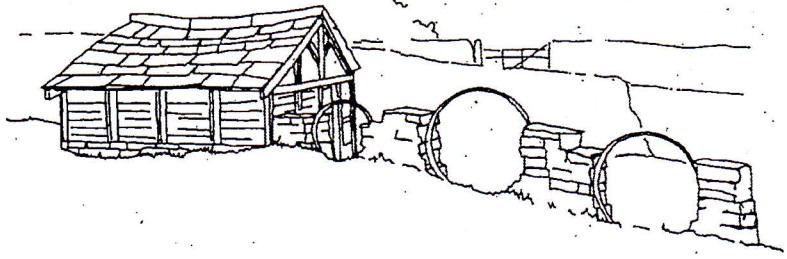


# HUNSHSELF

## Chat

December 1997



### A Message from the Editor

Less than 4 weeks to Christmas... and it can only get closer! The nights are drawing in, the days are getting colder and that bed is getting more and more difficult to get out of. Look on the bright side at least we've got central heating, electricity, television, cars... all of 90's technology to make life just that bit easier. What on earth would we do without them. Come to think of it what did we do before we had them?

Well read on. Some of the stories in this issue focus on what our 'elders' got up to, many moons ago, on a long winter's evening.

We have also introduced the promised Recipe section, 'Food for Thought', thanks to response from the last newsletter. Also, we are including 'Poet's Corner' which begins with a poem by Freda Watts in her memory and also a poem by Neville Roebuck, influenced by Doris Stubbs' trip to Bosnia.

A good start I think, but still room for improvement. So, if

you have any articles, ads, or dates for 'What's On Hereabouts', then please contact me. If you are involved in any local activities, please let us know and we will endeavour to publicise their activities or achievements.

In another vein, if you would like to write a regular piece, ideas are welcome and may be discussed - look out Barnsley Chronicle, here we come!

Claire Derrick - 1 Inglemount, Green Moor Road,  
Telephone/Fax 288 7903

### New Training in Stocksbridge Valley

#### STEP

(Stocksbridge Training and Enterprise Partnership)

STEP is a 'bottom-up', community-based organisation interested in encouraging new training and employment opportunities in the area. STEP's office is located at in the Stocksbridge Library building.

They have recently received £150,000 from the National Lottery to refurbish the Miners Welfare Hall (opposite Lidl) to convert it into a Community Resource Centre.

They are also bidding for European and Government funding to refurbish property.

They are keen to involve locals in this. If you are interested please contact Chris Prescott, Development Worker, on tel. 2888808.

Adrian Millward, STEP

### Did You Know...

Negotiations are under way between Wortley Top Forge and The National Trust. If talks are successful the Forge will become one of the National Trust's properties.

### New Training in Stocksbridge Valley The Sheffield College

The Sheffield College is moving its Stocksbridge premises to the first floor of the old Co-operative building. The Co-operative has bought the College's present site for rebuilding.

Plans of the new Stocksbridge Centre can be seen in Stocksbridge Library.

For details, contact Chris Hyde, The Sheffield College, Loxley Centre, tel. 260 2200.

### Xmas Social

The Christmas Social is to be held Saturday 6 December, 5.30-6 pm start and includes entertainment from Millhouse Male Voice Choir. This is an invitation to all of those in our parish who are over 60 years of age.

If you are living in the parish of Hunshelf, are 60 or over and haven't received an invitation please contact Doris Stubbs, Tel. 288 2539 to let us know.



## Obituary - Freda Watts

We remember with gratitude the life of Freda Watts of Well Hill Farm, Green Moor, who died 31 August 1997, aged 75 years.

Freda had lived in Hunshelf Parish all her life, firstly at Snowden Hill, before her marriage and afterwards at Well Hill Farm. Her maiden name was Battye and she came from a well known farming family.

Freda went to many different organisations in the district, to entertain them with her Yorkshire dialect poems. Occasionally, I would be present and witnessed the interest and laughter she created by her friendly home-spun entertainment.

