

**Worksoop Guardian Circa 1975**

# **Saved for Posterity**

**By Alison Stevens**

**Pictures by Dennis Richmond**

THE developers will be stopped "just in time" from destroying the character and charm of one of South Yorkshire's oldest villages, Harthill.

This is the verdict of the people of Harthill over Rotherham Borough Council's plans to make the centre of this village, which was mentioned in the Domesday Book, a conservation area.

The council fear that unless they are given the additional controls of a conservation area, Harthill is in danger of being swallowed up by urban developments.

The proposed area will run the length of Union Street and include all of the houses on the east and west sides, as well as Doctor Lane and Jacky's Lane.

The number of buildings listed by the Department of the Environment as being of architectural and historical interest now stands at four -- the Parish Church, the Rectory, the Schoolhouse and 44, Union Street.

But the council are expecting that when Harthill Parish Council and South Yorkshire County Council consider the plan they may make further suggestions.



*Mr. Jack Hydes, lifelong resident.*

Seventy-year-old Mr. Jack Hydes, whose family moved to Harthill in 1585 and have owned the village shop since 1740, said that too much building had already been allowed around the edge of the village but the centre could still be saved.



Mr. Hydes, who has been a parish councillor for many years, said: "We would all be really pleased if this is brought in as it will preserve the centre of the village and that is well worth it."



*Protected cottages in Union Street.*

Mrs. Jean Hartley, of 44, Union Street, which is a 16th century listed building, said she felt there was a lot worth preserving in Harthill, almost all of the older cottages were built facing south at right angles to the street, to take in the sun.



*Harthill's peaceful main street.*



Parts of Harthill are even mentioned in Sir Walter Scott's famous novel Ivanhoe.

Mrs. Florence Wightman, of 18th century Danby House, said she had seen many changes since she and her husband Mr. Stanley Wightman, moved to Harthill 27 years ago.

She said they both loved historical things and had moved from Sheffield into the house, which was an old coaching inn, for that reason. "We had two beautiful four poster beds and were looking for a house which would fit them. Danby House was big enough and we have been here ever since," she said.

Mrs. Wightman said that apart from the housing development to the north and south of the village, one of the greatest changes in the main street was shops.

The solitary village store had been joined by a row of shops which included a supermarket.

Mrs. Maryon Hewitt, of 46, Union Street, said she thought her home, an old crofter's cottage, was one of the oldest in the village and she welcomed the conservation area as protection for the future life of Harthill.

"We don't want any more development and anything that will stop it is a step in the right direction," she said.



Harthill Parish Council have already approved the principle of a conservation area and their suggestions are being considered by Rotherham Borough Council.