

Corky's flying on a wing and a prayer

By Hayley Paterson

IN a real-life Kes story, a Sprotbrough hawking club has rescued Corky the kestrel from death!

The Yorkshire Hawking Club – which holds regular falconry meetings in Sprotbrough – was told about Corky after he was spotted hobbling along the M1 near Sheffield... just miles from the setting of the famous film.

The hawkers moved in, to rescue Corky, and found he had suffered a fractured wing.

Now, after having two pins inserted in the wing, Corky is healing well and ready to wing it once more!

Chairman of the group, motorway maintenance electrician Dale Johnson, said: "I got a call from one of my colleagues to say that a kestrel was hobbling up the M1 near Sheffield!

"So I phoned one of our members, Perry Storey, who

lives at Conisbrough, and he travelled through and rescued the bird.

"After being operated on and being treated fantastically well by the vets, Corky is now making a full recovery".

Dale added: "Our members Maguerite and John Cobb and their son Henry are also hoping to adopt him".

Members of the Yorkshire Hawking Club come from across South Yorkshire, and meet at the back of the Newton Arms, in Sprotbrough Road.

They fly Redtails, Harris

Winging his way back to health – that's Corky (left).



Hawks and Goshawks and have a high-flying membership of over 50 practising falconers who all fly birds in the winter.

They also get involved with community activities and can be seen at many a gala and event explaining the interesting work they do.

For more information, visit: www.yorkshirehawkingclub.org.uk

Residents triumph in battle against Park Drive housing

A PLANNING application to build houses and apartments at the back of Park Drive has been refused by Doncaster Council.

It follows a series of housing plans for the area which have been thrown out by Doncaster planners over recent years.

More than 30 residents voiced their disapproval of the latest application – this time made by Lovel Cooper Limited, for five three-storey houses and a block of nine flats built on gardens at the back of Park Drive.

The villagers claimed the plans would not be in keeping with the character of the local area and that the development density would be too high.

After numerous plans to

build on this site, which this time would have included an access road for possible further developments, it has been met with the same conclusion lately of a council refusal.

In the past Barratt Homes has also been denied planning permission on the same site by Doncaster Council.

Listening

Sprotbrough's Green Party member for Sprotbrough Rick Rolt said: "Its great that the council is finally listening to the resident's concerns over developers.

"The amount of applications for Park Drive is unbelievable, especially in this current climate.

"People can't even buy or

sell their homes so why are developers so insistant on building more here?

"They seem desperate to want to build there, but I'm really happy to see the objections from residents – I certainly support them.

"Residents want to keep Sprotbrough as a village.

"But then developers come in with plans for town houses and apartments – local people don't want that at the back of their gardens.

"Hopefully it is another encouraging sign that the council is listening to residents and that the developers' bubble has burst.

"We will keep fighting these applications – Sprotbrough is a village and people want to keep it that way."

Opera North soloists to sing in village

SOLOISTS from Opera North will perform in St Mary's Church Hall in Sprotbrough as the climax to a series of concerts arranged by Sprotbrough Music Society over the coming months.

Members of Opera North will sing in the village on April 23 next year in a performance which is due to include extracts from their diverse repertoire, including songs from the musicals.

In a varied range of concerts, all of which will be staged at St Mary's Hall, the society has booked pianist Anthony Zerpa-Falcon on Thursday November 13.

A finalist of the BBC Musician of the Year Competition, he will be playing pieces by Beethoven, Mozart and Chopin.

Future concerts include baritone Terence Aybare from Uganda on January 15; soloist and chamber musician Victoria Simonsen plays cello, with Sam Armstrong on piano on February 19.

On March 26 The Barbirolli Quartet will perform works by Mozart, Ades and Brahms.

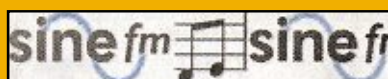
For further details of how to join the society contact Mrs J. Liversidge on (01302) 833547.



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