During the 1970s, a book of her poems was printed and sales of this raised a good sum for the upkeep of the church at Green Moor. In fact this book has been reissued and was on sale at the Autumn Fayre at Green Moor Chapel.

I was asked by the family to read the first poem in the book, at Freda's funeral, called 'Getting Up' (see 'Poet's Corner'). We are asked to take our minds back to our childhood of four years old, the time in which the young lad is speaking.

Donations were made rather than floral tributes and a total of £375 was sent to Western Park Hospital plus £60 towards Cancer Research.

Neville Roebuck

## Poet's Corner

### Getting Up

When I got up this morning,  
I thowt I'll dress mi-sen today,  
But it does seem to be taking me a long time,  
I's nivver git out to play.

First thing I put on wor mi under pants,  
Round to o' both legs they are tight,  
an' there seems to be a spare leg oil,  
I think that can nivver be right.

Cardigans are hard to put on,  
These buttons I tried hard to sort,  
At top I've a button too many,  
An at bottom I'm one button short.

I do-ant think I've put mi sox on reight  
On't top o' mi foot there's a hump,  
I'm sure I've nivver seen that afor  
It looks lie a camel's hump.

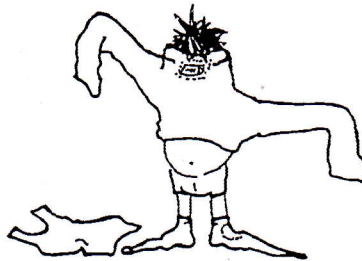
I've not done so bad wi mi trousers,  
Tho't zip seems to be somewhere round't back,  
I can't tell if I'm coming or going,  
I doant know why we wear all this tack.

Thank goodness I've finished, it's taken some time  
But all bi mi-sen I've got dressed,  
An crickey there's going to be trouble here,  
Cos that thing on't floor is my vest.

Well I'm not taking all this lot off ageean,  
They're on an they're going to stop,  
So today things are going to be different  
I'm wearing mi vest, see, on top.

When Mum dresses me I don-ant look like this,  
I can see I'm not looking me best,  
She twissles me round a two 'o' three times,  
An' it seems like 'Hey Presto' I'm dressed.

I do-ant know why we aren't like sheep,  
They've nobbut one coit to their name  
An' they have ti ta-an off once a year,  
Why the hummer can't us lot do't same?



Freda Watts

### A Summer in Bosnia

The symbol of the "SUMMER SUNSHINE" team that went to Bosnia this summer, was a sunflower. At the end of the Yorkshire Evening, held 11 July 1997, in Green Moor Church to raise funds for the team, this poem was written and presented with a white rose, by Neville Roebuck.

### The Sunflowers and the Rose

A miserable mantle, the shroud of death,  
Blood-stained the wind and showers;  
But out amongst the carnage fields,  
Grew a patch of gold sunflowers.

Those blooms of brightness shone out to the world,  
And reflected the sun as it blazed,  
To promise that light would return,  
To a country torn and crazed.

So take on your journey a white Yorkshire rose,  
To shine with the sunflowers bright,  
And take our blessings with you,  
As you help to let in that light.

# 17 Hours of Sing at Christmas Long Ago

Several carol singing groups toured the Stocksbridge district, and one of them of which I was a member, and which had been carrying out this old tradition for 100 years, came from Green Moor.

We always had a strong party of 25 to 30. During the first period of our carol singing, it was an all male group, and we were fortunate in having a fair complement of string players. Usually we had first and second violins, viola and cello players, several of whom were members of the Stocksbridge Instrumental Society.

On Christmas Eve we invariably met outside Rusby's shop at the bottom of Hunshelf Bank, a few minutes before midnight and as soon as the clock at Fox's boomed out 12, we would strike up with the old Christmas hymn 'Christians Awake, Salute the Happy Morn'.

