim is action to reduce the risks of allowing such illegal activities to continue. Some success has been achieved; verbal agreement was reached that the problem should be looked at as a whole rather than an individual departments' responsibility.

Some work was carried out to discourage illegal vehicles entering the woods, but this proved completely ineffective.

Approaches have been made again to all the departments involved to ask them to acknowledge their responsibilities. The only response has been the Education Department, who said they "have a responsibility to act as a reasonable landlord." They are unwilling to state *exactly* what that means! Reports of illegal motorcycles on school grounds seem to be accepted with no thought of risk to the pupils of Newfield School.

This has been an ongoing problem for the residents who live close to the woods and school playing fields for several years. However one might sympathise with the riders, inevitably someone will be hurt. This will be due to the agencies involved who make no effort to minimise the risks nor reduce the distress caused to the residents. This is no minor irritation; there are up to 10 illegal motorcycles racing around the woods and school playing fields for hours. Residents no longer feel safe to walk in the woods for fear of being knocked down.

Pressure must be applied through calling 101 to report this illegal activity and writing to Meg Munn MP and our local councillors. They will not act until they are made aware of the extent of this problem and it would be awful to wait until someone is killed or injured to take steps to minimise the risks to both the woods and the people who live around them. If this issue affects you please make sure that you let the authorities know by calling 101!



## Contact Your Councillor

### Graves Park Ward

Ian Auckland (Liberal Democrat) 274 0474 [ian.auckland@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:ian.auckland@sheffield.gov.uk)  
Bob McCann (Liberal Democrat) Cabinet Member for Housing & Sustainable, Safer Communities 241 6063  
[bob.mccann@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:bob.mccann@sheffield.gov.uk)  
Peter Moore (Liberal Democrat) 258 8486  
[peter.moore@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:peter.moore@sheffield.gov.uk)

### Gleadless Valley Ward

Denise Reaney BA (Hons) (Liberal Democrat) 0114 247 7707  
[denise.reaney@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:denise.reaney@sheffield.gov.uk)  
Frank Taylor (Liberal Democrat) 2734272 / 2735517 [frank.taylor@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:frank.taylor@sheffield.gov.uk)  
Garry Weatherall (Labour) 245 2446  
[garry.weatherall@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:garry.weatherall@sheffield.gov.uk)



In 1920, you could have bought the entire estate...

## Reliable Bus Services?

If you know of any specific problems including buses running early or late, or not appearing at all, I need to know and will contact the bus operator on your behalf. Call me 221 1452. To hold the bus company to account properly I need to know the exact time, service number and which stop you were at.

**Pam Horner** (Travel South Yorkshire)

## Local Knowledge

The secretary of the Society for the Study of Ancient Egypt lives on Norton Lees Lane! ([www.ssae.org.uk](http://www.ssae.org.uk))

## From the Editor

Whilst it would be lovely to fill this newsletter with stories of summer fetes and local celebrities, crime is an area of major concern to our residents.



This means we need to provide regular information and encouragement. As we gain more advertising revenue and find other sources of funding, we can expand both the size and quality of the newsletter so it can better reflect the positive aspects of living in Norton Lees. Whatever problems we may have on the estate, we shouldn't forget that by comparison with much of Sheffield, we're lucky to live here!

What I'd ask every single reader is to think of something they can offer the newsletter. It doesn't have to be earth-shattering, just of interest to local residents. With our current printing methods, photographs don't reproduce very well, but we can do our best. You can email it to [thora@nickrobinson.info](mailto:thora@nickrobinson.info) or post it through the letterbox at 182 Mountview Road. If you're not on our mailing list, please contact us.

Any publication of this kind will only succeed if it is widely read and reflects the real needs of residents, so when you get your copy, please show it to others and encourage them to send us some feedback.

*Nick Robinson*

## Readers Top Tips

Extend the life of your carpets by rolling them up and storing them in the garage (*from AJ of Derbyshire Lane*)

## **Bobbies on bicycles!**

Our PCSO Rachael Graham writes; "I am now pedal cycle trained along with 5 others so it will be easier and faster for us to respond to any incidents it also makes us more likely to catch some of these nuisance motor cycles. I am still working on getting an allotment watch set up for Norton Lees allotments.

During the summer months we are urging people to remember to close all windows when they are out of their property as there is always an increase in burglaries at this time of year due to insecure windows in houses. I am also interested in any information people might have about lead and metal thefts if they could keep their eyes open for any suspicious vehicles that could possibly be involved in this (and other) type of theft. I am also looking for information about the graffiti that has appeared in Norton Lees over the recent months.

I will be at the Woodseats Festival on the 13th July giving out crime reduction information if people are interested in popping down between 12 and 4 we will have a stall with Wendy Zealand from neighbourhood watch so if you have any questions for either us we would be happy to help. "

## **Neighbourhood Watch**

The easiest way you can make your street safer is to join Neighbourhood Watch. If there isn't one for your street it's easy to start one! Full support is available and doesn't take much time, contact Wendy to find out more 274 5815. Benefits include reduced crime not just less burglary, getting to know your neighbours, and often discounts off your home insurance. THoRA support this by offering to rent a meeting room if you can't use your home, contact THoRA Secretary Dave to find out more 321 6251.