From there we would begin our journey up the hillside to Derbyshire Row, so called I am told, because these houses were mainly occupied by people brought by Mr Fox from his native Derbyshire.

Then on to Gentleman Row, a larger type of house inhabited by Mr Fox's foreman - hence it was known locally by that name. We would then continue our journey to Prospect Cottages, West View and Brownhill Row.

By the time we arrived at the top of this row, it would be 5 am and a welcome meal was waiting for us at the home of Mr and Mrs John Birkhead. After more carol singing here, we were well prepared for our walk up Don Hill and over to Green Moor.

Up to this point we had spent the night in the valley, visiting the homes of the steelworkers of Stocksbridge, who looked forward to a visit from the carol singers so much that they would stay up until three and four o'clock in the morning to welcome us, and in many cases they would invite friends and relatives to share in with the message of Christmas.

On arrival at Green Moor, we visited the homes of farmers and quarrymen, for

in those days the Green Moor stone quarries provided employment for over 100 men, a hardy set of men who spent their working lives in the open air, cutting and chiselling the huge blocks of stone drawn from the quarries.

Unlike our Stocksbridge friends, they had spent the night in bed, but had risen early in order to have a good blazing fire to greet us, which was most welcome, especially when a cold, north-easterly wind blew strongly and the hard frozen snow crackled underfoot.

Occasionally, in the farmsteads, one would catch an aroma which told us that the turkey or goose was already being prepared for the traditional Christmas dinner, and invariably as we passed through the kitchen, we would notice two sides of bacon and two large hams suspended from hooks in the ceiling. Those farmers certainly knew how to cater for the inner man.

Some of them could sing, too, and would give valuable assistance by rolling out a bit of brass in such well-known tunes as 'Good News', 'O Come, All Ye Faithful' and 'Diadem'.

In the homes of the quarrymen there was nothing luxurious, but everything 'sparked and shone, so genial was the hearth'.

Here again, we received a most hearty welcome, and refreshments were provided in some homes, helping to sustain us to the end of our round, which usually finished at ten o'clock in the morning. Then we went home to bed, for at 6.30 pm we were due to meet again.

## Ladies Included

For the second round of the carol singing the ladies joined us and we met at the home of Mr and Mrs John Wordsworth, Huthwaite Lane, Thurgoland. From there we toured Huthwaite Lane as far as Huthwaite Hall, then along Old Mill Lane to Mr George Wordsworth's at New Wire Mill, and forward to Dr Longmuir's at the bottom of Well Hill. He was works manager at Fox's at the time.

Finally, we had a long trek via Wortley Station to Mr John Illingsworth's farm half way up Finkle Street, where the whole of his family, who had gathered together for Christmas, was waiting to greet us. This being our last calling place, we gave good measure and finished about 1 am on Boxing Day with the singing of 'Hail Smiling Morn, then we begun our long walk home to Green Moor.

I calculate we must have spent seventeen hours and covered eight miles on the two rounds. As we sang our carols on the hillside, our song was 'Awake to Joy, Hail the Morn, The Saviour of This World Was Born'.

This joyous message rang out across the valley and into the homes of many people. The same message will again ring out over Christmas, but now we can sit by our television and radio and share the spirit of Christmas with people, not only in this country, but in other parts of the world.

## Carolling Wanes

In our younger days carol singing did not occupy all our time. We did, of course, have all the usual family parties, and always looked forward to these happy reunions. Today these family gatherings are still part of our way of life, but due to our changing methods of communication, carol singing as we knew it seems to be on the wane, and sometimes we older people regret the passing of these old traditions, but why should we?

The same message is still with us, but is being presented in a fuller, wider sense. I always like to keep in mind King Arthur's words in one of Tennyson's poems:

*The old order changeth, yielding  
place to new,*

*And God fulfils himself in many  
ways,*

*Lest one good custom should  
corrupt the world.*

Sidney Walton, December 1968  
(First published in the Fox Magazine, December 1968. Mr Walton died 1982 aged 91)



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

### Rosy Pudding Sauce

#### TO ACCOMPANY YOUR CHRISTMAS PUDDING!

This delicate pink-white sauce is lighter than a traditional white sauce. It can be made before lunch and reheated when required.