## **Chairman's message**

Another summer is here at last and our committee members, bolstered by some fresh blood, are looking forward to working hard for the community in the forthcoming year. The new members include our proactive secretary *Dave Holt* and our newsletter editor, *Nick Robinson*. Like any new members, they are bringing in new ideas and enthusiasm.

Our community PCSOs (police community support officers), in particular Rachel Graham, have shown an increased presence in our area over the last few months. This has resulted in a noticeable reduction in the amount of anti-social behaviour and hopefully in overall criminal activity.

There is every possibility we shall see more of our local PCSOs in future, riding police bikes! More of that at our meeting on 24th June, where we hope you'll be keen to attend and share your thoughts with us.

Following our last (highly successful) meeting, Andrew Foster and his fire & rescue team colleagues have carried out over one hundred house visits (see page 7) in the community and provided excellent assistance and advice to residents regarding safety in the home - thanks chaps, keep up the good work!

I believe we are moving into an exciting new phase of activities to enhance our community life, as well as our safety and security. As ever, we rely on your involvement and your cooperation to ensure this.

**Richard**



## **YOU are the eyes and ears of the Police!**

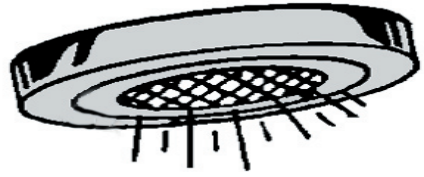
Report any anti-social behaviour by phoning the new 101 number or call the Police directly on 2202020. When logging calls you should ask for an incident reference (today's date and a number).

THoRA keeps a record of local incidents, to advise us contact **Richard May** on 255 1793. If you want to remain anonymous Richard can log an incident for you.

To follow up your incident with local officers contact the **Safer Neighbourhood Team** on 296 3680 or **Rachael Graham** our PCSO on 296 3731.

## **Do You Care About Our Area?**

Give up just an hour a month and become a Street Rep ... absolutely no experience needed! We meet every three months to support each other and exchange ideas on how to solve problems and get things done! Find out more, please contact Dave on 321 6251



## **Free Fire Alarms!**

For free smoke alarms and risk assessments, plus specialist deaf alarm systems for the hard of hearing, ring the general enquiry line 253 2314

An initial risk assessment is carried out standard smoke alarms fitted where necessary to ensure alarm coverage. If necessary, the owner/occupier will be recommended by referral for the deaf alarm system to be provided and fitted, also free of charge.

This information provided by Andrew Foster & Andy Hall, South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Community Engagement Advisors, Aston Park fire station 253 2842

[www.syfire.org.uk](http://www.syfire.org.uk)



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### **Our Friendly General Postal Services ...**

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- ◆ Driving licence, EHIC forms
- ◆ Greetings Cards and Stationery
- ◆ Fantastic offer on Ladies Handbags!

**Mon-Fri**  
6.30am-5.30pm  
(Wed 7.30pm\*)  
**Sat** 6.30-12.30  
& 2.30-7.30\*  
**Sun** 6.30-10.30\*  
\*newsagent only

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# Events

17/08/08 : Sledge the Slopes, Meersbrook Park 1:00pm. Use special grass sledges to slide down the slopes in Meersbrook Park. Meet at the top of the hill. No dogs allowed.

19/08/08 : Natural Shelters, Lees Hall Wood 1-3pm. Make use of materials in Lees Hall Woods and build a shelter with help from the Rangers. Wear suitable clothing and stout footwear. It is essential to book for this event - ring 283 9195

Please let us know of any future events! Our Autumn issue is out in September and lists events up until Christmas.

## Quick tip

To save the 10p it costs to dial '101' try this local alternative 261 0622, especially useful if you get free local calls.



## Newsletter Delivery

If you enjoy Norton Lees News then please help deliver it to your neighbours. It takes a *maximum* of 45 minutes just four times a year and is less effort than walking a dog! Simply complete your contact details below and drop the form in to Thorpe House Post office, or phone Dave on 321 6251.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Phone .....

Email.....

## Advertise Yourself!

This newsletter is delivered 4 times a year to over 1400 local households, all eager to make use of your business or services.

A business card-sized advert is just £9.50, far less than 1 pence each delivered, a half page just £19!

We can also have your advert professionally laid out for a small fee. There is a 15% discount when you book for multiple issues.

For more information call 0797 480 0058 or email [thora@nickrobinson.info](mailto:thora@nickrobinson.info)

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## Local Services

999 urgent attendance, offender at the scene  
101 vandalism, graffiti or damage / noisy neighbours / intimidation or harrasment / abandoned vehicles/ litter / rowdy or drunkenness/drug-related anti-social behaviour.

220 2020 police switchboard  
296 3680 Woodseats Safer Neighbourhood Team

273 4567 lighting / fly tipping / holes etc.  
2500 500 parks / woodland / countryside  
0800 111 999 gas escapes  
Sheffield City Council switchboard

We try our best to ensure the contents of this newsletter are accurate. If you have any corrections, comments or contributions, we'd love to hear them - please email [thora@nickrobinson.info](mailto:thora@nickrobinson.info) or call 250 9388