- 2 egg yolks
- 2 oz caster sugar
- 2 level teaspoons cornflower
- 1 cup of port-type wine
- 1-2 tablespoons brandy

- 1 Put the sugar and yolks into a bowl, whisk together until they lighten in colour.
- 2 Beat in remaining ingredients.
- 3 Stand over a pan of boiling water and whisk until thickened.
- 4 Reheat when required.

A seasonal recipe from  
Neville Roebuck

### Chestnut and Apple Soup

Servises 6-8

- 2 oz butter
- 2 shallots, finely chopped
- 2 slices unsmoked, streaky bacon, rinded and finely chopped (optional for a vegetarian version)
- 3 celery stalks, finely chopped
- 3 oz cooking apples, peeled and roughly chopped
- one and a half lb (750 g) canned unsweetened chestnuts, drained
- 3 pints (2 litres) chicken or vegetable stock
- half teaspoon of mace
- half teaspoon of sugar
- salt and pepper
- 3 tablespoons medium dry sherry
- 5 oz cooking apples, peeled and sliced
- one and a half teaspoons sugar
- 3 tablespoons single cream, to garnish

Melt the butter and fry the shallots and bacon for 5 minutes. Add the celery and apple, and cover with a piece of buttered greaseproof paper. Cover the pan with a lid, and sweat the vegetables over gentle heat for 10 minutes. Remove the paper and stir in the chestnuts. Pour in the stock, add the mace and sugar, and bring to a gentle boil. Cover the pan and cook for 30 minutes.

Season to taste with salt and pepper. Purée the soup and stir in the sherry. For the garnish, melt the butter, add the apple slices, sprinkle over the sugar and fry until golden.

To serve, either pour the soup into a tureen or individual bowls, stir in the cream, and garnish with the apples.

## What's On Hereabouts

### Pub Quiz Nights

Every Tuesday  
at The Midhopestones Arms  
Every Wednesday  
at The Rock, Green Moor  
Every Thursday  
at The Bridge, Thurgoland

**Christmas Concert** by Waldershelf Choral Society, Tuesday, 2 December, 7.30 pm, Stocksbridge Victory Club with special guests The City of Sheffield Youth Brass Band. Admission £3 including Lucky Ticket Draw.

### Christmas Social

Saturday, 6 December, The Provident Room, Green Moor Chapel. Invitation only to the elders of our community.

### Christmas Fayre and Table Top Sale with *Father Christmas!*

Saturday 6 December, 2 pm at the Inman Pavilion, Moorland Drive, Stocksbridge. Cakes, raffles and tombolas.

### Karaoke Night

Friday, 12 December, The Rock, Green Moor.

### Christmas Celebration

Sunday, 14 December, 10.30 am, Green Moor Chapel, including Nativity Play. With Boys' Brigade Band.

## Stop Press...

### Articles wanted

Please send articles you would like to see published in this newsletter to me at the address below.

Contact Claire Derrick  
1 Inglemount, Green Moor Road  
Tel. 288 7903

**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IN THE  
NEXT ISSUE IS 31 JANUARY 1998**

### NOTE:

**The Editor reserves the right to  
edit items for this newsletter**

## Did YOU Sing At The 'Bring and Sing'?

The 'Bring and Sing', held at Green Moor Chapel, raised a belting £429. 64!

After the 'Bring' and buy, cups of tea, biscuits etc. we all moved into the Chapel for the 'Sing'.

Neville Roebuck compiled a programme as a tribute to Freda Watts and read some of her dialect poems and he also invited David Hambleton, who sang 4 solos, accompanied by Christine Senior on the piano. Christine Goodwin also read some of her Penistone poems and we are extremely grateful to Neville for offering his expertise.

Sandra Quilter